

**Office Hours:** Monday & Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

# BETHEL NOTES



## Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent

ISAIAH 7:10-16  
ROMANS 1:1-7  
MATTHEW 1:18-25

**Sunday at Bethel** we celebrate the fourth 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.

The **adult forum on Matthew** will continue with the following **schedule**: Sunday after worship (11-12) in the Fellowship Hall; Monday evening (6:30-8pm) at Bethel in the Fellowship Hall. The Thursday morning 10-11:15 session will not meet this week. All will be led by Pastor Steve.

## Sunday

### December 22

#### Serving This Sunday

##### Accompanist:

Mary Seim

##### Lay Assistant:

Terrez Wozny

##### Usher(s):

Sue Hesse

##### Projectionist:

Dean Amor

##### Counters:

Tim Lightbourne

Dena Wagner-Fossen

##### Childcare:

Adam Elkin

Morgan Dunn

##### Hospitality:

Walt and Leone Nussle

# 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 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 joy for **Tyr Rogers**, AnneRose Rogers' grandson, as he is home with his family and doing well.
- ♦ Prayers for grace and peace for **Dave Price, Pastor Steve's uncle** as they work through a new plan of care.



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

**4:00 pm**

nursery available

Special Music by Karrie Pepos  
&

**6:00 pm**

Special Music by Jubilate Choir

Communion offered at both services

## Bethel Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Highlights December 10, 2019

Bethel Lutheran Council met at Bethel Lutheran Church on December 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Here are some highlights of that meeting:

- Council agreed to purchase a new laptop to project our service overheads and to update our bookkeeping software.
- Boy Scout Sunday is February 9 and they are considering hosting a pancake breakfast.
- The proposed budget for 2020 was reviewed and approved by the Council.
- The Budget Forum will be held January 19, 2020 after the service.
- Our Annual Meeting date is Sunday, January 26, 2020.

To view the November minutes in their entirety, visit the following link: [November 2019 minutes](#)

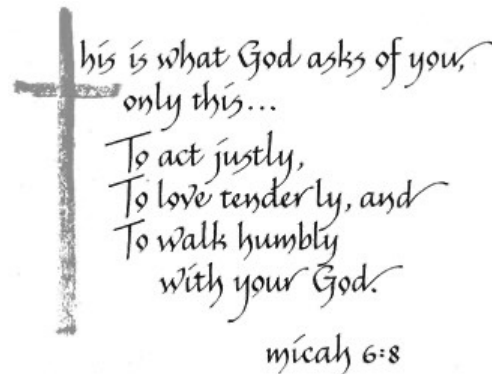
## Handbell Choir

We have another opportunity to polish up those beautiful bells and add a little music to our worship service. If you are able to attend rehearsals **December 28 1-2:30** and **January 4, 1-2:30** we will play during the **January 5th worship service**. Please confirm with Sharon Mueller if you would like to participate 788-3417.



## 2020 Financial Stewardship

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.



## Giving Tree Options

CASA "It's My Bag" Project:

- \$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)

Global Barnyard Good Gifts ELCA World Hunger

- \$10 Chicks
- \$10 School supplies for a child
- \$12 Bibles for the Global Church
- \$20 Honeybees
- \$25 Feed a refugee family
- \$30 Pig
- \$30 Water filter
- \$50 Goat
- \$100 Pair of goats
- \$100 Feed 50 at a soup kitchen
- \$150 Latrine

Companion Synod sponsor

- \$25 Bolivia or South Africa

Please make sure you indicate in the memo of your check or online what your giving tree donation will be directed to. Donations can be put in the offering or dropped off at the Bethel Office during business hours.



# Logos Children Perform “A Live Nativity”



## Cast:

Angel 1 - Maya Stringer

Angel 2 - Ainsley Kubas

Joseph - Ashyr Tweet

Mary - Kendall Ryan

Shepherds -

Austin, Colton, and Ethan Kupfner

Wisemen -

Tyler Grosenick, Eastyn Tweet, Kian Ryan

Choir of animals and angels

Macy Klostermeier, Grady Tweet, Kari Ryan,  
Luke, Macy, and Sammy Hurin





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

# Strategic Planning meeting 11/24/2019

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We met to discuss directions to go from what we have gathered over the past year or so of meeting. Ten years for a strategic plan is a nice goal however, strategically, we need to focus our efforts on doing 1 or 2 things very, very well in the next 2-3 years. Once that is accomplished we can take that success and build it out into the next years and so on.

We have done a [survey](#) that found that we are a vital church. Celebrate this! There were some areas where we could improve on, one being Leadership. This is the foundation building block. Without it, we will not succeed and we HAVE TO BE successful. Bethel is vital but are we sustainable? We are aware of church attendance dropping nationwide and locally especially the 20 to 40 year olds. On the other hand, these generations are socially involved in the community, such as Family Promise, just not through “organized religion.” This section of society is looking to contribute more meaningfully than just going to church on Sunday mornings.

