

BETHEL NOTES



*Serving this
Sunday*

ACCOMPANIST

LYNN RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT

JOHN BLANK

USHERS

WALT NUESSELE

PROJECTIONIST

DEAN AMOR

TECH

COLTER McCARTY

COUNTERS

PAM DOUGHERTY

MARILYN CARLSON

Sunday, August 2nd
9th Sunday after Pentecost

ISAIAH 55:1-5
ROMANS 9:1-5
MATTHEW 14:13-21



**world hunger
sunday**

Sunday at Bethel we celebrate the 9th Sunday after Pentecost and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

We also **celebrate World Hunger Sunday**. An additional offering will be received in the wicker basket as you enter the church.

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 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 continues his recovery from foot surgery.

We pray to God who some call Mystery, beyond all definition, that
When in the midst of uncertainty
– may we know faith.
When in the midst of anxiety
– may we know serenity.
When in the midst of stress
– may we know calm.
When in the midst of fear
– may we know trust.
When in the midst of bewilderment
– may we know assurance.
When in the midst of confusion
– may we know confidence.
When in the midst of pandemic
– may we know peace.
When in the midst of whatever
– may we know love.

Rev. John Wesley Oldham from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



Did you know all this is free for your taking? Lutheran Living Magazine, Christ in Our Home Quarterly Devotional, Education Booklets, ELCA World Hunger, and so much more. Take a look at the track rack location just inside the main entrance to Bethel the next time you come in and enjoy inspirational

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 a 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!
 Sound Equipment should be arriving within the next week or so. A live stream camera is on back order to be arriving approximately six weeks. Sound on live stream will be installed when it arrives.

Words from the Bishop: Peace Be With You

“The peace of Christ be with you.” The worship leader announces this on Sunday mornings and we all respond in kind. And then we share the peace. Not just any peace but God’s peace, Christ’s peace, the peace of the Holy Spirit.

But what are we sharing when we share “the peace of Christ?”

Peace is often envisioned as the absence of conflict. Even in Scripture, peace can be portrayed as an absence of fighting or war where people feel safe from threats to their person or community. No killing, no violence, no screaming, yelling, bullying, angry voices raised louder than other angry voices. For some, peace is imagined simply as safety and security from harm.

Certainly that is one appropriate way to think of peace, at least peace in this world. But does safety truly equal peace, especially peace in Christ?

I’m reminded of a parable I found roaming about Facebook a few years ago:

There was once a town that became very afraid of people coming from outside and doing violence. A few people had been murdered by outsiders recently and they were scared. So in their anxiety, the townspeople



decided to build a wall around their city. When the wall was built, some of the people felt safer but others pointed

out that bad people could still manage to slip through the gate, so they walled that up too. Now most people felt safe but a few worried that killers could climb up and drop over the wall, so they built a roof over the whole town, putting bars on any of the small windows that were still in the wall. Standing together in the gloom they had to admit that they all felt safe. The threat had been real and they had responded. But then, from somewhere in the darkness, a little boy asked “can I go outside and play?”

Is this walled city the peace of Christ? I don’t think so. It may be safe but it’s ruled by fear. And I’m pretty sure God’s peace involves play.

In fact, according to Jesus, peace is not the absence of something at all. Peace is something that Jesus gives to us: himself in the Spirit. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (Jn 14:27)

Because, as he promised earlier, “I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming to you.”

Peace is a way of life, a type of character, a way of being in Christ. Christ’s peace fills us with his own presence and strengthens us for those unsafe and difficult times that will come. Peace is comforting but not in the way we often think. Comfort in Latin means “with fortitude” – to stand in a non-anxious way, uncontrolled by our fear, against the threats of the world through our faith in God. Peace is standing with Jesus in the boat as he cries, “Peace. Be still!” to the winds of life.

It's only in the peace of Christ that true peace can be found. The peace of Christ is not merely an absence of conflict. As long as the world resists God's peace, there will be division and conflict and sometimes great risk must be taken to work for God's peace on earth. To quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "There is no way to bring peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared! It is the great (ad)venture. It can never be made safe."

For the next couple of weeks starting August 4, I'll be on vacation, going out with the peace of Christ you've shared with me while seeking

the peace that I can receive from God. My vacation won't always be "safe" since I'll be hiking and biking (pray "no bears!"), but I do hope to find a peace away from email, internet and phone that will allow for some rejuvenation in body, mind, spirit. [No worries. The rest of the staff will be around to assist any with needs.] And I promise that whatever peace God gives me, I will share with you upon my return.

Ultimately, God's peace is something relational, something that exists in the connection we have with each other in Christ through the Holy Spirit. This peace allows us to be intertwined with God, neighbor and creation in faith, hope and love.

And in the end, God's peace is something we really can't comprehend completely. As Paul writes, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7) The peace of God is beyond anything we as humans in this world can understand. But in Christ, we can find a measure of God's peace even now, that through the Spirit will be multiplied beyond our comprehension.

Let us pray: "Gracious and forgiving Savior, we know that alone we cannot come to your peace. Please give us your peace and fill us with the wisdom to be the peace for the world that you call us to be in you."

The peace of Christ be with you all!

Bishop Laurie



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.



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/>

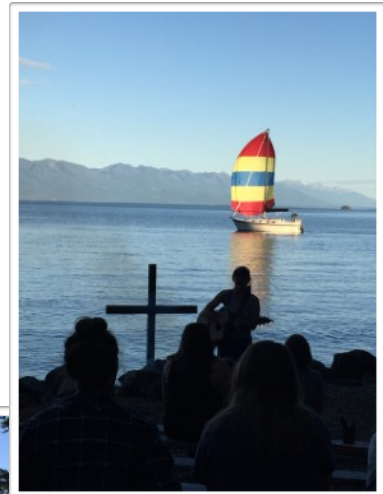
Youth Workers Retreat

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/>

MEMORIES OF STEVE NELSON'S WEEKEND AT FLBC



THANK YOU DAVE!



You never know what Dave Scholten, LPA will bring when he delivers the message on Sunday!

Thanks Dave for stepping in and sharing God's word!



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



1ST MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS MEET August 2, 2020 AT 6 P.M.

Come join the 1st Monday Night Quilters at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Avenue South on Monday evening, August 2, 2020, 6-8 p.m., in the Social Hall in the basement. Please use the door in the alley.

We will be social distancing, and please wear a mask. Last month we made up for the months we missed due to Covid 19 and completed several. If you've never come, no experience necessary; we just tie the quilts. Come and see; no experience necessary. Questions? Call Trudi at 799-0100.

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 8/4

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

Thursday 8/6

- Council Exec Board conference call 5:30 pm

Friday 8/7

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday 8/9

- Worship 9:30 am

Monday 8/10

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

Tuesday 8/11

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

Friday 8/14

- 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.