

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 1:30 PM Closed Friday
Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543 Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday

APRIL 19

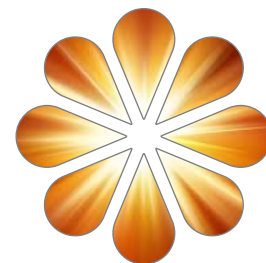
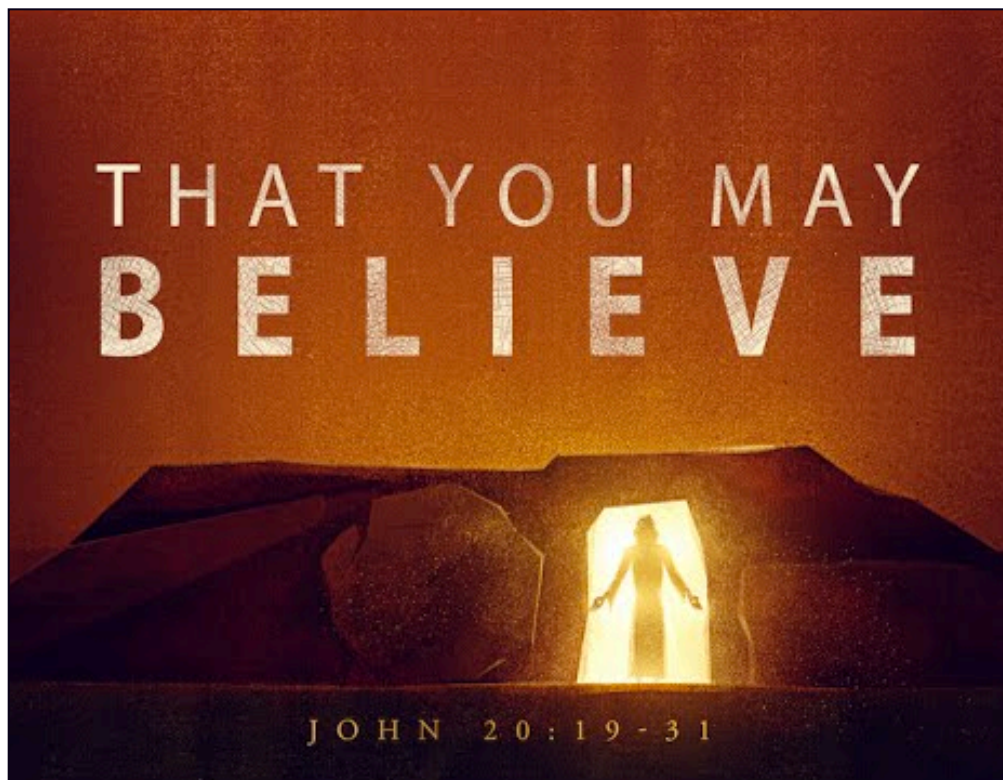
Readings Second
Sunday of Easter

ACTS 2:14A, 22-32

PSALM 16

1 PETER 1:3-9

JOHN 20:19-31



Second Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's Worship is a live stream from Croxford Funeral Home <https://livestream.com/accounts/12266866/events/9047778> and bulletin online at bethelmt.org. Link to online service also available on our website.

For those who do not have access to the internet, we will be sending a copy of the bulletin. Blessings and prayers to all.

Temporary change in office hours. While the students are out of school Tami Grosenick will be in the office for phone calls and emails from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm Monday through Thursday and will still be closed on Fridays.



