

BETHEL NOTES

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: Sue Hesse

Usher(s): Celeste Mintsiveris and
Steve Smith

Projectionist: Dina Davis

Counters: Pam Dougherty and
JoAnn Dullum

Readings

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14



As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As

First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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

Mother's Day grace and peace to all who on this day experience great joy as well as to those who find it a difficult day to face, for a variety reasons.

Next Week's Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, May 16 , at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast will meet Tuesday, May 16 , in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office on vacation from May 15 through May 19.

Upcoming Events

- Bethel will host Family Promise from May 21to May 28.
- Hope Circle will host a birthday dinner for Dina Davis, Donna Vinnedge and Bonnie Jensen at Dante's at 6pm on Thursday May 25. Spouses are welcome. RSVP by 5/24 to Terry Korpela.
- Monday, May 26, is Memorial Day. The office will be closed.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

-Proverbs 31:28-39

MOTHER'S DAY

May those with children feel appreciated,

May those grieving empty arms be comforted,

May those mourning and missing the ones who gave them life be wrapped in goodness and love today.

Prayer Concerns

Bob Veitch (husband of LaRae) in Hospice

Nominating Committee & the Call Process for nominees to the Church Council.

Mission Freedom Task Force – for campaign plans, focus groups & congregational participation.

For our church council as they convene and vote to appoint new members.

For Debbie Blank as she recovers from a recent surgery.

For Arlena Crandell as she recovers from surgery.

For Fern Myhre who is hospitalized.

For Terry Snodgrass as she recovers from a fractured leg.





Senior Dinner

Bethel again hosted a dinner for our graduating seniors and their families on Wednesday May 10. This year's graduates are:

Sara Basirat

Kyle Korb

Aaron Kutzler

Tyler Patrick

Karolina Pepos

Aiyana Scholten

James Olsen



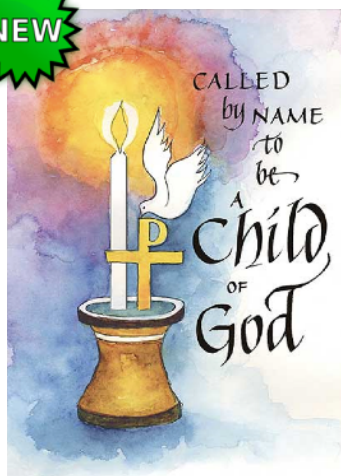
Many thanks to Colter and Debbie McCarty for preparing a delicious dinner for the graduates and their families. Also thanks to Darci Bernardi, Marsha Martin and Jim Carlson for setting up and serving. Also thanks to Kaleb Stringer, Lillian Erickson and Paige Bernardi for helping to serve.

Congratulations to the graduates. We wish them God's blessings in whatever direction their lives take them.



From left: Pastor Steve, Jim Carlson, Aiyana Scholten, Tyler Patrick, Karolina Pepos, Kyle Korb, Sara Basirat, Colter McCarty.

Not Pictured: Aaron Kutzler and James Olsen



Sacrament of Baptism

This Friday we celebrate the sacrament of holy baptism for Brady, Carson and Georgia Pike. They are the children of Gregg and Malinda Pike. Sponsors are Bill and Judy Marley.

Brady, Carson and Georgia, may the grace and blessings you receive from God, guide you throughout your life!

Thank you to Shelly Murphy for making the linen baptismal napkins.



A Successful Kick Off Event for Mission Freedom (Debt Reduction) Campaign

Heart-felt gratitude goes out to the Mission Freedom Leadership Team who planned a successful High Tea - Kick Off Event last Sunday afternoon at the church. The Leadership Team members are: Co-Chairs: Mike Kubas and Lisa Carlson, Vann Arvanetes, Annerose Rogers, Claire Lettow, Patty Braget, Dave Scholten, and Earl Terwilliger. Thanks to all who donated the silent auction items, those who purchased them, for all the food donated and served, the wonderful music offered by the CMR Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Kyle Korb and music offered by Pastor Steve Nelson. Thanks to all who participated and who shared just how much they enjoyed the whole event.

