

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed Friday

BETHEL NOTES



Readings for Third Sunday of Advent

ISAIAH 35:1-10
MATTHEW 1:2-11

Sunday at Bethel we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent. The word advent comes from the Latin phrase *adventus Domini* which translates 'Coming of the Lord.' Advent is a short but rich season (four weeks) of the church year.

During these four weeks, an **adult forum will be offered three different times during the week**: Sundays after worship (11-12) in the Fellowship Hall; Monday evenings (6:30-8pm) at Bethel in the room next to the front entrance; and on Thursday mornings (10-11:15) in Fellowship Hall. All will be led by Pastor Steve. Together we will take a closer look at the Gospel of Matthew...it's distinctiveness and key themes.

Logos Youth Ministry Christmas Program a Live Nativity will be performed in place of the sermon.

Sunday

December 15

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:

Sue Hesse

Usher(s):

Logos Youth

Projectionist:

Tim Lightbourne

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Donna Vinnedge

Childcare:

Allison Marr

Isabelle Grosnick

Hospitality:

Thelma Seyfert, Tami

Grosnick & The

Lightbournes

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** 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 of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to heal.
- ♦ Prayers for God's presence and healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Robby and Cindy Brattain**.
- ♦ Prayers for **Don Seyfert** as he continues to heal from surgery and undergo medical treatment.
- ♦ Prayers for God's presence and healing touch for **John Korpela**, as he continues to recover.
- ♦ Prayers for comfort for **Jeanette Rankin** mother of Jeanne Rankin.
- ♦ 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 **Walt and Leone Nuessle**.
- ♦ Prayers **Eldon Engan** (cousin of Amber Erickson) as he recovers from a double lung transplant.
- ♦ Continued prayers for the **Nominating Committee** as they seek nominees to serve in leadership positions at Bethel.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Linda Walling** (sister of Bobbie Bowen) and for Bobbie as well.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Tyr Rogers new born son** of Kevin and Mea Rogers, grandson of AnneRose Rogers as he is in hospital.
- ♦ Prayers of success for the **Logos Youth Ministry** as they perform this Sunday for our worship service, A Live Nativity.
- ♦ Prayers of support for **Darci Bernardi** as she retires from Logos Kitchen Church Ladies.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00 pm

nursery available

Special Music by Karrie Depos

&

6:00 pm

Special Music by Jubilate Choir

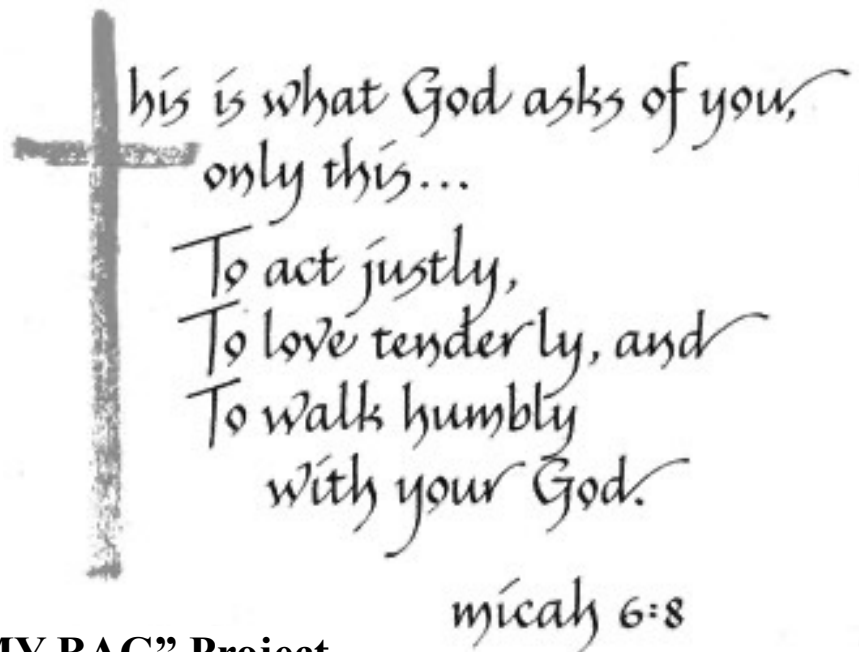
Communion offered at both services

Adult Forums: Let's Take a Closer Look at the Gospel of Matthew

The liturgical calendar year begins with the season of Advent on Sunday, December 1st. In the three year lectionary cycle, we will journey in Year A and the gospel of Matthew will be the gospel most often heard in worship (40 X's). With that in mind, Pastor Steve will be offering a brief overview of the gospel with a focus on material unique to Mathew as well as major themes. This will be a four week series and will be offered on Sunday's (12/1, 8, 15, 22) after worship, Monday nights (12/2, 9, 16 & 23) from 6:30-8pm as well as on Thursday mornings (12/5, 12, *19 combining 2 sessions) from 10-11:15am. Bring your bibles and join in the presentations and conversation. Look for a sign up sheet on a table at church or email Pastor Steve at bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com.

