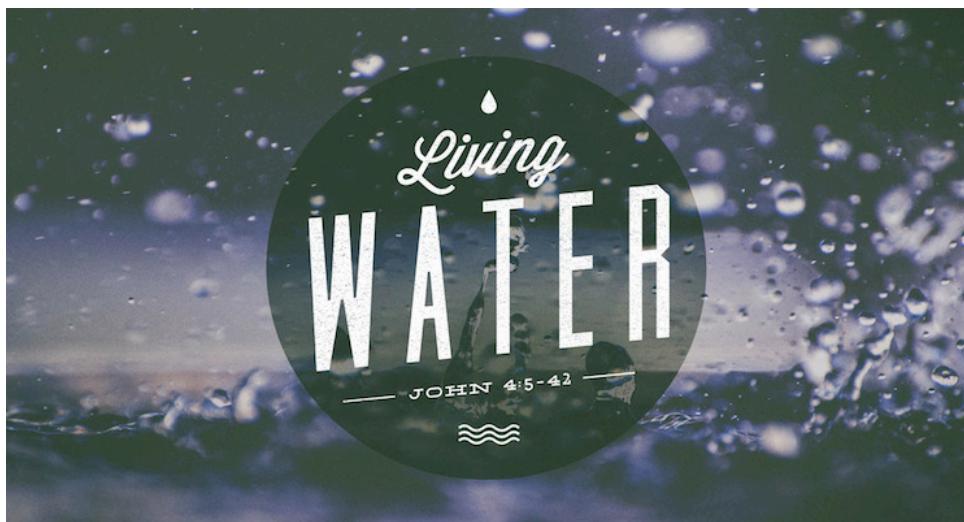


**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed Friday  
 Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543 Website: [www.bethelmt.org](http://www.bethelmt.org)

# BETHEL NOTES

# Sunday

March 15



## Readings Third Sunday of Lent

EXODUS 17:1-7

ROMANS 5:1-11

JOHN 4:5-42

**This Sunday** we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent.

We welcome the beautiful sound of the **Handbell Choir** led by Sharon Mueller.

**Lenten book study** continues with topic Teachings: Risking Challenge. This chapter will be repeated Thursday, March 19th at 10:00 am.

**Passing of the peace** is an integral way that we recognize the presence of the peace of Christ in their midst. During this time of colds, flus, etc. we offer you to do what you are comfortable with while passing the peace. A verbal greeting paired with a reverent bow, peace sign, whatever you like. We offer hand sanitizer in the narthex for use after the passing of the peace.

## Serving This Sunday

### Accompanist:

Mary Seim

### Lay Assistant:

Kaye Van Gilder

### Usher(s):

Mike and Joyce Harding

### Projectionist:

Ava Fossen

### Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Greg Grosenick

### Childcare:

Adam Elkin

Isabelle Grosenick

### Hospitality:

Mike and Joyce Harding



# PRAYER

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## REQUEST

- ♦ 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 **Cindy Brattain** as she recovers from a medical procedure.
- ♦ Prayers of health and healing for **Don Seyfert** as he recovers after medical treatment.
- ♦ Prayers for God's presence and healing touch for **John Korpela**, as he recovers after medical treatment.
- ♦ Prayers for the **Peoples of Bolivia** as they transition into new leadership within the country and prayers for **Pastor Presidente German and the IELB**.
- ♦ 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 of healing for **Jane Mart** as she is home and continues to heal after surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and strength for **Ann Tuomi** as she continues to recover from surgery.
- ♦ Prayers for safety and support for **Eric Poser**, Connie Titcomb's nephew as he is deployed overseas.
- ♦ Prayers for **Dakota Green**, great granddaughter of Bernice Johnson as she recovers from a recent surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of support for **Earl Terwilliger** as he undergoes medical tests.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **John Brodbeck**, father of Laura Newby, who continues to recover from a heart attack.
- ♦ Prayers for God's healing presence and peace for **Arlena Crandell's son, Mike**, who is undergoing medical exams.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Leonard Murphy** as he recovers at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Marlys Baer** as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Dale Ost** as he recovers at home.

