
BETHEL NOTES

Third Sunday of Easter

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Mary Seim

Lay Assistant: John Blank

Usher(s): Mick and Dina Davis

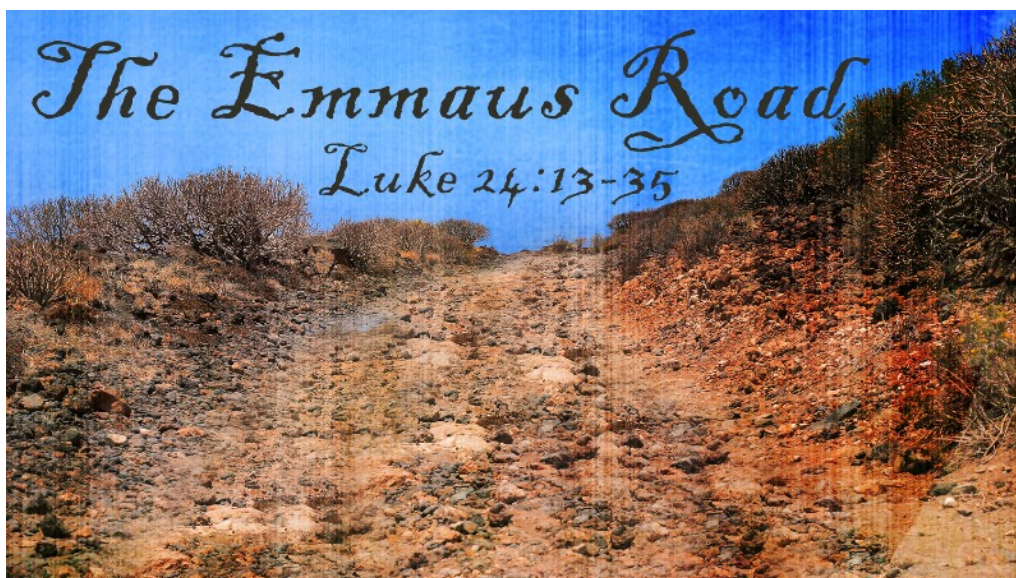
Projectionist: Vann Arvanetes

Counters: Jody Arvanetes and JoAnn Dullum

Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Luke 24:13-35



This week's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them, and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and

wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

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



This Sunday At Bethel.

- Our 8th graders will affirm their baptismal vows.
- Mission Freedom will meet immediately following worship.

Next Week's Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, May 2, at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast will meet Tuesday, May 2, in the Fellowship Hall.
- 2018 Youth Gathering interest meeting at 6:30pm on Wednesday, May 3.

Upcoming Events

- Thrivent Luncheon on Monday, May 8 from 12-1:30pm. Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, May 7.
- The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Senior Banquet Wednesday, May 10. Appetizers at 5:30pm, dinner at 6pm.
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office on vacation from May 15 through May 19.
- Bethel will host Family Promise from May 21 to May 28.
- Bethel Bunch will host a birthday dinner for Dina Davis, Donna Vinneage and Bonnie Jensen at Dante's at 6pm on Thursday May 25. Spouses are welcome. RSVP by 5/24 to Terry Korpela.



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: **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.**





Affirmation of Baptism

This Sunday, eight of Bethel's eighth graders will affirm their baptismal vows. They have completed two years of instruction and are now ready to make their public profession of faith. These eight eighth graders are:



Paige Bernardi, Kendal Blades, Tyler Marr, Hayden Niebaum, James Peterson, Joseph Stevenson, Kaileia Wendt, and Allison Will.

A reception in their honor will immediately follow the service. All are invited.

A big thank you to Shelly Murphy for making the confirmands' stoles and Kopper Frick for taking the confirmation pictures.



Welcome New Members !

Last Sunday at Bethel received Johnna Lightbourne and her children, Kaleb and Maya Stringer, into membership. Welcome to our Bethel family!



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.

