

BETHEL NOTES



Sunday, June 14th

Readings

New Life Through Worship

MICAH 6:6-8

ROMANS 12:1-8

JOHN 4:21-24

Serving this Sunday

ACCOMPANIST

LYNN RYAN

VOCALS

PATRICK RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT

KAYE VAN GILDER

USHERS

DONNA VINNEDGE

DENA WAGNER-FOSSEN

PROJECTIONIST

AVA FOSSEN

TECH

COLTER MCCARTY

ADAM ELKIN

COUNTERS

PAM DOUGHERTY

DENA WAGNER-FOSSEN

This Sunday's in-person Worship will also be live streamed from Bethel Lutheran Church at 9:30 am. Live stream link and bulletin at bethelmt.org.

We lift up Guiding Principle *New Life Through Worship*.

We also celebrate **New Member Sunday** as we welcome Gordon and Karen Lord as members of our Bethel family, joining today by affirmation of faith.

Join us **Wednesday, June 24th** from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for an ice cream social for Pastor Steve and Kaye. We will have an opportunity to visit and share our gratitude for 16 years of comfort, celebration, guidance, leadership and love.

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

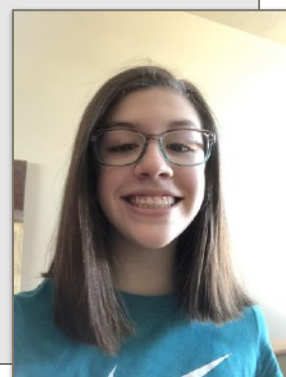


- ✦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) who is awaiting a double lung transplant.
- ✦ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ✦ Continued prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law 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 for **Jane Mart** as she continues to improve and hopes to be back soon.
- ✦ 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 healing for **Holly Lode**, daughter of Bernice Johnson, as she is hospitalized, recovering from a recent surgery.
- ✦ 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 for God's comfort and consolation for the **family of Glen Roush** (friend of Sandy Pepos) as they mourn his death.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort and support **Jean Humphrey** as she is under the care of Hospice.

THANK YOU BETHEL

BY: JULIA ELKIN

Over the past two years, I have been fundraising for a trip with classmates to Washington D.C. and New York City. Due to current world events, it was canceled in early April. If the pandemic did not exist, it would probably be best for us not to have gone because of all the BLM protesters and riots. With these fundraisers and donations, I managed to raise \$3,375 for this trip. These fundraisers included raffle tickets, wreathes, pastries, and much more. All the support from the Bethel church community has helped me a lot. Even though I turned all of that money into the travel company, I will be getting a full refund. Most of this money will be going toward the 2021 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Due to all of the riots, we may not even go, but I am planning on going on this faith trip if everything calms down in Minnesota. I reached my goal of raising money for the DC/NYC trip thanks to all of you buying from me on Sundays. Thank you so much.



Pastor's Article: BETHEL GUIDING PRINCIPLE: NEW LIFE THROUGH WORSHIP

I am continuing to help us focus our reflections and worship themes on Bethel's four guiding principles, over the remaining weeks we share before my retirement.

BETHEL GUIDING PRINCIPLE: NEW LIFE THROUGH WORSHIP

Nothing a congregation does compares with the importance and passion of its worship life. Worshiping together with other believers is our most prized moment for giving honest thanks to God. Worship is not a spectator sport. Everyone is welcome to join in the heartfelt praise, stirring music, grace-filled words, Holy Communion, and prayers that call upon the power of God.

The Church Song

The church is not a building where people go to pray;
It's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay.
You can go to worship but you cannot go to church;
You can't find a building that's alive no matter how you search.
The church is not a business, a committee or a board;
it's not a corporation for the business of the Lord.
The church, it is the people living out their lives,
Called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ.

Chorus:

We are then Church, the body of our Lord.
We are all God's children.
We have been restored.
– from "The Church Song," by Jay Beech.

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This song has been in Bethel's worship song repertoire for many years. As it is sung, it reminds all the members of the Body of Christ, the Church, that whether we are gathered in-person, on-line, we are Church for the sake of the world. What makes us alive is God's Spirit. The Church and its worship are Spirit born. Spirit inspired. Our dismissal from worship, is our call to love and bless the world.

For all the planning that goes into each worship service by the pastor and the Worship Planning Committee, it sometimes ends up being the small and spontaneous moments that touch the chords of our lives. An "amen!" spoken by a little one in worship. Or a child's singing voice (praise) is heard above all others during the Kyrie or hymns of praise. Along with that, a verse of scripture, a word of prayer, or a story used to bring the preached word may also touch us just exactly in the places where our lives connect. With the permission of Kopper Frick, I share a moment she had with her youngest child, Poppy, during bedtime prayers last Sunday evening. The whole Frick family, extended family and friends were present in worship last Sunday afternoon to celebrate Maelee Frick's public profession of faith. (Kopper) Laying alongside Poppy at bedtime: Poppy said to me, "Mommy, I saw Jesus today with Mae!" (I have learned over the years in my role of pastor, that little ones think of me as Jesus...but I'd like to believe that the Jesus she saw with sister, Maelee, was Jesus in the whole community) From the witness of little ones, come the simple yet poignant truths of faith.