2020 Financial Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to those of you that have returned to the church your estimate of giving cards for the 2020 year. If you haven't returned them we encourage you to do so. They may be placed in the box as you enter the church or may be placed in the offering plate during the worship service.



“IT’S MY BAG” Project

This year, through our Giving Tree, we are excited to support our local Children in need, through our “It’s My Bag” Project. Since January of this year, there have been over 349 new children who have entered our court system due to abuse or neglect. These children leave their home with their personal belongings in a trash bag! Our children are not trash! We believe every child deserves some dignity! These children are placed in foster homes scared and confused!

No child should have to carry his or her belongings in a trash bag! A duffle bag, along with some hygiene essentials and their own name tag on their bag, will send these children entering foster care a message, a message that they are important and cared for by our community.

You can help sponsor these items by donating through our Giving Tree. Please pick an ornament and attach your check to support this project.

You can show your support by giving:

\$5 for a Name Tag

\$15 for a Hygiene Kit

\$25 for a Duffle Bag

\$45 for an “It’s My Bag” Kit (includes all the items above).

Please note your donation item in the memo portion of your check.

WORDS FROM THE BISHOP: WAITING

Patience seems to be a four-letter word today. We don't like to wait and when we have to, we often don't do so patiently. These days I find myself using my cell phone to help me deal with short-term waiting like at a doctor's office or in line at the store (not in the car!). But long-term waiting – days, month, even years – that's tougher! Fortunately my busy life as bishop keeps me from noticing my impatience because there is always something else to do. But unfortunately, this busyness doesn't give me the opportunity to practice waiting.

Of course, waiting is more difficult when we're anxious or afraid. And we are afraid...of others, of the future, of our inner feelings and thoughts. This fear causes us to want to escape, to flee from our waiting. And when we can't flee, we fight. Or freeze into numbness. Yes, our fear makes waiting even harder.

Yet this seems to be a theme of Advent: to wait in the midst of fear. Wait in the midst of anxiety. Wait for Jesus to come again. Oh, and by the way, Jesus' coming will change everything...yes, everything! What's more frightening than that!

In the midst of all this waiting and fear, followers of Christ are called to have faith. And we're called to live in hope. But what does it mean to wait in faith-filled hope, even as we fear?

Well, for one thing, waiting in faith-filled hope means waiting with a sense of promise. It means using all our senses – physical, emotional, and spiritual senses -- to enter into the promise that God gives us in Jesus Christ. That promise is like a seed planted in each one of us in our baptism, a seed that is nurtured in us by the Spirit, the Holy Gardener. We just have to put ourselves in places where we can best be watered, pruned, and breathed on by God's love, all while avoiding the weeds and removing the stones that would prevent that promise from taking root and growing in us. In the end, waiting in faith-filled hope isn't about looking at a promise from the outside. It means living *inside* God's promise of new life and letting that promise live inside us.

Second, waiting in faith-filled hope is active. Waiting is not a passive, hopeless, empty state of numbness that is caused by events out of our control. Followers of Christ never "just wait." We wait actively in a sure hope that the promised seed has been planted and that God's promise is happening to us and around us even if we can't see it. We wait knowing that we *get* to participate in God's promise for the world in glad rejoicing by standing up, raising our heads, reaching out our arms, and serving in love. Waiting in faithful hope, then, means being the conduit through which the Spirit plants and nurtures the seeds of Christ's promise in everyone around us.

Also, faith-filled waiting in hope means being patient. Patience is courage. It's daring to stay where we are and live out our situation to its fullest in the trust that something hidden will become manifest to us. Patience means doing our best to live God's activity in the present, nurturing every moment as the earth nurtures a growing seed, as a mother nurtures a child growing inside her.

Fourth, actively waiting in faith-filled hope is open-ended. It's being open to God's work that is being done in our lives. "Let go and let God," the saying goes. This is a radical attitude toward life in our "I'm in charge" world, trusting in hope that God is doing something that is far beyond our imagination or control. Waiting in faithful hope is trusting completely that God is growing us into who God calls us to be according to God's love rather than our fear.

