

# BETHEL NOTES

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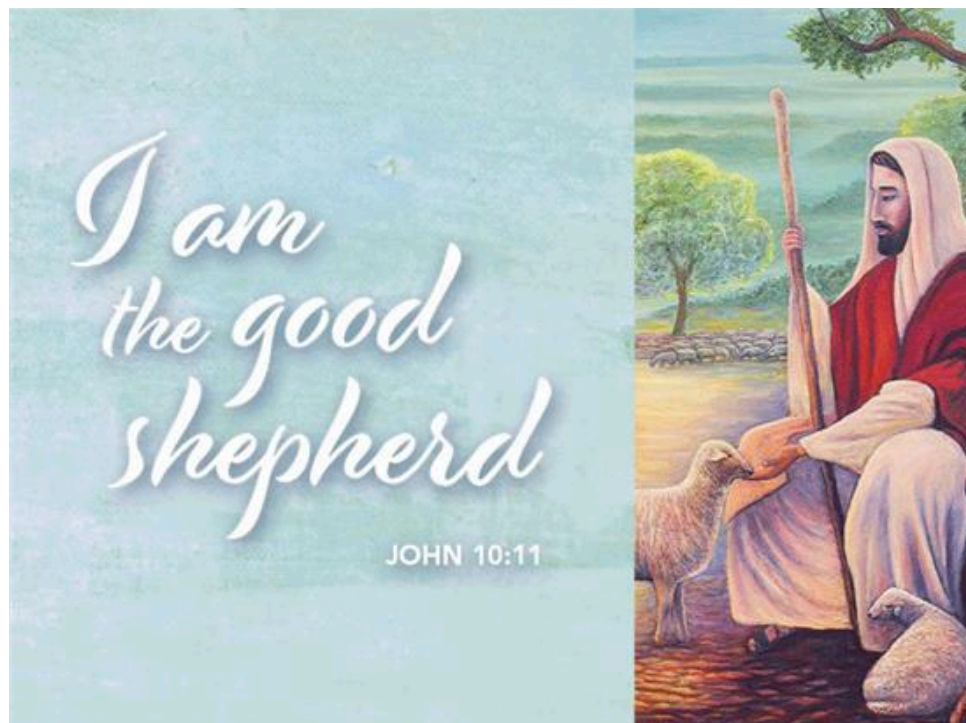
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*Sunday, April 25th*  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

PSALM 23  
 1 JOHN 3:16-24  
 JOHN 10:11-18

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

## **SERVING THIS EASTER SERVICE**

<b>Accompanist</b>	Lynn Ryan, piano; Steve Nelson, guitar
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Sandy Pepos
<b>Usher</b>	Patty Braget
<b>Tech</b>	Kaleb Stringer
<b>Counters</b>	Stephanie Cummings and Anne Vannatta

**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 continues cancer treatment.
- ✦ 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 undergoes treatment for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Sharon Bossie** as she undergoes medical care.
- ✦ Prayers of support for **Kent Kupfner** as he prepares for an upcoming surgery.
- ✦ Prayers healing for **Bob Bundi**, *Laura Kupfner's father*, as he is managing multiple health issues. As well as his wife **Linda** for support during this time..
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Don Bisgard** who is working with digestive issues.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Shirley Cayko** who will be having a procedure for a heart issue in the next week.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort and support for **Sandy Bechard and her family** as they mourn the death of Sandy's brother Bryan.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Dew Elkin** as she continues to heal from a broken toe.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Donna Fugle**, *Joni Collin's mother*, as she is in the hospital and undergoing some tests.

### Guest Speaker Coming to Bethel

**This Sunday, April 25th we welcome guest speaker Jacob Kvale, Operations and Wilderness Director from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp as he brings the excitement and energy of Camp along with Gospel message and beloved camp songs.**



**We will taking an additional offering for FLBC in the wicker basket.**

# SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



We will be holding a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 25 at 10:30, after the service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on our pastoral candidate, Reverend Jessica Obrecht. This meeting will be in-person and on Zoom. Information on how to join via Zoom will be in upcoming Bethel Notes. Please plan to join us for this exciting time in the life of our church!