- ◆ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.
- ◆ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ◆ Continued prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart) as she finishes treatment for breast cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for God's presence and healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Brattain** as she recovers from a medical procedure.
- ◆ Prayers for God's presence and healing touch for **John Korpela**, as he recovers after medical treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for the **Peoples of Boliva** as they transition into new leadership within the country and prayers for **Pastor Presidente German and the IELB**.
- ◆ Prayers for healing and strength for **Katie Madsen**, niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe as she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Jane Mart** as she is home and continues to heal after surgery.
- ◆ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Ann Tuomi** as she continues to recover from surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for safety and support for **Eric Poser**, Connie Titcomb's nephew as he is deployed overseas.
- ◆ Prayers for **Dakota Green**, great granddaughter of Bernice Johnson as she recovers from a recent surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for God's healing presence and peace for **Arlena Crandell's son, Mike**, who is undergoing medical exams.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Leonard Murphy** as he recovers at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Marlys Baer** as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Dale Ost** as he recovers at home.
- ◆ Prayers of healing and God's presence for **Chad Erickson** and family as they await results of medical testing.
- ◆ Prayers for God's presence, peace & strength for **Jim and Loretta Nuessle and their son** (brother, sister-in-law, and nephew of Walt Nuessle) as they face health concerns and for a safe return to their home in MN.
- ◆ Prayers for God's presence, healing & grace for **Bob Norbie** (Mary Lou) as he faces a diagnosis of bladder cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for God's healing presence and mercy for all who face the threat of the Covid-19 virus at home and abroad.
- ◆ Prayer of healing for **Allan Ost**, son of Dale and Leona.
- ◆ Prayers for healing for **Dan Jacobson**, hospitalized.
- ◆ Prayers for God's comfort and peace for **Kim Peachy and family** as they grieve the death of her father Dr. Robert Wynia.
- ◆ Prayers for God's comfort and peace for **Bob and Mary Lou Norbie, Bob's step-mother Arlie** their family and friends as they grieve the death of Bob's father.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson.
- ◆ Prayers of strength, support and comfort for all whom are separated from loved ones especially those in nursing homes and hospitals due to social distancing and also health care workers, first responders, and others who working the front lines to fight this pandemic.

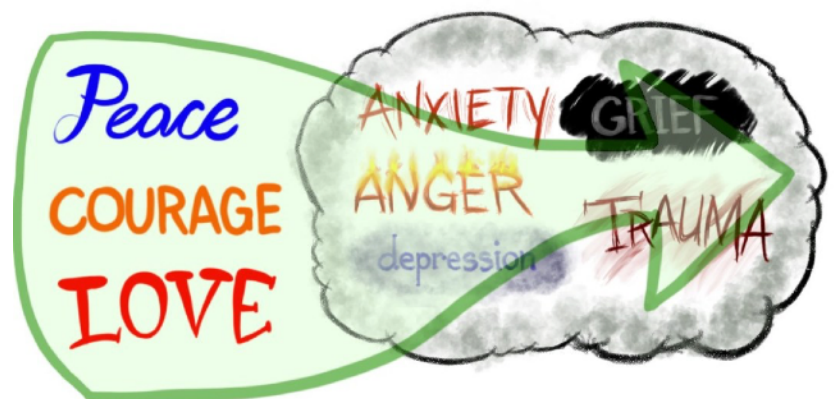
Shalom...Peace Be Upon You

Shalom aleichem. It is a spoken greeting in the Hebrew language which translates “peace be upon you.” The appropriate response would be aleichem shalom, “to you, peace.” This same greeting in Arabic is Assalamualaikum. Ask Pastor Bob VanderAarde, or wife Marj to speak this greeting to you. (they and their family learned this phrase and the Arabic language while serving as missionaries years ago)

Packed into this greeting is a whole lot of meaning. When we wish another person (shalom) peace we are offering them wholeness, peace, security, safety and well being. And don't we all really hunger for that these days? We need to experience the (shalom) wellness of body, mind, and spirit.

I recently listened to a podcast on the program called “Social Distance,” offered through the *Atlantic Magazine*. One of the recent episodes was an interview with a mental health therapist who had some helpful thoughts and practices to offer her listeners during these days in which we live. She spoke of a ‘collective grief, which we as a nation/world are experiencing during this pandemic. She defined grief as the pain we feel when we experience loss. The losses are many. It may be the loss of being near our church family on a Sunday morning - the loss of community. It may be the loss of being physically near a loved one who is in a nursing home, assisted living center. Or a loss of employment... retirement income. The loss may be of the long awaited graduation ceremony if you or somebody you know is a high school, college or trade school graduate this year. Hanging out with school friends or participating in sporting events. It may be the loss of the feeling/experience of being productive in these days. I'm sure that if you can't find yourself in this list of losses that you can add your own unique loss.

