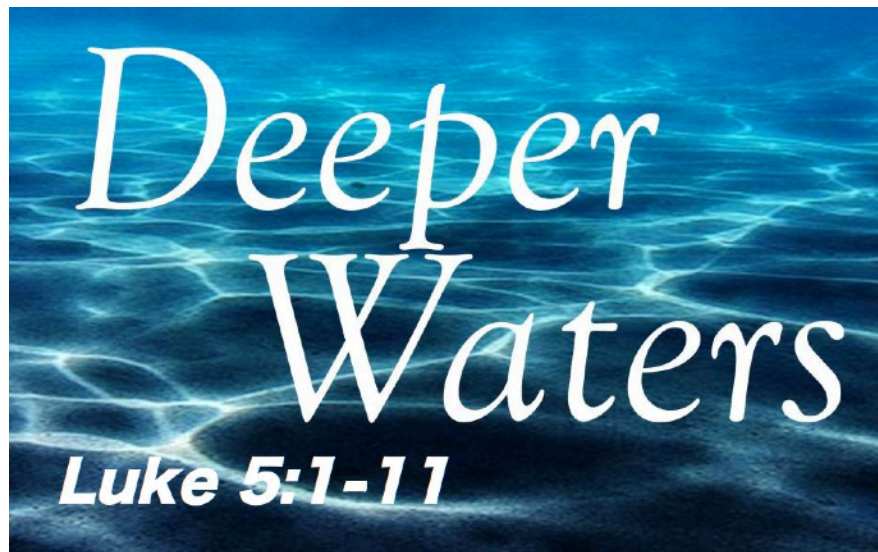


Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm; Wednesday: 9am to 2pm
 Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543 Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

This Sunday



Scout Sunday! Our Scout Troop 1028 will be ushering and serving a pancake breakfast in the Gathering Place immediately following our service. Free will donations are appreciated. Come and support our Scouts and have breakfast with friends.

Adult Faith Formation following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday
 Feb 10

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:
 Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:
 Margie Holland

Usher(s):
 Boy Scout Troop
 1028

Projectionist:
 Tim Lightbourne

Counters:
 Tim Lightbourne
 Donna Vinnedge

Nursery
Attendant(s):
 Adam Elkin
 Morgan Dunn

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Prayers of healing for **Jan DeGroot** (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.

Prayers of healing for **Don Bisgard** as he battles stomach cancer.

Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** for healing as he resumes cancer treatment.

Prayers for **Sue Hesse** as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.

Prayers for **Terry Ryan** (brother of Patrick Ryan).

Prayers for **Brian Finnan** (father of Shannon Marr) as he recovers from surgery.

Prayers for God's comfort for **Grant and Janet Smith and family** as they grieve the death of Grant's mother, Francis Smith.

Prayers of thanksgiving and joy to God for the gift of new life in the birth of **Sterling Stubbs (son of Bronson and Rachael Stubbs, grandson of Daren and Patty Braget and Phil and Heidi Stubbs, nephew of Michelle and Danielle Braget).**

Prayers for God's comfort and peace for **Marj Cole** (Aunt of Cheryl Klette) as she battles cancer.

Prayers for strength and healing for **Teresa O'Connell** (friend of Tami Grosenick) as she continues treatment for breast cancer.

Prayers for **the Church Council** as they meet for a retreat and February meeting this coming Sunday.

The Church Council Retreat and February Meeting

Held at 1pm Sunday, February 10th at the MT Synod House (1221 24th Street South). Lunch will be provided. The February Council meeting will begin at approx. 2:30pm.

Change in Staff

Our administrative assistant Sarah Farris is no longer employed with Bethel. In the interim Tami Grosenick will be covering in the office along with the ministry coordinator duties. We would like to thank Sarah for her service to Bethel and wish her well in the future.

A Message from the Congregation

Having the Courage to Follow God

“Full Nets, Full Lives”

Dave Scholten, LPA



Our gospel text this week is the story of Jesus calling the first disciples. It begins with boatloads of fish and ends with a movement that culminates in the founding of the church. The soon-to-be disciples have been fishing all night with no luck (I know the feeling). Jesus has borrowed Simon's boat from which to teach the crowd gathered on the shore of Lake Gennesaret. Afterwards, he tells Simon to "put out in the deep water and let down your nets for a catch". I wonder what was going through Simon Peter's mind? Afterall, he was a professional fisherman and here was this carpenter / preacher telling him what to do. Wouldn't most of us have said "Stay in your lane, Jesus". In a way, Peter says exactly that when he says "Master (teacher) we have worked all night long but have caught nothing". Peter is hesitant and thinks that what Jesus asks of him is both unnecessary and too demanding. But then Peter adds, "yet if you say so, I will let down the nets". And boom! Tons of fish! Peter discovers that life has a surprise in store for him. By doing what Jesus asks him to do, he experiences an epiphany of God. I think this teaches us that having courage to follow God often takes an open mind and obedient heart. When we feel like we are the expert, that we know what is best, it is important to be **open to the ideas of others** and **obedient to the words of Jesus**.

