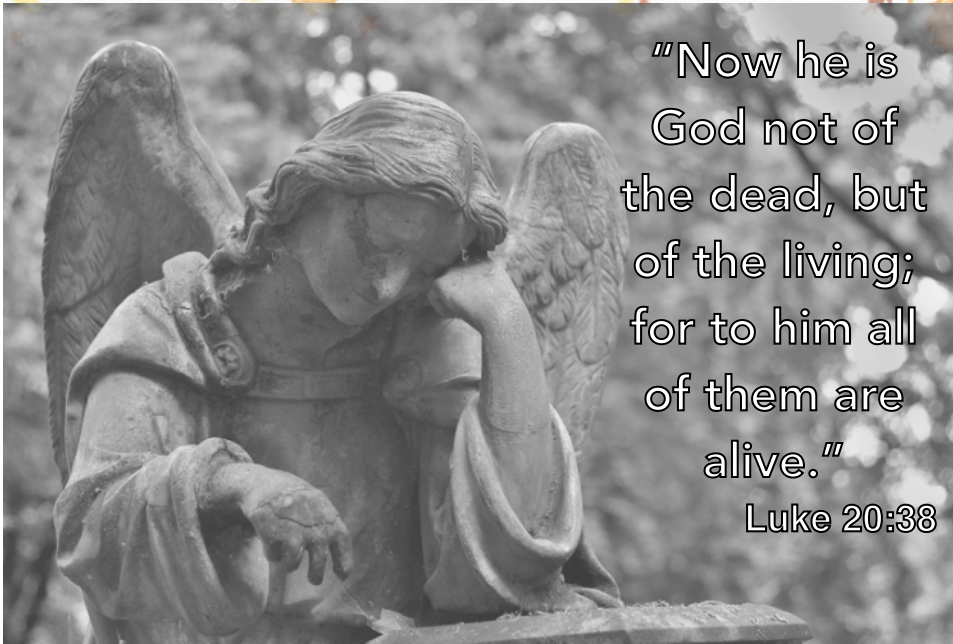


Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:30 PM Closed on Fridays

BETHEL NOTES



"Now he is
God not of
the dead, but
of the living;
for to him all
of them are
alive."

Luke 20:38

Sunday

November 10

**Serving This
Sunday**

Accompanist:

Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant:

Marjorie Holland

Usher(s):

Sue Hesse

Projectionist:

Tim Lightbourne

Counters:

Tim Lightbourne

Dena Wagner-Fossen

Childcare:

Morgan Dunn

Isabelle Grosenick

Hospitality Host:

Joni Collins

Readings for Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

JOB 19:23-27A

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-5, 13-17

LUKE 20:27-38

This Sunday at Bethel:

we welcome and thank Jim Carlson, LPA, who is preaching and presiding in worship with the permission of Bishop Laurie Jungling, of the MT Synod of the ELCA. Pastor Steve Van Gilder is representing Bishop Jungling and the MT Synod at the Fifth ELCA Companion Synod Consultation in Antigua, Guatemala. He will return to the office on Tuesday, November 12th.

We also welcome the sweet sounds of the Jubilate Choir as they sign the anthem Little David, Play On Your Harp.

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 for healing for **Marj Vander Aarde** as she continues to heal.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Robby and Cindy Brattain**.
- ♦ Prayers for **Don Seyfert** as he continues to heal from surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of comfort and healing for **Bert Rogers** father of Judy (Warren) Johnson.
- ♦ Prayers for God's presence and healing touch for **John Korpela**, as he recovers from a second surgery.
- ♦ Prayers for God's healing for **Scott Murphy** (son of Leonard & Shelly) as he recovers at home.
- ♦ Prayers for comfort for **Jenette Rankin** mother of Jeanne Rankin.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Karen (Jim) Stutzman**.
- ♦ Prayers of comfort for **The Dunn Family (Crystal & Carl)** as they mourn the death of Crystal's stepfather Al Tomei.
- ♦ Prayers for a safe trip for **Pastor Steve and Pastor Natalie Faltin** as they travel return home from Guatemala.
- ♦ Prayers of celebration for **John and Becki Barnes** as they welcome their new baby son **Oakley** to their family.
- ♦ Prayer of safe travel and happy homecomings for the **Deployed Guardsmen of the 120th Airlift Wing** as they return from Kuwait.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Joni Rae Collins** as she prepares for surgery next week.



