

BETHEL NOTES



INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. The Psalmist reminds us of our numbered days. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ACCOMPANIST - MARY SEIM

LAY ASSISTANT - JUDY STATHAM

USHER - TAMI GROSENICK

PROJECTIONIST - TIM LIGHTBOURNE

TECH - ADAM ELKIN

COUNTERS - STEPHANIE CUMMINGS AND
WARREN JOHNSON

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Sunday, November 15th

24th Sunday After Pentecost

PSALM 90

THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:30 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) is improving every day and is now working on building her lung strength on her own after 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 finished treatment for breast cancer and continues to heal.
- ✦ Prayers for God's continued healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she has completed her treatments for cancer and continues to heal.
- ✦ 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 and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing, strength and support for **Rita Johnson (LaRae Veitch's sister)** as she continues treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Steve Young** (brother of Sue Hesse) as he recovers from back surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Rob Brattain** (son of Patsy Berkley) as he recovers.
- ✦ Prayers of health and healing **Kathy Meier** (friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen) as she prepares for knee surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Paul Bossie**, son of Sharon Bossie with a recent diagnosis of diabetes and liver failure.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and strength for **JoAnn Robitaille**, Sara Sexe's mother, as she continues to recover from an illness.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Karrie Pepos** as she recovers from Covid 19.

A Prayer For Our Veteran's

Loving God, We ask for blessings on all those who have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the Veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe. We pray especially for the young men and women, in the thousands, who are coming home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord; may we pray for them when they cannot pray. We ask for an end to wars and the dawning of a new era of peace, as a way to honor all the veterans of past wars.

Have mercy on all our Veterans. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combatative posts; May their calling to service continue in their lives in many positive ways.

Give us all the creative vision to see a world which, grown weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of every human being and so moves beyond war. Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Council Meeting Highlights



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, November 10 by zoom. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- The Call Committee announced the Mission Site Profile has been submitted to the Synod. It has been accepted and we have received a profile number.
- Technology updates continue to be completed, as does the ADA compliant front door opener
- We will revisit the COVID-19 Guidelines in the Bethel Notes, so the community and congregation remain safe. At this point, in-person services will follow the school districts closures. When the church does not hold in-person worship services, we will not have other organizations hold meetings in the church. This is to reflect our support of the precautions we are using to keep the congregation safe and healthy.
- The Council discussed and agreed that we should not have in-person worship on Christmas Eve. We will work together to provide a prerecorded service that families may view whenever they wish.
- The Congregational Budget Forum date was set for January 17, 2021. The Congregational Annual Meeting will be January 24, 2021.
- Council voted to designate the Giving Tree donations to the Alliance for Youth in the 2020 holiday season.

To view the October 2020 Council Meeting Minutes in their entirety, please go to

[October 2020 minutes](#). If you would like a hardcopy mailed to you, please contact the Bethel Office.

For more detail on the closure and Christmas Eve service, please see Pastor Trina's article below.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TRINA

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

At the November 10 Council Meeting it was agreed that while the Great Falls Public Schools are engaged in remote learning to help stop the spread of Covid-19, Bethel Lutheran will also cease all in-person gatherings. We do this as a show of support for and love of neighbor. We will have in-person worship this Sunday, but beginning Monday, November 16 our gatherings will cease.

We will continue our online worship during this time, so please join us live at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, or watch it later in the week on YouTube. The installation of our new audio and visual equipment is complete and will be in use Sunday, November 22, so we are hoping for enhanced quality in our online service. Please shoot us an email and let us know what you think.

Also, over the last month, the ELCA pastors in Great Falls have been discussing how to plan for Christmas Eve worship in the time of Covid. Those services are typically our largest of the year, featuring the singing of many beloved carols and the lighting (and blowing out) of individual candles, all while tightly packed in with the many visitors and guests joining those who regularly worship. None of that is possible during Covid, and so we will be having pre-recorded Christmas Eve services this year that you may watch at home with family at a time that best suits your holiday plans. I know this is a disappointment...just one more treasured and meaningful tradition lost to the pandemic this long year. But by planning ahead we should be able to produce a high-quality service with more music than we can enjoy in person. Look for more information on this in the weeks to come.

