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BETHEL NOTES



All Saints Sunday

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Readings:

Isaiah 25:6-9
 Revelation 21:1-6a
 John 11:32-44

Sunday
Nov 4



Jan DeGroot (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

Faith Crouch (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.

Prayers for healing for **Pasty Berkeley Brattain** as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers of healing for **Don Bisgard** as he battles stomach cancer.

Ed Pottratz for healing as he resumes cancer treatment.

Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.

Prayers for comfort and healing for **those who were wounded** and prayers of support for the **Jewish communities across the nation** as they question whether they can feel safe.

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:
Sandy Pepos

Usher(s):
Sue Hesse

Projectionist:
Lisa Carlson

Counters:
Pam Dougherty
TBD

Nursery Attendant(s):
Heather Farris

Mark your calendars!!
Wednesday evening 7:00 PM
Family Worship
November 28th
December 12th
January 30th
March 6th - *Ash Wednesday*
April 3rd

Jubilate choir will perform

Gather by the River to pray

ADULT FORUMS

FALL and WINTER of 2018

Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke

Beginning on Sunday, November 4th, a Bible study will begin on the Gospel of Luke and will be led by Pastor Steve. Luke's gospel is arguably the most loved of the four gospels and will be the focus of Year C (beginning Sunday, December 2nd) of the three year lectionary cycle. Readings from Luke will appear forty times on Sundays and Festivals and so it is important to spend some time in the Gospel and explore the questions and meaning for our day. The Lukan study will be offered after worship and on Thursday mornings at 10am. We will begin with some background information on Luke's gospel and talk about some of the major themes.

- **Sunday, November 4th and Thursday, November 8th (at 10am)** – An Introduction & major themes,
- **Sunday, November 11th we may not meet, due to (Financial Stewardship/Commitment Sunday) but we will meet on Thursday, November 15th (at 10am)** – Born for Us and with a Mission
- **Sunday, November 18th We will not meet due to (Annual Desert Auction Fundraiser for VBS & FLBC Scholarships) and Thanksgiving Day !**
- **Sunday, December 2nd (and Thursday, December 6th (at 10am)** – What was Jesus Doing ? (Healing Ministry)
- **Sunday, December 9th (and Thursday, December 13th at 10am)** – Why Must Jesus Die ?
- **TBD - Grace Will Lead Me Home (Parables about the Lost & Found)**



WEEP AND SHED TEARS FOR OUR SAINTS; AND THEN ...

We are celebrating All Saints Day this Sunday. The readings mention weeping and tears shed for the loved one we lost. Weeping and shedding tears is important for the healing process when we lose someone that we dearly loved. Bethel's tradition of lighting candles for the loved ones that we lost also helps in the healing process. Moreover, the candles symbolize to me that we let the light shine on our loved ones that died. We allow for their memories and actions to be part of us.

My maternal grandfather, Paul Gerhardt, had many positive influences on me. For one, he was an early supporter of my wife Terree even though he had not met her at that time. His statement was, "Trust Udo's decision." Over the years, he always showed compassion for others; he often gave strangers a cup of warm coffee and cookies, or led a funeral service for a friend of his youth when the local Protestant pastor was not willing to lead the funeral service. The memory of my grandfather stays with me and, hopefully, his compassion shows through me.

Yes, weep and shed tears for our saints on All Saints Day because we truly loved them and also allow their memory to work in us to do "God's Work in Great Falls."

Udo Wozny

**This Sunday we remember the newly
baptized saints as well as those who died
this past year.**

The saints that were ***baptized*** during the past
year:

Hailey Marie Thomas
Kaleb Thomas Stringer
Maya Katelyn Stringer
Kallen Balough

The saints that ***died*** this past year

Marty Johnson
Lester Oakland
Fern Myhre
Dave Mikulecky
Steve Smith
Rev. Len Shatkus



Upcoming Events & Retreats

Register by calling the camp office 406-752-6602 or email office@flbc.net

Crazy About Quilting Retreat (+ Kilns & Crafts)

November 8-11, 2018

Registration Flyer Attached

Family AdventFest (Preparing for Christmas)

November 30-December 2, 2018



Make It With Wool is the district 3 contest for the Make It With Wool program. There are 6 districts across the state.

