

Office Hours:

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

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday
July 14

Go and Do Likewise
Luke 10:25-37



Readings for the Fifth Sunday After Pentecost:

DEUTERONOMY 30:9-14

COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

LUKE 10:25-37

This Sunday at Bethel:

we welcome and thank the Reverend John Allen who is preaching and presiding in worship. Pastor Steve Van Gilder is on vacation through July 21st.

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant:

John Blank

Usher(s):

Joe & Sonja Baumgardner

Projectionist:

Dean Amor

Counters:

Patty Braget

Grant Smith

Childcare:

Ava & Alex Olson

Hospitality Host:

Sandy Pepos

Sue Hesse

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** for healing as he resumes cancer treatment.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ✦ Prayers for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart) as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Becca Thompson**.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Gary O'Brien** brother-in-law of Sue Hesse.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence for **Jane O'Brien** mother of Carrie O'Brien
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Don Bisgard** as he recovers from surgery and extended hospital stay.
- ✦ Prayers for healing **Trina Wagner** (Dena Wagner-Fossen's sister) as she recovers at home.
- ✦ Prayers for **Glenn Vannatta** as recovers from knee surgery
- ✦ Prayers of comfort and consolation for **Patti & Don Godtel** as they mourn the death of Carole Wavra Patti's mother.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Don Seyfert** as he recovers from surgery.
- ✦ Please pray for **Gustavo Driau**, ELCA Global Missionary, who is visiting ministry sites in the MT. Synod through Sunday and safe travels on Monday.
- ✦ Prayers for our **FLBC Campers** attending camp beginning Sunday, July 14th.. **Austin & Kolton Kupfner, Abbie & Rylie Virts, Andrew Dullum, Jack Orthman, Ethan White, Mya Badger, Taylah & Traedon Jacques, Ainsley & Chris Kubas, Addie & Ayden Nicholls, Regan Will, Addi & Mac Carlson, Tag Rittel, Morgan Dunn, Izzie Grosenick, Allison & Hailey Marr, and Olivia Violet** for a week of fun, faith and safe travels.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Franz** daughter of Ed and Bertha Ferguson .
- ✦ Prayers of thanksgiving and guidance for **Laura Kupfner** as she accepted the call to service as the Director of the Logos ministry.
- ✦ Prayers for **Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling**, Bishop Elect of the Montana Synod as she transitions into her new call.
- ✦ Prayers for **Bishop Jessica Crist** as she draws near to her "retirement" as of September 1.

Gustavo Driau's Visit to Bethel

This past Sunday our ELCA Missionary Gustavo Driau preached the sermon. Some requested that we share his message for those who were not able to attend. We had a wonderful forum that followed and it was a delight to have him as our guest. The following is a reprint of Gustavo's message.

A few days ago, the last of my belongings were being packed in my backpack before coming to Montana Synod, from the distant South American topographies. At that point, I began to understand why it was that Jesus suggested to his followers that we carry "no purse, no bag, no sandals." "I am packing too much stuff," I thought to myself.

After three years of serving as ELCA regional representative in South America, I was preparing my first Home-assignment trip and my first visit to Montana Synod congregations. My first visit to ELCA congregations bringing good news from the churches in Peru, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, and Bolivia.

ELCA accompaniment to South American churches has grown, sometimes in an enjoyable manner, sometimes with tribulation and suffering. Consequently, my backpack was also filled with joys, expectations, and uncertainty, as any ministry trip might be.

During the packing (and a couple of unwanted unpacking) I reflected on this text, knowing that I would have to write the sermon for this Sunday.

I thought about the several places I have been serving, and about my vocational call to serve the church, which took many years to mature.

My call to serve came about, in the first instance, in my church, as a lay leader first and as a lay minister later. A new challenge was serving the Lutheran communion within the Lutheran World Federation accompanying churches in Latin America. Finally, nowadays serving in ELCA Global Mission

For many years I was just a committed member in my congregation and in my church. The Gospel of Jesus found me when I was a young boy in the elementary Lutheran school in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Then, I had my confirmation when I was 17 years old, but when I was 45 years old, there was a tremendous change in my life.

