

BETHEL NOTES



INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

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In-person worship is on hold. Please join us Sunday at 9:30 am bethelmt.org

SERVING THIS SERVICE

ACCOMPANIST - LYNN RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT - JOHN BLANK

VOCALIST - PATRICK RYAN

TECH - COLTER MCCARTY

Sunday, November 29th

The First Sunday Of Advent

ISAIAH 64:1-9

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

MARK 13:1-13, 24-27, 32-37

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



PRAYER

REQUEST

- ✦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who was admitted back into the hospital after double lung transplant.
 - ✦ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
 - ✦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
 - ✦ 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 for healing for **Steve Young** (brother of Sue Hesse) as he recovers from back surgery.
 - ✦ 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 **Ray Poser**, Connie Titcomb's brother, who has been admitted to the hospital in Billings with Covid 19.
 - ✦ Prayers of recovery for **Rebecca Boucher**, Sharon Bossie's daughter as she has been very ill with Covid 19 and health and safety for her family.
 - ✦ Prayers of healing for **Pam Hanson Alfred** as she continues treatment for cancer.
 - ✦ Prayers of comfort for **Pastor Jason Asselstine and his family** as they mourn the death of his grandfather.
 - ✦ Prayers of comfort for **Rob Nedbalek and family** as they grieve the death of his son.
 - ✦ Prayers of comfort for **Pastor Elizabeth Liggett** on the death of her father, John, grandfather of Pastor Amanda Liggett.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God
 For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God
 For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growing
 while we are sleeping
 Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to
 God.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God
 For the grace we all inherit, thanks be to God
 For the wonders that astound us, for the truths
 that still confound us,
 Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to
 God.

ELW #679 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

**Blessed Thanksgiving to You All from the
 Montana Synod Staff!**

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Christmas Giving



The needs for the Alliance for Youth/Youth Resource Centers new kitchen are the following:

14 tables with 6 chairs per table

Table individual cost: \$116

Chair individual cost: \$24.99

Cost for a set: \$265.94

Donations for Alliance for Youth will go toward the purchase of tables and chairs.



ELCA Good Gifts giving will look a little different this year. Choose from one of the following areas:

Global Barnyard donation will be used to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

Water donations will be used toward providing safe water through irrigation systems, water filtration, or building latrines.

Health Care donations will go toward sanitation supplies, mosquito nets, supplies for health clinics, personal protective equipment, nutrition for children, and vaccinations.

TO DONATE TO EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE CHARITIES, GO ONLINE TO [BETHELMT.ORG](https://www.bethelmt.org) AND CLICK ON ONLINE GIVING. UNDER OTHER: NOTE WHERE WE ARE TO DIRECT YOUR DONATION DOLLARS OR MAIL IN YOUR DONATION ALL WITH THE SLIP BELOW TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ATTN: CHRISTMAS GIVING 1009 18TH AVE SW GREAT FALLS MT 5404.

Christmas Gifts

Your Name: _____

Donation for:

☐ Alliance for Youth , amount \$ _____

☐ ELCA Good Gifts, amount \$ _____ for:

_____ Global Barnyard

_____ Water

_____ Health Care

BEING THANKFUL: A SERMON

Last Sunday, Pastor Trina Johnsten delivered a sermon on the Gospel of Luke 17:11-19.

Today's Gospel lesson reminds us that there is a place where our faith and thankfulness should intersect. Where our faith and thankfulness should intersect.

At one of the bible studies this week someone asked, "Who is Jesus talking to when he asks where the other nine are. Who was there with him?" Well, the lesson doesn't say. But I invite you to join me as we hear from one who could have been there that day...

We were headed with Jesus to Jerusalem and it was a hot day. It was the kind of day when the dust on the road lies thick on the bushes and puffs up around your feet with every step you take and the sweat trickles down into your eyes.

For awhile the only sound that any of us heard was the low buzz of insects as we walked. But first in the distance and then closer and closer we hear them...unclean...unclean...unclean.

We began to look around and finally as we rounded the crest of the hill that began the long walk to the village that was in the valley below we saw them. They were standing off the road a bit. As we walked toward them the cry...unclean...unclean...unclean...stopped.

There were ten of them and even if we had not heard their cry we would have know what they were.

