
BETHEL NOTES

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant: John Blank

Usher(s): Sue Hesse

Projectionist: Dave Scholten and Ava

Counters: Patty Braget and Dena Wagner-Fossen

Readings

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21



Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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

- This Sunday is Commitment Sunday for the Mission Freedom campaign.
- Bethel begins hosting Family Promise.
- Jubilate Choir will be singing.



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.

Next Week’s Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, May 23 , at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men’s Breakfast will meet Tuesday, May 23 , in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

For Dennis Seidler (brother of LaRae Veitch)

Upcoming Events

- 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.

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

For Colin Kohoutek and fiancé, Brittany Cannon, and their families as they celebrate Colin & Brittany's marriage on May 20th in Portland, OR.



Bethel Needs You!

Do you love working with your hands? If you do then Bethel needs you! Come by the church and help us weed the grounds. You can come anytime that works for you. Help us keep our church looking beautiful inside and out!



NEW Mission Freedom Prayer Vigil

It is still not too late to sign up for a time to participate in the Mission Freedom Prayer Vigil coming up on Saturday, May 20th. The sign up link is on the Bethel Website (www.bethelmt.org) or you can go directly to <http://signup.com/go/VrDeYgF>. **There are still a lot of 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 !



Open my heart to the peace and joy generosity brings into my life

Kristine Voorhees, Council President



A few weeks ago I walked into the church and saw the gum ball display. As I stood and looked at it I thought, “Wow, what a great way to exemplify the importance of mutually committing to paying off our debt early”. Working together we can do great things!

As I drove to the office I began to think of easy ways for anyone to make this commitment. My first thought was of Starbucks coffee. I like to order a grande sugar free hazelnut iced latte. I hand the barista a five dollar bill and say keep the change as a tip. Now let’s do the math, \$5 a day for 7 days is \$35 a week and \$1820 a year. If I decided to give up Starbucks for five years I would save \$9100. That gives me \$8000 for a gum ball and \$1100 for my IRA. I also think I would lose five to ten pounds!!!

Another idea came to me at happy hour last Friday when I was in Bismarck seeing my son Andrew. We had a few beverages, an appetizer, dinner, and cheesecake for dessert. Looking at the bill I wondered how we ate and drank so much. Driving back to Andrew’s house my mind wandered and I thought of the \$140 I paid for dinner. It seems like I eat out once on the weekend with friends. What if I skipped a week? That would be \$140 for 12 months equaling \$1680 for one year and \$8400 for five years. Guess what, if I use this strategy I can buy a gum ball!!!

The more I thought about buying a gum ball the more I thought about my lifestyle. I feel like a prodigal daughter of God’s kingdom. Keeping in mind the word prodigal means “one who wastes money”. There’s a fear in making this type of commitment because I might have a greedy month where I eat out every weekend after having Starbucks all week. And then what will I do?

The key is I need to find peace in my life and trust God. I need to remind myself to give thanks, serve others, and practice generosity. And as I do this my fear will turn into faith. It’s my faith that will open my heart to the peace and joy generosity brings into my life.

Some give freely, yet grow all the richer;

Others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.

A generous person will be enriched,

And one who gives water will get water.

Proverbs 11:24-25

NEW 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/Ygnjps>. Many thanks !



NEW Welcome New Council Members

Appointed at the Church Council meeting on May 9th. were the following new Church Council members: Grant Smith, Doug Sexe, Matt Crampton and Donna Vinnedge. Thanks to the ministry of the Nominating Committee and to all for saying yes to the call to serve on the Church Council.



Ministry Coordinator Change

In case you missed last week's notes, 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.



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. Chad invites you to make a pledge for the ride and he will have a pledge form available at church the next couple of Sundays. Checks may be made out to ELCA World Hunger with “Pedal for Peas” on the memo line.





Family Promise

Beginning Sunday May 21st at 5:00, Bethel Lutheran Church will be hosting Family Promise. I received details on our families today. We have 3 families. We have a family of 6 so will use 2 tents for them, a family of 4 with 2 tents and a family of 2. We will have one 7 mo old and the rest should be good eaters and we will have 4 volunteers so please keep that in mind while preparing food. Please remember we do have a special account here at Bethel so please turn in any receipts if you want reimbursed. We will be busy and so blessed to help these families.

Thank you to all who are volunteering in many different ways. We are doing God's Work With Our Hands. We make a difference.

Dew Elkin

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.



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>Offerings</u>	<u>Designated *</u>	<u>Rental</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</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: \$ 3,173.57

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

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

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	TOTAL	\$ 7,093.09