For Debbie Blank as she recovers from a recent surgery.

For Arlena Crandell as she recovers from surgery.



First Quarter Financial Statements

First quarter financial statements will be available during the next two weeks. They will be in the Narthex on Sundays, April 30 and May 7. If you can't make it Sunday, Sarah will have them in the church office during the week. Let's all try to be good stewards and save some postage by picking them up at the church. Any statements that are left will be mailed on Monday, May 8.

Thrivent Luncheon

Charitable Gift Strategies for Individuals & Families



Monday, May 8

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

1009 18th Ave. S.W.

Great Falls, MT 59404

RSVP to the church office by noon on Friday, May 5.

(406) 761-1543 or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com

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. Each event will be hosted by your local Thrivent Financial Representative. Come individually or bring a guest, but please make sure you RSVP no later than noon on Friday, May 5.

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.



NEW 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

April Council Meeting Highlights



1. Dena will eventually take over the Treasurer position from Dave after a period of training.
2. Mick reported that they are working on a plan for updating the Gathering Place bathrooms in the future with new flooring. The current flooring is not in the best of shape and we are working with the daycare to remedy.
3. The council discussed the ELCA Congregational Report for the year ending December 31, 2016. We discussed things our congregation is doing well and what we could do to improve.
4. The council is in the beginning stages of strategic planning. The last plan was done in 2009 and since all goals from that plan were completed, it is time to begin a new plan.
5. Building of the FLBC Pottery shed will take place April 17-22nd. Bethel collected \$1,000 to give toward this project.



Pedal for Peas

Friday, June 2, Great Falls

“Pedal for Peas” is a fundraising bicycle ride to benefit ELCA World Hunger. Riders are coming from across the Montana Synod.

How can we support this effort?

Join the Ride!

Register online at <http://www.ourredeemerlives.org> or Contact Pastor Kendra Wilde for registration information at 406-442-7842 or kendraw@ourredeemerlives.org

There is a 42 mile ride and a 10 mile ride. Registration is at 7:30am and the ride begins at 8am at Bethel. If you would like a commemorative t-shirt orders must be submitted by May 15. If you would like a commemorative jersey orders must be submitted by May 1.

Sponsor the Ride!

Sponsor the ride or offer pledges for a rider from your congregation! Make checks payable to ELCA World Hunger with Pedal for Peas in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate. 100% of your gift will go to ELCA World Hunger. Our fundraising goal is \$10,000



NEW

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Retreats, Events, and Updates:

For additional information about these great upcoming retreats and events, check out our website at www.flbc.net. There is still time to register, but act fast! Also, 2017 Summer Brochures are now available!



May 14: Mother's Day Brunch

Celebrate the special women in your life by enjoying a delicious brunch overlooking beautiful Flathead Lake! Four seatings available. Please see the alpha/omega rack in the Narthex or flbc.net for more information.

May 26-29: Thrivent Memorial Day Family Work Retreat

Bring your family and help camp prepare for the summer season during this FREE retreat, thanks to Thrivent Financial! There are projects for all ages and abilities. This is also a great way to introduce your children to camp and meet summer staff members! Please see the alpha/omega rack in the Narthex or flbc.net for more information.

June 2-4: Women's Retreat

The weekend is yours! Join us for worship, massages, kayaking, yoga, great food and, of course, relaxation. FLBC welcomes Dr. Terri Elton as our Bible study leader! Please see flbc.net for more information.

NEW

Communion Distribution Change

We will begin using a new communion distribution practice on Sunday, May 7th. We will be moving from intinction to individual cups and pouring chalices. Why, you might ask? Two years ago we had a study of communion practices across the ELCA, including our Synod. Some of you participated in small groups at Bethel and gave input about our holy communion hospitality (who is welcome at the table) and methods of distribution. As a result of this input, we will be initiating this new practice. New pouring chalices and flagons were designed and crafted by Judy (Erickson) Larson.