

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed on Fridays
 Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543 Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES



Sunday
 August 18

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Mary Seim

Lay Assistant:

Anne Vannatta

Usher(s):

Mary Gernaat

Projectionist:

Dina Davis

Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Dena Wagner-Fossen

Childcare:

Allison Marr

Isabelle Grosenick

Hospitality:

Roll over from last week

Readings for the Tenth Sunday After Pentecost:

JEREMIAH 23:23-29

HEBREWS 11:11:29--12:2

LUKE 12:49-56

This Sunday at Bethel:

after the service today, If you are able, we need to move the chairs from the sanctuary, all the furniture from the narthex and sunshine room into the Fellowship Hall to prepare for carpet cleaning on Monday morning.

High School Logos will meet in the parking lot for carpooling to the put in point for our float trip at 1:00 pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



- ♦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.
- ♦ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** for healing as he resumes cancer treatment.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ♦ Prayers for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart) as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Becca Thompson**.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Gary and Linda O'Brien** family of Sue Hesse.
- ♦ Prayers of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as continues to heal.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Franz** daughter of Ed and Bertha Ferguson .
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Rebecca Boucher**.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Debbie Blank** as she recovers from surgery.
- ♦ Prayers for God's comfort for **Cherie Stordahl and family** as they grieve the death of her father Gene.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Jo** (friend of Thelma Seyfert) who's health is failing.
- ♦ Prayers of safety for our **High School Logos** as they have a float trip on the river.

WE ARE CHURCH

This is a theme of the ELCA which was held up as the theme of the most recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the first week in August. As most of us know, ELCA Churchwide Assemblies (the highest legislative body of the ELCA) take place every few years and gather voting members who are elected from each of the Synods of the ELCA. The voting members are made up of men and women, youth and young adults, sixty percent lay and forty percent clergy. While together, the voting members at the CWA participate in worship, prayer, bible studies, and plenary discussions about how to go about being God's Church in the world. During this past CWA (Churchwide Assembly) the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton was re-elected as presiding bishop of the ELCA. The CWA also elected a new secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, and acted on memorials which were brought before the assembly. One of those memorials approved by the CWA was declaring the ELCA a "sanctuary churchbody." This declaration has raised questions and concerns among those who are aware of the decision. Below is an excellent article authored by Bishop Jessica Crist about what this declaration means and what it does not mean. I commend it to your reading. I also wish for you to know that if you have questions and concerns about this decision, please let me know as I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you further. We Are Church. We Are Church Together. We Are Church for the sake of the Gospel and the World.

Pastor Steve

WORDS FROM THE BISHOP: “SANCTUARY”, OR “YOU CAN’T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR ON TV”

By now many ELCA members have heard that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted last week to become “a sanctuary body.” For some people this announcement came as good, lifegiving news. For others it was much more troubling. It is important for us to understand what this declaration means and what it does not mean.

It DOES mean that the ELCA takes very seriously the situation of migrants and of undocumented people. The ELCA has a long history of ministry to the stranger, based on biblical precedent.

It DOES NOT mean that everyone has to respond in the same way. Some will choose to provide material aid to refugees relocating in this country. I know that when there was talk of Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls being a backup location for unaccompanied minors in the case of a hurricane, I spoke with the Mayor about ways that the faith community could offer hospitality. Offering hospitality is what we do. Some will choose to limit their response to prayer—which should never be discounted. And some will work with LIRS or AMMPARO. Still others will take further steps.

It DOES mean that the ELCA is renewing our commitment to advocate for reform in our nation’s broken immigration system, and for humane treatment of immigrants and refugees.

It DOES NOT mean that the ELCA is condoning or advocating illegal conduct on behalf of its congregations or members.

It DOES mean that the ELCA is encouraging its members to exercise compassion, generosity, hospitality to all, and to speak up for “the least of these.”

It DOES NOT mean that the ELCA is mandating that its congregations engage in any practice.

(The ELCA Churchwide Assembly cannot mandate the actions of ELCA congregations.)

Directly below this you can find a document listing what it means to be a sanctuary denomination. It is important to know what we as the ELCA think we did, not what commentators who were not there claim we did.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly did many things in our 5 ½ days together. I encourage you to go to www.elca.org to learn more. And I will be writing about other topics in next week’s e-news.

Jessica Crist, Bishop



What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA?

- In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is **publicly declaring** that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.
- We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers. To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.
- Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors. While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.
- Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts. It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. We cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.
- While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work. Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a second Language (ESL) classes, marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families, providing housing for a community member facing deportation, or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.
- Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our decadeslong work with immigrants and refugee is how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.
- At our last assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).
- Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate. We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.
- In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have

advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members that have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.

- Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us, it is a matter of faith.

[Click here for more information on the plenary sessions at the Churchwide Assembly](#)

TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump has selected FISH to be part of the 18th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign for 2019.

During the 3 month period from September 1 through November 30, Town Pump will match every donation up to \$20,000. What a great way to double your donation to FISH!! Please consider making a contribution during this 3 month period to help FISH.

What's Coming Up at FLBC:

Upcoming Retreats and Events:

Register by calling the camp office at 406-752-6602 or emailing office@flbc.net

Labor Day Family Camp

August 31-September 2, 2019

Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Camp staff will lead children and youth in classic camp activities such as Bible study, worship, games, hikes, and more. Adults will gather together for special facilitated time of study and discussion led by Pr. Molly and Allen Sasser-Goehner. All join together for worship, fellowship, and games! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand-up paddle boarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, high and low ropes team building, and much more!

