
BETHEL NOTES

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Marj Vander Aarde

Lay Assistant: Steve Smith

Usher(s): Sue Hesse

Projectionist: Tim Lightbourne

Counters: Time Lightbourne and
Kristine Voorhees

Nursery: Karrie Pepos

Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

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

This Sunday At Bethel.

- We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Lisa Cushman, LauraLee Wren and Aidden Cushman.

This Week's Events

- ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place on Monday, July 17.
- Church council meeting at 6:00pm in the Gathering Place on Tuesday, July 18.
- Bethel Bunch will gather at the Highwood Bar on Friday, July 21.

Upcoming Events

- Pastor Steve will be out of the office at camp then vacation beginning on Sunday, July 23 after worship. He will return on Wednesday, August 9.
- Dave Scholten will be preaching on Sunday, July 30 in Pastor Steve's absence.

interested, please let Pastor Steve know. bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com. If this date doesn't work, please let us know if you are still interested in attending.



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

This Sunday we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for LauraLee Wren, Aidden Shawn Cushman .LauraLee and Aidden are the children of Amanda Cushman. Sponsors are Carly, Kayla, Lisa Torrie and Valerie Cushman.

We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Lisa Valerie Cushman. Lisa is the daughter of Carl and Carmen Shonk. Sponsors are Melanie Golie, Cam Dean and Sabrina Olson.

2018 Youth Gathering Meeting

The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, TX from June 27-July 1, 2018. Registration opens September 15, 2017. Pastor Steve will be convening a planning meeting **Monday July 17 at 6:30pm** for those who may be interested in attending. In the meantime, if you are



Bob Veitch (husband of LaRae)

Mission Freedom— for generous congregational response.

For Terry Snodgrass as she recovers from a fractured leg.

For the Synod House build and for the Mission Builders for construction and hospitality needs to be met and the crew and volunteers to stay safe during construction.

Prayers for God's healing for Sharon and Steve Mueller's nephew, Adam Finnegan, hospitalized with a brain aneurism in Des Moines, Iowa.

Prayers for the newly baptized, LauraLee Wren, Aidden Chushman, and Lisa Cushman.

Prayers for Melissa Schoenen as she recovers from back surgery.

Prayers for Linda and Tom Rosenbaum and family as they gather Friday afternoon to remember her mother, Jean.

Prayers for Jim Carlson as he travels to Minnesota for an upcoming surgery.



July 14, 2017

Synod House Build Update

Things are happening at the build site; at the corner of 24th St. S and 13th Ave S,

Walls and walls and walls and walls



This past week we continued to work on, what else? Building walls! While we were building walls the plumber and electrician were finishing running their pipes and wires under what will be the slab. The excavator has been busy placing and compacting a rock layer so when the concrete guys place the slab, it will have a good foundation.

On Thursday we had help from a youth group of 7 youth and adults from Nebraska. They were a great help and a pleasure to work with and get to know. It was a hot, hot week, but we soldiered through it, drinking lots of water and Gatorade. This coming week promises to be another hot week. We will have help several days from volunteers from Great Falls and Helena.

There's always a job for our volunteers, so come out Tuesday through Saturday and sweat with the Mission Builders and our other volunteers.

Thank you to the members of First English, Great Falls for hospitality this past week. We appreciate it.

Prayers for youth & families attending Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp this Summer

At last count we are aware of at least 25 campers who have registered for a week at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. That is exciting news! We will be sending mail to each one from us at the church and will include them in the prayers of the church as well. A post card(s) will be available for you to sign either before or after worship and we encourage you to pray for them for a fun and meaningful, life-changing camp experience!

Campers this week:

Adam Elkin

Julia Elkin

Dew Elkin

Ainsley Kubas

Christopher Kubas

Austin Kupfner

Liam Quinn

Max Quinn



Synod House Build - Summer of Glove

Construction is underway and walls are almost ready to go up! There are many ways you can be a part of this exciting build in the MT Synod, no matter your age. There are needs for construction volunteers,

hospitality and financially. To volunteer or for more information, contact Pastor Anna Merritt at amerritt@me.com or 406-836-7464 for hospitality and for construction contact Jim Dyess (Construction Manager) @ 713-206-6218 or Mick Davis @ 406-761-0400 or Matt Crampton @ 406-952-4516.