I put aside my profession of a successful architect,

and I began to timidly ministry in the church, with "no purse, no bag, no sandals." It was a very challenging time, with many very

significant personal losses and gains; a time that was of turbulence and great joy, at the same time. The first lesson, today, from Isaiah 66 and the reading from Psalm 66 remind me of the promise of God's constant provision and the presence of the Holy Spirit and, reminds me those first years in my lay ministry

The Gospel today presents the program of the missionaries. The commission of Jesus aims to fundamental community values for our time, such as hospitality and welcome, sharing, and communion.

Luke describes the mission of the seventy disciples in Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. It reveals the practice of the Church progressing to other places to present and manifest the Gospel. The road to Jerusalem means understanding and accepting the path of following Jesus, with its conditions and difficulties, care for the needy and pacification.

As I was finishing my packing a couple of questions came to me:

How does my own spiritual "journey" look?

Am I fully aware that the success of my accompaniment does not depend on my personal abilities, but only on the Lord who sent me and on my availability?

These crucial questions come in a crucial day: I am here reflecting about mission, with you, who are one of my sponsorship congregations, so a key question is:



How far away is my ministry from fulfilling what Jesus indicated to the seventy?

Some other things strike me about the seventy and their story on Luke's gospel.

First, they are not sent alone where they go. Neither Luke nor Jesus gives us the reasons why, but it seems that there could be any number.

Perhaps Jesus knows that workers are more diligent and accountable when sent in pairs. Perhaps we are safer, less vulnerable with someone to journey with. Perhaps there is wisdom in sending pairs with diverse gifts. Whatever the reason, we are sent not alone.

In my own experience, the mission of the broader church today would be better served by seeing how we can "team up" ourselves in ministry.

For that reason, I am always grateful for the presence of my Global Mission colleagues on my ministry journeys; even it is not always possible.

For that reason, I always require dialog partners for the more difficult issues and concerns of my ministry accompanying the South American churches.

We are sent in pairs for all the above reasons, but also because it helps us to see the relationship between us as the place where God's Spirit works and resides.

As you know, Montana Synod has a companion relationship with the Lutheran church in Bolivia. Bolivia is a diverse and plenty of resources country, even was one of South America's poorest and most unstable countries, with high levels of poverty, extreme income disparity, various forms of discrimination and social exclusion. In Bolivia, conflicts typically revolve around the position of the indigenous peoples in state and society.

For centuries, institutions shaped by the country's colonial past have reproduced social inequality. The indigenous majority has been at a disadvantage, not only in terms of income but also in terms of access to social services such as education and health care as well as participation

in political decision making.

Bolivia has 36 identified indigenous groups. The largest are Aymará (about 25%) and Quechua (about 30%), most of them are in the highlands. The Bolivian Church membership belongs to these ethnic nations. The remaining groups (including Guaraní and Chiquitano) are located almost entirely in the lowlands.



Among this diversity, there's the ancestral Kallawayaya tradition (even before Inca times). Kallawayas are itinerant healers (exclusively male) who treat patients using medical and pharmaceutical knowledge that orbits around a complex system of transmission and apprenticeship.

In this tradition, the journey and relationships play an essential role. By traveling through widely varying ecosystems, Kallawayaya healers expand their knowledge of medicinal plants. Health is not only

related to the body of the patient but also in the set of their relationships with work, family and daily activities

Similarly, for those who travel on an accompaniment Montana Synod mission trip, the journey is as important as reaching the destination, and the relationship is as relevant as the quantifiable results.

In accompaniment mission trips, the conversion of the spirit happens mainly in the missionaries, not only in those who receive us.

A question: When was the last time you thought about making an accompaniment mission trip to Bolivian Church?

Our worship and the Gospel today is an invitation to do that. I kindly invite you to reflect on.

In Luke readings today, the seventy are probable not trained religious leaders. Today, we are tempted to think of pastors as the only persons who are sent into ministry.