In the gospel for Sunday, the resurrected Jesus walks right into the room of his disciples. They were locked behind their doors for fear.



Artwork used by permission Steve Thomason

They had just got the wind/life knocked out of them. And he speaks these words, “Peace be with you. When he said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’” Jesus knew just what they needed. They were suffering the loss and grief of his death. They were beating themselves up, filled with shame and guilt for having fled from him...falling asleep while trying to pray with him in the garden....failing to trust him as their Lord. To them he spoke a word of peace and compassion - through the forgiveness of sins. To them he said, “let go and forgive your selves and others.”

The resurrected Jesus is also acquainted with your many losses and grief and he speaks this same greeting to you, “Peace be upon you.” He offers you wholeness of body, mind and spirit. He also offers us wholeness, safety, security, well being, the breath/Spirit of Life, so that we may be comforted in our losses and pain. So that, in turn, may share it with others.

Shalom Aleichem. Assalamualaikum. Peace be upon you!

Pastor Steve

UNCONVENTIONAL WAYS CHURCHES ARE REACHING OUT!

Pastor Julia Seymour has been creating videos for children through Facebook Live. The videos include Bible content and age-appropriate psychological information about feelings and reactions. She’s made use of puppets, drawings, stories, and conversation, keeping most videos fairly short. Pastor Seymour also tries to have an evening prayer each night on Facebook Live that can include a hymn, readings and a prayer. The church has held Bible study over Zoom and they are experimenting with a Zoom “coffee hour.”

Videos can be found on Pastor Julia Seymour’s Facebook page and the church page: [facebook.com/BigTimberLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BigTimberLutheranChurch)

Pastor Julia was the Keynote Speaker at the WELCA Convention held at Bethel last September. She also wrote the curriculum for FLBC Camps for the upcoming summer session.



Below is a letter posted on the GFPS website for more information about how to help the school pantries during the shut down.

Our GFPS Food Service Staff is serving over 1000 lunches and 1000 breakfasts each day to any child in our community under 18 years of age at various locations: schools, parks, GF Rescue Mission and Parkdale. It is difficult to imagine how many lunches will be served at the end of two weeks with no school.

Options to help Families in Need!

1. Our food pantries in the GF public schools are empty. This is a critical time for our food insecure folks in our GF community. Please take any food to your nearest **school - elementary, middle or high school**. They are all in need. They are open from 8:00 - 4:00 PM Monday - Friday.

Anything you can spare or purchase is good, and we suggest the following:

- Peanut butter
- Tuna fish
- Jelly Butter
- Noodles
- Spaghetti sauce
- Tortilla shells
- Salsa
- Cereal
- Bread
- Butter
- Orange juice



2. If you would like to skip grocery shopping ~ please use Great Falls Public School Foundation website to donate funds (paypal online). Designate "food pantries" in the memo and it will be used to purchase food.
3. Mail your \$\$ support to Great Falls Public School Foundation: designate "food pantries" in the memo. 1100 4th Street South. Great Falls. 59404.
4. GFPS HANDS Daycare (emergency daycare for emergency workers – police, highway patrol, medical workers) – is in need of packaged snacks for children. Please bring to the school office (District Building ATTN: Carol Paul) or directly to Lewis & Clark Elementary.

Thank you in advance for your generosity ~ you are making a difference with your gifts and our youth.

Becky Nelson
 GFPS Community Relations
 406-899-8642

EVENTS AT BETHEL UPDATES

There are a few upcoming events that some may be wondering how/when they will take place. Below are a few that are coming up in April and May. If you have questions about a specific event, please email the church at bethelgf.church@gmail.com or call 761-1543 and we will do our best to answer your questions if a new date has been selected.

Tuesday Mornings Men's Breakfast and Electric City Bible are meeting online. You can join anytime. Information to get connected is on the last page of this newsletter.

Church Council will meet online Tuesday Evening 6:30 PM, if you would like to be connected to that meeting, please contact Pastor Steve bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com

Confirmation has been reschedule to June 7th worship service 9:30 am. If we are still not meeting in person, we hold online.

