

BETHEL NOTES

Christ the King Sunday

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Lynn Ryan

Lay Assistant: Anne Vannatta

Usher(s): The Grosenick Family

Projectionist: Vann Arvanetes

Counters: Pam Dougherty and Jenny Will

Nursery: Heather Farris

Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Happening This Sunday

- Come and help decorate the church for the holidays! 1 pm to 3 pm. We will get as much done as we can, the more the merrier. Hot cocoa, cookies and Christmas cheer will be served!!



On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

2018 Advent Devotionals will be arriving by December 3rd, check the Track Rack for your free copy.

2018 Daily Texts have been ordered and will be arriving soon! See entry table in the Narthex.

This Week's Events

Monday 11/27:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:15pm in the Gathering Place

Tuesday 11/28:

- Men's Breakfast at 6am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Bible Study at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.

Wednesday 11/22:

- Regular Logos 5:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 12/6:

- LOGOS Family Meal Worship Night starts at 6:00pm, worship service at 7:00pm. *Kids and families arrive together at 6:00 p.m., have dinner, stay for worship.

Friday 12/8:

- Bethel Bunch Progressive House Hopping beginning at 6pm at the Nuessle's; 908 37th Ave NE

Saturday 12/9:

- Hope Circle Christmas Party at the Carlson's (329 Hyland Dr) at 6pm. Bring ornaments to exchange, an appetizer to share, something to drink and your significant other.



A Season of Giving



This year at Bethel we have some great opportunities to help out our community and internationally with giving for the YWCA Mercy Home and through ELCA Good Gifts.

The YWCA Mercy Home is Cascade County's only shelter for battered women and children, providing around-the-clock security and a resident advocate to give practical and emotional support and connect residents to resources needed to become self-sufficient. At anytime they will host up to 24 people at the Mercy Home..

We would like to help give these women and children a fantastic holiday. If you would like to help, pick up a tag from the Giving Tree in the Narthex and purchase a gift card from any department or grocery store in Great Falls in any amount you wish. We will collect them here at the church by December 21st to get them to The Receiving Home before Christmas.

You are also invited to select an ornament from our World Hunger Good Gifts Christmas tree. Again this year, we will have ornaments for you to choose and then make a donation in the specified amount. For example, you might choose the ornament for "School Supplies for a Child" for \$10 or the "Goat" for \$50 or one of the others. The ornament is yours to hang on your tree or give to someone you wish to honor.

As you're making your Christmas gift list, you may decide to give one of these "Good Gifts" in honor of a friend or relative. It might be a nice way to remember someone who says he or she just doesn't need a thing, your child's teacher, or an elderly family member. You can pick up a card to give your honoree or you can print or email a message to your honoree.

Thank you for making some's holiday a little brighter.

LWR Quilting



Join us for making LWR quilts on the first Monday of each month at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Ave. So., from 6-8 p.m. to prepare tops, cut batting, tie quilts, bind quilts, or thread needles, whatever your gifts may be. Join us. It's a fun group and many hands make it go fast. We next meet December 4.



We displayed 19 quilts at New Hope Lutheran Church on November 19. Pastor Tammy Bull blessed them during worship. On Monday, Anne Rose Rogers and I boxed up 20 quilts and she delivered them to Redeemer Lutheran, to await the truck to take them to the Minneapolis warehouse of LWR. Thanks also to Colter McCarty for your help.

While at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for a quilting retreat, I finished and presented one to the camp from our group.

So that you can add us to your monthly calendars in 2018, we will meet on February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, August 6, October 1, November 5 and December 3.

We will not be meeting January 1, June 4, July 2, September 3.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed in any way to this worthwhile project.

Susan Hedahl, 406-799-1954, or hedahlsa@yahoo.com with questions.



Pastor Steve's Article

“Forgetting to Remember”

¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” ¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today. **Deuteronomy 8:12-14, 17,18 NRSV**

Throughout our life there are many things we tend to forget. We forget names, events, dates, to return phone calls and emails, and we forget where we put things. One that has been occurring with more frequency, as I age, are all the times I've stood in one place, forgetting what it was I was looking for. There are those things which we wish we wouldn't remember ever again and those things we need never to forget to remember.



Prayers for **Marj Vander Aarde** as she recovers from surgery. Also for her sister, **Jann DeGroot**, who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Kevin** (AnneRose Rogers son) who is deployed to Iraq to serve our country.

Prayers for healing for **Ryan Pottratz** (son of Ed and Myra Pottratz and grandson of Sue Hesse).

Prayers for **Brenda Slater** as she continues to heal.

Prayers for healing for **Frank Potter and family** (friend of Doug Sexe) as he battles cancer.

Prayers for **Ed Pottratz and family**.

