

BETHEL NOTES

Bethel Office will be closed Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day



Sunday, May 24th

Readings

Seventh Sunday of Easter

ACTS 1:6-14

1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

JOHN 17:1-11

Serving this Sunday

ACCOMPANIST

LYNN RYAN

VOCALS

KARRIE PEPOS

LAY ASSISTANT

SANDY PEPOS

USHERS

SUE HESSE

GREG GROSENICK

PROJECTIONIST

DAVE SCHOLTEN

TECH

COLTER MCCARTY

COUNTERS

TIM LIGHTBOURNE

GREG GROSENICK

This Sunday's in-person Worship will also be live streamed from Bethel Lutheran Church at 9:30 am. Live stream link and bulletin at bethelmt.org.

Please read the Reopening Guidelines on page 6. Masks are required.

Beginning Tuesday, May 26th Bethel Office Hours will resume regular time.

Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM and closed on Friday.

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 8:00 AM TO 1:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE TELEPHONE:

(406) 761-1543

WEBSITE:

WWW.BETHELMT.ORG

EMAIL:

BETHELGF.CHURCH@GMAIL.COM



- ✦ 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 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 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 continues to improve and hopes to be back soon.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ✦ Prayers for safety and support for **Eric Poser**, Connie Titcomb's nephew as he is deployed overseas.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and God's presence for **Chad Erickson** and family as they continue to work through medical testing.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence, healing & grace for **Bob Norbie** as he undergoes treatment for bladder cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson.
- ✦ Prayers of support and good health for **RN's Katie and Kelsey**, daughters of Grant and Janet Smith.
- ✦ Prayers for God's comfort for **Trudy (Earl) Terwilliger and their family** as they grieve the death of her brother, Mark Dillard.
- ✦ Prayers of healing, strength and support for **Rita Johnson (LaRae Veitch's sister)** as she begins her treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for God's consoling presence for Sandy Bechard's sister (**Linda Juvik**) and her family as they mourn the death of her brother-in-law's (Linda's husband) death.
- ✦ Prayer of comfort for **Sonja Baumgardner** as she and her family grieve the death of her niece Sandy Goodpastor.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence for consolation and comfort for **Katie & Steve Hurin (parents Jerry & Patty Kain)** as they mourn the death of their **Lincoln Andrew Hurin**.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence and peace for the **mother of Melinda Pike**, as she recovers from aortic valve replacement surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort the **mother of Greg Pike** as she has been admitted to peace hospice.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Dale Ost** as he is hospitalized.
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Bryan Bechard**, (Sandy Bechard's brother), who is hospitalized with pneumonia and blood clots.
- ✦ Prayers of gratitude to all the **men and women in military service** who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms as we remember and honor them this Memorial Day.

A Good, Good-bye

There comes a time when pastors say good-bye to their congregations. Retirement is one of those times. The good-byes... sometimes they are expected and sometimes they come unexpectedly.

In her book, *The Graceful Exit*, Mary C. Lindberg writes about the experience of a pastor's leave taking from a call - a congregation. "... before we (the pastor) steps out, God invites us in – into Word and Sacrament, into relationships, into our offices, and into our emotions about leaving. Within all these areas we look for answers to the big question we suddenly face: What makes a good good-bye?"



I'm living this question. Trying my best to answer it in my own way together with you. There is no easy way to say good-bye, especially as we live amidst a pandemic. It saddens me to think that I may not be able to say good-bye in person to many of you in light of these times. A lot of us can say that we strongly dislike having to say good-byes, so we avoid doing so at all costs. Some say, "I won't say good-bye. I'll just say... see you later." I have used that line before but not now. For a good good-bye for me is making the time to express what this call..this relationship has meant to me. What you have meant to me. It finds expression through the telling of stories. Lifting up memories of living in community (the sad and the joyous times) and expressing our gratitude to God who called and knit us together through Christ, in love. I also realize that with a good good-bye there will be the acknowledgment of separation and along with it, loss and grief. For me there has been anticipatory grief, for I know that the nature of our relationship will change. I will continue to live in the community of Great Falls but will no longer be your pastor. That will take some getting used to for all of us, myself and my wife, Kaye, included. At the last Council meeting, Bishop Laurie Jungling spoke to the Church Council about an interim pastor who will be coming to serve at Bethel and not long after my retirement begins. Stayed tuned to the Council's communications with you about what is in store.

