

# BETHEL NOTES

## The Resurrection of our Lord



With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.



### Maundy Thursday

Liturgy, March 29th at 7:00 pm

\*\*Holy Communion; Jubilate Choir

### Good Friday

Liturgy, March 30th at 7:00 pm

\*\*Jubilate Choir

Good Friday Service sponsored by the Great Falls Ministerial Association at First United Congregational UCC at noon.

### 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



## An Easter Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

*It all started with such promise* – the angel announcing to Mary that the child she would bear would be called Son of the Most High; the conviction of Mary

that this child would be the embodiment of God's promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised.

And then, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It was over. The world hadn't changed. Might still made right. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil must have said, "You fool."

This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the wisdom of the world. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that we are in control and the world is ours. In the face of this and all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

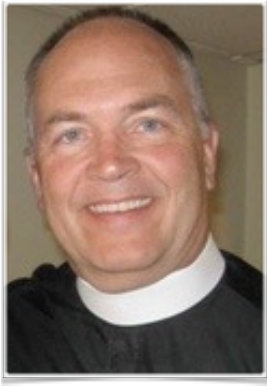
I believe that the beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of the psalmist and the anguish of our Lord, but there is more going on here. Citing the first words of a text was, in the tradition of the time, a way of identifying an entire passage. The psalm ends this way: "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people

yet unborn, saying that he has done it." This is the wisdom of God. Jesus' crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this.

This year, Easter falls on April 1. We shall have come through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We shall say, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title.

### Help Is Still Needed For The Northern Cheyenne

Thank you to those who have donated to the disaster relief fund so far. We are still requesting funds for our Disaster Fund to help address the need in the Montana Synod brought on by winter storms. more information can be found on our website, [www.montanasynd.org](http://www.montanasynd.org)



## Pastor's Article

### *"Resurrection Life: Going On Ahead of You."*

"But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." **Mark 16: 7**

What does resurrection life look like? If you want to see for yourself, you have to catch up to him...for he is already going on ahead of you. This is the gospel writer's unique description of resurrection life. It would have seemed a much shorter distance for the resurrected Jesus to have returned, first, to Jerusalem and maybe even to have recreated another triumphal entry. But a young man dressed in a white robe tells the women to go and let the others know that if you want to see the risen Jesus you have to head north and to catch up to him in Galilee.

Galilee, the dusty out of the way place where their lives first intersected, calls were extended, and life transforming ministry happened. Galilee, the place where Jesus' ministry began and now it appears will begin again. Mark's take on the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, is that it is something that happens on ahead of us. No longer bound to one specific place and time but on the move and on the loose. It is a power that meets us in the places where we live and work...in the ordinary places of our on the move and everyday lives. Not contained in the church but in the world. The power of God's life which connects with our life. Which brings newness to our lives each and everyday.

The Easter message is that the Risen Jesus is still on the loose, and his power to bring newness is at work in you and on ahead of you, in the world making all things new.

On behalf of myself and the entire Bethel Staff and Council leadership, I wish you and your family a blessed Holy Week.

Christ is Risen ! He is risen indeed !

Pastor Steve

### Serving Thursday

**Accompanist:** Jennifer Skogley

**Lay Reader:** Melody Skogley

**Usher(s):** Udo & Terree Wozny

**Projectionist:** Dave Scholten

### Serving Friday

**Accompanist:** Lynn Ryan

**Lay Readers:** Jubilate Choir

**Usher(s):** Bob & Marj Vander Aarde

**Projectionist:** Tim Lightbourne

### Serving Saturday

**Accompanist:** Lynn Ryan

**Lay Assistants:** Udo & Terree Wozny

**Readers:** Udo & Terree Wozny, Sue Hesse, Steve Smith

**Usher(s):** Kaye Van Gilder

**Projectionist:** Dave Scholten

### Serving Sunday

**Accompanist:** Mary Seim

**Lay Assistant:** Walt Nuessle

**Usher(s):** The Terrwilligers

**Projectionist:** Dina Davis

**Counters:** Patty Braget and Mick Davis

**Brass Accompanists:** Dave & Aiyana Scholten, Jeff Skogley, Steve Mueller, Adam Elkin

## 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 Pulfry* 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 *AnneRose Rogers* as she recovers from a fractured ankle.

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

Prayers for God's comfort and peace for the family of *RuthAnn Knudson* (Family Promise coordinator at First United Methodist Church) who passed away this week.

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

Prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of new life in the birth of *Hailey Marie Thomas*. Daughter of Ross and Erin Thomas. Granddaughter of Sue and Roger Reppe and great-granddaughter of Shari Kohoutek.

Prayers for God's comfort and peace for *Jeanne Rankin and Mary Hall* as they mourn the death of Jeanne's father, George.

### **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.



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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>** and you save \$25. by registering with your deposit by May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is our Bible Camp on the North Western shores of Flathead Lake, just South of Lakeside, MT. In an effort to help encourage attendance at the camp, we will have the FBLC Development Coordinator, Melissa Singletary here at Bethel to deliver the message and answer questions on Sunday, April 8th. Bethel's Camp representatives are Dan & Steph Richardson and they can be reached at 406-579-8897.

There are still scholarships available to attend FLBC, and they are given out on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Pastor Steve if you desire a scholarship from the church. 761-1543.

**[bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com)** Remember, **You save \$50 by registering with your (\$75.) deposit by April 1<sup>st</sup>** and you save \$25. by registering with your deposit by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Adult Spirituality Retreat at FLBC**



April 15-17, 2018

Join us for great days of learning, fellowship, relaxation & fun! Spend time in the great outdoors hiking around camp, enjoying great conversations, and worshipping together. Come for just a day or the whole retreat to experience the teachings of Dr. Mark Allan Powell, professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He will lead discussion on well-known Gospel passages, helping us to approach the Bible with new eyes. Retreat begins on Sunday at 6:15 pm for dinner & concludes on Tuesday at 12:15 pm with lunch. Register [here](#).

## This Week at Bethel

### Tuesday 4/3 - Friday 4/6:

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

### Sunday 4/8:

- Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Sunday. Melissa Singletary, FLBC Development Coordinator, will share the message at worship.

## Coming Up....

### Tuesday 4/10:

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

### Wednesday 4/11:

- Reception for Kathy Johnson 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Sue Hesse 868-9653 or Sandi Cummings 868-9262.

### Saturday 4/14:

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

### Thursday 4/19:

- Hope Circle 7pm - LaRae Vietch's home - 2005 2nd St S

- 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 Confirmation.



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## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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