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BETHEL NOTES



Sunday
 Sep 23

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
 Mary Seim

Lay Assistant:
 Wal Nuesse

Usher(s):
 Isabelle Grosenick
 Tyler Grosenick

Projectionist:
 Dina Davis

Counters:
 Stephanie Cummings
 Marilyn Carlson

Nursery Attendant(s):
 Ava Olson
 Alex Olson

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

Readings:

Jeremiah 11:18-20
James 3:13-4:3,7-8a
Mark 9:30-37



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 approaches.

Paul and Jen Bossie and their families as Paul prepares for an upcoming surgery.

Pastor Len Shatkus who is in hospice care.

Mim Mikulecky and family as they grieve the death of Dave. Service plans are pending.



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!!

SPECIAL GUEST

This Sunday we welcome Trudi Paulson, LCSW, from Lutheran Social Services Montana. She will be giving a temple talk and will be available after the service to share more about our ministry with LSS of MT. She is a Billings native and 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Gracias!



When Henri Nouwen was seeking meaning in his life by service, he decided to go to Latin America to live among the poorest of the poor. He wanted to serve. He wanted to help. What he found, instead of needy people, was grateful people—people who always shared what little they had, people who looked out for the most vulnerable among them. He went to Latin America thinking that he had so much to share. And he learned that he received so much more than he was able to give. So he wrote a little book, *Gracias!*, about his experience.

The eight people from the Montana Synod who spent nearly two weeks in Bolivia visiting our companion synod could echo Nouwen's experience: we received so much more than we gave. We shouldn't be surprised. That's what accompaniment is all about. It is not transactional. It is not about how much money one party has, nor how much need another has. It is about relationship, walking together.

We were invited to Bolivia to walk with them through their celebration of 80 years as a Lutheran Church, and to meet Lutherans from across the country. As we walked together, we found common interests, common challenges, common goals. We spent a morning talking about lay ministry. In our conversations over the years, we (Pastor Presidente Emilio and I) have discussed our joint interest in lay ministry. Last summer when he visited from Bolivia, we spent an afternoon meeting with LPAs and learning about their ministry. Last week, we spent a morning going into more detail about our program, including presentations from 3 LPAs—Cynthia Thomas, Dave Scholten and Alex Tooley. We also heard about their lay ministry program, and brainstormed about how we might cooperate. We are richer for the conversation. *Gracias!*

We spent time in Cobija, on the border with Brazil, and returned to the Galilea Centro, where lay pastor Luis works with children. Because he has done such a good job with children with special needs, the public school has asked him to take on more and more high needs children into the after-school program. And because he has incorporated these children, volunteers have come along. And the church is growing. Luis's top concern has always been the children. At one point the entire leadership of the church consisted of children. Now there are adults, too. Because Cobija is a border town, it is full of drugs, and children are routinely recruited to be drug runners. Luis used to be outspoken against drugs. Because of threats to his life, he is less vocal. Instead he provides alternatives—computers, music, woodworking,

sports, traditional culture. We were blessed to be in the presence of Luis and the children. Gracias!

The ministry in Cobija is supported by a cattle farm that was given to the church. Five years ago, at the request of the church, our delegation included a cattle expert, who was asked to diagnose the problems with the cattle and design a solution. A year or so later, the Montana Synod used our Assembly offering to help out with the problem, which turned out to be lack of water. Our offering helped repair water damage in the Centro, and set in place a system that will allow pumping of water from the stream to the cattle. Gracias!

We spent time in the opposite end of the country, in Tarija, not far from Argentina. Tarija is a lovely, temperate city, that is so expensive that thousands of people have to live in the unincorporated barrios on the outskirts of town. The IELB has a new ministry in 3 of the barrios—in one they are helping women grow food in greenhouses. In another there is a ministry among children, with cooperation from the barrio. A lay pastor (formerly a philosophy professor) oversees the ministries, teaches the children, helps with the greenhouses. The plan is for these ministries to attract local leadership, generating more lay pastors, serving more of the community. As we left the gathering of adults in the barrio, they said to us: “Don’t forget us.” We won’t. Gracias!

The church in Bolivia is very grateful for the partnership with the Montana Synod over the years. Pastor Bob Nilsen was the anchor in the relationship for many years, covering changes in leadership in both churches. He was instrumental in raising scholarships for schools, and for raising money for the Jessica Crist Retreat Center. The MTSWO started a scholarship in honor of Diana Hedegaard. Many congregations and individuals have made contributions, large and small, over the years, to projects of the church in Bolivia. Gracias!