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH APRIL 20, 2021

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, April 20 by zoom. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Pastor Trina led devotions and shared an article by Debie Thomas from Journeys with Jesus, titled “Embodied”.
- Bethel’s custodian has resigned, so we are searching for someone to fill that position. Interested individuals should contact Tami.
- Confirmation service will be held May 16 at 1:00 pm. The students are finishing up a 4 week study on the Apostles Creed and are preparing their faith statements.
- Our Special Congregational Meeting to vote on our pastoral candidate, Pastor Jessica Obrecht, will be held April 25th. It will occur at 10:30 and will be in-person and on zoom.
- Our updated slate of officers is as follows:
  - President: Warren Johnson
  - Vice President: Sara Sexe
  - Treasurer: Dena Wagner-Fossen
  - Secretary: Marilyn Carlson
  - Mission Endowment Committee: Greg Grosenick
- A Spring Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, May 1. Tami will advertise the event in the Bethel Notes, and we hope the congregation will come help beautify our church grounds.
- President Warren suggested we form a property and management committee to help with the building maintenance. We will look for members of the congregation to serve on this new committee.
- The contract and benefits package for the new pastor was reviewed and accepted.
- The transition protocol for reopening the church in the future was discussed. It was decided to keep our existing policies in place, and revisit this at each council meeting. Childcare during service will be arranged on a case-by-case basis.
- Family Promise is ready to move forward with its program under new leadership.
- Ushers are needed for the Sunday services. Anyone interested should contact Tami.

To view the March minutes in their entirety, please go to [March minutes](#)

## Council Meeting Highlights



# Spotlight on the Synod: Montana Synod Changing Climate Task Force

by Jenny Kunka

*Through our baptisms, God brings us into the divine plan for all of creation. We are equipped by the Spirit, then, to care for others and the world that God made. Whole-hearted, intentional stewardship of God's creation is a serious aspect of what it means to be a follower of Christ, doing God's work with our hands.*

-Pr. Julia Seymour, Pastor at Big Timber Lutheran Church and member of the MT Synod Changing Climate Task Force

When it comes to talk of climate change, there is a lot of fear.

"For young people, it's often a fear of whether or not the world will be livable for them," Pastor Eric Huseth said.

Huseth, pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran in Bonner added that, for others in Montana, there is a fear of losing jobs and a way of life. These are people who are just trying to get by and don't want to lose what they know.

The Changing Climate Task Force is well aware of the divisive nature of climate change and the emotions involved.

"How can we respect the people of both sides and respect their fear?" Huseth said. "Can the church step in and say, 'What can we do as a church to partner with those who would be affected by climate changes or economic changes?'"

Patrick Miller is a retired engineer and member of All Saints Lutheran in Big Sky. Miller spent his life working in energy, for a gas and electric generation company. When the task force was created, Miller heard of it but wasn't sure if there

was space for someone like him, a person who was not an activist and who had worked in the energy field. When he contacted Pastor Huseth, though, Miller heard that they wanted someone with his kind of expertise. And they needed someone with background in the issues that exist within green energy.

"I kept wondering if there was room for a person like me on the task force and Eric (Huseth) wanted to have someone who had a different perspective," Miller said, adding that he brings a sensitivity to members of the synod who might

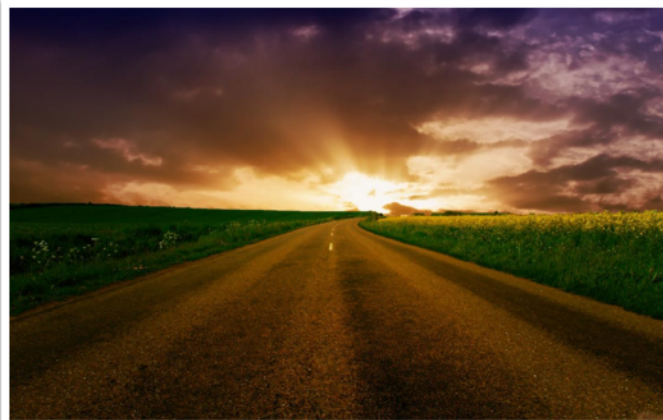
not be as gung ho. He is a voice for working together with all people and he isn't the only one. The task force has members from around the state and the pastors bring feedback from their congregations.

One of the first projects of the task force has been to create a full liturgy that is designed

to be used toward the end of August. The liturgy, written by Pr Julia Seymour (Big Timber) and Jacob Kvale (Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp) aims to connect people with their natural surroundings and to cherish and care for those places. The series uses lectionary selections to guide users through four weekly themes.

\*To attend the NRIT workshop introducing this liturgy, go to the synod website and click on the NRIT link. The actual liturgy will be made available free of charge.

Another project is a youth survey, spearheaded by a youth member of the task force. This survey will be sent to youth groups around the synod to gather the thoughts of youth and determine how the church can do a better job of



providing engagement for youth groups in sustainability.

