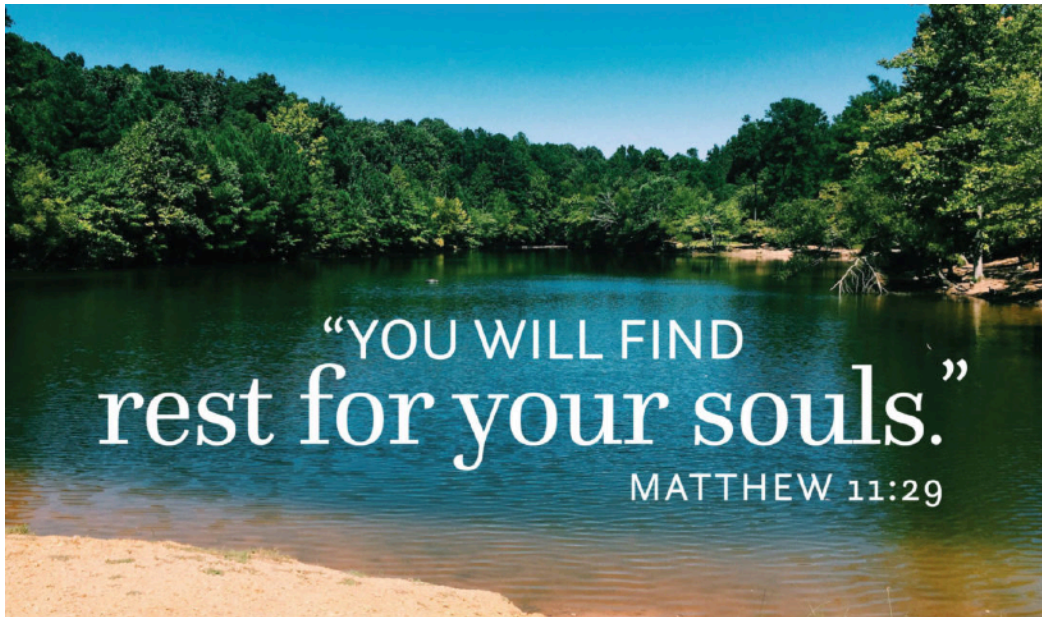


BETHEL NOTES



Serving this Sunday

ACCOMPANIST

LYNN RYAN

VOCALS

PATRICK RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT

SANDY PEPOS

USHERS

TAMI GROSENICK

PROJECTIONIST

DAVE SCHOLTEN

TECH

COLTER MCCARTY

COUNTERS

PAM DOUGHERTY

GREG GROSENICK

Sunday, July 5th
5th Sunday after Pentecost

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

PSALM 145:8-14

ROMANS 7:15-25A

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30



Today at Bethel we celebrate the 5th Sunday after Pentecost.

We also celebrate **World Hunger Sunday** and an additional offering can be made in the wicker basket on the table as you enter.

Welcome and thank you to **Bishop Laurie Jungling** as she is preaching today. Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten will begin in the Office on July 15th and her first Sunday with us will be July 19th.

Please read the Reopening Guidelines on page 7. Masks are required.