And the church in Montana is very grateful for the partnership with the Bolivian church. We have been able to walk alongside a Lutheran Church that is entirely indigenous and completely natural about it. Gracias! We have learned about different models of lay ministry. Gracias! We have worshiped in a multilingual church in a plurinational country. Gracias! We have seen a church working with partners—churches, NGOs, government entities—to improve the welfare of the most marginalized people. Gracias! We have prayed and broken bread with people who are proud of their Lutheran identity, surrounded by Catholics, Pentecostals and traditionalists. Gracias!

Accompaniment is relationship. Gracias!

Jessica Crist, Obispa



You're Invited!



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.



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.

FAMILY PROMISE EVENTS

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. 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.



Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to get signed up for the 2018 CROP Walk! Raise money to help [CROP Hunger Walk](#) combat hunger around the world AND make a local impact on kids in need, right here in Great Falls! Family Promise of Great Falls has been selected to be the local beneficiary of the Great Falls CROP Walk, which means a portion of the proceeds will be going to our mission to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time!. Registration begins at 1pm at Gibson Park with the Walk at 1:30. You can choose the short Sunday Stroll pond loop or walk the new changed route taking the River's Edge Trail across the Missouri River. Prize for the person who raises the most pledges. For more information go to www.crophungerwalk.org. or see Sue Hesse.

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

I wanted to give you an update as to our Family Promise family who we were actually unable to serve during our hosting week due to their family medical emergency. Our family was Alex - Jesse and Abigail. Jesse's mother experience an emergency with her heart and before the week was out, had a total of five surgeries. Of course, her family stayed close by. Mother is doing better and the family has returned to Great Falls Family Promise at Central Christian. We are so thankful that everything turned out well. Again I thank each of our volunteers and our congregation for all the donations of food and the prayers and concern shown our family. We were able to cancel much of the fresh food and what we did receive that could be frozen has been and items that we can use for our next hosting December 2nd week. I did not receive one complaint - only concern for the family. For that we are all blessed.

On another very positive note, Family Promise of Great Falls has received a third car donated to help the selected family become even more independent. The first car was donated in by Lithia in late July. Lithia became a partner a few months ago by transporting our employed guests to work. If the guest worked until late in the evening, the guest called a taxi company, supported by Lithia, and their ride was paid for. That participation continues. The second car was donated by a Family Promise board member and the third by an anonymous donation. We all know what transportation means to each of us. We just have a really bad time getting where we need to be if we do not have adequate transportation. What a blessing.

Family Promise has many more companies that have really stepped up to be a big part of the Family Promise program. Visit the website at FamilyPromiseGF.org and get to know the program better. Know that Bethel is a huge part of the programs success and for that, I am so grateful to each and every one of you. Thank You!

Dew Elkin



LOGOS Family Night Dinner & Worship

Come join us for LOGOS Family Meal Worship Night on Wednesday, September 26th. It starts with dinner at 6:00pm followed by worship at 7:00pm. Kids, bring your families, have dinner, and stay for worship.



CHOIR NOTES



The Jubilate Choir will be having a retreat on Friday, September 21st at 6:30pm at Bethel. We are always looking for new members so come sing with us!



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	linlourouse70@gmail.com
Steve Nelson	781-5957	pstorsjnelson@hotmail.com



Blessings to all who celebrate birthdays in September!

Denise Gresham	September	1
Jaqlyn Martin	September	3
Steve Martin	September	3
Tanner Olsen	September	5
Jodi Violet	September	5
Kylie Mortenson	September	6
Alisa Peterson	September	6
Warren Johnson	September	6
Jack Barnes	September	7
Isaiah Gunnell	September	7
Morgan Dunn	September	8
Amber Erickson	September	8
Sue Hesse	September	8
Allison Morris (Sexe)	September	8
Thelma Seyfert	September	10
Jacie Schoenen	September	13
Samantha Johnson	September	14

Brittany Swingley	September	15
Megan Carlson	September	16
Ryan Forde	September	17
Hailey Marr	September	18
Ryan Stutzman	September	20
Jo Ann Dullum	September	21
Paige Bernardi	September	22
Patty Braget	September	23
Shawn Fossen	September	23
David Mikulecky	September	23
Dick Seim	September	24
Elaine Barbieri	September	26
Dan Batista	September	27
Tim Lightbourne	September	27
Sophia Smith	September	27
John Barnes	September	30
James Olsen	September	30

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
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am- Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee 9am-3:30pm NRIT 6pm-9pm - TLC Staff Training	5:30pm - LOGOS	Pastor Steve Vacation	Pastor Steve Vacation	Pastor Steve Vacation 9am- Close Knit
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am- Worship Pastor Steve Vacation	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	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am- Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	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	6:15pm - Boy Scouts	7am - Men's Breakfast 6:30am-Bible Study @ Electric City Coffee	5:30pm - LOGOS		Pastor Steve @ Bishop's Convo.	
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- ¹⁰ Close Knit