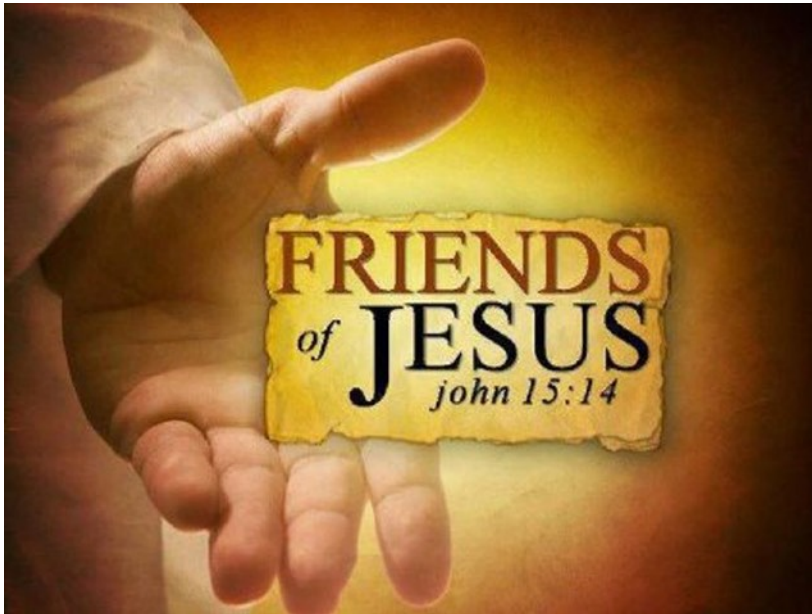


BETHEL NOTES

Sixth Sunday of Easter



This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

MAY 6, 2018

This Sunday:

Lisa Carlson and Dave Scholten will be singing "Healing of the Nations".

An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.

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

Readings:

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lay Assistant:

Usher(s):

Projectionist:

Counters:

Nursery:

Connie Titcomb

Kaye Van Gilder

Pr. Len Shatkus, Carrie Ann, Adam, and Julia Elkin

Tim Lightbourne

Patty Braget & Matt Crampton

Carly Cushman

I Have Called You Friends

Friends.....that is what Jesus calls his disciples in this week's assigned gospel reading. So I have been thinking about friends and how it is that some friends have become as close to me as a brother or a sister while others are simply acquaintances. Why is that? I asked the Logos middle schoolers how they would define a friend and they shared with me some desired qualities and virtues. "A friend is someone who is trustworthy." "A friend is loyal." "A friend is one who shares common interests and values." "A friend is one who is there for you...who listens to your problems, and helps you."

Here is what Jesus says about friends to his disciples in John's gospel....

12- 15 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." John 15: 12 - 15

Jesus' friends are those who love one another. His friends are not merely dutiful servants because servants are not privy to their master's thoughts and plans. Jesus calls us friends because he has confided in us..passed along to us what he has heard from his Father and our God. And, finally to be Jesus' friend is to love one another and to extend his love to the world. God loves wholly, sacrificially, completely. We're called to do the same. This is all our life's calling as Jesus saw this as the greatest commandment:

To love a neighbor, to love a friend, to love a stranger, to love an enemy. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus tells his followers that betrayal will come *"at the hands of parents, brothers, relatives and friends." Luke 21*

This is where it gets difficult. Jesus' command to love friends, strangers, enemies, those different from us and who will not love us back will seem to us an impossible task. Our commitment and efforts to love unconditionally and sacrificially ~ as Jesus loves ~ will be taxed, tire and fall short of the mark. But God has a deep well of love from which we can draw as we will quickly exhaust our own resources. And if God would choose to include us and ALL in God's love and call upon us to love one another, then God will supply us with what we need. We've been friended by Jesus. We have been brought into a relationship of reciprocal love and into a community of friends. We have been given the task of going out and sharing this revelation with the world. With God's help, we will expand our comfort zones and the community of Jesus' friends.

Connecting scripture and life....

When we approach guests and neighbors, how can we shift our attitude toward "look, there are friends here" in creating welcome? Consider what small and large seeds of love you are or can plant in the lives of your neighbors and friends.

What small acts of kindness, mercy, and grace can you extend to another as you move through this week?

Pastor Steve

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 **Ed Pottratz and family**.

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

Prayers for family and friends of **Anne Trunkle** (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) as they grieve her death. Also prayers for Dena's sister, **Trina**.

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**

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

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

Prayers for God's grace as the **Synod staff** transition to their permanent home, the new Synod House.

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

Prayers for healing for **LeRoy Diacon** (father of Amber Erickson.)

Prayers for **Cody** (friend of Sue Hesse.)

Family Promise

Our next Family Promise host week will be **May 27th - June 3rd**. Due to scheduling conflicts at Bethel, Central Christian Church (The Hub) has graciously offered to allow us to host from their church as the families will already be there.. This is a treat for the families as they will not have to move! And a great opportunity for those of us who have not seen the Hub to stop by and say hello.

We will have sign ups beginning Sunday to help serve and also for food donations. For anyone donating pantry items, please still drop them off at Bethel and there will be a sheet to sign to let us know who is donating and what you dropping off. We like to know so we can say thank you! Meals are to be delivered to The Hub, if you have need Tami or Dew can help with that. Thank you all for your kind Support!

Family Promise Events

Early Risers at
First Presbyterian Church
6:30 am May 3rd-24th
\$5 breakfast & special speakers

Family Promise Night at the
Voyagers June 6th

FLBC

It is hard to believe that summer is almost here! We want to make sure that you know of a couple of things as you start planning your activities.

