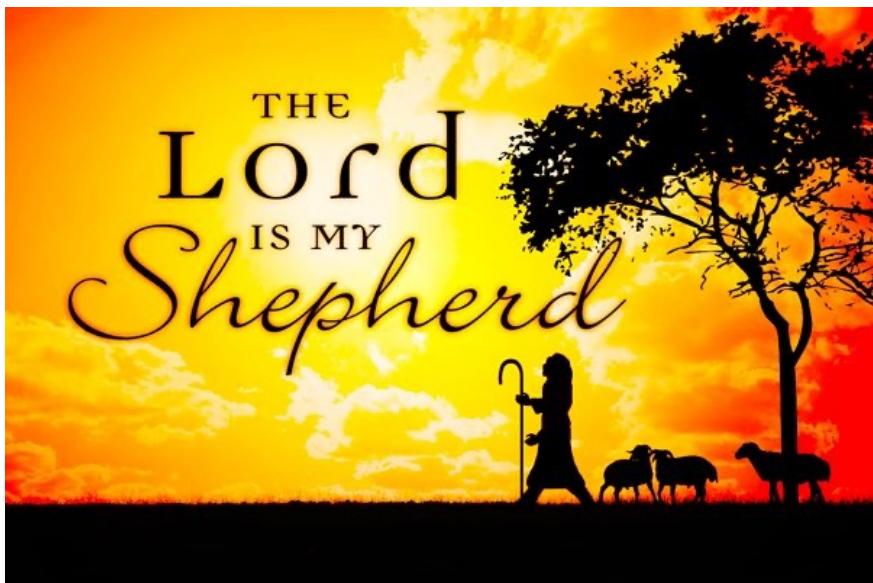


BETHEL NOTES



Sunday, May 3rd

Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ACTS 2:42-47

PSALM 23

1 PETER 2:19-25

JOHN 10:1-10

Members, guests and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church:

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we will be live streaming worship from Bethel at 9:30 am. You are invited to join in or to participate in worship on our website. It is a non-communion worship service. There are some who are wondering when Bethel will be gathering again for public worship. It is a good question, and at this time there is no definitive date which has been chosen. But I wish to assure you that the Bethel Church Council, along with myself, have been and will continue to meet weekly to take into account what will need to take place before we can announce when it is the "right" time. Your input is valued, is being gathered through a survey, and will be taken into account in the decision making process. We know that some would prefer sooner and some later. A thorough cleaning regime will be done before and after worship. There will be guidelines written and communicated with you. I plan to record a video which will be posted on the home page of the website for you to view as to how the service will be done. In the mean time, feel free to call the church (761-1543), email: www.bethelgf.church@gmail.com. Our hours are 8-1:30, Monday – Thursday. Closed on Fridays. Your continued prayers are appreciated ! God's blessings to you and your family!

Stay safe.

This Sunday's Worship is a live stream from Bethel Lutheran Church bethelmt.org 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.



- ♦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **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 the **Peoples of Bolivia** 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 of thanks for God's healing touch for **Arlena Crandell's son, Mike**
- ♦ 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 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 works, first responders, and others who working the front lines to fight this pandemic.
- ♦ Prayers for God's healing presence for Trudy (Earl) Terwilliger's brother, **Mark Dillard** who is battling lung cancer and is hospitalized in Washington State.
- ♦ Prayers of healing, strength and support for **Rita Johnson (LaRae Veitch's sister)** as she begins her treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for God's consoling presence for Sandy Bechard's sister (**Linda Juvik**) and her family as they mourn the death of her brother-in-law's (Linda's husband) death.

Words from the Bishop: Worry...does it work?

“And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?” This is the question Jesus asks his disciples in his Sermon on the Mount in a lengthy section about worry. (Mt 6:27) As I hear this question, Jesus seems to be asking an ancient form of Dr. Phil’s famous question: “So how’s that workin’ for ya?”

During these days of Covid19 and all the changes it is bringing, we spend a lot of time, energy, and resources on our worry, reacting to it, fearing it, managing it. But too easily anxiety can spiral us into hard places, leaving us feeling exhausted and out of control. The more anxious we are, the more we tend to react in ways that end up increasing our anxiety which in turn causes more unhelpful reaction which increases our anxiety...

