

BETHEL NOTES



INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

In This Issue:

- Prayer Requests
- Back to School Blessing Pg 2
- YWCA Shoe Drive, supporting the Great Falls Mercy Home Pg 3
- News from Pastor Trina Pg 4
- New Crisis Ministry at Bethel Pg 5
- News From FLBC Pg 6
- Early Risers
- 1st Monday Night Quilters
- Town Pump Challenge Pg 7
- Covid 19 Guidelines
- Calendar of Events
- Contact info for Pastor Trina Pg 8

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ACCOMPANIST - MARY SEIM

LAY ASSISTANT - ANNE VANATTA

USHER - DONNA VINNEDGE

PROJECTIONIST - DEAN AMOR

TECH - ADAM ELKIN

COUNTERS - STEPHANIE CUMMINGS AND DONNA VINNEDGE

Sunday, August 30th

Readings for 13th Sunday after Pentecost

JEREMIAH 15:15-21

PSALM 26:1-8

ROMANS 12:9-21

MATTHEW 16:21-26

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE TELEPHONE: (406) 761-1543 WEBSITE: WWW.BETHELMT.ORG EMAIL: BETHELGF.CHURCH@GMAIL.COM



- ♦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) and her family as she continues to wait for a double lung transplant.
- ♦ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ♦ Continued prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart) as she finishes treatment for breast cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for God's continued healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she has completed her treatments for cancer and continues to heal.
- ♦ Prayers for healing and strength for **Katie Madsen**, niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe as she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ♦ Prayers for safety and support for **Eric Poser**, Connie Titcomb's nephew as he is deployed overseas.
- ♦ Prayers of support and good health for **RN's Katie and Kelsey**, daughters of Grant and Janet Smith.
- ♦ Prayers of healing, strength and support for **Rita Johnson (LaRae Veitch's sister)** as she continues treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Steve Young** (brother of Sue Hesse) as he recovers from back surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Rob Brattain** (son of Patsy Berkley) as he recovers from surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Rebecca Boucher** who is undergoing treatment for auto-immune challenges.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Cathy Rankin** (sister-in-law of Jeanne Rankin) as she undergoes medical testing.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Pam Casnter** as she is in the hospital.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

God of knowledge and wisdom, bless all students young and old as they begin a new school year. Help them discover and develop the gifts you have given. As they grow in knowledge, kindness and compassion, learning respect for themselves and others.

We ask your blessing on teachers and staff who care for our students. Strengthen them to surround our students with encouragement, support and love.

Remind us that wherever we go, you are always with us. Fill us with the joy of learning so that we may be better prepared to be your servants.

Amen

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SHOES CAN SHELTER WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE?

THE YWCA GREAT FALLS IS FACILITATING THE MERCY HOME SHOE DRIVE, WIN/WIN/WIN PROGRAM TO:

1. To raise funds through a Funds2orgs program to support the Mercy Home Shelter. All funds will support the women and children in the Mercy Home.
2. Gather shoes for Funds2orgs to use to help micro-enterprises in developing nations, and empower women. In these developing nations, shoes are the primary mode of transportation. We believe a HAND UP is more beneficial than a HAND OUT.
3. To keep those shoes out of landfills and send them where none will be wasted. In the United States each year, over 600 million shoes go into landfills. The majority can still be worn. The shoes we collect will be kept from landfills in our country, and will help others in developing nations start micro-enterprises that will create sustainable incomes for their families.

If you have shoes to donate that are gently worn or new, bring them to a drop off site.

- YWCA Great Falls, 220 2nd Street North
- Albertson's , 2250 10th Avenue South

For every 25 pairs of shoes you bring to the YWCA, we will enter you into a raffle to win a **\$100 Gift Certificate from Dragonfly Dry Goods!** Please support our efforts and gather from your work, neighborhood, or church. We will be happy to assist you with a drop box sign.



Help Pastor Trina get to know you and Bethel better

Due to Covid, we don't have all the typical ways that a new pastor gets to know a congregation...fellowship times, meetings, Bible studies, coffee and lunch dates. Pastor Trina would like to meet you and hear more about why you are part of the Bethel community, so please sign up for a time to share your story with her. You can come to the church to meet (with appropriate social distancing), or we can set up a Zoom meeting, or have an old-fashioned phone call. Whatever works best for you! The sign up sheet is on a table in the narthex, or give Tami a call at 771-1543 and she can get you on the schedule.

Are you joining us from home?

Each week we can see that many of you are joining us on-line for worship but we don't know who you are! As Pastor Trina tries to get to know the people of Bethel, she'd like to know who is worshipping with us from home. If that's you, please leave a message at the office phone (761-1543) or send us an email (bethelgf.church@gmail.com) and let us know that you are part of the extended people of Bethel.



