

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 Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm; Wednesday: 9am to 2pm
 Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543
 Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES



Sunday

Sep 16

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:

Mary Seim

Lay Assistant:

John Blank

Usher(s):

Shari Kohoutek
 Sue Reppe

Projectionist:

Tim Lightbourne

Counters:

Tim Lightbourne
 Donna Vinnedge

Nursery Attendant(s):

Adam Elkin

Pastor Len is unable to be with us this week. Jim Carlson, LPA, will be preaching and presiding at worship on Sunday. We will resume our regular worship service.



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

Shelly Murphy and Family as they grieve the loss of Fern's brother, Bob Wicken.

Dick Seim as he recovers from heart surgery.

Ardis Scholten (mother of Dave Scholten) who is in hospice care.

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

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

Bishop Jessica Crist who is recovering from a broken rib.

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

Bethel's new mission venture, Ba'Bar Nabbas, for guidance and God's blessing as we reach out with the love of Christ to our community.

Bishop Jessica, Pastor Steve and Dave Scholten from Bethel as well as Pastor Lindean Barnett Christianson, Pastor Stacey Siebrasse, Cynthia Thomas, LPA, Alex Tooley, Tom Waldorf as they travel and serve as ambassadors on behalf of the MT Synod at our companion Synod in Bolivia.

Paul and Jen Bossie and their families as Paul is hospitalized.

Pastor Len Shatkus who is hospitalized.

JOIN AND SING WITH US

Several of our congregation have been singing before the Sunday Service. We are interested in adding to our bank of singers; people who like to sing and would like to be part of the voices.

We, typically, rehearse before the service, meeting at 8:30am. It is our goal to have a schedule for those weeks we sing so we can plan ahead. Contact these three people if you'd like to help us increase the music ministry at Bethel. We would love to talk after service, receive a phone call or email. Once we get a core of singers we will use group email to communicate. Please consider this ministry.

Tom Rosenbaum	781-9205	tom.w.rosenbaum@gmail.com
Linda Rosenbaum	781-9204	linlourose70@gmail.com
Steve Nelson	781-5957	pstorsjnelson@hotmail.com

!SALUDOS DESDE BOLIVIA!

Greetings from Bolivia!

For the last week I have been in Bolivia, visiting our Companion Synod, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and celebrating their 80th Anniversary as an indigenous Lutheran Church. So far we have spent 5 days in La Paz (elevation 13,000 feet), learning about the history of the church, worshiping, visiting the school, and going to the Obispa Jessica Crist Retreat Center. On Monday we traveled to Cobija, just across the border from Brazil, where the heat and humidity are tropical. We spent the afternoon and evening at the Centro Galilea, where Pastor Luis Blanco has a ministry with high needs children, and a congregation. This afternoon we head into the jungle to harvest bananas, and to visit the cattle farm that supports the ministry (and that we supported through our Assembly offering a few years ago.) Below I want to share some initial thoughts from the rest of our delegation. Jessica Crist, Bishop



Live generously! I thought I did that (mostly). But in Bolivia I discovered a deeper meaning to this expression. Despite living in the poorest country in South America, the Bolivians I met shared their food, their incredible talents, and friendship as they welcomed an awkward stranger in a foreign land. Today I learned that living generously is not just about sharing resources, it's about sharing love.

Dave Scholten, LPA



During my time here, I have learned so much about the culture and so much about the church. This is an experience like none other, where I am less of a tourist, and more of a neighbor to others. I have learned how much our partnership with the IELB means to both churches, and how each church has and is still benefiting from the relationship we hold strong. I hope to come back sometime soon to continue our efforts together as people in Christ.

Alex Tooley



Hola from Bolivia! Of the many life-enriching experiences I have had so far, I have been inspired by the gracious, generous and overwhelming hospitality extended to us by our brothers and sisters in Christ in Bolivia. I was moved by the ways in which very different cultures of peoples here desired to be a part of something bigger than themselves. That is to say, to be the people of God in community. I saw this powerfully expressed in Cobija with the ministry Pastor Luis has with children. I am grateful for this life-changing opportunity and look forward to sharing these and more stories with you, my Montana Synod brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Steve Van Gilder

We are church! This has never felt more true than when we as Lutherans marched through the streets of La Paz to the celebration service of 80 years of Lutheranism in Bolivia,

La sangre de Cristo, derramada por ti. A familiar phrase, in a not so familiar language. We Montana Synod pastors were invited to serve Holy Communion during the service celebrating the IELB's 80th anniversary. I held a chalice, a "common cup," and was struck by the diversity of worshipers, the reverence with which they came to the Lord's table, and by how totally we American pastors were accepted. With a new phrase in my mind, I totally forgot the Spanish blessing I'd learned. When a mother and her infant came forward, I marked the little girl with the sign of the cross and said, "Jesus loves you very much!" Her mother and I were both surprised, and mom exclaimed, "Amen!" After worship, the two found me to take a photo, and the mother asked me to pray for her daughter, Luz Valeria. I will be praying for Luz, her mom, and her church, for a long time. During this amazing trip to Bolivia, God is showing me over and over again just how connected we are.

Pastor Lindean Barnett Christenson

This visit has given me even greater understanding of what it means to commune around Christ's table. After the IELB's worship service celebrating 80 years of ministry, hundreds of us from across Bolivia and around the globe gathered to eat off of a very long stretch of colorful aguayos (blankets used by Aymara Chola women to carry everything on their backs from food to firewood to babies). They were filled with potatoes, choclo corn, cheeses, meats, and plantains—a diverse feast preluding the feast that is to come in Christ. It made me rejoice in knowing there is always a place at God's table for everyone. No greater gift is shared than the love made known to us in Christ whenever we gather in community to break bread.

