
BETHEL NOTES

Holy Trinity

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Mary Seim

Lay Assistant: Sue Hesse

Usher(s): John and Terry Korpela

Projectionist: Colter McCarty

Counters: Tim Lightbourne and JoAnn Dullum

Readings

Genesis 1:1--2:4a

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20



Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the

Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

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

- Steve Smith, LPA, will be preaching and presiding at this morning's worship.

Next Week's Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, June 12, at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office on vacation from Wednesday, June 7 to Wednesday, June 14. He will return on Thursday, June 15.
- There will be a staff meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am on Thursday, June 15. The executive committee will also meet on Thursday, June 15 at noon.

Upcoming Events

- The next church council meeting will be on June 20th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Aitz Chaim will be observing Rosh Chodesh Tamuz beginning at sundown on Friday, June 23 in the Sanctuary. They will have education/Torah study in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 24 from 10am -12pm and 5:30pm to 9:30pm.
- Vacation Bible School will be held from Monday, June 26 through Friday June 30 from 9am to

Bob Veitch (husband of LaRae) in Hospice

Nominating Committee & the Call Process and for those contemplating a call to serve on the Church Council.

Mission Freedom— for congregational participation.

For Fern Myhre as she transitions from rehab to home.

For Terry Snodgrass as she recovers from a fractured leg.

For Dennis Seidler (brother of LaRae Veitch)

For healing for Patsy Brattain Berkeley as she recovers from surgery.

For Bishop Jessica and staff as they prepare for the Montana Synod Assembly this weekend.

For Bishop Jessica and Turner, as well as their daughter Rhiannon and her fiancé Kurt, as they prepare for Rhiannon and Kurt's upcoming wedding.

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.

For Kristine Voorhees and, Dasovick families as they celebrate the marriage Kristine's son Andrew to Rebecca Dasovick on June 9th in Bismarck, ND.



Pastor Steve's Message

Co-Creators and Caretakers, We are !



“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them ? [Yet] ...you have made them rule over the works of your hands.”

Psalm 8: 3-4, 6 a

This Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday. The lessons include the creation story and a psalm which point us to the Creator of all and call us to sing the Creator's praise. They also remind us that we are not God. Never were and never will be. Being mindful of us, God has graciously allowed us to have dominion over all of creation. How humbling it is to be given the responsibility of being good and faithful stewards of the “works of God's hands.” The ELCA has a Social Statement on the care of God's creation, called: *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*. I commend it to your reading. It can be found on the ELCA website: www.elca.org. In this statement we are reminded by scripture of our relationship to the rest of creation. The psalmist proclaims the Creator's ownership, “*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who dwell therein.*” **Psalm 24: 1** From the social statement comes this statement, “*Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth.*” According to the book of Genesis, our call within creation is to “till and keep” God's garden, the earth. Which means to serve and care for the earth just as God serves and cares for each one of us. Given this call and awesome responsibility, we need wisdom and an on-going resolve to work together to care for creation. Environmental and economically issues will forever be with us. Debates will continue on climate change and about humanity's role in all of it. For me, I am compelled by the call to care for creation. To wisely steward all that the Lord has entrusted into my care. You and I might have differing ways that we will go about caring for creation but the Creator and Owner of all is counting on us to tend and keep it.

I have been taught Christian stewardship by many in my life. My father was an avid gardener. He tilled and worked the soil. He grew a large garden, and there was produce for our family and for many neighbors and friends. My father-in-law is a wheat farmer and he has taught me much about caring for the land. Some of you have shared your garden produce with the congregation and the greater community, freely and generously. You have taught me on how to be a more faithful Christian steward. Many of you have deep connections to the land and strong commitments to its care, now and for future generations.

I think it would be fitting to end with a blessing. A blessing for all who tend and keep God's garden, those who grow for their neighbors and the local food pantry. Those whose call it is to be co-creators and caretakers with God. The following excerpt is from a blessing titled, *For the Farmer*, written by an Irish priest by the name of John O'Donohue.

“In these times when geography becomes virtual

And developers urbanize the earth,

May the farmer continue to hold true to the ground,

Keeping the intimate knowing of the clay alive,

Nourishing us with fruits of the earth,
Serving as custodian of that precious threshold where
The rhythm of nature with its serene pulse
And sublime patience restores our minds.”

This week, while on vacation, I will be taking in the landscapes of Eastern Montana and North Dakota.
The beauty of God’s Garden.

Pastor Steve

Mission Freedom Campaign Update:

As a reminder, the Mission Freedom Campaign is to fund and retire our mortgage. **Pledges to this specific effort are needed, because they are separate from our general fund and general stewardship campaigns.** The giving period for Mission Freedom is going to start in 2018 and will run through 2022, but we are seeking pledges today. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to help us put this obligation behind us and provide Mission Freedom for Bethel.

Goals for this Campaign:

1. Retire the Mortgage ASAP! We need approximately \$100,000/year for 5 years to accomplish this goal.
2. Have every member participate in one informational meeting to learn about the effort.
3. Increase participation vs. our last campaign – we had about 40% of giving units contribute and we are pushing for 50%+ this time. This would be 75 pledges.

As of May 30th, 2017 we have received 29 pledges. **Thank you so much for these pledges, they are so important for obtaining Mission Freedom!** As stated above, our goal for the campaign is for 50% of our giving units to contribute a pledge to the campaign. The 29 pledges receive thus far represent 20% participation. That said, thanks to the generosity of the early pledgers, our monetary total stands at \$279,370 which is more than half way to our goal of \$500,000.

Pledge forms are available at church in the Narthex. Please **prayerfully** consider joining this effort and submit your pledge in the secure box located in the Narthex. Please direct any questions to Mike Kubas, Lisa Carlson, or Earl Terwilliger.

VBS News

On Sunday June 25th, seven Flathead Lake Bible Camp councilors will be arriving at Bethel Lutheran Church to lead about 35 junior councilors and staff for a week of Vacation Bible School. Bethel will be providing noon meals for the week. In planning and preparation, I have been visiting with several church members. Several have asked if they could give a financial donation to the church rather than buying or cooking something themselves. We want to make it easy and convenient for our members. By donating this way, you will receive a notation on your annual giving report for tax purposes. If you would rather cook or bake, you are welcome to do that. Soon Tami Grosenick will be publishing a list of food items needed for the week in the Bethel on-line notes and she will have a hard copy on Sundays to assist you in any way you wish.

The Bethel accountant has stated that anyone wanting to do a financial donation should just note on the check in the "Memo" section or on the envelope with cash – VBS. We look forward to about 100 little campers learning more about Jesus in a happy and fun environment. For more information or to register you can go to <http://www.bethelmt.org/vbs.html>.

Thank you for your continued support in Bethel's Mission programs.



We Need You....

We are still looking for volunteers to help with snacks during the week of June 13-17 for the Mission Builders, and lunch on Saturday, June 17. We are also looking for help with a dinner host and meal to serve on Thursday, June 16. You can host in your home or at the church. If you want to use the church, please contact Sarah to verify availability. We also still need volunteers to help with the construction. If you would like to volunteer please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex.



Family Promise Needs You....

The University of Great Falls is a hosting facility for the month of June with Family Promise. Due to unforeseen circumstances, therefore there is a shortage of staff. They are in need of evening helpers and overnight hosts. There would be a student apartment for you to stay in. For more information, please call Amanda at UGF 788-5405. Any assistance our Bethel volunteers could offer would be greatly appreciated.

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



Montana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

