

# BETHEL NOTES

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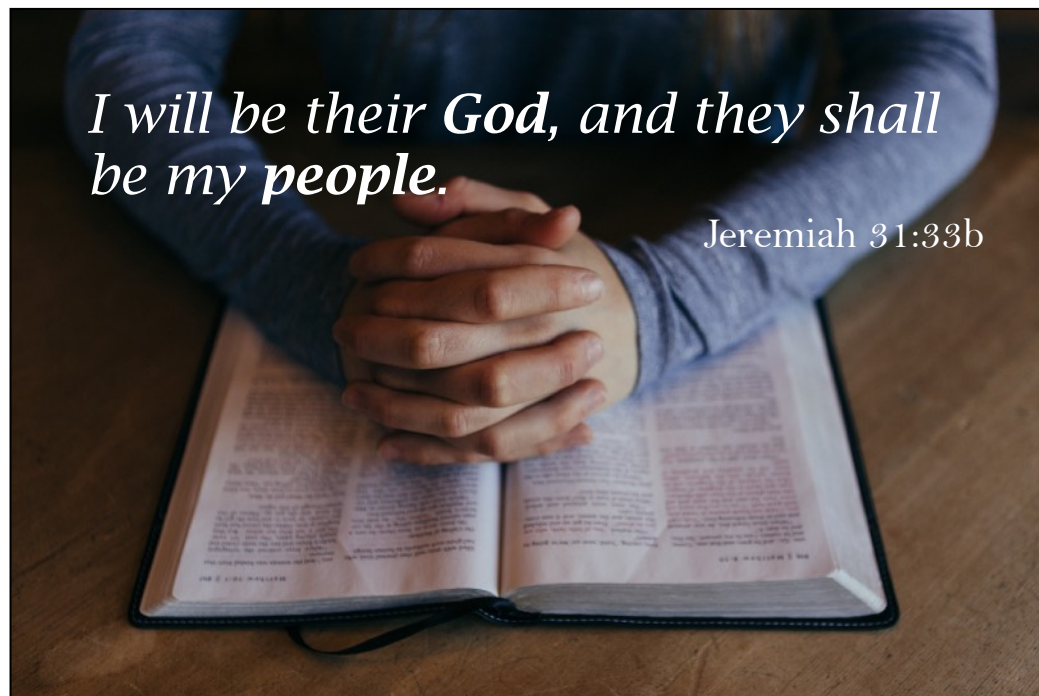
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*Sunday, March 21st*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

JEREMIAH 31:1-13, 31-34

PSALM 51:1-12

JOHN 12:20-33

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

Though the CCHD has lifted the mask mandate for the county, they are recommending that masking and physical distancing still be observed until more of our residents have received the vaccine. With that in mind, we continue to require masks for worship.

### Accompanist

### Lead Vocals

### Lay Assistant

### Usher

### Tech

### Counters

### SERVING THIS SERVICE

Lynn Ryan, piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar

Pastor Steve Nelson and Jeanne Rankin

Walt Nuessle

Sandy Pepos

Kaleb Stringer and Colter McCarty

Tim Lightbourne and Marilyn Carlson

**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*, continuing to regain strength from double lung transplant.
- ✦ Prayers of thanks for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues with treatment for cancer.
- ✦ 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 continues treatment for breast cancer and is responding well.
- ✦ 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 continued healing for **Marsha Johnson**, *employee and friend of Beth Olson* as she is doing much better and is anxious to come back to work.
- ✦ 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 healing for **Arlene Sexe** as she continues to recover from surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Sharon Bossie** as she undergoes medical care.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **LaRae Veitch** as she recovers from an ankle injury.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort and solace for **Mike and Joyce Harding, their family and friends** as the mourn the passing of Joyce's mother Betty Madison.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort for *John and Terry Korpela's* good friend **Will Weaver** who's wife Nancy just passed away.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort for the **family and friends of Pastor Bob Quam**, longtime pastor/director of Christikon, who died suddenly on Sunday.

## A Prayer for Spring

God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days. Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth. Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.

Amen.

