

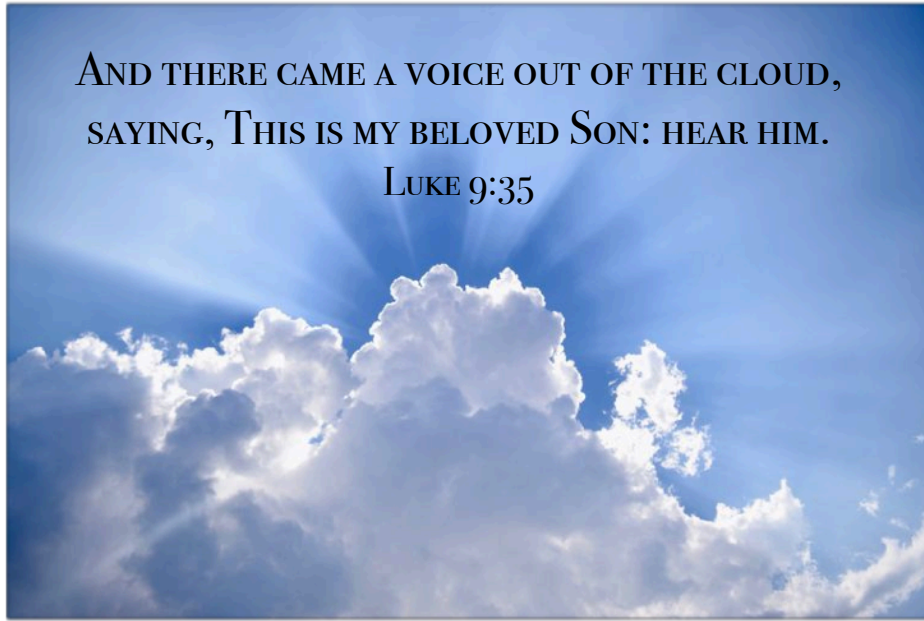
Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM
Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543 Website: www.bethelmt.org

BETHEL NOTES

AND THERE CAME A VOICE OUT OF THE CLOUD,
SAYING, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON: HEAR HIM.

LUKE 9:35



Readings:

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 42

Luke 9:28-36[37-43a]

Sunday
March 3

Serving this Sunday

Accompanist:

Mary Seim

Lay Assistant:

Walt Nuessle

Usher(s):

The Elkin Family

Projectionist:

Dave Scholten

Counters:

Tim Lightbourne
Dean Wagener-Fossen

Nursery

Attendant(s):

Adam Elkin

This Sunday at Bethel:

World Hunger Sunday an additional offering will be received in wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger Relief.

Faith Formation meets today after our service in the Fellowship Hall. Our topic is ***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 ?)

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Prayers of healing for **Jan DeGroot** (sister of Marj Vander Aarde) as well as **John Hartog** (Marj's brother).

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 comfort for **the Klette Family** as they mourn the death of Cheryl's aunt, Marj Cole.

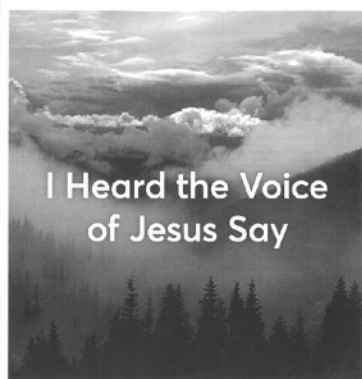
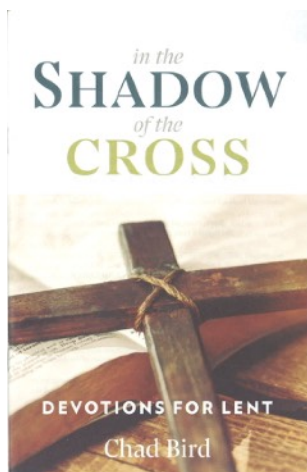
Prayers for strength and healing for **Teresa O'Connell** (friend of Tami Grosenick) as she continues treatment for breast cancer.

Prayers of healing for **Dale Ost** who is recovering from home.

Prayers of comfort and peace for **Bernice Jones** (mother of Mike Jones) as she is in Hospice.

Prayers for surviving loved ones and the firefighting community for the loss of **Jason Baker**.

Lenten Devotionals Available for free. Pick one up on the white table in the Narthex.



2019 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



URGENT

Requests for Blankets.



