

# BETHEL NOTES

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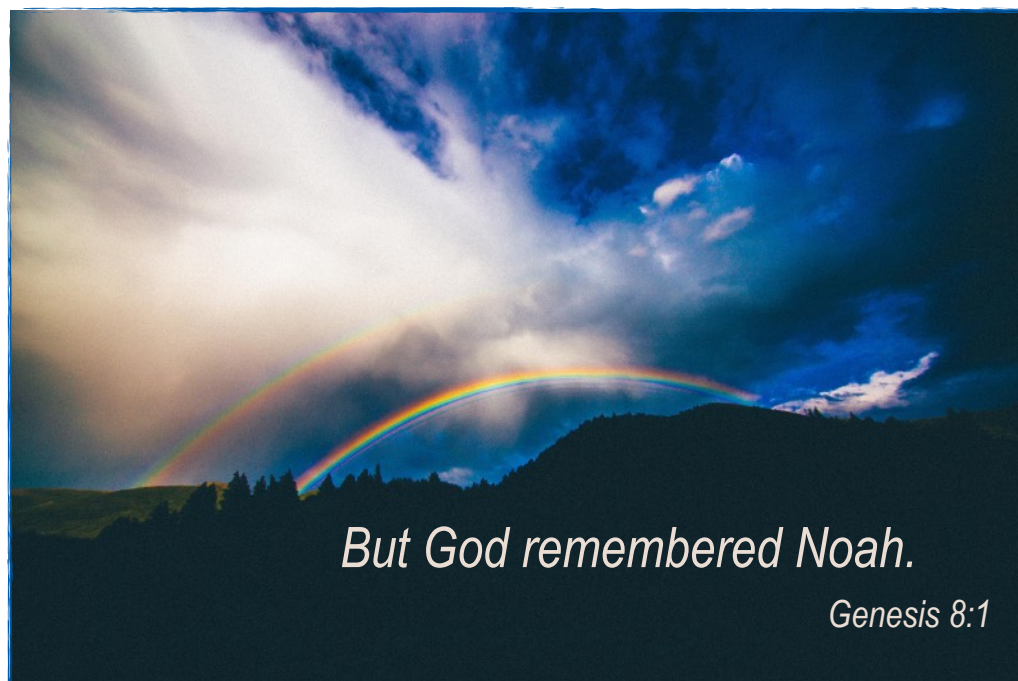


Photo by [Abigail Keenan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*Sunday, February 21st*

**First Sunday of Lent**

PORTIONS OF  
GENESIS 6 – 9

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**Accompanist**  
**Lead Vocals**  
**Lay Assistant**  
**Tech**  
**Counters**

### **SERVING THIS SERVICE**

Lynn Ryan, piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar  
Patrick Ryan  
Anne Vannatta  
Colter McCarty  
Tim Lightbourne and Dena Wagner-Fossen

**In-person worship resumes.**  
**Join us Sunday at 9:30**  
**in-person or online**  
**[bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

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

OFFICE: (406) 761-1543

WEBSITE: [WWW.BETHELMT.ORG](http://WWW.BETHELMT.ORG)

EMAIL: [BETHELGF.CHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BETHELGF.CHURCH@GMAIL.COM)



- ✦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (*granddaughter of Bernice Johnson*) who is 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 continues with back issues.
- ✦ Prayers of support and healing **James Trunkle**, *friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen*, as he continues to manage health issues. .
- ✦ 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 **Marsha Johnson**, *employee and friend of Beth Olson* as she recovers at home with complications from Covid.
- ✦ Prayers of support and healing for **Trudy and Earl Terwilliger** as they are managing with progression and changing of Trudy's cognitive health.
- ✦ Prayers of support and healing for **Earl Terwilliger** as he undergoes tests for an unknown abdominal lump.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Bob Moretti** who is undergoing medical treatment for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort for **The Geyer Family**, extended family of *Thelma Seyfert*, as they mourn the death of their father Gary.
- ✦ Prayers for **Colleen Walker Nelson** as she had knee surgery on Monday.
- ✦ Prayers for **Laurie Turner's uncle Don** as they await diagnosis of his congestive heart failure and pneumonia.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort for **Shirley Cayko and Karen Beatty** mourning the sudden death of Karen's father, Robert Smith, and for Karen's mother **Carol** as she grieves.