## Words from the Bishop: Cleansing

So how many times have you cleansed your house since the Covid-19 virus arrived at your doorstep? Ten? Twenty? One hundred?!

There have been days when I felt like I was living in a petri dish with those tiny covid cells having a party on everything I touched, even though I hadn't experienced any symptoms. And a couple of times I gave into the urge and just cleansed the whole house. I washed every item of clothing, bedding, and towel that had touched my body... with bleach when I could. I wiped down every counter, sink, knob and light switch in the house with bleach cleaner. And then I sprayed and wiped Lysol cold and flu killer on every surface I could find...computer, phones, keys, TV remotes, even my car. I felt like I was at war. But there was no way I was going to leave even one of those nasty little cells alive to infect me.

I wonder if that's a bit like what Jesus felt when he entered the temple in Jerusalem during the Passover festival...like his house, his Father's house, had been infested by a virus. Only in this case the virus wasn't Covid or the flu, it was sin: coveting, greed, and idolatry as people were worshipping everything except God. (John 2) Greed and idolatry had infected the temple, God's sacred house, the place where people were supposed to go to worship, pray to and praise the God who had saved them. Instead, self-centered profiteers were worshipping money and stealing power. And the religious leaders weren't doing a darn thing about it. In fact, they were in on it, getting kickbacks and feeding their families off the profits.

Time for a cleansing! In fact, that's what the story in John 2 is often called: Jesus cleanses the temple. In a fit of zeal --- an uncontrollable passion for what is right and good -- Jesus makes himself a whip of cords and he begins to cleanse. He chases the cows, sheep and doves out of the temple like a rancher on a wild horse. He dumps over tables and pours money on the ground to be stomped on by the livestock. He shouts and yells at the people climbing over each other to get away from him.

"Take these things out of here!" Jesus shouts, waving his arms and throwing things. "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

Now that's a cleansing! I'm envisioning those tiny covid viruses fleeing my house in the same way, running and screaming for their lives.

I'm guessing we don't like this picture of Jesus very much. This angry Jesus who's so passionate about fixing

things in God's house, even God's kingdom, that he loses his temper. Jesus' zealous cleansing of the temple is one of those images from John's gospel we'd rather not watch. I mean, if a man came in screaming about our fancy church building or how we're misusing God's house, I doubt we'd listen. We'd probably call the police instead. This is not what we imagine when we think of Jesus.

But in truth Jesus does have something to be angry about. To him a Wall Street bank has taken over God's sacred temple and is selling salvation. People, especially the poor, are being oppressed and taken advantage of by unscrupulous money changers. Too many people are more concerned about worshiping money or power or their ideology than worshiping God. No wonder Jesus is mad -- these people are breaking most of the 10 commandments, particularly commandment number one. They are loving and trusting things before and instead of God.

What things or people are we loving and trusting other than the God of Jesus Christ? Money? Property? People in power or celebrities? What about our ideologies or platforms or politics? Even our self-interest over and against others can be an idol to us?

Thankfully, Jesus' anger at the moneychangers in the temple is not God's final word to us. Thankfully, in Christ we are loved, forgiven and called into new relationship with God again and again even as we stray towards the idols we fall prey to in our lives. Thankfully, God's steadfast love in Christ endures forever with us.

But that love calls us into a life-changing relationship that is different than what the world demands. Our life-changing relationship with Jesus expects us to put the God of Jesus Christ -- the God of faithfulness, mercy, peace, patience, kindness, justice, hope, and generosity -- at the center of our lives, first in all we say and do. That is to be our response to the baptismal cleansing we receive day after day. And that is the covenant the Holy Spirit calls on us to keep. So let us put aside our idols and follow Christ into the Kingdom of Love and New Life that the whole cosmos has been invited to enter, living out the gospel in all we do and say.