The sharing of God's peace, the visit of the sick, to be with those in need, to pray with Lutheran brothers and sisters that are a minority in their country and being church with those that are different from us are all signs of the irruption of God's reign into our present world and reality.



These things do not, contrary to popular belief, require professional religious leaders so much as they require trust in God's reign. All of us are called to this ministry, and we carry it out in any number of ways.

Jesus sent them out – totally relying on the grace and mercy of others. They were trusting God would send them people who would provide for their needs. They would leave behind all their home comforts and their security blankets and go where Jesus sent them.

Would we do such a thing?

Would we be brave enough to go where Jesus sends us, even if we feel vulnerable and unprepared?

As the seventy went out, they may have wanted to go to the rich and impressive people, but they may not have been the ones who provided for them.

It may have been not the reachest people who provided for them. They may have had limited resources, but large and generous hearts. Those with ungenerous and cold hearts had no room for God's message of justice and peace. Those with large and generous hearts were open to God's Word.

I find particularly remarkable about this passage is the willingness to be dependent on others.

Think about it: no purse, no bag, no sandals and, most importantly, no guarantees on how they would be received. All they have is Jesus' promise to go with them, to do great things through them and bring them back home.

The building of relationships is vital and may challenge some current methods of outreach.

While many people focus on getting people to worship and try to manufacture a perfect experience in the expectation that they may win people for Christ, that's not what Jesus asks for.

God encourages relationships, not events. God doesn't always work through the spectacular, but the ordinary.

The best messages of peace and justice aren't proclaimed from a pulpit but lived in everyday life with all its troubles and temptations.

The seventy transmit the Good News to people, but is God, through the Spirit, who accomplishes the "shalom" the wholeness that feeds the body and the soul.

We, as current ministers, would do well to recall it is not about us.

Never is about us.

It is always about God and what God is up to.

In fact, that God chooses to use imperfect, fallible human beings as witnesses to God's reign is a testimony to both God's power and God's vulnerability and risk.

Our love grace and peace are reflections of that reign; they are signs that we trust it and participate in it, whenever we live for others and act for their wholeness in the world.

We trust that the God, who works through us when we are called to a place, will continue to work in that place without us, and perhaps even better without us.

The seventy were sent out to proclaim the peace of God to others. This peace of God is the Kingdom of God at work, acting on persevering hearts, in ordinary lives, and in everyday places.

I am grateful for you as well brother and sisters in Bethel Congregation, for your life of faith, for your commitment to preaching the Word, for your commitment with the Lutheran Church in Bolivia, for the efforts you've made to do so, and for your care for the universal Church that started with these seventy and their trust in Jesus.

Dear Bethel Congregation: blessings on your proclamation, ministry, and life. Thank you for your hospitality

The peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, to guard our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hospitality Team

There are many things about Bethel that I love, one of them is the fellowship time we take each Sunday after service to catch up with each other over coffee and a treat. These treats are provided by our Bethel Hospitality Team. One of the easiest ways to get involved in a ministry at Bethel is through this ministry. It's easy to sign up to serve. Go to our website www.bethelmt.org and click on Bethel Ministries and Hospitality Team. There is a link to sign up for a Sunday to bring a couple dozen treats. These can be baked goods (home made or store bought), candy, fruit, you name it!

We would like to shine a spotlight on all the families that participate in making this a special gift that is given each Sunday and say THANK YOU for your hospitality!



While Pastor is Out

If you have any pastoral care while Pastor is on vacation, please let the church office know. We will connect you with a someone to meet your needs.

TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump has selected FISH to be part of the 18th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign for 2019.

During the 3 month period from September 1 through November 30, Town Pump will match every donation up to \$20,000. What a great way to double your donation to FISH!! Please consider making a contribution during this 3 month period to help FISH.



July 22nd - 26th
for Pre - K ages 3 & 4 (potty
trained)

Kinder - 6th

Junior Counselors 7th grade and
up for more information go to
www.bethelmt.org

You Are Invited!!

