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# BETHEL NOTES

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## Fourth Sunday of Easter

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### Serving This Sunday

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**Accompanist:** Mary Seim

**Lay Assistant:** Anne Vannatta

**Usher(s):** The Lightbourne Family

**Projectionist:** Tim Lightbourne

**Counters:** Tim Lightbourne and Jenny Will

### Readings

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**Acts 2:42-47**

**Psalm 23**

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

**John 10:1-10**

THE LORD  
IS MY  
Shepherd  
I SHALL  
NOT WANT  
PSALM 23:1

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism.

Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

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

## This Sunday At Bethel.

- An additional offering will be received in support of ELCA World Hunger.
- Mission Freedom will host a high tea from 4pm to 6pm.

## Next Week's Events

- Bible Study Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- Men's Breakfast will meet Tuesday, May 9, in the Fellowship Hall.
- Church council meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30pm.
- Senior banquet on Wednesday, May 10 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
- Baptism for Brady, Carson and Georgia Pike on Friday, May 12. Sponsors are Judy and Bill Marley.

## Upcoming Events

- Thrivent Luncheon on Monday, May 8 from 12-1:30pm. Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, May 7.
- The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Steve will be out of the office on vacation from May 15 through May 19.
- Bethel will host Family Promise from May 21 to 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.



## World Hunger Offering

**For today's World Hunger offering**, you may wish to direct your gift for on-the-ground relief in South Sudan for the millions of people who face famine or who have been forced to flee.

Gifts designated for "South Sudan Relief" will be used entirely (100%) for the ELCA's aid to our brothers and sisters in South Sudan when they need it most. Funds will be used for food distribution, water and sanitation, and psychosocial support.

If you choose to contribute to "South Sudan Relief", please put your offering in one of the world hunger envelopes. If you prefer to contribute to the general World Hunger fund, please simply put your offering in the plate. Thank you.

## 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 Brady, Carson and Georgia Pike**, children of Gregg and Malinda, as they prepare for baptism on Friday, May 12.

**For our high school seniors** who will gather for a recognition dinner on Wednesday, May 10.

**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.





May 5, 2017

## 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](mailto:bethelgf.pastor.steve@gmail.com) More information will be shared as it becomes available.



## Mission Freedom

**HIGH TEA at Bethel! May 7, 2017, from 4:00 - 6:00. A silent auction with great food and entertainment.**

You are cordially invited to a High Tea to benefit the *Mission Freedom Campaign* Sunday May 7 4:00 in the Afternoon Bethel Lutheran Church Tickets are \$5 per person or \$10 per family

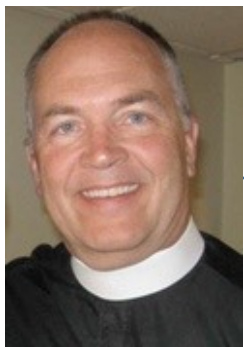






## Pastor Steve's Message

*"They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2: 42, NRSV*



When you hear the word, devotion, what comes to mind? Commitment? Dedication? A time of prayer or worship? All of the above? The word in the New Testament translated, *devotion*, in the context of this Sunday's reading from Acts implies "*persevering*," "*spending time with*," and "*being busy with*." Here we are given a glimpse of where the early church focused their energies and commitments. *Spending time with* the apostle's teachings, Christ centered relationships, eating together, and prayer. By products of these faith practices were spontaneous praise and worship and eating and drinking with a sense of gratitude and joy in their hearts. These practices were contagious and salvific as we learn that God added to their community more and more people each day "*who were being saved*."

Our lives are filled with a good number of devotions - commitments. We spend time with our spouses, with family, friends and loved ones. There are commitments to our jobs, daily chores, sporting events and hobbies. We have commitments at our church in its many and varied opportunities of service. We gather once again this Sunday to worship and will bring with us the concerns of our lives, our community and the world. \*The picture below was submitted by Mary Lou Norbie and is of the confirmands, their families, and baptismal sponsors receiving the laying on of hands at last Sunday's Affirmation of Baptism Service. What a powerful and hope-filled witness of community and devotion! I join the World Hunger & Global Mission Leadership Team in inviting you to consider your World Hunger gift be directed towards the relief efforts of the ELCA in South Sudan. We will celebrate the gifts of music, prayer, global outreach and Word and Sacrament. Later Sunday afternoon, we are all invited to gather back at the church for a High Tea, some music and a silent auction - all planned by the Mission Freedom Leadership Team - to help us kick off a mortgage/ debt reduction campaign and commitment called *Growing in Faith - Building our Mission*. I truly hope that you will join in this gathering and like the early church we, too, will give thanks to God and celebrate with glad and generous hearts.

God is capable of bringing about good things in us and through our commitment and devotions by the power of the Spirit!

*Pastor Steve*





## First Quarter Financial Statements

First quarter financial statements will be available one more Sunday in the Narthex. If you can't make it Sunday, Sarah will mail them first part of the week. Let's all try to be good stewards and save some postage by picking them up at the church.



## Thrivent Luncheon - Last Call! Charitable Gift Strategies for Individuals & Families

Monday, May 8

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

1009 18th Ave. S.W.

Great Falls, MT 59404

RSVP to the church office by Sunday, May 7.

(406) 761-1543 or email [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

Benjamin Boline, J.D., InFaith Community Foundation Charitable Gift Planner, will share ways you can maximize support to charities and causes reflecting your values. Learn ways to save taxes, create an income and achieve your charitable goals; • Create a donor-advised fund to practice family philanthropy and support multiple charities with one gift; and be strategic in your giving for maximum charitable support and tax deductions. Each event will be hosted by your local Thrivent Financial Representative. Come individually or bring a guest, but please make sure you RSVP no later than Sunday May 7th.

## 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](mailto: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

## Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

### Retreats, Events, and Updates:

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



### May 14: Mother's Day Brunch

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Celebrate the special women in your life by enjoying a delicious brunch overlooking beautiful Flathead Lake! Four seatings available. Please see the alpha/omega rack in the Narthex or [flbc.net](http://flbc.net) for more information.

### May 26-29: Thrivent Memorial Day Family Work Retreat

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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](http://flbc.net) for more information.

### June 2-4: Women's Retreat

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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](http://flbc.net) for more information.



## Communion Distribution Change

We will begin using a new communion distribution practice this Sunday, May 7th. We will be moving from intinction to individual cups and pouring chalices. Why, you might ask? Two years ago we had a study of communion practices across the ELCA, including our Synod. Some of you participated in small groups at Bethel and gave input about our holy communion hospitality (who is welcome at the table) and methods of distribution. As a result of this input, we will be initiating this new practice. New pouring chalices and flagons were designed, crafted and gifted to Bethel by Judy (Erickson) Larson.