

# BETHEL NOTES

## Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

**JUNE 24 2018**

### This Sunday:

We welcome into membership the following new members: **Becca Thompson, Dean & Donna Wester, and Joe Baumgardner.**

**Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall** after worship. We will have a deeper conversation about today's lectionary readings and their implications for our mission and ministry. Led by Pastor Steve.

### Readings:

Job 38:1-11

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

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## Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:	Lynn Ryan
Lay Assistant:	Sandy Pepos
Usher(s):	Steve and Donna Vinnedge
Projectionist:	Lisa Carlson
Counters:	Pam Dougherty and Grant Smith
Nursery:	Ava and Alex Olson

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# Pastor Steve's Message

*[Jesus] said to them [disciples] "Let us go across to the other side." Mark 4:35*

The gospel reading assigned for this Sunday is the familiar Markan story of Jesus' calming the storm on the sea as he and his followers were making their way "to the other side" of the Sea of Galilee. According to Mark's account the "other side" was foreign territory. It was the land of the gentiles. It was an intentional move towards the stranger, the other, the uncomfortable and even risky move towards those who were considered enemies of the house of Israel. Yet, it was a move led by Jesus for the sake of God's love ~ a far reaching and all embracing love for the world.

Today, Jesus is still at work leading his followers (the church) into places...relationships which are familiar and foreign to us. It is into an ever-changing world. A world that is indifferent, even hostile towards the church. But a world which is also desperately hungry for love and acceptance. Who might be those whom we as individuals, the community of faith, are being called to extend Jesus' love, acceptance, and hospitality? Who are the people and where are the places yet untouched by Jesus' all inclusive love due to the obstacles of hatred and fear? Jesus says to us, *"Let us go...to the other side."* The promise is that he is with us and leading us into new territory, new relationships, and needs to be served. Leading us through the obstacles of indifference, hatred, fear, and all which would hold us back from the would he has called us to love and bless.

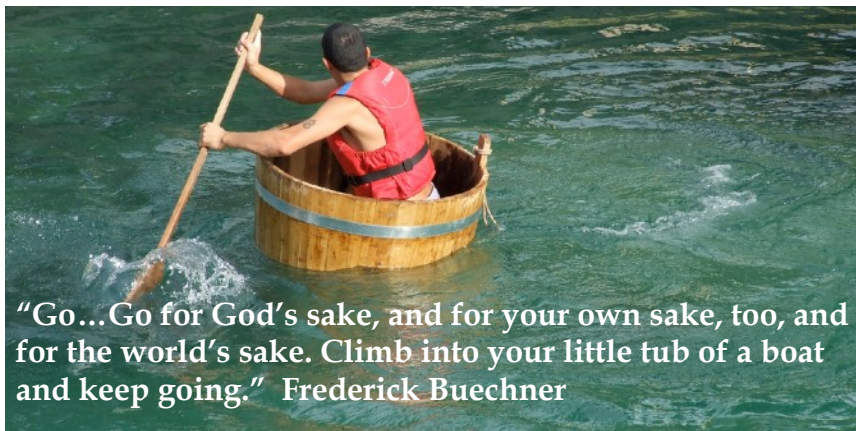
Author and theologian, Frederick Buechner preached a sermon on this gospel which got to the heart of this timely message for the church today.

From Buechner's sermon: *"Go...Go for God's sake, and for your own sake, too, and for the world's sake. Climb into your little tub of a boat and keep going."*

This coming week thousands of high school youth and their leaders from across the ELCA are climbing into buses, boarding planes and moving outward and onward to Houston Texas, the site of the ELCA Youth Gathering. Among them will be Bethel's Kaleb Stringer, Lillian Erickson, Bishop Jessica and Colter McCarty. They will be joined by and traveling with youth and adults from Great Falls congregations: New Hope's (Alex Tooley and Michaela McGee) and Redeemer Lutheran's (Ben Woldtvedt, Emme Smith, Pastor Scott Hedegaard, Sherri Carl and Sally Smith). Associate to the Bishop of the MT. Synod, Pastor Jason Asselstine, will be leading bus loads to the Youth Gathering and reports that from the MT. Synod there are 26 congregations sending a total of 266 youth and adults. There will be over 30,000 youth from the entire ELCA at the Gathering. They will be involved in faith forming activities (ie. worship, study, serving needs in the community, etc.) and making new friendships and memories for a lifetime. Because of all who have given generously of their finances, service and prayers, these youth and adults are able to attend!! Thanks to all for being church!

This Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> the Great Falls youth, adult leaders and their families will gather at Bethel for a lunch/send off. Let's include them in our prayers and if you wish to come between 12:15-12:30ish on the 26<sup>th</sup> you can get in on the send off/blessing!

*Pastor Steve*



*"Go...Go for God's sake, and for your own sake, too, and for the world's sake. Climb into your little tub of a boat and keep going." Frederick Buechner*

## WELCOME New Members

This Sunday we welcome into membership the following new members:  
**Becca Thompson, Dean & Donna Wester, and Joe Baumgardner.**

Becca transferred her membership from Faith Lutheran in Great Falls. Dean and Donna transferred their membership from Redeemer Lutheran in Great Falls. Joe will be received by affirmation of faith.

## Family Promise Night at the Ballpark

Batter up as we head out to Centene Stadium to watch the Great Falls Voyagers take on the Helena Brewers, and raise money for Family Promise of Great Falls. We will also be celebrating the retirement of executive director, Sharon Odden! There's a 50-50 raffle, along with other fun surprises!

Fun fact: They have already sold through the first 35 advance tickets, so they have 20 more!! Cost is \$8 each and \$4 of every advance ticket sold goes toward their mission to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time. Call 406-866-0288 to get your tickets today!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Prayers for **Jann DeGroot**, (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Ed Pottratz and family**.

Prayers for **Todd Whitted** (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**.

Prayers for **Dick Seim** as he recovers from heart surgery.

Prayers for protection and God's blessing for **Katie Smith** (daughter of Grant and Janet Smith) who on a summer mission trip to Asia with InterVarsity.

Prayers for **Kurt Hesse** (brother of Don Hesse).

Prayers for **Ardis Scholten** (mother of Dave Scholten) who is in hospice care.

Prayers for **Jane O'Brien** (mother of Carrie).

Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) as she awaits a double lung transplant.

Prayers for **Bob Walker** (brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson, who is recovering from surgery.

Prayers for healing for **Fern Myhre** who was recently hospitalized.



# June Council Meeting Highlights

The Council met on June 12th. Pastor Len Shatkus has approached the Council with a proposal to start a new outreach ministry in Bethel. The specifics are still taking shape but the idea is to reach out to our "neighbors" in the community that would not typically walk through the church doors on a Sunday, but whom are looking for some sense of belonging to a larger community. The emphasis will be on "mission". He would like to use Bethel Fellowship Hall as a place to meet, have conversation and build relationships. His new ministry will be called "'Ba' Bar Nabbas" (Daughter-Son-Encouragement/Community). The Council's devotional "Reclaiming the 'C' Word" discussed the need to pray more, and when we pray, we should be prepared to listen, not do all the talking. Kaleb & Lillian leave for the Houston Youth Gathering on June 26th. There will be a prayer gathering for them at 12:30PM at Bethel. Mick Davis has been busy getting bids to fix our negative drainage issue on the west side of the church. He has also received 3 bids to repair/remodel the bathrooms in the Gathering Place. Both projects will begin soon. We approved a background check policy several months ago for employees of the church and anyone who works with children. The Council approved the use of VICTIG, a background check company out of Utah. In the upcoming months, Bethel ministries will be highlighted in the bulletin, Bethel Notes, at Sunday worship and on the video screens in the narthex. Be watching to see the amazing work God is doing with our hands!