## Lenten Prayer

Merciful God, Accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew in us the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those who are in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Women of the ELCA*

**WE WILL BE RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
FEBRUARY 21ST.**

**LIVE STREAM STILL AVAILABLE.**

## **Bethel Lutheran Church Church Council Reopening Guidelines**

***We will still be offering a live stream of the service for those who wish to worship from home.***

### **Guidelines:**

- Front doors the only entrance into the Church. The west side entrance through the TLC Daycare will remain locked.
- Masks will be **required** and we have some available.
- A table is at the front doors with hand sanitizer, masks, tissues and an offering plate. Ushers will be there to assist with masks and help people find seats.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet will be observed.
- Signs on the restroom doors should be used to indicate if you are in the bathroom in an effort to keep the 6 feet physical distance.
- The kitchen, Fellowship Hall and back office hall doors will be closed.
- Hospitality after worship fellowship time will remain on hold until a later time.
- We will pass the peace in a no-contact fashion.
- 

Please consider the following **before you return to worship:**

- Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone who has traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms in the past 30 days?
- Have you had any of these symptoms:
  - Fever over 100.4
  - Persistent cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Sudden loss of taste or smell

**If you answered YES to any of these questions, please do not enter and contact your health care provider.**

## MID - WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

### HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER LIVE STREAM THURSDAY EVENINGS

#### 7:00 PM

Thursday evenings beginning February 25th we will be live streaming the Holden Evening Prayer Service with Lenten reading by Pastor Trina Johnsten at 7:00 pm.

Each week we will share some soup recipes for you to try for your Thursday night soup supper then tune in to sing along with the Holden Evening Prayer service. Share your soup recipe by sending them to Tami in the office and we will include them in the Notes.

This week's recipe was shared by Jessica Crist and Turner Graybill.

Leading the Holden Evening Prayer for Thursday, February 25th is Pastor Trina Johnsten and her husband Dennis Trotter

## NEW MIC REQUEST

In 2020 with the help of the Bethel Congregation and a Technology grant we were able to update our equipment to offer a better experience to those viewing worship from home.

This year we would like to improve our mics.

Since we did not budget to purchase new music specific microphones for the choir, piano and guitar and solo singers we are asking anyone who would like to prayerfully consider giving a donation toward the purchase of this equipment.

The equipment we are looking at purchasing is:

- Piano/Choir Mic
- Wireless Guitar receiver/ transmitter
- Wireless dual vocal system with two wireless mics

Total cost with installation is \$2500.00.

If you would like to donate toward this purchase you can donate on our website or send in a check to Bethel, please note "mic purchase" on your donation.

We will not purchase these items, unless we are able to raise the money for them.

Thank you in advance and may God grace your ears with music throughout your day!

## Greek Chickpea Soup with Lemon and Rosemary

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 onions, diced
- salt to taste
- pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 cups canned or cooked chickpeas
- 1 tbsp + 1 tsp chopped rosemary
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- rosemary springs for garnish



1. Heat the oil. Sauté the onions lightly seasoned with salt and pepper, until they are soft and start to brown.
2. Stir in chickpeas, 4 1/2 cups water and a tablespoon of chopped rosemary. Bring to a boil, turn down the heat, and simmer for 30-40 minutes.
3. Puree the soup until smooth.
4. Stir in the lemon juice, salt and remaining teaspoon of rosemary. Adjust to taste.
5. Garnish with rosemary sprigs.

