

BETHEL NOTES



On this Second Sunday of Advent our time together in worship will be framed by Advent lessons and hymns. We will hear words of hope from the prophet Isaiah and sing several favorite Advent hymns.

In This Issue:

- Prayer Requests
- Submit to the Bethel Message Board Pg 2
- A Message From Pastor Trina Pg 3
- Bethel Message Board
- Living Lutheran December Issue Pg 4
- Family Promise Update Pg 5
- Family Promise Update *continued*
- Daily Texts 2021 are in
- FLBC Events 2021 Pg 6
- ELCA World Hunger
- Christmas Giving Pg 7
- Online Ministries
- Calendar of Events
- Contact info from Pastor Trina

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

SERVING THIS SERVICE

ACCOMPANIST - MARY SEIM

LAY ASSISTANT - TAMY SCHOLTEN

CARL DUNN

VOCALIST - DAVE SCHOLTEN

TECH - COLTER MCCARTY



**World
Hunger
Sunday**

Sunday, December 6th

The Second Sunday Of Advent

WORDS OF PROMISE:

ISAIAH 11:6-8; ISAIAH 35:5-8; ISAIAH 65:20-24

WHILE WE WAIT:

ISAIAH 61:1-3; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-2, 11, 13B-18; MATTHEW 28:19-20

LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME:

2 PETER 3:2-4A, 8-10, 13-14; JAMES 5:7-8

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 having surgery this morning to remove a growth on her lung.
- ✦ 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 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 the family and friends of **Tony Stallworth** (friend of Patty Braget) as they mourn his passing.

The Bethel Message Board

During this time, while we are not meeting in-person. I would like to offer the Bethel Notes as a way of sharing greetings and stories from all of our readers.

If you would like to share a special story or a message with our congregation mail or email your writing to me at the church and I will include it in the Notes. (*see Bethel Message Board on page 4*)

email:

bethelgf.church@gmail.com

mail:

Bethel Lutheran Church
Attention: Notes
1009 18th Ave SW
Great Falls, MT 59404

Tami Grosenick
Administrative Assistant

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TRINA

A most blessed Advent to you all. I hope you are finding ways to mark this time of year, be it using the devotional guide that the synod prepared (available at bethelmt.org), lighting an Advent wreath at home, or enjoying the daily surprises of an Advent calendar.

As I mentioned in worship on Sunday, Advent is a time of watching and waiting and hoping for what is to come. It seems to take on new meaning this year as we watch for Covid numbers to decrease, wait for vaccines to be approved, and hope for a return to ways of life that we miss. One of the things that has been most disrupted in this time of pandemic is our gathering for public worship, and I am sorry to report that Bethel will continue to experience this disruption. *The six local ELCA congregations, in consultation with and the approval of each of their Councils, have determined that the safest course for the foreseeable future is to offer on-line worship only.*

I know this will come as yet another disappointment to many. It has, indeed, been a time of much loss of routine and tradition. We are right to grieve not getting to see our church family and marking the season with such things as children's programs, choir cantatas, and candlelit services. But we do it as a gift of love for one another and the whole community. And we give thanks for the upgrade to our technology which has greatly improved the at-home worship experience. If you have any questions about this please reach out to Pastor Trina (bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com) or Council President Doug Sexe (doug.sexe@rbc.com).

I'd like to suggest one more Advent resource ([click here](#)). Bozeman native John Hermanson is a well-known musician on the national level (he's half of the duo *Storyhill*) and is the church musician at Oak Knoll Lutheran in Minnetonka, MN. For several Advent seasons now, John has offered the hope-filled and poignant music from his recording *Isaiah*. He does this live each night at 7:00 pm for the four weeks of Advent, and I have found it to be a meaningful way to mark the season. At the link above you can

register (with your email address) to receive nightly reminders with a link to each night's offering.

