
BETHEL NOTES

First Sunday of Lent

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: Anne Vannatta

Usher(s): Gary Sorum

Projectionist: Dave Scholten

Counters: Jody Arvanetes and
Dave Scholten

Readings

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

- An addition offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Next Week's Events

- Mission Freedom (debt reduction) will meet at 7pm on Monday, Mar 6. The nominating committee will also meet that evening at 7pm.
- Bible Study Tuesday, Mar 7, at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast will meet Tuesday, Mar 7, in the Fellowship Hall.
- LOGOS begins at 5:30pm Wednesday, Mar 8.
- Mid-week lenten soup supper at 6:15pm on Thursday, Mar 9 with worship to follow at 7pm.
- The Great Falls Music Teachers Association will be meeting in the Sanctuary from 8am-4pm on Saturday, Mar 11.

Upcoming Events.

- Worship planning meeting March 12 at 10:45
- March 14 Council meets at 6:30 pm
- Palm/Passion Sunday - April 9th at 9:30am.

Lent 2017

Our theme for the 2017 Lenten Season will be Living Our Baptism...Five Gifts of discipleship. During the five mid-week worship gatherings we will spend time reflecting on the five gifts of discipleship which are rooted in the Baptismal as well as the Affirmation of Baptism liturgies found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. This year we are observing the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and so it is good, right, and salutary that we would make available to you a devotional book, Free Indeed, which is now available and brings Martin Luther's Small Catechism into your devotional life during Lent. Our mid-week Lenten worship will continue on Thursday evenings, beginning on March 9th with a soup supper served at 6:15pm and followed by worship at 7:00pm. The Lenten mid-week dates and themes are as follows:

Ash Wednesday – March 1st at 7:00 pm (Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion)

March 9th - 6:15 pm Soup Supper hosted by Hope Circle.
Worship at 7:00 pm

Gift of Discipleship: *Live among God's faithful people.*

March 16th – 6:15 pm Soup Supper hosted by Close Knit Group and Men's Breakfast Group. Worship at 7:00 pm.

Gift of Discipleship: *Hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.*

March 23rd – 6:15 pm Soup Supper hosted by the Council.
Worship at 7:00 pm

Gift of Discipleship: *Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.*

March 30th – 6:15 pm Soup Supper hosted by Bethel Bunch.
Worship at 7:00 pm

Gift of Discipleship: *Serve all people following the example of Jesus.*

Holy Week Schedule

Maunday Thursday

Liturgy, April 13th at 7:00 pm

**Holy Communion; Jubilate Choir

Good Friday

Liturgy, April 14th at 7:00 pm

**Jubilate Choir

Easter Vigil

Liturgy, April 15th at 7:00 pm

**Holy Communion & Feast of Milk & Honey (Ice cream sundaes)

April 6th – 6:15 pm Soup Supper hosted by Jubilate Choir.
Worship at 7:00 pm

Gift of Discipleship: *Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*



LOAVES & FISHES DINNER
MARCH 31, 2017
SEATINGS AT 4:30 & 6:00
FREE-WILL OFFERING
SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1326 1ST AVE. N.
RESERVATIONS NOT NEEDED

SPONSORED BY THE FISH BOARD AND THE OSLC
HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE



Just a reminder...

When you have a meeting set for your ministry, please copy the administrative assistant, Sarah, in to your email so that she is able to update the calendar and assign meeting spaces. Her email is bethelgf.church@gmail.com. Thank you all for everything you do for Bethel.

LOGOS Staff Party

When: Wednesday, April 12 at 6 p.m.

Where: Beef o'Brady's, 1600 Fox Farm Rd.

Please join fellow LOGOS volunteers to celebrate your awesomeness! We will buy your dinner and recognize your outstanding service this year.





Reflections – March 5th

By Udo Wozny

March 5th, 1967 – just another Sunday in Dieringhausen, West-Germany...

