

Office Hours:

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed on Thursday and Friday



# BETHEL NOTES

## Sunday

### December 1



#### Readings for First Sunday of Advent

ISAIAH 2:1-5 ROMANS 13:11-14 MATTHEW 24:36-44

**Sunday at Bethel** we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. The word advent comes from the Latin phrase *adventus Domini* which translates 'Coming of the Lord.' Advent is a short but rich season (four weeks) of the church year. Today's readings speak of watching and waiting for the return of Christ.

During these four weeks, an **adult forum will be offered three different times during the week**: Sundays after worship (11-12) in the Fellowship Hall; Monday evenings (6:30-8pm) at Bethel in the room next to the front entrance; and on Thursday mornings (10-11:15) in Fellowship Hall. All will be led by Pastor Steve. Together we will take a closer look at the Gospel of Matthew...it's distinctiveness and key themes.

**World Hunger Sunday.** An additional offering will be received in support of ELCA World Hunger in the wicker basket.

We are also in need of some Christmas Elves (volunteers) who would be willing to help decorate after the service. We will need help assembling and decorating the narthex after the worship service.

#### **Serving This Sunday**

##### **Accompanist:**

Kim Peachy

##### **Lay Assistant:**

Sandy Pepos

##### **Usher(s):**

The Elkin Family

##### **Projectionist:**

Dave Scholten

##### **Counters:**

Patty Braget

Doug Sexe

##### **Childcare:**

Isabelle Grosenick

Allison Marr

##### **Hospitality:**

The Elkin Family

# 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** 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 of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to heal.
- ◆ Prayers for God's presence and healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Robby and Cindy Brattain**.
- ◆ Prayers for **Don Seyfert** as he continues to heal from surgery and undergo medical treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for God's presence and healing touch for **John Korpela**, as he continues to recover.
- ◆ Prayers for comfort for **Jenette Rankin** mother of Jeanne Rankin.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for **Joni Rae Collins** as she recovers from surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for the **Peoples of Boliva** as they transition into new leadership within the country and prayers for **Pastor Presidente German and the IELB**.
- ◆ Travel mercies and blessings for **those traveling** during the Thanksgiving holiday.
- ◆ Prayers for **Walt and Leone Nuessle**.
- ◆ Prayers **Eldon Engan** (cousin of Amber Erickson) as he recovers from a double lung transplant.
- ◆ Continued prayers for the Nominating Committee as they seek nominees to serve in leadership positions at Bethel.
- ◆ Prayers for Strategic Planning Committee as they continue their work of

## *A Prayer for Thanksgiving*

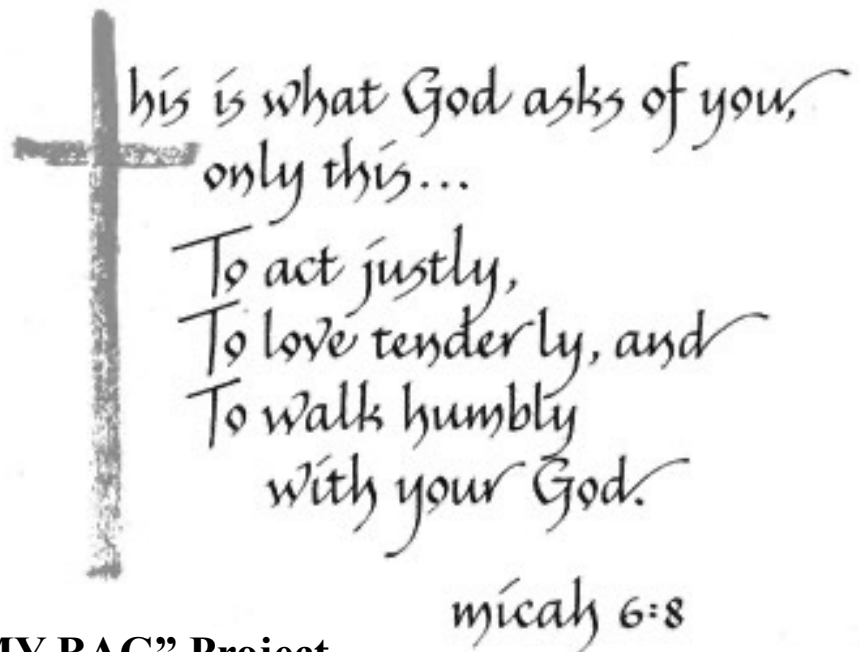
Loving God,  
 We turn our hearts to you on this  
 day for giving thanks, mindful of  
 your many gifts.  
 For each one, we are grateful.  
 For each one, we are blessed.  
 For each one we are opened to the  
 abundance of your love.  
 May this Thanksgiving Day offer a  
 reminder to be generous with others,  
 as you are with us.  
 We praise you.  
 We rejoice in you.  
 We give you thanks.  
 Amen.