Words from the Bishop: Welcome

What does it mean to welcome? Many of us say “All are Welcome!” to our congregations or ministries. But what does that mean?

According to Ruth Fletcher, in her book *Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*, there is a difference between being “friendly” and being “welcoming.” (pp. 75ff) *Friendliness* invites newcomers into what already exists and then expects them to change to fit into the current system. People in a friendly community say in subtle or not-so-subtle ways: “We’re glad you joined our family. But it’s OUR family and we hope you like the way we do things. If not, there’s the door.”

Welcoming, on the other hand, integrates newcomers into the community by letting them be themselves and allowing them to belong as equal partners with gifts, ideas, and experiences to share. Welcoming is willing to explore the new opportunities that newcomers can offer. In a welcoming community, members say with everything they say and do: “We want you to share your gifts and we’re ready to be transformed by them.”

Fletcher tells the story of a congregation whose members thought they were welcoming. {p.78} But as the newcomers began to take more responsibilities in fulfilling the mission of the congregation by trying new things and encouraging new ways of being community, the friendliness with which they were greeted when they arrived disappeared. Fletcher writes, “The established members complained that the

women who had more recently come...didn’t comply with the rules of the church kitchen. Others grumbled about noisy, active children disrupting the Sunday service. When younger adults introduced a different kind of music, old-timers put up with it for a while, but soon grew angry about all the changes in the church. The atmosphere in the congregation grew tenser until the newer people gave up and left. Then the old-timers breathed a sigh of relief and the church returned to its comfortable former habits...” To Fletcher’s story, one might easily add the words “...and slowly died” because a congregation that does not find a way to be welcoming beyond friendliness will slowly dwindle away.

In an article entitled “All are Welcome” in the March 2016 edition of *The Living Lutheran*, Wendy Healy quotes Brenda Smith, “People are looking for three things in a church. One, a warm community that loves and follows Jesus; two, a place where they can learn something; and three, a church that is doing something to transform the world.” To truly welcome people – both newcomers and established members – is to construct a WHOLE community that creates opportunities for these three things to happen in a life-giving, spirit-empowering way that recognizes and welcomes everybody’s gifts by “finding places where those gifts can best be used to serve the vision, mission, and values established by the whole congregation.” {Fletcher, p. 83}

So how specifically can we go beyond friendliness to be truly welcoming in the Church? Here are three of many possible suggestions:

- Pay attention to the things you do or don’t do that create barriers to the experience of welcome for people. For example, do you only engage with your own cliques or do you invite people beyond your friendship group into your church experiences?



- Cleanse your expectations about what newcomers can provide to the congregation; instead, focus on what you can provide to them. (Cf. Matthew 25: 35-40) If the congregation hopes that newcomers will become replacement parts for members who are worn out from carrying the load, it won't be a real welcome. Instead, the perceptible neediness and self-serving expectations will scare people away.

- Learn how to listen and live in ways that creates a space where each person's complete self feels free to show up and participate as they are without fear of judgment.

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Mt 10:40) Finally, welcoming people means welcoming them as if they are Christ, ready to be transformed by their presence among us.

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

For any who wish to become members of Bethel, we will provide the opportunity on Sunday November 17th during worship. If you are interested please contact the Bethel Office 406-761-1543.

BETHEL

Friday November 15th at 6:00 p.m.

U

In the Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy a chili dinner!

What to Bring:

N

- a pot of chili.
- corn bread and butter.
- cookies or bars - like pumpkin, zucchini, etc
- condiments to go with the chili - grated cheese, crackers, sour cream.
- paper bowls, napkins, spoons, knives .
- apple cider or a beverage other than the coffee and water

C

We are also taking donations for Fish and/or the HS Food Pantries, small items that fit into backpacks are best. **RSVP to Terry Korpela**

H

Terry.korpela@gmail.com or 406-799-4094

LAKEVIEW CABIN COMPLETE AT FLBC

REPRINTED FROM THE DAILY INTER LAKE ARTICLE BY BY HILARY MATHESON

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp has opened the doors to its newest facility — a wheelchair-accessible complex that includes two cabins and a community room overlooking Flathead Lake.

Construction on the 2,030-square-foot Lakeview Cabin Complex began in June 2018 and finished just in time for the Oct. 12 ceremony at the camp, located at 550 Lutheran Camp Road south of Lakeside.

The complex, constructed by Kalispell-based J. Martin Builders, was built in accordance to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and encompasses two cabins that sleep eight, bathrooms, shower facilities and a meeting room that accommodates up to 35 people, according to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Executive Director Margie Fiedler. A wheelchair-accessible pathway from the complex leads to the dining hall.

