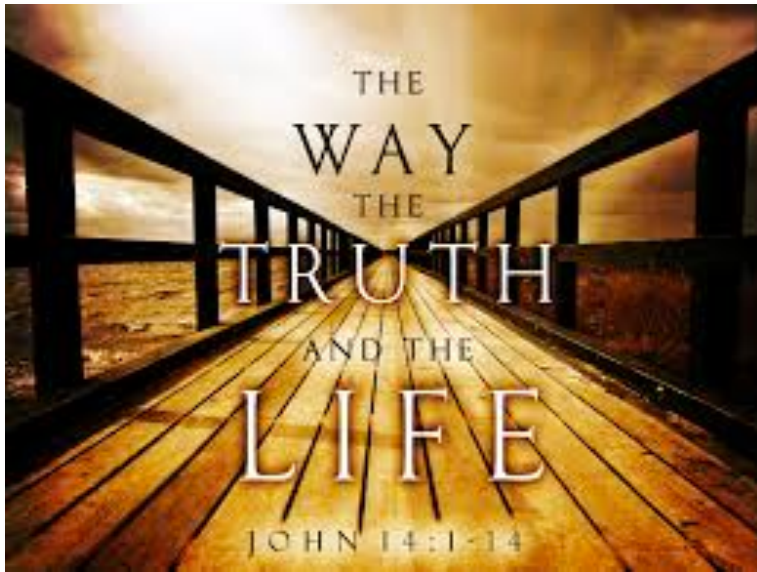


# BETHEL NOTES



*Sunday, May 10th*

## Readings

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

ACTS 7:55-60

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

1 PETER 2:2-10

JOHN 14:1-14

Members, guests and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church:

This Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day, we will be once again be live streaming worship from Bethel at 9:30 am. You are invited to worship with us online by clicking the link "Sunday Worship 9:30 am" on our homepage. The service can be viewed anytime after worship begins. It is a non-communion worship service.

We are making plans and are hopeful to reconvene public worship on May 17th at 9:30 am. Your input has helped us to craft guidelines for how we will be gathering for the service.

We will produce and post a video on the home page of our website for you to view by next Thursday. This will give you a visual guide on entry and exit into worship. We will be celebrating the sacrament of holy communion and this too will look a little different and will be covered in the above mentioned video. We will also give printed information in this newsletter. In our estimation we can seat approximately 65 people allowing for six feet physical distancing.

In the mean time, feel free to call the church (761-1543), email: [www.bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:www.bethelgf.church@gmail.com). Our hours are 8-1:30, Monday – Thursday. Closed on Fridays. Your continued prayers are appreciated! God's blessings to you and your family!

Stay safe.

*Pastor Steve*

**This Sunday's Worship** is a live stream from Bethel Lutheran Church [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org) and bulletin online at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org). Link to online service also available on our website.

**For those who do not have access to the internet**, we will be sending a copy of the bulletin. Blessings and prayers to all.

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

OFFICE TELEPHONE:

(406) 761-1543

WEBSITE:

[WWW.BETHELMT.ORG](http://WWW.BETHELMT.ORG)

EMAIL:

[BETHELGF.CHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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 of healing for **Cindy Brattain** as she recovers from a medical procedure.
- ✦ 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 recover at home.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing 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 of healing and God's presence for **Chad Erickson** and family as they await results of medical testing.
- ✦ Prayers for God's presence, healing & grace for **Bob Norbie** (Mary Lou) as he faces a diagnosis of bladder cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson.
- ✦ Prayers of support and good health for all as we move into phase 1 of reopening Montana, especially those in nursing homes, patients in hospitals, health care workers, first responders, and others who working the front lines to fight this pandemic.
- ✦ Prayers of strength and support for our **GFPS staff and students** as they finish out the school year with online learning. Are hearts are with our 2020 High School Seniors and college graduates as well as the 8th grade, 6th grade, and kindergarten classes that have reached a milestone in their education and are unable to participate in the year-end events.
- ✦ Prayers of strength and protection for those **students that GFPS have not been able to reach** since the school closure. Pray they are getting the food and shelter they need.
- ✦ 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 the mourn the death of her brother-in-law's (Linda's husband) death.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Allan Ost**, son of Dale and Leona as he recovers at home from outpatient surgery.
- ✦ Prayer of comfort for **Sonja Baumgardner as she and her family** grieve the death of her niece Sandy Goodpastor.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Mike Seyfert**, nephew of Don and Thelma Seyfert as his cancer has returned.

