

BETHEL NOTES



“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

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

SERVING THIS SERVICE

ACCOMPANIST - TBD

VOCALIST - DAVE AND TAMY SCHOLTEN

LAY ASSISTANT - CARL DUNN

TECH - COLTER McCARTY

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Sunday, December 13th

The Third Sunday Of Advent

ISAIAH 35:1-10

PSALM 126

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

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) who continues to recover after double lung transplant and is being cared for in the hospital as she contracted Covid 19, she is doing well.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Presley Jean Birnel** 9 month old, great granddaughter of Bernice Johnson who is had surgery last week and is recovering.
- ♦ Prayers of thanks for **Ed Pottratz** as he responds well to 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 scheduled for January. Also for Kathy's father **James Trunkle** as he is undergoing medical testing.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Paul Bossie**, son of Sharon Bossie who has been diagnosed with 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 the family and friends of **Tony Stallworth** (friend of Patty Braget) as they mourn his passing.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Bob Vander Aarde** as he undergoes cancer treatment.

Altar Flower Sign Up 2021

Altar Flowers are sponsored by members of Bethel, who can honor special people or events such as birthdays, anniversaries, or other special days. The donation amount is \$15.00 per Sunday and can be mailed in or paid through our online donation at bethelmt.org.

To sign up to sponsor the altar flowers for 2021 are available. Since we are not meeting in-person the link to sign up online is below. If you prefer, call or email Tami to sign up and reserve your spots.

[Click here to link to online sign up](#)



YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

In Great Falls, more than 475 children experience homelessness each year.

It's a heartbreaking statistic—one that the community is working to address. Thomas Risberg, Development Director of Alliance for Youth, says that the first step is to personalize the problem.

"These are children who go to school with your children. These are kids in your community. Your property values, labor force, crime rates, health care, and criminal justice spending are all impacted by what we do right now," he says.

Studies show that after twenty years of age, many homeless people develop an internal sense of powerlessness. By intervening early, we can fundamentally change the trajectory of a young person's life.

"If you give them the raw materials, they can turn their lives around, but they need help," says Risberg.

Risberg is passionate about his work with Alliance for Youth for many reasons. For one, he has experienced powerlessness in his own life. In 2017, he traveled from Missouri to the Rocky Mountain Treatment Center in Great Falls for help with his alcohol addiction. Through his recovery, he was introduced to Alliance for Youth and started a program called The Sober Life, which provides free fitness activities, family friendly events, and volunteer opportunities to people recovering from addiction and alcoholism. This year, he helped start the Youth Resource Center, which opened in May and aims to provide immediate assistance and guidance to homeless children in the community.

"I taught fifth grade, and I'm a firm believer that education is key to upward mobility," says Risberg. "If you have an empty stomach, no shelter, no clothes, you're never going to care about an education. The problem isn't a lack of intelligence or work ethic; it's a lack of resources."

When homeless kids come to the Youth Resource Center, they are provided immediate assistance. No paperwork. No judgement.

"Social services can be a logistical nightmare for kids who just need to find something to eat or a safe place to sleep. If you ask them to fill out a long application or undergo diagnosis, you're going to lose them," Risberg explains. "We provide them with a safe, warm, loving environment. They have access to food, clothing, laundry facilities, showers—we take care of their immediate needs and then work with them one-on-one to develop goals and help them achieve them."

It should be noted that the Youth Resource Center helps "kids" up to age twenty, the reason being that many young adults under 21 fall between the cracks. Risberg says he is a big believer in what he describes as "latent human potential." He has seen that with basic resources and a little compassion, young people can break the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and abuse.

"We are seeing kids who were homeless attending college. There are early signs that this program works," says Risberg. "This is not an unstoppable downward trend."

For our young citizens to thrive, we cannot give up on them. It is unacceptable to write any child off as a lost cause. The future of Montana is whatever we pass down to our young people. Let us give them the tools to succeed and the compassion to make Montana a state worth living in.

The Youth Resource Center is located at 3220 11th Avenue South in Great Falls. For more information, visit allianceforyouth.org or call (406) 952-0018.



article reprinted from Treasure State Lifestyles Montana Magazine November 2020 [click here to view online.](#)

Christmas Giving



Donate To Alliance For Youth and reveal the candy cane!