In the meantime, I will intentionally work on a good good-bye and through the many and various ways we can do that in the time we have been given. It might be safe visit at the church. A phone or a Zoom call. It might be an email or a card. It might be a "porch visit" at your home or mine. You will continue to be in my prayers and I ask you to continue to keep me and Kaye in your prayers.

"I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything..." **1 Cor. 1: 4-5a, CEB**

With gratitude,
Pastor Steve

School Food Delivery:

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the schools. A delivery was made to the Food Bank to designate for the school pantries. Unfortunately the Food Bank no longer has specific shelves for the High Schools as some of the other agencies receiving food from the food bank thought the schools were getting "special" treatment. The food bank is still distributing food to all the schools from their over-all inventory. They promised me that 60% of all their food does go to the schools. So I went ahead and delivered our school designated food as planned.

My thoughts are, until the schools reopen in the fall, we should discontinue collecting food specifically for the schools at Bethel. What I would hope is that you would participate in other ways:

1. Continue to donate food to FISH or directly to the Food Bank.
2. Give a dollar donation to Great Falls Public School Foundation - designated for school food cupboards. This can be done online or mailed to 1100 4th Street South, Great Falls, MT. 59404
3. Contact a school of your choice and see if they are accepting food through the summer and deliver the food at your convenience.
4. Continue to Pray that no child goes hungry during this uncertain time.

As we hear more about the Fall school schedules and/or their food needs we will keep you posted. In the meantime Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Stay fed. God Bless.

Terry Korpela
terry.korpela@gmail.com

Calling All 2020 Graduates!

We will be highlighting all 2020 graduates in the next issue of Bethel Notes. Please send in a picture or announcement so we can celebrate this amazing group of young adults.

email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
 or
 send: 1009 18th Ave SW, 59404



KNIT TOGETHER THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer shawl. Peace shawl. Comfort shawl, Prayer Cloth, Prayer Quilt. Whatever name you give them, they serve the same purpose. These are a wearable (or carry-able) hug, crafted with love from crafter to receiver. With a little prayer it is these thoughts imbued in the shawl with each stitch that make them what they are.

At Bethel we have a lovely group of ladies that meet twice a month and create prayer cloths, prayer shawls and now prayer quilts. A 2 inch by 2 inch pocket "quilt" that contains within it a cross. These are easily put in pockets or purses and gives a reminder that you are loved and prayed for.

If you not someone is is going through a tough time, loss of loved one, personal depression or anxiety, or maybe a happy occasion of a birth or marriage and would like to gift one of these prayers to a loved one. Contact any member of Close Knit, the Bethel Office or Pastor Steve and we would be happy to help you.



*May this prayer shawl enfold
you in love, warmth,
comfort, healing and peace.*



*May the God of
Hope fill you with
all joy and peace as
you trust in Him, so
that you may
overflow with hope
by the power of the
Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

If you have a story you would like to share on how a prayer shawl or prayer cloth has comforted you or someone you love and would like to share on Sunday or would like Pastor to share, let him know at bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com



This "Pocket Prayer Quilt" was made especially for you to slip in your pocket. Throughout the day when your fingers touch the cross inside the quilt, be mindful of God's love and grace for you. Keep it as a tangible symbol of God's peace.

Bethel Lutheran Church Church Council Reopening Guidelines

***We will still be offering a live stream of the service
for those who wish to worship from home.***

Guidelines:

- Front doors will be propped open and only entrance into the Church
- Masks will be **required** and we have some available to parishioners.
- A table is at the front doors with hand sanitizer, masks and tissues for your use. Ushers will be there to assist with masks and help people find seats. We ask that would you also sign the welcome pad as you come in.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet will be observed.
- Holy communion will be offered at a later date. We will be announcing prior to Sunday worship when we resume.
- Windows and doors will be opened to increase air circulation.
- Signs on the restroom doors should be used to indicate if you are in the bathroom in an effort to keep the 6 feet physical distance.
- The Gathering Place doors will be closed and sign posted as well as west side doors will remain locked to prevent cross contamination to the TLC Daycare.
- The kitchen, Fellowship Hall and back office hall doors will be closed.
- Hospitality area will be closed.
- An offering plate is set up as you enter Bethel and will not be passed during the the service.
- We will pass the peace in a no-contact fashion.
- Sanctuary will be cleaned with disinfect cleaner after each Sunday worship service.