*The recipe comes from [Soups for Syria\\*](#) a fundraiser for Syrian refugees, especially children. This recipe was submitted by Laurie Constantino, a chef who divides her time between Anchorage, Alaska, and Limnos, a rural Greek Island. [Soups for Syria: Recipes to Celebrate our Shared Humanity](#). Collected and Photographed by Barbara Abdeni Massaad. Interlink Books, 2016.*



# WORDS FROM THE BISHOP: RETURN

“Return to the Lord, your God...” Joel 2:13

Ash Wednesday: the day of the church year (other than funerals and Good Friday) when we deliberately remember that we are finite creatures – dust and water molded together and created human by God. (Gen 2:7) “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” the words announce as ashes are rubbed on our foreheads.

Ash Wednesday is also the gateway into the trials and growing pains of Lent as we enter a wilderness of struggle and transformation into deeper faith. We often try to coax such transfiguring experiences out of Lent by giving something up or taking on a new discipline. Sometimes it helps; sometimes it falls flat.

I remember one year giving up chocolate for Lent only to get three boxes of Girl Scout Thin Mints delivered two weeks into the season. I suffered but didn’t grow much in my faith besides learning to time my cookie buying more effectively.

“Return to the Lord, your God...” Perhaps this is what we ought to do for Lent this year: Return to God. Leave behind the anger, hate, and injustice, let go of the fear, anxiety, and blaming and “Return to the Lord, your God.”

The prophet Joel describes what he believes “returning to God” means: “fasting, weeping, mourning, rending our hearts and calling a solemn assembly in which the preachers cry out in front of everyone, ‘spare your people, O God.’” Certainly we could do with some prayer-filled lamenting over

God’s perceived absence during this past year of suffering.

David in Psalm 51 returns to God through a deep repentance for sins he committed. “Do not cast me from your presence and do not take your holy spirit from me,” he cries. “Instead create in me a clean heart.” We too, if we’re willing to take an honest look at our behaviors, could benefit from sincere confession in these days of division and violence, trusting in the joy of God’s salvation and forgiveness.

Or perhaps “returning to the Lord, our God” this year means simply doing what God asks the disciples to do during the transfiguration on the mountaintop:

**“Listen to him!”** From the heavens, God proclaims, “This is *my* son, *my* beloved. Just listen to him.”

“Returning to God” is certainly about listening to God. An active, consistent, deep listening that doesn’t merely hear words on

Sunday and then ignore them at the council meeting or in the grocery store.

“Returning to God” is listening to Jesus’ call to love God with our whole self and loving our neighbors as ourselves. It’s listening to Jesus’ reminder to do unto others as we would have done unto ourselves. It’s listening as Jesus tells us he wants us to love our enemies and welcome those who are hungry, thirsty, stranger, unclothed, sick, in prison, or vulnerable and oppressed in some way. (Mt 25:31-46)

And then “returning to God” is doing it. If we are truly going to return to the Lord, our God, we must not only listen and understand; we are called to



actually DO IT. Returning to God means following Christ's call to love and serve in all we say, think and do.

Take for example the governor's recent statement regarding "personal responsibility" as he removed the mask mandate. For followers of Christ, this does not mean doing what the culture says about personal responsibility by saying "I have the freedom to be responsible only for me and mine; others can take care of themselves." That's the self-indulgence Paul warns us against. (Gal 5:13)

Jesus teaches a different kind of "personal responsibility" that is centered on the neighbor, not the self. And it's actually what we've been teaching all along – loving our neighbors. Being "personally responsible" is being responsive to our neighbors' well-being and personhood. It means using our ability to respond by taking care of them, loving them and serving them even if we have to wear masks until Christ's Second Coming!

The season of Lent is not about self-centered actions that pile up treasures for ourselves in this world. No season of the Church is about that, even Christmas. Lent is about returning to the Lord, your God, to listen to God...for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

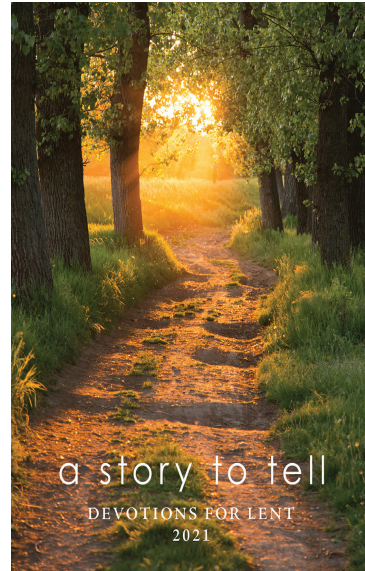
As we wander through the wilderness of Lent this year, let us return to follow Jesus Christ into the never-ending love and forgiving grace that God gives you and me on the cross. And let us return to the new and abundant life God gives in the "already, not yet" resurrection.

