

# BETHEL NOTES

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*Sunday, September 19th*

17th Sunday after Pentecost

JEREMIAH 11:18-20

PSALM 54

JAMES 3:13--4:3, 7-8A

MARK 9:30-37

*\*Adult Education after worship -  
getting connected to the new  
database*

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

## **SERVING THIS SERVICE**

**Accompanist**

Mary Seim, piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar

**Lay Assistant**

Sandy Pepos

**Usher**

Tim and Johnna Lightbourne

**Tech**

Adam Elkin

**Counters**

Pam Dougherty and Greg Grosenick

**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 of strength and leadership for **Gustavo Driau** as he continues as our Regional Representative for our Companion Synods in South America.
- ✦ Prayers of thanks for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues with treatment for cancer.
- ✦ 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 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 continues treatment for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Leonard Murphy** after his second knee surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort, support and healing for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to recover from surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **LaRae Veitch** as she continues rehab after knee surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he continues medical testing.
- ✦ Prayers for strength and healing for **Eric Peterson** as he undergoes treatment for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and strength for **Julie Wolff** as she recovers in the hospital from a stroke.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Tony Marcson**, *brother-in-law of Jessica Crist*, with a new diagnosis of lung cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Ron Elkin** as he recovers from surgery on his arm.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Alex Bostic** as he awaits results of medical tests.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is ill with kidney disease.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort for **Nancy Henneford**, her family and friends as they mourn the passing of Nancy's husband, **John**.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort for **the family and friends of James "Jimmy" Short**, *nephew of Thelma Seyfert*, as he passed away in his home Wednesday night.







### Greetings Bethel!

The program year has started, and it is feeling more and more like things are back into full swing around here. This week we began weekly Bible Study on Wednesday morning (email me if you would like a link!) and as we were studying our reading from James I was struck by the deep relevance in the writing for our world today. Now, to be fair, we Lutherans are typically not huge fans of the book of James. You see, a core tenant of Lutheran belief is that we are “Saved by grace through faith”, which means that we are not saved or loved any more by God because we have somehow earned that love, grace, and mercy from our God. We believe that we are not made righteous by our good works, but rather we are made righteous only through the grace of God. The book of James tends to speak more about “works righteousness” and what we “should” do as people of God than what we are normally comfortable with as Lutherans. In our reading for this week though, the emphasis is on Wisdom. The writer emphasizes the difference between wisdom from above (divine wisdom) and earthly wisdom (human wisdom).

Now, I don’t know about you, but as I read the news these days it seems like the constant conversation in our world is who has the **right** wisdom. The debate of who is right and who is wrong seems to dominate the conversation. We argue and fight and isolate ourselves from one another, and at the end of the day we don’t know any more than we did when we started and sometimes our relationships are left in pieces. So, where do we find this divine wisdom that the book of James is talking about? How do we sift through conversation and relationship with one another when our guards are always up trying to defend whatever wisdom we have uncovered so far? Verse 17 of chapter 3 in the book of James gives us a place to start. It says, “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy”. What if we were to begin our conversations with one another with that kind of wisdom in our hearts and minds. It sounds like genuine curiosity to me. It sounds like vulnerability, too. Those things mixed with a whole lot of listening and we might just have one heck of a transformation on our hands. I’d invite you to think of these things the writer of the book of James lists next time you’re searching for some larger wisdom amid the chaos. Is it peaceable? Gentle? Willing to Yield? The writer isn’t encouraging us to be doormats or stop standing up against injustice, but rather reminding us of what the end goal is, of the path to reach that end goal as well. I pray that we might always fervently seek divine wisdom as followers of Christ, that we might be transformed by that wisdom, and that we might give thanks jubilantly for the realities that that wisdom makes possible in our world today and always.

***Thank you to everyone for making our Ministry Fair a success!***





## SEPTEMBER NEWS

**Another Success Story:** *Last month grandparents with their two grandchildren came to us seeking housing and other agency support. They had recently moved here to get away from negative influences and promptly got their grandchildren enrolled in school. Our case managers helped them find a place to live, and have been assisting them with applications for jobs, housing, and food assistance. We were able to help them with a portion of their school supplies that the children needed for the school year. Both children have been happy at school and grandpa found a job and will start work next week. These grandparents are completely committed to ensuring that their grandkids stay in school and aspire to maintain a stable home environment for the children they love.*



It is only with you, all our dedicated volunteers, who are committed to serving others in need that we can do our good work.

