

BETHEL NOTES

Third Sunday in Lent



The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

MARCH 4, 2018

This Sunday:

Adult Forum: Animate

Adult Faith formation will convene this morning after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue the Animate curriculum with Worship: Seeking God's Presence, explored by Mike Slaughter. For many Christians, worship is synonymous with going to church. Mike will challenge us to think about worship as a much richer practice, one we can follow on our own and in community. Come and dive in!

Readings:

Exodus 20:1-17

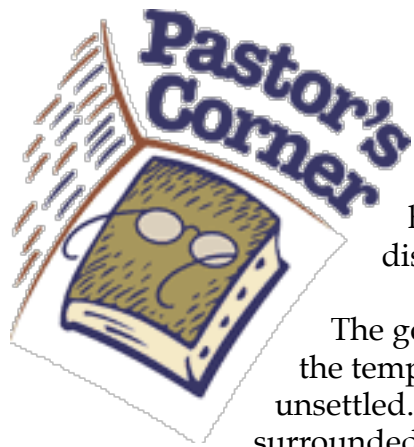
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Serving This Sunday

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

Mary Seim
Sandy Pepos
TBD
Dina Davis
Jody Arvanetes & Matt Crampton
Ava & Alex Olson



What triggered Jesus to react so forcefully in driving out the “money-changers,” the sacrificial animals and overturning their tables and currency in the Jerusalem temple during the Festival of Passover ? Did his passion get the best of him ? Where might the origin of his passion/actions...the truth of this story be discovered for Jesus’ followers and the church ?

The gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent is John’s version of Jesus’ cleansing of the temple. It is a dramatic scene and one of an angry Jesus, which can make us uneasy...unsettled. Jesus walks into the Court of the Gentiles (an area inside the temple that surrounded the sacred temple precincts) and rejects an ancient temple practice, saying, “*Stop making my Father’s house a market-place !*” The ancient practice was that of selling sacrificial animals to the worshippers and exchanging their Roman coins (which bore the image of the emperor) for coins which were acceptable for the temple tax. Nothing inherently wrong with that, right ? The synoptic gospels (Mathew, Mark & Luke) include this line in their telling of the story (“*You have made the temple a den of robbers.*”) which suggest that there might have been some price gouging going on and that was more the issue that raised Jesus’ ire. I believe that the prophet Zechariah gives us a clue as to what the gospel writer John’s viewpoint of this dramatic scene was all about. He writes, “*There shall no longer be traders in the house of the Lord of hosts on that day....(that is on the day that the Lord comes to Jerusalem)*” **Zechariah 14:21**

The good news, according to John, is that the Word (Jesus Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us. Another way of saying this is, God in Christ, “tabernacled among us” ~ Jesus embodied God’s presence...became God’s temple. In Jesus, the day of the Lord has arrived, God has come and the ancient sacrificial system, along with the money changers, must go. This radical change in worship practices shocked the religious leaders ! They demanded Jesus give them a sign..an answer.. and he responded, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*” **John 2:19** He was referencing his own passion prediction that he would die but three days later be raised (by God) to life. The religious leaders understood him to be talking about brick and mortar but he was making reference to his body as the temple of God.

This gospel reading was chosen for the season of Lent in order to help us examine our own lives in the light of God’s will and purposes. Lent is a time to “shake things up,” not just for the sake of shaking things up but for the sake of turning our hearts toward God. This story leads us to ask ourselves, “What has to go ?” “What has to change?” “What temples...rituals have we (personally or the Church) constructed that have ended up only serving our own interests rather than God’s interests?”

Lent is a gift to each of us, the church, to stop and to clarify the purposes behind what we are doing...to keep those rituals and practices which serve God’s will and purposes and to let go of those which do not. I invite you to join in the Sunday faith formation hour this Sunday, after worship, to discuss worship practices. I invite you to join in the mid-week Lenten soup suppers and Holden Evening Prayer service on Thursday evenings. The Spirit of God is at work in us, today, shaking things up and moving our hearts towards God and our voices, hands and feet to love and bless the world !

Pastor Steve



Changes in LOGOS schedule for remainder of year:

Wednesday, February 21: Regular LOGOS for all grades

Grades K-2: 5:30-6:30pm

Grades 3-8: 5:30-7:45pm

Grades 9-12: 6:00-7:45pm

Wednesday, February 28: ONLY grades 7-12 will meet 6:00-7:45pm

Wednesday, March 7: NO Family Meal & Worship, Regular LOGOS for all grades

Grades K-2: 5:30-6:30pm

Grades 3-8: 5:30-7:45pm

Grades 9-12: 6:00-7:45pm

Wednesday, March 14: Regular LOGOS but is JUMP UP Night. Altered schedule is:

Grades K-1: 5:30-6:30pm

Grades 2-7: 5:30-7:45pm

*2nd grade participates in full program

*6th grade participates in confirmation class

Grades 8-12: 6:00-7:45pm

*8th grade participates in high school program

Wednesday, March 21: END OF YEAR PARTY - time and location to be determined

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 *April (daughter of Sharon Pulfrey)* as she prepares for surgery on Feb 15th. 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 healing for *Arlena Crandell's son Mike*.

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 hospitalized at the VA Hospital in Helena. Prayers also for Fred's wife, *Arlena* and sister-in-law *Sheri*.

Prayers for *Bishop Jessica* and the *ELCA Conference of Bishops* who gather this week in Chicago.

Blackfeet Tribe State of Emergency

We need food in Blackfeet Nation.

Blackfeet Nourish has been providing food for the Medicine Bear Shelter and Blackfeet Food Bank for more than 6 years.

