

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

Sunday
 February 2nd



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

MICAH 6:1-8

PSALM 15

CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Sunday at Bethel we celebrate the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. We thank Pastor John Allen for preaching and presiding while Pastor Steve is away with his uncle who is in Hospice.

It is also **World Hunger Sunday** we will receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets.

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Kim Peachy

Lay Assistant:

Tamy Scholten

Usher(s):

Dena Wagner Fossen

Ava Fossen

Projectionist:

Dave Scholten

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Marilyn Carlson

Childcare:

Morgan Dunn

Isabelle Grosenick

Hospitality:

John Blank

Tami Grosenick



- ✦ 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 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 of health and healing 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 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 prepares to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- ✦ Prayers for healing and strength for **Katie Madsen**, niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe as she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Jack Forde** (son of Ryan and Ashley Forde) as he recovers at home from a recent injury & surgery
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Amber Pinski** as she recovers from a snowmobiling accident.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Cheri Schmidt** mother of Sandy Pepos as she recovers from knee surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Jane Mart** as she is home and continues to heal after surgery.
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Steve**, a brother-in-law of Perry Johnson (a friend of Pastor Steve's), who is battling brain cancer. And prayers for his sister-in-law, **Vicky**.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Mick Davis** as he continues to recover after a heart procedure.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Annabelle Bieber**, sister of Leona Ost as she recovers from surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and strength for **Ann Tuomi** for up coming surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Brian Fauntleroy**, friend of Payton Sexe for a recent diagnosis.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Adam Elkin** as he recovers from an outpatient surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Chad Erickson** as he recovers from a recent hospital stay.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Franz** daughter of Ed and Bertha Ferguson.
- ✦ Prayers for safety and support for **Eric Poser**, nephew of Connie Titcomb as he is deployed overseas.

Words from the Bishop: Following in Joy

“Rejoice and be glad!” Jesus says this to his followers who are persecuted and reviled and slandered as they follow him. Be glad. Have joy. Even in your suffering. (Mt 5:10)

Is he kidding?! How in the world can we possibly be joy-filled and glad in the midst of persecution and suffering? And there will be persecution, Jesus declares again and again. Jesus may have promised to lead us through a rose garden but he was clear that there would be many thorns in the following. Where’s the joy in that?

But maybe we’re looking for joy in all the wrong places. Too often we confuse joy with happiness. But they aren’t the same thing and we run into trouble when we think they are.

Happiness is an emotion, often fleeting, that comes and goes based on the events that happen to us. We spend a lot of time, energy and resources searching for happiness, looking in all sorts of places – possessions, relationships, money, success, drugs etc. – for the next high of happiness. But since it’s transitory, happiness quickly disappears until it’s replaced with the next “happy hour”...at least until the timer runs out.

Joy, on the other hand, is spiritual and is centered in our relationship with the one who calls us to follow. Joy is a gift, often given over time and through a cumulation of our experiences of God’s love, peace and blessing with us. Joy doesn’t disappear over the next hill or into the next valley. Joy, once discovered, remains with us, not through our work but through the power of the Spirit when in faith, we open ourselves to the in-spirited Christ within.

What does this joy look like in everyday life? If I had to pick two of the most joy-filled people in the Bible, I’d pick Anna and Simeon. (Luke 2:25-38) And it’s not just because they eventually got to see and touch and hold the salvation of the world, although that was the moment their joy was fulfilled. No, they lived in joy even before that special day.

Neither Anna nor Simeon had an easy life. They were members of a persecuted and oppressed people, practicing their faith in an Empire that saw them as conquered. Anna had been

widowed and left childless early in life. Simeon had received a promise that seemed to take forever to come about. Yet both Anna and Simeon lived their lives in the joy of expectant waiting, prayer-filled worship, and devout relationship with the God whom they trusted to bring new life to the world. Anna and Simeon didn’t spend their lives searching for momentary instances of happiness; they lived every day in the new life given them each moment through God’s promises, celebrating the beauty and blessing of God’s life they were receiving.