The Strategic Planning Committee began using “Dwelling in the Word” Luke 10:1-12, to deeply listen to each other into free speech. One part of this “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” jumped out at us. As we consider this, we looked at the ministries at Bethel. Each one of these requires a leader whom is willing to be the spokesperson and organizer. This role is absolutely essential for a ministry to be successful. Bethel has a nominating committee that is responsible for reaching out into the Bethel community and finding leaders who are willing to serve in different capacities. Understanding that each person asked to serve, needs to pray about this and a no is as important as a yes, the

committee has been unable to successfully fill all of the leadership positions that Bethel has at this time. This is a concern from the perspective of the Strategic Planning Committee because if we are unable to fulfill commitments to ministries such as Family Promise, how would we expand into new ministries without leadership.

The plan for the next 2-3 years is to develop leadership in Bethel through classes, training via NRIT and/or pairing up people to work side-by-side with others performing leadership roles. We want Bethel to remain vital but also need it to be sustainable.

“Dwelling in the Word” Luke Chapter 10, “Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide...Do not move about from house to house.” One interpretation of this is to remain in our community and focus on building relationships with the people here. This has the benefit of building internal relationships within our church community as well as building relationships with our local community. This is likely to appeal to the next generation as we look to be a sustainable church.

The next task for the committee is for each of us to reach out to social service organizations and determine how or if Bethel may fit or provide a need. To list a few possibilities: CASA(Court Appointed Special Advocates), Rescue Mission, North Central Montana Human Trafficking and MMIP Task Force, Special Olympics, YWCA, Habitat for Humanity, Helping Hands, Freedom In Christ Prison Ministries, and Lutheran Social Services.

Jo Ann Dillum,  
Chair Strategic Planning Committee



# Jubilate Choir Christmas Party and Rehearsal

The Jubilate choir is holding its annual Christmas Party Saturday Evening, December 21, 2019  
beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We will be rehearsing the Christmas Eve anthem at the beginning of the party, followed by snacks, drinks and fun.

Please join us whether or not you are singing on Christmas Eve and bring your families, friends and neighbors. The more the merrier! You are welcome to bring snacks. Drinks will be provided by the hosts.

The party is being held at the Scholten house as (sadly) the Rosenbaum house is now too far away (in Missoula). Parking near the Scholten house will be limited so please drive right up to the house and a valet will park your car. Allow 20 minutes or so to get there from Great Falls. If you are using GPS, the following address works the best:

112 Jayhawk Lane, Cascade, MT (take the Ulm exit)

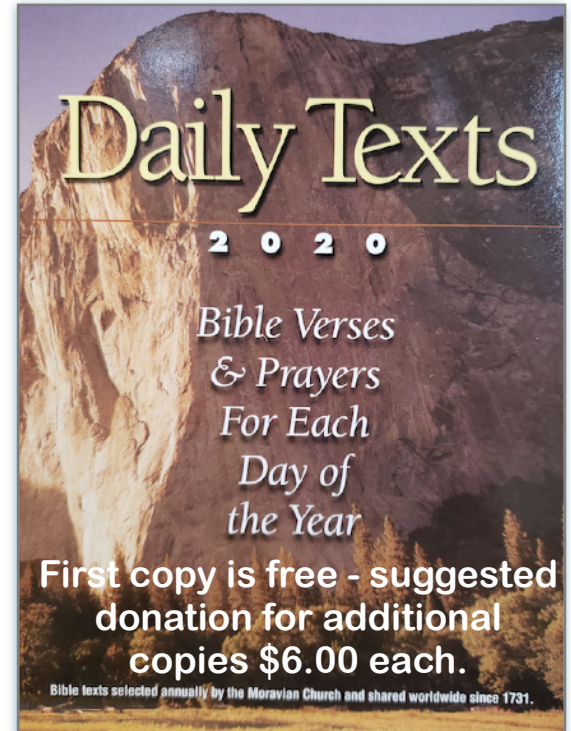


## **Brass Ensemble performed on Sunday.**

Jeff Skogley - trumpet  
Kian Ryan - french horn  
Lynn Ryan - french horn  
Steve Mueller - Euphonium  
Adam Elkin - Tuba  
Travis Palmer - trumpet  
Dave Skolten - trumpet



## New Daily Texts are in!!



## **Family Promise Update**

Our family will be graduating from the program this Friday! Currently, Family Promise is short-staffed and so, do not expect to have guests in the program until the new year. Bethel will not be hosting in December

# THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

## **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 closed.
- Christmas Eve Services 4:00 pm with special music by Karolina Pepos, childcare available and 6:00 pm with special music by The Jubilate Choir, no childcare available for the late service.

## **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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Sunday 12/29:**

- Pastor Steve will be on vacation. Jim Carlson will be preaching and presiding with the authorization of the Montana Synod.

## **Monday 12/30:**

- Adult Forum on Matthew 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday 12/31:**

- New Year's Eve, Bethel Office will be open.

## **Wednesday 1/1/2020:**

- Happy New Year! Bethel office is closed.

## **Thursday 1/2:**

- Bethel Office is open.
- Adult Forum on Matthew 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

## **Friday 1/3:**

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

## **Saturday 1/4:**

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



Winds Quartet also provided special music on Sunday

Ava Fossen, Julia Elkin, Sharon Mueller, and Jo Ann Dullum