# Words from the Bishop: Lament in a Pandemic

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I've been thinking a lot about lament lately. Maybe it's because life seems so precarious right now or perhaps it's because I've been encouraged to do so by those who say it is a necessary part of walking through the stress, anxieties, fears and grief of a pandemic. But lament has been much on my mind and I've been wondering if it might serve as a helpful way to connect with God.

A lament is a type of prayer that expresses the in-depth feelings of a suffering person or community to God. Usually a lament has five parts, not necessarily in this order:

1) **A cry**, wail, moan or wordless wail that expresses the suffering of the person praying. "How long, O Lord?!" or "My God, why have you forgotten me?" or just "Why, God?" are good examples. Or check out this music teacher's song expressing her feelings about online teaching to her students. <https://www.ctv.ca/Your-Morning/Video/Teachers-song-about-her-feelings-during-the-pandemic-made-our-hosts-cry-of-laughter-vid1943353>



2) **An airing of grievances to God** or sharing of feelings. Telling God what's wrong, naming the sufferings, calling out who the sufferer thinks is responsible. Basically laying at God's feet all that sucks in one's life right now.

3) **Invoking God**. This can include a sharing of memories of God's help in the past or telling of God's history of salvation. It might also describe the petitioner's trust in God, even in the midst of the suffering.

4) **The ask**. Here those praying ask God to help them, to give them relief, to bring about some sort of deliverance from the pain being experienced. Sometimes a reason is given as to why God should help such as "I've kept the faith" or "what will others think about you if you fail me."

5) **Praising God**. Lifting up God's glory, might, grace, justice, faithfulness or goodness in worship, praise and song.

The Bible, particularly the Psalms, is full of both individual and communal laments. A lament that many of us may be familiar with is Psalm 22 which is read on Maundy Thursday. The first line, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?!" is what Jesus cries from the cross as his lament. Another shorter lament is Psalm 13 which is printed below. See if you can find the five parts of the Lament.

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have  
sorrow in my heart all day  
long?

How long shall my enemy  
be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me,  
O Lord my God!  
Give light to my eyes, or I  
will sleep the sleep of death,  
and my enemy will say, 'I  
have prevailed';  
my foes will rejoice  
because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

During these days of suffering of all different types – grief, anger, fear, hopelessness, apathy, anxiety, or whatever you're feeling – I invite you to share your sufferings with God in your own lament. I know it helped me when, last week, I wrote down my lament. (If you want to hear it, [watch](#) the worship service for Sunday, May 3. **A written version is on the website here.**)

As you consider this idea, remember that there is no one right or wrong way to lament. Maybe you sit down and write one out or maybe you

speak it, pray it, sing it, think it, moan it, exercise it or sigh it. No need to worry about the words you use: look at what some of the lamenters in the Psalms wrote and you'll see they hold back no punches, either with God, themselves or their enemies. It does not have to be perfect; it doesn't even have to be good. These are your sufferings and emotions and God will understand what you're trying to communicate. And you don't need to share it with anyone but God.

For some further guidance on how to write a psalm of lament as well as a list of the Psalms of lament in scripture, go to <https://annarborvineyard.org/participate/spiritual-formation/writing-a-psalm-of-lament/>

In the meantime, take home to your hearts the words from Psalm 31 for this week, which is also a lament: "In you, O God, I seek refuge...You are indeed my rock and my fortress...Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God."