### Next Hope Circle

**Tuesday March 24,**

**7:00 p.m.**

**LaRae Veitch's.**

**2005 2nd St S.**

**No theme, nothing special, just  
come and enjoy the company,  
food and Bible Study.**

# A FISH Story

As I was working FISH this week with Terree and Udo Wozny and Walt Nuessle we were reflecting on the history of FISH as well as the need for more of our Bethel family to know about FISH and hopefully want to help with food distribution.

I have been a part of FISH for over 40 years. It was one of my first involvements at Bethel. When FISH first started among the churches we each had our own food cupboards. We worked with referrals through Opportunities Inc., rescue mission, and local police. Those asking for food were not screened they were just referred to a church on a weekly rotation. FISH to this day uses a weekly church rotation. Back 40 year ago, each church made their own contacts and we delivered food to the families. One of Bethel's first inquiries and one of my most memorable was a gentleman hopping freight trains to get across country. He was desperate for food. Our way of contacting him was at a pay phone. So we gathered up canned goods that could be eaten cold, a can opener (a hand me down from my mom), and a large plastic garbage bag as it was pouring down rain and we (John and I) thought he might need optional rain gear. We were to meet at the railroad yard. John thought it best if he make the delivery, which he did and the young man was very

appreciative. (God's Work our hands).

Fish remained in the individual church cupboards for several years, while the board worked on getting a central location. At the same time the Food Bank was forming to help agencies. So a perfect partnership was formed. The food bank would help agencies which FISH is one of those agencies and Fish would help individuals and families.

40 years later and FISH is still a vital part of helping the hungry in Great Falls. Bethel can be proud that they have been there since the beginning. John Blank our FISH co-coordinator has been there at the helm forever still coordinating volunteers. Mary Gernaat is our other FISH co-coordinator and attends board meetings. Terree Wozny a past FISH board member and Bethel coordinator also has been a huge part of keeping Bethel an active participant in FISH. I would be remiss in not thanking all of you who are involved now or in the past with your connection with FISH and who volunteer when it is Bethel's turn to serve.

From the photo you get an idea of the food distribution. We hand out over 50 pounds of food per family. Two large grocery sacks filled with non perishable items such as cereal, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, veggies and fruit. Each bag is around 20 pounds. Besides the grocery bags, families receive eggs, butter, hamburger, hot dogs, pork roast (this week), milk, flour, sugar, apples (this week), dried fruit, bread, and toiletries. So a large variety of items. Depending on any day we can help to several families. I have been there on very slow days as well as days when we have a line and cannot fill sacks quickly enough. Every day that I volunteer is humbling. To think that as a parent I could not feed my family is overwhelming. I am so fortunate that I have never had to face the dilemma of feeding my family versus paying the rent. There are many in Great Falls that face this monthly. FISH is just one organization that can help. I urge you to step forward and volunteer to work a FISH shift. It is one day every three months or so from 8:45-11:00. You need no training but the satisfaction that you are helping someone have food on the table for even a few days will warm your heart.

Thank you for all that you do to keep FISH a vital organization. Your prayers, your food donations as well as cash donations and time do make a difference. God Bless.

Terry Korpela

**SAVE THE DATE  
THE 20TH ANNUAL  
LOAVES & FISHES  
DINNER & SILENT AUCTION  
APRIL 24, 2020  
OUR SAVOR'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH.**

Seatings 4:30 pm or 6:00 pm  
The dinner will be a free will offering.

FISH is looking for items for the silent auction and for raffle items. I would like to put together a gift card basket. If you are interested in donating, purchase a gift card of your choice for any dollar amount, example \$20.00 to Starbucks and drop them at the Bethel Office.

All proceeds are for the FISH emergency food program.



We handed out 810 pounds of food to 14 families which consisted of 19 adults and 8 children.

~John Blank

## IT'S MY BAG

Patty Braget shared the following from CASA:

"I just dropped all 55 bags off to the Department of family services, and I had a box of extra supplies,. They helped me carry them in and they were totally blown away about the graciousness from our congregation.