Some of them had rags wrapped around their hands, others had their feet all bundled up in strips of old cloth. All of them were dressed in the tattered and torn clothing that people in their condition are required to wear. And all of them had, as they were supposed to, long, wild unkept hair. There was no mistaking what they were, they were lepers. And at the sight of them standing there just off the path staring at us we stopped. None of us wanted to get any closer to those wretched creatures than we had to and who could blame us for that. After all, everyone knows about leprosy, right? It's awful. No-one can recover from it. It slowly rots and destroys the body and worse yet it is so easy to catch. That is why the priests insist that anyone with a skin

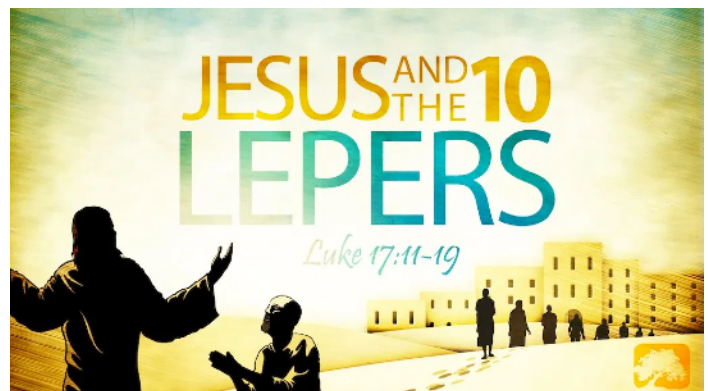
blemish of any kind report to them for an examination. The priests look at them and if they have raw patches in their flesh or white bumps or red marks on their skin he pronounces them unclean and the person must go into isolation for seven days so no one else is put into danger.

Think about how long those seven days would be. Wondering the whole time if you've got it. Wondering if you are ever going to be able to live with your family again. Will I be forced to live here on the edge of town for just those seven days? A couple of weeks? A month? A year?

But it's fair, it's fair for the rest of us and their families, because no one wants leprosy. You know, most of the time the person doesn't have it. When they go back to the priest seven days later their blemish is healed over and they are pronounced clean and can return back to their home.

But for some, like the ten we saw that day, their blemishes had worsened. The colors of their sores were brighter, more of their flesh is infected and they are banished. They are declared forever unclean. Forever unable to have normal human contact, unable to bounce their children on their knee, unable to hug their wife or husband, unable to do anything that would cause someone to catch what they have.

Imagine if you can living out the rest of your life in a hut in a camp on the edge of town. Having to spend all of your time with those who are suffering and diseased like you. Not being able to see anyone you love except at a distance. Only being able to talk to them by yelling from far off. You know after awhile everyone you know would stop coming. No one would want to look at you or have



anything to do with you and no one despite the fact that they claim to love you will ever hug you, or kiss you, or touch you ever again.

No one that is except those that are like you. Those whose bodies are infected and rotting. Imagine waiting to see what will happen to you. Waiting to see if your disease will spread, taking from you your fingers, your toes, destroying your mouth and your nose until at last you starve to death or die from some infection.

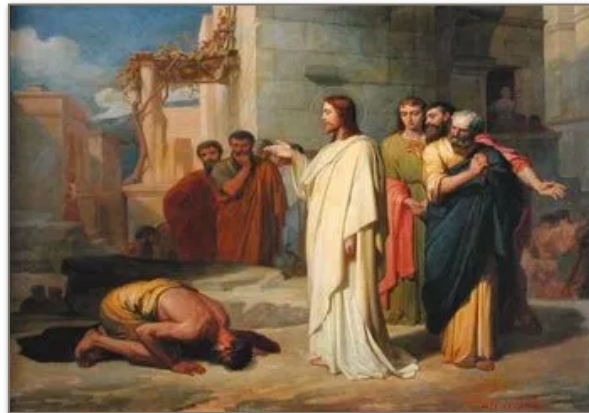
Imagine it. Waiting. Hoping. Trying to hope for that one in a million chance that your sores will clear up and you will be able to go to the priest and hear him say that word over you...clean.

Those ten men before us had little hope of ever hearing that word said over them. And that is why we stopped when we saw the lepers that day, we were being cautious.

As cautious as any right thinking person would be in the presence of danger. We stopped and we wondered what Jesus would do.

Because Jesus in defiance of all common sense did not seem to be afraid of lepers. We had once seen him *touch* a leper, one who had come to him and begged to be healed. Jesus just reached right out and touched him, he said "Be clean" and the man was healed. It was quite an event. And I figured that those ten lepers that we met that day must have heard about it, because as we started again to work our way down to the village they spotted the teacher and they called out to him, "Jesus! Jesus, Master! Mercy! Have mercy on us!" Well when Jesus heard this he stopped. He turned toward them and holding out his hands he said, "Go! Show yourself to the priests."