Anxiety does strange things to human beings, especially if it's chronic. When we're faced with an immediate threat, anxiety can prepare us to meet that threat. In that way, it's a helpful part of being human.

However, over time even a low-grade anxiety, such as wondering about the economy, worrying about getting Covid, planning ways to do safe worship, etc, can build up in our bodies, our minds and our spirits and start manifesting itself in harmful ways to ourselves and others.

When we're in anxiety mode, our amygdala kicks into gear and it's easy to panic. We act in fight, flight, or freeze mode, trapped in emotions of fear or rage, not able to think clearly if at all. High anxiety constricts us, arousing feelings of helplessness, decreasing our ability to learn, and simplifying our thinking into only “yes” or “no” reactions. Then, as we desire to ease our anxiety using certainty, we try to control others by criticizing and blaming them for all our problems. In these anxious states, we tend to demand quick



fixes and become defensive, fast to stand against and over anyone who disagrees with us.

As the storm descended on their boat, Jesus asked his disciples, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” (Mt 8:26) It doesn’t seem fair, does it? Asking human beings created with a built-in panic button to “be not afraid?”

Yet God continually calls us not to fear or worry. “Therefore do not worry...” Jesus says in his Sermon. (Mt 6:31, 34) In fact, again and again throughout scripture we are reminded not to fear, not to be afraid, not to worry or be anxious. “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God,” God says through the prophet Isaiah (41:10). “Do not worry about anything,” Paul tells the Philippians. (4:6) “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you...do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid,” Jesus says to his disciples. (Jn 14:27) In fact, God comforts us over 60 times in scripture with calls to “be not afraid.”

But how can we *not* worry in this uncertain and frightening time? Is God asking the impossible of us?

Kind of, but not really. “Kind of” in the sense that we can never completely get rid of our anxiety; it is part of our human make-up. God understands that. That’s why in Matthew 6:31 and 34, Jesus offers not a command to stop worrying but rather a promised-based challenge[1]: “Don’t worry because you have no need to. Instead have faith in the kingdom of God and God’s deep relationship with you, and all that you need will be given unto you. After all, God knows that you need these things.” (Mt 6:31-34, paraphrase)

But there’s a “not really” here too. God isn’t asking the impossible of us because in faith and with healthy self-management skills, we have

the ability through the power of the Spirit and the guidance of spiritual and mental health leaders to manage our anxiety through Christ rather than through our human abilities which by themselves will too often lead us into unhealthy places.

When we live through our faith in Christ, the “image of God” part of our brain is invoked: the neo-cortex and empathy centers. Empowered by the Spirit, we can take deep breaths wrapped in God’s grace when we feel anxious and think more clearly, respecting others and learning patiently through our faith. Living in the peace of Christ, we can listen to our neighbors and better practice love, kindness, and self-control. Filled with the wisdom of the Spirit, we can be curious, flexible, and open to alternative God-fed responses. Brimming with the words of God’s never-ending love and acceptance, we can talk sense and good news to ourselves, reminding ourselves and others that God is with us no matter what. “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it’s your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Lk 12:32)

Anxiety, worry, fear – these will never work to save us from anything. Only Christ can do that. So as 1Peter 5:7 proclaims, “Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you.”

Always and forever! In Christ’s promise,
Bishop Laurie

EVENTS AT BETHEL

There are a few upcoming events that some may be wondering how/when they will take place. 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.

Online meetings Men’s Breakfast Electric City Bible and Hope Circle are all meeting on Zoom.

Church Council will meet online Monday, May 4th to discuss survey results and re-entry into gathering for worship services.

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

Family Promise Host week May 17th - 24th. Will keep you updated if we are to have a family.

Close Knit on hold.

Bethel Return to Worship Survey

We would like your feedback on when we should return to gathering for worship. If you would like to complete the survey below you can call the office 761-1543 or email your input bethelgf.church@gmail.com. We want to hear from YOU!

