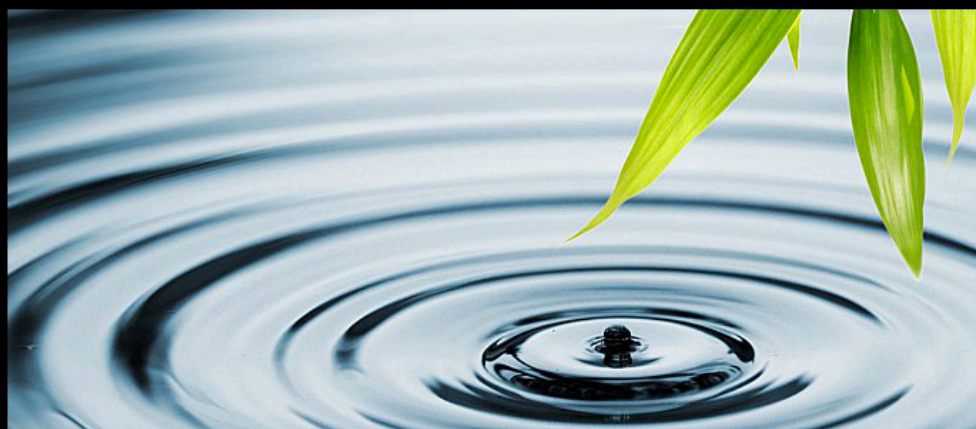


BETHEL NOTES



"For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:"

Isaiah 44:3 (KJV)

Sunday, July 19th
7th Sunday after Pentecost

ISAIAH 44:1-8
 ROMANS 8:12-25
 MATTHEW 13:24-30

***Serving this
 Sunday***

ACCOMPANIST

LYNN RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT

WALT NUESSE

USHERS

SUE HESSE

PROJECTIONIST

AVA FOSSEN

TECH

COLTER MCCARTY

KALEB STRINGER

COUNTERS

TIM LIGHTBOURNE

KALEB STRINGER

This Sunday at Bethel we celebrate the 7th Sunday after Pentecost.

We welcome Pastor Trina Johnsten as she begins her time with us as our interim pastor. Join us after our service on the patio for a meet and greet.

Pastor Trina's contact information:

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

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

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306

Please read the Reopening Guidelines on page 6. Masks are required.

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) who is awaiting 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 presence and healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she completes her treatments for cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for the **Peoples of Boliva** as they transition into new leadership within the country and prayers for **Pastor Presidente German and the IELB** especially during this pandemic and the increased need of the peoples.
- ✦ 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 for God's presence, healing & grace for **Bob Norbie** as he continues treatment for bladder cancer.
- ✦ 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 **Cindy Brattain** as she recovers from a heart procedure.
- ✦ Prayers of welcome to **Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten** as she picks up the mantle and preaches and presides during this period of change.
- ✦ Prayers of support and guidance for **Bethel Congregation** as we move forward and receive a new pastor.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** who is undergoing medical testing for severe back pain.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and health for **Liz Crabtree** as she recovers from hip surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Adam Elkin** as he recovers from foot surgery..
- ✦ Prayers for safe travels and joyous time at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp to **Steve Nelson** as he heads over from the 17th to 19th to lead family retreat bible study.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Earl Terwilliger** as he prepares for outpatient surgery.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

The Bethel Church Council is required to elect 6 people to serve on the Pastoral Call Committee (Constitution C13.05.).

The following members have volunteered or agreed to serve on the 2020-2021 Pastoral Call Committee to replace Pastor Steve Van Gilder. We thank these members for their willingness to serve and giving us the gift of their time!

