

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed Friday
 Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543 Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sunday
January 5

Grace
 is the most beautiful word
 in the language of God –
 it means love
 given freely
 and without expectation of return.
 Justin Welby, AB of C

Readings for Second Sunday of Christmas

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

JOHN 1:[1-9] 10-18

Sunday at Bethel we celebrate the Second Sunday of Christmas. Today is World Hunger Sunday. We will receive a special offering in the wicker baskets.

We enjoy the beautiful music from the Handbell Choir as well as Jeanne Rankin and Dave Scholten singing *Healing of the Nations*.

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Kim Peachy

Lay Assistant:

Kaye Van Gilder

Usher(s):

Dena Wagner-Fossen

Ava Fossen

Projectionist:

TBD

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Grant Smith

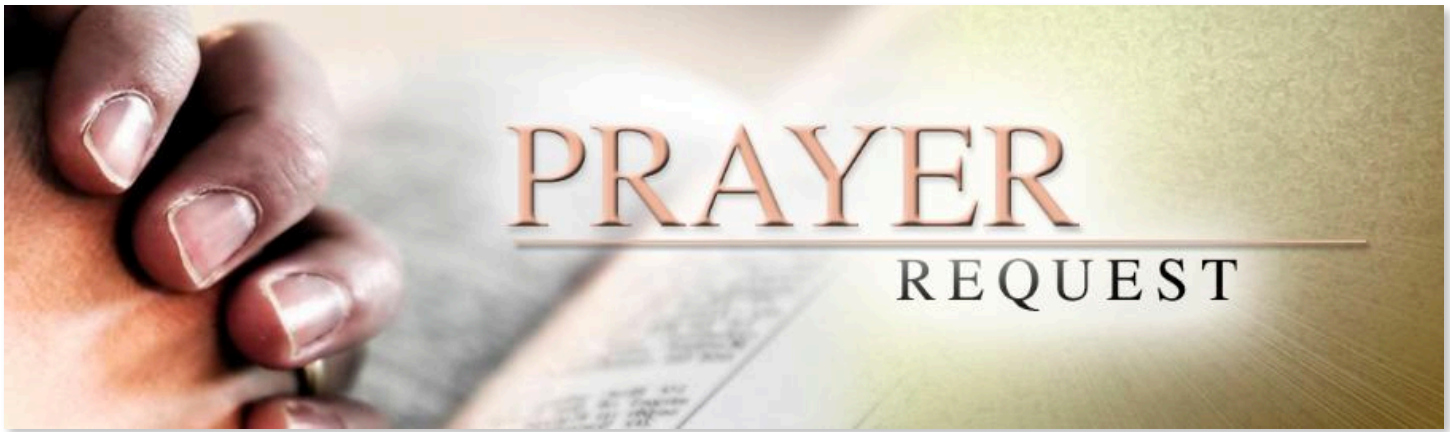
Childcare:

Isabelle Grosenick

Adam Elkin

Hospitality:

The Grosenick Family



- ✦ 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 medical treatment.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence and healing touch for **John Korpela**, as he continues medical treatment.
- ✦ 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 peace and comfort for **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 for comfort and peace for **Dave Price, Pastor Steve's uncle** as he is hospitalized.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort and strength to the family and friends of **Steve Hale**, friend of Sandy Pepos, who lost his life at the tragedy at Emerald City Casino.

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

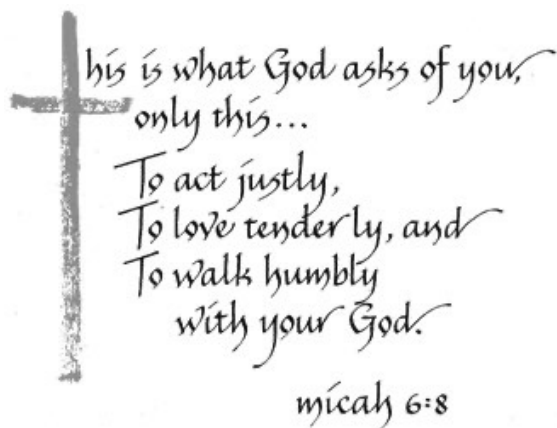
Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

REV. MARCY SHEREMETTA

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.



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.

Estimate of Giving Update 2020

So far this campaign we have had **55 pledge cards** turned in with the following pledged amounts:

- General Fund: \$189,120.00
- World Hunger: \$840.00
- Mission Freedom: \$5200.00
- Other*: \$4420.00

For a total of \$199,580.00

A big thank you to all who have returned the Estimate of Giving card. There is still time to turn in your pledge card. They are available in the Narthex or on our website under Stewardship Booklet on the homepage.

