

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



Readings for the Eighth Sunday After Pentecost:

GENESIS 15:1-6
 HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16
 LUKE 12:32-40

This Sunday at Bethel:

we wish farewell and Godspeed to the the Newby Family as they are relocating to Washington DC for Juian's work and also to Lillie Erickson as she embarks on her college journey and also to Jeremy Stordahl as he journeys to Australia for a year of service through the ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission program.

Worship Planning committee meets today immediately following our worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday
 August 11

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:

Terree Wozny

Usher(s):

Mike & Joyce Harding

Projectionist:

Dave Scholten

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Dena Wagner-Fossen

Childcare:

Adam Elkin

Morgan Dunn

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

Mike & Joyce Harding

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 O'Brien** brother-in-law of Sue Hesse.
- ♦ Prayers of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as continues to heal.
- ♦ Prayers for **Glenn Vannatta** as recovers from knee surgery
- ♦ 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 presence for Alex Bostic and the medical team** as he is undergoing a medical procedure in Spokane this morning.
- ♦ Prayers of support for the **friends and family of David Delcomte** who passed away.
- ♦ Prayers for God's will to be done for **Gene Pinkley** (father of Cherie Stordahl) who's health is failing.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Sue Hesse** as she undergoes a medical procedure on Friday.

*Celebrating
70 Years*

Dale and Leona Ost

Saturday August 31, 2019

Reception 2-4 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church

Great Falls, Montana



Stories of Faith & Share Them With Others...

The readings for this Sunday are stories of faith, mainly concentrating on Abram, at that time an old man with a barren wife who was promised to be the father of many. How could he be the father of many if he had no offspring at all? Faith in God made it happen as we read in Genesis and Hebrews. Luke expands on this when he had Jesus tell, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32, NRSV) Again, have faith in God.

How do we tell the stories of faith to others or how do we learn from others their story of faith? In short, we have to interact with each other.

2019 VBS at Bethel was a good example of exchanging our faith stories. The kids would hear them from the counselors and the counselors heard them from the kids.

One of the counselors (Damien) was a guest from our companion synod in South Africa. For a period of 3 months, he is working as a counselor at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. My hope is the we learned from Damien and Damien learned from us.

In early June, Bishop Motsanai Manong and pastor Adam Tlaisego from the Cape Orange Diocese were guest of the Montana synod during the synod assembly. During a workshop, pastor Adam mentioned the need for longer-term reciprocal visits. Longer-term visits provide a great opportunity to exchange and deepen our faith stories.

Gustavo Driau from Argentina visited us a few weeks ago and provided great information about our companion synod in Bolivia. During one of his briefings, he mentioned that financial support is very much appreciated but that they, the

Bolivians, value more our personal interaction with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Bolivia.

The Bible gives examples of Jesus walking with the people and telling and explaining faith stories. For example, we hear about the experiences of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. In Luke 24:32 we read, "They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'" (NRSV)

We find another example in Acts 8:26-40, where we hear about Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch was reading the prophet Isaiah and Philip asked him if he understands the meaning of what he is reading. In verse 31 we read, "He (the eunuch) replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him." (NRSV) The story ends with Philip baptizing the eunuch.

It is through personal interaction that we exchange our faith stories, ask questions, and learn from each other.

Udo Wozny



WHAT I LEARNED HIKING THE “M”

There are many things in life that are humbling. I think God intends life to unfold in this way. We see life differently at different stages and this lesson was taught to me the day I attempted to “climb to the M.”

I remember that day, because it was inevitable. On several previous occasions my husband and kids wanted to hike the hill behind the University of Montana and reach the M. I had seen it from a distance from almost anywhere in Missoula. I gazed in awe during football games at people walking and running up the hill. But, today here I was with my family at the base of the M looking up and thinking...”wow, I am out of shape, how am I going to do this?” As with all journeys they begin with the first step and so, I began.



It wasn't bad at first, the trail was a little rough, but not too steep. After all it's a switchback so how bad can it actually be? It wasn't long before I was falling behind my family, taking far more breaks than they were and moving slower and slower. I waved them on ahead and said I would “take my time” which I did, thoroughly doubting my ability to make it to the top.

That is when I found myself alone on this journey. That is not to say that my family forgot about me, they did not. I could see them looking back smiling and waving and I feigned the best smile I could muster while not being able to take a full breath and waved back. There were also lots of other people on the trail. Some were running, walking dogs, happily chatting with their climbing partner. “Amazing” I thought, “how all of us are on the same trail and experiencing things so differently.”