For though we may be dust, in Christ we are and shall be the resurrected dust of the universe, filled with the eternal life of Christ and God-beloved forever.

In Christ, Bishop Laurie

## a story to tell

### DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2021



ISBN 978-1-5064-6949-2

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Matthew with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

*A Story to Tell* focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross. The gospel writer has a story to tell, moving quickly from one scene

to the next. The urgent tone of the story grabs us and pulls us in, but all the action comes to a halt when those who see the empty tomb tell no one about this. Is this the end of the story?

Bethel would like to gift this lenten devotional to anyone who would like a copy. If you would like a copy mailed to you please email Tami at [bethelgf.church](mailto:bethelgf.church) or call the office at 406-761-1543.





## Lenten Activities for Kids

- **Give up something as a family.** Jesus fasted for 40 days. It would be meaningful to teach your children about fasting by giving up something for the entire Lenten season or on Fridays during Lent. It could be giving up desserts, not going out to eat, or drinking only water. The key is that it has to be something you enjoy and want to do/eat/have.
- **Build a Lenten Cross.** Similar to an Advent wreath, you light one or more candles each night during dinner for the entire Lenten season. I want to get this going with my family this year.
- **Soup Suppers at home.** Make Thursday nights soup night! Make a new recipe together and enjoy. Then join us online at 7:00 pm [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org) as we are lead in the Holden Evening Prayer Service.
- **Read a Lenten Devotional together.** Pick one up in the Narthex or contact the office to have one mailed to you. Read it out loud together each day. Have the kids take turns and discuss the passage and points to ponder. Then pray together the prayer for that day.
- **Make a prayer chain.** Write a person or situation on each of 40 strips of paper. Assemble them into a paper chain. Remove one link per day, and pray for that thing with your kids.
- **Serve 40 ways in 40 days.** Pick out some simple acts of kindness, one for each of the 40 days of lent. Some ideas are smile at a stranger, leave a complementary note for someone you appreciate, open a door for someone, etc.
- **Grow something.** There are lots of spring bulbs and seeds in stores already.
- **Write a thank you note to your pastor.** Help your kids to thank them for teaching them about Jesus's death and resurrection.
- **Bake pretzels.** Pretzels were first baked during Lent because they can be made with only water, flour, and salt. The shape came from a posture of prayer, with arms crossed and hands on opposite shoulders. A monk made dough into this criss-crossed shape, and the pretzel was born!

*VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 12TH TO 16TH*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 is on hold during Lent due to Holden Evening Service. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

**Next meeting March 16th 7:00 pm**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Tuesday 2/23

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

### Wednesday 2/24

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation on Zoom 6:30 pm.

### Thursday 2/25

- Holden Evening Prayer service live stream 7:00 pm with Pastor Trina Johnsten and Dennis Trotter

### Friday 2/26

- Bethel office is closed.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday 2/28

- Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Worship planning meeting via TBD 11:00 am

### Tuesday 3/2

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

### Wednesday 3/3

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation on Zoom 6:30 pm.

### Thursday 3/4

- Council Exec Board conference call 5:30 pm
- Holden Evening Prayer service live stream 7:00 pm with Dave and Tamy Scholten

### Friday 3/5

- Bethel office is closed.

### Saturday 3/6

- Close Knit meets at 9:00 am in the Hospitality area
- FLBC Day Camp workshop 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

## Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

### Contact information:

Email: [bethegf.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:bethegf.pastor@gmail.com)

Bethel number non-emergencies:

406-761-1543 ext 202

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306