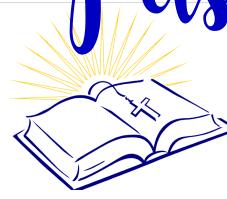
They kept asking "who did all this, did you get a grant? I just can't believe you were able to bring so many beautiful brand new bags and donate them to us, this duffel bag and the name tag will mean more to these kids than you could ever imagine."

My heart is full! I'm so thankful to be part of such a gracious loving congregation and church family.

Thanks again

Patty"

# Pass It On



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Lenten Brunch

Saturday, March 28th, 10:30 a.m.

Meadow Lark Country Club

Tickets on sale following worship on

March 8, 15, 22

or in the church office: \$15

Purchase Deadline:

March 23rd

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Julia Seymour



## Family Promise March FUNdraisers!

### Wings On Wednesday with Buffalo Wild Wings!

**Wednesday, March 18th, 11 am-11 pm:**

Head on down to Buffalo Wild Wings show your server the coupon in order to have 20% of your order donated to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time! Coupons available in the Narthex at Bethel.

### An Evening With El Wenko at Elevation 3330!

**Saturday, March 21st, 7 pm-9 pm:**

Our old friends from El Wenko are back in the saddle to support ending childhood homelessness! Join them at Elevation 3330 downtown for a special benefit concert. Admission is free and \$1 from every pint sold will go to Family Promise of Great Falls! This event is proudly sponsored by **Murphy Law Firm**.

**Mark Your Calendar for the first every  
Family Promise of Great Falls Gilbert & Sullivan concert.**

**Friday, April 17, 7 pm & Saturday, April 18, 7 pm.**

at First United Methodist Church. Enjoy an evening of English opera at First United Methodist Church, including tunes from *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, *HMS Pinafore*, and *Princess Ida!* Free will donations will be accepted to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time!

# LIVING WATER FLOWS AMIDST OUR FEARS

We are living amidst highly anxious and fearful times. The objects of our fears are the threat of illness and death due to the spread of the corona virus around the world, close to the homes and lives of our family and friends. Us. Fears of a volatile stock market and its affect on the economy, and on our retirement savings. Fears of job losses. You can name the fears which affect your today, bring on an uncertain future and raise your anxiety bar. Where do we turn? In what or whom does our trust and hope come?

In our readings for the Third Sunday in Lent, we read of the real fears, yearnings of God's people. Take the Israelites for example. They were on their very long wilderness camp out trip. The camp site at Rephidim was out of water. They were not "happy campers." So Moses, God's appointed wilderness guide campsite host, caught the brunt of their finger pointing and anger. Fears that they and all whom were near and dear to them would die of thirst. They cried out, "Is the Lord among us or not?" Might we, too, be asking that same question as we experience the threats and fears in the wilderness of our day?

A woman of Samaria had made a routine trip to her village's community watering hole to fetch a supply of water. It was Jacob's well. Upon arriving, she had an unexpected encounter with a tired and thirsty traveler. It was Jesus. Their mutual need for water then led them to a much deeper conversation. A life transforming conversation. This conversation went "deep" fast, and not just to the bottom of the well deep but to the deep place of the soul's thirsting, its yearning and desire for quenching. Their dialogue was about the gift and the gifter of living water, God's living



water, Jesus the Savior of the World.

As the stories unfold we learn that God heard the cries of God's people and used Moses as His agent to bring relief to the tired, impatient, fearful, and thirsty Israelites. God knew the needs of the woman of Samaria. The hurts from the failed relationships in her life, the fears and uncertainties of her future. Jesus, who also knew what it was to be tired and thirsty, asked her for a drink and that conversation led to her being God's conduit to meet his need. Jesus, in turn, provides her with living water, to quench the deepest needs of her soul. This living water is Jesus' love and acceptance which broke through the

boundaries and barriers of fear and separation. Experiencing this living water, she in turn shares it with those of her community. She shares Jesus with them. The perfect love of God which casts out all fear.