The switchbacks are set with a long, slight grade heading south and a shorter, steeper grade heading north. To my relief there are also benches just when you need one to rest and appreciate the views at every level. This gave me time to make the decision to hike to the next level. Which I did.

By this time I was experiencing something new. Some of the same people I met as we were ascending, I was meeting them again as they were descending having already reached their goal of making it to the M.

On I climbed and things were getting steeper and my legs were getting heavier and my lungs were using language one should not use in mixed company. I looked up and my family waved at me from the M and I was close, but stopped. Not today. Today was not the day for me to reach the M. But I appreciated the journey and the lessons God taught me on that day:

- We all experience life in our own way
- You meet some people on the way up and some on the way down
- You can take your time and appreciate the beautiful views at every height
- There is always a bench when you need it

Tami Grosewick

Bethel Bunch Brunch!

**Saturday, August 10th
10:30 AM
Ron & Dew Elkin
2412 47th Ave SW**

Please bring a side dish or salad to be shared. S "Rancho Vista" is one heck of a beautiful spot to overlook Great Falls and Mother Nature. Dew and Ron tell me " We will try and schedule the does and their fawns to come for a visit around that time".

You do not want to miss this.
Be sure to bring something to drink as well.

RSVP with number and what you are bringing to
Terry Korpela or Dew Elkin.

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!

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.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

It is always difficult to see friends leave and head off to new adventures. This Sunday we will wish a fond farewell and Godspeed to the amazing Newby Family and two dynamic youth Lillie Erickson and Jeremy Stordahl as they follow the path God has led them to. Until we meet again.

THE NEWBY FAMILY



Juan has been transferred to Washington DC. We will miss this wonderful family.

LILLIE ERICKSON



Lillie is heading to college in North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene. Good luck and have fun!

JEREMY STORDAHL



Jeremy will be leaving for his YAGM Mission to Australia on the 13th. Bon Voyage!

Young Adults in Global Mission

Jeremy Stordahl

has been selected to serve as a missionary in Australia.

He will begin his mission in August 2019

About Jeremy:

- I was born and raised in Montana – Son of Greg and Cherie (Pinkley) Stordahl
- Graduated from Charles M. Russell High School 2015
- Member of Bethel Lutheran Church - Great Falls, MT
- I like to work outdoors, and I am a hard worker
- I have a great sense of humor – I like ice cream and long walks on the beach
- I love animals – the Koala Bear is my favorite
- I can't wait to see what God has for me through this mission

About my Mission:

It is with great excitement that I have accepted the opportunity to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer in Australia starting in August. I will be one of more than 85 young adults serving on behalf of the ELCA in 11 different country programs around the world!

As part of accepting this call, I am asked to raise at least \$7,500. Please help me reach my goal by supporting my fundraising efforts with a donation today. Through your donation, you join me on this journey as I grow in my own faith and walk in partnership with our global companions. I am thrilled to think about the ways in which this year will form and transform me.

Ways to support my call to serve as a volunteer for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program!

To make a credit card gift, call 800-638-3522 to make a credit card donation. Please specify support for Jeremy Stordahl.

To give by check, make your check out to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" and write "Jeremy Stordahl giving code: GCS3503" on the memo line. Give through your congregation or mail to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online at: <http://support.elca.org/goto/JeremyStordahl>

**Thank you for joining me and for your support –
every gift truly matters!**



THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Sunday 8/11:

- Worship Planning Committee meeting 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Monday 8/12:

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

Tuesday 8/13:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Church Council meeting 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- Jeremy Stordahl leaves for his YAGM

Friday 8/16:

- Aitz Chaim Shabbat Service in the sanctuary 6:00 PM

Saturday 8/17:

- Close Knit meets 9:00 AM in the Gathering Place
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 8/12:

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

Tuesday 8/13:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Church Council meeting at 6:30 PM at the home of Pastor Steve and Kaye Van Gilder (2766 Fern Drive). The meeting will be preceded by a dinner at 5:30pm.

Saturday 8/17:

- Close Knit meets 9:00 AM in the Gathering Place

High School Logos Float Trip

Sunday, August 18th

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

Family BBQ to follow.

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

406-761-1543

Help Wanted!

Do you like working with kids of all ages?

Do like to help prepare meals and serve?

Do 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.