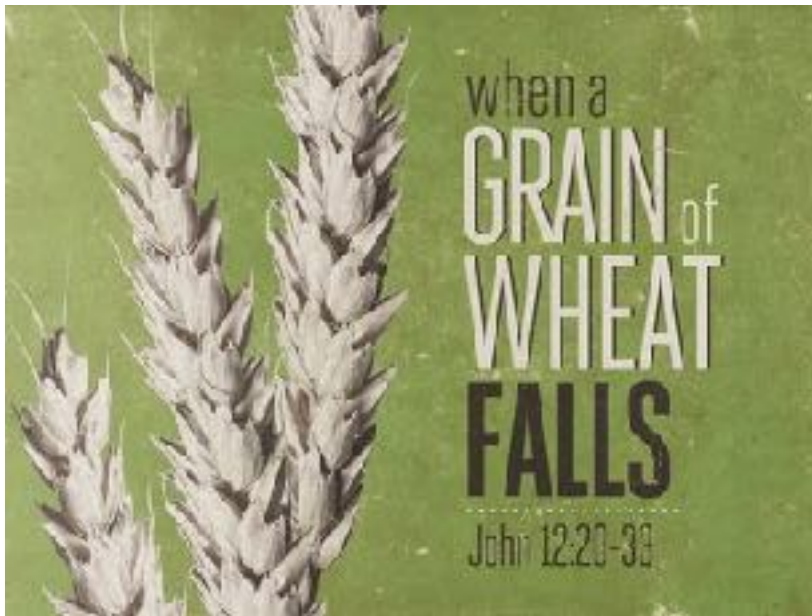


BETHEL NOTES

Fifth Sunday in Lent



God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

MARCH 18, 2018

This Sunday:

Adult Forum: Animate

Adult Faith formation will convene this morning after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will conclude the Animate curriculum with Service: The Needs Right In Front Of You, explored by Enuma Okoro. Enuma is a seasoned traveler, having lived and worked in countries on four continents. But she encourages us to see the needs around us. This local context can give us a new understanding of what service really looks like. Come and dive in!

Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-12

John 12:20-33

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:
Lay Assistant:
Usher(s):
Projectionist:
Counters:
Nursery:

Connie Titcomb
Anne Vannatta
Don & Kathi Bisgard
Dina Davis
Pam Dougherty & JoAnn Dullum
Kaleb Stringer



Words from the Bishop - Serve the world, especially the poor and those in need

This has been a tough winter. Many congregations have had to cancel services on one or more Sundays. We live in hope that the higher than normal snowpack will lead to good harvest and provide relief from last summer's fire season.

As you know, people living in isolation and in poverty have been adversely affected by the snow. They are running out of food and fuel. Some of you may have read of the needs on the Blackfeet Reservation. Our full communion partners, the United Methodists, have provided a grant and are coordinating response.

The Montana Synod is working to provide food and firewood to the Northern Cheyenne. We have sent a semi of food, enough to feed 600 families for 5 days. We need to raise \$5000 to pay for the food and transportation. When Montana was on fire last summer, other synods sent us disaster assistance. Now we need to ask you, the congregations of the Synod, to reach into your pockets and help our Northern Cheyenne neighbors.

Why the Northern Cheyenne, you may ask? Dick Deschamps, our Montana Synod Disaster Coordinator, has access to information on all the disaster areas in the state, and where the greatest need is. The greatest need, with the fewest resources is the Northern Cheyenne. Please read his report, immediately below.

I ask you to keep the Northern Cheyenne and all others experiencing hunger and deprivation in

prayer. And I ask you to open your hearts and your wallets to help the Northern Cheyenne now. Please send checks to the Montana Synod and write "disaster" on the memo.

Thank you for your generosity.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Disaster Update

It has been a while since I have communicated with you. The last time was when we were winding down from wildfires which devastated part of the state in summer-fall of 2017. We are now working our way through winter weather condition situations which affected large portions of the state, but the affects were possibly more keenly felt on the Blackfeet, Ft. Belknap and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations. Partnerships with the State and local emergency managers, Tribal governments, local business entities and voluntary organizations were able to stabilize services and bring needed relief to those affected.

