

BETHEL NOTES

First Sunday of Advent

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant: Anne Vannatta

Usher(s): Adam & Julia Elkin

Projectionist: Tim Lightbourne

Counters: Jody Arvanetes & JoAnn Dullum

Nursery: Carly Cushman & Kaleb Stringer

Readings:

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Happening This Sunday

- An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.
- This is the first Sunday of advent.



Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

2018 Advent Devotionals are here. Check the Track Rack for your free copy.

2018 Daily Texts are here. See entry table in the Narthex.



This Week's Events

Tuesday 12/5:

- Men's Breakfast at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.

Wednesday 12/6:

- LOGOS Family Meal Worship Night starts at 6:00pm, worship service at 7:00pm. *Kids and families arrive together at 6:00 p.m., have dinner, stay for worship.

Thursday 12/7:

- TLC Christmas Program at 7pm in the Gathering Place.

Friday 12/8:

- Bethel Bunch Progressive House Hopping beginning at 6pm at the Nuessle's; 908 37th Ave NE

Saturday 12/9:

- Hope Circle Christmas Party at the Carlson's (329 Hyland Dr) at 6pm. Bring ornaments to exchange, an appetizer to share, something to drink and your significant other.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 12/12:

- Church Council meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

Sunday 12/17 - Sunday 12/24:

- Bethel's week to host FamilyPromise.

Wednesday 12/20 & 12/27:

- No LOGOS these Wednesdays.

Sunday 12/24:

- Worship Services at 9:30am, 4pm and 6pm.



In-Kind Donation Forms

We now have in-kind donations forms available in the church office. If you donate goods or services for any of the events Bethel hosts, pick up a form and fill in what you donated, the form may be signed by Pastor Steve, Tami Grosenick, or the coordinator of your event. For full information, please read the back of the form. Thank you all for your generous donations.



Thank You Christmas Elves

We would like to say a big thank you to Joel and Mac Carlson and Ben and Traedon Jaques for setting up both of the 12 foot Christmas trees. And a huge thank you to the 6th Grade Logos class for doing an AMAZING job decorating the tree and sanctuary, it looks beautiful!



Pastor Steve's Message

Everything Has It's Time

The writer of wisdom says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; **Ecclesiastes 3: 1,6 NRSV**

In this familiar passage, the writer puts opposites together: seeking and losing; keeping and throwing away. It says that these experiences are ones which God puts together, in God's time and not ours. God inhabits all our life experiences, giving them meaning.

As we mark the time of the church, we begin a new season this coming Sunday - the season called Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." In the church's liturgy, Advent begins four Sundays prior to Dec. 25th. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

I believe that this First Sunday in Advent clearly reminds us that our time is not our own. But about that day or hour or time...(of the Lord's return) you do not know...only the Father knows. God will arrive, regardless of our readiness and our efforts to order time to our making..to our timeliness, in order to transform the time we live. So, enter into Advent time...the time God inhabits with us. A time that is not always comfortable but discomfoting, even disruptive. Yet, a reorienting time, as well, that offers us the opportunity to be attentive in order to see God in our time, at work, birthing something new in us.

One of the oldest prayers of the Christian community is "Come, Lord Jesus." In the language which Jesus spoke, this prayer was not only a prayer for help in the time of need but also a welcome to the risen Christ. I invite you to join me for some Adult Forums, to take a look at the assigned texts, prayers of the day for the next three Sundays in Advent. We will begin each Sunday, after worship, and will meet for an hour together in the Fellowship Hall.

In closing, a prayer. Though you have told us to keep awake, O God, you have also blessed us with rest and sleep. Grant me such rest in the hours ahead that I awaken with eager longing for a new day, ready for you to be revealed in mundane moments and ordinary encounters. By your grace prepare me, whether awake or asleep, to greet you: in the evening, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow, or at dawn. **Mark 13:35**. All times are in your hands, and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God. In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen. ✠



Prayers of comfort for the family of **Marty Johnson** as they grieve his passing.

Prayers for **Marj VanderAarde** as she recovers from surgery. Also for her sister, **Jann DeGroot**, who is battling cancer.

Prayers for healing for **Ryan Pottratz** (son of Ed and Myra Pottratz and grandson of Sue Hesse).

Prayers for **Brenda Slater** as she continues to heal.

Prayers for healing for **Frank Potter and family** (friend of Doug Sexe) as he battles cancer.

Prayers for **Ed Pottratz and family**.

Prayers for **Todd Whitted** (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Prayers for **Marty Johnson** who is hospitalized..

Prayers for **Bernice Johnson**.

Prayers for **Anne Trunkle**, (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) who is in hospice care. Also prayers for Dena's sister, **Trina**.