## **Adult Forums: Let's Take a Closer Look at the Gospel of Matthew**

The liturgical calendar year begins with the season of Advent on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. In the three year lectionary cycle, we will journey in Year A and the gospel of Matthew will be the gospel most often heard in worship (40 X's). With that in mind, Pastor Steve will be offering a brief overview of the gospel with a focus on material unique to Mathew as well as major themes. This will be a four week series and will be offered on Sunday's (12/1, 8, 15, 22) after worship, Monday nights (12/2, 9, 16 & 23) from 6:30-8pm as well as on Thursday mornings (12/5, 12, \*19 combining 2 sessions) from 10-11:15am. Bring your bibles and join in the presentations and conversation. Look for a sign up sheet on a table at church or email Pastor Steve at [bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com).

## 2020 Financial Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to those of you that have returned to the church your estimate of giving cards for the 2020 year. If you haven't returned them we encourage you to do so. They may be placed in the box as you enter the church or may be placed in the offering plate during the worship service.



### **“IT’S MY BAG” Project**

This year, through our Giving Tree, we are excited to support our local Children in need, through our “It’s My Bag” Project. Since January of this year, there have been over 349 new children who have entered our court system due to abuse or neglect. These children leave their home with their personal belongings in a trash bag! Our children are not trash! We believe every child deserves some dignity! These children are placed in foster homes scared and confused!

No child should have to carry his or her belongings in a trash bag! A duffle bag, along with some hygiene essentials and their own name tag on their bag, will send these children entering foster care a message, a message that they are important and cared for by our community.

You can help sponsor these items by donating through our Giving Tree. Please pick an ornament and attach your check to support this project.

You can show your support by giving:

\$5 for a Name Tag

\$15 for a Hygiene Kit

\$25 for a Duffle Bag

\$45 for an “It’s My Bag” Kit (includes all the items above).

Please note your donation item in the memo portion of your check.

Bethel Lutheran Church  
High School LOGOS



# SKI TRIP

**WHO:** BLC's High School Logos group, friends & chaperones.

**WHAT:** Soaking in White Sulphur's Hot Springs and Skiing/Boarding at Showdown Ski Area. We will be staying on the floor at American Lutheran Church of White Sulphur Springs. We will be making dinner at the church, soaking in the hot springs that night and then skiing/boarding Showdown the next day until 4pm. We will be heading back to Great Falls after that.

**WHEN:** Fri., Dec. 20 - Sat, Dec. 21. We will be meeting at the church to caravan down at 4pm.

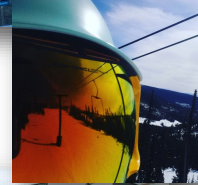
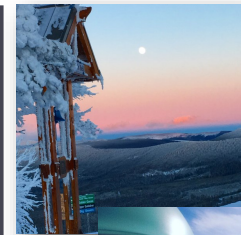
**BRING:** Overnight bag, sleeping bag/pad/pillow, ski gear, money for lunch at Showdown.

**COST:** Hot Springs: \$7 Adults, \$6 ages 13-17.  
Showdown: \$39 junior lift ticket (\$34 with group of 15+), \$29 ski rental or \$37 snowboard rental.

Food: Dinner and Breakfast is provided, but lunch is on your own at Showdown.

**CONTACT:** If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Steve: 761-1543 / [bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com)  
Steph Richardson: 579-8897 Dan Richardson 579-2093

**REGISTRATION:** Permissions forms are to be turned into the church by Dec 18.



## **Great Falls Uptown Optimists Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament**

Can you help us by judging at our upcoming Speech & Debate Tournament?

Please add to your community calendars and help us spread the word about this opportunity!

This year, **C.M. Russell High School is hosting the Electric City Optimists Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2019.** Please take some time to read the announcement below and register to judge for the tournament using the link or via your phone using the QR Code.

Please consider taking part in this excellent opportunity to come see some of the best and brightest students from across the State of Montana demonstrate their ability in public speaking and knowledge of current affairs.

Note that by filling out the form below, you are officially committed to judging for the spots you signed up for. Please call (406) 616-2695 if you need to make changes or cancel. There is going to be free food available for judges. Let us know if you have any questions.

### **Friday, December 13th:**

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School

4:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM

Debate Rounds at North Middle School and CMR

4:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM

### **Saturday, December 14th:**

Speech Rounds at CM Russell High School

8:30 AM | 10:30 AM | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM

Debate Rounds at North Middle School and CMR

8:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 6:00 PM

### **Registration Options:**

- Click on the link at <https://forms.gle/wkDsJ4xkNQsVyRjm8>;
- Email [cmrjudgerecruiting@gmail.com](mailto:cmrjudgerecruiting@gmail.com) or [steven\\_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us); or
- Call (406) 616-2695, and leave a message that details day, time, and any event preferences you may have.

# Coming Up at FLBC

## Youth Ski & Snowboard Retreat

January 10-12, 2020

\$115/person (2 adults free with each church group)

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow, worship, and FUN! Try downhill skiing or snowboarding, cross-country skiing, or spend the day hanging out at camp! Post skiing activities to include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, time to relax with new friends, and worship.