If you are able and willing, please call and let us know if you'd like to help with the following volunteer projects:

- **Help at the Day Center Monday through Friday from 10 and to noon.** We need volunteers to supervise families taking showers and doing their laundry. We need volunteers to provide hospitality to the families that are visiting the Day Center. Hospitality would include assistance with on-line applications for jobs and housing, mentoring, and general advice, and support. We also need help cleaning the Day Center and the shower area. Pick a day that works well for you!
- **Bring frozen microwavable meals.** We need meals that can be kept in the freezer and given to families who are staying at hotels, in campers, or with friends.
- **Donate silverware.** We need silverware for when families eat meals at the Day Center. Right now, we only have two forks! We have plenty of plastic silverware but generally we send that out with families with their meals.

### Lots and lots of thanks....

- ♥ Thank you to the Great Falls Voyagers and everyone who joined us for a fun night at the ballpark. Thank you, Shelly and Brett Fagenstrom, for donating your 50/50 winnings. The Voyagers won the game and we made over \$500!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who generously responded to our Summer Appeal Letter, we've received over \$7000 in donations.
- ♥ Thank you to Central Christian Church for providing office space and much needed assistance and support in helping us get back to serving families.
- ♥ Thank you to Lithia Subaru for helping us get our shuttle van running and ready to use.
- ♥ Thank you to Douglas Wilson and Company for providing professional advice and support

## Adult Education

**Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie:** Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie will be leading discussion on the text readings for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the interpretation of the readings and discuss ways they give us guidance in our daily lives. If you would like to join this zoom email [bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list for this Zoom meeting.

**Sunday After Worship Education Hour:** Sundays following worship service in the Fellowship Hall, beginning September 26th. Pastor Jessie and guest speakers will lead this education time. Topics will vary and some directed by what the group would like to discuss. No sign up necessary. Attend whenever you like.

## Adult and Family Retreats Upcoming At FLBC This Fall

FLBC is currently hiring for our year-round staff!

We are seeking a Wilderness/ Environmental Education Director and Community Staff. Interested in being a part of the ministry of FLBC or know someone who would be a good fit? Visit <https://flbc.net/employment/#yearround> to see the full job descriptions and instructions for applying.

### Upcoming FLBC Retreats & Events

Visit <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/> to learn more about our year-round programming and find information on registering for each of these retreats.

#### Fall Harvest Festival & Auction

October 9th, 2021

Help FLBC raise funds to ensure no one is turned away due to inability to pay through camperships! This special event also coincides with the FLBC Annual Meeting (taking place at 2:30 pm on Saturday, 10/9).

#### Crazy About Quilting & Crafting Retreat - Register by October 21, 2021

November 4-7, 2021

Bring your quilt and craft projects and work alongside friends old and new on the west shore of Flathead Lake. <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/quiltcraft-retreat/>

#### Advent "Preparing for Christmas" Retreat - Register by November 19, 2021

December 3-5, 2021

Prepare for the Christmas season by taking intentional time to slow down and enjoy the season. Make awesome crafts, cut your own Christmas tree, and soak in time for worship and prayer this Advent. <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/advent-retreat/>

**NEW!**

## Bethel Gardening Club

Our volunteers did a great job beautifying our outdoor spaces this spring. If you would be interested in being part of a group maintaining these spaces throughout the growing season, please contact Debbie McCarty at [djcmccarty@gmail.com](mailto:djcmccarty@gmail.com).



## Council Meeting Highlights

## Bethel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights September 14, 2021

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, September 14. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Pastor Jessie led devotions from Following Jesus by Henri J.M. Nouwen.
- An independent cleaning service has been found. Anna Johns and Vance Kavulla of White Gloves Cleaning Service of Great Falls LLC will be cleaning.
- Logos for all ages officially starts September 22.
- Johnna Lightbourne and Patty Braget have agreed to head the fundraising for the ELCA Youth Gathering July 24-28, 2022.
- Council approved the formation of the Property Management and Maintenance Committee. This committee will provide valuable support for our church
- The Council continues to remind us masks are strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

To view the August minutes in their entirety, please go to the [August 2021 minutes](#).



## LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been resettling refugees since 1939. It is internationally respected--one of the agencies the US government relies on to help resettle refugees and immigrants. I am grateful that our Lutheran Church is part of such a vital ministry, especially now. With the influx of Afghan refugees, there is a great need for support services. You can help by making a contribution to LIRS. LIRS is one of our regular charities, but because of this crisis Turner and I have made an extra contribution. My sister, who wants to support Lutheran ministries, is a regular donor. And our daughter asked people to make gifts to LIRS in place of wedding gifts. It is a reputable organization. To learn more, you can go to [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org). Or you can mail a check to: LIRS, 700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230. Pastor Jessica Crist, retired

## WELCOME ADDITIONS

We welcomed Finley Jo and Olivia Grace on September 12.

Finley Jo was born at 10:16 am, 4 lbs 11 oz, 18 inches. *(picture on the left)*

Olivia Grace was born at 10:18 am, 4 lbs 7 oz, 18 inches. *(picture on the right.)*

Both girls are in the NICU and progressing well and as expected for their gestational ages! We are overwhelmed with love and so blessed!

-Alli and Dan Morris

*Congratulations to Dan and Alli new dad and mom. Also, new grandparents Doug and Sara Sexe and Great grandma Arlene Sexe. Beautiful additions to your family.*



**Sunday, October 3rd**

**1:00 PM**

**If you would like to walk or sponsor a walker, information and donation packets will be available this Sunday, September 19th after worship. Talk with Sue Hesse.**

## TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump has again selected FISH to be part of the 2021 campaign--"MONTANANS HELPING MONTANANS". This is the 20th year for Town Pump's support of food banks.

From September 1 through November 30, Town Pump will match each dollar collected by FISH up to \$25,000.

If you wish to help reach the FISH goal, please send your donation to:

FISH  
Box 662  
Great Falls,  
MT 59403





# IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR LOGOS!!!!

**First Night of Logos for ALL youth Wednesday, September 22nd**

**5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Pre-K through 8th Grade**

**High School Logos 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

## Health and Safety

Following the direction of our Church Council and the GFPS, we are strongly recommending that masks be worn by Logos Youth and volunteers over the age of 5. They are not required.

We will be keeping youth within their cohort group for all activities including meals. It is our hope we will be able to move to open seating once positive infection numbers decline.

If your child is not feeling well, we would ask you give them the rest they need and keep them home.

We feel so very blessed to be able to offer Logos and we are looking forward to a great year!

For Full Details, copy of the handbook, fees, and online registration go to our [LOGOS Webpage](#)



## **UPDATE REGARDING THE 2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING (SEPTEMBER 2021)**

After much prayer and conversation, Gathering leadership have decided to require full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test result (likely 72 hours before arrival) to attend the 2022 Gathering, MYLE and the tAble. As of now, leadership have not decided on any additional safety measures. We commit to continued transparency in the decision-making process and will release information as it becomes available regarding additional safety measures or adjustments to key dates. For more information go to [elca.org/youthgathering/covid19](https://elca.org/youthgathering/covid19)

## 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 texts as we meet both in person and 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 or for more information.

### 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).

**Hope Circle September 23rd 7:00 PM  
on Zoom rescheduled.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Tuesday 9/21

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast combined Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### Wednesday 9/22

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos 5:30 pm; High School Logos 6:30 pm

### Thursday 9/23

- Hope Circle on Zoom 7:00 pm (*rescheduled from 9/16*)

### Friday 9/24

- Bethel office is closed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday 9/26

- Sunday Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Adult Education with Pastor Jessie immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday 9/28

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast combined Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### Wednesday 9/29

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos 5:30 pm; High School Logos 6:30 pm Friday 10/1
- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Shabbat service 6:00 pm

### Saturday 10/2

- Close Knit meets in the Fellowship Hall 9:00 am

## **Covid Guidelines for Worship as of August 10, 2021**

Masks are strongly recommended,  
but not required.

Continue Physical Distancing

Coffee Hour on hold

If you have a fever or are feeling unwell, please take care of yourself and join us online for worship.

## **Pastor Jessie Obrecht**

### Contact information:

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

*Bethel* 406-761-1543 ext 202