It was reported to the Council on Tuesday night that approximately \$2,500. was raised through the auction and that so far (14 pledges returned) \$139,000. has been pledged to the ***Growing in Faith - Building our Mission Campaign (Mission Freedom).***

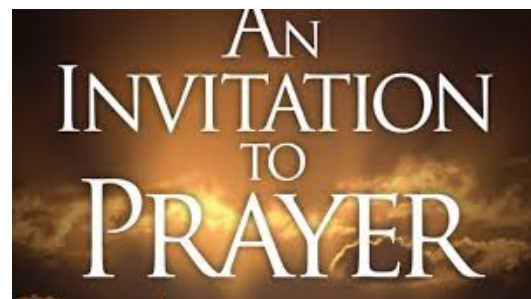
Thanks be to God !





Mission Freedom Prayer Vigil

A Prayer Vigil is planned for 24 hours ahead of the Mission Freedom “Commitment Sunday,” on May 21st. Why a prayer vigil? We take our lead from Jesus, who before major decisions and events in his life, made time for prayer. Prayers will be offered for God’s guidance as we discern our response to the debt reduction campaign. There is a sign up link on the Bethel Website (www.bethelmt.org) or you can go directly to <http://signup.com/go/VrDeYgF>. On Sunday, the sign up sheet will be passed around at worship.. The sign up sheet has 30 minute time slots with no limit on how many you may wish to take.



While it isn’t required to spend the prayer time at church, it is strongly encouraged to keep a chain of prayers in the Bethel sanctuary. There will be someone at the church throughout the wee hours of the morning and a prayer station set up to help guide your prayers. Thanks for your prayerful support of our Mission Freedom Campaign !



Synod House Build

The Montana Synod House Build is underway. Groundbreaking has taken place and Mission Builders, Jim and Chris Dyess, have arrived. There remains a need for volunteers to help with the build, especially in June. Bethel hopes to put together a team of at least six for a week in June. We need at least 2 cooks to serve in meal preparation during the week (Tuesday – Friday). If you are interested in serving on a team for a week or part of a week in June, please contact Matt Crampton at mjcrampton@bresnan.net or Mick Davis at davismick2@gmail.com or Pastor Steve at bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com. or you can donate items through <http://signup.com/go/Ygnjpzs>. Many thanks !



Ministry Coordinator Change

At Tuesday’s Church Council meeting, the Bethel Council received a letter of resignation from Terree Wozny, as Bethel’s Ministry Coordinator, effective at the end of June. The Council voted to receive Terree’s resignation, with a spirit of gratitude for her faithful service. The Council is spearheading a reception to be held after worship on Sunday, June 25th, in honor of Terree’s 3 ½ years of faithful ministry as Bethel’s Ministry Coordinator. In Terree’s words:



I would like to officially inform the congregation of my resignation from the position of Ministry Coordinator. I know I have informally told many of you of my intention to do so after Easter and the time has come. I do this with mixed feelings as I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 3 1/2 years as Ministry Coordinator. I have gotten to know so many of you in the congregation and that has been the greatest blessing.

We have been through some major challenges in the last 3 years and I know that I have grown through these opportunities to serve. I feel, however, it is time to move on to other things and it is also time to finally retire.

I will continue in the position until my successor is available to start in June. After that time, I will still be involved in the ministries I am most passionate about, Family Promise, Close Knit and Altar Guild.

I want to thank everyone for all your support and encouragement these past 3 years. Bethel is a great community to be a part of.

*Yours in Christ,
Terree Wozny*

It is also a joy to announce that Tami Grosenick has been offered the position of Ministry Coordinator, has accepted, and the Church Council has voted to approve her hire. She will begin mid June and work with Terree for a smooth transition of ministry. God bless Terree, Tami, and Bethel during this time of change and transition.



2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

June 27 - July 1, 2018 in Houston, Texas



The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, TX. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders gather for a week of faith formation. Days are spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. All youth in grades 9-12 for the 2018-2019 school year are invited to attend. It's still not too late to express your interest in attending. Approximate cost, less food, will be around \$1250.00. This does not include any group discounts we may receive for airfare and hotel. If you are interested, please let Pastor Steve know. ASAP. bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Pedal for Peas

Friday, June 2, Great Falls

"Pedal for Peas" is a fundraising bicycle ride to benefit ELCA World Hunger. Riders are coming from across the Montana Synod.

How can we support this effort?

Join the Ride!

Register online at <http://www.ourredeemerlives.org> or Contact Pastor Kendra Wilde for registration information at 406-442-7842 or kendraw@ourredeemerlives.org



There is a 42 mile ride and a 10 mile ride. Registration is at 7:30am and the ride begins at 8am at Bethel. If you would like a commemorative t-shirt orders must be submitted by May 15.