## Tea Party

February 15, 2020

2-4 pm at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

\$10/person

Grandparents, guardians, parents, bring your kiddos to a Valentine's Day "Tea Party!" All ages are welcome; our programming will focus on children ages 4-12. Food, crafts, singing, and fun with a special "princess" guest!

[FLBC.net](http://FLBC.net) for more information.

# Christmas Elves Needed

Sunday, December 1st

11:00 AM following worship

Stay and help decorate the church for Christmas!

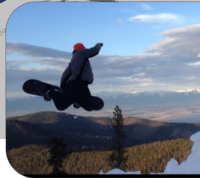
We have:

- 2, 12-ft trees to put up & decorate
- the large Nativity Scene
- assorted lights and other decorations for the narthex and sanctuary

Come on come all and let's share a little holiday cheer as we deck the halls!!!



Junior High & Senior High  
**Ski Retreat**  
January 10-12, 2020  
Grades 7-12  
\$115/person  
(2 adults free with each church group,  
Non-refundable \$50 deposit/person due by January 1st)



Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and FUN! Spend your days skiing or snowboarding at Whitefish Mountain Resort or Blacktail Mountain Resort with your youth group.

Downhill snow sports not your forte? Some of the best cross-country ski trails in the Flathead Valley are a few miles from camp, or spend the day at camp relaxing, studying and enjoying the view of Flathead Lake. Post skiing activities to include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, time to relax with new friends, and worship.

Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends with breakfast on Sunday. Sack lunches will be provided for both Saturday and Sunday.



**Wednesday, November 27th**

**7:00 pm**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**1326 1st Ave N.**

This is a combined worship service with First Presbyterian Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church and First United Methodist. The offering will be dedicated to Helping Hands, an outreach ministry of First English Lutheran Church. Also, a joint choir will be singing and all are invited to join. . Please arrive for rehearsal at 6:15 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. There will be a time of fellowship in Lunde Fellowship Hall after worship. Pastor Steve Van Gilder is preaching.

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## **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE THANKSGIVING DINNER**

First United Methodist Church in downtown Great Falls will host the annual Ruthann Knudson *free* Thanksgiving dinner beginning at 1:00 pm on Thanksgiving day.

Ruthann started the dinner for those in the community who would be alone on Thanksgiving day and didn't have the means to provide a meal for themselves. We feel privileged to serve several hundred people most of who are working poor and homeless. We also provide take-out meals for people who cannot come and for people who would like to take food home for the next meal.

We can use your help as we share the heart-warming experience of touching the lives of those in need with the love of God. We are asking for those who can help serve and clean up after the meal. We would also welcome homemade salads or pies. We always accept monetary donations, but the gift of your time would be the most appreciated.

If you can help, please call Karen Thornton at 406-799-7992 or FUMC church office at 453-3114.

Thank you and God bless. Rev. Jeff Wakeley



Thank you to everyone who participated in the dessert auction and bake sale this year. From the bakers to the bidders to the helpers you are all so generous to take the time and effort to support our youth ministry here at Bethel and FLBC.

A special shout out to Patty Braget who engineered the art sale as well as run the event so my family and I could take some time together. She is a wonderful leader with a beautiful heart. Thanks also to Dave Scholten who served as the auctioneer.

You are all a gift and I am so blessed to have such a loving community. Thank you so very deeply.

Blessings, Tami Grosenick

**We collected a total of: \$4,950.00!!!**

Art Sales:	\$ 950.00
Pie Auction (VBS) :	\$3,542.50
FLBC Scholarships:	\$ 457.50

Hope Circle  
Christmas Party  
Saturday, Dec. 14  
6:00 PM  
The Carlson's Home  
329 Hyland  
Drive

**Daily Text for New Year are on order.**

**Two different Advent devotionals are available and can be found on the tract rack by the front door and on the table in the narthex..**

## TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump has selected FISH to be a part of the 18th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign for 2019. Your local FISH has seen an over 20% increase this year in the numbers we provide for.

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.

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## THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

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**Monday 12/2:**

- Scout Troop 1028 meeting at Bethel 6:00 pm
- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew at 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the room next to the front entrance

**Tuesday 12/3:**

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

**Wednesday 12/4:**

- Logos 5:30-7:30 pm

**Thursday 12/5:**

- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Council Exec Board conference call 4:30 pm

**Friday 12/6:**

- Bethel Office is closed
- Aitz Chaim First Friday Shabbat service in the sanctuary 6:00 pm.

**Saturday 12/7:**

- Close Knits meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am.




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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Sunday 12/8:**

- Farewell Godspeed for Tom and Linda Rosenbaum
- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

**Monday 12/9:**

- Scout Troop 1028 meeting at Bethel 6:00 pm
- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday 12/10:**

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

**Wednesday 12/11:**

- Wednesday Worship led by Logos 6:00 pm meal 7:00 pm worship

**Thursday 12/12:**

- Adult Faith Formation study of Matthew 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Tot Lot Christmas Party in the Gathering Place at 6:00 pm

**Friday 12/13:**

- Bethel Office is closed.

**Saturday 12/14:**

- Hope Circle Christmas party at Jim and Marilyn Carlson's 329 Hylande Drive 6:00 pm