Things won't always be like this, beloved of the Lord. The time will come when we will once again gather freely, sing with gusto, hug our Bethel family and not have to do it all through masks and at a distance. But in the meantime, please do whatever you can to stay healthy yourself and to protect the health of our neighbors. This Sunday's psalm reminds us that God has been our refuge from one generation to another (90:1). Good words to trust as we live through historic times. God's peace be with you. Pastor Trina Johnsten

Alliance for Youth Resource Center

The YRC Drop-in Center is a first point of contact that provides an informal atmosphere to attract and engage youth who are disadvantaged and/or homeless. Key features of the YRC include:

- **Low- or No-Barrier:** Foster a welcoming, safe, non-judgmental environment, with limited requirements, conveniently located near public transportation.
- **Meet Basic Needs:** Provide easy access to food, laundry, shower and clothes. Provide access to Internet, phones, and lockers for storage of belongings. Scheduled visiting medical staff can provide optional basic healthcare and first aid.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Despite the informal atmosphere, staff is trained and ready to provide crisis intervention, conflict resolution and supporting services. It is especially important that staff be trained or have access to services specifically for LGBTQ and/or tribal youth, who are disproportionately represented among youth who are experiencing homelessness in our state.
- **Positive Youth Development:** Staff is trained to develop the youth's competence, confidence, connection and contribution.
- **Youth Focused:** Create a positive and healthy peer network for youth, access to caring adults and engage in youth-centered programming.
- **Service Coordination:** Operate as a central hub for services, such as medical, dental, behavioral health care, substance abuse treatment, housing search support and advocacy. Staff can help with documentation and facilitates school re-engagement or connection to adult basic education or workforce development programs. Drop-in centers operate in tandem with mobile "street" outreach programs, family engagement services, emergency shelters and transitional housing.

Our Vulnerable Youth in Great Falls are Struggling

- More than 475 children in Great Falls are homeless at some point during the year
- More than 600 children are in foster care in Cascade County, more than double the state average
- 70% of foster care placements are due to substance abuse and of these 80% involved Meth
- 25% of the graduating class of Paris Gibson Education Center lived on their own
- 30.8% of 10th graders reported seriously considering attempting suicide in the past 12 months
- More than 15,000 pounds of food are given to high school students annually
- Many of the social services offered to



MINISTRIES MEETING ONLINE

ELECTRIC CITY BIBLE STUDY

What a great way to connect with one another! Join our bible study via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Laurie Turner at loli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of this week's Lectionary texts as we meet via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for a link to join the meeting.

WEEKLY TEXT BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR TRINA

This bible study is offered on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and Thursdays at 7:00 pm (except the Thursday when Hope Circle meets). Studying the lessons for the upcoming Sunday together. Each week stands alone, you can join anytime! No experience necessary! Contact the Bethel office bethegf.church@gmail.com for a link.

HOPE CIRCLE

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Laurie Turner at loli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting and Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

children phase out between the ages of 12-18 leaving a large coverage gap in services for teenagers

The Youth Resource Center Fills Huge Resource Gaps

The Youth Resource Center, meets the physical, social and emotional needs of vulnerable youth in a low-barrier, safe, secure and loving environment. The Center is open Monday–Saturday from 2 -8 p.m. and serve youth ages 13-20.

The Center Offers:

- Food (including a meal each day at 6 p.m. for our guests)
- Clothing & hygiene products
- Shower & laundry facilities
- Mental health & addiction counseling
- Suicide prevention services
- Medical & dental care
- Transportation assistance
- Connection to employment, education/training & housing
- Life skills
- Parent mediation

This Christmas at Bethel we would like to focus our local giving on Alliance for Youth Resource Center. In upcoming Notes we will give more details regarding this Christmas giving campaign.



Daily Texts 2021 Have Arrived

The new 2021 Daily Texts have arrived and are ready for pick up in the Narthex.

This year's focus, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." ~ Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)

The whole world is seeking a new thing to control the spread of the pandemic. These daily verses are also spread throughout the whole world. Each day 1.5 million people speaking 50 different languages look to Jesus to do a new thing by washing away all our sins with the rivers of His forgiveness.

May you daily receive the Holy Spirit's inspiration to live under God's grace so that something new will spring forth in your life.

(above is from back cover of the book.)

The cost of the text did go up a little this year. As in years past, we would be delighted for the first copy you take be with our compliments. If you would like additional copies and are able to help cover the cost of the texts we would appreciate a suggested donation of \$8.00 per text, or whatever you can afford. If you are unable to come in to pick up your copy, please call Tami in the office 406-761-1543 and we will be happy to mail a copy to you.



A huge thanks to all who have given a gift towards the purchase of the land on Hughes Bay! This land was purchased

for \$287,500, and thanks to the generosity of many, the FLBC association borrowed just \$125,000. Already, thanks to your wonderful gifts, we have just over \$90,000 to pay back. Thank you thank you thank you!