Looking to the future, the task force hopes to provide ideas to churches who want to become greener, or simply want to save money by using green energy. The task force is looking to Hope Lutheran in Bozeman to provide some guidance in this area. Hope is a member of Lutherans Restoring Creation, a national group, and has used LRC resources to create a green team. Congregations who have an interest in making changes that fit their reality can reach out to the task force for ideas and resources.

“Much of what we do is about sustainability,” Miller said. Big things are often hard to do but there are smaller things that the task force can help with, like churches figuring out their carbon footprint. There is a way to measure this, Miller said, and if you can measure something, you can work on it. As a green team gets started, a church can make some changes and, a few years later, compare to see what has happened.

When Pastor Huseth and others proposed the Changing Climate Task Force, it was because he and other young pastors realized there was a hole in the faith community on this issue. “I just found that the church wasn’t speaking to that, beyond our congregations,” he said.

As the task force has been working, they decided that their first objective is to elevate the issue and to try to move the needle on how to make a difference. Their second and equally important objective, however, is to build bridges and to try to heal and unify the church.

“Conversation between congregations and even pastors has not been the greatest when it comes to the urban/rural divide,” Huseth said.

“We are modeling ourselves on other task forces in other synods, but I see our work as different because we live in a conservative state. That doesn’t hamper our vision but affects it.” Huseth added that it was extraordinary to see how the task forces members had understood this reality and had focused on building bridges going forward.

## May Day Clean Up at Bethel

**HELP NEEDED!!**

**Join us Saturday, May 1st 10:00 AM.**

Outdoor cleanup of the flower beds (leaves, weeds, etc), removal of debris on the patio and setting up the tables, trash pickup on the property, planting of the large flower pots, etc.

We have some lawn tools, but if you have ones that you like to use bring them and wear gloves. Starting at 10:00 am we will

have a job list to choose from. If you have any questions, please call the Bethel Office 761-1543. *(alternate date May 8th incase of poor weather.)*



## Job Opening At Bethel Church Custodian

Bethel is hiring a part time position to clean the church, do light maintenance, lawn and property maintenance and coordination with vendors and repair services.

For a detailed job description and job application :

- click [here](#)
- go to our website under About Us/ Job Openings

For more information call the Bethel Office 761-1543.

# Mother's Day Brunch

**Sunday, May 9th 2021**  
**at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp**  
 550 Lutheran Camp Road Lakeside, MT 59922



Celebrate Mother's Day on the lake!  
 3 seatings available: 9:30 am, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm  
 Please call 406-752-6602 to reserve your spot by May 1st!

Suggested donation:  
 \$25 ages 12+ | \$18 ages 4-11 | Free ages 3 and under  
 All donations go towards FLBC camper ships.

Brunch will be served at your table! Choose from a select menu of egg dishes, meat items, and sides and enjoy treats readily available on your table when you arrive.



## Indian Taco Fundraiser

Join us for a fundraiser to support  
 the North Central Montana Human  
 Trafficking & MMIP Task Force!

Veteran's Grace Home  
**Saturday, April 24 @ 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
 2211 5th Ave. N., Great Falls, MT

\$8 Taco  
 \$10 Loaded Taco  
 \$5 Frybread

## Confirmation at Bethel

This year we will be celebrate the  
 Affirmation of Baptism with our  
 six confirmands in a special  
 worship service, **Sunday May  
 16th 1:00 pm.**

