
BETHEL NOTES

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Mary Seim

Lay Assistant: Sandy Pepos

Usher(s): Walt and Leone
Nuessle

Projectionist: Lisa Carlson

Counters: Pam Dougherty and
Mary Lou Norbie

Nursery: Lillian Erickson

Readings

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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

This Sunday At Bethel.

- Dave Scholten will be preaching in Pastor Steve's absence. Dave has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

This Week's Events

- Pastor Steve will be out of the office at camp after worship this Sunday. His vacation will begin on Sunday, July 30. He will return on Tuesday, August 8.

Upcoming Events

- Pastor Steve Nelson will be preaching on Sunday, Aug 6.
- The Church Council will meet Tuesday, Aug 8 at 6:30 in the Gathering Place.

Help Wanted



We are looking for some volunteers to help with some woodwork and cleaning. We have 5 adirondack chairs that need sanded and stained and there are also some chairs at the church that need some spot cleaning. If you would like more information or to volunteer please contact Kris Voorhees at (406) 799-1393.

Office Hours



Beginning on Monday, August 21, the church office hours will be changing. We will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am-2:30pm and Wednesday 9am-2pm.

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.



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 Jim Carlson as he travels to Minnesota for a surgery at the Mayo Clinic on Wednesday, Jul 26.

For healing Linda (Gary) O'Brien, sister of Sue Hesse.

For Pastor Presidente Emilio Flores & Pastor Luis from the Bolivian Ev. Lutheran Church, our companion Synod, who are touring our Synod.

Prayers for healing for Traedon Jaques (son of Ben and Yenta Jaques) who is hospitalized.

For God's blessing on the marriage of **Rachel Nelson (daughter of Pastor Steve & Colleen Nelson) to Drew Bertelson** on Sunday, July 30th in Denver.

For God's presence and healing for **Dave Johnson** (brother of Marty Johnson) hospitalised following a bicycle injury.

For rest and renewal for **Pastor Steve Van Gilder**, on vacation July 27 - August 7th.

For **Dave Scholten, LPA**, who is preaching and presiding in worship at Bethel this Sunday.



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:

None

Synod House Build Update

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

Upright walls are up alright



It's been an exciting week on the Montana Synod House project. Last Wednesday morning, the slab was placed. Although we have been working hard for weeks building and stacking walls, now we were able to raise those walls so you can see the work that has been done! We spent Thursday, Friday, and Saturday lifting walls into place and securing them. Please come by to see the progress that has been made.

This past week we enjoyed help from 4 volunteers from Lewistown along with several volunteers from Great Falls. The Lewistown crew also brought along two volunteers who made and served breaks and lunches. Saturday we were treated to lunch prepared by a member of St. John's, Great Falls who has ties to the Lewistown community. Thank you all, for your friendship and hospitality.

This week we look forward to hospitality from the members of Trinity, Choteau and other congregations in the Golden Triangle Cluster.

Yesterday (Tuesday) a volunteer construction team of five came from Helena along with a volunteer from near Loma for Tuesday and Wednesday. There are many tasks to be completed so feel free to drop in Tuesday through Saturday to help make the Synod House a reality.



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!



Words from the Bishop

The Fire This Time

Heat and drought have combined to make this a brutal fire season. Many parts of the West have been affected. Northeastern Montana has been particularly hard-hit. Homes, crops and livestock have been destroyed. On Sunday a fire emergency was declared for the entire state of Montana. There are more than two dozen major fires burning. Homes are being evacuated. Ranchers have had to cut their fences to release cattle from oncoming flames. But the cattle are still in danger, lacking food and drink. The firefighters working on the largest fires will soon be supplemented by the National Guard.

Fire is not somebody else's problem. It is our problem. We are in this together. Volunteers are gearing up with donations of fencing, hay and cash, as well as labor. Our office got an inquiry from an Iowa synod, remembering how they did a hay lift to drought-stricken Texas a few years ago and wondering if it would be welcome in our territory.

Dick Deschamps, our synod's Disaster Coordinator and liaison to Lutheran Disaster Response, is chair of the Montana State VOAD. They coordinate and communicate volunteer efforts in responding to disaster. For information about needs and places to drop off or request donations, go to www.northernag.net.

Look for more information in this week's e-news, as well as opportunities to contribute and to help. In response to tornadoes in southeastern Montana last year, the Montana Synod set up a disaster fund. We will accept donations for the fire damage, and requests for assistance.

Pastor Jean Larson has reflected on fire and its impact.



She wrote this prayer:

O God of Grand Design,

As fire eats our land, give strength to our neighbors who work and suffer in these flames:

Firefighters,

Those who must flee,

Cattle and horses and all creatures,

Those who must rebuild homes and livelihoods.

Yet even in this struggle, open our hearts to the mystery of your Creation

that brings new life through fire,

as pinecones burst, forests are pruned, and grasslands grow lush – next year.

Holy Spirit, Refiner's Fire, kindle in us a brave thanksgiving for all your good gifts.

And help us live humbly and wisely, as servants of your earth.

Amen

Jessica Crist, Bishop