Joy is a gift shared by God, not only as an end result of following Jesus but in the following itself, thorns and all. In our following, we find joy in the now through the promised new life of God’s indwelling future. Joy doesn’t deny the pain and persecution of the following; it acknowledges it as real. But at the same time, joy says to death, suffering and persecution, “You don’t get the last word. Life does. Love does. Impossible-to-understand peace does.” Joy always finds God’s new life and blessing in the present (as difficult as it may be to see sometimes) and hopes through faith for the new life God gives.

So let us follow Jesus, falling in joy with God in the same way we fall in love with God. In this following we will discover what it means to love... but more about love next week.

In the joy of Christ,
Bishop Laurie Jungling



Bethel Bunch Community Outreach

Bethel Congregation you are invited to join us in our newest project. Bethel Bunch has decided to help stock our school food pantries as there is so much need out there to feed our youth. In December we donated food and boots to Longfellow. In January we chose to help Sunnyside with food. It was decided we would pick a different school each month and help by providing non perishable food items to that school's food pantry. We placed boxes in the church entry that say Sunnyside (soon to be changed to the name of the school of the month). Feel free to drop off food items for the school of the month and someone from Bethel Bunch will make sure it gets delivered. Our school in February will be Whittier.

Some items you might consider donating:

- Juice boxes
- Individual soup bowls
- Top Ramen
- Power bars
- Fruit cups
- Snacks
- Individual cereal boxes.

So when you are grocery shopping pick up a couple extra items for our hungry youth and drop it off in the school boxes and we will make sure it gets delivered. And remember Bethel Bunch is open to everyone. Watch the bulletin/ newsletter for our next get together. Thank you everyone for making a difference one school cupboard at a time.

God Bless

Terry Korpela



Dew Elkin drops off food for the Sunnyside School pantry.



Bethel Bunch celebrates the Chinese New Year! Pictured around the table from left to right: Sonja Baumgardner, Pat Berkley-Brattin, Warren Johnson, Dew and Ron Elkin, Earl and Trudy Terwilliger, Judy Johnson and Sandi Cummings.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOB OPENING

New Position Opening:

Helping Hands

A food pantry and clothing resource located in the First English Lutheran Church (FELC) Parish House, [112 8th Street N](#) (adjacent to the church building.) FELC formed this downtown ministry 35 years ago. It is still going strong, feeding 900-1000 people per month. Our volunteers come from FELC congregation and a wide array of people from the larger community.

The formation of a paid director position is a step forward in best practices for serving our neighbors and recruitment/retention of amazing volunteers. Anticipated hours: 16-20/week.

Qualified applicants may send a cover letter and resume to: Helping Hands Ministry, First English Lutheran Church, [112 8th Street North, Great Falls, MT 59401](#).

Using the New QR Code

Some of our members may be interested in learning how to use the new QR Code to download the bulletin. Below I have listed a couple of ways to utilize your mobile device to access the bulletin.

QR Code Read

Most mobile devices now come with a barcode scanner or QR Code reader installed on your mobile device. If not you can download free barcode or QR scanner from your Apple or android app store.

Activate the app by opening and aim your phones camera at the QR Code box.

In some devices a link will appear on your touch screen to click on the link, others may open the link once the QR code has been scanned.

You now have downloaded the bulletin.

You can scan the link on this page or when you come into the church.

You can also access the bulletin by clicking the link below or going to bethelgf.org and clicking the button on our homepage on the device you want the bulletin downloaded on.

Please feel free to ask Tami Grosenick or Colter McCarty for more help. And remember we will have bulletins printed for those who do not want to use their mobile devices.

**To access the online bulletin you can scan the QR Code
on the right or**

click this link on your mobile device.