May God bless and keep you in this season of laments,

Bishop Laurie

## A Message from Family Promise



Good afternoon, all!

As we move forward with our operations, we wanted to notify everyone that D.J. Lott is no longer a member of Family Promise of Great Falls. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Board of Directors at [fampromisegf@gmail.com](mailto:fampromisegf@gmail.com). Board Chair Joe Ryan will be filling in as interim director.

We are continuing to provide services to our current guest family.

### 1) MEALS FOR THE FAMILY

Meals (breakfast, lunches, and dinners) for the family can be dropped at 1909 Mountain View Drive, on the front porch. Interested volunteers can also order grocery delivery and/or meal delivery for that address! Bethel Lutheran Church will be hosting the week of May 17th. Online signups will be available soon.

### 2) ROTATIONAL HOST SCHEDULE

Our guest family is sheltering in place and will continue to do so until the pandemic guidelines are lifted. We are not moving beds or the family to any host sites for the time being.

### 3) GUEST FAMILY HOUSING

Our guests are making excellent progress towards finding safe and affordable housing - we are hoping to have them moved when more offices reopen to new tenants.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to Family Promise of Great Falls!

# One Day at a Time

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I was moved when I saw the news story about some Europeans, who had been 'locked down' due to the pandemic, coming out to their balconies to sing aloud for themselves and their neighbors. All meant to lift down trodden spirits. I, too, turn to music to lift my spirits and a particular hymn of the faith comes to mind, *Day by Day*, lyrics written by nineteenth century Swedish hymnwriter named Carolina Sandell Berg. This hymn is in the ELW #790.

This hymn was born out of personal pain and tragedy in her life, the death of her father. Lina (pronounced Lie-nah) had written other songs before this tragedy, but this one flowed to God from a grief stricken heart. It is filled with promise and hope for all whose hearts are anxious and heavy.

## Day by Day

- 1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I'll find eternal rest.
- 2 Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.
- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.

Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.

*Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005*

In the gospel reading for this Sunday, John 14: 1-14, the disciples have been told by their Lord that he will be leaving them and to a place to which they cannot follow him. Bewildered, they ask him to show them the way to this place and he tells them, that they know the way. They know the WAY because it is Jesus himself. He promises to be their guide, and to take them to the place of which he has prepared for them. For where he is there they will be also.

We are living in a time which is filled with uncertainty. But in light of that, we take one day at a time, putting one foot in front of the other. Lina's hymn speaks to us, "Day by Day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul...." The book of Lamentations says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." **Lamentations 3:22,23**

One day at a time, is not the way many of us are accustomed to living. We like to have our plans all worked out in advance. I like to have the worship plans outlined weeks in advance. But a pandemic has dictated the timelines. So we live one day at a time. Adapt to the uncertainties. But with the hope which Lina and we know comes from the Lord, "*Oh what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear; Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand. Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.*"

With gratitude to God, that God's mercies daily attend to all of us, too!