The project cost was \$671,000 and was funded through donations and grants, she said.

“The camp has been working for years to make the facility more accessible to those with mobility issues,” Fiedler said.

The inspiration behind the project was longtime camper Jason Armstrong of Missoula, who spent 10 summers at the camp and uses a wheelchair.

Armstrong, now a freshman at Missoula College, returned to camp once again as the keynote speaker for the dedication ceremony.

As a youth, Armstrong experienced firsthand the challenges of getting around camp independently and said he needed assistance from his peers and counselors to get up and down the stairs of his cabin, for example.

Fiedler said he also posed the question, “When will more people like me be able to come to this amazing camp?”

“I noticed in my beginning years there that I was the only disabled kid there,” Armstrong said, and, although he met a lot of friendly people, “I noticed that I was kind of lonely without people knowing what my experience was and I wanted somebody who knew what I was going through.”

Yet the friendships he forged and the joy he experienced kept him coming back and he planted the dream of an accessible camp.

“In my vision, camp was supposed to be for all people, disabilities or not,” Armstrong said. “I think I helped open the other side of that bridge.”

Seeing the Lakeview Cabin Complex come to fruition has meant a lot to Armstrong.

“It means disabled campers are going to have a lot more experience knowing who God is and they are going to be amongst kids who really care about them,” Armstrong said. “For the normal campers who don’t have disabilities, it’s going

to be new to them, too, because maybe they haven’t been around disabled campers before.”

He said the Lakeview Cabin Complex exceeded his expectations.

“It was better than I ever imagined it would be,” Armstrong said.

His hope is that the work continues to improve wheelchair accessibility at the camp, and to all camps.

“My work is far from done. I want everybody to be able to go to camp, disability or not, big or small, everybody should be able to be there,” Armstrong said.

For more information visit <https://flbc.net/> or call (406) 752-6602 or (406) 752-6602.





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 the addition of First United Methodist. A joint choir will be performing. If you wish to sing in the choir please arrive for rehearsal at 6:00 PM. Pastor Steve Van Gilder is presiding.



Maya Stringer assists Kaye Van Gilder during Sunday's readings. You did a great job Maya, thank you!

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

PIES PLUS AUCTION & BAKE SALE! SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

11:00 AM

Fundraiser for
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
& FLBC SCHOLARSHIPS



There are so many ways to participate, we need:

- Bakers to bake items for the bake sale and also for the live auction - this auction gets rowdy and our auctioneer once again this year is Dave Scholten!
- We need bidders for the auction and customers for the bake sale!
- We need prayers for all the youth and volunteers who are involved in FLBC and our Vacation Bible School.

This year we will also have a few pieces of artwork donated by Marty Johnson's estate. Marty was a huge supporter of our Youth Ministry here at Bethel as well as FLBC, we are very honored that he thought of us and wished to continue his support.

A huge thank you to Patty Braget for running this years bake sale and auction.

And all who will be helping make this fundraiser as success!

For more information contact the Bethel Office 761-1543 or talk to Patty Braget or Tami Grosenick.

Thank you for the privilege of
your generosity and support

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 11/11:

- Veteran's Day - Thank a Vet!
- Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:00 pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 11/12:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Pastor Steve returns to the office
- TLC Staff meeting in the Gathering Place 6:00 pm
- Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Wednesday 11/13:

- Logos Youth Ministry 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Thursday 11/14:

- Hope Circle meets at Laurie Turner's 3408 Bison Lane 7:00 pm

Friday 11/15

- Bethel Bunch Chili Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Saturday 11/16

- Close Knit meets in the Fellowship Hall 9:00 am

Hope Circle
Laurie Turner's
3408 Bison Lane
Thursday November 14th
7:00 p.m.
Hope many of you can
join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 11/17:

- Stewardship Sunday we welcoming Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger who will be preaching. Pastor Steve will preside at the Lord's table.
- New Member Sunday

Monday 11/18:

- Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:00 pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 11/19:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Childbridge meeting in the Gathering Place 5:30 pm

Wednesday 11/20:

- Wednesday Worship led by Logos Youth Ministry dinner at 6:00 pm worship at 7:00 pm

Thursday 11/21:

- Tami Grosenick on vacation until November 27th

Friday 11/22:

- Jubilate Choir retreat at Bethel 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join

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.