May God bless and keep you all in the grace of Christ!  
Bishop Laurie





## MID - WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

### HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER LIVE STREAM

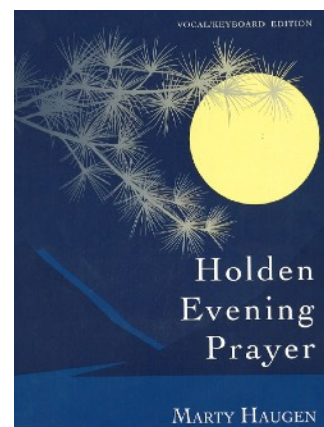
### THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:00 PM

Thursday evenings we continue to live stream the Holden Evening Prayer Service with Lenten reading by Pastor Trina Johnsten at 7:00 pm.

This week's recipe was shared by Tami Grosenick.

Share your soup recipe by sending them to Tami in the office and we will include them in the Notes.

Leading the Holden Evening Prayer for Thursday, March 18th are Patrick and Lynn Ryan.



### **Cantor Schedule**

#### **March 25th**

Colter McCarty and  
Morgan Dunn

## Simply the Best Vegetable Soup

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 2 cups chopped vegetables, such as sweet potatoes, green beans, butternut squash, potatoes, bell pepper, zucchini or yellow squash (whatever veggies you like)
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt, divided, to taste
- 6 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 large can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 4 cups (32 ounces) vegetable broth
- 2 cups water
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice



1. Warm 3 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the chopped onion, carrot, celery, seasonal vegetables and 1/2 teaspoon of the salt. Cook, stirring often, until the onion has softened and is turning translucent, about 6 to 8 minutes.
2. Add the garlic, curry powder and thyme. Cook until fragrant while stirring frequently, about 1 minute. Pour in the diced tomatoes with their juices and cook for a few more minutes, stirring often.
3. Pour in the broth and water. Add 1/2 teaspoon more salt, 2 bay leaves and the red pepper flakes. Season generously with freshly ground black pepper and red pepper flakes if using. Raise the heat and bring the soup to a boil.
4. Gently simmer in a partially covered pot for 25 minutes to 30 minutes.
5. Turn off heat, remove bay leaves add the lemon juice and 1 tablespoon olive oil and more salt and pepper to taste.

# CHECKING IN

## Mike and Margie Holland

Hello Bethel Friends,

Tami has kindly asked me to send an update on Mike and me. You may know that I was diagnosed with ALS in July. First, we would like to thank you so very much for your cards, phone calls, texts, emails, and offers to help. Your kindness is truly a huge blessing.

As soon as a person in Great Falls is diagnosed with ALS, she or he is eligible for Medallion Hospice care through Northern Rocky Mountain Easterseals Goodwill. A nursing student and an LPN visit me weekly to assess my health and assist us. They are wonderfully caring and helpful. A social worker visits twice a month, also.

My legs have become weak and I am not really walking now. Mike ordered an electric wheelchair for me. Frankly, operating equipment like that is not my natural ability, and I am trying to learn to use it without running into things. When our twelve-year-old granddaughter visited us, she hopped on it and zoomed around immediately!

As many of you know, Mike has carpentry skills and he is working to adapt our house. He and his friends made a gravel driveway up the hill in our backyard and a ramp from our home to that driveway. He has made indoor adaptations, too. And, he has become our cook — a new venture for him. He says that he likes cooking!

ALS sometimes affects a person's ability to speak immediately. I feel very thankful that I am talking well and I love to chat. My hands and arms still function, and I am grateful for that, too. Mike makes lattes for us every morning... so I can enjoy lots of things.

Our two sons and daughters-in-law and our four grandchildren live in the Seattle-Tacoma area and have traveled to visit us. Of course, they have helped us, and it's lots of fun when they come.

Once again, thank you most sincerely for your prayers and thoughtfulness.

Peace,  
Margie Holland



## Thursday, March 18th at 7 PM @ Central Christian Church

The Great Falls affiliate of Family Promise is gearing up to resume limited services in order to continue its mission of providing shelter, support, and hospitality to families in the Great Falls area experiencing homelessness.

After taking an eight-month hiatus due to board, staff, and financial pressures, the board and I have hired retired businessperson and community volunteer, Cari Yturri as our Executive Director with the intention of ultimately resuming services in order to achieve Family Promise's goal of serving homeless families in the Great Falls area who have found themselves without a home get back on their feet.