1. Work Weekend at FLBC is Memorial weekend. This is a chance to get up to the camp and help get it ready for a summer of campers! Lodging and meals are included so contact the camp at www.flbc.net to reserve your spot today!
2. Pastor Steve will be going to camp July 29th to August 3rd

The deadline for early sign up with \$25 discount is May 1st so sign up today!

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.

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

www.flbc.net



Hymns & Beer

Drink slowly. Sing joyfully. Make friends.

**Great Falls Ministerial
Association's**

Hymns and Beer

**Sunday, May 6th
6:00-8:00 PM**

**The Do Bar Banquet
Hall**

**1800 3rd St NW, Great Falls, MT
59404**

**This is a time for Christians to
gather, sing, eat, drink and
enjoy fellowship with each
other. Everyone is welcome
to join this family friendly
event.**



This year the FLBC counselors will be joining us **July 23rd through 27th from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.** We will have a faith filled week of friends, games, crafts, and music. Along with pool night and Family Night program and pot luck. This camp is free for youth going into Pre-K to 6th grade. We also need Junior Counselors for youth going into 7th and up. Check out the Bethel Website bethelmt.org under Youth Programs for more information or contact Tami Grosenick at bethelmc.church@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more details!

CHADWICK FC

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY!!

FOOD CONCESSIONS 2018 SUMMER STAFF

CASHIERS, COOKS, SETUP/TEARDOWN

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

TO APPLY VISIT: WWW.CHADWICKFC.COM/APPLICATION

MONTANA STATE FAIR

GREAT FALLS, MT

JULY 27TH-AUGUST 4TH 2018



-AND/OR-



MONTANA FAIR

BILLINGS, MT

AUGUST 10TH-18TH 2018

(SET-UP WORK AVAILABLE 4+ DAYS PRIOR TO DATES LISTED ABOVE)

FOODS WE LOVE TO EAT & SERVE:

CORNDOGS * LEMONADE * FUNNEL CAKES

PHILLY SANDWICHES * CHEESE CURDS * ELEPHANT EARS

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY:

10% OF WAGES EARNED WILL BE MATCHED & DONATED BACK TO THE CHURCH/SCHOOL ORGANIZATION/CLUB OF WORKER'S AFFILIATION.

CHADWICK FC | 206.617.2744 | INFO@CHADWICKFC.COM | WWW.CHADWICKFC.COM

Bethel Bunch

Sunday June 24th Noon - 12:00 p.m.

at Ron and Dew Elkins house

2412 47th Ave. SW

Elkins will provide the main dish - burgers and brats and buns.

Everyone else will need to bring our own beverage as well as a side dish to share.

We need someone to provide chips; condiments; salad and dessert.

So if you could RSVP Terry Korpela at terry.korpela@gmail.com or Elkins at rda.elkingtf@gmail.com and let us know what you would like to bring, this will help get all bases covered.

This Week at Bethel

Monday 5/7:

- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

Tuesday 5/8:

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am
- Church Council meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place

Wednesday 5/9:

- Staff meeting in the Fellowship Hall 10:00am.

Coming Up....

Monday 5/14 - Friday 5/18:

- Pastor Steve on vacation.

Monday 5/14

- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

Tuesday 5/15:

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am

Thursday 5/17

- Hope Circle 7pm Dina Davis' 1413 3rd West Hill

Saturday 5/19:

- Close Knit in the Fellowship Hall 9am.
- AlaNon meeting at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday 5/21:

- Cycle Across America - staying at Bethel, details TBA
- Boy Scout meeting in the Gathering Place 6:15pm

Coming Up (cont.)....

Tuesday 5/22:

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am
- Columbia Falls School overnight.

Sunday 5/27:

- Baptism of Hailey Marie Thomas.
- Family Promise Host week at Central Christian Church

Monday 5/28:

- Memorial Day - office will be closed.

Tuesday 5/29:

- Bible Study Electric City Coffee 6:30am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7am - until September

Thursday 6/7:

- Hope Circle Picnic 6pm Terri Korpela's 3025 Delmar

Week of July 23rd -27th:

- Vacation Bible School at Bethel

Tuesday July 24th:

- Family Pool Night at Jaycee Park 7pm

Carpentry Help Needed



Trinity Lutheran Church of Sheridan Wyoming will be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Rocky Boy May 19th to 24th. They are looking for someone with some carpentry skills to help on some projects that other groups will finish this coming summer.

If you are able to join us or would simply like more information please call
Pastor Phil Wold - 307-763-1115.



Kanin Beck	2	John Korpela	17
Rachael Nelson	2	Kaye VanGilder	17
Casey Veitch	3	Steve VanGilder	17
Lewis Wandke	3	Colette Barnes	19
Cindy Agamenoni	4	Ann Tuomi	19
Adam Elkin	4	Douglas Wandke	19
Colin Kohoutek	4	JoDee Black	20
Zach Pottratz	4	Janet Smith	20
Abbie Black	5	Johnna Lightbourne	21
Jack Castner	5	Casey Coffman	22
Aaron Kutzler	5	Melissa Pottratz	22
Jerry Snodgrass	5	Josie Slater	22
Sandi Cumings	8	Neil Sletten	22
Lillian Erickson	8	Skylar Troyer	22
Tiffany VanHeel	8	Myra Pottratz	25
Brett Schoenen	9	Russell Klette	26
Carol Erickson	10	Mary Seim	28
Leslie Zinne	11	Kai Underdahl	29
Brenda Slater	15	Max Arvanetes	30
Valarie Cushman	16	Mark Kohoutek	31
Dina Davis	16	Jim Stutzman	31
Ava Fossen	16	John Wallace	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

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