Pastor Stacey Siebrasse



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



Fall Course Offered at Bethel

Gospel Road Show



Just Luke: Gospel Stories and Today's Church

Dr. Katherine Shaner, Asst. Professor of New Testament at Wake Forest University School of Divinity

This workshop examines the Gospel of Luke for the ways it shapes Jesus's ministry for

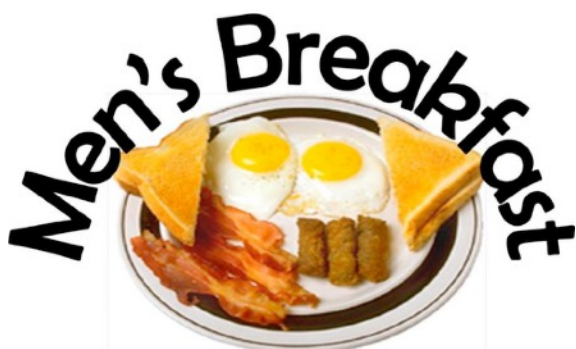
justice in both ancient and contemporary communities. From Mary's song to the Emmaus Road, Luke's Gospel contains some of our most beloved stories. How might the emphasis on justice help us tell these stories in fresh ways?

Tuesday, October 2nd 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel

5 Contact Hours

\$75 clergy/\$50 new to ministry, LPA/\$25 lay and retired pastors

For more information or to register go to www.nrit.org - this will take you to the Montana Synod page and click on the NRIT logo - left side.



The Men's Breakfast will begin again on Tuesday, September 18th at 7am in the Fellowship Hall. Come start your day with some food, fellowship and faith!



LOGOS is our fun, mid-week youth ministry which aims to nurture young people into faith and discipleship through Christian relationships.

The 2018-19 year begins Wednesday, September 19th with kickoff and picnic from 5:30 - 6:45 pm at Montana Park!

Visit www.bethelmt.org/logos to learn more, register, and pay





Lakeview Cabin...Help Needed!

Helpers are needed on Saturday, September 22 to take down Lakeview cabin. All are invited to come on Friday and stay until Sunday. Contact the office at 406-752-6602 or office@flbc.net if housing is needed. Come and help us make room for the new Lakeview Cabin Complex, "A Place to Call Home". Thank you! P.S. If you cannot physically come to help, please pray for safety for all!!

FAMILY PROMISE CALENDAR

September 30th, 2018:

If you've been waiting on the chance to become a Family Promise volunteer, join us at Two Rivers Ward (1401 9th Street Northwest, Great Falls MT 59404) on September 30th, 1 pm-2:15 pm. You'll meet our executive director, DJ Lott, and you'll learn how our program works as well as your role as a volunteer helping our guest families as they go through that program.

Already a volunteer? Invite your friends and family!

October 7th, 2018:

TBA: Open House at the Hub! If you've never seen our day center, stop by for refreshments and a first-hand look at where we operate and how we make a difference in the lives of homeless families in Great Falls, Montana!

1-2:30 pm: CROP Walk to End Hunger at Gibson Park! Join us to raise money for the hungry, and for the homeless! A portion of the proceeds comes back to Family Promise of Great Falls to help us end childhood homelessness, one family at a time!

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. Dates, times, and performers to be announced.

October 21-28, 2018: National Family Promise Week.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trudi Paulson from Lutheran Social Services Montana will be with us on Sunday, September 23rd and will be leading a Forum after worship. She has worked with elders, families and children in a variety of settings throughout her career. Her focus is to start where the client is and work together to identify achievable goals. Trudi has specialized training in grief and loss, cognitive behavioral therapy, solution-focused brief therapy and mindfulness practice.



Trudi Paulson, LCSW



Youth Gathering Thank You Luncheon

Kaleb and Lilli had an amazing time at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas this last June. They would like to thank everyone who helped get them there through donation and prayers. Please join us for a short slideshow and luncheon to say thank you. After service on Sunday, September 30th in the Fellowship Hall.

BETHEL CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						9am-Close Knit
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am-Worship	Labor Day Office Closed 6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place	6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia TLC Swap Meet-Gathering Place 7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Pastor Steve-Bolivia 9:30am-Worship Pastor Len Preach 6-9pm-Aitz Chaim for Rosh Hashanah in Sanctuary	Pastor Steve-Bolivia 6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place Aitz Chaim in Fellowship Hall	Pastor Steve-Bolivia 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia	Pastor Steve-Bolivia 7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pastor Steve-Bolivia 9:30am-Worship Pastor Len Preach 12pm-Bethel Bunch @ Elkin's	6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place	6-9pm-Aitz Chaim for Yom Kippur in Sanctuary 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee Men's Breakfast at 7am in the Fellowship Hall.	Aitz Chaim in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm - LOGOS kick-off at Montana Park	7pm -Hope Circle @ Korpela's		7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	6:15pm-Scouts in the Gathering Place	Men's Breakfast at 7am in the Fellowship Hall. 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	5:30pm - LOGOS			7-8:30pm Ba'Bar Nabbas in Fellowship Hall
30						
Youth Gathering Brunch - 11am in Fellowship Hall						8