FISH Ministry At Bethel

FISH is a non-profit corporation comprised of 13 area churches of various denominations and also the Great Falls Y's Men Club. It provides food to the needy in Great Falls on an emergency basis. Some examples of individuals we have helped are from illness and/or loss of employment. This ministry is sustained by food and money contributed by many individuals and churches, as well as, the Great Falls Community Food Bank. The groceries provided to clients can sustain them from several days to a week. We serve approximately 50 families a week and is an all-volunteer organization.



Each church or organization hands out food for one week every 3 months. Volunteers are responsible for handing out bags of groceries which include mainly non-perishable items but also include meat, eggs, and butter. Toiletries are also distributed. Volunteers then replenish the bags of groceries from items on shelves and are also responsible for the stocking of shelves. Bethel has a pool of about 20 volunteers of which 3 serve any particular day. FISH is open from 9 am to 11 am Monday through Friday but is closed most holidays.

Last week Bethel volunteers served 28 families which were comprised of 48 adults and 19 children and handed out 1713 pounds of food. Thank you to all the workers and those to donate to FISH!

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY AT BETHEL

Crisis Ministry

Bethel was contacted by the Cascade County Sheriff's Office to be one of several church in Great Falls to be a part of a Crisis Ministry Network here in Great Falls. The following is an excerpt from a letter we received regarding this request:



"In the last two recovery situations, onlookers connected to the victim were an additional stressor to an already taxed rescue response, which as prompted me to reach out to you. My ask is this: In the event of another rescue or recovery incident, would your congregation be willing to open its doors to those directly affected? Removing those civilians from the scene by directing them to a location allows emergency services to focus on their responsibilities, as well as offers those affected a space to gather and support one another until further information can be shared. The Sheriff's Office asks that you would be willing to provide a gathering space with access to restrooms and some refreshments".

This ministry would be involved in water rescues/recoveries only. We would need a person or persons to open the church, put on some coffee, put out water and some refreshments (cookies, crackers, etc.) and be at the church with the group.

Some information on the past rescue/recovery situations from this summer will give us an idea for those who are interested in helping with this ministry a picture of what would be involved:

- for summer of 2020 there have been two water accidents that a Crisis Ministry would be called
- the timeline was a couple of hours each time
- overnights are highly unlikely as most are day time recreation

How it will work

The dispatcher will have the church's number and also Tami Grosenick's number for "after hours" (beyond when someone is in the office) incidents. We will then reach out to a person(s) on the Crisis Ministry Team to see who is available to open the church and get refreshments set up in the Fellowship Hall. The team can set up standards for who is called and where refreshments can be obtained as well as trading off duties should an event last longer than a few hours.

We are excited to be part of this wonderful community support opportunity and feel that we are being called to do God's work with our hands. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry or would like more information contact Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office 406-761-1543, on her cell 406-788-9587 or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com



FLBC's camp store is online!

Now you can get camp gear and support FLBC from anywhere! <https://flathead-lutheran-bible-camp.square.site/>

FLBC Golf Classic

Can your business, congregation or organization **sponsor a hole?** Visit www.flbc.net/golf for info!

Friday, October 9th, 2020
@ Eagle Bend Golf Club in Bigfork, MT
\$125 per golfer
 (includes green fee, golf cart, tournament memorabilia, snacks, drinks, and dinner)

Schedule:
 10 AM - 12 PM: Golfing begins! (you will receive a tee time upon registration)
 6:15 PM: Dinner & Awards Ceremony @ FLBC
 (additional guests are welcome to attend dinner for \$25 each)

Register online at flbc.net/golf or by mailing this form to 603 S Main St. Kalispell MT 59901

Upcoming Retreats & Events:

View more at <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/>

FREE Labor Day Weekend Family Retreat

September 4-7, 2020

Come for a relaxing weekend or help camp with work projects. Enjoy great food, campfires, fellowship, Bible Study with Pastor Molly & Allen Sasser-Goehner (Immanuel LC, Missoula), and much more! Learn more at <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/>, or contact our office at 406-752-6602 or office@flbc.net to register.

Women's Retreat: Saying No, Saying Yes - A Spiritual Practice

September 11-13, 2020

\$160/person

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation as Pastor Miriam Schmidt leads us in engaging Bible study. **CEU credits available through NRIT.** <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/womens-retreat/>

Youth Workers Retreat

October 15-18, 2020

\$150/person

Pastors, Youth Directors, Volunteers - this is for you! Join retreat leader Mark Jackson for this informative, fun, and refreshing retreat. From eastern Washington, Mark now serves at St. Andrews in Mahtomedi, MN. Different attendance options are available (Thurs-Sun, Thurs-Sat, Fri-Sun, or Saturday only)! CEU credits available through NRIT. <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/youth-workers-retreat/>

The FLBC Reps for Bethel are Greg and Tami Grosenick. We deeply thank Dan and Steph Richardson for being wonderful reps and wish them all the best as they continue to be involved from their new home in Helena.

TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump Charitable Foundation has invited **FISH** to be part of the 19th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign.

Town Pump will match each dollar collected by **FISH** up to \$20,000 from September 1 through November 30.



What a great way to double your donation!

1st Monday Night Quilters

will meet at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Ave. So., September 14, 6-8 p.m. Please use the alley door, and we meet downstairs. We have squares ready to be sewn into quilt tops if you'd like to do that at home. The main task on Monday night is to tie the quilts. They will be shipped to Minneapolis and then distributed in this country and in many places overseas. Come and join us on September 14.



2020
Early Risers
Benefiting

Alliance for Youth
ADVANCING HEALTHY YOUTH & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

"Be Strong and Take Heart All of You Who Hope in the Lord."
Psalms 31:24

"Be Strong and Take Heart All of You Who Hope in the Lord" Psalms 31:24

STARTS
at 7 AM!

Thursday, September 3, 2020

PRAYER

Pastor Rick Mazairaa
Vineyard Fellowship

MISSION—ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH/YRC
Kristy Pontet-Stroop, Executive Director

MUSICIAN

Christell Benson, Vocalist
New City Church

SPEAKER

Pastor, Alice Smith
Greater Faith Church of the Open Door

Thursday, September 10, 2020

PRAYER

Shane Etwiler, Faith Bible Church, Fairfield

MISSION—ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH/YRC
Thomas Risberg, Development Director

MUSICIAN

Candra Niswanger, Vocalist
The Gathering Fellowship

SPEAKER

Pastor Lynn Spencer-Smith
First Congregational UCC

Thursday, September 17, 2020

PRAYER

Pastor Joe Young
Emmanuel Bible Church

MISSION—ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH/YRC
Lisa Beavers, YRC Program Manager

MUSICIANS

Annalie, Olivia and Felicity Young
Emmanuel Bible Church

SPEAKER

Kendra Owen
First Alliance Church

Thursday, September 24, 2020

PRAYER

Pastor John Ritchie,
1st Presbyterian Church

MISSION—ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH/YRC
Kristy Pontet-Stroop, Executive Director

MUSICIANS

14th Street Barbershop Quartet: Gary Prue,
Jim Armstrong, Len Koebel, and Milt Gray

SPEAKER

Dave Bowen, Chief of Police
Victory Church

\$5/session or \$20 for the series. Send Check to Early Risers in care of First Presbyterian Church:

1315 Central Avenue ♦ Great Falls, MT 59401

Bethel Lutheran Church

Church Council Reopening Guidelines

We will still be offering a live stream of the service for those who wish to worship from home.

Guidelines:

- Front doors will be propped open and the only entrance into the Church. The west side entrance through the TLC Daycare will remain locked.
- Masks will be **required** and we have some available.
- A table is at the front doors with hand sanitizer, masks, tissues and an offering plate. Ushers will be there to assist with masks and help people find seats.
- Physical distancing of 4 feet will be observed.
- Windows and doors will be opened to increase air circulation.
- Signs on the restroom doors should be used to indicate if you are in the bathroom in an effort to keep physical distance.
- The kitchen, Fellowship Hall and back office hall doors will be closed.
- Hospitality area will be closed.
- We will pass the peace in a no-contact fashion.
- Sanctuary will be cleaned with disinfect cleaner after each Sunday worship service

Please consider the following before you return to worship:

- Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone who has traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms in the past 30 days?
- Have you had any of these symptoms:
 - Fever over 100.4
 - Persistent cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sudden loss of taste or smell

If you answered YES to any of these questions, please do not enter and contact your health care provider.

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

Contact information:

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

Bethel number non-emergencies: 406-761-1543 ext 202

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306

Calendar Of Events

Monday 8/31

- Boy Scout Troop 28 meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Tuesday 9/1

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

Thursday 9/3

- Exec Board conference call 5:30 pm

Friday 9/4

- Bethel Office Closed
- Aitz Chaim first Friday Shabbat service 6:00 pm

Saturday 9/5

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday 9/6

- World Hunger Sunday

Monday 9/7

- Labor Day, Bethel Office Closed

Tuesday 9/8

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am
- Council Meeting location TBD 6:30 pm

Thursday 9/10

- Exec Board Conference call 5:30 pm
- Hope Circle, via Zoom 7 pm

Friday 9/11

- Bethel Office Closed

Electric City Bible Study On - Line!

What a great way to connect with one another! Join the Electric City Bible Study on a Zoom conference Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. If you are interested in joining email Laurie Turner at loli51gus@icloud.com and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.