Sponsor the Ride!

Sponsor the ride or offer pledges for a rider from your congregation! Make checks payable to ELCA World Hunger with Pedal for Peas in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate. 100% of your gift will go to ELCA World Hunger. Our fundraising goal is \$10,000

Bethel's Chad Elkin will be participating in the 42 mile ride and invites you to sponsor him with a pledge.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Retreats, Events, and Updates:

For additional information about these great upcoming retreats and events, check out our website at www.flbc.net. There is still time to register, but act fast! Also, 2017 Summer Brochures are now available!

May 26-29: Thrivent Memorial Day Family Work Retreat

Bring your family and help camp prepare for the summer season during this FREE retreat, thanks to Thrivent Financial! There are projects for all ages and abilities.

This is also a great way to introduce your children to camp and meet summer staff members! Please see the alpha/omega rack in the Narthex or flbc.net for more information.



June 2-4: Women's Retreat

The weekend is yours! Join us for worship, massages, kayaking, yoga, great food and, of course, relaxation. FLBC welcomes Dr. Terri Elton as our Bible study leader! Please see flbc.net for more information.

Financial Update Apr.17

Through April 30, 2017 (3 months)

	<u>General</u>					<u>Total</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Designated *</u>	<u>Rental</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Other</u>			
Income	\$ 58,715.59	\$ 3,173.57	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 966.51	\$ 309.50	\$ 66,765.17	\$ 66,187.50	\$ 577.67
Expenses						(\$67,951.69)	(\$66,187.50)	(\$1,764.19)
Net						(\$1,186.52)	\$0.00	(\$1,186.52)

* Designated Funds Received:

VBS	\$	3,173.57	Logos	\$	325.00
Family Promise Bethel	\$	1,115.00	Other	\$	-
Pastor's Discretionary	\$	1,708.57	Prayer Shawl	\$	25.00

* Extraordinary expense in April = \$3,640.07 copier (color)

Pass Through Funds - (Funds received by Bethel designated for specific benevolence)

Pass Through Funds Received \$ 7,093.09

Pass Through Funds Disbursed (\$8,422.99) Difference is due to timing of disbursements.

(Last month's receipts are distributed the following month.)

Other	\$	1,355.99	Missionary Support	\$	-
World Hunger - Refugee Fam	\$	50.00	Malaria Campaign	\$	10.00
World Hunger - Vaccination	\$	-	Lutheran World Relief	\$	90.00
YWCA	\$	280.00	Lutheran Social Services	\$	210.00
World Hunger	\$	4,407.10	Habitat For Humanity	\$	140.00
Rescue Mission	\$	140.00	Global Barnyard	\$	210.00
Montana Synod	\$	-	FISH	\$	200.00
TOTAL				\$	7,093.09





Peace Place Fundraiser

Peace Place was created in 2011 by two moms who understood firsthand the need, rarity, and benefit of respite care. When the community expressed an interest in the idea, and similar organizations offered support to help it get started, Michelle Patterson and Elaine Hundley made Peace Place a reality in 2012.

Peace Place Respite Care is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, The space was graciously donated by the church, and volunteers donated labor and time to turn it into a kid-friendly space.

Because Peace Place is FREE to all its families, it relies heavily on donations, grants, and external funding. As a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Peace Place does receive funding from the church in order to maintain the space and pay five staff members. United Way also provides quite a bit of funding to keep Peace Place open. Other grants have come from the Benefis Foundation, the Early Childhood Coalition, QLC, and other community partners around Great Falls.




Grammy Award Winning Children's Musician

Bill Harley

Benefit concert
for Peace Place

Join us Friday, May 19th,
and Saturday, May 20th
for joyful music, stories,
and lots more, at
First Presbyterian!



Friday @7pm- *Intergenerational Concert*,
Sweets & Treats, Silent Auction,
Meet & Greet, Book-signing

Saturday @3pm- *Family Festival Concert*,
Sweets & Treats, Meet & Greet,
Book signing

Ticket Sale Locations

- First Presbyterian Church
- Schulte's
- 2 K's Kafe'
- Celtic Cowboy

Ticket Pricing

- \$5.00 for 6y-16y
- \$10.00 single ticket over 16y
- \$20.00 group pass (up to 5 ppl)

Peace Place will use 90% of the proceeds to fund staffing costs to care for our precious children.

Thank you, for believing in our mission to special families.