

BETHEL NOTES

Second Sunday of Easter

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: Katy Nicholls

Usher(s): Sue Reppe and Shari Kohoutek

Projectionist: Dave Scholten

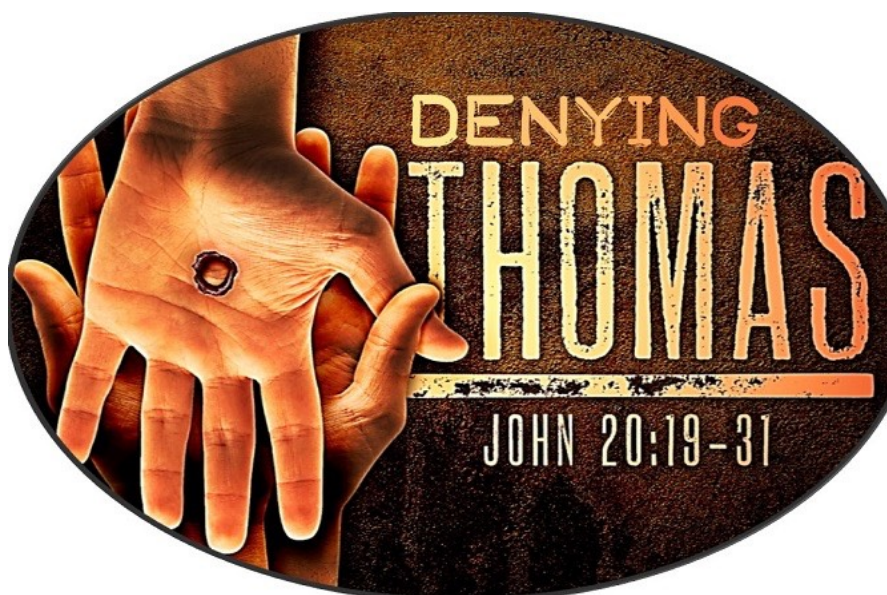
Counters: Tim Lightbourne and Mary Lou Norbie

Readings

Acts 2:14a, 22-23

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Source: Sunday's and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2017 Year A

This Sunday At Bethel.

- A special thank you to Margie Fiedler, Executive Director of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for sharing the message of Easter as well as the camp. She is available to visit with after the service.
- Mission Freedom will meet immediately following worship.

Next Week's Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast will meet Tuesday, April 25, in the Fellowship Hall.
- Mission Freedom will meet on Wednesday, April 26, at 7am and Thursday, April 27 at 7pm.
- Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 25 at Laurie Turner's home; 3408 Bison Lane.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, April 28, the Pacific Lutheran University free concert at Holy Family Catholic Parish.
- On Sunday, April 30th, we will celebrate 8th grade confirmation during worship.
- Senior Banquet. Appetizers at 5:30pm, dinner at 6pm.



Earth Day Challenge

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22nd Pastor Barb Gwynn, Pastor at First English Lutheran Church in Great Falls, is putting out a challenge to all the local ELCA Churches for an aluminum can drive. Bring bags of aluminum cans to Bethel's church parking lot on Sunday April 23rd. Carrie Ann Elkin has agreed to help collect Bethel's bags of cans, to have them weighed at the recycling center and report the poundage to FELC. We are donating the recycling proceeds to FELC's Helping Hands Ministry. May the best Creation-Friendly church win!!



Mission Freedom

Keep an eye on the Notes and our webpages - more information about the Mission Freedom Campaign will be coming soon! You'll be getting a letter in the mail outlining many of the details, and a member of our committee will probably be giving you a call shortly after you get your letter. After Holy Week we will begin holding some informational meetings here at church. Here are the dates:
Evening meeting 4/27, 7:00 PM After church 4/23, about 10:45
After church 4/30, about 10:45 or so Breakfast meeting 4/26,
7:00 AM HIGH TEA at Bethel! May 7, 2017, from 4:00 -
6:00. A silent auction with great food and entertainment.



Prayer Concerns

Bob Veitch (husband of LaRae) in Hospice

Nominating Committee & the Call Process for nominees to the Church Council.

Mission Freedom Task Force – for campaign plans, focus groups & congregational participation.



FLBC Sign Up

Beginning this Sunday, there will be a camp sign up sheet in the Narthex. If you have registered for camp, please fill out this sheet so that we know who will be at camp and when. We want to make sure all of our campers get a card while they are there. Scholarships are still available on a first come first serve basis. Please see Pastor Steve for more info or if you are interested in a scholarship.



High Tea

What is it and where does it come from?

As the Mission Freedom article reads, they will be hosting a High Tea on May 7th as part of their debt retirement kick off. Some of you are probably wondering what is a High Tea? First, let's explore the origin of tea (the food, not the drink).