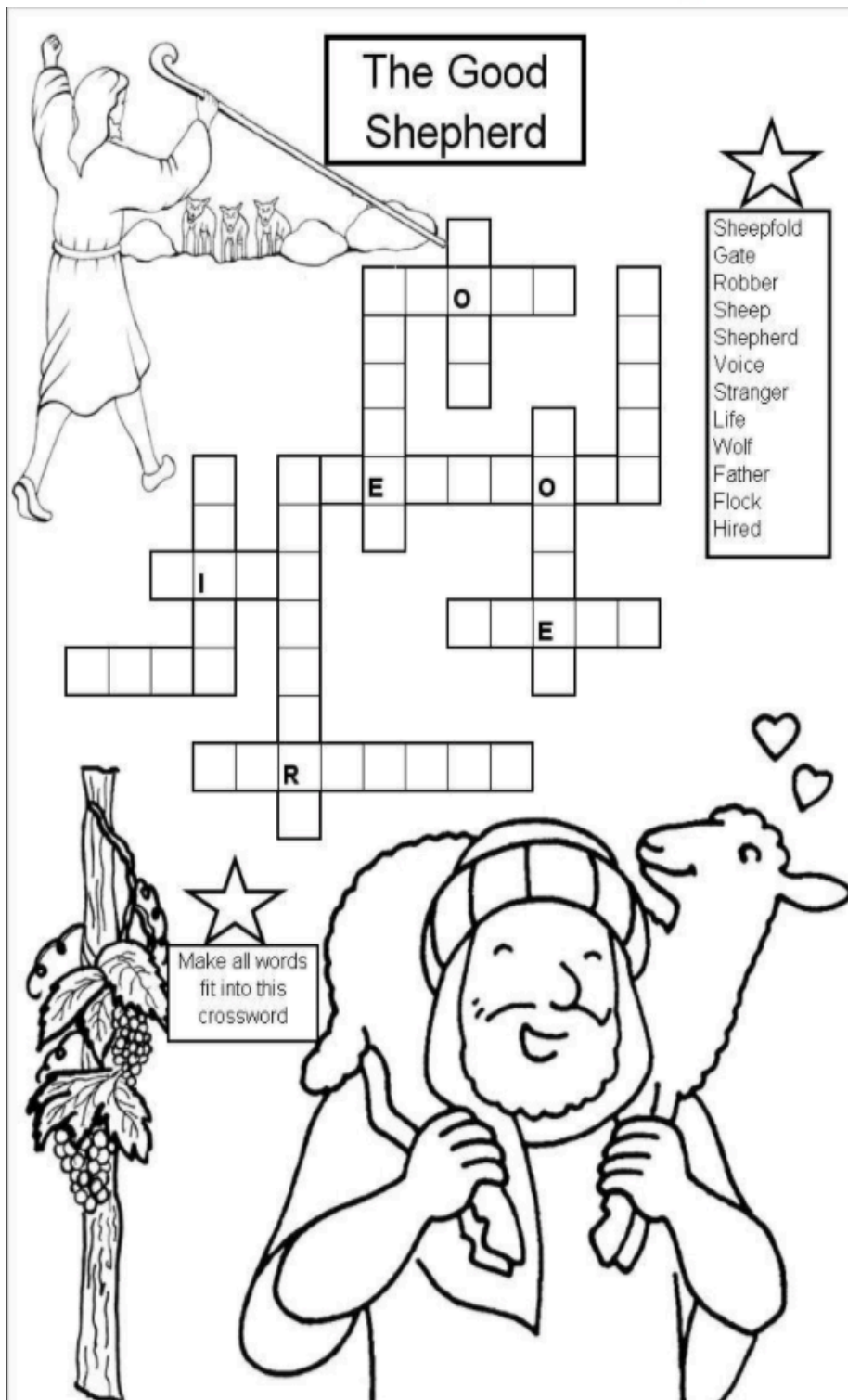
Our confirmands this year are:  
 Andrew Dullum, Jack Orthman,  
 Brady Pike, Trevor Shimerdla,  
 Maya Stringer and Regan Will.

We are asking that family and  
 sponsors only attend the service,  
 and we will live stream for those  
 Bethel Members who would like  
 to participate virtually in the  
 service.

We thank you for your  
 understanding of the need to  
 keep an attentive eye on the  
 worship numbers during this time.



# Just for YOUTH!



## 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!

### 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!

Summer Camp Registration is Open!  
go to [flbc.net](https://flbc.net) for camp dates.

Bethel Camperships available.  
Once you register for camp. Send your registration confirmation to  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
1009 18th Ave SW  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
or email: [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

We will pay \$100 towards your camp fee. If you or someone you know would like to go to camp and finances are an issue, have them call Bethel and we can help 406-761-1543.

## 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 [loli51gus@icloud.com](mailto: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 each week's Lectionary tests as we meet via Zoom, **Wednesday 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. 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 [loli51gus@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Tuesday 4/26

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

### Wednesday 4/27

- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am.
- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation on Zoom 6:30 pm.
- HS Logos meets in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### Thursday 4/28

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

### Friday 4/29

- Bethel office is closed.

### Saturday 5/1

- Close Knit meets in the Fellowship Hall 9:00 am
- May Day Clean Up at Bethel 10:00 am

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday 5/2

- Sunday Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- World Hunger Sunday

### Tuesday 5/4

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

### Wednesday 5/5

- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am.
- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- HS Logos meets in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### Thursday 5/6

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm
- Executive Board Conference call 5:30 pm.

### Friday 5/7

- Bethel office is closed.

## 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