Each level of the candy cane represents one set of table and six chairs. With each donation we can reveal a little bit more.

See below to donate today! So far we have one whole set and 2/3rds of another!



To donate to either or both of these charities, go online to 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.



Healthcare



Christmas Gifts

Your Name: _____

Donation for:

☐ Alliance for Youth , amount \$ _____

☐ ELCA Good Gifts, amount \$ _____ for:

_____ Global Barnyard _____ Water _____ Health Care

Cut out this slip and mail in with your donation.



DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

Friends, we are looking for a part-time development director who is connected to a faith community and is invested in the work that we do. **They don't have to live in Missoula!** We are looking for someone with some development experience, computer competency and strong relationship skills. We hope we are paying at a level to attract a strong candidate.

Job Description

Emmaus Campus Ministry is seeking an experienced, self-motivated Director of Development and Alumni Relations to work 6-10 hours per week on nurturing and growing our donor base. Emmaus is a loving, accepting, and inclusive Christian community at the University of Montana. We are a Lutheran (ELCA) ministry and work in partnership with Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and Methodist congregations. We offer many programs for students, including weekly gatherings, retreats, service and justice work, and a residential community. Emmaus is also active in Missoula through anti-racism, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and community organizing through Common Good.

Qualified candidates for this position will have experience in non-profit fundraising and donor development. They will possess the skills, creativity, and confidence necessary to lead our development efforts, with input and support from the Executive Director and Board of Directors. We seek someone who is outgoing and focused on relationship-building and who can present a positive face for the organization. We also require strong organizational skills and familiarity with nonprofit database systems (such as Little Green Light). The ability to work independently and self-motivate is a must.

Benefits of this job include a flexible schedule, a relaxed and nurturing environment, and supportive relationships with other staff, the Board of Directors, and our church and community partners. Wage \$17+ DOE. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation and we welcome applicants of all backgrounds and faith perspectives. Please reply to this posting with a letter of interest and resume. We look forward to hearing from you!

John Lund
Emmaus Campus Ministry University of Montana
406-396-4974

Council Meeting Highlights

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL DECEMBER 8, 2020

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, December 8 by zoom. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Pastor Trina led devotions with an opening prayer.
- We had a conversation regarding the technology helpers. We will address compensating these helpers in the 2021 budget.
- Pastor Trina will work to clean up our roll and update the Church Registry.
- Christmas cards to have been sent to the congregation from the council.
- We will follow the CCHD recommendations for COVID-19 protocol and coincide with the ELCA churches in our community regarding reopening the church. The consensus seems to be that this is the responsible decision at this time.
- The choir has requested the church order masks for the choir members to purchase. The Council agreed to order the masks with Jeff Skogley's input. Any unopened, unpurchased masks may be returned.
- Council moved to accept the amendment presented by the Mission Endowment Committee. We will vote on this amendment at our Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021.
- The 2021 Budget was reviewed. We wish to thank Dena Wagner-Fossen, Doug Sexe, Pastor Trina, Dave Scholten, Mike Kubas and Bonnie Sears for their work on this document.

To view the November 2020 minutes in their entirety, please go to [minutes](#).

Walk Where Jesus Walked Holy Land Journey

Tour Leaders
Rev. Arne Bergland

FLBC Staff

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp



June 15-24, 2021

\$3,290.00 From Chicago, IL - ORD



Package Price Includes



- > Roundtrip Airfare
- > All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
- > Breakfast and dinner Daily
- > Eight days sightseeing in modern air conditioned private bus
- > English speaking government licensed Christian tour guide on duty
- > And much more

Places of interest

- ✓ Bethlehem
- ✓ Jerusalem
- ✓ Jericho
- ✓ Nazareth
- ✓ Sea of Galilee

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
margie@flbc.net
1-406-752-6602

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
orlc@ourredeemerlives.org
1-406-442-7842

Daily Texts 2021

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.