Jo Ann Dullum

Bethel Council President



This week I am really going out on a limb. I am featuring the "Laundry Angels". As I have said before, the bags of dirty laundry are placed in the narthex and they just "disappear" and appear all clean and neatly folded. Most of the time I have no idea who has done the laundry

UNLESS I see someone taking the bags out or they happen to mention to me that they brought clean laundry back. Those "laundry angels" that I know about are Mike and Joyce Harding, Bishop Jessica, Jane Mart, Carrie Ann Elkin, Dew Elkin, Terwilligers, Vander Aarde's, Sandi Cummings, Tami Grosenick. Now I know there are more angels out there that just flutter in and sweep up the laundry and bring it back unknown. For that I apologize - I want to recognize you - I so appreciate what you do for Family Promise. Please let me know you have done laundry so I can properly thank you. We put out a sign up sheet once and no one signed it - so in the future, we will have a sign up sheet so we will know who you angels are. And don't just draw wings..... Thank you all very much.

*Dew Elkin and Anne Vannatta*





## Retreats, Events, and Updates:

*For additional information about our upcoming retreats and events, check out our website at [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net).*

### Labor Day Family Retreat

August 31-September 3, 2018

*This weekend is for all ages! Adult bible studies will be lead by Pr. Tanner Howard of Havre, MT. FLBC staff will lead activities for kids. Lots of time for boating, ropes course, crafts and play*

*[Click here for Registration Form.](#)*

*[CLICK HERE](#) for the full calendar of retreats and events. [Like us on Facebook](#) for news and pictures from camp.*

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
603 S Main St Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-752-6602  
[office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net)  
[www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)

**Pastor Steve & Dew Elkin will be going to camp July 29th to August 3rd.**

**Bethel has camp scholarships available, \$100 per camper on a first come first serve basis. To take advantage of this benefit, bring or send a copy of your invoice from the camp (they will send you one as soon as you make the deposit) and Bethel will send the money to FLBC.**

**If you are registered for camp, please let the church office know so that we can make sure you get a card the week you are there.**

There are lots of exciting opportunities this year. Check out their website to see how you can be a part.

[www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)



**July 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.**

Check out our website [www.bethelmt.org](http://www.bethelmt.org) for more information!



\*Designed by Alex Tooley from New Hope.\*

*Tuesday, June 26th*

*12:15 am*

*Send-off for the youth,  
adult leaders and their  
families who will be  
attending the ELCA Youth  
Gathering in Houston.*

On Tuesday, Bethel's Kaleb Stringer, Lillian Erickson, Bishop Jessica and Colter McCarty will be heading down to Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. They will be joined by and traveling with youth and adults from Great Falls congregations: New Hope's (Alex Tooley and Michaela McGee) and Redeemer Lutheran's (Ben Woldtvedt, Emme Smith, Pastor Scott Hedegaard, Sherri Carl and Sally Smith). Associate to the Bishop of the MT. Synod, Pastor Jason Asselstine, will be leading bus loads to the Youth Gathering and reports that from the MT. Come join us in showing our support and help us send them off to a fantastic week!

## This Week at Bethel

### **Monday 6/25**

- Worship Planning meeting in the Fellowship Hall 4pm.

### **Tuesday 6/26**

- Bible Study 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast 7am.
- ELCA Youth Gathering Lunch and Send Off at Bethel at 11:30am.

### **Saturday 6/30**

- Family Promise night at the Voyager's game.

## Coming Up....

### **Tuesday 7/3:**

- Bible Study 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.

### **Wednesday 7/11:**

- LOGOS planning meeting at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Week of July 23rd -27th:**

- Vacation Bible School at Bethel.

### **Tuesday July 24th:**

- Family Pool Night at Jaycee Park 7pm.



Pastor Steve Van Gilder  
Administrative Assistant, Sarah Farris  
Bookkeeper, Bonnie Sears  
Ministry Coordinator, Tami Grosenick

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