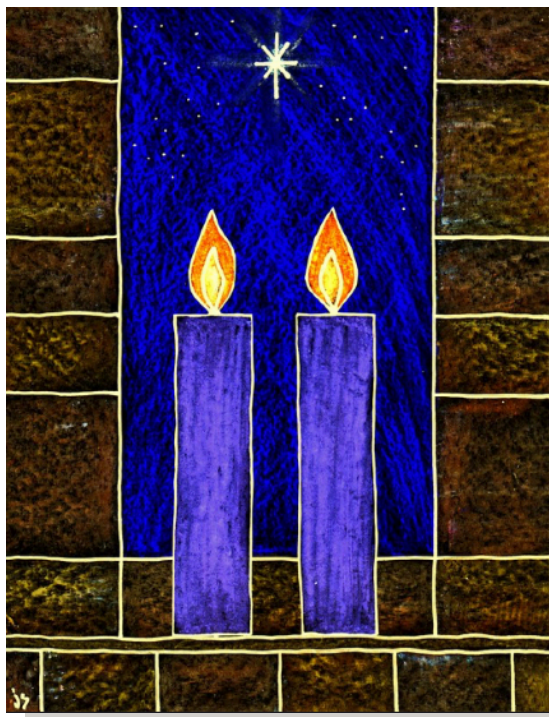


Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed Friday

BETHEL NOTES



Readings for Second Sunday of Advent

ISAIAH 11:1-10
ROMANS 15:4-13
MATTHEW 3:1-12

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.

We will be saying farewell and Godspeed to Tom and Linda Rosenbaum as they prepare for their move to Missoula

Sunday

December 8

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:

Walt Nuessle

Usher(s):

Mike and Joyce Harding

Projectionist:

Dave Scholten

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Marilyn Carlson

Childcare:

Adam Elkin

Morgan Dunn

Hospitality:

The Jubilate Choir

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 of healing for **Joni Rae Collins** as she recovers from surgery.
- ♦ 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 **Strategic Planning Committee** as they continue their work of discernment.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Linda Walling** (sister of Bobbie Bowen) and for Bobbie as well.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **new born son** of Kevin and Mea Rogers, grandson of AnneRose Rogers as he is in hospital.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00 pm

nursery available

&

6:00 pm

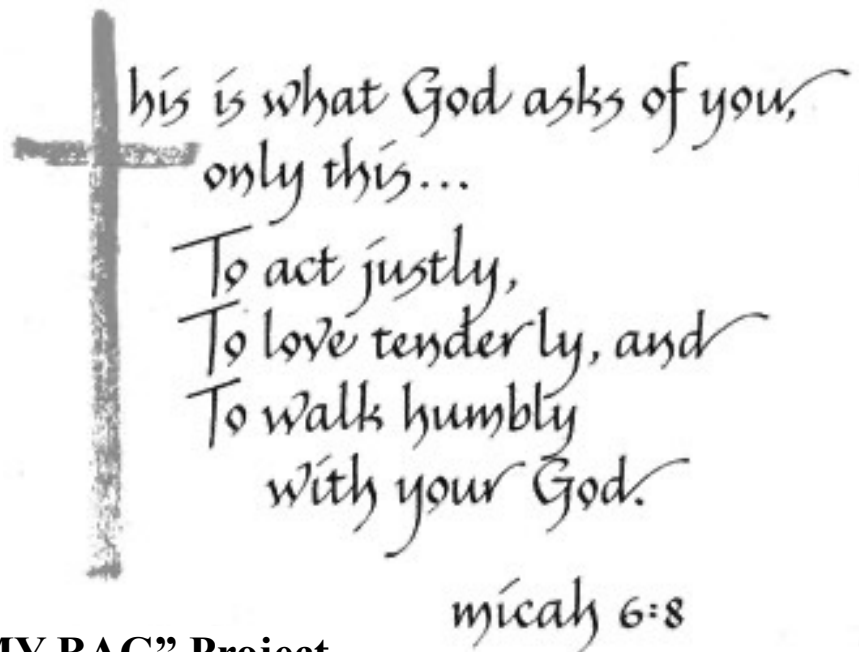
Communion offered at both services

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: HOPE

"It's just hopeless!" It's easy to think this these days. Our political system is a mess. Economic inequality is everywhere. The mental and physical health of the people we love is suffering. Small farms and ranches are going under through no fault of their own. Violence continues in our schools and society. There seems to be nothing in this world we can put our hope in for a better life.

Hope is one of those words we often use to describe things that hope doesn't really mean, at least not from a Christian perspective. Hope is not pie-in-the-sky thinking. Nor is it wishing for something we want. Nor is it about someone or something fulfilling our expectations or satisfying our sense of entitlement. No, hope that rests in our faith in Christ is something much different.

When we wish or expect or imagine our ideal worlds, these come from *our* wishes, *our* desires, *our* expectations, what *we* want to happen. In other words, wishing and expecting are all about *us*.

But hope that rests in faith in Christ is all about God. Hope focuses on God's promises, not on our own wants or demands. Hope never expects "my will be done," only that "thy will be done." Hope is open-ended, not certain about the who's, when's, where's, or how's of the fulfillment of God's promise, only certain about the what and the why of God's promised salvation in Christ. Hope waits with patience rather than rushing around in a frustrated worry that we're not getting what we want quickly enough. Hope trusts that what God has promised in the past *WILL* indeed happen in the future and may even be happening now. Hope is living in the faith that God's promise *will be fulfilled* and that it will happen because *God loves us so much*.