To the Mountains: An Adult Wilderness Experience

August 31-September 2, 2019

Spend your Labor Day weekend enjoying the diversity of God's creation in beautiful NW Montana! Join our trained FLBC staff both on foot & by water as we spend an overnight backpacking, a day rock climbing, and a morning sailing on Flathead Lake. Experience the glory of the wilderness alongside new friends and dive into Scripture as you see God reflected in the landscape around you. No previous wilderness experience required, all community gear and food provided.

Wellness and Fun (Grades 6-12)

September 13-14, 2019

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly!" John 10:10. God wants us all to live healthy, fulfilled, abundant lives! This retreat will focus on trying new things for a healthy lifestyle. Learn new skills, get to know your own group better, and meet youth from all over! Discover a balance between mind, body, and spirit. Learn healthy living in a fun way!



**RAMP
IT UP**
el wencho
live in concert

 **dancing and dinner
silent auction
50-50 raffle**

o'hare motor inn (outdoor patio)
17 7th St S, Great Falls, MT
august 22, 5-9 pm

\$35 at the door
\$25 in advance
\$15 for children 12 and under
rampitup2019.brownpapertickets.com
or 1019 Central Avenue

a benefit for

 **Family Promise
of Great Falls**

proudly sponsored by

 **PACIFIC**
STEEL & RECYCLING™

(406) 866-0206 / www.familypromise.org / @jolly@familypromise.org

Tickets will be available to purchase from Dew Elkin this Sunday.

Bethel is putting together a UM Griz raffle basket for this event. If you would like to donate item(s) to go in the basket, please bring them to church on Sunday. Ideas would be Grizzly cups, blankets, key chain, tee shirts, water bottles, etc.

AnneRose Rogers and Dew Elkin will be assembling the basket on Monday.

It's A Birthday Celebration!! Sue Hesse's 70th

**AT THE BLACK EAGLE COMMUNITY CENTER
2332 SMELTER AVENUE, BLACK EAGLE**

SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1:00 PM

COME ENJOY CAKE AND CELEBRATE WITH SUE.

NO GIFTS PLEASE.

RSVP TO HER DAUGHTER MYRA CALL OR TEXT 788-3170

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met at Pastor Van Gilder's house for a potluck dinner and a council meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee joined the meeting. Here are some highlights:

- Pastor Steve lead devotions from Dwelling in the Word. We read Luke 10:1-12 and shared our reflections on the passage. The Strategic Planning Committee would like to use this strategy with other small groups within the church. Through this spiritual practice, we hope to discover our future mission and ministry directions for Bethel. We are seeking to remain a sustainable and vital congregation as our most recent survey indicated.
- It was with regret that Matt Crampton submitted his letter of resignation from Council and his position as Vice Chair. We wish Matt and Judy Godspeed and blessings as they move to Billings to be closer to family.
- The storage spaces are being cleaned and organized. More help is needed to haul away large pieces and discarded furniture.
- Upcoming committee work will involve a Financial Stewardship Committee and a task force to liquidate some donated artwork from the estate of Marty Johnson. More information will be coming on these projects.

To view the June Council Minutes in their entirety, please go to www.bethemt.org and click on Council Minutes.

Submitted by Marilyn Carlson, Council Secretary

Dear Bethel Family,

We are especially grateful and humbled to our Bethel Family for your thoughtful cards, calls, prayers and acts of kindness during this challenging journey. Together, you have helped us experience God's generous miracle of healing. For this, and much more, we thank each of you.

God bless,
Don and Kathi Bisgard



We are grateful to have been able to replace the dishwasher in the Gathering Place kitchen as the old one after many years of faithful service has retired.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 8/19:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 8/20:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Childbridge Meeting in the Gathering Place 5:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 8/26:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 8/27:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.

Wednesday 8/29:

- First day of school.

Saturday 8/31:

- 70th Anniversary reception for Dale and Leona Ost in the Gathering Place from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Volunteers Needed!

Do you like working with kids of all ages?

Do you like to help prepare meals and serve?

Do you like to sing and praise the Lord?

YOU ARE IN LUCK!!

We are in need of volunteers for the
2019-2020 Logos season.

We begin September and go through the end
of March on Wednesday evenings.

Contact Laura Kupfner at
bigskytrio@gmail.com or Tami Grosenick at
bethelmc.church@gmail.com.

High School Logos Float Trip

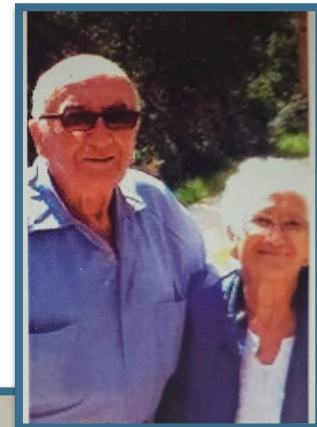
Sunday, August 18th

Meet in the church parking lot
at 1:00 PM to carpool to
Mountain Palace, float to
Pelican Point.

Family BBQ to follow.

Please RSVP to the Bethel
office for further details and
permission form.

406-761-1543



*Celebrating
70 Years*

Dale and Leona Ost

Saturday August 31, 2019

Reception 2-4 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church
Great Falls, Montana