

BETHEL NOTES

Palm/Passion Sunday



The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.

MARCH 25, 2018

This Sunday:

- The Jubilate Choir will be singing.
- First Communion for Olivia Violet
- Palm Sunday Brunch Fundraiser immediately following service in The Fellowship Hall to help send Lillie Erickson and Kaleb Stringer to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas.

Readings:

Mark 11: 1-11

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mark 15: 1-39

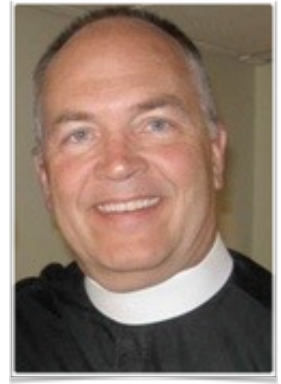
Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:
Lay Assistant:
Special Readers
Usher(s):
Projectionist:
Counters:

Connie Titcomb
Vann Arvanetes
Kaye VanGilder, Dave Scholten, Jubilate Choir
Shari Kohoutek & Sue Reppe
Dave Scholen
Jody Arvanetes & Grant Smith

Pastor's Article

"When Love Arrived"



During my childhood years, I tried not to pass up any opportunity to attend the County and State Fairs and to make sure that I spent most of my time with friends and family ~ riding the amusement rides rather than touring the livestock exhibits. I remember best the roller coasters and the peaks and the spectacular views with the slow ascent to the huge high point and then the breath taking plunge into the valleys and the spaces in between that would allow me to catch my breath. I liken the roller coaster ride as an image for Palm/ Passion Sunday and the journey called Holy Week.

On Sunday, the Processional Gospel reading, will tell us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, and welcomed by a jubilant crowd filled with high hopes for what he will be and do for them. "Hosanna !" they shouted. Which for them meant "save us from the oppressive rule of the Roman empire by being our military hero." Their adulation and hopes were like that one great high point on the roller coaster. But just hours later, their shouts of hosanna would turn to shouts for Jesus to be crucified. We will hear read in our midst Mark's account of Jesus' passion. We will experience the frightful drop..descent of Jesus into the depths of darkness. We will hear his

despairing cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me ?"

Before we get to Easter, the day of Jesus' resurrection – to experience the high, holy pinnacle and the thrilling acclamations of "Christ is Risen!" ~ we have to descend into the depths and the darkness of Holy Week. Holy Week is the time we will once again experience the story which is central to our faith. Holy Week presents us with the invitation to contemplate the hard questions of betrayal, suffering and death. And to ask, "What does this passion and love all mean for me and for my life and discipleship?"

Come and experience with your brothers and sisters in Christ and the holy catholic church, the depths and the heights that are Holy Week.

Come and experience the love of God in Christ which isn't afraid of our fickle ways...nor put off by betrayals...denials...nor self-absorbed ways.

Come and experience THE LOVE OF CHRIST that will stop at nothing to get through to me and you ! Hosanna ! Hosanna in the highest heaven ! Welcome to Holy Week.

LOGOS End-of-Year Party



We have had an awesome year in Logos. So many fun and faith centered activities including service projects making hygiene kits and canned food drive for FISH. Our fantastic teachers directed amazing bible studies and the 6th grade decorated our sanctuary for Christmas. We ended our year with a night of fun complete with pizza, popcorn, lots of candy and many fun games.

We thank everyone who contributed their time, talents, and energy to this successful ministry. Although we will be taking a break during the busy spring, we hope to have some fun events for kids and their families this summer.

A special thank you to our teachers Krystal Tweet - Pre-K and K, Patty Braget - 1st & 2nd, Amber Pinski - 3rd, Tammy Hamma, Johnna and Tim Lightbourne - 4th, Jo Ann Dullum - 5th, Sabrina Parham - 6th, Pastor Steve and Kaye Van Gilder, Terri Dahl - 7th & 8th, Steph and Dan Richardson High School. Our table parents Lisa Blades, Stephanie Cummings, Dew Elkin, Tammy

Hamma, Heather and Mike Kubas, Amber Pinski, AnneRose Rogers, Janet Smith, Krystal Tweet, Krisit Virts, and LaRae Vietch. Our Rec Leaders Joel Carlson and Ben Jaques. Kitchen staff Darci Bernardi - coordinator, Traci Orthman, Shawna Rowe, Laura Kupfner, and various Logos parents. Mary Seim our accompanist for family worship services. Shannon Marr - Logos Director and Tami Grosenick - Worship Arts leader.

So many are involved in this program and it could not be done without each and every one. Many thanks and blessings to all our staff and congregation who support our Logos program.



PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



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

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.

Prayers for **The Hameline** family following the death of Melissa (Bisgard) Hameline's sister-in-law, Denise

Prayers for **Sarah Farris** (Bethel's Administrative Assistant).

Thank You

I wanted to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to everyone at Bethel. You have all been so amazing and supportive to me and my family after the loss of my father-in-law. So many of you sent prayers and condolences and I cannot express enough how much that meant.

A special thank you to Pastor Steve for praying with us and coming to the funeral for Jerry.

Also to Darci Bernardi and Shannon Marr for taking over my duties with Logos so I could be with my family.

And to Lynn Ryan and Stephanie Cummings who picked up the lead with Logos when both Shannon and I were out.

The family here at Bethel is so very special and I am honored to be part of it.

Tami Grosenick, Ministry Coordinator

A Reception for Kathy Johnson

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall April 11th at 5:00 PM as we welcome Kathy Johnson back for a visit.

We will be serving lasagna and would like a pot luck of other items such as salads, bread, and desserts. If you can join us please RSVP to Sue Hesse 868-9653 or Sandi Cummings 868-9262 and let us know how many are coming and what you are bringing.

We are so excited to catch up with Kathy and we know she would love to see all of you.

Eamon Ormseth's Blog!

We have put a link to Eamon's blog on our website - below is an excerpt from his story. To read more and see fantastic pictures - go to the Bethel website home page and click the button labeled "Eamon Ormseth's Newsletter"

Just a few weeks ago, I was in Jordan on top of Mount Nebo, where Moses looked out over the Promised Land that he would never actually step foot in. As we looked out over the Jordan River valley and the Dead Sea, we read from Martin Luther King's famous speech I've Been to the Mountaintop. The speech has an eerie quality, as MLK was assassinated three days later and, like Moses he never entered the Promised Land. Throughout the speech, MLK expresses the joy of building God's kingdom on Earth--the joy of the journey to the Promised Land...



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 3/26:

- 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.

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.

Sunday 4/1:

- Easter Sunday Service 10am in the Gathering Place

Coming Up....

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.

Wednesday 4/11

- Reception for Kathy Johnson 5pm in the Fellowship Hall

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

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Wednesday: 9am to 2pm

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BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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