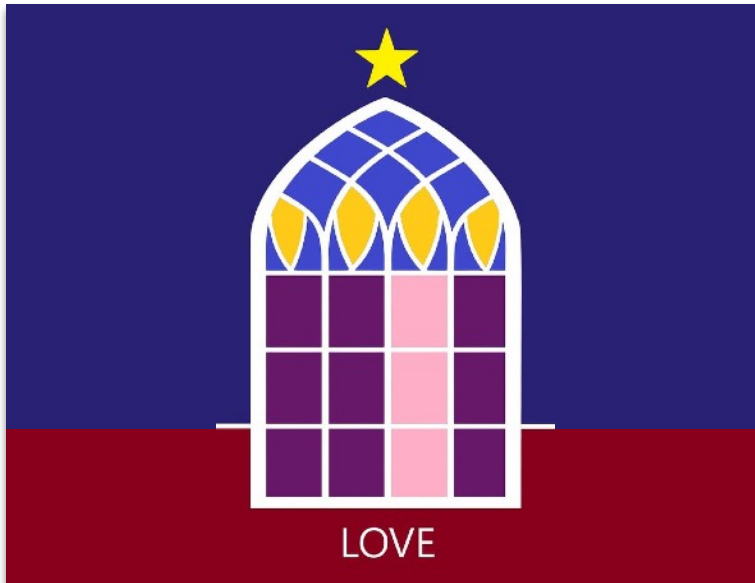


BETHEL NOTES



The angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph all proclaimed "Fear not!" in response to the human emotions displayed before them. God's word also breaks into the fears of our world with the promise of Christ. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid.

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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

VOCALIST - PATRICK RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT - SUE HESSE AND WALT NUESSELE

TECH - COLTER MCCARTY

Sunday, December 20th

The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

LUKE 1:5-25

LUKE 1:26-38

MATTHEW 1:18-25

ISAIAH 43:1-7, 15-21

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 is home and doing well.
- ✦ Prayers of joy for **Presley Jean Birnel** 9 month old, great granddaughter of Bernice Johnson who is had surgery and is back home and doing well!
- ✦ 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 and strength for **Ray Poser**, Connie Titcomb's brother, who has been admitted to the hospital in Billings with Covid 19.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Pam Hanson Alfred** as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Bob Vander Aarde** as he undergoes cancer treatment.

- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Robert Dillard**, Trudy Terwilliger father who has tested positive for Covid 19.
- ✦ Prayers of support and good health for **Earl and Trudy Terwilliger** who are in quarantine while they await their results of their Covid tests.



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](#)



CHANGE OF PLANS...

by Dave Scholten

These are words we've had to live by in 2020, impacting nearly every facet of life. For me it was a family cruise that did not occur, a trip to Scotland that became a trip to the Oregon coast, modified wedding plans, breakfast by Zoom, choir in the shower. The list goes on and on, even more dramatically for some of you. The only constant is change, but of course we knew that before the pandemic.

In nearly every one of these changes, however, there have been silver linings, such as more family time, new ways of connecting with a broader community, intentional acts of kindness, *doing less and taking in more*, **shared experience** which binds us together.



Prior to the pandemic, one of the biggest changes in my life was having a child. A child can change everything. A child can turn your life upside down, especially when it's unexpected (so much for doing less). But this change too has silver linings. And I think most would agree that the blessings of this change go beyond silver linings to life transformation.

A child can change everything. At this time of year, we think about the change of plans for a young girl named Mary, that transformed not only her life but the entire world.

Incarnation. The ultimate shared experience. God became flesh. Which means the one in whom we believe, the one to whom we pray, was born as we were born, to live as we live, to hurt as we hurt, to walk where we walk, to feel what we feel. So that when we fall on our knees sweating drops of blood and cry out "Kyrie eleison, Lord have Mercy, I don't know how much more of this I can take", someone is listening who says, "I know, I've been there myself".

This knowledge helps me cope with change and transforms change for good. Good for me and good for others. Ronald Rolheiser says *"Christmas isn't automatic, it can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world."*

Change of plans... a chance to share God's love in new ways.

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 3 whole sets!



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:

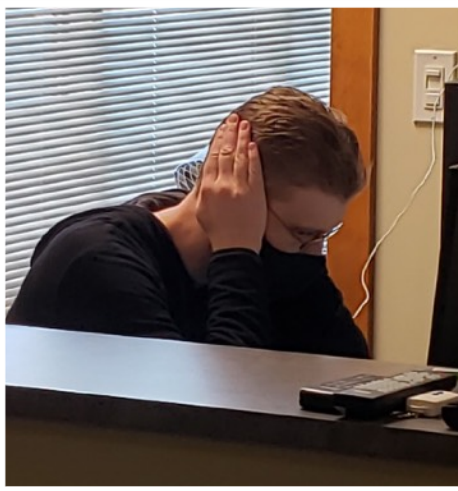
☐ Alliance for Youth , amount \$ _____

☐ ELCA Good Gifts, amount \$ _____ for:

_____ Global Barnyard _____ Water _____ Health Care

Cut out this slip and mail in with your donation.

PREPARING CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



Not bad singing...just setting sound! Colter McCarty worked hard Saturday to record parts of the service.



The Ryan Family singing *O Come All Ye Faithful*



Mary Seim was a trooper accompanying many singers and brass ensemble *all day!*



Pastor Steve Nelson and Warren Johnson singing *Mary Did You Know?*



Pastor Trina's family even got in on the fun! With her husband Dennis Trotter and sister Jenny and her husband Dan Woods with their girls Claire and Emily.



Sounds of the season with Brass Ensemble. Lynn Ryan, Dave Scholten, Adam Elkin, Kurt Mueller, and Jeff Skogley

Christmas Eve Service will be posted on bethelmt.org

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



- 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"

For more information click here

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.



**Fellowship After Worship
on Zoom this Sunday at
10:30!**

**Look for the Zoom link in
your inbox this Friday!**

**If you need assistance
setting up Zoom, please call
the office 761-1543.**

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 12/22

- 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 12/29

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

Thursday 12/31

- New Year's Eve

Friday 1/1/2021

- Happy New Year 2021! Bethel office is 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