Please consider the following **before you return to worship:**

- Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone who has traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms in the past 30 days?
- Have you had any of these symptoms:
 - Fever over 100.4
 - Persistent cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sudden loss of taste or smell

If you answered YES to any of these questions, please do not enter and contact your health care provider.

Our Companions in Bolivia--Who is my neighbor?

Covid-19 is reminding us that we are all connected across the globe, for better or for worse. Congregations in the Montana Synod are working hard to find ways to continue to care for our neighbors--through food banks, homeless shelters, children's programs, distribution of masks. The congregations of the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, one of our companion synods, are also finding ways to serve their neighbors. But they need help. Bolivia is the poorest country in Latin America, and our churches there are made up of the poorest of the poor. Yet even in their own time of need, they are sharing with their neighbors.

The IELB has contacted the Montana Synod and requested our assistance in helping them feed their neighbors and provide other Covid-19-related assistance. Bishop Laurie Jungling asked me to head up the effort to raise \$3500 for our companions in Bolivia.

It would be great if we could make this a Pentecost offering, using the month of May to collect funds. Please remember our fellow Christians in Bolivia and give generously.

We are taking lead from the Montana Synod and ask you to do one of these 4 things:

- Pray for the people of Bolivia
- Consider a personal or family gift
- Bethel will be gifting \$500.00 toward this goal on top of congregational donations.
- Share this request with others you know who have a heart for these neighbors

Make checks payable to "Bethel Lutheran Church", with "Bolivia Hunger" on the memo line. Mail your donation to Bethel or drop it in the offering trays when we gather for worship on May 17th.

Gracias!


On behalf of Pastor Jessica Crist and Bishop Laurie Jungling

Pastor Presidente German shared the following pictures from the Lake and Viacha Districts in Bolivia.



The Montana Synod has set a goal to raise \$3500 by the end of May. As of today Bethel has raised almost \$1400.00 including the \$500.00 that Bethel Council is donating beyond the congregational donations. There is still time to add to the goal!!

Electric City BIBLE Study On - Line!



What a great way to connect with one another!
Join the Electric City Bible Study on a Zoom conference Tuesday morning at 6:30 am. If you are interested in joining email Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of this week's Lectionary texts as we meet through a social distancing approved Zoom video call each Tuesday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 am. Breakfast recipes and ideas will be provided. If you are interested in more information or would like to be added to the call invitation list, click on the email link below and type "breakfast" into the subject line (and then of course press send).

dscholten@dlsconsulting.net



EVENTS AT BETHEL

If you have questions about a specific event, please email the church at bethelgf.church@gmail.com or call 761-1543 and we will do our best to answer your questions if a new date has been selected.

Calendar Of Events

Sunday, May 24th

- Worship 9:30 in person & live stream
- End Family Promise host week

Monday, May 25th

- Memorial Day, office closed

Tuesday, May 26th

- Electric City Bible Study meets online 6:30 am
- Men's Breakfast meets online 7:00 am

Wednesday, May 27th

- Jack Forde baptism 6:00 pm

Friday, May 29th

- Kaison Nebel baptism 3:30 pm

Sunday, May 31st

- Worship 9:30 in person & live stream

Tuesday, June 2nd

- Electric City Bible Study meets online 6:30 am
- Men's Breakfast meets online 7:00 am

Thursday, June 4th

- Council Exec Board conference call 5:30 pm

Sunday, June 7th

- Worship 9:30 in person & live stream; World Hunger Sunday; Confirmation Sunday

Tuesday, June 9th

- Electric City Bible Study meets online 6:30 am
- Men's Breakfast meets online 7:00 am
- Council meeting online 6:30 pm