Really, hope is a way of life, not a feeling. In hope, we live in a joy that recognizes and empathizes with the sufferings of tragedies and unmet expectations, but still knows in a sure and certain faith that such suffering will not win out. In hope, we live out our faith-filled enthusiasm as a people whom God loves and who are called to love and serve all of our neighbors...in our activities, our commitments, and our priorities. Hope rings out in our loving and generous attitudes and in the compassion and kindness with which we treat one another. Hope is not passive; hope acts! But it always acts forward, toward the vision and mission that God calls us to live into the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, hope is a gift, a blessing of new life given to us by the Holy Spirit, Christ's pure grace that is so interwoven with faith and love that they can't be separated. As Paul famously wrote, "And now faith, hope and love abide together..." (1 Cor 13:13)

So, my friends in Christ, "it is NOT just hopeless" and there IS something and someone to hope in: Jesus Christ and the gift of his new life promised to you. Though we might suffer under the seemingly hopeless weight of a sin-filled world, we who live in faith know and live even now a different story, the story of a hope that does not disappoint.

During this Advent season, then, I invite you to open yourself to the Spirit's hope through the love of God poured into your hearts, to boast in your hope of sharing the glory of God, and to follow the apostle Paul as he proclaims: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our **hope** of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces **hope**, and **hope** does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Rom 5:1-5)

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.

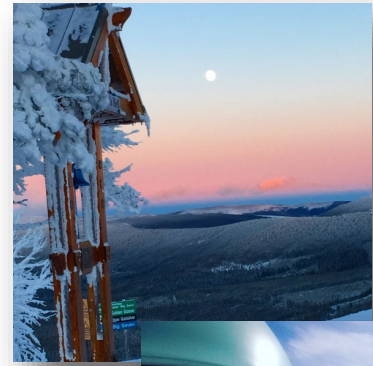
BRING: Overnight bag, sleeping bag/pad/pillow, ski gear, money for lunch at Showdown.

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.





**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

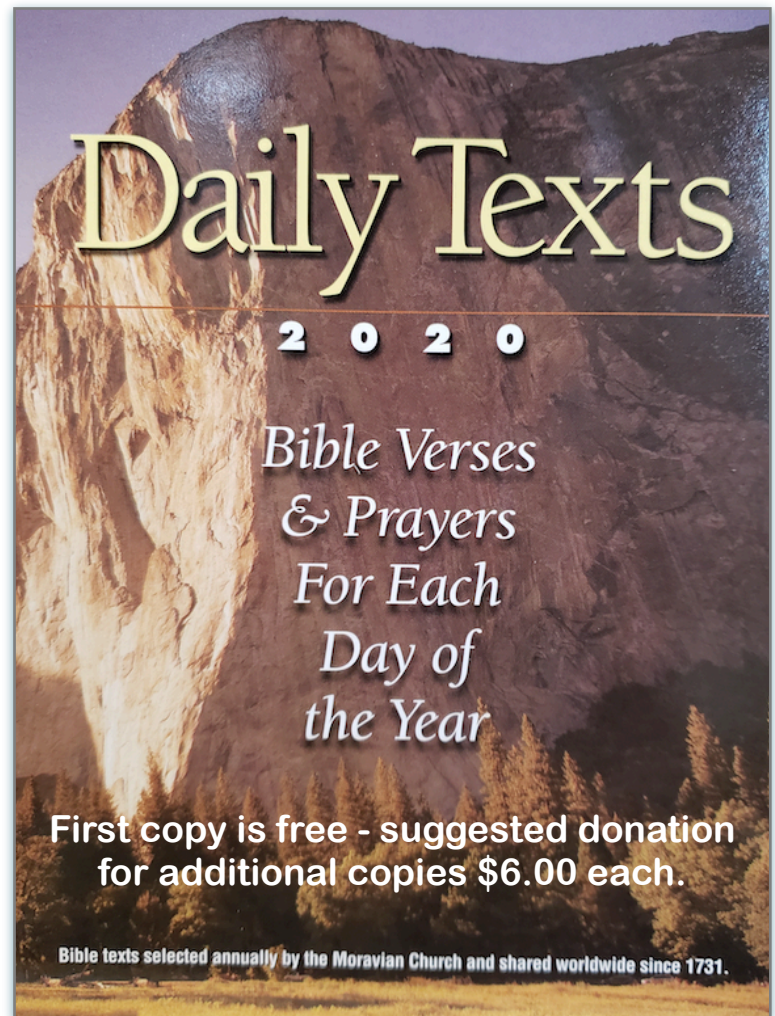
Registration Options:

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!!



First copy is free - suggested donation for additional copies \$6.00 each.

Bible texts selected annually by the Moravian Church and shared worldwide since 1731.



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



What's happening at camp?

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 for more information.



Dave and Tamy Scholten sing the gospel acclamation during the first Sunday of advent.



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you for your kind and generous support. Your love and concern make this worthwhile organization possible. You have been generous to FISH in the following ways: supporting the Loaves & Fishes dinner; contributing to the Town Pump challenge; volunteering at FISH when your week is scheduled; donating food; supporting FISH with financial gifts; and praying for our continued success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of FISH, thank you again for all of your support and your partnership in the FISH program during 2019. May God bless you during the up-coming holiday season.

Harold Spilde

FISH Volunteer Director

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 12/9:

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

Tuesday 12/10:

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

Wednesday 12/11:

- Wednesday Worship led by Logos 6:00 pm meal 7:00 pm worship

Thursday 12/12:

- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Tot Lot Christmas Party in the Gathering Place at 6:00 pm

Friday 12/13:

- Bethel Office is closed.

Saturday 12/14:

- Hope Circle Christmas party at Jim and Marilyn Carlson's 329 Hylande Drive 6:00 pm
-

UPCOMING EVENTS

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