- Jim Carlson - congregation and synod experience, LPA
- Tim Lightbourne - congregation experience
- Patty Braget - represents youth programs
- Ava Fossen - represents Bethel youth
- Lynn Ryan - represents music
- Earl Terwilliger - congregation experience



Bethel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights July 14, 2020

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, July 14 by via Zoom. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Marilyn lead devotions from Canoeing the Mountains. Leadership is always relational, and shared leadership is most successful. We need to use everyone's gifts to move forward. Communication is key.
- Chinook windows will be contacted to replace three windows in the Gathering Place.
- Nominating Committee update: Warren Johnson has agreed to join the council to fill the vacant Vice President position. The officers for the 2020 Bethel Lutheran Church Council as follows:
 - President - Doug Sexe
 - Vice President - Warren Johnson
 - Secretary - Marilyn Carlson
 - Treasurer - Dena Wagner-Fossen
- The bid from Central Technologies was accepted for the audio-visual updates and the replacement of the sanctuary projector as well as monitoring of our fire alarm system.
- The following six people were elected to serve as the Pastoral Call Committee: Jim Carlson, Tim Lightbourne, Patty Braget, Ava Fossen, Lynn Ryan, and Earl Terwilliger.
- The contract for Interim Pastor Trina was reviewed. It has been signed and submitted to the Synod Office. Pastor Trina will be installed this Sunday, July 19.

To view the June 2020 minutes in their entirety, please go to [June 2020 minutes](#)

Hey Did You Know One Of The Projectors Aren't Working AND...

Murphy's law has struck again and just as we were needing our AV equipment to operate at its best, it doesn't. For those of you that have viewed our on-line service, you know we have some issues with sound quality. For those of you worshipping in-person, you have noticed one of the projectors is out.

In hopes of resolving these issues and providing the best quality services, the Bethel Church Council voted to purchase new audio-visual equipment including streaming camera, microphones, connecting the Fellowship Hall to the sanctuary so worship can be viewed there, setting up the Gathering Place for live streaming and improving the sound back there as well. We also will replace the projector in the sanctuary.

We have recently received a memorial donation that will help offset the cost of these upgrades. If you would like to make donation toward these much-needed improvements, please make a notation on your giving check and we will gratefully put it toward enhancing our worship experience!

Spotlight on the Synod:

Pray for a Farmer

Farming and ranching is challenging even in the best of times.

There is the problem of expenses versus income. Farmers and ranchers continually grapple with rising prices for seed, fertilizer, chemical, feed and equipment, just as the market prices they receive for the cattle and the grain are going down. Added to unfavorable economics, farmers are reliant on the fickle Montana climate. Weather can be just as tough on farmers as prices.

“You rely so much on weather, rain and snow so you can seed and get optimum results and sometimes you just don’t get it. Last year we got snowed on,” Wendy McAlpine said. McAlpine, a SAM who serves the Lutheran Church of Sunburst, is a third-generation farmer and rancher.

Whether you own a large farm or a small farm of specialty crops, the possibility of a bad year and running at a loss is always there and it can take several good years to get back on track after a couple bad years, McAlpine said.

“When I was growing up and times were tough, I thought, there is no way I’m going to marry a farmer. I want a steady income, a monthly paycheck. And here I am married to a farmer,” McAlpine said. “It’s something that is just in you.”

Despite all of the factors out of their control, most farmers and ranchers, like McAlpine and her husband, love what they do. They accept the hardships and obstacles because they want to work with the land. As one farmer told Pastor Scott Kiehn, “It’s not a job, it’s a lifestyle. We choose this lifestyle for our family.”



Kiehn, who serves churches in Baker, Plevna and Ekalaka said that farming is not only a lifestyle, it’s a faith. “Every year they go out on faith. You work just as hard in the fields on a good year when yield is good and prices are high as you do on a poor year,” he said. And this faith is one way in which farmers enrich our congregations and our discussions of faith. They have a deep understanding of trust in God.

“They get hit over and over again. Weather, or the markets are down because of COVID. They understand the seasons of life. They understand life and death,” Kiehn said. “And when you talk about life from death – resurrection – they grasp it. They teach me about it.”

McAlpine agrees. “Farmers have a lot to teach about faith. Year after year they put their faith and trust into the unknown and they stay and remain faithful.” She said they never know what the year will bring but they keep going. “No matter what, they

are out there in that field, through the snow and the hail and all the trials and tribulations of life, they keep going,” she said.

