

BETHEL NOTES

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant: Sue Hesse

Usher(s): Earl and Trudy Terwilliger

Projectionist: Vann Arvanetes

Counters: Patty Braget and Mary Lou Norbie

Readings

Deuteronomy

30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37



In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

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

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This Sunday At Bethel.

- Bethel rejoices with Ainsley Kubas and Maya Stringer as they join in sharing their first holy communion.
- The church council will hold a meeting and retreat this Sunday beginning at 11:30 am with a meeting following at 1:30pm. This will take place in the US Bank building on Central Ave, 6th Floor

Next Week's Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, Feb 14, at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast will meet Tuesday, Feb 14 in the Fellowship Hall.
- LOGOS begins at 5:30pm on Wednesday, Feb 15.
- Hope Circle meets at 7:30pm on Thursday, Feb 16, at Patti Godtel's; 2925 Delmar Dr.
- Ordination service for Sylvia C. Bull to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA at First English Lutheran Church at 7pm.



Holy Communion Celebration

This Sunday, Bethel rejoices with Ainsley Kubas and Maya Stringer as they join in sharing their first holy communion. Ainsley is the daughter of Mike and Heather Kubas. Maya is the daughter of Johnna Lightbourne. Congratulations and may God bless you!



Logos "CANstruction"



Our LOGOS youth CAN do great things!

Our annual CANstruction event at LOGOS on Wednesday, February 1, was another awesome time for our 3rd-8th graders. Each grade had 30 minutes to create a canned good masterpiece centered around the theme of their "favorite Bible story". These

talented kids offered creations related to Noah's Ark, the nativity, and the Easter story. In the process, they donated 520 pounds of food to FISH! We want to offer thanks to the families who donated food and to John Blank who loaded and delivered the donation.





LOGOS Middle School RETREAT:
Friday Night ~
February 10th from 6-9pm



This mini-retreat will involve fourteen of our LOGOS seventh and eighth graders and some adult helpers. The primary focus is to help these youth seek out their most

natural and dependable talents, abilities, and strengths. We will do this in order to help them identify not only their gifts but also to help them to seek out and discern their call to serve. Joining us will be Mayor Bob Kelly. We will be asking him to share with us how he discovered his own natural gifts and dependable strengths and how he discerned his passion to serve as mayor of our community.

Please include the youth and adults in your prayers as we have some fun and learn more about our dependable strengths and begin to discern our callings to serve.

Upcoming Events.

- MT Rural Water will conduct their annual training seminar in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, Feb 22, and concluding Friday, Feb 24.
- LOGOS Family Worship with Holy Communion on Wednesday, Feb 22 at 7:15pm.
- Ash Wednesday Service begins at 7pm, March 1 in the

PASTOR STEVE'S MESSAGE

"You are the salt and the light!"



A couple of weeks ago, I chose to attend a Legislative Day sponsored by the Montana Association of Christians (MAC) which was held at the Capitol in Helena. Montana Association of Christians is an ecumenical organization which exists to promote unity and cooperation among Christian churches. It works together to offer a Christian witness that seeks to make God's world a fairer, safer and more compassionate place for all God's children. The Montana Synod of the ELCA is one of a number of denominations which is a supporting member of MAC. I first became acquainted with MAC in the early 1990's as a first call pastor in the Montana Synod and represented the Synod by serving on the social issues position statement task force. One of MAC's aims is to be a voice, a Christian witness on issues of concern at the Montana Legislature. The day I was there (January 23) was a MAC sponsored event and I was joined by 125 other Montana Christians from across the state. The purpose was to meet and greet senators and representatives, thanking them for their service, and sharing with them our views on issues which we care about.



I suspect that many of us have been among family members and/or friends when a conversation about faith or politics arose in relationship to a social issue of the day. In those moments we may have felt uncomfortable. Changed the subject. In these days in which we live there are certainly plenty of emotions which are being stirred among us on a variety of social issues. Some of us might wish to escape it all and disengage or become more involved in the conversations, even taking the time and of speaking to our elected officials. But let love rule.

The Apostle Paul writes, “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another fulfills the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” **Rom. 13: 8,10**

Jesus taught that we ARE the salt of the earth and we ARE the light of the world. Salt and light are necessary for life. Being the gifts of salt and light - who we are - always take place in the context of relationships. They are offered for the sake of the world which God loves. There are so many ways to love the world which God loves. It has to do with our faith being active in love.



You are doing this in the many places your lives are lived out: in the workplace; at school; in your neighborhoods; through the ministries our congregation and community has to offer. MAC Day at the Legislature reminded me that faith can be lived out by giving a witness to those who work on our behalf in the “halls of power,” not only at the state level but also on the local and national level too. At times I felt like a “duck out of water.” But it also felt good to meet with local legislators, to share lunch, to establish relationships and to thank them for their service. I also met one of the young adults from Emmaus Campus Ministry, who was with us the day before in worship, and learned of his passion and faith being translated into action.

As individuals, we give witness to our faith in daily life. Working together we find support from one another to give witness as well. We ARE salt of the land and the light of the world.

Pastor Steve

If you might wish to know more about Montana Association of Christians you can go to their website: www.macmt.org. You can also call them at (406) 449-6010 or write them at Montana Association of Christians PO Box 3722, Butte, MT. 59702

Ordination Announcement



You are invited in presence and prayer to joyfully celebrate the ordination of Sylvia C. Bull to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Friday, February 17, 2017

7:00 PM

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

726 2nd Ave N

Great Falls, MT 59401

Clergy are invited to vest and process.

The color of the day is red.

Reception to follow in the fellowship hall.

Other Installation News

All are invited to attend the installation of Pastor Scott Hedegaard,

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Sunday February 12, 2017

5:00 pm

Reception to follow with meal provided by Thrivent

All are invited to attend the installation of the Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday February 12, 2017

3:00 pm

Following the service there will be a lasagna supper

February 3, 2017

Comfort Food Classic

Benefitting:

February 11, 2017 -- 5:00-8:00 PM

Moose Lodge

401 21st, Black Eagle, MT

Tickets: \$25/single, \$5/children (3-12 yrs)

The Comfort Food Classic is a fundraiser for Family Promise of Great Falls, an interfaith organization serving homeless children and their families. Volunteers form teams to create delicious "Comfort Food" Main Dishes for everyone to sample.

Each team is competing for the People's Choice Award. Individual dessert servings will be sold, and we will have fantastic Valentine's Day themed silent auction items to bid on – so don't forget to bring your credit card or checkbook! Most of all, this casual, family-friendly, fun event will raise funds for

Family Promise of Great Falls.

**EVERY Child Deserves a Home.
EVERY Family Has Promise.**

**Please call Dee (899-1495)
for more information**

