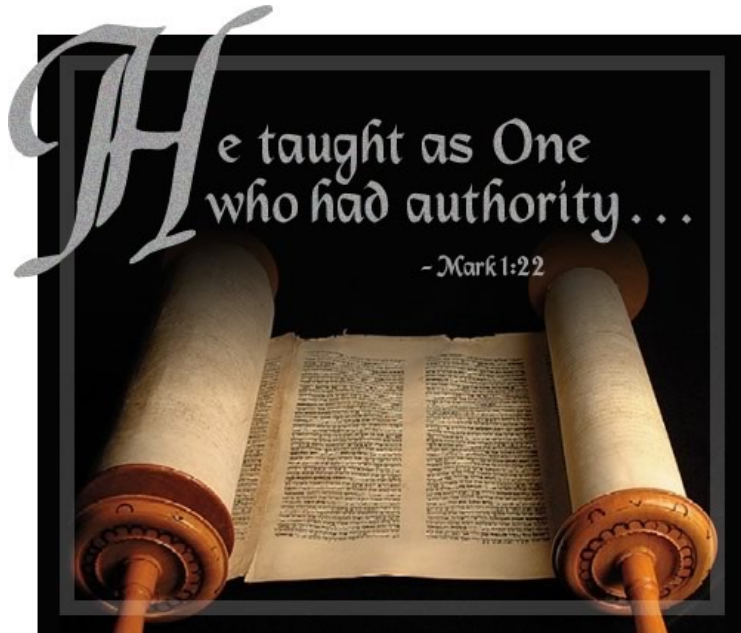


# BETHEL NOTES

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



**JANUARY 28, 2018**

**This Sunday:**

The 2018 Annual Congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship in the Sanctuary.

**Readings:**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Mark 1:21-28

Interested Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

## Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:  
Lay Assistant:  
Usher(s):  
Projectionist:  
Counters:  
Nursery:

Mary Seim  
Anne Vannatta  
Earl & Trudy Terwilliger  
Dave Scholten  
Patty Braget & Jenny Will

## New Member Sunday

**NEW**

Last Sunday Bethel welcomed Don & Thelma Seyfert and Warren & Judy Johnson into membership. Don & Thelma were received by way of affirmation of faith and Warren & Judy transferred their membership from Zion Lutheran Church in Fairview, MT.



## Bethel Bunch



Bethel Bunch's next gathering will be on Friday, February 16th at 6pm. Earl and Trudy Terwilliger will be our hosts as we celebrate the Chinese New Year. 2018 is the year of the dog. Bring your favorite Chinese dish to share and your own beverage.  
Location: 141 17th NW.



## 2017 Annual Financial



The 2017 Annual Financial Statements will be available this Sunday on the white table in the Narthex. Please help be good stewards and save postage by picking yours up. They will also be available in the office until 2pm on Wednesday, after which they will be mailed.

On Sunday, following worship, you are invited to gather in the sanctuary for Bethel's annual congregational meeting. The 2017 Annual Report is published ([click here](#)) and some printed copies will be available on a table in the back of the sanctuary. This article is meant to encourage Bethel members to make time to attend the annual meeting and of the importance of our gathering to make decisions that affect our life together.

I remember my very first annual congregational meeting at Bethel, it was in January of 2005 and held between services. As pastor of three previous congregations, and as a member of a few other congregations, I had expectations of how the annual meeting would go. What I experienced at my first Bethel annual congregational meeting, to my delight, was a well organized and led meeting at which we adopted a proposed budget, elected new council members and representatives, celebrated the congregation's life and ministry during the past year...looked forward to the new year of ministry and honored the faithful service of those in leadership. All that took place in the span of forty minutes, due to obvious time constraints, and the late service actually started on time ! My take-away was that people trusted and appreciated their leadership and could embrace the decisions which were made concerning our shared life and ministry. Over the years I have served as pastor here, at annual meetings... we have celebrated a mortgage debt retirement, adopted a strategic plan, and voted to move forward with a building renovation plan, directed by the ELCA Mission Builders and to approve the funding...celebrated ministry done locally, synodically and globally. At this Sunday's annual meeting we will vote to adopt an updated Constitution and By-Laws; vote to elect new church council members; adopt the 2018 budget or as I'd like to call it a ministry funding plan; hear an update on the Mission Freedom Campaign; vote on representatives to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp as well as voting members to the Montana Synod Assembly~ Theological Conference, held in Great Falls in June.