1. Are you ready to return to gathering for worship?

2. When we do start meeting again, what is the total number of people in your family that would attend?
 1. Would you use childcare (at the church)?

 3. Please share any comments or concerns you have in regard to gathering. Example: What fears/concerns do you have about gathering in large groups; What things or situations would make you comfortable or uncomfortable; Thoughts/or feelings about wearing masks; etc.

THANK YOU, DOCTORS, NURSES & ALL FIRST RESPONDERS!!!



SUBMITTED BY SONJA BAUMGARDNER

A NOTE FROM THE ROSENBAUM'S

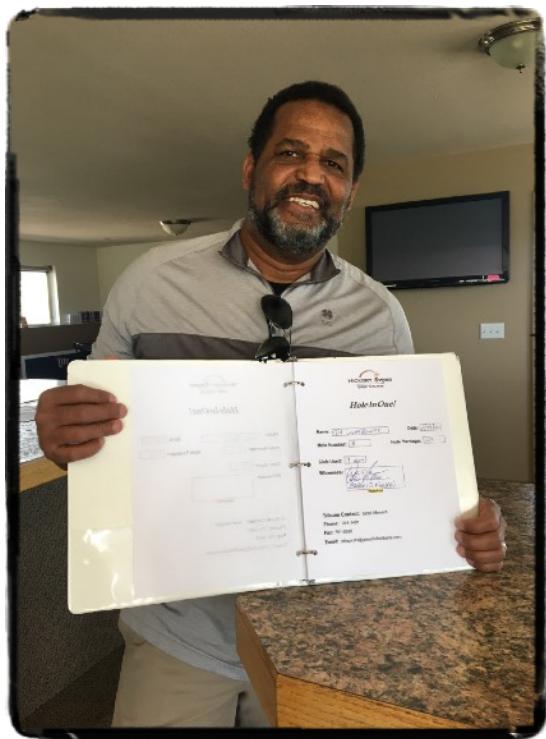
Hi all,

We do miss you - we are well and are in our house as of April 2nd - a busy few weeks!

God bless and I know we keep you in our prayers + thoughts -
With love, Linda + Tom

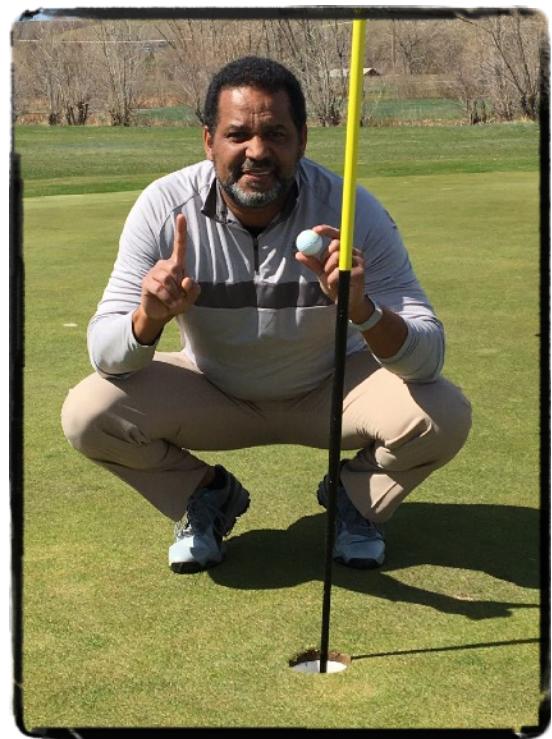


A Moment of Greatness!



AT
HICKORY SWING GC
HOLE #8
TIM LIGHTBOURNE HIT
A HOLE-IN-ONE!

143 YARDS 7 IRON
APRIL 29, 2020
11:25AM
WITNESSES: WARREN
JOHNSON, PASTOR
STEVE NELSON,
PASTOR STEVE VAN
GILDER



Resuming Food Collection for Fish and Schools:

We know many of you have been diligently supporting Fish and our schools through the quarantine by either delivering food or monetary donations and we thank you for your faithful outreach during this difficult time. Even though we do not know if schools will reopen we know kids are still hungry and depend on the generosity of our community for food distribution.