[Bethel Bulletin February 2](#)



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Meeting Highlights:

Bethel Lutheran Church held the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. Thank you to everyone who attended. We are very happy to announce there was a quorum! Here are just a few of the highlights from that meeting:

- Pastor Steve Van Gilder thanked the congregation for their trust as he has served as our Pastor for fifteen and one-half years. He thanked the Bethel Staff who have worked together faithfully.
- Elections - The following people were elected to the Church Council:
 - Anne Vannatta (3 year term)
 - Greg Grosenick (3 year term)
 - Allison Marr, youth representative (3 year term)
- Second Term Council Members are Doug Sexe, Dena Wagner-Fossen, and Donna Vinnedge.
- The Nominating Committee is Grant Smith, JoAnn Dullum, Jim Carlson, and Johnna Lightbourne.
- Judy and Warren Johnson were elected to be the Montana Synod Assembly Voting Members.
- Dan and Steph Richardson were re-elected to be the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representatives.
- Strategic Planning Committee: Dr. Janice Zimbelman from Arizona has been invited to visit us and show us how to bring 20 to 40-year olds into our church.
- President Doug Sexe noted we are blessed with a strong out-reach program, LOGOS.

Submitted by Marilyn Carlson, Council Secretary

Zoom Conference at Bethel

brought to you by the Montana Synod

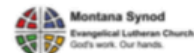


THE MONTANA SYNOD
STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE PRESENTS:

TASTE AND SEE: CULTIVATING GENEROUS CONGREGATIONS

with Pastor Larry Strenge,
National Coordinator
for Generous Congregations

Saturday, February 29th, 10a.m. - 3p.m.



Cost: \$10/person, includes snacks and lunch.
Please RSVP to your preferred location by February 24th

Hope Circle
Thursday,
February 20
Laurie Turner's
3408 Bison Lane
7:00 p.m.



WHAT'S UP AT CAMP!

CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Check out our awesome programs on [the FLBC website](#). Register by April 1st to get our early bird discount and receive \$50 off!

Volunteer Applications for Montana pastors & adults open now!

Adult volunteers, nurses, grandparents, pastors, alumni staff - we need you! Be sure to apply soon as spaces are limited and fill quickly. Find the application [here](#).

2020 Staff Applications Are Open!

Do you know an 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/>

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!

Adult Spirituality Retreat: God with Muddy Hands

April 26-28, 2020 (Sunday- Tuesday)

\$220/person for the full weekend; commuter rates: Sun = \$30, Mon = \$150, Tues = \$30

Men's Breakfast on Tuesday, February 4th is cancelled. We will see you on February 11th.

High School Logos Lock In at Bethel

**Friday, February 14th
6:00 pm**

to

**Saturday, February 15th
9:00 am**

**Dinner, breakfast and
snacks provided.**

**Bring your
sleeping bag & pillow.**

For grades

THIS WEEK

Monday 2/3:

- Boy Scouts meet at Bethel 6:00 pm

Tuesday 2/4:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast cancelled

Wednesday 2/5:

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

Thursday 2/6:

- Council Exec Board conference call 4:30 pm

Friday 2/7:

- Bethel Office is closed
- Aitz Chaim worship 6:00 pm

UPCOMING

Sunday 2/9:

- Scout Sunday with Boy Scout Pancake breakfast fundraiser in the Gathering Place
- Council Retreat at the Montana Synod, 1221 24th Street South from 1:00 to 3:30 pm.

Monday 2/10:

- GFH/CMR Girls Choir Festival 9:00 am - Concert open to the public 7:00 pm
- Boy Scouts meet at Bethel 6:00 pm

Tuesday 2/11:

- 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 2/12:

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

Friday 2/14:

- Bethel Office is closed
- High School Logos lock-in at Bethel 6:00 pm to 9:00 am

Saturday 2/15:

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



FEBRUARY 2ND

MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS

Come and see the quilts the 1st Monday Night Quilters have already completed and join us in tying more. The quilts are given to Lutheran World Relief and then sent overseas and to places in the U.S. Thanks to all who come and help with this worthwhile ministry.

When and Where: Monday evening, February 3, 6-8 p.m., New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Avenue South, use the back door (in alley).