The month of February has been grueling. Blackfeet has been hit by blizzard after blizzard with hurricane-force winds. Many people around Blackfeet Nation are both trapped in their homes and trapped out of their homes, in shelters and other people's homes.

100% of donations will go to food for the Blackfeet Nation and dispersed to the shelter and as directed by Blackfeet Tribe's Incident Command Center.

<http://nourishtheflathead.org/donate/>
Please indicate "Blackfeet Nourish" in the message line.

FAST Blackfeet
Food Access and Sustainability Team



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)



The Cross

Our Faith

Our Savior's
Lutheran
Lenten Brunch



Saturday, March 24th
10:30 a.m.
Meadow Lark
Country Club

Guest Speaker:
**Bishop
Elizabeth
Eaton**

Tickets:
\$15
Purchase Deadline:
March 12th



You are invited to Our Savior's Lutheran Lenten Bruch on Saturday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet at the Meadow Lark Country Club, enjoy a lovely meal, and hear from a wonderful guest speaker, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Tickets will be \$15 and will be available after church, at 11:00 a.m. at OSLC on February 24th, March 4th and 11th, and in the church office. The deadline for ticket purchase is March 12th. We hope to see you there for a morning of fun fellowship.



NRIT Class on Faith Formation, Taught by Pr. Dick Hardel: Focused on LPAs and Lay Leaders (Clergy are invited and welcomed as well!)

March 9 First Lutheran in Havre, 10 AM to 3PM

March 10 Trinity Lutheran in Choteau 10AM to 3PM

4 Hours Continuing Ed

\$60 clergy/\$40 LPA, New to Ministry, Retired/\$10 for lay persons no continuing ed credits

Remember and Be Remembered

Researchers find immediately after hearing a message, people tend to remember 50% of what they have heard. By the next day this drops to 25%. A week later this is 10% and you do not pick which 10%.

Remember and be Remembered workshop will provide training in faith formation practices for home and congregation that help the people to whom you are ministering engage more fully in faith conversations. Focus will be on tools that help them to remember and empower them to share. Participants will:

- Be trained in The Visual Faith Project: Engaging Scripture & Life With Images
- Practice the faith with Four Key Faith Practice Bible Study Placemats for home or small groups
- Engage in faith conversations through excellent resources
- Be renewed in Spirit and remembered in ministry.

For over 20 years, Dick served as a Lutheran pastor in congregations in South Dakota and Florida. He served for over three years as assistant to the Bishop in the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA. In 1994 he accepted the call to serve as the Executive Director of The Youth & Family Institute. Pr. Hardel is retired and living in Montana, continuing to work in the areas of Faith Formation, Wellness, and Discipleship from FaithWellMT.



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.



LENTEN

Calendar & Events



March 8 - Soup Supper Host: LOGOS

Deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 14: 10 -31; 15: 20 - 21)

Dave Scholten, LPA

In this archetypal story, God vanquishes evil and liberates the oppressed. By the resurrection, God liberates us from slavery to sin and brings us through the waters of baptism to safety.

March 15 - Soup Supper Host: Bethel Bunch

Valley of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14)

Steve Smith, LPA

For Christians, the valley of the dry bones can be interpreted in various ways: a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a promise about the baptized life, and a hint of the final resurrection of the dead. In the action of God, the Word, and the Spirit, Christians see also a picture of the Triune God.

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.

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)



March 6th at 6:15 there will be a training session for Family Promise at Bethel Lutheran Church. Several have asked for the mandatory training so they can work directly with our families. Other churches will be invited to participate. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Come join us and learn how you can make a huge difference in the lives of Great Falls homeless population and it will make a difference in your life as well. Doing God's Work With Our Hands and Hearts.

This Week at Bethel

Monday 3/5:

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

Tuesday 3/6:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Men's Breakfast at 6:00am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Family Promise training from 6:15pm to 8pm.

Wednesday 3/7:

- Regular LOGOS at 5:30pm.

Thursday 3/8:

- Lenten Soup Supper hosted by the Close Knit Group and Men's Breakfast Group at 6:15pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday 3/8 - Tuesday 3/13:

- Pastor Steve out of the office on vacation.

Coming Up....

Sunday 3/11:

- Pastor Steve Nelson will be preaching and presiding at worship.
- Daylight Savings Time ends. Don't forget to spring forward one hour!

Tuesday 3/13:

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

Wednesday 3/14:

LOGOS "Jump Up Night" at 5:30pm

Tuesday 3/20:

- Hope Circle, hosted by Leone Nuessle, begins at 7:30; 908 37th Ave NE.

Saturday 3/24:

- Cross Our Faith Brunch, with guest speaker Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Meadow Lark Country Club at 10:30am. Tickets are available at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for \$15. Deadline to purchase tickets is March 12th.

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.

Happy Birthday

Travis Cushman	2	Mathis G. Pepos	23
Kari Underdahl	2	Jonathan Busby	24
Alexa Fromm	3	Mathias Pepos	24
Char Erickson	3	Aaron Frick	25
Dennis McCarty	3	Jackie VanHeel	25
Kris Voorhees	5	Craig Gresham	26
Teresa Johnson	6	Ava Olson	26
Colleen Busby	7	Kaleb Stringer	26
Jim Carlson	9	Tom Rosenbaum	28
Jeanne Anderson	15	Allison Marr	29
Jane Mart	16	Vann Arvanetes	30
Darci Bernardi	17	Debbie McCarty	30
Jerry Speer	17	Lonnie Seim	30
		Alex Olson	30
		Sarah Basirat	31

****If you do not wish to have your birthday published, please contact the church office at 761-1543.****





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

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Wednesday: 9am to 2pm

Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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