Contestants will compete for prizes

and an opportunity to advance to the state and national level of competition.

Contestants will be presenting garments made from wool or quilting made with wool that they have made. This includes sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning, and weaving wool fabrics and yarns. The objectives of the program are:

- To promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns
- To encourage personal creativity in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning, and weaving wool fabrics and yarns
- To recognize creative skills
- To develop life skills

There will be a tea at 1:30, November 3rd at Bethel Lutheran Church to showcase the garments and award prizes.

All are welcome to attend the tea.



Wednesday, November 21st

7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1315 Central Avenue.

This is a combined worship service with First Presbyterian Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church and the addition of First United Methodist. A joint choir will be performing. If you wish to sing in the choir please arrive for rehearsal at 6:00 PM.

PIES PLUS
AUCTION & BAKE SALE!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
11:00 AM
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
& FLBC SCHOLARSHIPS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write to you with a broken heart – for the lives lost, wounded, and shattered by horrific hatred and violence at Tree of Life Congregation this morning. We join our Jewish neighbors and enter into mourning for all that has been lost. In our grief, God is our comfort. “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18)



From Pittsburgh to Portland, and around the world, Jews are living in fear. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Public acts of hatred and bigotry against Jews are commonplace. As Christians, and particularly as Lutherans, we deplore and reject this bigotry. “We recognize in anti-Semitism a contradiction and affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling, and we pledge this church to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us” (1994 Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community).

We are reminded that hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, or a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh. As people of faith, we are bound together not only in our mourning, but also in our response.

Therefore, in this tender moment of grief, let us reach out to those whose hearts are most broken—our Jewish neighbors. I encourage you to contact your local synagogue, or Jewish colleagues, friends, and family members, to share your words of care, support, love, and protection. There may be specific acts you might offer to demonstrate your care, such as when the members of Faith Lutheran Church surrounded Congregation Beth Israel of Chico, California, serving as Shomrim, or guardians, as they observed Yom Kippur following a hate crime in 2009.

Such simple acts can go a long way to demonstrate our love, as an extension of God’s love. As we seek to heal the brokenhearted, we are assured that God is near. There is no greater promise in the face of grief.

In Peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Peace



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Learning for Life

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www.nrit.org

Oct. 3, 2018

Bethel Lutheran
1009 18th Ave. S.W.
Great Falls, MT 59504

Dear Pastor Van Gelder, Tami and all members of Bethel

On behalf of the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, I want to thank you for hosting the “Reading Luke from the Edge of the World” class on October 2nd. Each fall we plan a similar class to look at preaching texts for the coming year. The class allows pastors and LPAs to begin thinking about the Gospel lessons and allows interested lay people the chance to continue learning about the Gospels. Because of the geographical location of Great Falls, Bethel was a perfect place to hold the class because it allowed pastors and LPAs to come from around the region.


Thank you so much for your hospitality. We had a warm welcome, treats, a delicious lunch and good coffee. Thank you to those who set up the room, served us lunch, cleaned up afterwards and thank you to the church for allowing us to use your facility. We appreciated your generosity.

The work and partnership of congregations around Montana has allowed NRIT to continue to provide Christian education and lifelong learning to pastors and lay people in our synod.

God’s blessings on all your ministries,

Jenny Kunka, Director
NRIT
Learning for Life

BETHEL CALENDAR - NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
					Pastor Steve Off	8am-3pm- Make It With Wool 9am-Close Knit
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
 <p>9:30am- Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jubilate Choir Worship Planning Mtg Adult Forum Begins 	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Steve Off	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am- Worship Adult Forum	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	5:30pm - LOGOS			9am - Close Knit
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am- Worship Pies Plus Auction & Bake Sale	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee		 Office Closed		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:30am- Worship			6pm-Family Worship Night			8