Our worship, whether it is in person or online, is about the community of faith in fellowship, in communion with Jesus Christ, praising God and discerning where the Spirit will direct us in our calling to love and bless the world. We have certainly experienced a renewed appreciation for worship, and our connectedness to one another during this time of pandemic.



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In the gospel reading from John, we learn of an encounter Jesus had with a Samaritan woman at a well. Each had arrived at the well to quench their thirst. What ensued was a dialogue which dove deep, quickly. She came toting an empty water pitcher that needed filling and discovered that her life, like that empty water pitcher, needed filling, too. Jesus, whom she saw...and met... offered her a living, life quenching, life fulfilling relationship. Out of that relationship, hers/our 'spirit and truth' worship flows. True worship was described as 'worship in spirit and truth.' For God, for Jesus true worship isn't bound to a city of the Samaritans or the Jews. It isn't bound within four walls ('sticks and stone'). It is worship which engages our spirit, in the pursuit of truth. Worship which finds expression in serving our neighbor in love.

Friends, in The Church Song, songwriter Jay Beech reminds us all, who are the members of the Body of Christ - the Church- that whether we are gathered in-person, on-line, or in the world, we are connected to Christ. Worship Christ !

"The church, it is the people living out their lives, Called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ."

Pastor Steve

**Not all heroes
wear capes.
Some make
face masks.**



Many people in developing countries don't have the option of social distancing or frequent handwashing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now says cloth face masks, along with hand washing and social distancing may help reduce transmission.

We need your help to sew cloth face masks to help us reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities.

After all, Lutheran World Relief was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who were suffering during World War II. What will be our generation's legacy during this time of crisis?

If you would like to make masks please click the link below for more information or talk with Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office and she will help you.

<https://lwr.org/masks>

Bethel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights June 9, 2020

Bethel Lutheran Council met in the Fellowship Hall.

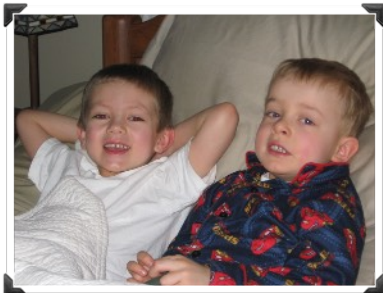
Here are some highlights of that meeting:

- Dena lead devotions from Canoeing the Mountains. When approaching uncharted territory, adaptation is everything. This book is speaking to all of us in uncharted territory.
- Tami obtained a bid for the painting from The Uptown Optimists. They will paint the additional handicapped parking spots in the next few weeks when they paint Beef O'Brady's.
- President Doug gave an update on the Guy Schmidt estate. Council voted to use the funds to improve our technology.
- Council is looking to fill the part-time custodian position.
- The Jewish community has asked when they can start meeting at Bethel again. Doug will reach out to the Jewish Community and Boy Scouts to explain our need for extra cleaning to follow the mandated cleaning guidelines.
- Pastor Steve's send-off date has been set for Wednesday, June 24th from 5:30 to 7:30 at Bethel. More information will be coming!
- Finally, the Council continues to move forward with the contractual arrangement with our Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten.

To view the May 2020 council notes in their entirety, please go to [May 2020 minutes](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR CONFIRMANDS!

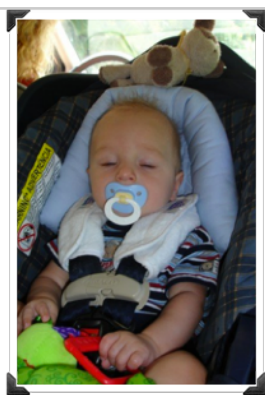
Mac Carlson
(pictured right)



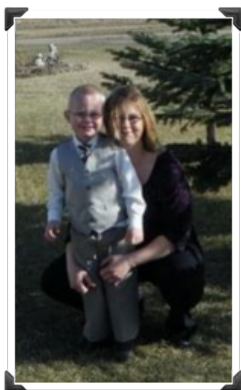
Julia Elkin



James Pinski



Travis Palmer



Affirmation of Baptism for 7 Eighth Graders on Sunday, June 7th at 4pm

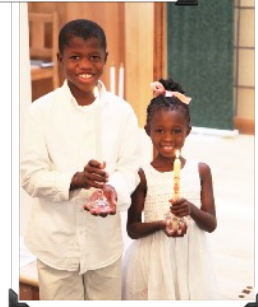
It was a joy to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) for seven of Bethel's eighth graders, with parents, sponsors, Logos instructors, and close friends (47 persons) present in worship. It was decided to have a separate ceremony for Confirmation in order keep within the limits of the prescribed guidelines set for Phase 2 worship gatherings. They were: Mac Carlson, Julia Elkin, Ava Fossen, Maelee Frick, Kyle Gilbertson, Travis Palmer and James Pinski. We rejoice with these 7 young adults and their families.