But having courage to follow God doesn't stop there. Have you ever wondered what would have happened if the story had ended with boatloads of fish? Peter, Andrew, James and John would have been eating fish for a long time, and possibly have sold them for great wealth. But would their lives have been fulfilling? It is possible to have full nets, but empty lives. Jesus calls them (and us) to more. Commentator Andrew Hultgren writes that "Jesus has come into the world to reveal God and redeem the cosmos. But he is known to us only through the witness of his apostles." Peter at first resists this call, recognizing his sinful, broken nature and unworthiness. "However", writes Hultgren, "God often becomes manifest in the ordinary, even seemingly unnecessary events of a person's life - events which nevertheless are in accord with some purpose that is not known."

As I reflect on my life, I realize that God has blessed me with boatloads of fish. My prayer is that through an open mind and obedient heart, I will have the confidence and courage to follow Jesus to an abundant and meaningful life; a life that casts the message of love and grace to the world around me.

Growing Our Faith

An Adult Faith Formation Class: Down + Out.

Down and out: it's the life God gives us, the life to which God calls us. This six part series, reintroduces us to the life-changing reality of God's promises, and points the way to a completely different view of life in the light of where grace takes you.

Will meet this Sunday morning from 11-12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. (Grab some Boy Scout Breakfast & come for the study !) It will be repeated on Thursday, February 14th, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. Session # 2 of 6 is titled, ***In/Out ~ Congregation***. What differences do Martin Luther's insights justification & vocation make for Bethel's congregational life ?

Remaining Sessions:

- **February 17th & 21st ~ *Wanna/Gotta* (**Community****. Grace leads us out into the community ie. neighborhoods, schools, etc. in pursuit of the common good. What is God doing in our community ?)
- **On Sunday, February 24th and on Thursday morning Feb. 28th we will not meet. MT. Synod (DEM) Peggy Paugh - Leuzinger here to preach and to participate with us in a discussion after church.
- **March 3 & 7 ~ *Creature/Creator* (**Workplace****. Grace takes us out into our daily work, be it paid or unpaid. God is at work in our daily activities. How can Bethel help each of us to better live out our callings in the workplace...which doesn't necessarily mean employment..what gets you out of your chair ?)
- **March 10 & 14th ~ *Self/Others* (**Home****. What are the peculiar challenges & opportunities of living out our calling at home ? What does it look like ? What doesn't it look like ?)
- **March 17 & 21th ~ *Spirit/Flesh* (God comes down & sends us out. We can't separate body and soul, flesh and spirit.)**

Coming Up...

Book Study/ Discussion on the Life of the Apostle Paul

We will read and discuss a recently (2018) released book titled, ***Paul: An Apostle's Journey*** written by Professor Douglas A. Campbell. Participants will need to purchase this book (you can do this on your own through your preferred book distributor (ie. Amazon or Barnes & Noble. The hardback costs about \$17.) or let Pastor Steve know, and he will order the book for you.) There will be a sign up at church or you can reach out directly to Pastor Steve at bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com to express your interest in participating in this book discussion. This class will follow on the heels of *Down + Out* and begin in late March, giving you time to get the book and read it.

COMFORT FOOD CHALLENGE



Saturday, February 23 4-7pm

Moose Lodge, 401 21st St N, Black Eagle, MT 59414

Hosted by Family Promise of Great Falls

Ladies and gentlemen, buckle your seatbelts and tuck in your napkins for the 2019 Comfort Food Challenge! Some of Great Falls' finest eateries are going toe-to-toe to compete for your affection and the affection of our celebrity panel, including Mayor Bob Kelly, KRTV Great Falls' own Shannon Newth, and KFBB's own Taylor Tucker!

Come to the Moose Lodge and enjoy a variety of delicious local dishes and live music. Tickets are \$15/adults and \$5/children under 12. Vote for your favorites and see who wins the People's Choice Award and the Celebrity Choice Award!

Proceeds go to assist Family Promise of Great Falls in their mission to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time!

Tickets on sale at
www.brownpapertickets.com

God Loves Justice

GREAT FALLS RESCUE MISSION 56TH ANNUAL BANQUET

Monday, April 1, 2019
 12:00 pm & 6:30 pm
 Mansfield Convention Center ~ 2 Park Drive S

SPEAKER: DANIELLE STRICKLAND
 Church Leader, Author, Former
 Salvation Army Officer, and
 Ambassador for Stop The Traffik



St. John's Winter Gospel Concert **Featuring The Johnson Brothers**

St. John's Lutheran Church
 5300 9th Ave. S.
 Great Falls, Montana

Sunday, February 17, 2019

A potluck supper will be served at 5:00 p.m., followed by the concert. All are invited!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Jeanne Rankin is a familiar face at Bethel. She originally hailed from Sunburst and now ranches at Raynesford. Jeanne is a doctor of veterinary medicine. She enjoys singing with the Jubilate Choir and supports Family Promise. Jeanne joins Bethel as a transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church in Helena.