Hope Circle has moved to an online format tonight 7:00 pm for their monthly meetings. If you are interested in connecting with Hope Circle contact Marilyn Carlson marilyn.j.carlson@gmail.com

Family Promise Host week May 17th - 24th. Currently host churches are providing meals only to guests where they are staying. This may change and will keep you updated as the date approaches.

Close Knit still on hold.



ALLELUIA!

Faith
is like
WiFi



It's invisible,
but it has the power
to connect you
to what you need.

Farewell Note From Susan and Brian Lakes

31 March 2020

Dear Bethel Church ~

Sunday would have been my last day to worship with you as I'll be moving to Sheridans Wyoming on Friday.

I want to thank you all for being my Church family these past 13 years. The love, friendship, and joy this church gives its members, visitors, and community alike is such a blessing. I will miss you, and you will be in my prayers.

Our forwarding address is:
PO Box 795 / Big Horn WY 82833.

God's blessings,
Susan (& Brian) Lakes

SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE

*"It was the **best** of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way" - A Tale of Two Cities*

These words could be spoken about the present time...which is in fact the following sentence in the introduction to this book by Charles Dickens. How often do we get to live through a completely new experience. My daughter's english teacher is having her class journal on what each day brings. What is new with events in the world, in our lives, in our hearts. Are any of you doing that? It is living history and one day she will be telling her grandchildren (God willing) about this time as they report on it for their history class.

Sometimes it helps to share the experience were are having, even if we cannot see one another as we normally do.

I see you on Facebook, I hear from you through letters to the church included in your offerings or phone calls when you just want to check-in and see how I am doing. I miss seeing all of you on Sunday morning. I miss greeting you with announcements and having you all say good morning back, that brings a smile to my face. I miss lining up communion helpers, I miss hearing the choir rehearse, I miss catching up on the week each person has had, or seeing a new face and meeting new friends.

As many of you know, I am an extrovert and as one Facebook meme put it so brilliantly...check on your extrovert friends, they are not OK.

My son the other day was cranky and snippy. I could not get him to talk about what was bothering him, but he would write it down...he missed his friends. I miss mine too.

There was a post the other day from a friend that I use to work with who was a fitness instructor. She wrote that her time had been spent finding new songs to play during her class, coming up with new routines to keep her participants motivated, working out to keep her own fitness level up. Now that she cannot do that, she felt that spending so much of her time on work, she had neglected time with her kids and husband. Now they play games at night and read together. She is at home during the day to help them with school work.


I strongly feel there is a reason for everything and could one of those be that we need to slow down and spend time with one another more that we have been? I am learning things about my own kids that I wasn't fully aware of. My daughter loves to decorate cakes and cupcakes and with very little instruction from me (I have no aptitude for it) she is very good. My son can draw beautifully and loves to learn the sounds he can make on the guitar and is doing a great job of teaching himself. My husband and I have found that it is really hard right now to plan anything and so living in that limbo and living more in the moment is a new experience, not all that comfortable, but we are learning.

I wonder what your experiences are like through this time. I want to hear if you would like to share. Anyone who is willing and would like to submit an article for our weekly Bethel Notes, write it down and send it to bethelgf.church@gmail.com or handwrite it and send it to the Bethel at 1009 18th Ave SW 59404. I will be happy to type it out for you. Please write and tell me how your are. I miss you.

Tami Grosenick, Administrative Assistant



Electric City BIBLE Study On - Line!



What a great way to connect with one another! Join the Electric City Bible Study on a Zoom conference Tuesday morning at 6:30 am. If you are interested in joining email Laurie Turner at loli51gus@icloud.com and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of this week's Lectionary texts as we meet through a social distancing approved Zoom video call each Tuesday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 am. Breakfast recipes and ideas will be provided. If you are interested in more information or would like to be added to the call invitation list, click on the email link below and type "breakfast" into the subject line (and then of course press send).

dscholten@dlsconsulting.net



UPCOMING EVENT

**Church Potluck
Date To Be Determined
At Bethel after Sunday Service**

Get your best church potluck recipe ready. When this social distancing storm has passed and we are once again gathering for Sunday Services we will be having a HUGE POTLUCK immediately following our service!