Farmers can also be part of our conversations on caring for God’s creation. Bonnie Novak is the pastor in Wolf Point and her husband is an organic farmer. She said that farmers can be reminders of the stewardship call that God gave to all of us to take care of all creatures on His earth, the land, the air, and the water.

In some communities, farmers and ranchers *are* the congregations. In others, people who are involved in agriculture make up a good

percentage of the congregation. Other, more urban congregations might not have any farmers or ranchers. And yet, all people of faith can be involved in thanking those who have chosen to spend their lives providing food for the rest of us.

McAlpine said farmers and ranchers need support, especially because making a living in agriculture is so challenging right now. She named three ways congregations can help: patience, understanding and prayer.

"A lot of pastors come to ag communities and don't understand ag life," McAlpine said. They wonder why people aren't in church but don't realize that it's calving season or harvest.

"You need to ask questions, visit the farms and learn as much as you can," McAlpine said. "Go see the farmers and ranchers and see the life they live because it's so different."

Kiehn said, "I love going to farms and ranches, seeing what they do, helping with what they do and learning from them. They love to share with people and show how they care for the animals. How they care for the land."

McAlpine said it's helpful if pastors and congregations know that farmers and ranchers don't have a Monday through Friday, nine to five schedule. They might be out working on Christmas and Easter. "Even with 20 below, you are still out there feeding the cow in the middle of the blizzard and saving that calf," McAlpine said.

Understanding can lead to patience and hopefully that can lead to prayers for farmers and ranchers. "Prayer to sustain us, to get us through," McAlpine said. "Prayer is such an amazing gift from God. One of the most important things is prayer, praying for our farm families."

Dick Deschamp, LPA and the synod council vice president has been involved in agriculture through his life in a variety of ways. He said that, in addition to prayer, recognizing our farming and ranching families and honoring what they do can go a long way in helping them deal with challenging times.

Both Deschamps and Kiehn said that farmers and ranchers can feel beat up. "They catch in in the neck sometimes with environmental issues and they are on the defensive sometimes because they are the bad guys," Deschamp said. This doesn't mean there aren't good conversations to have over caring for creation and that we can't talk about differing ways of doing things. But Deschamps said its important to remember that farmers feed us all and deserve appreciation.

Congregations can host a "support your farmer" day or have a small ag fair involving 4H and FFA kids, or plan a farm to table potluck to honor farmers and ranchers.

"Recognize the service that farmers, in general, provide to humanity," Deschamp said and appreciate the amount of knowledge and skill someone must have in order to be a farmer or rancher.

Just about everything we eat, whether you are vegan or carnivore, comes from a farmer. Deschamp said there used to be a bumper sticker that said, "Did you eat today? Thank a farmer." Congregations are in a perfect position to do just that, thanking their local farmers, praying for their families and appreciating the good work they do every day.

Jenny Kunka,

Director of the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology

*Our
church family
is a circle of strength
and love. With every new
connection, the circle grows.
Every joy shared adds love.
Every crisis faced together
makes the circle
stronger.*



Wanted: Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representatives

As many of you know, Stephanie and Dan Richardson, our current FLBC representatives, are moving to Helena. Therefore, we are looking for two volunteers to become our Bethel Reps. The job entails being a liaison between our congregation and our beautiful camp located on the shores of Flathead Lake. The representatives are our voting board members and are asked to attend the Fall Annual Meeting at FLBC which is usually held in October of each year. The representatives are also asked to report news from the camp and help Bethel participate in FLBC fund raisers. If you are interested in filling this rewarding position, please contact Jim Carlson (868-9045).

Our staff is eager to welcome you to camp this summer for a family or small group retreat (available through August 14th)! Visit <https://flbc.net/summer2020/> or contact the FLBC office for more information! If you are unable to visit this summer, join us for our **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.

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 the 6 feet 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.