During this frigid weather there are many folks who are who are "couch surfing" (or on the floor) at friends' houses. They do not have blankets or pillows. Please look through yours and see if you can spare some. If you bring them to Bethel, I'll be glad to take them over or you can take them directly to 1st English Lutheran Church, 112 8th Street North, Mon - Thurs 1 - 3 pm. AnneRose Rogers 269 930-0887

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return

On Ash Wednesday we will mark the beginning of Lent. Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) which leads us to Easter. During the Ash Wednesday liturgy we will receive the imposition of ashes on our brows (or on your wrist if you prefer) and hear these ancient and sobering words from the writer of Genesis, "...you are dust, and to dust you shall return." You will be marked with an ashen sign of the cross – the same sign given in baptism. And it is the sign which claims us and stays with us throughout our whole lives. Initially the season of Lent was set aside for those preparing for Baptism at Easter. As part of the final preparation, people left behind all of the things of this world that got in the way of their relationship with God. They spent time in fasting, prayer, serving the poor and other disciplines of the Christian life. They went through intensive instruction in what being a Christian was all about. They prepared for lives of loving service in the world.

The ashen sign of the cross given on Ash Wednesday is for us. It is meant to remind us of our own mortality. It is a visible and humbling reminder that we have fallen short of who God has created us to be. But this same ashen cross also reminds us where we find new life – in Christ's atoning work on the cross. As people marked by the cross, we



know that life is not easy nor pain-free. Trials and suffering are ours but also freedom and a peace that goes beyond our understanding. Come and enter into the journey of Lent.



March 6th 7:00 PM

Please join us for the Ash Wednesday/Logos Family Worship service. The readings and service assistants will be children from our Logos ministry. Don't miss this opportunity to see these amazing kids in action and kick off the Lenten season.

Lenten Soup Suppers

This year we are excited to have members of our congregation share their Faith Story with us and then we will sing the Holden Evening Prayer. Each Thursday in Lent we will begin our meal at 6:15 PM and the service will begin at 7:00 PM.

Date for the Soup Suppers are:

March 14th

March 21st

March 28th

April 4th

April 11th



All meals and services will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Watch future editions of the Bethel Notes for more details.

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 Sunday March 3rd, from 11-12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. It will be repeated on Thursday, March 7th, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. Session #4 of 6 is titled, ***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 ?)

Remaining Sessions:

- **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.

Pastor Steve will be out of the office from the afternoon of Sunday, March 3rd and back in the late afternoon March 5th for the NRIT Winter Conference in Essex, MT. Please call the Bethel Office for any pastoral needs during his absence. 761-1543.

Family Promise

While hosting Family Promise, as we well know, flexibility is key. We want to start by saying a large thank you to all who signed up to donate snacks, pantry items, meals, and volunteer your time to serving our families.

This week we began with a family, who had been with us before. Unfortunately, they decided to leave the program because of family difficulties and so we did not have a family to serve the rest of the week.

Food that was donated was taken to the Hub for their pantry, frozen for our next host week and some perishable items were donated to TLC Daycare and they were very excited to receive them.

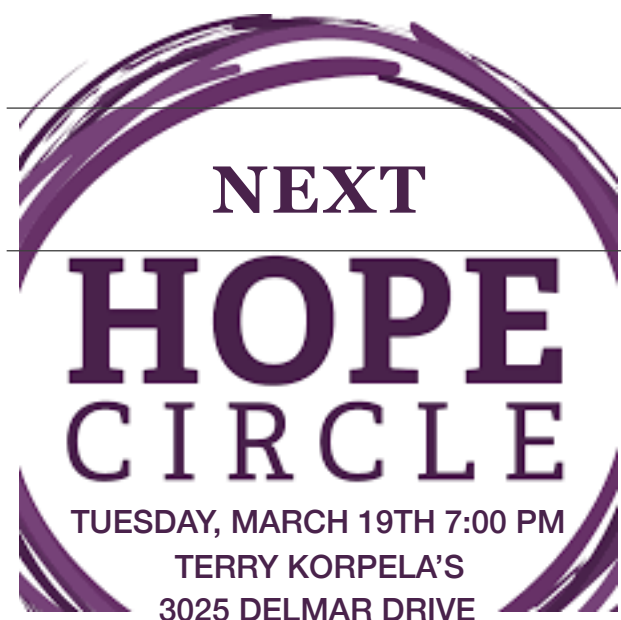
Our next host week will be in July. If you are interested in going through the volunteer training required to service as dinner host, evening helper or overnight host, there are two upcoming opportunities both at The Hub at Central Christian Church 1025 Central Avenue.

March 13th 5:30 PM

April 17th 5:30 PM

Please contact Dew Elkin or The Hub to reserve your spot or for more information.

The Hub - 453-4317 or Dew - 452-0988




Attention Quilters!

Join us for making LWR quilts on March 4th, at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Ave. So., from 6-8 p.m. to prepare tops, cut batting, tie quilts, bind quilts, or thread needles, whatever your gifts may be. Thank you all for your support.

Trudi Schmidt, trudischmidt@g.com or Susan Hedahl, 406-799-1954, or hedahlsa@yahoo.com with questions.

TRANSFORMATION

I think that **transformational moments happen** throughout our lives. Not all as miraculous as Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai, or Paul's Damascus Road experience, or Jesus and the disciples on Mount Transfiguration, but **they happen**.