Family Advent Retreat

December 4-6, 2020

\$140, Ages 13+ / \$120, Ages 7-12 / \$75, Ages 2-6 / Free Children under 2 / \$480 maximum cost per nuclear family

Join us for time at camp as we prepare for Christmas! Make awesome crafts, cut your own Christmas tree, and soak in time for worship and prayer this Advent

Jr + Sr High Ski & Snowboard Retreat

January 8-10, 2021

\$115/person (2 adults free with each church group // Lift tickets are separate from retreat cost)

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and FUN!

Winter Environmental Education Field Day

January 23, 2021

\$25/person

Join FLBC for a day of fun and learning! Call 406-752-6602 to register.

[For more information click here](#)

TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump Charitable Foundation has invited **FISH** to be part of the 19th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign.

Town Pump will match each dollar collected by **FISH** up to \$20,000 from September 1 through November 30. What a great way to double your donation!



Words from the Bishop: Patience is a Virtue

During my brief time in the military, an often-used phrase was "Hurry up and wait!" We were always hurrying to get somewhere and then when we got there, we'd have to wait. We'd get roused out of bed at five in the morning, rush around to dress and get our beds made, run outside, and then stand in formation for a half hour waiting for someone in charge to show up. We'd run to the cafeteria and then have to wait in line forever to get our food. The lines were the worst because standing in line always meant waiting for something without having anything else to do but stand in a line. It was easy to lose patience with the whole system standing in that boring line. But I'm guessing that all that "hurry up and wait" was trying to teach us the patience often needed during times of battle.

These days it's hard to have patience about anything. We live in a hurry-up

culture, where we are promised that we will "get it now, get it fast and get it our way." And it is amazing how many ways that promise is kept. But if that promise isn't kept, our anxiety skyrockets and we act out in unloving and destructive ways to ourselves and others. We're seeing this even as I write while we still wait for election results to be made official in our nation. Patience, it seems, is no longer a virtue in our world.

But for followers of Christ, patience is still an

important part of the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22) In fact, the words patient, patience and patiently are used 35 times in the New Testament, each time as an aspect of Christ-like love. Again and again, followers of Christ are called to be patient, especially as we await the coming of Christ.

Patience, however, does not mean to sit and do nothing as we wait. We see this truth in the parable from the gospel this week as the first two servants go forth and invest the gift they'd been given even as they await the return of their Lord while the third servant does as little as possible.

(Mt 25:14-30)



Patience means to be active in this world, living in hope-filled faith in God, taking faith-filled risks that are responsive to the Spirit's presence in our lives. Patience is daring to stay in the place we are, as hard as it can be sometimes, and

seeking God's glimpses of life in the situation while trusting that something hidden will become manifest to us. It does not mean staying stuck in death-filled places where there is no hope, but unless one's life is truly at stake, it does mean sticking it out as we live God's activity in the present world, nurturing the times in the same way a mother nurtures a child growing in her.

This kind of Holy Spirit presence, waiting yet active in the already/not yet, can't be done alone. We need the support, encouragement, love and forgiveness of God and of one another.

And how might we encourage one another in patient living in Christ? Here are three ideas for practicing patience together. First, by simply breathing with one another in silent meditation. Second, by praying to God with each other for the patience we need. And third, by practicing gratitude, intentionally looking for, naming out loud with someone, and thanking God for what God is already doing in our lives. Remember that patience in Christ requires practice: the more we do it, the better we get at it.

So as the book of James reminds us: "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." (James 5:7-8)

Struggling in Christ's patience alongside of you,

Bishop Laurie

Join us for online worship
Sunday mornings 9:30 AM
www.bethelmt.org

Click on 9:30 Sunday Worship
button and connect via Youtube.

The bulletin for the day can be
downloaded from our homepage.

Stay safe and well.

Calendar Of Events

Tuesday 11/17

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am

Wednesday 11/18

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation meeting on Zoom 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Thursday 11/19

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 11/20

- Bethel Office Closed

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 11/24

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am

Wednesday 11/25

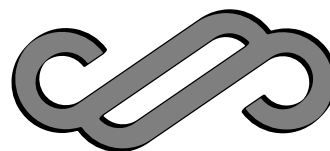
- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am

Thursday 11/26

- Happy Thanksgiving Bethel office closed

Friday 11/20

- Bethel Office Closed



Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten **Contact information:**

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Bethel number non-emergencies:

406-761-1543 ext 202

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