Family Promise on Hiatus

Dear Church Volunteers for Family Promise of Great Falls:

On January 11, 2015, Family Promise of Great Falls officially opened its doors to provide shelter, support, and hospitality to families in the Great Falls area experiencing homelessness. Since that day five years ago, over 100 families have regained sustainable independence. This service to Great Falls families has been possible only through the skill of our staff members and the great generosity of our 25-plus host and partner congregations, our nearly 1,000 trained volunteers, and our many donors—individuals, local businesses, service clubs, foundations, corporations and many others. Our dedicated volunteers and staff members have successfully created an environment of love and support that has allowed our guest families to learn, grow, and thrive. As a result, lives have been forever changed. We fully intend to continue doing what we do for many years to come.

Thank you so much for all you do to support the work of Family Promise of Great Falls. As coordinators you have been dedicated to the care of both the volunteers in your churches and to the guest families we have hosted in the past five years. You have taken the time out of your busy schedules to see to the needs of the guests by calling and recruiting new volunteers, scheduling tasks for your host sites, preparing your facility for hosting, attending meetings, and giving hospitality to those who came to you. You have every reason to be proud of the work you have done!

We've hit some bumps in the road. We want to be honest and share with you what our current challenges are so that we can all work together to find lasting solutions.

COVID-19 has put a halt to many normals, including the operations regarding the rotational program of Family Promise of Great Falls. The rotational shelter program relies on a constant volunteer base and moving location with many interactions. Due to the pandemic we cannot in good conscience ask our volunteers (many of which fall into a vulnerable population) or church host sites to take on this risk. In addition, we have experienced leadership and staff changes, as well as extreme loss of income due to our event based fundraising model. The culmination of these challenges has put our organization in a tough position.

The board has made the very difficult decision to take a temporary hiatus from all operations at Family Promise of Great Falls. Suspending services will allow us to focus our attention and energy on resolving our challenges and improving our program. In response to these challenges, the Board of Directors reached out to the Family Promise national organization and they have been extremely helpful and will continue to support us in our reorganization efforts.

We are forming a Steering Committee that will evaluate a future date when the organization will be viable to reinstate. The Steering Committee will also hold a stakeholders meeting when it is safe to have large meetings for input from all of our supporters.

In the coming weeks, the board will focus on helping staff in completing due diligence tasks and responsibly ramping down our services. As a board, we choose to be optimists. We choose to view our current challenges as opportunities to improve our program. With your support, Family Promise has had five very successful years of operation in the Great Falls area. With your continued support and prayers, we look forward to coming back stronger than ever.

Kate Triplett, FPGF Board Chairperson

Members of the Board: Kate Triplett, Jordyn Rogers, Katie Batterbee, Steve Van Gilder, and Barb Mullens

This Sunday We Welcome Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

We welcome Pastor Trina Johnsten as she begins her time with us as our interim pastor. Join us after our service on the patio for a meet and greet.

Pastor Trina's contact information:

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

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

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO THE RICHARDSONS

A bitter sweet farewell and Godspeed to **Dan and Steph Richardson** and their girls Letty and Signe as they begin a new journey and move to Helena.

A little note from Steph:

we transferred our membership in 2009 to Bethel. Both our kids were baptized by Pr Steve. We started getting more involved with the church through VBS as a host family for 6-7 years. We taught 6th grade for logos first and then was asked to lead HS Logos. We have been teaching logos for a total of 4 years. I was on the board that put together the annual report for one year. (Can't remember what that was called, stewardship?). We were also the FLBC congregational reps for many years. Dan is now a board member for FLBC.

We are moving to Helena and plan to find a church home like Bethel there. Dan got a promotion and is staying with KLJ engineers. I am exploring a possibility of owning a small business in Helena.

We are going to miss our Bethel family. Thanks again. See you Sunday



Calendar Of Events

Tuesday 7/21

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am (Men's Breakfast on hold until September)

Friday 7/24

- Bethel Office Closed

Upcoming Events

Sunday 7/26

- worship 9:30 am with communion

Tuesday 7/28

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am (Men's Breakfast on hold until September)

Friday 7/31

- 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 lolli51gus@icloud.com and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.