

BETHEL NOTES

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Jesus
was baptized
by John in
the Jordan

MARK 1:9

Sunday, January 10th

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

GENESIS 1:1-5

PSALM 29

ACTS 19:1-7

MARK 1:4-13

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

SERVING THIS SERVICE

ACCOMPANIST - MARY SEIM - PIANO, PASTOR STEVE NELSON - GUITAR

VOCALIST - DAVE AND TAMY SCHOLTEN

LAY ASSISTANT - JOHN BLANK

TECH - COLTER MCCARTY AND ADAM ELKIN

SUNDAY COUNTERS - PATTY BRAGET AND DONNA VINNEDGE

**In-person worship is
on hold.**

**Please join us Sunday
at 9:30 am
bethelmt.org**

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE: (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 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 **Pam Hanson Alfred** *friend of Kris Voorhees* as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Bob Vander Aarde** as he undergoes cancer treatment.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Liz Ambrose** *friend of AnneRose Rogers* as she recovers from knee surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Marsha Johnson**, employee and friend of Beth Olson as she recovers from surgery and remains in the hospital.
- ✦ Prayers of support and joy for **Karrie Pepos** (*pictured below*) as she begins student teaching in Billings, Montana.



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
 The brand new year ahead.
 Help me live the way I should
 As each new day I tread.
 Give me gentle wisdom
 That I might help a friend,
 Give me strength and courage
 So a shoulder I might lend.
 The year ahead is empty,
 Help me fill it with good things
 Each new day filled with joy
 And happiness it brings.
 Amen.

Being Together Even When We Can't Be Together!

As we move from recorded services to live streaming we have new options and ways for us to connect even when it is in the virtual world.

One tool we are adding is a live chat option during the worship service. You can check in and say hi to everyone when you log on. You can send in a prayer request. Give us direct feedback if you are having trouble hearing or viewing. You can comment on the readings.

We will keep this option going for those at home when we are able to transition to a mix of in-person gathering as well as live streaming.

One thing to note as we become more comfortable using this new technology to connect with one another. We want to keep all comments

positive and supportive - even if it is something you disagree with, kindness is always the best. Also, we are living in a world of very diverse political views. We ask that everyone refrains from using the live chat forum to discuss politics. We are here to worship together and share in the love of our Lord, under his tent.

God's blessings to all and please let us know if you need any assistance with getting connected.

Did You Know?...

All our services are archived on our YouTube page. At any time you can go back and view services from the past. On our live stream services, after the service ends, it takes about an hour for the service to upload, but once it does you can view any time you like!



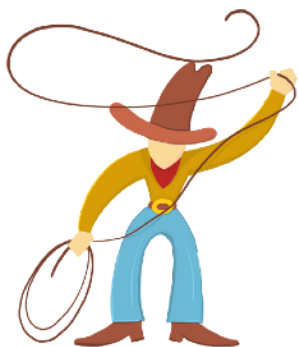
BETHEL NEEDS YOU!

We have a few positions that need to be filled this upcoming year. We ask that you take a moment to read through the areas that need some leaders and prayerfully consider raising your hand.

Synod Assembly Reps - two people (can be a couple) are needed to fulfill this service. This is a very limited time and service needed. In the past this would require travel, however this year the entire Synod Assembly will be held online. The three requirements for this ministry is 1) Be available to attend online the weekend of June 4th through the 6th (may only be Friday and Saturday and will not be all day long) 2) Be willing to learn how to use online technology such as Zoom to attend meetings and vote and have your own email address. 3) Write an article for the Notes after the Assembly to give a summary of your experience and what is coming up with the Montana Synod.

FLBC Representatives - These two individuals (can be a couple) to represent Bethel at the FLBC Annual Meeting Saturday, October 9th. This would require travel to camp for the meeting and other happenings that weekend and a follow up article for the Notes to update on what the plan is for the upcoming year.

Both of these ministries are very easy to fulfill, are wonderful for anyone who would like learn more about our Synod or FLBC. Please email Jim Carlson at jim.c.carlson@gmail.com or call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543. Thank you for your consideration.



Bethel Ministry

Round-Up

Howdy Pardner! Been sittin' here a spell and figgered there may be a chance that ya may have forgotten about some ministering opp-or-tune-itees here at Bethel Lutheran Church! So pull up a saddle, sit back, and listen to a little tale about how YOU can get connected even iffin' it ain't that easy to do.

Altar Guild

Taken care of settin' up communion, changing out the colors - join in and purdy up the place!

Bethel Bunch

Here's a rowdy group that'll make ya smile. Meetin' on line fer the time be-in'.

Close Knit

Got a hankerin' to work with yarn? Join Close Knit to craft up some prayer shawls an' more! Hopin' to start meetin' soon.

World Hunger

Join in on makin' this here world a better place. Food, education, clean water...the list goes on!

FISH!

Feed Folks and Feelin' Fine! Join this team to meet the needs of folks in Great Falls who are hungry.

Hope Circle

This group o' gals have been meetin' online, prayin', learnin', and supportin'.

Jubilate Choir

Iffin' ya like to sing. The Choir is where you need to be! They're gettin' singin' masks, n will be blessin' us with music again real soon!

Men's Breakfast

Fix yerself some coffee an' grub join this group online! They take a gander at the upcoming Sunday lessons.

Electric City Bible Study

Studian' the Bible and havin' a cup-o-joe. Early mornin' Tuesdays and have been meetin' online.

Youth Ministry

We got Logos during the school year and Bible Camp in the summer - all ages and activities iffin' ya like werkin' with kids...let us know.

FLBC Reps

Iffin' ya luv kidds and the FLBC Camp. We need 2 people who'll represent Bethel this coming June.