And finally, a word about this week's worship. We will be celebrating Holy Communion, so if you'd like to participate in that prepare your bread and wine/juice. Our time together this week will be framed by Advent lessons and hymns; we will hear words of hope from the prophet Isaiah and get to sing several favorite Advent hymns. Thanks to our assisting ministers, musicians and tech folks for serving us throughout this season of separation. And know that though we are physically apart, we are all joined together and made one in Christ. I pray that you would feel His presence strongly in the days ahead. *Pastor Trina*

For those of you who would like to make communion bread at home, here is the recipe. Thanks to Darci Barsotti for the idea to share this.

Communion Bread Recipe from Luther Seminary

2 cups whole wheat flour
1 cup white flour
1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
1 1/4 teaspoons salt
Sift dry ingredients together 3 times (important!)
Stir in 4 teaspoons of oil and set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved
3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons very hot water (minimum of 180 degrees F)
3 tablespoons honey
3 tablespoons molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead. Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk. With a knife, score the top of each loaf into eight pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more easily broken off while serving. Alternatively, you could score a cross on to the loaf.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake for an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield four 8 ounce loaves.

BETHEL MESSAGE BOARD

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for your concern, for your prayers, and for all the kind messages and cards you have sent us. And thank you for the lovely prayer shawl that I received recently. It is beautiful and comforting. I appreciate so much the Close Knit group's dedication and sharing of their talents to make the prayer shawls. I admire their skills and caring. I am truly blessed by the compassion of all of you in our Bethel community.

Peace,

Margie Holland



Update on Bob Norbie

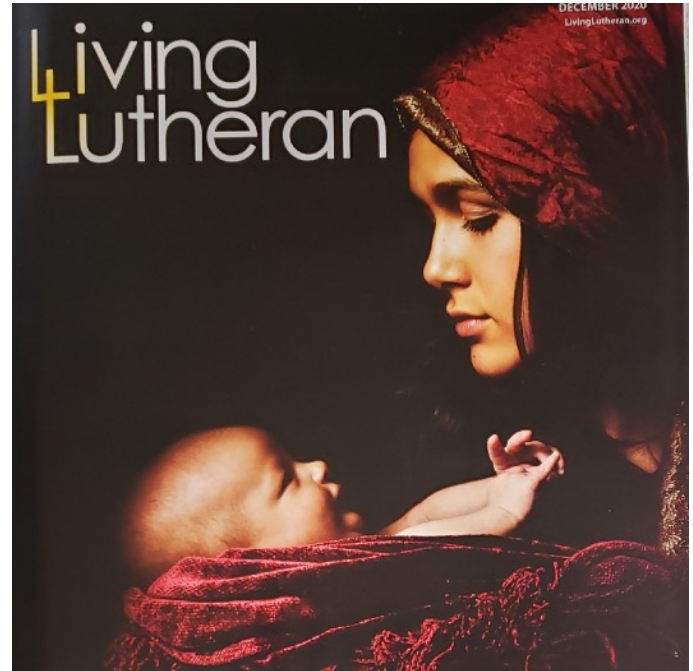
Bob is doing well and we wanted to share a portion of his email:

I'm generally on the treadmill daily walking 4-5 miles, and I'm looking forward to cross-country skiing when son, Erik, is home for the holidays.

I returned to work full-time with Special Olympics October 1 to button up our endowment campaign. After January 1 I go halftime until June 30 before fully retiring at 69+ years young.

Given the timing of my health issues and COVID impacting our lives, we've been especially careful to avoid crowds.

All my best to you this Holiday Season .Blessings, Bob



December Living Lutheran Magazine is here.
This Month

- Living in Mary's Time
- A song for silence
- The humanity of the nativity *in his Christmas Book, Luther emphasized the story's realism*
- Symbols of the season
- Expanding the idea of family
- A gift of ministry *Embracing mom-pastors and mother God*
- Attuned to God's call *Congregations discern purpose through national initiative*
- Travel ban builds resilience *How an international ministry created opportunity out of the pandemic*
- Gifts of friendship *When a bond between Lutherans and Muslims transcends doctrine*

Please let me know if you would like to pick one up or have one mailed to you.