Each day at camp we have an opening worship and a closing worship...JOIN US!! 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Would love to see you and share in the energy and excitement of Camp Week!

If you are interested in helping with camp this year, please contact Tami Grosenick at the church office 761-1543 or email bethelmc.church@gmail.com.

Thank you and hope to see you this summer!

What's Coming Up at FLBC:

Upcoming Retreats and Events:

Register by calling the camp office at 406-752-6602 or emailing office@flbc.net

Labor Day Family Camp

August 31-September 2, 2019

Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Camp staff will lead children and youth in classic camp activities such as Bible study, worship, games, hikes, and more. Adults will gather together for special facilitated time of study and discussion led by Pr. Molly and Allen Sasser-Goehner. All join together for worship, fellowship, and games! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand-up paddle boarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, high and low ropes team building, and much more!

To the Mountains: An Adult Wilderness Experience

August 31-September 2, 2019

Spend your Labor Day weekend enjoying the diversity of God's creation in beautiful NW Montana! Join our trained FLBC staff both on foot & by water as we spend an overnight backpacking, a day rock climbing, and a morning sailing on Flathead Lake. Experience the glory of the wilderness alongside new friends and dive into Scripture as you see God reflected in the landscape around you. No previous wilderness experience required, all community gear and food provided.

Wellness and Fun (Grades 6-12)

September 13-14, 2019

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly!" John 10:10. God wants us all to live healthy, fulfilled, abundant lives! This retreat will focus on trying new things for a healthy lifestyle. Learn new skills, get to know your own group better, and meet youth from all over! Discover a balance between mind, body, and spirit. Learn healthy living in a fun way!

Young Adults in Global Mission

Jeremy Stordahl

has been selected to serve as a missionary
in Australia.

He will begin his mission in August 2019

Ways to support my call to serve
as a volunteer for the
ELCA's Young Adults in Global
Mission program!

To make a credit card gift, call
800-638-3522 to make a credit
card donation. Please specify
support for Jeremy Stordahl.



To give by check, make your
check out to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" and
write "Jeremy Stordahl giving code: GCS3503"
on the memo line. Give through your congregation or
mail to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online at: [http://support.elca.org/goto/
JeremyStordahl](http://support.elca.org/goto/JeremyStordahl)

Thank you for joining me and for your support – every
gift truly matters!

*To learn more about Jeremy, pick up a brochure in the
Track Rack at Bethel.*

Bethel Bunch Brunch!

Saturday, July 13th 10:30 AM
Earl and Trudy Terwilligers
141 17th Ave NW

Please bring a side dish or salad to be
shared. Some ideas are eggs, egg bake or
quiche, fruit salad, muffins or pastries, etc.
Be sure to bring something to drink as well.

RSVP with number and what you are
bringing to
Terry Korpela or Trudy Terwilliger.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 7/15:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 7/16:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Childbridge meeting 5:30 PM in the Gathering Place

Saturday 7/20:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7/21

- Dave Scholten preaching and presiding
- VBS camp set up and counselor dinner 5:00 PM

Monday 7/22-26

- Vacation Bible School 9:00 am to 1:30 PM
 - Opening worship 9:00 am - all are invited
 - Closing worship 1:30 pm - all are invited
 - FLBC Friendraising 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
 - Pastor Steve back in the office
- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 7/23:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- VBS and Family Night Pool party and Jaycee Pool 6:00 to 8:00 pm, all are invited

Wednesday 7/24

- FLBC Counselor/Jr Counselor Gathering 5:00 pm

Thursday 7/25

- Vacation Bible School Program and Potluck 6:00 to 8:00 pm, bring something to share all are invited.

Montana SWO

Fall Convention and Gathering

WHEN:
September 27 & 28, 2019

WHERE:
Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Ave SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
(near the Heritage Inn)

Ephesians 4:5-6 One Lord, one faith, one baptism...one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

Women of the **ELCA**

FEATURING
Speaker—Rev. Julia Seymour, Big Timber, MT
Church Rep—Lois Bylund
Women's Health

BAPTIZED

AND SET *Free*