The term tea has long been used as an umbrella term for several different meals. Tea as a meal is usually associated with Britain, Ireland and several Commonwealth countries. Tea consumption increased dramatically during the early nineteenth century and it is around this time that Anna, the 7th Duchess of Bedford is said to have complained of "having that sinking feeling" during the late afternoon. At the time it was usual for people to take only two main meals a day, breakfast, and dinner at around 8 o'clock in the evening. The solution for the Duchess was a pot of tea and a light snack, taken privately in her boudoir during the afternoon. Later friends were invited to join her in her rooms at Woburn Abbey and this summer practice proved so popular that the Duchess continued it when she returned to London, sending cards to her friends asking them to join her for "tea and a walking the fields." Other social hostesses quickly picked up on the idea and the practice became respectable enough to move it into the drawing room. Before long all of fashionable society was sipping tea and nibbling sandwiches in the middle of the afternoon.

This was all well and good for the upper classes, but the working classes ran to a different schedule and a different budget. Tea was still quite expensive at the time and the working classes could not afford to waste it on anything other than necessities. A wearied factory worker wouldn't arrive home until six in the evening, and when he did, he was famished! Thus, in the industrial areas of the UK (northern England and southern Scotland), the working classes evening meal evolved: high tea.

High tea is a meal typically eaten between 5 pm and 7 pm. It usually consists of a hot dish, followed by cakes and bread, butter and jam. Occasionally there would be cold cuts of meat, such as ham salad. The term was first used around 1825, and "high" is used in the sense of well-advanced (like high noon, for example) to signify that it was taken later in the day than afternoon tea.

Another possible explanation of why it's called high tea is the fact that it was eaten at a table. In comparison, Afternoon Tea was taken while seating in low, comfortable chairs or sofas. Of course, soon after, the upper classes developed their own variation and also called it 'high tea'. It was a meal that could be eaten when their servants were away or not available, as it was so easy to prepare. The upper class 'high tea' involved the amalgamation of Afternoon Tea and high tea, with the addition of pigeon, veal, salmon and fruit.

It is important to add that the Afternoon Tea menu served in the UK today is often referred to as high tea in many other parts of the world. Because of this some hotels, such as The Ritz in London, use the term 'High tea in London' to advertise their Afternoon Tea because a large proportion of their customers are from overseas.

Some venues do serve a special high tea menu, in addition to Afternoon Tea, which includes additional savory items such as Welsh Rarebit, English muffins, pies or omelette.



Pastor Steve's Message

Christ is Risen ! He is risen indeed, alleluia, alleluia !

There is a lot to celebrate this Sunday, each Sunday. It's the Easter season (7 weeks) and people are encountering the risen Christ and confessing their faith in him as their Lord and God. This Sunday is also Flathead Lutheran Camp Sunday at Bethel and we will learn more about our camp on Flathead Lake from our guest preacher, Margie Fiedler, Executive Director of FLBC.

On the evening of the first day of the week the disciples were huddled together in assembly, full of fear of the Judeans. Their ears were listening ever so intently for every step on the stair and for the next knock on their door, lest leaders of the

Sanhedrin might come to seize and arrest them, too. There was something missing. It was joy and peace. For fear had sucked not only joy and peace from them but the very life and breath out of them as well. That was until the risen Christ came and stood among them to offer them what they needed -the breath of God which would re-inflate their deflated lives. Then, without their asking, Jesus showed them his wounds. Wounds inflicted by rebellion, rejection and unbelieving hearts. Wounds which would be the source of their salvation..their healing and wholeness.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord !

I believe that much of our life is determined by where we happen to be – or where we place ourselves. I'm sure that you have had those moments in life where you just happened to be in the right place and at the right time and met up with someone.... or you were on the receiving end of a gracious gift. It might have been that you placed yourself in a situation or among others where good things were encountered. This past week, I joined a group from the Russell Country Cluster that traveled to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp to work on a volunteer project, a new pottery shed. To be a part of creating something new ! I also happen to believe that we end up with the community, gathered for worship, by the Spirit's calling and leading. Among the gathered, we are in a place where the Word and Sacrament are proclaimed and shared - in our hearing, singing, professing, tasting - there we will experience the risen Christ.

One of the things which caught my attention in the gospel was the powerful witness of the need for being in community. Connected with a community of believers.

Thomas wasn't there when Jesus appeared. Thomas missed the assembly that very first evening of the first day of the week. Who knows where he was? Might he have been less fearful than his friends and he just didn't want to hang out with them? Might he have been resting from exhaustion? We just don't know. Fact is, he was missing from the assembly when the risen Christ appeared to them.