Dear Friend of Family Promise of Great Falls,

We head into the holidays with our hearts heavy as the COVID virus impacts our community – indeed our country – at rates higher than ever before. For we who have placed great value on the opportunity to help those families in our community who have found themselves without a home get back on their feet, this year has been painful. We can only imagine what it must feel like not to have a home into which we can retreat from the incursion of the virus. We can only imagine what it must feel like not to have a home in which we can remotely school our children. We can only imagine the pain felt by those who do not have a home of their own within which they can feel safe.

Having suspended our Family Promise rotational model of providing shelter and comprehensive services for families, we have all struggled to figure out how we can continue to serve those in need. Those who attended our Family Promise stakeholder meeting in September were fairly unanimous in the desire to be able to provide services in some way moving forward. The difficulty has been in determining the best way to do this. Restrictions caused by the coronavirus impact our ability to gather to plan.

In consultation with Donna Lawson from the Family Promise national office, we as a Family Promise Board have determined that we are postponing our planning work until after the first of the year. It seems almost impossible to make decisions in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty brought by the virus, especially as we struggle in managing remote work, remote school, and engaging in day-to-day tasks safely. In early to mid-January we will evaluate where we are.

Our plans are to – in whatever manner is safe, including remotely - convene groups of Family Promise stakeholders to address the following tasks:

1. Service Model - What services will we provide in what manner to help families with children who are without a home?
2. Fundraising – What tasks will we take on to fund our work?
3. Staffing – At what point do we hire staff to help move our plans forward?

Donna Lawson has gathered information for us about the many ways other Family Promise affiliates are continuing to serve families in different formats. It is amazing the ways affiliates have found to safely provide shelter and meals for families! Donna has also prepared a document that describes ways in which we can continue to raise funds to support the work of Family Promise while working under the constraints posed by COVID.

When we re-convene, we are counting on those of you who believe in Family Promise's mission to step up and help with these tasks. Family Promise has never been about a Board running the show. It has always been a community response to family homelessness, involving a partnership of the Board, staff, and members of our faith community. The Board currently consists of only three people; sadly, Kate Triplett had to step down from the Board due to personal circumstances. Also, some current Board members have had changes in work situations that are impacting the amount of time available to serve in their volunteer positions for Family Promise. We are looking for persons who will take on the tasks of chairing the planning committees.

We are counting on Family Promise stakeholders to join one or more of the committees. If we do not have help from our Family Promise community, Family Promise will have to close its doors for good. We know that families in our community need us, so we are believing that that will not happen.

We will send out to this group the information Donna has provided, so you can begin thinking about the tasks you wish to help tackle, the role you wish to play moving forward. We know the need will be there. We know that there is a looming eviction crisis in our country and our community that will impact families even more. We know there will continue to be families in our midst who need our help.

The good news is that we have approximately \$62,000 in the bank. Central Christian is allowing us to continue to occupy the space that has been our office and Day Center. We are poised to begin the work to re-build in early 2021. Please prayerfully consider the role you will play.

We would like to hear your thoughts. You can reply to this e-mail or you can reach individuals of us through the contacts below.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season,
 Steve Van Gilder, stevedvangilder@gmail.com, 406-781-2232
 Donna Lawson, dwlawson@att.net, 352-279-6313 (Bozeman)
 Katie Batterbee, kbatterbee@nwgf.org
 Jordyn Rogers, fampromisegf@gmail.com



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

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. .

Hunger facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Please consider donating to ELCA World Hunger or ELCA Good Gifts.



Christmas Giving



TO DONATE TO EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE CHARITIES, GO ONLINE TO [BETHELMT.ORG](https://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

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 bethelgf.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 12/8

- 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

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