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BETHEL NOTES



Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

Readings:

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31



Sunday
Oct 14

THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday Clergy Appreciation Day. There will be an informal reception for Pastor Steve following worship. Pastor Steve and Dave Scholten will also be presenting a slideshow on their trip to Bolivia.

IN OUR PRAYERS



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

Jane O'Brien (mother of Carrie O'Brien)

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

The LOGOS ministry for staffing and other needs to be met as a new year begins.

Paul (Jen) Bossie as he recovers from surgery.

The family and friends of Dave Mikulecky as they mourn his death.

The family and friends of Steve Smith as they grieve his death. His funeral will be held at Bethel at 10am on Saturday, October 13th with a reception to follow.

The family of Pastor Len Shatkus as they grieve his death. His memorial service will be held at Bethel on Saturday, October 27th at 1:30pm. Graveside committal will immediately follow at Highland Cemetery with a reception at Bethel.

Don Bisgard

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:
Margie Holland

Usher(s):
Heather Farris
Erika Farris

Projectionist:
Dean Amor

Counters:
Patty Braget
Grant Smith

Nursery Attendant(s):
Adam Elkin

IN LOVING MEMORY

Stephen (Steve) Smith

February 12, 1956 – October 2, 2018

Steve P. Smith, 62, of Great Falls, Montana passed peacefully away on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at his home.

Steve's memorial service will take place Saturday, October 13, 2018 at his lifelong church, Bethel Lutheran at 10 a.m.



Steve was born in Great Falls in 1956 to Frank and Gladys Smith. From an early age he had a strong passion for music, playing in a band with his best friend John through high school and part of college. Steve was gregarious and fun loving possessing the gift of befriending anyone, which made his career in sales quite successful.

Steve started in music sales and transitioned into antiques and fine jewelry which quickly became a hobby and continued passion. He was a business owner for many years before venturing to drug and alcohol corrections which he did for 13 years.

Throughout every season of his life the common denominator was his connection with his faith and the church family. Steve was baptized at Bethel on June 9, 1957 and confirmed on February 7, 1971. He was the self-proclaimed social director of Bethel Lutheran Church, rarely missing the opportunity to be involved and serve. He was also a Lay Pastoral Associate, preaching on Sundays when called upon, especially at Bethel.

Steve is leaving behind his sister Colleen and 3 daughters; Sophia, Celeste, and Avery who he loved beyond measure. Steve taught his girls the value of faith, family, and hard work, never forgetting to remind us to stop and smell the roses. He also taught us to appreciate a good glass of Scotch and a mooched cigar every once and a while. Steve's giant servant heart and zest for life will carry on through his sister, daughters, niece and nephew, as well as his 5 grandchildren.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Gladys Smith and grandson Malachi P. Smith.

Steve will be forever missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and loving him.

Memorials may be given to Bethel Lutheran Church.

NOTES FROM PASTOR STEVE

ADULT FORUMS FALL and WINTER of 2018

Pastor Steve, Dave Scholten, Bishop Jessica & the MT. Synod Delegation: A great trip to Bolivia ! Slideshow & Presentation this Sunday, October 14th.

It was good to be able to be a part of a long list of Bethel members who have made the trip to our companion synod: IEL of Bolivia. Counting Dave Scholten & I, a total of 10 Bethel members have gone over the years. We were able to meet key leaders, our (Bethel's) new ELCA Global missionary, Gustavo Driau, celebrate the IELB's 80th Church Anniversary, and see firsthand our Global Mission support in action through ministry being done. Those ministry sites were...a Lutheran School in El Alto, and mission/outreach work with children in Cobija & Trajia. Dave Scholten and I will make a short presentation after worship this coming Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

Family Promise Sunday, Sunday, October 21st. Guest speaker DJ Lott director Family Promise of Great Falls will be here with a volunteer training at Bethel Lutheran Church at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.

Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke

Beginning on Sunday, October 28th, 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, October 28th and Thursday, November 1st (at 10am) – An Introduction & major themes,

Sunday, November 4th and Thursday, November 8th (at 10am) – Born for Us and with a Mission

Sunday, November 11th we may not meet, due to (Financial Stewardship/ Commitment Sunday) but we will meet on Thursday, November 15th (at 10am) – What was Jesus Doing ? (Healing Ministry)

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) – Why Must Jesus Die ?

Sunday, December 9th (and Thursday, December 13th (at 10am) – Grace Will Lead Me Home (Parables about the Lost & Found)

FROM THE CONGREGATION

A LOGOS Reflection by Shannon Marr

I was recently reminded that nearly everything we do most days involves some kind of choice. To that end, I've been trying to be more mindful about saying I can't do something because I'm "too busy". The truth is, I'm not too busy. If I want to do it and find it important, I'll find time. If I don't, I won't. For the most part, it's that simple.