Synod Assembly Reps

Lookin' fer a couple a rustlers who will represent Bethel at the Annual Synod Meetin' Online this year so ya gotta be computer savvy.

To learn more about these ministries, go to bethelmt.org or call the office at 406-761-1543. If you are interested in the FLBC or Synod Rep positions, email Jim Carlson at jim.carlson@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendars and details will come as to how we will meet for these events.

Sunday, January 17th 11:00 AM

Budget Meeting - we will look at the upcoming 2021 budget and answer any questions before we vote to approve on...

Sunday, January 24th 11:00 AM

Bethel's Annual Meeting. Voting members of Bethel will look at the upcoming 2021 budget as well as voting in church positions such as *Synod Assembly Representatives*, *FLBC Representatives* (see page 3 for descriptions) and voting in of new Council Members Sara Sexe and Laurie Turner as we thank Donna Vinnedge and Doug Sexe who will be stepping down from Council from their extended years of service.

More details to come.



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.

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.

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](#)



WHAT BAPTISM MEANS TO ME

In the time of Jesus, John was baptizing in the desert region. He was preaching baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. Confessing their sins many people (Judean countryside and all the people from Jerusalem) were baptized by John in the Jordan River. I believe that many of these people believed that John was the Messiah or chosen one. John said that he was not, that one more powerful than he would come, one whose thongs on his sandals, that John would not be worthy to tie. "I, John, baptize you with water but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Jesus came to John to be baptized in the Jordan "when Jesus came up out of the water the heaven was opened and the spirit descended like a dove." God the Father said, "you are my son, whom I love: with you I am well pleased." Jesus went to the desert and was tempted by satan for forty days.

In baptism, no matter what your age, your background country or color you too will receive the Holy Spirit which becomes a part of you. It is your conscious soul, helping you know right from wrong, good from evil, love from dislike. What an opportunity - it even helps you to know what path you should walk to fulfill God's desire for you. Baptism is the New Beginning in every life as God reaches out to you and claims you as a beloved child of God. It's not about our decisions or actions; it's all about what God has done for us in Jesus.

In our day you are sealed with holy oil and become one of God's Children which will be seen by God at the end of life and again at the end of the earth when Jesus comes again.

Amen and again I say Amen. God be with you always.
Anne Vannatta



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM from Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

What is baptism?

Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's Word and by his command. What is this Word?

In Matthew 28 our Lord Jesus Christ says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

What gifts or benefits does God give in Baptism?

In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.

What is God's promise?

In Mark 16 our Lord Jesus Christ says, "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

How can water do such great things?

It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of

God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul writes in Titus 3, "He saved us...in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."

What does Baptism mean for daily living?

It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.

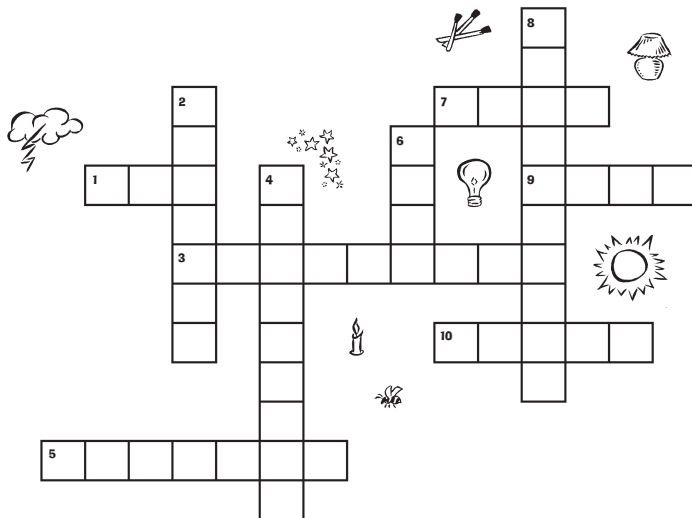
Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans 6, "We were buried therefore with Christ by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."



Here Comes the Son

John used a special word to describe God's gift of Jesus to the world. To find this word, complete the crossword puzzle. Then answer the question. Write the answer in the blank to complete the sentence.



Across

1. Big light in the daytime sky.
3. Bright flash you see with thunder.
5. Little bug that has its own nightlight.
7. Tiny light in the night sky.
9. Lights up a room at night.
10. Little stick that can start a fire.

Down

2. Look for these lights on the altar.
4. Screw this into a lamp for light.
6. Big nighttime light in the sky.
8. This helps you see in the dark while driving.

What do all these clues have in common?

Jesus is the _____ of the world.

(See John 8:12 NRSV)

Just for YOUTH!

Is a new section of our weekly Bethel Notes that will focus on youth information and youth topics. From FLBC to Logos Youth Ministry to the upcoming 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. We welcome topics and input from our youth and what they want to learn or know more about.

Questions, articles written by youth for youth. A great forum for youth of all ages as we support their growth in Christ.



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CHRISTMAS 2

"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"



Winter Environmental Education Field Day ❄️🌲

January 23, 2021 \$25/person

Join FLBC for a day of fun and learning! Visit <https://flbc.net/field-trip/> or call 406-752-6602 to register.

Tea Party - "It's all about God's love!"

February 13, 2021 2-4pm

\$10/person

Grandparents, guardians, parents, bring your kiddos to a Valentine's Day "Tea Party!" All ages are welcome; our programming will focus on children ages 4-10.

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 tests 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.

Next meeting Thursday, January 14th 7:00 PM

Calendar Of Events

Tuesday 1/12

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

Wednesday 1/13

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

Thursday 1/14

- Hope Circle Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 1/15

- Bethel office is closed.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 1/17

- Budget meeting after worship location TBD

Tuesday 1/19

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

Wednesday 1/20

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

Thursday 1/21

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

Friday 1/22

- 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