As a result of your generous donations to the Synod Disaster Fund over the last 2 years, we were able to provide food, in conjunction with the Montana Food Bank Network, to feed 600 families for 4-5 days, on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. This food is in the process of being boxed and distributed to families isolated from their normal food channels due to excessive snow. Our help is much appreciated. We also had four volunteers from the Billings and Red Lodge area travel to Lame Deer to help box the food. Thank you to those four from American Lutheran and King of Glory Lutheran in Billings; and Messiah Lutheran in Red Lodge.

Unfortunately this expenditure depleted our disaster account, at least the one which resides in the Synod bank account. The other disaster account still resides with the members and congregations of the ELCA in Montana. It is my wish and prayer that you and your congregations can find ways to continue to keep this fund healthy so that we are always able to respond rapidly to those in need, as we were able to do with the Northern Cheyenne Community.

Disaster update (cont'd)

We are blessed with great moisture this year, but we could also be faced with flooding situations very shortly. Disasters happen when you suspect they might, but often when you least anticipate them. One way, we as a church can easily be prepared to help the wider community, is through financial donations. Please help today. See below how to do that:

Ways you can help:

Food banks are a source for food to help the shelters and families in general when they are evacuated from their homes. Food banks in the affected areas accept offers of food and money to help them remain a resource in times of disaster. Please contact your local food bank to see how you can best help out.

As a rule of thumb it is better to give money than goods. The exception to this would be specific requests for items from the emergency managers and agencies on site. Often times, unsolicited items provided in disaster go unused, because they are not the items needed. It also takes additional time and effort to organize and make available these items. When emergency managers and agencies have funds, they can purchase, often at a discount, the specific items required in a timely fashion.

Montana Synod maintains a disaster relief fund, funded entirely by your donations to help unmet needs for folks who have a disaster related need with no way to fund it. We anticipate that this fund will be utilized more as we become more aware due to our increased interest in being a part of disaster response and recovery. Your donations to that fund are always appreciated. Donations can be mailed to the Synod office at [3125 5th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405](mailto:31255th@mtlutheran.org)-3337.

Aside from human needs, these winter storms have caused a shortage of hay in the affected areas mentioned earlier. The Montana Department of Agriculture operates the Montana Hay Hotline where hay and or money donations can be

made. That website is <http://agr.mt.gov/Hay-Hotline>. Individuals wishing to donate hay may go to this website, and for cash donations may visit www.readyandsafe.mt.gov (hint: Click on the picture)

Above all else, please keep those affected by disaster, responders and victims, in your prayers.

Dick Deschamps

LDR Disaster Liaison

(406) 580-9906



March 22 - Soup Supper Host: Hope Circle

Deliverance from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3: 1 - 29) Shirley Cayko, LPA

For each of us there will be a time when we are engulfed by fire. Because of the resurrection of Christ, we can be confident that the Son of God will be with us, no matter what or where the furnace.



Prayers for *Marj Vander Aarde* as she recovers from surgery. Also for her sister, *Jann DeGroot*, who is battling cancer.

Prayers for healing for *Ryan Pottratz* (son of Ed and Myra Pottratz and grandson of Sue Hesse).

Prayers for *April (daughter of Sharon Pulfrey)* as she recovers from surgery. Also for Sharon as she recovers from hospitalization.

Prayers for *Ed Pottratz and family*.

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

Prayers for *Anne Trunkle* (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) in hospice care. Also prayers for Dena's sister, *Trina*.

Prayers for *Shelly Murphy*.

Prayers for *Ed Murphy* (Bethel custodian), as he recovers from surgery.

Prayers for *Gavin Foth, (great-nephew of LaRae Veitch)*, as he recovers from a spinal cord injury in Denver.

Prayers for God's healing presence for *Fred Crandell* who is recovering at home following hospitalization.

Prayers for God's presence and comfort for *Esther Schmidt* (Aunt of Sandy Pepos).

Prayers for the *Grosenick family* as they grieve the death of Greg's father, Jerry.

Prayers for *AnneRose Rogers* as she recovers from a fractured ankle.

Prayers for *Dustin Tempel* (friend of Crystal Dunn) as he battles cancer. Also for *Joe Furr* as he grieves the death of a loved one.

Prayers for *Dick Seim* as he undergoes medical tests.

Prayers for *RuthAnn Knudson* (Family Promise coordinator at First United Methodist Church) who is hospitalized in Seattle.



LOGOS End of the Year Party will be on Wednesday, March 21 from 5:30pm -7pm.