Fish provides food for families while the food bank provides food to organizations - one of which is the school food cupboards. With school closures we are thinking instead of delivering food to individual schools it might be easier to delivery food directly to the food bank for distribution to the schools.

Bethel will resume collecting food in the entry way for both Fish and the schools. You can bring your food to Bethel during office hours Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 1:30 pm (temporary office hours) and we will get the food delivered to Fish and the Food Bank with instructions that the food be designated for the schools. This will be our practice for now and throughout the summer.

Hopefully in the fall we can go back to helping individual school food cupboards

Thank you for your continued generosity. Until we see each other in person. Stay safe. Stay healthy.
God Bless.

Our Heartfelt Thanks...

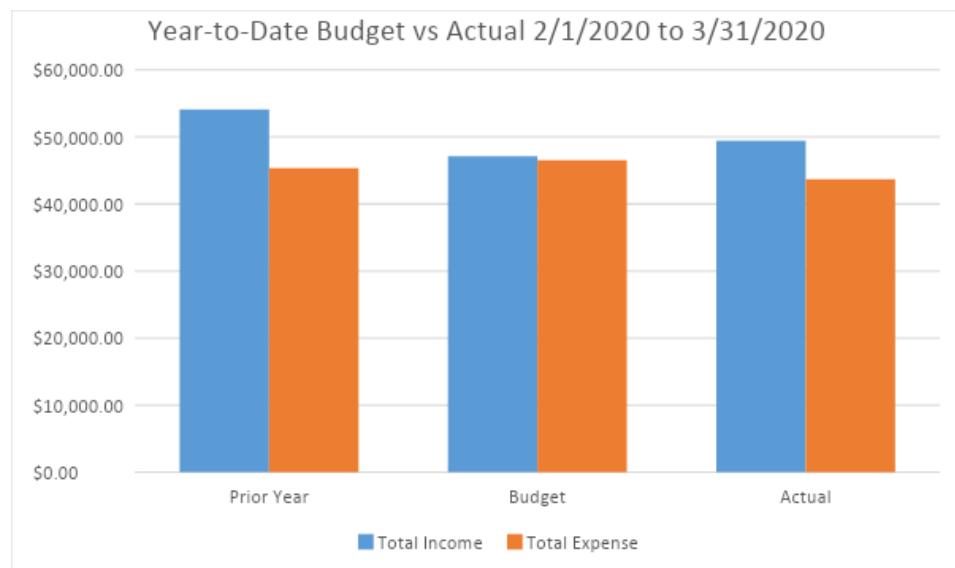
The Bethel Church Council would like to thank our entire congregation for your generous giving during this difficult time of isolation. We are deeply humbled by your loving support of our ministry! At this time of separation, it is comforting to know that we are still a church family and together, we will get through this. We are sharing this graph to let you see the blessings we are so thankful to receive. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe and healthy... until we meet again.

1st Monday Night Quilters

Will not be meeting May 4 at New Hope Lutheran Church due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

We hope to be quilting during the summer, and we plan to have two raised tables for tying to maintain social distancing for as long as necessary. If anyone is interested in making some quilt tops at home, we have plenty of fabric in the quilting room at New Hope. Or, if you have double or queen size flat sheets that are in good shape that you want to get rid of, we could use them for the backing. Any questions, contact Trudi at 799-0100.

	Prior Year	Budget	Actual	Difference
Total Income	\$ 54,099.69	\$ 47,100.00	\$ 49,444.97	\$ (2,344.97)
Total Expense	\$ 45,377.88	\$ 46,557.00	\$ 43,671.59	\$ 2,885.41
Net	\$ 8,721.81	\$ 543.00	\$ 5,773.38	\$ (5,230.38)



UPDATE: FLBC & COVID-19 APRIL 29TH, 2020

The FLBC board met April 28, 2020, and in consultation with our health department, has decided to keep camp closed through most of June. We have postponed our June events, and are in the process of contacting campers from our June weeks, to hopefully move them to later weeks in the summer. Our summer staff will arrive late June, and we will be doing much of our staff training online. We pray we will be able to open in late June, however we will not open if we cannot feel prepared and confident about welcoming campers.