Philip Yancey, in his book titled, *What Good is God? In Search of Faith that Matters*, writes: "Grace, like water, flows downwards...and no matter how low we sink, grace flows to that lowest part."

Grace and peace flowed downwards to the lowest place of the Israelites experiences in the wilderness. It flowed to the lowest place in the life of the woman of Samaria, to her friends and community. God's love, grace and peace... in the gift and giver of God's living water, who is Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World, flows to the lowest places of our fears, to set us free from all that would hold us captive. We, in turn, are God's conduit/agents of the living water, Jesus Christ, whose love flows for the life of a fearful and thirsty world.

*Pastor Steve*



Our Lenten season continues on \*Thursday evenings at the church at 6:15 with a soup supper to be followed by worship in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m.

The Lenten mid-week dates are:

- **March 12th** – 6:15 pm Soup Supper, 7:00 pm Worship hosted by Bethel Bunch, guest speaker: *Jim Carlson, L.P.A.*: Justice toward others. Cantor: *Colter McCarty*
- **March 19th** - 6:15 pm Soup Supper, 7:00 pm Worship host Logos, guest speaker: Rev. *John Allen*: Justice. Cantor: *Dave Scholten*
- **March 26th** - 6:15 pm Soup Supper, 7:00 pm Worship host Family Promise Volunteers, guest speaker: *Sharon Odden, LPA*: Justice toward self: stewardship of health, time, energy. Cantor: *Pastor Steve Van Gilder*
- **April 2nd** - 6:15 pm Soup Supper, 7:00 pm Worship host Church Council, guest speaker: Rev. *Barb Gwynn*: Justice toward others. Cantor: *Pastor Steve Van Gilder*

This Lenten Season we will be participating in a round robin with the Great Falls ELCA congregations. Jim Carlson will represent Bethel as preacher, as the other congregations meet on Wednesday evenings and Pastor Steve has a commitment to Logos.

We will once again be using the Holden Evening Prayer Service for the worship. The mid-week offerings will be dedicated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Lenten Devotional available in the narthex or click [here](#) or [here](#) for large print.

## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday April 5th**  
9:30 AM

**Maundy Thursday April 9th**  
7:00 PM

**Good Friday April 10th**  
7:00 PM

**Easter Vigil April 11th**  
7:00 PM

**Easter Sunday April 12th**  
Worship Service in the  
Gathering Place 10:00 AM

## Lenten Themes

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 (NRSV)*

**Justice** toward God:

Deepening God's reign in your life.

**Justice** toward Self:

Stewardship of health, time, and energy

**Justice** toward Self:

Repentance and (self) forgiveness

**Justice** toward Others:

Our relationship with God's good creation

**Justice** toward Others:

Almsgiving, advocacy, and accompaniment

# Lenten Book Study with Pastor Steve

**Sunday's after worship beginning this Sunday, March 1st until noon and  
Thursdays 10:00 AM beginning March 5th**

## Entering The Passion of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

In Amy Jill Levine's own words "This study and the story of Jesus' last days bring with them several challenges: What do we stand for? What do we believe in? When do we stand up for those beliefs? We can also watch the disciples and ask ourselves, when have we denied or betrayed? How can we make it's right? Jesus talks about taking up the cross. The Passion narrative shows him doing that. Can Those who claim to be his followers do the same?".

### Schedule of Study:

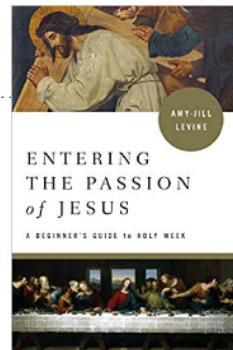
**March 15th & 19th:** Teachings: Risking Challenge

**March 22nd & 26th:** The First Dinner: Risking Rejection - Led by Udo Wozny

**March 29th & April 2nd:** The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

**April 5th & 9th:** Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Books will be available on Sunday for \$8.39 per copy or you can order directly from Amazon for paperback or Kindle copy



**Our Mission Endowment  
Committee Bringing Education To  
Bethel  
SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 2, 2020  
9:30-4:00**

If you are interested in how we might "do church" differently for the 21st Century or if you are concerned about the sustainability of the Church in future generations, please come and be a part of the conversations and solution.

