
BETHEL NOTES

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: Anne Vannatta

Usher(s): Mary Gernaat

Projectionist: Ava Fossen

Counters: Jody Arvanetes and
Dave Scholten

Nursery: Karrie Pepos

Readings

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39



The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

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

This Sunday At Bethel

- Pastor Steve Nelson will be preaching and presiding.
- An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Next Week's Events

- The office will be closed Monday, July 3 and Tuesday Jul 4 in honor of Independence Day. Tami will be in on Wednesday, July 5 from 9am - 1pm in Sarah's absence.
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office on vacation from Sunday, July 2 - Friday July 7. He will be back to preach on July 9.

Upcoming Events

- The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18 at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place.
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office at camp then vacation beginning on Sunday, July 23 after worship. He will return on Wednesday, August 9.
- Bethel Bunch at the Highwood Bar. Please contact Terry Korpela for more info and reservations. Reservations need to be placed by Wednesday, July 12.

Holiday office closure

The office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday July 4th. Sarah will be out of the office on July 5th so Tami will be filling in from 9am to 1pm. As a reminder, Pastor Steve will be out of the office from July 2 through July 7.

Thank You

We welcome and express our gratitude to Pastor Steve Nelson for serving as our presiding minister and preacher this Sunday. Pastor Nelson is a member of Bethel (along with wife Colleen and adult daughters Rachael & Liisa) and is a retired ELCA pastor of the MT. Synod. He is serving in the absence of Pastor Steve Van Gilder, who is on vacation.



Council Highlights

- The Finance Council is also looking into our Property Insurance expense as well as going through memorial funds and breaking down designations there.
- After discussing problems with the gas stove in the gathering place (which was purchased used at the time the gathering place was added), the council decided the gathering place kitchen and the negative drainage issue be our top 2 priorities right now in regards to maintenance issues. Kris will talk to Mick about obtaining at least 2 to 3 bids for each of these projects.
- Jo Ann reported that the Wedding Policy Committee had its 2nd meeting with Dr. Laurie Jungling to discuss the best way for congregations to have thoughtful and respectful conversations regarding same gender marriage.
- The council discussed final preparations for Terree's send-off June 25th after the service at Bethel.
- The next council meeting will be July 18th.



Prayers for youth & families attending Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp this Summer



June 30, 2017



Bob Veitch (husband of LaRae)

Mission Freedom— for generous congregational response.

For Kristine Voorhees and family as they grieve the death of her father.

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 Jennie Gresham and her family as they attend FLBC this week.

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:

Jennie Gresham

VBS

What a great week we had at VBS! Thank you to Patty Braget and Tami Grosenick for organizing the week. Thank you to all the volunteers, Terree Wozny, Ron and Dew Elkin, AnneRose Rogers, Mike Harding, Anne Vannatta, Linda Rosenbaum, Laura Kupfner, Crystal Dunn, Jane Mart, John Blank Christi and Katie

Virts, Debbie McCarty, Sandi Cummings, Karen Kubas, Greg Grosenick, Vann Arvanetes, our host families, the Richardsons and the Reppes, our 24 junior counselors our 6 FLBC counselors and all of the other volunteers that came out to make this week such a success. Thank you and we look forward to next year!





Pastor Steve's Message

"Just Add Water"



"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43: 2

What a full...joyous...energetic...fun...spiritually uplifting week it has been ! Bethel once again offered a Vacation Bible School for our congregation and friends from the community. We were blessed by six Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp counselors, twenty – four junior counselors and about one hundred youth from Pre-K through sixth grade. They were supported with love by adult leaders who organized, taught classes, designed & taught craft projects, cooked and served delicious food, led the children on a visit through the neighborhood and local fire station #4 delivering the gift of water and helped to clean up. It definitely took a village of God's servants to make all this happen along with Bethel congregation's generous financial support to offer this week at no cost to the youth.

This year's theme was **"Just Add Water,"** which addressed the topic of God's gift of the water of life: beginning in Genesis with God's creative and life-giving gift in Creation...in the water and promise in Holy Baptism....in Jesus' spiritual life quenching gifts through his radical hospitality, healing and peace.

I spoke with parents, grandparents, and guardians of the youth throughout the week and their response was unanimous, "Our children love what takes place here !" One of the moms told us that her son came home and exclaimed, "They sure know a lot about Jesus there !" That story brought a smile to all of us who heard it told. Not only do we know a lot about Jesus here but we also like sharing Jesus, too. For Jesus' life-giving promises bring life and hope. Thanks be to God for the ministry we share and for the lives which are transformed by the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43: 2

A blessed holiday weekend to one and all!