Please keep them in your prayers, encouraging them to continue to stay actively involved in the life of the congregation.

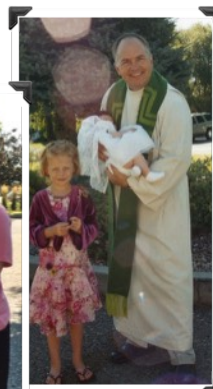
Kyle Gilbertson



Maelee Frick



Ava Fossen



Travis Palmer was in Sydney Montana and we were able to include him in the service via Zoom.

When a Pastor Retires

The relationship between pastor and congregation is a special one. A pastor is called to preach, teach and administer the sacraments, but often the connections made go beyond the professional role and become deeply personal. To be sure, it is a gift for a pastor to be involved in the lives of the people they serve. Over time these relationships develop and parishioners become friends. The line between pastor and friend becomes blurred. It becomes difficult, when the time comes and the call has ended, to assume a different role in the lives of these friends.

When a pastor leaves a congregation, members may feel they have lost a trusted friend. Like the eternal presence of God, the presence of God's ministers takes on an aura of permanence, and members are surprised and hurt. It is extremely difficult to shift roles. The pastor ceases to be the pastor and a friend, and becomes friend only; members cease being one's flock and friends, and become friends only. Relationships must be redefined apart from the ecclesiastical roles. The pain of such change only compounds the sense of mutual loss and grief.

Another aspect of this change in relationship and the expectations which

accompany it is whether Pastor Steve and Kaye will retain their membership and continue to gather with the congregation for worship and involvement in Bethel's ministries. The ELCA's guidelines for retired pastors of Word and Sacrament states that "a retired pastor should not remain a member of the congregation served at the time of retirement. This is to prevent divided loyalties in the congregation and pressures on either the former, interim or future pastors. Transferring one's membership to another congregation allows the successor pastor to assume pastoral leadership more readily. It also provides an opportunity for the retired pastor to enter fully into the life of a different congregation with clarity about the pastor's retired role. A retired minister of Word and Sacrament is no longer pastor of a congregation and therefore must discontinue the functions of the pastoral office in any congregation previously served unless specifically authorized to do so. Ministers of Word and Sacrament must respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve as well as the authority of the current pastors of such congregations."

I do intend to abide by these guidelines, and pray that God's grace be sufficient for us all in this time of change and transition. During the remaining weeks as your pastor, I hope that we will be able to find ways to celebrate ministry, share our goodbyes and give thanks to God for the many blessings shared in our life together.

The following paragraphs are from a document of the ELCA on Pastoral Ethics When Leaving a Call and Guidelines for Congregational Membership. The following draws heavily upon an Alban Institute publication by Edward A. White—Saying Goodbye: A Time of Growth for Congregations and Pastors—a helpful resource for those wishing to review this topic further.



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 6 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.

First Communion for Beckett & Delaney Crouch.



Sunday, May 31st this community of faith rejoices with **Beckett and Delaney Crouch** and their parents Taylor and Courtney, as they joined us at the Lord's table for the very first time.

Calling All Techies!

We are looking for individuals who would like to learn how to run the live stream on Sundays.


As we do for projection, Lay Assistants, etc. We would like to put a team together so we can continue to offer the live streaming even when restrictions are lifted.

Colter McCarty will be training on the equipment as we move forward.

A **HUGE** thank you to Colter for all his tireless efforts not only with Bethel, but also the Montana Synod. He has been available to all, getting us through this unusual time.

If you are interested in learning the ropes, please contact Tami in the Bethel Office.

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 6:30 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

Join us for fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of this week's Lectionary texts as we meet through a social distancing approved Zoom video call each Tuesday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 am. Breakfast recipes and ideas will be provided. If you are interested in more information or would like to be added to the call invitation list, click on the email link below and type "breakfast" into the subject line (and then of course press send).

dscholten@dlsconsulting.net



EVENTS AT BETHEL

If you have questions about a specific event, please email the church at bethelgf.church@gmail.com or call 761-1543 and we will do our best to answer your questions if a new date has been selected.

Calendar Of Events

Tuesday 6/16:

- Electric City Bible Study Zoom meeting at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Friday 6/19:

- Bethel Office is closed

Upcoming Events

Sunday 6/21

- Happy Father's Day

Tuesday 6/23:

- Electric City Bible Study Zoom meeting at 6:30 am.
- Men's Breakfast Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Wednesday 6/24:

- Farewell for Pastor Steve and Kaye at Bethel 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Friday 6/26:

- Bethel Office is closed

Saturday 6/27:

- Baptism of Teagan Brattain 10:00 am

Hope Circle

will meet online
Thursday, June 18th
7:00 PM

If you are interested
in connecting, contact
Laurie Turner
lolli51gus@icloud.com