

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed on Fridays

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday

September 1



Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:

Sandy Pepos

Usher(s):

Earl Terwilliger

Projectionist:

TBD

Counters:

TBD

Childcare:

Morgan Dunn

Adam Elkin

Hospitality:

Readings for the Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost:

PROVERBS 25:6-7

HEBREWS 13:1-3, 15-16

LUKE 14:1, 7-14

This Sunday at Bethel:

we will be receiving an additional offering in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger relief fund.

Thank you to Tom and Linda Rosenbaum for singing For The Healing of the Nations today for us.

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.
- ✦ Continued prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart). After weeks of chemo therapy, no lump is detected. She will undergo some further medical treatment to make sure all is well. Jane would like to thank all who have sent their prayers during this time. Our prayers have been heard, God has truly blessed Angela.
- ✦ 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 **Jo** (friend of Thelma Seyfert) who's health is failing.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Linda Van Hovel** as she recovers at home from a medical procedure.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Marlys Baer** as she recovers from a broken hip.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence and healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she battles cancer and recovers from surgery.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence and healing for--**Dr. Robert Wynia** as he is under the care of hospice.
- ✦ Prayers for **all students, teachers, administrators and staff in the Great Falls Public Schools** as they began another school year yesterday.
- ✦ Prayers of thanksgiving to God for Bishop Jessica Crist and her service as bishop of the Montana Synod. And a grace filled transition into retirement.

Young @ Heart Visit South Africa with Peggy Paugh Leuzinger

Pastor Peggy is the Montana Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission. Peggy, a Bozeman native, has served as liaison to our companion synod, the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa. The ELCA perspective for Companion relationships is on accompaniment rather than missionary models of the past. Peggy will share stories and offer insight into our global relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa.

Monday, September 16th at 1:00 PM

**Our Saviors Lutheran Church -
Lunde Hall**

Words from the Bishop: Meet the future boldly!

As I write this last edition of the weekly “Words from the Bishop,” I am grateful for the opportunity to serve these last 12 years. Thank you for allowing me to be your Bishop during these sometimes turbulent times.

These last 12 years have been full of changes in the world and in the church. Our congregations have experienced change as the baby boomers retire and the millennials are drawn to other vocations. Changing demographics have made some congregations rethink their mission—some have grown, and some have shrunk. Our full communion partnerships have made ecumenical cooperation and yoking a reality.

The Synod, too, has undergone change in the last twelve years. We have streamlined the work of the Synod Council and built a new energy-efficient tech-ready Synod House. We have gone from a monthly mailed newsletter to a weekly e-news. We work to save money and travel time by hosting more and more meetings electronically.

We have grown the LPA program, and started LPA 2.0. We have apologized to the tribes, and started a new mission on the Fort Peck Reservation, as well as maintaining our relationship with Our Saviour’s Rocky Boy. We have established a ministry in the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, Freedom in Christ.

The church’s adoption of the Human Sexuality Social Statement and the changes in ministry policy stirred up a storm in this Synod as well as across the church. Twenty congregations ultimately chose to disaffiliate with the ELCA, but at least one congregation declared itself to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and one new congregation was formed from people whose congregation had left. Other congregations expressed gratitude, “Now my kids are welcome.”

We have grown our relationship with our two companion synods—the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa and the Lutheran Church in Bolivia. And during the last dozen years the YAGM program has grown and thrived. Each year at least one Montana Synod young adult was involved—and most years there have been several. We have hosted a Glocal event for the ELCA, and were also the site for the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association’s gathering.

We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with several years of resources produced by Synod members, leading to a Convocation with the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings on the Five Ecumenical Imperatives adopted by an international committee. The celebration culminated with a



joint Lutheran-Catholic Vespers at the Helena Cathedral with 4 Bishops, joint choirs, and an overflow crowd.

Ecumenically, the ELCA entered into full communion with the United Methodists (our 6th agreement), allowing us to partner with Methodist congregations and pastors. During the last 12 years we have partnered with Presbyterians, UCC, Methodists and Episcopalians. We shared a convocation on preaching with the Episcopalians, and had both Presiding Bishops at Chico one year for a joint event.

We affirmed our relationship with the Montana Association of Jewish Communities—a ground-breaking agreement first adopted in 1995. We also commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. During these last 12 years, the Montana Association of Churches became the Montana association of Christians, and the Wyoming Association of Churches became the Wyoming Interfaith Association.

And the work of the church goes on. We continue to recruit and ordain pastors, encourage lay leadership, install rostered leaders and provide continuing education. We work with congregations in conflict, and work cooperatively with the institutions and ministries on our territory and beyond.

And so I end with where I began—with gratitude. I am grateful to the staff who have worked with me over the years, and to the Synod Council and officers who have guided the Synod. I am grateful to the Pastors and Deacons, the LPAs and the Synodically Authorized Ministers who have been on the ground doing ministry. I am grateful to the Deans and the committee members, who have faithfully attended to the church. And I am grateful to the congregations of the Montana Synod who have called me and supported the work of the larger church.