Pastor Steve

Independence Day Prayer

Gracious Lord, we thank you for the guidance that you have given our nation from its formation to the present. We are grateful for the many freedoms that we enjoy. We pray for the families of the men and women who have died in service of our country and ask that you grant to them your Spirit of Comfort and Peace. Watch over them and bless them; through Christ we pray.

Amen.

Have a safe and happy Independence Day!



Synod News

Lay Pastoral Assistant Classes this Fall

Out of the great need for a second LPA class comes the LPA East class. Beginning October 2017, this new class will open up opportunities for those living in eastern Montana. This class will meet in Glendive, MT at Zion Lutheran and be administered by the Montana Synod and hosted by Pastor Katie Emery. We are now looking for individuals interested in attending to speak with your pastor about the program. The first step in applying is to have your pastor write a recommendation.

For more information contact Pr. Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop.

What is an LPA? A **Lay Pastoral Associate** in the Montana Synod is a congregational lay person who has received religious, educational training, through the Montana Synod, in order to provide (in most cases) short term pulpit supply (ie, preaching) when the pastor is away, or if a congregation is without a pastor. Their role is to fill in for the basic pastoral duties such as providing Word and Sacrament, communion, and other roles as approved by the Bishop. LPAs are NOT authorized to preside at weddings. The program includes foundation courses in Old and New Testament, Church History and Lutheran Theology, retreats in the areas of Spirituality and Prayer, Worship leadership, Preaching and Pastoral Care, and Mentor guided activities. You can find more information on the program on our website <http://www.montanasynd.org/for-lpas.html>.

Synod House Build Update

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



We had a fun and exciting week 3 on the Synod House build. Seven men & women from the Allegheny Synod in southwestern Pennsylvania worked hard and faithfully to build more walls. They helped raise the first two walls on the Synod House and signed studs that they had helped put together. We were also happy to have help all week from a member of Our Savior's, Great Falls. Breaks and lunches were noisy and joyful as we shared stories and got to know each other.

Thank you to Our Savior's, Great Falls for break snacks all week. We appreciate the time and energy that goes into preparing and delivering snacks, and especially enjoy when snack providers can stay for break and devotions with us.

By the end of this week, June 27-July 1, we hope to have interior footings placed with the slab to be placed the week of July 4. Until then we will continue to build walls and windows so they are ready to be erected as soon as we can work on the slab. At that time we will have a great need for volunteers. Look at your calendars and plan to spend a day or more working with us. We do on-the-job training for those who need it.

We enjoyed worship at Redeemer, Great Falls this past Sunday and thank them for providing hospitality to us this week.

Want to spend time with the Mission Builders working on the new Montana Synod House but don't like get sweaty or think you can't keep up swinging a hammer?

There are still a few opportunities to use your talents to provide hospitality to the Mission Builders by bringing break snacks, inviting the group to your house for dinner, or helping provide lunch on Saturday for Mission Builders and building volunteers.

But be warned, the Mission Builders along with volunteers from Montana and Pennsylvania have been on the job for three weeks already, summer is passing by, and the remaining slots to provide hospitality are filling up quickly.

Hurry to sign up while there are still open spots!! Contact Pastor Anna Merritt at amerritt@me.com or 406-836-7464



Opportunity to Serve

On Saturday, July 15 at noon Bethel is providing lunch for the Mission Builders and crew at the Synod House. If you are able to help provide for the lunch, please contact Matt or Judy Crampton at mjcrampton@bresnan.net

SERVE ONE
ANOTHER
IN LOVE
GALATIANS 5:13

Opportunity To Serve

Construction of the new Synod House is underway! Consider joining the Construction Team and/or the Hospitality Team during this Summer of Glove!!

Construction Team:

- Volunteers for various construction tasks on the jobsite.
- Workdays are Tuesday – Saturday from 7:30 to 4:30.
- Coffee break and devotions at 9:30 and in the afternoon.
- Early birds join us at 7:30, late risers are welcome to join as schedules allow.
- If schedules Tuesday – Friday are already full (work), consider joining on Saturday.

Hospitality Team:

- Volunteers provide snacks for the construction team.
- Feel free to join in the devotions and breaks.
- There are opportunities to host the Mission Builders for dinner each week.
- Help prepare and serve lunch for the volunteers and Mission Builders on Saturday.

If either or both of these opportunities appeal to you, please make contact with:

Construction Team: Jim Dyess (Construction Manager) @ 713/206-6218 or Mick Davis @ 406/761-0400 or Matt Crampton @ 406/952-4516.

Hospitality Team: Pastor Anna Merritt @ amerritt@me.com or 406/836-7464

Stop by the job site and check out the progress!
The building is at the corner of 24th St. S and 13th Ave S,
just west of the Benefis Hospital