Finally, *how* do we actively wait in this faith-filled hope of Christ's promise? Well, we do it together, in love. We wait not alone but as a community of faith, the body of Christ in this place and time. As followers of Christ, we enable and empower each other to wait, creating space for others to wait, affirming for each other that there is indeed something awesome that we all are waiting for. This community is the Church, the body of Christ through which we have faith in God's promise together, supporting, nurturing, celebrating and affirming what God is doing for our community in Jesus again and again.

Ultimately, waiting in faith-filled hope is not about fear; it's about following Jesus together as we trust that Christ's promise is indeed becoming real for you, in you and through you in Jesus' name)

Blessed Advent to you all!

Bishop Laurie



Bethel Lutheran Church
High School LOGOS



SKI TRIP

WHO: BLC's High School Logos group, friends & chaperones.

WHAT: Soaking in White Sulphur's Hot Springs and Skiing/Boarding at Showdown Ski Area. We will be staying on the floor at American Lutheran Church of White Sulphur Springs. We will be making dinner at the church, soaking in the hot springs that night and then skiing/boarding Showdown the next day until 4pm. We will be heading back to Great Falls after that.

WHEN: Fri., Dec. 20 - Sat, Dec. 21. We will be meeting at the church to caravan down at 4pm.

BRING: Overnight bag, sleeping bag/pad/pillow, ski gear, money for lunch at Showdown.

COST: Hot Springs: \$7 Adults, \$6 ages 13-17.
Showdown: \$39 junior lift ticket (\$34 with group of 15+), \$29 ski rental or \$37 snowboard rental.

Food: Dinner and Breakfast is provided, but lunch is on your own at Showdown.

CONTACT: If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Steve: 761-1543 / bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com
Steph Richardson: 579-8897 Dan Richardson 579-2093

REGISTRATION: Permissions forms are to be turned into the church by Dec 18.



Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th immediately following worship in the sanctuary.

A Ministry Funding Plan Forum aka Budget Forum in preparation for the annual meeting, will be held in the Sanctuary. Sunday, January 19th immediately following our service.

We need a quorum of at least 65 voting members to attend to conduct business, please mark your calendar for this important meeting.



Welcome to
Once Upon a Nativity
in the Columbus Center
1601 2nd Avenue North
December 9, 2019 - January 7, 2020
Free Admission
Provided by Carol Olthoff – 779-8109



**C.M. Russell High School is hosting
the Electric City Optimists
Invitational Speech and Debate
Tournament on December 13th &
14th 2019**

Can you help us by judging at our upcoming Speech & Debate Tournament? Please consider taking part in this excellent opportunity to come see some of the best and brightest students from across the State of Montana demonstrate their ability in public speaking and knowledge of current affairs.

Friday, December 13th:

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School
4:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM

Debate Rounds at North Middle School and CMR
4:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 14th:

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School
8:30 AM | 10:30 AM | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM

Debate Rounds at North Middle School and CMR
8:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 6:00 PM

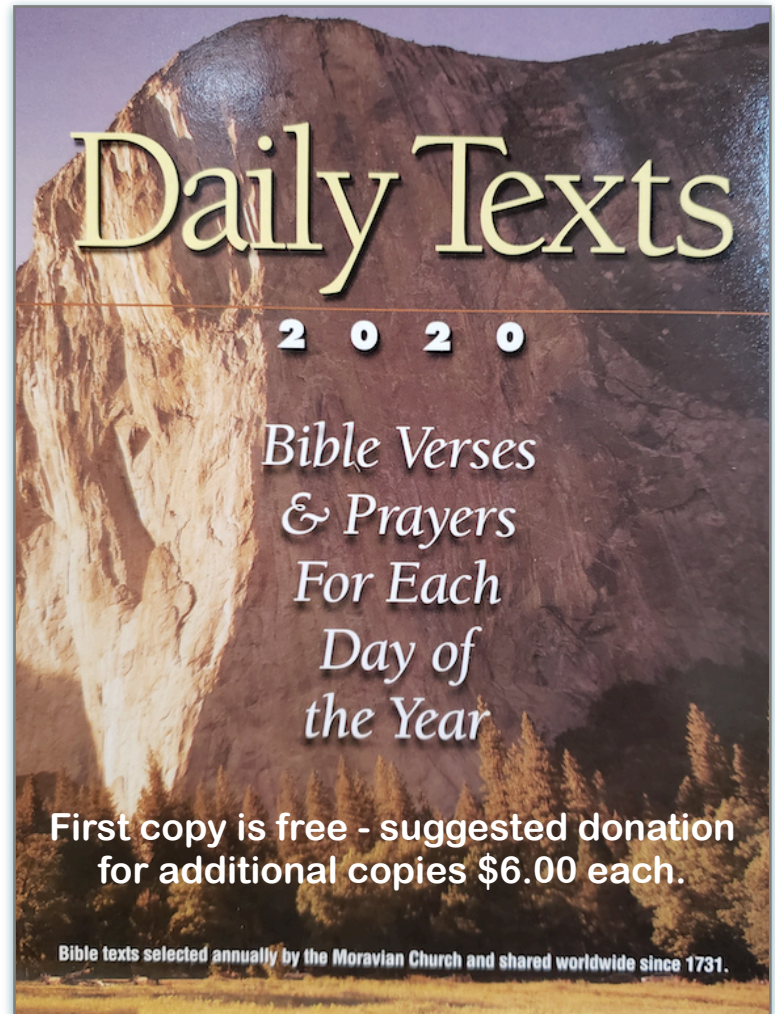
Registration Options:

Click on the link at <https://forms.gle/wkDsJ4xkNQsVyRjm8>;

Email cmrjudgerecruiting@gmail.com or steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us; or

Call (406) 616-2695, and leave a message that details day, time, and any event preferences you may have.

New Daily Texts are in!!



Hope Circle
Christmas Party
Saturday, Dec. 14
6:00 PM
The Carlson's Home
329 Hyland
Drive



What's happening at camp?

CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 20!

2020 Staff Applications Are Open!

Do you know a young adult who would be a great addition to our 2020 summer team? They can find an application to join our staff at <https://flbc.net/employment/>

Youth Ski & Snowboard Retreat 🏂🛷

January 10-12, 2020

\$115/person (2 adults free with each church group)

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow, worship and FUN! Try downhill skiing or snowboarding, cross-country skiing, or spend the day hanging out at camp! Post skiing activities to include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, time to relax with new friends, and worship.

Tea Party ☕👑

February 15, 2020

2-4 pm at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

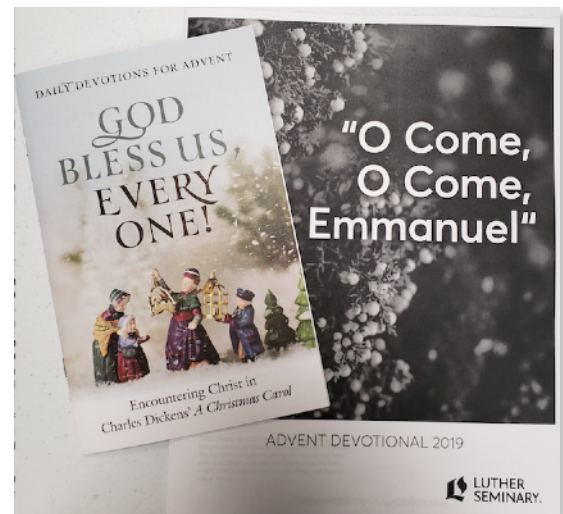
\$10/person

Grandparents, guardians, parents, bring your kiddos to a Valentine's Day "Tea Party!" All ages are welcome; our programming will focus on children ages 4-12. Food, crafts, singing, and fun with a special "princess" guest!

[FLBC.net](https://flbc.net) for more information.



Jeff and Melody Skogley sing the gospel acclamation during the second Sunday of advent.



Advent devotionals are available! Located in the the tract rack or on the table in the narthex.



The Jubilate Choir sang *Walkin' On The Road To Bethlehem* last Sunday and they honored Tom and Linda Rosenbaum for all their years of adding their beautiful voices to the choir.

Tom and Linda,
you will be missed.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Sunday 12/15:

- Logos Children's Christmas Program
- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room

Monday 12/16:

- Scout Troop 1028 meeting at Bethel 6:00 pm
- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 12/17:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Childbridge meeting in the Gathering Place 5:30 pm

Wednesday 12/18:

- No Logos

Thursday 12/19:

- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 10:00 am in the Hospitality Room
- GFMA meeting and lunch at 12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Friday 12/20:

- Bethel Office is closed.
- High School Logos Ski trip to Showdown (returning Saturday)

Saturday 12/21:

- Close Knit meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12/22:

- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Monday 12/23:

- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 12/24:

- Christmas Eve, Bethel Office is closed.
- Christmas Eve Services 4:00 pm with special music by Karolina Pepos, childcare will be available and 6:00 pm with special music by Jubilate Choir, no childcare.

Wednesday 12/25:

- Merry Christmas! Bethel office is closed.

Thursday 12/26:

- No adult faith formation

Friday 12/27:

- Bethel Office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim worship in the sanctuary 6:00 pm Bethel Office is closed.



A big thank you to our High School Logos for taking the time to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, you did a beautiful job!