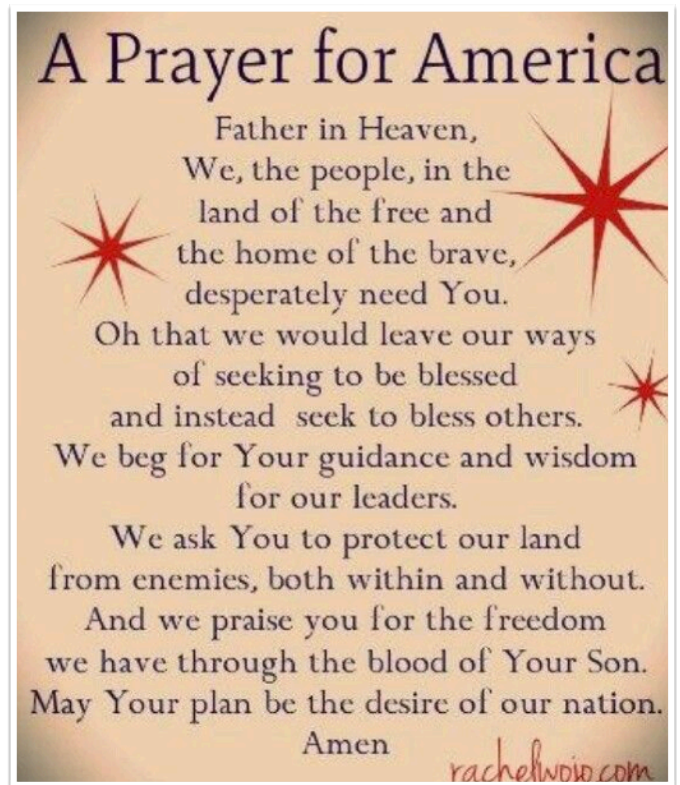


OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

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 God's comfort and consolation for **LaRae Veitch and her family** as they mourn the passing of her husband Bob.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Steve Young** (brother of Sue Hesse) as he undergoes back surgery and his recovery journey.
- ♦ Prayers of comfort and support for the **family of Jean Humphrey** as they mourn her passing.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Brattain** as she recovers from a heart procedure.
- ♦ Prayers for God's consolation and peace for **the family of Mike and Heather Kubas** as they mourn the death of Heather's father.
- ♦ Prayers of celebration for **Pastor Steve and Kaye** as they embark on their new journey together.
- ♦ Prayers of welcome to **Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten** as she picks up the mantel 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.



A Thank You From Pastor Steve and Kaye

Kaye, my family and I are in awe of Bethel's generosity. Words cannot begin to express our gratitude to you for the countless phone calls, text messages, e-mails, voicemails, conversations, heartfelt cards, generous gifts, beautiful sentiments, flowers, pictures, laughs shared, and tears shed during our send-off. Over the past 16 years, we have shared such wonderful memories amidst trying times, times of celebration and everything in between that we will cherish the rest of our lives. What an amazing journey with you, the Body of Christ, present, praying and encouraging us each step of the way. Our cup runs over with the many blessings you have generously poured on us. Truly from the bottom of our hearts Thank You!



The apostle Paul captures the sense of the life we shared and are called to continue to live, when he says, "Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, CEB

Shalom,

Pastor Steve, Kaye, Mark and Micah



Words from the Bishop: Christian Freedom

This year marks the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's writing of his famous essay "On the Freedom of a Christian" (aka "On Christian Liberty"). In my opinion, this essay should be required reading for all Lutheran Christians, perhaps with some help from their pastors, for it describes clearly what freedom truly means for followers of Christ. And that meaning is very different from what our culture tells us freedom means.

In short, Luther tells us that in Christ we are indeed free -- free from all the things that prevent us from having life-giving relationship with God and neighbor. We are free from fear, despair, rage, hate, apathy, lostness, anxiety, oppression and oppressing. We are free from having to climb the ladder to God, from earning our way past God's wrath into God's love and acceptance. We're free from sin. In Christ, and only in Christ, we become lords over all these things.

But this freedom doesn't just mean we're free *from* something. It also means we're free *for* something. Free *for* abundant life in God, truth in Christ, and empowerment by the Spirit. Free *for* peace, joy, wisdom, grace, right relationship with God and others. Free *for* receiving into our selves and our communities God's every blessing.

And in this "freedom for living in abundant relationship with God," we're free to love, care for, and stand in solidarity with our fellow humans and all of creation! Finally, that's what freedom means for Luther and Lutheran followers of Christ:

freedom to love others as God has first loved us.

To put the Christian understanding of freedom in terms of the independence day we celebrate this weekend, we indeed have many rights, but every one of those rights comes with responsibilities and duties. Someone once said that "my freedom stops at your nose." In other words, my freedoms and rights only extend to the point where they begin to interfere with or deprive you of your freedoms and rights (and *vice versa*). It's at that point when my freedom

becomes a responsibility to serve your freedoms and rights. While we may have the rights to free speech, assembly, religion, etc. that we honor this weekend, they immediately turn into responsibilities the moment they reach another person and begin to interfere with their rights.

Martin Luther states something similar, only the

responsibility for the follower of Christ is even greater, for the duty of a Christian is not just to protect the basic rights and freedoms of others but to love one another. Christians are called to the responsibility of loving others, all others, friend and enemy, people of different races, ethnicities, religions, genders and political ideologies, people who are next door and people who live across the country or even the world. For Luther, God frees us in Christ so that we can love our neighbor in faith empowered by the Spirit.