Those ten lepers must have wondered what Jesus meant because the chance of being healed from leprosy is so slim, they must have wondered, but they must have hoped as well. They must have believed that Jesus had done something for them that may be their one in a million chance for



a normal life had come to pass, because all of them turned and started down the road to the village ahead of us. And as we watched them go, the dust rising from their tracks as they hurried off, we began to wonder if Jesus had healed them. Could he do that? With just a word?

We found out a few minutes later that he could. We were told that as they went down the hill toward the village their sores began to dry up, their blemishes to disappear. With every step that they took toward their old home they felt younger stronger more energetic until they made their final turn into the village and they were completely healed. That must have been an incredible walk for them. Think of it. After all of their suffering and then suddenly after a word from a stranger their disease, their loneliness, their banishment all began

to fade away. With every step it must have become more and more apparent to them that they could once again play with their children, hug their wives, work with their brothers in their fields.

You don't think it happened? Well, I saw one of those lepers again with my own eyes. It must have been about fifteen minutes after he and the others had disappeared down the road

into the village that we saw him coming back up the road toward us. And we could tell that something had happened to him while he was still fairly far off. Gone was the shuffling, cautious walk of leper. He was striding rapidly up that hill towards us and he was singing and laughing and saying over and over "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!" And as he got closer we could see that he was completely healed. His skin was pink and glowing with health.

When he got right up to us he singled out Jesus and still crying out "Alleluia! Alleluia!" he ran over to him, threw himself down at his feet and thanked him over, and over and over again until finally, Jesus touched him on the head and looking at us said, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

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 lolli51gus@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 lolli51gus@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.

At first we didn't understand what Jesus was talking about and then we noticed that the man at Jesus' feet had the accent of a Samaritan. Those people whom we despise because they don't worship the right way and they have intermarried with the locals. And as we wondered what Jesus meant by his words he looked down at that Samaritan and said to him, "Rise and go, your faith has made you well" The man got up and went on his way still singing and praising God.

We all stood there a minute and thought about what Jesus had said. Was he angry with the other lepers for not returning? For not thanking him and God for giving them their lives back? Was he trying to tell something about himself? About Samaritans? Well one thing was for certain all ten men had been cured of leprosy. Jesus had said so. But it also seemed to me that, that one man, the one who came back to us and thanked Jesus, that man had something more happen to him. It was not only that he had been cured, but as if he had been made whole again. The others with me that day thought the same thing and as we talked about it we wondered if Jesus was trying to tell us that there was something special about giving thanks. And we all got to thinking about how we might have behaved if we had been given what the ten lepers had received that day. Would we have been like the one who came back to thank Jesus. Or would we have been so happy about what we received that we like the nine would rush through the formalities with the priests and then rushed back to our homes and our normal lives. Have we really ever thanked God for what we have. Or if all of our lives we have done, what so many do, if we had simply gone to the priests in the temple at the times we are supposed to, made the offerings, said the prayers that our religion has asked us to say and then returned to our homes to carry on as before. We wondered, were we like the nine lepers who were cleansed or we were like the one who was not only cleansed, but because of his faith, because of his giving thanks, was made whole again. Amen.

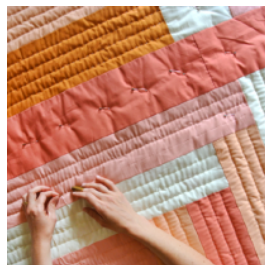
With thanks to Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, from whom portions of this text were borrowed with his permission.

Tech Update

We are so very happy to announce we are up and running with the new equipment and those who had the opportunity to tune in last Sunday saw a noticeable difference! We are still working on perfecting our live stream and are currently addressing the "buzzing" that some heard as well as a sync issue between audio and picture. Please continue to give us feedback as we work out the details to give you the best online service we can.

1st Monday Night Quilters

The 1st Monday Night Quilters will not be meeting at New Hope Lutheran, 6-8 p.m., the first Monday in December (12/7) due to the increase in COVID cases.



On November 23 we packed 26 quilts to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief. That was an amazing number since we only meet two hours a month, and we missed several months due to COVID. I heard from LWR and they said they are critically low on quilts "so yours are more appreciated than ever."

Thank you to everyone who helped tie quilts, make tops, cut squares, sewed binding on. We will hopefully resume the first Monday in January, but again, dependent on the COVID numbers. Questions? Call Trudi, 799-0100.

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 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.

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!



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](#)



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 12/1

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

Wednesday 12/2

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

Thursday 12/3

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm
- Exec Board conference call 5:30 pm

Friday 12/4

- Bethel Office Closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 12/8

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am
- Council meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm

Wednesday 12/9

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

Thursday 12/10

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

Friday 12/11

- Bethel Office Closed

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

Contact information:

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

Bethel number non-emergencies:

406-761-1543 ext 202

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306