PLEASE JOIN US for a **FREE PRESCHOOL EXPO**



What: A free children's expo sponsored by Great Falls community organizations

- ~ Child centered and age-appropriate play and educational activities
- ~ Free take home activities, books, games, and information

Who: Families with children ages 2-4

Where: Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT

Tasty Treats: Available for a small cost (Concessions provided by INTERtribal Strong Indian Club)

Why: To learn what you can do to support your child's learning!

When: **Saturday, March 17, 2018, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Questions? Please call Family Connections at 406-761-6010



Maunday Thursday

Liturgy, March 29th at 7:00 pm

**Holy Communion; Jubilate Choir

Good Friday

Liturgy, March 30th at 7:00 pm

**Jubilate Choir

Easter Vigil

Liturgy, March 31st at 7:00
pm

**Holy Communion & Feast
of Milk & Honey

(Ice cream sundaes)

Resurrection of our Lord

~Easter Sunday

Liturgy, April 1st at 10:00 am

**Holy Communion; Jubilate
Choir,
Brass Accompanists



FAST Blackfeet

The Blackfeet Tribe has declared a State of Emergency. FAST Blackfeet is requesting financial donations to Nourish the Flathead and their Blackfeet Nourish Project. Donate here: <http://nourishtheflathead.org/donate/> Please put - BLACKFEET NOURISH - in the message line.

Christ UMC is collecting food, diapers and personal hygiene stuff. They will be taking loads up each week depending on the roads, so if you have items you would like to be donated you can drop them off at Bethel or take them directly to Christ UMC; 2900 9TH AVE S (BEHIND DAIRY QUEEN).

If you would like to write a check you can make it out to Bethel and footnote "MT Synod Disaster Fund/Blackfeet" in the memo line.



The 2018 FLBC Summer Camp brochures are now available in the Narthex in the track rack. Pick up one of these brochures now and invite a friend(s) to join you. You can register online: www.flbc.net and/or call [406-752-6602](tel:406-752-6602). **Pastor Steve plans to be at camp the week of Sunday, July 29 - August 3rd.**

*Please note the early registration discounts will save you money ! **You save \$50 by registering with your (\$75.) deposit by April 1st and you save \$25. by registering with your deposit by May 1st.** Bethel does have limited scholarship monies available to help defray the cost on a first come, first served basis. Let Pastor Steve know if you desire a camp scholarship. Please register with the Camp and if you wish a scholarship, email or drop off at the church a copy of the balance due invoice so that we can send the scholarship directly to the camp. Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp staff, Melissa Singletary, will be at Bethel on FLBC Sunday, April 8th, to give the message and to promote the camp. Bethel's FLBC representatives are Dan & Steph Richardson.

Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser -

Sunday, March 25

Please join us after the service on Palm Sunday and enjoy a hot, home-cooked breakfast provided by Lillie Erickson and Kaleb Stringer (and their families). Lillie and Kaleb will be traveling to Houston, TX in June to join approximately 30,000 young adults for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Freewill donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. All funds will go towards Lillie and Kaleb's upcoming travel expenses.



"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8

This Week at Bethel

Monday 3/19:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

Tuesday 3/20:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Men's Breakfast at 7am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Hope Circle, hosted by Leone Nuessle, begins at 7:30; 908 37th Ave NE.

Wednesday 3/21:

- LOGOS End of Year Party!

Thursday 3/22:

- Lenten Soup Supper hosted by the Bethel Bunch at 6:15pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Coming Up....

Thursday 3/29:

- Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm.

Friday 3/30:

- Good Friday worship with the Jubilate Choir at 7pm.
- Office will be closed.

Saturday 3/31:

- Easter Vigil worship with Holy Communion & Feast of Milk and Honey (ice cream sundaes) at 7pm.

Tuesday 4/3 - Friday 4/6:

- Pastor Steve at 2018 Montana Synod Pastoral Conference at Chico.

Sunday 4/8:

- FLBC Sunday. Melissa Singletary will be sharing the message at worship.

Tuesday 4/10:

- Church Council meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

Saturday 4/14:

- Great Falls Music Festival from 8am-3pm in the Sanctuary.

Saturday 4/21:

- AlaNon meeting in the Fellowship Hall from 11:45am - 3pm.

Sunday 4/29:

- 8th Grade Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation)



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

bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com
bethelgf.church@gmail.com
bethelgf.books@gmail.com
bethelmc.church@gmail.com

Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm
Wednesday: 9am to 2pm

Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1009 18th Ave SW, Great Falls, MT 59404