And Thomas, like seekers and wanderers today, wasn't content to simply take the disciples word for it that Jesus was alive. He needed to encounter for himself the living Jesus; he needed to *be there* with Jesus.

It is a week later, and Jesus' disciples were once again gathered in community. And this time, Thomas was with them. And there the risen Christ showed up again, made himself known and spoke to Thomas. And there in community Thomas made his bold confession, "My Lord and my God."

The good news for the disciples huddled in fear; for Thomas who missed the assembly that very first day of the week, and all of us is that the Risen Christ finds us. He finds us in the mystery of the community gathered. He finds us amidst our grief and in the suffering of this world. He finds us in our own fear. He finds us when we wander off and are absent. He finds us in the world, where he is present bringing about new life.

No matter where we are, the crucified and risen One finds us!

Pastor Steve



Welcome New Members !

On Palm/Passion Sunday Bethel received three households into membership . They were the Pinski Family, Greg, Amber and sons James & Jack who transferred their membership from Redeemer Lutheran in Great Falls. Also transferring their membership from Redeemer Lutheran were the Dockters (Duane & Lois). They are the parents of JoAnn Dullum.. We also received Dean Amor into membership by way of affirmation of faith. Welcome new members !



Next Sunday: Rite of Confirmation: April 30th

We have 8 eighth graders who will be making public affirmation of faith on Sunday, April 30th during worship. They are Kendal Blades, Allison Will, Kaileia Wendt, Paige Bernardi, Tyler Marr, James Peterson, Hayden Niebaum, and Joe Stevenson. A reception will be held in their honor following the service. Thanks to Shelly Murphy for making the confirmands stoles.

FLBC Pottery Barn Build



The last couple of days, a few of us from Bethel joined up with others from the Russell Country Cluster to volunteer our time and talent on the project we pledged time and money to support: a new pottery shed for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Stephanie Richardson and her daughter, Letty, Dale Bautz and myself were joined by three members of Our Savior's Lutheran, Great Falls, and one from Zion Lutheran in Lewistown to do the build. Thanks to your generous support of \$1,000. towards this project and the volunteers who made the trip, we were able to begin building the pottery shed. See the pictures of the crew and project.



Thrivent Member Network - Northwest Region,
InFaith Community Foundation & Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
cordially invite you to attend:

Charitable Gift Strategies for Individuals & Families

Benjamin Boline, J.D., **InFaith Community Foundation** Charitable Gift
Planner, will share ways you can maximize support to charities and causes
reflecting your values.

- Learn ways to save taxes, create an income and achieve your charitable goals;
- Create a donor-advised fund to practice family philanthropy and support multiple charities with one gift; and
- Be strategic in your giving for maximum charitable support and tax deductions.

Hosted by your local Thrivent Financial Representative,

EVENT DETAILS:

What: Luncheon

When: Monday, May 8th, from 12-1:30pm

Where: Bethel Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served.

Questions?

InFaith Community Foundation is a national charity with a mission to serve donors, spread joy and change lives.

Charitable giving can result in significant tax, legal and financial consequences. Because the Foundation cannot give legal or tax advice, you are strongly encouraged to consult with your personal legal and tax advisors. InFaith Community Foundation is independent of Thrivent Financial and its financial associates.

Thrivent Financial and its representatives and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative and, as appropriate, your attorney and tax professional for additional information. Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

No products will be sold or gifts solicited.

inFaithFound.org | p 800-365-4172

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Pacific Lutheran University Choir

The Pacific Lutheran University Choir will be performing a free concert on Friday, April 28th at 7:30pm at Holy Family Catholic Parish located at 2800 Central Ave next to Holy Spirit Catholic School. Bethel will host a potluck supper for the choir at 5pm. We are looking for people to volunteer to bring food for the potluck and if you would like to house one of the choir members, please contact Patrick Ryan at (406) 249-7583. All are welcome to attend.

Vacation Bible School 2007 "Just Add Water"

We are excited to start working on this year's vacation bible school with the theme *Just Add Water*. The week of June 26th to the 30th will be a fun, uplifting experience for both campers and staff alike. We are looking for some volunteers this year. If you would like to be a host family to 2 or 3 of our counselors that will be coming to teach the camp or if you would like to teach our Kindergarten group, please email Tami Grosenick at tamigf@hotmail.com or call her at 788-9587.



2018 ELCA Youth Gathering: June 27 - July 1, 2018 in Houston, Texas

The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, TX. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders gather for a week of faith formation. Days are spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. All youth in grades 9-12 for the 2018-2019 school year are invited to attend. Registration opens September 15, 2017. Pastor Steve will be convening an interest meeting **Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30pm** for those who may be interested in attending. In the meantime, if you are interested, please let Pastor Steve know. bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com