Prayers for **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers for **Jill Fitzgerald** (friend of Beth Olson) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Todd Whitted** (nephew of Bobbie Bowen).

Prayers for **Marty Johnson** who is hospitalized..

Prayers for **Bernice Johnson**.

Prayers for **Anne Trunkle**, (friend of Dean Wagner-Fossen) who is in hospice care.

Prayers for **Bret, Kelsey & Conrad Barnes**.

Prayers for **Shelly Murphy**.

A story shared by Pastor Kevin Ruffcorn. One Thanksgiving season a family was seated around their table, looking at the annual holiday bird. From the oldest to the youngest, they were to express their praise. When they came to the 5-year-old in the family, he began by looking at the turkey and expressing his thanks to the turkey, saying although he had not tasted it he knew it would be good. After that rather novel expression of thanksgiving, he began with a more predictable line of credits, thanking his mother for cooking the turkey and his father for buying the turkey. But then he went beyond that. He joined together a whole hidden multitude of benefactors, linking them with cause and effect. He said, "I thank you for the checker at the grocery store who checked out the turkey. I thank you for the grocery store people who put it on the shelf. I thank you for those who brought the turkey to the store." I thank you for the farmer who made it fat. I thank you for the man who made the feed. Using his Columbo-like little mind, he traced the turkey all the way from its origin to his plate. And then at the end he solemnly said, "Did I leave anybody out?" His 2-year-old brother, embarrassed by all those proceedings, said, "**God.**" Solemnly and without being flustered at all, the 5-year-old said, "I was about to get to God."

The people of Israel were given the promised land of abundance from their promise making/fulfilling God. Their land looked a great deal like the land God has blessed us with. A rich land that is overflowing with good things. But along with the promise of abundance, prosperity and the good life comes a warning: "Don't forget to remember and give thanks to the Giver!" For in the remembering, comes a greater awareness of the origin of our blessings as well as our dependence on God.

As you gather with family, loved ones and friends for Thanksgiving...make time to remember and give thanks. I suggest you share this reading from Deuteronomy and offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for the abundance you have received from God. A blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours !

Pastor Steve

A Message from your Council President

At our 2018 Annual Congregational meeting we will be voting to accept updates to our constitution. These updates will bring us up-to-date with the ELCA's model constitution. Updates include: lowering the number of people on the council with a youth and young adult to be in membership on the council and our by-laws are now incorporated into the constitution.

Two copies of the proposed updated constitution will be in the church office for your review. If you have any questions you also can contact Kristine Voorbees, President.



Our Dessert and Pie Auction was AMAZING!

A huge thank you to all who participated in our Pie and Dessert Auction this year. We had an amazing turn out with over 30 pies, cookies, and desserts to auction off, almost 40 bidders, and a dozen helpers to run the auction. We raised almost \$2100 for Vacation Bible School and \$1800 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp scholarships.

VBS costs around \$3500 each year to that covers the cost of the FLBC counselors, food and supplies. We are so thrilled that our generous congregation supports this youth ministry each year and we can open the camp at no cost to the families that attend. Next year our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **July 23rd – 27th 2018 so mark your calendars now!**

The FLBC Scholarships go to our own kids to help offset the cost of going to a week at Flathead. We assist campers with a portion of tuition to make sure we can help as many campers as we can so they can experience an uplifting week filled with fun, creativity and of course our Lord!

A special thank you to our helpers for the Pie Auction Steve Smith, our auctioneer, our helpers Julia and Adam Elkin, Isabelle and Tyler Grosenick, and Maya and Kaleb Stringer, our recorders Johnna Lightbourne and Greg Grosenick, our cashiers Bobbie Bowen and Sue Hesse, and our goodie sorter Kari Underdahl. Also a special thanks to Patty Braget for not only having the event organized from past years, but also planning and recruiting helpers for this year's event.

And a heartfelt blessing and thank you to all of our bidders and bakers of delicious goodies for without you there would be no event.

Upcoming Events!!

LUTEFISK & NORWEGIAN MEATBALL DINNER

Sunday, December 3, 2017
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Dutton, Montana


Craft and bake sale




Prices:
Adults - \$13.00
Age 14 and under - \$6.00

Bethany Lutheran is a handicap accessible facility

CONCERT TO BENEFIT FAMILY PROMISE GREAT FALLS



JOHN FLORIDIS

Thursday, November 30th, 7:00 p.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1326 1st Ave. North
Free Will Offering At The Door

An intimate evening of acoustic guitar and voice
with **John Floridis**, Montana recording artist
and host of **Musician's Spotlight** on
Montana Public Radio

Sponsored by:
Anderson Family Pharmacy, Snyder Drug, Days Inn,
Montana Commercial Credit, Pam Alfred State Farm Insurance
and Judy and Dale Schwanke