We also know that *if* we are able to open camp this summer, that *it will look very different* from what we've known at FLBC. We are working hard to make changes in how we operate programming, in order to stay in small groups- taking ideas from our successful offsite small group model and bringing them to onsite camping. We also are writing protocols that will be reviewed by our health department as to how we will do food service (more meals to go?), how the check-in procedure may change (temperature check before a freeze pop?) and how we will continue to pride ourselves in super clean facilities, while disinfecting, scrubbing and cleaning even more. All of this in order to keep risk down and our staff and campers healthy and safe.

As a people we have a hard time with changes. "New wine in old wine skins? Nooo, the old wine was so much better!" Change is hard, very hard, and yet we know we will experience the love of Christ with masks on, with social distancing and whatever it takes. "*Put new wine in new wineskins, and so both are preserved.*" (Matthew 9: 17b)

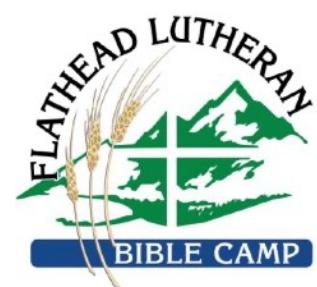
The FLBC board will meet again May 26th, to determine if we will be open in July and August. If you register your child for camp, you will need to sign off on a form about exposure to the virus, temperatures taken, and that you have not traveled outside of MT for 14 days prior to coming to camp. If you decide not to send your child to camp this summer, we encourage you to roll your deposit to 2021, or donate all or part of it, if possible. We will provide full refunds, if that is your request.

Nothing will take the place of being at camp and we are so eager to welcome you home to FLBC when we can open again- whenever that might be! The last group we were able to host left on March 11th and the camp has been very quiet since, with the exception of the staff busy at work! Projects have included finishing the remodeling of Teton Cabin, clearing a new access road into the Hagen Hall area, laying sod in front of the camp office, closing the "road" that used to go right through camp, and the list goes on! We give thanks to the donors and grants who make these projects a reality.

Between January 1- March 11, Nell, FLBC's Food Service Coordinator, served 1662 meals to 302 guests, and now she is cleaning, painting, and doing office work. The program staff- Jacob, Kyle, Kristin, and Jonathan- continue to register campers, plan for staff orientation, summer camp programs, and fall and winter retreats, all the while looking at how we 'do camp' in a new way. Renda, our Administrative Assistant, has been busy with all the changes many groups are making, i.e. family reunions postponing until 2021, while answering many questions by phone and email. Carlee, our Development Coordinator, continues to keep very busy with getting the word out about what is happening and asking our community to consider a recurring online gift to camp. Grace, our Senior Development Consultant, has been visiting with many supporters, and Shane and David, our maintenance team, are working hard on projects that are hard to do when people are here. So many good things are happening in the midst of these times, and the land and grounds at camp are healing and looking great!

Yes, we are eager to welcome you, whenever that can be...and we know when that happens "that all the trees of the field will clap their hands." For YOU!!

With thanks and praise to God, Margie Fiedler
Executive Director



*Our Mission:
Experience Christ's grace
through meaningful
relationships,
shared adventures, and
purposeful service.*

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 lolly51gus@icloud.com and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.

Hope Circle
has gone online!
Next meeting
Thursday, May 7th
7:00 PM
If you are interested
in connecting contact
Marilyn Carlson
marilyn.j.carlson@gmail.com



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



Please mark your calendars for these FLBC sponsored events date changes:

May 22-25- Memorial Day Weekend Work Retreat-rescheduled for Labor Day weekend: September 4-7; our regular Labor Day family camp program will happen the same weekend.

June 11-13- Women's Retreat, rescheduled for September 11-13; Pastor Miriam Schmidt will still serve as our retreat leader. June 12th- Partners Luncheon- rescheduled for October 10th. Luncheon will take place just prior to the annual meeting- we hope you will stay and enjoy the meeting!