**Other includes YWCA, Habitat for Humanity, Rescue Mission, Lutheran Social Services, and Global Barnyard.*

IT'S ABOUT GOD'S PERFECT TIME

A blessed new year to you and your household ! It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we have entered a new one, ready or not ! It has been interesting to note the many end of the year articles and Christmas greetings written about key events in the life of our country, our world, and of our friends' lives as they reflected on not only the past year but also a decade.

I received a Christmas greeting from a former college roommate a couple of weeks ago. He confessed to having missed sending a Christmas greeting the past couple of years and the reasons why. "Life happened," he said. Work and family demands had multiplied and he just couldn't process everything in his life's proverbial "inbox." He reminded all of us who know him that he has studied time management for over 40 years but has now discovered a new time management guru who has helped him to get more done by doing less. After applying this new time management guru's counsel to his own life, he could honestly say that on multiple levels, 2019 was truly his best year ever ! Wow! I was pleased to learn that he was able to feel so good about his time and management and productivity.

Each of us is given the gift of time. And how we manage it is each of our stewardship. Heaven knows the joys of "time well spent," and the regrets of "time that got away," or missed opportunities. Hopefully, you have had few if any regrets. In Second Peter chapter three we hear these words, "But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." What seems to be an eternity to us is no time at all to an eternal God.

And God just doesn't keep time the way we keep time. A well known preacher and author named William Willimon puts it this way, "There are times when you and I are waiting on God to do something for us, when God seems to take forever. And there are times when God is waiting on us to do something FOR GOD, when God seems to GIVE, FOREVER !" Grace & patience that is !

One of the greatest challenges of living the Christian life is to trust God to know the right time and to work out God's will according to God's own good time. Our lifelong calling is to trust, one day at a time, that God will come to us, will provide for our needs, BUT NOT ALWAYS ON OUR SCHEDULE. BUT IN GOD'S OWN SWEET..... PERFECT TIME.

The Christmas gospel reading for this Sunday says, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (Jn. 1: 14) Eugene Peterson translates it this way – "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

The promise of Christmas is that God knew the perfect gift for our most critical need. In God's perfect time, Christ moved into our neighborhood- to share in our lives..to inhabit our time...to bring grace & truth...to bring light and life and salvation into our lives. Thanks be to God !

Pastor Steve Van Gilder

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Each Sunday at Bethel we print between 60 and 80 bulletins for use during our service. Most of which we recycle when the Sunday has passed.

In an effort to save cost in both the environment and money we are going to begin reducing the amount of bulletins we print on Sundays.

We do not want to discourage people from using the bulletins or taking them home. They have great information about what is happening at Bethel and also gives us an opportunity to dig a little deeper into the readings from Sunday.

We will still offer a limited number of printed copy, both regular and large print bulletins. However, we will be posting the bulletin in a pdf format on our website each week by Thursday afternoon. This will be located on our homepage next to our weekly newsletter Bethel Notes. For those who would like, we invite you to download onto your tablet, iPad or other device to use during worship.

Please give any feedback to Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office 761-1543 or bethelgf.church@gmail.com



REMINDER

**Resuming Tuesday,
January 7th**

Electric City Bible Study
at

Electric City Coffee
6:30 AM

and

Men's Breakfast at
Bethel Fellowship Hall
7:00 AM

All are welcome.

**To access the online bulletin you can
scan the QR Code below or click this
link on your mobile device.**

[Bethel Bulletin January 5](#)



GENEROUS GIVERS

The Giving Tree this year was fruitful indeed!

Total amounts given this year were:

- \$842.00 to Good Gifts Global Barnyard
- \$2285.00 to CASA CAN "It's My Bag" Project.

Thank you to all for your generosity this Christmas Season.

Hope Circle
Thursday,
January 23rd
Judy Johnson's.
624 Robin Court
7:00 p.m.

Rev. M. Ken Gjerde Biography

Rev. M. Ken Gjerde was born February 20, 1936 in Galahad, Alberta, Canada. He and his wife, Patricia, were married in 1962 and they have two sons, Steve and Paul. Ken received his Bachelor of Arts from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA and his Bachelors of Theology in 1961 from Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis, MN. After serving calls as Associate Pastor and Pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran (Minneapolis), Oak Grove Lutheran (Richfield, MN) and Glen Cary Lutheran (Soderville, MN), he worked for Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota for eight years.

Here in the Montana Synod, Pastor Gjerde was the director of Lutheran Social Services of Montana from 1980-1994 after which he served as an interim pastor in several congregations across MT including Grace and St. Paul Lutheran in Fairfield, Bethany in Dutton, Zion in Glendive, Trinity in Choteau, and Good Shepherd in Polson among others.