Why is this worth mentioning in the context of youth ministry at Bethel? Because, one of the greatest things I've learned in my time with LOGOS is that being busy has become the explanation of choice for many of us. But I've also learned that being involved in our healthy, vibrant youth ministry is worth fitting into an already full schedule.

A great biblical example of the consequences of busyness is showcased in [Luke 10:38–42](#): "As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'"

If I am honest, most of the time I resemble Martha more than Mary. I often rush around doing "what needs to be done," while missing the glimpses of Jesus all around me. As difficult

as it is, and as contrary to our culture as it is, I must intentionally make the effort to slow down and model Mary because, as Jesus Himself said, “Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

So, amidst the struggle, I recognize that choosing to make LOGOS a priority and worthy of my time is important because of three reasons:

1. LOGOS is a ministry that meets youth where they are and allows them, through the power of relationship building, to discover and own their faith on a deeper level.

Although many students who participate in LOGOS are Bethel members, an increasing number of them are not. Additionally, because attendance at Sunday service does not happen for many, LOGOS is another avenue to present (in a very real and engaging way) the basis tenets of our faith. I repeatedly hear that students attend because their friends attend and talk about how great it is. Our kids really are letting God’s light shine through and other people want to learn what that’s all about.

2. LOGOS is a ministry that challenges the divisiveness and constant messaging that can negatively influence self-identity. Our youth need people to lift them up, encourage them, and challenge them in all the right ways.

We are blessed that so many members (and non-members alike) happily and selflessly give of their time and energy to invest in our youth on Wednesdays. These are the people who make our environment a safe and welcoming place where students can be who they are, without fear of judgment. I am proud to be a part of that culture.

3. LOGOS is a ministry that helps our youth discover their spiritual gifts and helps them begin to use them in serving others.

Students spend a lot of time developing their talents outside of church (and some people would argue too much time). Well-intentioned parents (myself included) devote countless hours and dollars for their children to participate in extra music lessons, sports teams, and study sessions. Those are worthy ventures and certainly help develop well-rounded kids. But, we often don’t spend a lot of time helping them use their gifts in the context of church. LOGOS allows students to find what they are good at and practice it for sharing with and serving others.

We are all leading incredibly busy and complex lives and prioritizing church can be a challenge when so many other things take our time. For me, when I recall the story of Mary and Martha, I am reminded that few things in life are truly needed-the investment in our youth that LOGOS provides is one of life’s greatest needs.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

We have had a request to announce when Bethel youth are selling an item for fundraising so that Bethel congregants can purchase the item (such as sports discount cards, fruit, wreaths, cookies, popcorn, etc) from a Bethel youth before others in their neighborhood. To be sure no one is left out, we ask that if you are a Bethel youth needing to sell items for a fundraiser, please add your name to the worksheet on the Narthex bulletin board. If you attend Bethel and want to support Bethel youth, please refer to the worksheet and contact that youth or leave your contact information.

FAMILY PROMISE EVENTS

October 14, 2018:

Choir Extravaganza at First United Methodist Church! We're bringing together choral groups from all over Great Falls to perform as a celebration of our mission and a benefit for our fundraising. Individuals who would like to participate in the joint choir must be at First United at 1:30pm for rehearsal.

October 21-28, 2018: National Family Promise Week. Sunday, October 21st guest speaker DJ Lott director Family Promise of Great Falls will be here with a volunteer training at Bethel Lutheran Church at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.

3RD GRADE BIBLES

Please plan to attend our Family Worship on Wednesday, October 24th. Family Worship will include the presentation of Bibles to our 3rd grade LOGOS class.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 9, 2018 Council Meeting Summary

Earl Terwilliger met with the council to go over Mission Freedom accounting and budget. Due to the timing of the end of the Building Campaign and the beginning of the Mission Freedom Campaign in 2017, there was some confusion as to why our giving looked to be so very different in 2018. Earl pointed out that because of a generous 1-time gift of \$53,000 given in 2017, giving toward the Building Fund/Mission Freedom will look much lower in 2018 and this was expected. The outline is as follows:

Loan Balance as of 01/31/2017	\$479,237		
Loan Balance as of 01/31/2018	\$313,722	\$165,515 (difference)	
Loan Balance as of 9/30/2018	\$291,514	\$22,208 (difference)	
Going Forward			
Mission Freedom Pledge Total (2018-2022)		\$292,970	
One time gifts received (2017)	\$53,000		
Campaign to date gifts received (2017-2018)	\$60,346		
Balance of Funds in Campaign (pledged over the next 4 years)		\$179,624	
Broken down into:			
Balance of One time Gifts	\$12,500		
Balance of Annual Pledges Gifts (Pledged over the next 4 years)	\$103,774		\$25,944 yearly
Balance of Monthly Pledges Gifts (Pledged over next 4 years)	\$63,350		\$15,838 yearly
Balance of Funds in Campaign			\$41,781
Thrivent Financial Building Loan Monthly Payment			\$2,670
Monthly Debt Reduction Estimate			\$812
			\$3,482 Received Monthly
Annual Debt Reduction Estimate			\$9,741 (\$812 * 12 months)

Matt lead us in Chapter 7 of “Reclaiming the “C” Word”. This chapter reminds us that as we make plans, God laughs. God is always in control. Expect life to be messy and have the courage to take risks and follow Jesus on “every wacky adventure because we know that we have the freedom to fail.” “...we’re going to be called into unexpected places to do seemingly impossible things.” We are going to fall and mess things up. But we know we can stand on grace.

Tami has been very busy around the church with the happenings in Bethel. These include our Jewish Community, Aitz Chaim Community, 3 funerals, Lillie Erickson and Kaleb Stringer “Thank You” luncheon, NRIT training, Family Promise, and LOGOS. Background checks of those working with children and money are going well and are well received.

A HUGE shout out to Mick Davis and Matt Crampton who serve on our building and maintenance committee. With their oversight, the negative drainage construction on the west side of the building completed by Outrigger Consultants. All mishaps were avoided and the water is running downhill away from the building. Thanks to an in-kind donation, sod has been laid. Also, the men’s bathroom in the Gathering Place will be completed in the next few days. Construction will start on the women’s side soon and should be finished by the end of October.

The Optimist Club has been painting our parking lot stripes. We will be adding a few more handicap parking spots.

We had a security issue in September. It appears someone damaged a light in the Fellowship Hall. A week later, someone stole a computer from the copier room. Then, a week later, someone tried accessing a computer, but was locked out due to too many attempts. The police were called and a report filed. We ask that members keep an eye on the church as they come and go and report any suspicious activity to either Pastor Steve (406.781.2232) or Jo Ann Dullum, Council President (406.899.8004) or the police.

There will be 3 positions opening up on the council in 2019. We would ask that members prayerfully consider serving if asked. It is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in the inner workings of the church and to build stronger relationships with fellow council members.

Jo Ann Dullum

Council President



Shirley Jorgensen	October	1	Michele Wandke	October	17
Jaxon Gronning	October	2	Samantha Henry	October	18
Daren Braget	October	3	Quinn Maurice Smith	October	18
Randy Gilbertson	October	3	Alicia Davis	October	19
Ryanne Daily	October	5	Ashleigh Geiger	October	19
Melissa Schoenen	October	5	Jean Fleming-Mazur	October	19
Jennifer Skogley	October	6	Connie Titcomb	October	19
Kynsee Fossen	October	9	Riley Daily	October	20
Jenny Will	October	9	Burt Geiger	October	20
Leonard Murphy	October	9	Karen Stutzman	October	20
Frank Stimac	October	10	Abby Clegg (Bisgard)	October	22
Bonnie Johnson	October	14	Sean Dunn	October	23
Sara Sexe	October	14	Jameson Barnes	October	24
Leigh Anne Daily	October	15	Deloris Wendt	October	27
Dexter Busby	October	16	Les Johnson	October	28
Gwyn Gooldy	October	16	John Wandke	October	28
Madalyn Smith	October	16	Maya Stringer	October	29
Haley Van Heel	October	16	Shari Kohoutek	October	30
Lynn Kutzler	October	17	DeeDee Burke	October	31
Emily Peterson	October	17			

If we have missed anyone's birthday, or you do not wish to have your birthday published, please contact the Church Office at 761-1543.

BETHEL CALENDAR - OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am-Worship CROP Walk-1pm	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee 6:30pm-Council Meeting	5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Steve Off	10am - Funeral for Steve Smith
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am-Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scouts Strategic Directions Task Force - 6:30pm	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Steve Off	9am-Close Knit
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am-Worship Family Promise Sunday Choir singing	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	6pm - Family Dinner and Worship Night		Pastor Steve @ Bishop's Convo.	Pastor Len Memorial Service - 1:30pm
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3
9:30am-Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	Halloween No LOGOS		Pastor Steve Off	8am-3pm-Make It With Wool 9am-Close Knit