This freedom of Christians has been happening right here in the MT Synod during



these past weeks and months. I've seen images of this freedom. For instance, you may have heard that together we raised over \$14,000 for the Bolivian Lutheran Church in their time of hunger and need due to Covid-19. Because of your generosity, the Bolivian Lutheran Church has been able to expand their ministry beyond La Paz to surrounding communities, providing food baskets and hygiene kits to families in need in Cobija, Caranavi, Tarija Cochabamba, and the Lutheran schools in El Alto and Santa Cruz totaling over 150 families. And there is some leftover for continuing to help these and other families in the future months. Thank you, MT Synod, for using the freedom to love God has given you in Christ to love your neighbors in Bolivia.

Another image of the freedom of Christians I've seen in the past few days is the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the Lutheran Church. Because of an openness to transformation by men and women 50 years ago, women were finally after 2000 years given the freedom to proclaim the gospel as ordained leaders in the Lutheran Church. Every time I remember that military chaplain telling me "no, you can't become a pastor because you're a woman," I giggle with delight that my church said, "Yes, you can. Yes, you can!" Though it has been a difficult struggle at times, and there is still work to do, I celebrate with the many female pastors, bishops, deacons, and LPA's of our synod and church the freedom we now have to follow God's calling into the ministry. Thank you, God, and thank you fellow Lutherans for using the freedom to love that God has given you to speak and hear the Word of God through women's voices.

Finally, I see images of the freedom of Christians in the difficult choices you've made to restrain your civil freedoms for the sake of caring for others during this time of pandemic. Wearing masks in worship and community, limiting fellowship and coffee hours, social distancing in worship and beyond your facility's doors, reaching out to one another through

phone, live stream, letters, mask-making to show that the church is never closed, only functioning in God's new ways...all of these are ways you are using your freedoms that God gives you in Christ to love the neighbors you live with day-to-day.

To conclude, I offer Paul's words from Galatians once again as he proclaims what it means to be a Christian follower of Christ: "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servant's to one another."

In Christ's abundant love, we are made free; let us use that freedom in Christ to love one another.

Bishop Laurie



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).



First Communion Austin & Kolton Kupfner



Bethel celebrated with the Kupfner Family, parents Kent and Laura, boys Austin, Kolton, and Ethan as Austin and Kolton joined the Lord's Table for the very first time.

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.

goodbye enjoy
 thank you good luck good wishes
 miss you
 see you
 best wishes compliments all the best greetings
 happy holidays
 keep in touch
 Cheers farewell
 bye-bye love you you are special
 party

Welcome

One of the driving forces behind Bethel the last 10-years is a man who was rarely seen, but always appreciated. Ed Murphy has been our custodian, cleaning, repairing, moving furniture, setting up and often tearing down (even on holidays!) and caring for our lawns.

Ed has decided to retire from Bethel and we wish him well and thank him for all the hard work he has done for us over the years.

Ed continues to work for the Great Falls Public Schools as a facilities engineer and we hope to see him around Great Falls from time to time.

Thanks Ed, you are truly a good soul and you will be missed.




We would like to welcome and introduce our new custodian, Dawn Arves.

Dawn has been volunteering at Bethel since May when we began to gather for worship for extra cleaning. She hails from Great Falls and owns her own cleaning business.

We are excited to have her with us at Bethel!



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 morning 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.

**Men's Breakfast on hold until
SEPTEMBER!**



Calendar Of Events

Tuesday 7/7

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting **cancelled this day only** (Men's Breakfast on hold until September)

Thursday 7/9

- Executive Council conference call 5:30 pm

Friday 7/10

- Bethel Office Closed

Upcoming Events

Sunday 7/12

- Jim Carlson will be preaching for worship 9:30 am

Tuesday 7/14

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am (Men's Breakfast on hold until September)
- Council meeting at Bethel 6:30 pm

Friday 7/17

- Bethel Office Closed

1ST MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS MEET

JULY 6, 2020 AT 6 P.M.

Come join the 1st Monday Night Quilters at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Avenue South on Monday evening, July 6, 2020 , 6-8 p.m., and in the Social Hall in the basement. Please use the door in the alley.

We will be social distancing, and please wear a mask. We will be tying the quilts and hoping to get several done to make up for the months we haven't met due to Covid 19. Come and see; no experience necessary. Questions? Call Trudi at 799-0100.