- At your **baptism your call story began**. Salvation was given in Christ and as the Apostle Paul bears witness, "The old has passed away, behold the new has come."
- It might have been at a **life passage** moment (ie. marriage or at a funeral or graveside service for a friend or loved one.)
- It may have been **at the birth or adoption of a child**. Or even a pet you brought home and became part of your family.
- It might have been when a young one began their first day of school or left home for college.
- It was a moment when everything changed. A moment when **everything was different and even if you weren't sure exactly how**.

The scene in our gospel reading is a transformational moment like no other. It begins with Jesus inviting Peter, James and John along on an ascent of a mountain, to pray. The gospel writer, Luke, reveals to us that prayer and transformational moments walk hand in hand. Time spent with God transforms.

The power of prayer in God's presence transformed the disciples. They wanted to hold on and savor this experience for as long as possible. Jesus meant it as a moment that would foreshadow what was ahead for them. Jesus' departure. His suffering and death. Which would bring about the redemption and transformation of not only their lives but of the whole creation. They spent time on the mountain, but Jesus led them back down into the villages and neighborhoods. Into the lives of their friends and strangers.

Jesus prayed often and he taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread." This prayer is for the daily transformation of our lives. God will bring about the transformation and will open our eyes to see God's presence not just on the mountain tops but also in the day-to-day living. In our relationships with one another.

Pastor Steve

Volunteers Needed for the Synod Assembly

If you are interested in helping out during the assembly the following areas are in need of assistance:

- Help with Worship Planning
- Workshop coordinator
- Workshop leaders
- Those interested in helping with general errands during the assembly.

Contact Colter McCarty to sign up or for more information:
cmccarty@montanasynod.org

March 10th



God Will Carry Us Through Every Death: Worshiping with Children on Ash Wednesday

by Miriam Schmidt, pastor/priest of All Saints in Big Sky, a shared ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran (ELCA) Churches in Big Sky, Montana.

Children know about death. More than we give them credit for. Many kids by the age of 5 or 7 have experienced at least the death of a beloved pet, or even a family member or friend. They know what it is like one day to be able to burrow their face in a cat's fur, hold their grandfather's hand, hear the voice of an auntie calling their name, smell the vanilla scent of Nana; then the next day, to feel the sudden wretched absence that comes with death. There is no longer any way to touch or smell or hear or see the physical body of the one who has died.

Children know about death, the aching hole it leaves behind; and if they do not know about it yet, they will soon enough. So it is important for us, as adults, to find ways to include our children in Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a gift of the church to us all. The day's simple and stark ritual of ashes speaks honestly of death. We take dirt, ashes of palms, and press them onto each other's foreheads. We say the old words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

This act might be straight-up depressing, did we not mark the ashes in the shape of a cross. The same cross is marked on the foreheads of the newly baptized. The same cross is inscribed on every Christian forever. With Ash Wednesday's cross of ashes, we are saying that even in the face of death, our loving God is as close as our skin. Jesus is smudged on us, rubbed into our flesh, so that when we weep with all our hearts for those who have died, we are not alone. God is this close – a cross on our foreheads. So we can live in hope that a God so close will carry us through every death, even our own.

How does your congregation do at involving children in Ash Wednesday? Many children – not to mention their parents – will benefit from some preparation. Perhaps the children can help burn last year's palms into Ash Wednesday's ashes after worship on Transfiguration Sunday. On the day itself, maybe children can be invited forward before the Imposition of Ashes to see and touch the ashes for themselves? Can they be allowed to mark their own cross? Or cross another child? Afterwards, on the first Sunday in Lent, can Ash Wednesday's leftover ashes be brought out again and shown to those who forgot it even was Ash Wednesday, so they can see for themselves.

This is what we did a few days ago: We traced ashes on foreheads in the shape of



The 19th Annual Loaves & Fishes Dinner

April 12, 2019

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1326 1st Ave. North

Seatings at 4:30 and 6:00

Please consider donating a silent auction
or raffle item.

**ALL PROCEEDS ENABLE FISH TO
CONTINUE PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD
TO THE FOLKS IN OUR AREA!!!**



THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Sunday 3/3 to 3/5

- Pastor leaves Sunday afternoon to go to NRIT Winter Conference

Monday 3/4:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 3/5:

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

Wednesday 3/6:

- LOGOS Family Worship and Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Thursday 3/7:

- Faith Formation in the Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM

Saturday 3/9:

- Vacation Bible School Prep day with FLBC Staff in the Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3/10:

- Daylight Savings Time! Spring forward 1 hour.
- Faith Formation meeting in Fellowship Hall following service.
- Worship Planning will meet in the Gathering Place following service.
- Congregation Vitality Forum will meet in the Sanctuary following service

Monday 3/11:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 3/12:

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

Wednesday 3/13:

- Bethel Staff Meeting in the Gathering Place 9:15 AM
- LOGOS 5:30 PM

Thursday 3/14:

- Faith Formation in the Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM
- Lenten Soup Supper and service 6:15 PM, supper 7:00 PM for service meet in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday 3/16:

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