I am sure you have seen the Newby family at Bethel! Julian and Laura have three adorable children Livia, Paxton and new baby Grayson. Julian is stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base and we thank him for his service. Laura has a teaching degree. Prior to Malmstrom, Julian was stationed in Florida, but is originally from Michigan so isn't a stranger to cold weather! We love having this amazing family at Bethel.

Bethel is so excited to welcome Dan Morris to our Bethel Family. Dan is a recent graduate of Montana Tech in Butte, America with a degree in electrical engineering. He and his wife Allison (Sexe) Morris both are from Great Falls and have moved back with job opportunities. Dan works at FICO and Allison is a physical therapist with Benefits Health Systems. They both volunteer with the LOGOS Confirmation class. Dan joins us by affirmation of faith.





Dale and Leone Ost have chosen to call Bethel their church family. Dale retired from Great Falls Public Schools working for 15 years in the custodial role. Leone worked for 18 years driving the school bus for special needs children. Dale is originally from Beulah, ND. His family moved to Fairview MT where he met and married Leone. In their life together they have lived in Havre and Butte before settling in Great Falls. They also have a son who lives in Havre where he and his wife are mission builders. Their daughter lives here in Great Falls with her family. They come to us by transfer of membership from Redeemer Lutheran here in Great Falls.

Joni Rae Collins is a Montana native who has come home to be with and take care of her parents. Joni is originally from Cut Bank. She and Jeanne Rankin actually know each other from 4H! After Joni graduated from MSU she lived in St. Croix for 11 years where she met and married her husband. They moved to Virginia where she lived and worked for 20 years at the university in Agricultural Research. Joni lost her husband 3 years ago and comes to us as a transfer from her church in Virginia. We are so happy that she has chosen to call Bethel her home.





2019 CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY

Now that we have completed our survey and have the results what next?

- Where do we go from here?
- Do the ministries at Bethel agree with the observations in this survey? Why or why not?
- How do we prioritize the areas we need to work on?
- What resources should we put toward these priorities?

▸ Why other ideas do we have?

We will be answering these and other questions during a series of small group meetings following worship starting on February 24th with guest preacher Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger holds a forum immediately following the service. These small group meetings will continue through March directed by our Strategic Task Force Jo Ann Dullum, Bob Norbie, Kris Voorhees, Patrick Ryan and Pastor Steve. To review the survey results go to our website www.bethelmt.org or click on the link that was included in this distribution email. Also, hard copies are available at Bethel. We look forward to these exciting new times.



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear members of the Montana Synod:

It is our duty and delight to invite youth participate in the Montana Synod Vision Questionnaire, which is being conducted in anticipation of the nomination and election process for a new synod bishop. This questionnaire has been developed by the Task Force appointed by the Synod Council, in conjunction with Planning, Research and Evaluation, part of the ELCA's Office of the Presiding Bishop. The Task Force believes this questionnaire will be very important in informing the election process and in allowing nominees, voting members and everyone in the synod to reflect prayerfully on priorities and leadership needs of the synod. Like your Task Force, we understand that the election of a synod bishop is also a call process!

Every attendee of every congregation is invited to complete this survey. A summary of the results will be prepared by Planning, Research, and Evaluation and given to the synod office for distribution. The summary is intended to contribute to the synod's discernment and prayerful preparation for the bishop election.



Evaluation deadline is **March 1st.**

Hard copies of the survey are available in the narthex and can be turned in at the Bethel office.

You may go on line to www.surveymonkey.com/r/1FSBE

Thank you in advance for your participation.



S 3	M 4	T 5	W 6	T 7	F 8	S 9
9:30am-Worship	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast	10am-Staff Meeting 5:30pm - LOGOS	10am Faith Formation	Pastor Off	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am-Worship 11am-Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast & Faith Formation 1pm-Council Retreat & Meeting @ Synod House	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast	5:30pm - LOGOS	 10am Faith Formation	Pastor Off	9am-Close Knit 6pm Bethel Bunch
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am-Worship & Faith Formation to follow		6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm-Childbridge Meeting in Gathering Place 7pm-Hope Circle	5:30pm - LOGOS Montana Rural Water Training	10am Faith Formation	Pastor Off	
24	25	26	27	28		
9:30am-Worship & Survey Results forum to Follow -----	6:15pm - Boy Scout Troop 1028 in the Gathering Place -----	6:30am - Bible Study at Electric City Coffee 7am - Men's Breakfast ----- Family Promise Host Week -----	No LOGOS			