Suspending services temporarily allowed us time to reevaluate the services we offer and to gain direction and feedback from the National Family Promise Organization. Now, in order to assess what services are needed and to confirm your support of this mission, we will be holding a Community Listening Session and Stakeholders Meeting on Thursday, March 18th at 7 PM at Central Christian Church or via zoom.

Anyone wishing to attend via zoom can email Cari at [cariy@familypromisegf.org](mailto:cariy@familypromisegf.org) for a zoom link.

We're looking forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Steve Van Gilder

# Thanks For Giving



## Alliance for Youth

18h · 🌐

Thank you so much to Colleen Walker-Nelson and Bethel Lutheran Church - Great Falls, MT for their continued support of our Youth Resource Center! We are continually astonished at the generosity of our community, and feel so blessed to have the opportunity to serve our vulnerable youth.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## MISSION SUPPORT 2020

THANK  
YOU

To the members of  
**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
from the  
**MONTANA SYNOD**

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
In grateful appreciation for giving

**\$45,765.98**

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and  
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*Jan Torg*  
Synod Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Elizabeth C. Eaton*  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Staff of the

## Great Falls Rescue Mission

*Sarah Lynne* *Has Lifted You Up*  
In Prayer.

*By Blessings*  
*Maureen*  
*Dear m*  
*Kathleen*  
*savannah*  
*Ann*  
*Lynn R.*  
*Grace*  
*Bless you!*  
*Molly*  
*Samantha*  
*Beth*  
*Jana*  
*Susan P*  
*Carrie*  
*Matter*

"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive,  
if you have faith."—Matthew 21:22  
Sending Blessings & Prayers.

## Tax Assistance

For those who may have a need for some assistance with taxes, help is available at the following places and times. It is set-up first come first serve so no appointments will be accepted.

**Great Falls Public Library** Tuesdays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

**Senior Center**, Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm



## ONE FAITH QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF OFTEN

When do you feel closest to God? Not everyone's answer is the same.

During worship? While playing with friends? Walking a pet? By yourself in the backyard or park?



Here are some questions that you can ask yourself and if you have a journal, write down your thoughts. If you don't want to write them down, just think about what your answers are. There is no right or wrong answer. We all feel close to God at different times and places.

1. When do I feel close to God?
2. How can I spend more time doing that, which makes me feel close to God?
3. What are some other ways that I can connect with God?

### Upcoming At FLBC

Visit <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/> to learn more about our year-round programming and to find additional COVID-19 related information.

Keep your eyes open for more information coming to you soon about FLBC's backpacking trip with Bishop Jungling, taking place August 22-26, 2021!

We hope to see you online at the free, online educational series on "Inspiring Generosity Today!" March 8th, March 15th, and March 22nd. [Click here to learn more](#)

#### Spring Environmental Education Field Day

Saturday, April 10th, 2021 10am - 4pm  
\$25 / student / \$12/adult chaperone - includes lunch!

Join us for a day of fun and learning at FLBC! Learn more about the world around you and enjoy the fun activities camp offers at our Environmental Education Field Day. Visit <https://flbc.net/field-trip/> to learn more and register.

#### Memorial Day Family Retreat & Work Weekend

May 28-31, 2021

FREE! Registration still required :-)  
Come have a fun weekend and help FLBC get ready for summer!

*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).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Tuesday 3/23

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

### Wednesday 3/24

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- HS Logos in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 to 8:00 pm

### Thursday 3/25

- Holden Evening Prayer service live stream 7:00 pm with Colter McCarty and Morgan Dunn

### Friday 3/26

- Bethel office is closed.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday 3/28

- Palm Sunday Worship in-person and live stream worship 9:30 am

### Tuesday 3/29

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

### Wednesday 3/30

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

### Thursday 4/1

- Maundy Thursday in-person and live stream worship 7:00 pm

### Friday 4/2

- Bethel office is closed.
- Good Friday live stream only Worship 7:00 pm

### Saturday 4/3

- Close Knit meets in the Fellowship Hall 9:00 am
- Easter Vigil in-person and live stream Worship 7:00 pm

## 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