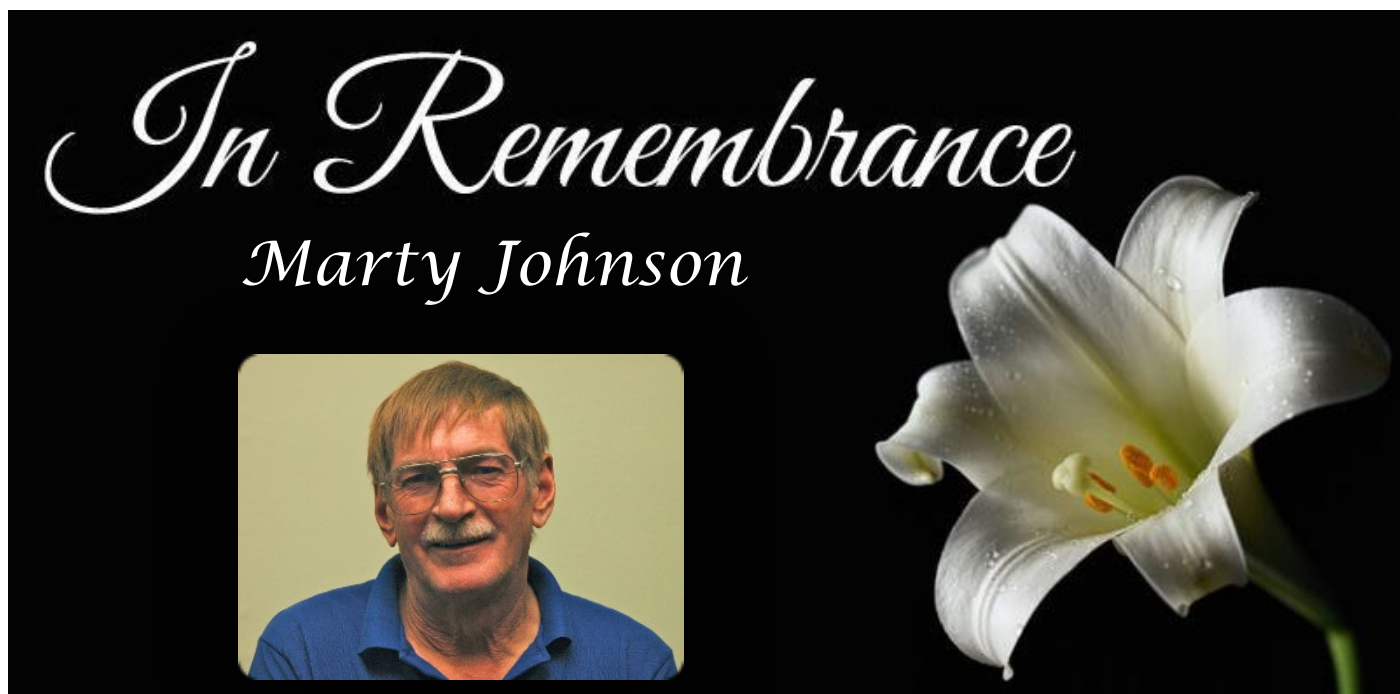
Prayers for **Bret, Kelsey & Conrad Barnes**.

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**.

* **Thank you for the prayers! I'm feeling much better!**
- Colleen Walker-Nelson

■ Prayer from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 by Westminster John Knox Press. Copyright 2014 and used by permission.

Pastor Steve



We are saddened to announce the death of Bethel member, Marty Johnson. Marty died peacefully, with family members at his bedside, on Thursday (yesterday) afternoon after a valiant battle with cancer. There will be a service to remember and celebrate Marty's life at Bethel on Wednesday, December 13th at 10am. Please remember his family and friends in your prayers and take time to share your remembrances of Marty with Pastor Steve and each other. Peace to his memory.

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ADULT FORUMS...FOR ADVENT:

Sundays, December 3, 10 and 17

Beginning this coming Sunday, December 3rd, there will be time set aside for all who wish to gather after worship for adult forums/Bible Study. During these three, one hour adult forums, will take a closer look at the lectionary readings assigned for Advent and connect them with the world we live in. Bring your own Bible or there are Bibles you can use at the church.



A Season of Giving

This year at Bethel we have some great opportunities to help out our community and internationally with giving for the YWCA Mercy Home and through ELCA Good Gifts.

The YWCA Mercy Home is Cascade County's only shelter for battered women and children, providing around-the-clock security and a resident advocate to give practical and emotional support and connect residents to resources needed to become self-sufficient. At anytime they will host up to 24 people at the Mercy Home..

We would like to help give these women and children a fantastic holiday. If you would like to help, pick up a tag from the Giving Tree in the Narthex and purchase a gift card from any department or grocery store in Great Falls in any amount you wish. We will collect them here at the church by December 21st to get them to The Receiving Home before Christmas.

You are also invited to select an ornament from our World Hunger Good Gifts Christmas tree. Again this year, we will have ornaments for you to choose and then make a donation in the specified amount. For example, you might choose the ornament for "School Supplies for a Child" for \$10 or the "Goat" for \$50 or one of the others. The ornament is yours to hang on your tree or give to someone you wish to honor.

As you're making your Christmas gift list, you may decide to give one of these "Good Gifts" in honor of a friend or relative. It might be a nice way to remember someone who says he or she just doesn't need a thing, your child's teacher, or an elderly family member. You can pick up a card to give your honoree or you can print or email a message to your honoree.

Thank you for making some's holiday a little brighter.

A Message from your Council President

At our 2018 Annual Congregational meeting we will be voting to accept updates to our constitution. These updates will bring us up-to-date with the ELCA's model constitution. Updates include: lowering the number of people on the council with a youth and young adult to be in membership on the council and our by-laws are now incorporated into the constitution.

Two copies of the proposed updated constitution will be in the church office for your review. If you have any questions you also can contact Kristine Voorbees, President.

Upcoming Events!!

LUTEFISK & NORWEGIAN MEATBALL DINNER

Sunday, December 3, 2017
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Dutton, Montana

Craft and bake sale

Prices:

Adults - \$13.00

Age 14 and under - \$6.00

Bethany Lutheran is a handicap accessible facility