Pastor Gjerde retired in 2010 and lived with his wife and sons near Fairfield, MT until his death on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 of complications from congestive heart disease. May God bless and keep Ken's family and friends as they grieve his loss and celebrate his life.

Funeral Services for Pastor Gjerde will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church (449 4th Ln NE) near Fairfield, MT. Burial and a luncheon at the church will follow the service.



YOUTH SKI RETREAT

January 10-12, 2020

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and more! Your days will be spent skiing or snowboarding at Whitefish Mountain Resort or Blacktail Mountain Ski Area with your youth group. Downhill snow sports not your forte? Some of the best cross country ski trails in the valley are a few miles from camp, or spend the day at camp relaxing and enjoying the view of Flathead Lake. Post skiing activities to include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, time to relax with new friends and worship. Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15 pm on Friday (check in begins at 5pm) and ends with breakfast on Sunday. Sack lunches will be provided for both Saturday and Sunday.

Cost: \$115/ person (2 adults free with each church group; lift tickets are separate from retreat cost)

FAMILY TEA PARTY

February 15, 2020

2-4 pm

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!

\$10/person

Go To flbc.net for more information.

Logos Youth Ministry Gearing Up For A New Year!

Logos is currently on break until January 15th, but we are busy getting ready for the return!

We have a few needs going into the new semester. With Darci Bernardi stepping down from cooking, AnneRose Rogers has graciously volunteered to step in and help out until we can fill the position. This person(s) would need to be available Wednesdays beginning about 4:00 pm in the afternoon until after supper around 7:00 pm. Menu and shopping are taken care of. Main duties are cooking, getting serving bowls filled and clean up. We already have two amazing volunteers who have been working with Darci, Shawna Rowe and Traci Orthman, who are there to support and serve.

Also, with AnneRose taking on new duties and a couple of others not able to continue, we are in need of table parents. This would be Wednesdays evenings during regular Logos nights (not needed on Family Worship nights) from 5:45 until approximately 6:45 pm.

Table parents sit and eat with the kids, keeping conversation at the table reminding of manners.



If you are interested in helping out, please let Laura Kupfner

(406-868-1404 or

bethelgf.logos@gmail.com) or Tami Grosenick

(406-761-1543 or bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

know and we can give you more information.

Next Wednesday Worship January 29th 7:00 P:M.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 1/6:

- Boy Scouts meet at Bethel
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office until Thursday, January 9th

Tuesday 1/7:

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

Thursday 1/9:

- Executive Board for the Council conference call 4:30 pm

Friday 1/10:

- Bethel Office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 1/13:

- Boy Scouts meet at Bethel 6:00 pm

Tuesday 1/14:

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

Wednesday 1/15:

- Logos Youth Ministry 5:30 - 7:30pm

Friday 1/17:

- Bethel Office is closed.

Saturday 1/18:

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

Sunday 1/19:

- Ashyr Tweet First Communion
- Budget Review meeting immediate following service in the sanctuary

BETHEL BUNCH LIVES OUR HANDS ~ GOD'S WORK THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

The following is reprinted from an email to Bethel Bunch from Terry Korpela with permission from her and Dew. We are so blessed to have such wonderful caring and generous people giving back to our community and our kids. Thank you.

Bethel Bunch chose to help Longfellow school this season. And as Dew Elkins's recap reflects there is so much need.

There is so much need out there in our schools. I wish we had counted but we didn't - I had bought several cases of soup at Walmart - some in cups - some you cook with 2 cups of water - Ramen noodle soup. I had heard several times kids at school events talk about eating soup and saying how much they like them. I know they are not as nutritious as we might like but the kids like them - will eat them and they will have a warm tummy. Shannon (Guilfoyle - Longfellow School Family Services) said the kids love them and the soup would just fly out of their office. Ron didn't think I had bought enough so we headed for Sam's Club which we got cases cheaper and lots more of them - we had the whole back of my SUV full! Shannon was very happy and said the kids would be thrilled.

Ron was taking Julia (our granddaughter) to an appointment so he told her that there was lots of hungry kids in several of our schools and they would not have enough to eat when school was closed so we had donated a lot of cases of Ramen noodle soup. She said "Oh I just love Ramen noodle soup" so I was really glad what we did. Warm tummy - hopefully warm heart.

Happy 2020 everyone. Blessing for the New Year. And a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart for your friendship, love, prayers, hugs, and companionship this past year. I count each of you as a friend, and I am truly blessed. May 2020 bring you all good health and much joy.

Terry Korpela

Bethel Bunch is planning to continue helping out the kids in our schools throughout the winter. Watch the Bethel Notes and announcements at church if you wish to get involved with Bethel Bunch or would like to help with their next soup drive, contact Terry Korpela terry.korpela@gmail.com.