**The Mission Endowment Committee has invited Dr. Jan Zimbleman** to Bethel to give a workshop on the relationship between the Church and western culture, contrasting the 20th and 21st Centuries, and the differences in faith and world views between generations.

Bethel will host Dr. Jan, but this will be presented to congregations throughout the Synod via Zoom, a web conferencing technology.

More information to follow.

## THIS WEEK

**Monday 3/16:**

- Boy Scouts meet at Bethel 6:00 pm

**Tuesday 3/17:**

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

**Wednesday 3/18:**

- Logos Family Worship dinner at 6:00 pm worship at 7:00 pm

**Thursday 3/19:**

- Lenten Book Study 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Soup Supper 6:15 pm, 7:00 pm Worship hosted by Logos, guest speaker: Rev. John Allen: Justice.

Cantor: *Dave Scholten*

**Friday 3/20:**

- Bethel Office is closed

**Saturday 3/21:**

- Close Knit meets 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

## UPCOMING

**Sunday 3/22:**

- Jubilate Choir will be playing during worship
- Lenten Book Study 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

**Monday 3/23:**

- Boy Scouts meet at Bethel 6:00 pm

**Tuesday 3/24:**

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

**Wednesday 3/25:**

- Montana Rural Water annual conference 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Logos Year End Party 5:30 - 7:00 pm

**Thursday 3/26:**

- Montana Rural Water annual conference 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Lenten Book Study 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Soup Supper 6:15 pm, 7:00 pm Worship hosted by Family Promise Volunteers, guest speaker: guest speaker: *Sharon Odden, LPA*: Justice toward self: stewardship of health, time, energy. Cantor: *Pastor Steve Van Gilder*

**Friday 3/27:**

- Montana Rural Water annual conference 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Bethel Office is closed

**Saturday 3/28:**

- French Trip meeting in the Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm



## CAMP UPDATE

Check out our programs on [the FLBC website](#). Register by April 1st to get our early bird discount and receive \$50 off! Volunteer Applications for pastors & adults open now! Adult volunteers, nurses, grandparents, pastors, alumni staff - apply soon as spaces are limited and fill quickly. Find the application [here](#).

### Upcoming Retreats

#### **Adult Spirituality Retreat: God with Muddy Hands**

**April 26-28, 2020** (Sunday- Tuesday) \$220/person full weekend; commuter rates: Sun-\$30, Mon-\$150, Tues-\$30 This retreat will help participants understand and experience the loving touch of our Potter through brief teachings, creative exploration and personal time with our Creator. Join us for this retreat led by Beth Ratzlaff and Brenda Satrum.

#### **Mother's Day Brunch May 10, 2020**

\$25/person, celebrate Mother's Day with brunch! We have 3 seatings: 9:30 am, 11 am, and 12:30 pm

#### **Memorial Day Work Retreat May 22-25, 2020**

FREE. Help us prepare for the summer season AND have a fun! RSVPs are required .

#### **Women's Retreat: Saying No, Saying Yes - A Spiritual Practice**

#### **June 12-14, 2020** \$160/person

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation as Pastor Miriam Schmidt leads us in engaging Bible study. *CEU credits available through NRIT*.

#### **Partner's Luncheon June 13, 2020**

Bring a friend who is new to FLBC's ministry and join us for lunch honoring all our generous Annual Fund and Capital Fund donors! Meet the 2020 summer staff and enjoy an afternoon at camp. Our speaker this year is the Reverend Dr. Laurie Jungling, Bishop of the ELCA Montana Synod.

**Scholarships available for camp.**

**To take advantage of this benefit,**

**turn in a copy of your camp registration confirmation from FLBC to our Bethel Office. \$100 will be paid directly to FLBC from Bethel.**

**Bulletin for  
March 15th**