It was my Confirmation Sunday. Fifty years ago, how time flies. I selected Matthew 16:16 for my confirmation verse, “Simon Peter answered, ‘You (Jesus) are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” Why did I choose this verse? I believe that it relates to “living God.” We are worshipping a God who is ALIVE and alive in all of us.

For example, we see His compassion for the world in the Family Promise volunteers in Great Falls. We see His compassion when people of all nations show their compassion for the marginalized and suffering world-wide.

Because God is alive in us, our view of God is continuously evolving. As we learn more, we are forced to adjust our understanding of God and the universe God created. For example, during Luther’s time, the prevailing world view was that of a “flat earth” and the church leaders of that time militantly supported the flat earth view. Five hundred years later, we are talking about solar systems that have planets able to support life.

This is a giant step from a “single, flat earth” earth to a much larger understanding.

I re-read Pastor Vetter’s confirmation sermon held that day in Dieringhausen. He stated, “We dismiss you today from your congregation’s confirmation classes, but you should know that here in Dieringhausen and everywhere were you move to, you’ll find a community that is grounded in Jesus’ teaching.” He continued later by saying, “God will never abandon you and leave you alone when you whole-hearted look for him. You’ll always find people who will help you in understanding the apostle’s teaching and fellowship.” How prophetic these statements were for me!



We see the season of Lent as a time of reflection. In the first chapter of Genesis we hear and read frequently, “And God saw that it was good.” God’s creation was, and is, good. Our reflection about God’s creation may lead us to think about our relationship with nature and our relationship with people of all races and orientations, generally and specifically. We are still struggling with acceptance of immigrants, legal and illegal; specifically, when they are “not as us.” We also struggle with the acceptance of the LBGT community. As God will never abandon us, so should we offer our acceptance to immigrants and the LBGT community.

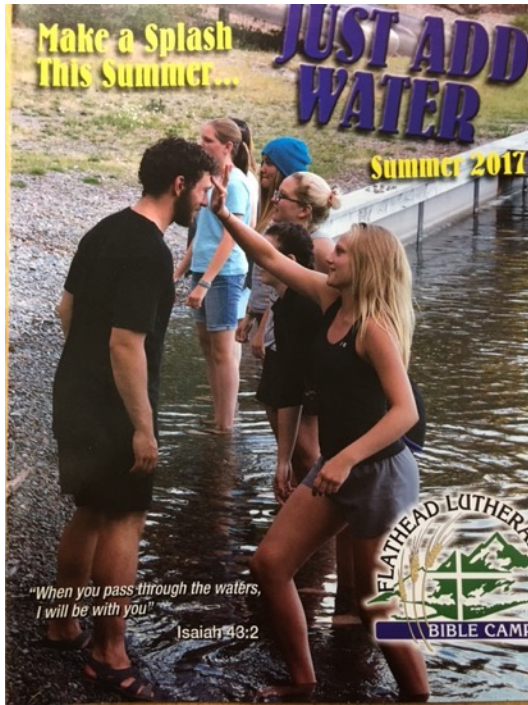
This year is the “Year of Matthew.” In discussing my reflections with Pastor Steve, he pointed me to the last chapter in Matthew and “The Great Commission” – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ...” (Matthew 28:19). He referred me to the Greek word “ethne.” He was helping me to get a better understanding of the apostle’s teachings, as Pastor Vetter said in his confirmation sermon 50 years ago.

All nations (Greek “panta ta ethne”), also can be translated as ‘all the Gentiles’ and expands the mission to include both Jews and Gentiles.” 1) When Simon Peter made his declaration about Jesus, he was a Jew living in a Jewish community. Later, after Jesus’ resurrection, Peter’s declaration expanded and included the Gentiles.

Let us worship the living God !

To my confirmation class in Germany, “May you have a blessed Golden Confirmation day!

- 1) Source: The Jewish Annotated New Testament, Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, Editors, Page 54, Oxford University Press. © 2011.



Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Save \$50 by registering by April 1st

Save \$25 by registering by May 1st

Pastor Steve will be in camp July 23-26

Register online at www.flbc.net

Questions? Call: 406-752-6602 or Email: registration@flbc.net

Or Mail Registration to: FLBC 603 S. Main St. Kalispell, MT 59901

March

Middle School Retreat: March 17-19, 2017 (Dinner Friday – Brunch Sunday)

A one or two night retreat to bring your youth group to camp! Fun, fellowship, craziness, games, Bible study, worship, and an introduction to our 2017 summer theme, “Just Add Water.” Please register with your group. One adult must attend for every 1-10 youth of each gender. Adults are free and are asked to stay in cabins with their youth. Friday – Saturday only: \$85 per person or Friday – Sunday: \$95 per person.

April

Outdoor Ministry Sunday 2017 April 2, 2017

Celebrate camp on Sunday April 2nd at your congregation (or pick a Sunday that works for you). Contact the business office at office@flbc.net for a packet of materials for your congregation, including a litany and offering envelopes. Invite a staff member, board member, your congregational delegate and/or youth to speak about camp on your outdoor ministry Sunday.

Give Flathead Day April 2, 2017

Outdoor Ministry Sunday is also Give Flathead Day! You can help FLBC raise funds in a variety of ways.

Have a special offering for camp in your congregation.

Call the office at 406-752-6602 that day to make a special gift.

Organize a Thrivent Action Team to hold a fundraiser to benefit campers from your community (contact the office for ideas!).

Renew your Partnership with FLBC. Partners are those who give \$150 or more annually to camp.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Adult Spirituality Retreat April 23-25, 2017

This year's inspiring retreat will be co-presented by Dr. Jim and Julie Aageson with the topics, "Spiritual but not Religious: Spirituality in a Non-Religious World" and "Quest for God: Contemplative Practices and a Life of Faith." Cost: 195 for entire retreat or \$85 per day. For those needing CEU credits contact NRIT at 406-453-1461.

ADULT SPIRITUALITY RETREAT

April 23-25, 2017

(Sunday Dinner 6:15 pm - Tuesday Lunch 12:15 pm)

at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp



Located 3 miles South of Lakeside,
17 miles South of Kalispell

Relax & Re-center
Do as much or as little
as you would like!

"Spiritual but not Religious" & "Quest for God"

Presented by Dr. Jim & Julie Aageson

For those needing CEU credits contact NRIT at 406-453-1461



Retreat includes time for spiritual growth,
along with great food, worship, hiking & fun!

Register for:

_____ Sunday Dinner 6:15 pm - Tuesday Lunch 12:15 pm \$195/person

_____ Commuter \$85/Day (Circle all days attending): Sunday Monday Tuesday

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please list any dietary restrictions or considerations that you may have: _____

Roommate Request: _____

Please register no later than 7 days prior to arrival.

Non-Refundable deposit is \$50/person due at time of registration. Balance due upon arrival.

Send your registration to: FLBC 603 S Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901 or office@flbc.net

A list of what to bring and a schedule will be sent to you two weeks prior to the retreat.

Day Camp Workshops

If you are hosting a Day Camp at your congregation this year or in the future these workshops are wonderful for planning and information.

This year we will be holding day camp workshops on March 4th, 2017 in Great Falls and March 10th-11th, 2017 at camp. Please reach out to the office to sign up for these workshops or for more information.

We still have more Day Camp weeks available. Please contact the office to schedule yours.

Volunteer Sign-up Open

Volunteer openings are on a first come first serve basis and housing is limited. Please contact the office to sign-up or with questions.

Thank you,

Hospice Volunteer Training



Become a volunteer for **Peace Hospice**! Areas of opportunity include helping serve meals at the Peace Hospice House, Patient and Family Care, Office Assistance, Bereavement and Children's Bereavement Team.

Required: Pre-registration and a pre-training interview

Registration deadline: Friday, March 24, 2017

Training location: Benefis Hospitals, Great Falls

Session Dates: April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, & 20

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance at every session is required

"There is a light in this world...through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways."-Mother Teresa

For more information call (406) 455-3040