Annual congregational meetings have grown out of the Reformation idea of the "universal priesthood," which the Reformer Martin Luther taught and preached about. The idea of the "universal priesthood" was also synonymous with the "priesthood of all believers," and the "ministry of the laity." What it meant to most was what the laity (the people of God...the church) did in and for the church (ie. serving on a committee, organizing and leading ministries, ushering, lay assisting in worship, etc.) But our shared ministry has a much broader scope. Ministry is not limited just to what is done within the walls of the church, but in our homes, schools, workplaces, in the greater community and the world. The call to serve God by serving the neighbor is heard throughout our worship service. Just last Sunday our new members, Warren & Judy Johnson and Don & Thelma Seyfert, along with all of us, affirmed the faith and committed to "...serve all people, following the example of Jesus." A couple of Sunday's ago we sang the hymn, *The Summons* (ELW # 798) "Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?" And each Sunday we are dismissed with a charge like this one, "Go in peace. Be the light of Christ !"

Faith is connected to ministry in daily life. Our baptism into Christ Jesus is our ordination into a life of service ~ it is our calling to love the world which God so loves. Come be a part of the annual congregational meeting to celebrate our common life and ministry and to make decisions, together, for the sake of the gospel, and through the gift of Christ's congregation, Bethel.

I close with a passage from First Peter, chapter four, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

**NEW**

## This Week At LOGOS...



Around 45 students attended SDRAWKCAB (Backwards) Night and enjoyed breakfast for dinner and other fun. Our talented 5th grade class, led by JoAnn Dullum, shared a silent and powerful skit about turning our burdens and failures over to God and we will be forgiven! Tami Grosenick taught our Worship Arts group (grades 3-6), the sign language version of the Lords Prayer. We look forward to having everyone back next week!



## Sunday Announcement Change

In an effort to improve communication and keep the church service to about an hour, we are going to streamline the announcements at the end of church service. To do this we need your help. If you have an upcoming event, ministry need or other announcement for our church family you can call or email Pastor Steve, Tami, or Sarah in the office to let us know the information to communicate. We will first use the Bethel Notes, as well as the church bulletin so we can have events written down for your convenience. We will as always use the beginning of the slide show each Sunday to draw special attention to upcoming events. We will also use our website and Facebook page for additional avenues for communication.

---

## The Comfort Food Classic

A Benefit for



*February 10, 2018 4:00-7:00*  
*At the Moose Lodge in Black Eagle*

**For any questions please contact Sharon Odden,  
Executive Director, Family Promise of Great  
Falls 866-0288**

## IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Prayers for *Terree Wozny* as she recovers from surgery.

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

Prayers for healing for *Brenda Slater* as she continues her treatment for cancer.

Prayers for God's comfort for *Frank Potter and family* (friend of Doug Sexe) as they mourn his passing.

Prayers for *Ed Pottratz and family*.

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

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

Prayers for *Crystal Dunn* as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers for *Shelly Murphy*.

Prayers for *Kathi Bisgard and family* as they grieve the passing of Kathi's mother, Mildred Stee.

Prayers for healing for *Arlena Crandell's son Mike*.

## This Week at Bethel

### Monday 1/29:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.

### Tuesday 1/30:

- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am.
- Men's Breakfast at 6:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

### Wednesday 1/31:

- LOGOS begins at 5:30pm.

### Wednesday 2/7:

- LOGOS Family Dinner at 6:00pm and Worship with Holy Communion at 7pm.

### Saturday 2/10:

- The Comfort Food Classic, benefit for Family Promise, at the Moose Lodge in Black Eagle from 4pm to 7pm.

### Sunday 2/11:

- Church Council retreat at 12:30pm at Waddell & Reed, Inc. -, 300 Central Ave #600.

### Wednesday 2/14:

- Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm.

### Friday 2/16:

- Bethel Bunch Chinese New Year Celebration at 6pm, hosted by Earl & Trudy Terwilliger. 141 17th Ave NW.

## Our Savior's Lenten Brunch

You are invited to Our Savior's Lutheran Lenten Brunch on Saturday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet at the Meadow Lark Country Club, enjoy a lovely meal, and hear from a wonderful guest speaker, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Tickets will be \$15 and will be available after church, at 11:00 a.m. at OSLC on February 24th, March 4th and 11th, and if the church office. The deadline for ticket purchase is March 12th. We hope to see you there for a morning of fun fellowship.

*The Cross*  
Our Faith

Our Savior's  
Lutheran  
Lenten Brunch

Saturday, March 24th  
10:30 a.m.  
Meadow Lark  
Country Club

Guest Speaker:  
Bishop  
Elizabeth  
Eaton

Tickets:  
\$15  
Purchase Deadline:  
March 12th

---

# Bethel Lutheran Church Contact Information

Pastor Steve Van Gilder  
Administrative Assistant, Sarah Farris  
Bookkeeper, Bonnie Sears  
Ministry Coordinator, Tami Grosenick

[bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com)  
[bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)  
[bethelgf.books@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.books@gmail.com)  
[bethelmc.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelmc.church@gmail.com)

Office Telephone: (406) 761-1543  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am to 2:30pm  
Wednesday :9am to 2pm

---

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1009 18<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Great Falls, MT 59404

---