

BETHEL NOTES



Serving this Sunday

ACCOMPANIST

MARY SEIM

LAY ASSISTANT

TAMY SCHOLTEN

USHERS

WALT NUESSLE

PROJECTIONIST

DINA DAVIS

TECH

GREG GROSENICK

COUNTERS

STEPHANIE CUMMINGS

MARILYN CARLSON

Sunday, July 26th
8th Sunday after Pentecost

1 KINGS 3:5-12

PSALM 119:129-136

ROMANS 8:26-39

MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

This Sunday at Bethel we celebrate the 8th Sunday after Pentecost.

Please read the Reopening Guidelines on page 8. *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 prepares for surgery next week..
- ✦ 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 healing and support for **Rebecca Boucher** who is undergoing medical testing for auto-immune challenges.
- ✦ 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 of healing and support for **Earl Terwilliger** as he recovers from outpatient surgery.



UPDATE REGARDING THE 2021 GATHERING

After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the table, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

To learn more about the postponement and the 2022 Gathering, please visit: elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19.



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!

UPDATE!
Equipment has been
ordered and projected
installment within the next
two weeks!

Words from the Bishop: Don't Jump, Just Breathe

Just breathe. We've heard a lot about breathing in recent weeks: about George Floyd's last breath plea of "I can't breathe"; about the breathing struggles of those who experience the symptoms of Covid, hospitalized or not; about the fact that our own breath can become an instrument of harm to others with whom we share the air when we fail to wear a mask. Just breathing can be challenging these days.

Just breathe. This was some guidance offered by Pastor Chris Haughee, chaplain at [Intermountain Children's Home](#) (a Montana Synod ministry partner), with the kids who are experiencing mental health struggles such as clinical anxiety and depression brought about by trauma in their lives. Pastor Haughee shared this breathing guidance in a blog ([found here](#)) and with it a short, 3 minute film called "Just breathe."

In this film, various children describe in detail their own experience with anger and what it feels like. One little girl uses the image of a jar full of glitter in water. To her, anger feels like that jar being shaken wildly so that all that glitter is exploding through her brain and she can't see anything but flashing sparks of light. But, the girl says later, when she stops and just breathes, the anger settles down the way glitter drifts to the bottom of the jar when it's no longer shaken. The film ends with both children and adults practicing the art of just breathing. ([Watch the video here.](#))



Just breathe. This is good advice for us all these days. "And the Lord God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and Adam became a living being." (Gen 2:7) "Thus said the Lord God, Come from the four winds, O breath/Spirit, and breathe upon these dead that they may live." (Ez 37:9). "And Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (Jn 30:22)

But how can we stop and sit in the midst of a chaotic world that is shaking our glitter jar and just breathe? How can we inhale God's Spirit of life and wholeness and the peace that passes all

our understanding even as we exhale our anger, fear, and anxieties? How can we just breathe when it seems there are so many voices telling us to just jump?

Over and over we hear, "just jump" back into the social and economic world the way it used to be. "Just jump" off the cliff into the mire of our

dysfunctional political system (are you already as sick of the ads as I am?!). "Just jump" in front of the moving train that is Covid-19 racing through our country at barrel-neck speeds, putting our own breathing and the breath of others at greater risk.

I remember when I was a kid standing on top of the high dive for the first time at the Rolla, ND swimming pool. My knees were shaking, my heart was racing, and every instinct I had was telling me to climb back down the ladder. But the kids below were shouting "just jump you scaredy

cat!" And my own brain, trying to be brave in its terror, was shouting, "You can do it, you scaredy cat. Just jump."

And I did. And I survived...but not without experiencing an awful wedgie that I've never forgotten and learning my lesson that just jumping, especially when I'm doing it for no other reason than to prove my courage in the midst of terror or get my own way, isn't often the good or right thing to do.

In fact, it's well known that Jesus didn't jump. In the Gospel of Matthew, the devil's second temptation involved taking Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and telling him to "just jump." "If you are God's Son, throw yourself off and let the angels catch you. You won't even stub a toe," the devil says, even quoting scripture at Jesus to prove his point. (Mt 4:5-7)

"Don't be afraid. It's not real anyway. Don't you trust God?! God will save you. Just jump." Voices in our culture are saying versions of these words to us over and over again, tempting us through shame, doubt and fear to take unnecessary and even dumb risks to prove our bravery, often to try get their own way or seek their own purposes.

But Jesus didn't jump. And neither should we. Jesus' response to this temptation is to say, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Don't test God by putting yourself in harm's way unnecessarily. Don't throw yourself in front of moving trains challenging God to save you when you have been given the ability and intelligence to protect yourself. Instead follow Jesus and just don't jump.

Instead, just breathe. Take a deep breath and release the anger, the fear of being seen as afraid, the anxiety of losing control. Take a deep breath and let the Holy Spirit pray for you with sighs too deep for words. Take a deep breath

and fill your whole self and your whole community with God's life and wisdom and hope.

For yes, God will save us and does save us always! But we cannot receive God's gift by making bad, unhealthy and unloving choices. We receive God's salvation by trusting deeply in God's ever-ready, eternal love for us and then living out that love in all we do and say.

So don't jump. Instead take some time today and every day to "just breathe." Learn from the kids in the film and let all the sparkling glitter of anger go to the bottom of your brain. And then just breathe with God, allowing the Spirit to be your diaphragm and lungs, reminding you that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ's love,
Bishop Laurie

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT



Taught by Dr. Michael Chan

The Old Testament is challenging literature for Christian leaders. This course will persuade students that the Old Testament is not only a helpful companion in ministry, but that it is also invaluable. All lectures are given with preaching, teaching, and pastoral care in view. These lectures will provide crucial information on Israel's history and narratives, prophetic literature, wisdom literature, and why Scripture matters in the first place.

This is an excellent resource for LPAs and for adult study, easily divided into shorter time increments.

\$70 (continuing ed credits available)

Access at
www.montanasynod.org
by clicking on the blue
NRIT logo





FLBC's camp store is online!

Now you can get camp gear and support FLBC from anywhere! <https://flathead-lutheran-bible-camp.square.site/>

Upcoming Retreats & Events:

View more at <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/>

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.

Women's Retreat: Saying No, Saying Yes - A Spiritual Practice

September 11-13, 2020

\$160/person

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation as Pastor Miriam Schmidt leads us in engaging Bible study. **CEU credits available through**

NRIT. <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/womens-retreat/>



Youth Workers Retreat

October 15-18, 2020

\$150/person

Pastors, Youth Directors, Volunteers - this is for you! Join retreat leader Mark Jackson for this informative, fun, and refreshing retreat. From eastern Washington, Mark now serves at St. Andrews in Mahtomedi, MN. Different attendance options are available (Thurs-Sun, Thurs-Sat, Fri-Sun, or Saturday only)! CEU credits available through NRIT. <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/youth-workers-retreat/>

Wanted: FLBC Representatives from Bethel

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).

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

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.

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

Contact information:

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

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

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306

Calendar Of Events

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
- Tami Grosenick is on vacation until August 7th

Upcoming Events

Sunday 8/2

- worship 9:30 am World Hunger Sunday

Monday 8/3

- Boy Scout Troop 28 meets at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 8/4

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

Friday 8/7

- Bethel Office Closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday Shabbat Service 6:00 pm 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 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.