*Pastor Steve*

## Resuming Food Collection for Fish and Schools:

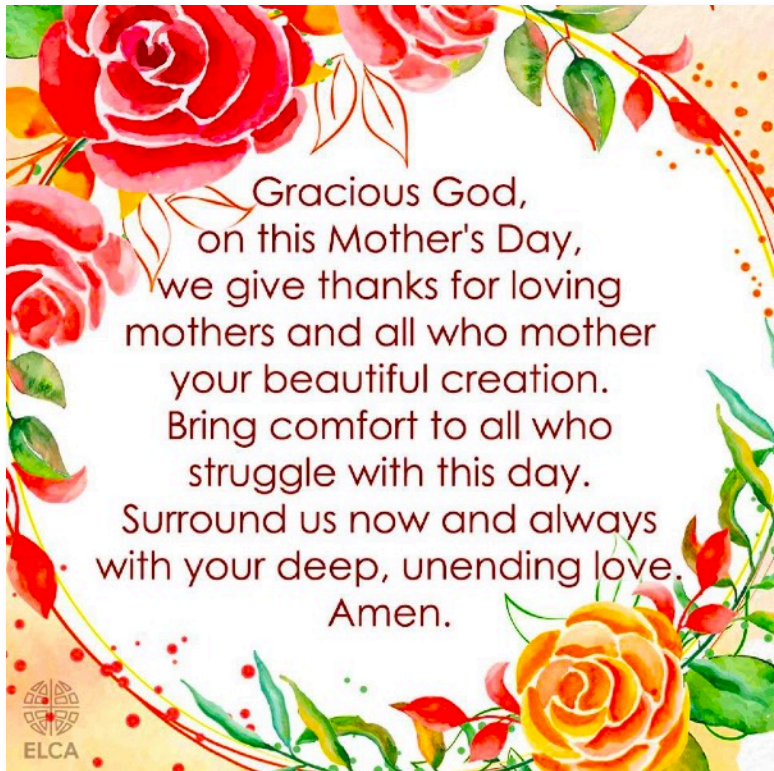
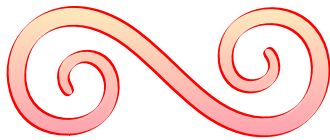
We know many of you have been diligently supporting Fish and our schools through the quarantine by either delivering food or monetary donations and we thank you for your faithful outreach during this difficult time. Even though we do not know if schools will reopen we know kids are still hungry and depend on the generosity of our community for food distribution.

Fish provides food for families while the food bank provides food to organizations - one of which is the school food cupboards. With school closures we are thinking instead of delivering food to individual schools it might be easier to delivery food directly to the food bank for distribution to the schools.

Bethel will resume collecting food in the entry way for both Fish and the schools. You can bring your food to Bethel during office hours Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 1:30 pm (temporary office hours) and we will get the food delivered to Fish and the Food Bank with instructions that the food be designated for the schools. This will be our practice for now and throughout the summer.

Hopefully in the fall we can go back to helping individual school food cupboards

Thank you for your continued generosity. Until we see each other in person. Stay safe. Stay healthy. God Bless.



### EVENTS AT BETHEL

There are a few upcoming events that some may be wondering how/when they will take place. If you have questions about a specific event, please email the church at [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Online meetings** Men's Breakfast Electric City Bible and Hope Circle are all meeting on Zoom.

**Church Council** regular meeting via Zoom Tuesday, May 12th 6:30 pm. If you would like to sit in on the meeting, email Pastor Steve for the link [bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com)

**Confirmation** has been reschedule to June 7th worship service 9:30 am.

**Family Promise** Host week May 17th - 24th. Will host offsite.

**Close Knit** on hold.

## 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 is will be considering a congregational gift at our next Council meeting on May 12th.
- 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.



As we resume gathering for worship we will once again be receiving our weekly delivery of fresh flowers for the altar from Herman's Flowers. If you had signed up previously and would like to check your Sunday or would like to check for Sunday's that are open please call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543.

The cost is \$15.00 and can be paid through your church offering, note flowers in the memo line of your check or online giving.

## 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](mailto:lolli51gus@icloud.com) and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.

### Hope Circle

has gone online!

Next meeting  
Thursday, May 7th  
7:00 PM

If you are interested  
in connecting contact  
Marilyn Carlson  
[marilyn.j.carlson@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.j.carlson@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:dscholten@dlsconsulting.net)



### Please mark your calendars for these FLBC sponsored events date changes:

**May 22-25- Memorial Day Weekend Work Retreat**-rescheduled for Labor Day weekend: September 4-7; our regular Labor Day family camp program will happen the same weekend.

**June 11-13- Women's Retreat**, rescheduled for September 11-13; Pastor Miriam Schmidt will still serve as our retreat leader. June 12th- Partners Luncheon- rescheduled for October 10th. Luncheon will take place just prior to the annual meeting- we hope you will stay and enjoy the meeting!