Words from the Bishop

Welcome to our guests from Bolivia



One of the Montana Synod's companion synods is the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are delighted that two visitors from the Bolivian Church will be visiting our Synod these next 2 weeks. Pastor

Presidente Emilio Aslla Flores serves as the head of the church. He was here once before, in 2013. Pastor Luis Blanco serves the child-centered ministry in Cobija, that is supported, in part, by the cattle farm for which our Synod Assembly helped provide a water system. Two other guests were invited, but did not receive visas.

When we plan visits to and from our companion synods, we consult on the purpose of the visit. The purpose determines the agenda, and the participants. In the conversations planning this visit, we learned that the Bolivians were interested in a couple of things, and we planned their time accordingly. The first thing they were interested in was *diakonia*, service ministries of our congregations. The second was lay ministry training.

Our guests will start in Great Falls on July 18, visiting the FISH food program (an ecumenical feeding ministry coordinated by a Lutheran volunteer), Family Promise (coordinated by a Lutheran LPA), and Helping Hands (a food pantry at First English.) They will also have an opportunity to learn about the Mission Builders, and see the work being done to build the Synod House.



Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Retreats, Events, Updates

September 1-4: Labor Day Family Camp

Celebrate the "last hurrah" of the summer season at FLBC! Great activities for all ages and engaging Bible studies led by Pr. Kendra Wilde, Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Helena, with the theme, "Becoming 'Ohana: When Strangers Become Family."

October 6-7: Harvest Festival & Annual Meeting

Don't miss FLBC's second biannual Harvest Festival! This weekend includes live and silent auctions, wagon rides, games and activities for all ages, a fun run, arts and crafts, and much more as we raise funds for camperships!

November 3-5: Men's S-S-S Retreat

The S-S-S (Scripture, Scales, and Suds) Retreat is a one-of-a-kind FLBC experience featuring Bible study, fishing, and homebrewing! Register early to secure your spot!



Yard Party!

Come one, come all! Roll up your sleeves, grab a friend (or one of the kids) and come to our yard party, this Sunday beginning at 6pm. There is a lot to be done. Weeding, edging, patio clean up, etc. So come spend the evening helping to keep our church beautiful!

From Great Falls we will travel to Rocky Boy, where the biennial Gathering of the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association will be meeting. The Bolivian church is an all indigenous church, and their presence will add a dimension to the gathering.

After a brief visit to Bozeman and Yellowstone over the weekend of the 23rd, they will move to Billings, where they will visit more ministry projects (*diakonia*). And they will spend some time talking with LPAs and learning about the Montana Synod's Lay Pastoral Associates training program.

If you would like to connect with our visitors throughout the trip, or join us for part of it, contact the following people:

Great Falls—Pr. Steve Nelson (406 781 5957)

Rocky Boy—Pr. Linda Webster (406 399 0581)

Bozeman—Pr. Steve Schmidt (406 404 0815)

Billings—Pr. Stacey Siebrasse (406 670 8886)

There will be opportunities for visits and meals, as well as hosting. We are grateful that Churchwide staff will be assisting with translation.

Because this trip was planned after the budget was adopted, we are raising funds outside the regular budget to make this visit possible. Our Bolivia committee is inviting people to make contributions of \$250, and enough of us have that we are half way to our goal of covering the expenses. Please consider helping us bring these partners to Montana.

Gracias!

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Let's Do Lunch!

You are invited to a "no host" lunch at 11:30 Tuesday, July 18, at the Golden Corral (1624 Market Pl. Drive). It will be a chance to welcome our companion synod leaders from the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church - Pastor President Emilio Flores and Luis Blanco or perhaps meet them for the first time, and get to hear firsthand regarding the life of the Lutherans in that unique place.



Going away reception for George Karres

George Karres, our beloved Director for Evangelical Mission, is retiring at the end of July and moving to Tucson with his wife Carol. If you'd like to say goodbye, please come to a reception at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana, on July 23rd at 5:00pm.

We will be serving cookies and lemonade.