As I transition into retirement, my prayers are with the Montana Synod and with Bishop-Elect Laurie Jungling, and together you begin a new chapter.

Meet the future boldly!

In Christ,



Jessica Crist, Bishop

Bethel Office Hours

will remain year round.

Monday through Thursday

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Closed on Fridays.

You are invited to the Installation of

**The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling as Bishop of the
Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

Saturday, September 21, 2019 - 11 am

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
3580 North Benton Avenue, Helena, MT 59602

Reception and light lunch following at
The Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Blvd., Helena, MT 59601

Clergy and Lay Ministers are invited to gather at 10:30 in order to vest and process.
Color of the day is red.

Your prayers and presence are requested.

"May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you."

Eph. 1:17-18

A block of rooms has been set aside (under the name Montana Synod, ELCA)
at the Great Northern Hotel until September 10, 2019
To make reservations, call 406-457-5500

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.

Next Family Promise Training

Wednesday, September 11th

5:30 pm at The Hub

Call to RSVP 406-866-0288

Mark Your Calendar for the Crop Walk

Sunday, October 6th 1:00 PM

stay tuned in upcoming notes for more details.

TAKE PAUSE AND REFLECT ON OUR LABORS

Labor Day is known by most as a federal holiday recognizing the value of labor and the laborer's contributions to the growth and well being of our nation and across the world. We also know it as weekend of travel and of gatherings with family and friends. It is also known the "unofficial end of Summer." Might we also think of Labor Day as an opportunity to pause and reflect on our own labors and the vocational callings God has given us ?

Recently, I have been in conversations with a millennial with regards to their life and work. They were struggling under the stresses and demands of their workplace. They were questioning how much of their life was spent in toiling over their work versus their own personal life and taking care of themselves. They were arriving at the conclusion that their own personal life and well being had to take precedence over their commitment to workplace and they were taking steps towards wholeness and wellness. Each of us has to wrestle with our responsibilities, loyalties and commitments. Living as followers of Jesus Christ in this world and placing our hope in a radically different kingdom ~ God's kingdom ~ will definitely challenge, complicate and stir us to look at own labors ~ of where we spend our time and energies.

In the gospel reading from Luke for this Sunday, Jesus tells a story about a banquet. He addresses his story to all the guests who are invited to a banquet table. This banquet table

is Jesus'. Jesus is also the inviter, host and gracious welcomer. And we learn that gathering at Jesus' table requires humility for we sit at a table of abundance where all are already welcome, known and worthy of God's loving embrace.

This Labor Day, Jesus invites and challenges us to take pause and reflect on our labors. Where and how we spend our time, talents and treasures. But chiefly, to reflect on our vocational calling, given in our baptism into Jesus Christ, that of loving God and neighbor.

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1

Pastor Steve



WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA) FALL CONVENTION AND GATHERING TO BE HELD AT BETHEL

Saturday, September 28th

9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Featured Speaker:

- Rev. Julia Seymour, has served Big Timber Lutheran since November 2018. Prior to that, she served for 10 years in a congregation in Alaska. Pastor Julia has written many times for *Gather* magazine, including the 2017 Bible study on the Apostle's Creed. She was also a contributing author to the Whirl Story Bible. Pastor Julia enjoys reading, gardening, knitting, and being outside. She and her husband, Rob, have two children, Daniel (9) and Victoria (6).
- More details will be available soon for Saturday's event



Cost is \$75.00 lunch included - registration forms are available in the Narthex

Questions?

Contact Connie Hausauer at 406-690- 4947 or hausauer.connie@gmail.com

Next Hope Circle

Mark your calendars

**Thursday, September 26th 7:00 PM at
the Korpela's 3025 Delmar Dr.**

Remember circle is open to everyone
and what better way to start then in
September, so join us!

Thanks everyone. God Bless.

See you soon!

Terry Korpela

Men's Breakfast is

BACK!!

Tuesday, September

3rd 7:00 am at

Bethel in the

Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 9/2:

- Labor Day Bethel office closed

Tuesday 9/3:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast resumes in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 9/4:

- Logos Staff meeting 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday 9/5:

- Exec Board meeting 4:30 pm by conference call

Friday 9/6:

- Aitz Chaim Friday Shabbat Service in the sanctuary 6:00 pm

Saturday 9/7:

- Close Knit in the Fellowship Hall 9:00 am
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 9/8:

- 70th Birthday Party for Sue Hesse at the Black Eagle Community Center 1:00 pm

Monday 9/9:

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

Tuesday 9/10:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast resumes in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM

Wednesday 9/11:

- Logos Middle School/High School BBQ and Parent Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM

Saturday 9/21:

- Installation of The Reverend Doctor Laurie Jungling as the Bishop of the Montana Synod, Our Redeemer Helena 11:00 am

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