2021 RETREAT SCHEDULE

• Jan 8–10 Jr & Sr
High Ski and
Snowboard Retreat

- Jan 23 Winter Environmental Education Field Day
- Feb 13 Valentines Tea Party "It's All About God's Love"
- April 10 Spring Environmental Education Field Day
- Apr 18–20 Adult Spirituality "Shepherd Me, O God" with Pastor Brenda Satrum
- May 9 Mother's Day Brunch
- May 28–31 Memorial Work Weekend *FREE* Get a Thrivent Action Team grant for a project at camp!
- June 11–13 Women's Retreat "Saying No, Saying Yes" with Pastor Miriam Schmidt
- June 12 Partner's Luncheon Pastor Stacey (Siebrasse) Heggem, alumni staff '05 & '06
- June 15–24 Holy Land Trip with Elias Nawawieh
- July 2–4 Family Weekend with Pastor Scott Hedegaard & Pastor Barb Gwynn
- July 16–18 Family Weekend with Pastor Ben Morris, University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse
- Aug 10–20 Tanzania Trip with Amari Chenault, alumni staff
- Sept 3–6 Labor Day Retreat - Work & Play! *FREE* with Pastor Eric Huseh
- Sept 10–12 Grief Retreat with speakers Pastor Paul Rowold, holistic pharmacist Kiersten Alton, and grief therapist JoAnn Graves
- Oct 8–9 Annual Meeting & Harvest Festival
- Nov 4–7 Quilting & Crafting Retreat
- Dec 3–5 Family Advent Retreat

For more information click here

Education Opportunities



Winter Thursdays (and 1 Tuesday) with NRIT

Join us for the following Zoom classes in 2021:

Covenant as Care: Cherishing Our Relationship with God and Each Other

Explore this year's Lenten texts from the Old Testament with Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker.

Dr. Parker is highly recommended by Dr. Mark Allen Powell and also our own Pr. Kim Peterson (Trinity in Choteau) who studied with Dr. Parker at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio.

Thursday, Jan 14 10am to noon (lunch) 1pm to 3pm

Grief: A Class in 3 Sessions

Jan 21 Class 1 – Complicated Grief, an overview of current grief theory and discussion of grief with Monica Trimble, MSW, LCSW 10am to Noon

Jan 26 Class 2 – Congregational Grief, a look at how loss and grief impact congregational life with Rev. Michael Girlinghouse, Bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma synod. 1pm to 3pm

Feb 4 Class 3 – Traumatic Grief, focusing on pastoral care during trauma and traumatic deaths in congregational and clinical settings, led by Pastor Grant Barnett Christenson, pastor and hospital chaplain in Bozeman. 10am to Noon

Classes are two hours each. Registration includes all three classes. Attend as you are able.

Congregational Vitality

Learn more about this process happening within the Montana Synod. (More info coming soon.)

Thursday, Feb. 11 10am to Noon

To register: www.montanasynod.org – Click on the “Faith Formation” tab, top of the page and click on NRIT. Scroll down to find these class.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



*A Worship service led by the
ELCA bishops elected in 2019*

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

8pm Eastern | 7pm Central

**LIVE on synodical Facebook pages
and websites across the ELCA**

Interfaith Opportunity

Colleagues and friends,

We have an interfaith group of clergy and faith leaders that are organizing across the state with the intent to bring faith values and voices to the state legislative process this upcoming session starting in January. Our goal is to build relationships with legislators, speak to issues that matter to us, and follow particular bills with the intent of giving voice as needed. We are looking for two things:

1. Faith leaders who are interested in this work (perhaps yourself, or leaders in your congregation, or colleagues in your town)
2. ELCA, mainline, or other faith identified legislators who we can be in relationship with.

If you are interested in being in the work or have names of leaders or legislators please contact John Lund at John.lund@mso.umd.edu or 406-396-4974.

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). This group studies 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.

Calendar Of Events

Tuesday 12/15

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

Wednesday 12/16

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

Thursday 12/17

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

Friday 12/18

- Bethel Office Closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 12/22

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

Thursday 12/24

- Christmas Eve Bethel Office closed
- Christmas Eve Services recorded and can be viewed on bethelmt.org

Friday 12/25

- Merry Christmas! Bethel Office Closed

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

Contact information:

Email: bethegf.pastor@gmail.com

Bethel number non-emergencies:

406-761-1543 ext 202

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306