

BETHEL NOTES

The Means of Grace in Christian Worship

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant: John Blank

Usher(s): Mick and Dina Davis

Projectionist: Lisa Carlson

Counters: Pam Dougherty & Jenny Will

Nursery: Heather Farris & Carly Cushman

Readings:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Matthew 26:20-29: 16-20

Happening This Sunday

- **There will be an Adult Forum** right after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve will lead a discussion based on the questions: Will Bethel have a wedding policy and will it allow Same-Sex Marriage ? Together, we will begin to look at some of the biblical passages which have been cited in reference to same gender relations.



**“Guess Who’s Coming
To Worship?!”**

The main person doing something in worship is God. God greets us with the forgiveness of sins. God meets us with an open ear when we pray. God speaks to us in the Word, offerings words of promise and challenge. God joins us in the water of baptism and the bread and wine of communion. God sends us out with a blessing. Why wouldn't everyone want to start out each their lives in God's actions?

This Week's Events

Tuesday 10/17:

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

Wednesday 10/18:

- LOGOS service project night 5:30-6:30, see article in this newsletter for details.



Thank You Tree Trimmers!

A massive undertaking of trimming trees and cleaning up leaves took place this past Sunday here at Bethel. Steve Vinnedge, Gary Sorum and Mick Davis (I know we are missing some names of helpers) on that damp, chilly afternoon did a fantastic job of trimming tree limbs and cleaning up leaves in the court yard. This was a herculean task that could have meant great expense to Bethel, so with our deepest appreciation, thank you for taking this on and doing such and amazing job.

Thank You!

Upcoming Events

Sunday 10/29:

- Celebration of Holy Baptism for Kian, Kendall and Kari Ryan, they are the children of Patrick and Lynn Ryan.

Monday 10/30:

- 7pm Joint Lutheran/Catholic worship at Cathedral of St. Helena, 530 N Ewing St, Helena. **

Wednesday 11/1:

- LOGOS Family Worship starts at 6:00 pm, worship at 7:00 pm.

Sunday 11/5:

- Daylight Savings time ends. set your clocks back one hour!
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall until 5:00 pm

- TLC Baby Shower in the Gathering Place 2:00-5:00 pm

Sunday 11/12:

- Worship Planning meeting following worship.

Sunday 11/20:

- Thanksgiving Service 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Blessings and Congratulations



Wednesday, October 4, Bethel rejoiced with Allison and Hailey Marr as they joined in sharing their first holy communion. Allison and Hailey are the daughters of Keith and Shannon Mar and the sisters of Tyler. Congratulations and may God bless you!

Adult Forums continue, this Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall



Pastor Steve will lead a discussion based on the questions: Will Bethel have a wedding policy and will it allow Same-Sex Marriage? Together, we will begin to look at some of the biblical passages which have been cited in reference to same gender relations.

Sermon Series in Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

To mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, many Christians from the Reformation tradition will want to hear and learn about essential Reformation teachings. I'm trusting that Bethel is among the many...for I will be using a preaching series developed by Dr. Rolf Jacobson, Professor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

OCT. 15, 2017 - "Guess Who's Coming to Worship?!"

* The Means of Grace and Christian Worship

The Heart of the Matter: The main person doing something in worship is God. God greets us with the forgiveness of sins. God meets us with an open ear when we pray. God speaks to us in the Word, offerings words of promise and challenge. God joins us in the water of baptism and the bread and wine of communion. God sends us out with a blessing. Why wouldn't everyone want to start out each their lives in God's actions?

OCT. 22, 2017 - "Telling the Truth Twice"

* Law & Gospel

The Heart of the Matter: God uses God's Word in two ways. First, God uses the Word as Law, to tell us how to love the neighbor -- to tell us those things we are to do for the neighbor and to tell us those things we are not to do to the neighbor.

When God uses the Word as law, God creates a more loving world but also reminds us of our sin. Second, God uses the Word as gospel -- to tell us all of the good things that God will do for us, since we are not able to do them for ourselves -- forgive our sins, give us new life, grant us reconciliation and eternal life.

OCT. 29, 2017 - "You Didn't Choose Me, I Chose you!"

* Election

The Heart of the Matter: God doesn't wait for us to make an application for acceptance into the kingdom of heaven, God chooses us. Think of any major character in the Bible: Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Rachel, David and Bathsheba, Peter, Paul and Mary. Did any choose God? No, God choose them. And God chooses you.



Prayers for healing for **Terree Wozny** as she recovers from breast cancer surgery.

Prayers for healing for **Jane O'Brien and Carrie O'Brien**.

Prayers for God's healing for Sharon and Steve Mueller's nephew, **Adam Finnegan**, hospitalized with a brain aneurism in Des Moines, Iowa.

For **LOGOS**, *that ministry needs will be filled* for Bible Study and Middle School teachers and guides.

Prayers for the **people suffering destruction and loss by wildfires in Napa Valley California**.

Prayers for those **affected by natural disasters; hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, etc.**

Prayers for the **ELCA Mission Builders, volunteers** and for the on-going needs to be met for the MT. Synod House build.

Prayers for **the victims, their families and the City of Las Vegas** as they grieve.

Prayers for healing for **Amy Faulkner**, friend of Amber Pinski, as she battles cancer.

Prayers for the **Adult Forums discussions**.

Prayers for **Marj VanderAarde** who will have surgery next Tuesday.



Pastor Steve's Message

“Guess Who's Coming To Worship?!”

(Jesus said) 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19, 20



In his book, *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology*, author Gordon Lathrop tells the story of a church bell that survived a fire that destroyed the tiny little church in which it had hung in the community of Luck, Wisconsin. The church bell bore the following inscription:

“To the bath and the table,
To the prayer and the word,
I call every seeking soul.”

“This inscription,” says Lathrop, “speaks to us about the primary matters of Christian worship.” Those matters are word (Scripture), the sacraments of baptism and holy communion (means of grace) and prayer. As the bell called “every seeking soul” to worship in the community of Luck, Wisconsin, so we will be called by the Spirit of God, once again, to be together in worship this Sunday. Lutherans believe that God is the chief actor in worship. God is present in word, sacrament and prayer. God serving us so that, fed and forgiven, we will embody God’s love in the world.

We hear Jesus’ call - our assignment to serve the world - in the gospel for this Sunday. As Jesus’ disciples, we are sent into the world to “*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*” One way to describe this enormous calling is to practice Jesus’s radical and ever expanding hospitality. In the home in which I grew up, one of the spiritual practices was, “there was always room for more at the table.”

Like many households, we had a dining room table which could be expanded by adding extra leafs or inserts in the middle. This was especially true during the holiday time when we hosted additional family and friends to join us. So, we expanded the table so that all would be able to fit around it. When Jesus sends us to all nations, he is inviting us to make room for all around his table. In his newly released book, *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community*, author John Pavlovitz, writes, “Jesus models for us setting the bigger table. A church in the image of Jesus, is one with the biggest table on the planet.”

The Apostle Paul writes to the churches in Galatia, “..for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3: 26-28.

We are one through our baptism into Christ. All made a part of God’s family through the promises of God. All invited to Jesus’ ever expanding table, where he is the generous and gracious host and we are the one’s fed, forgiven and sent into the world to embody the good news of his radical hospitality...that there is always room for more to join in the feast.

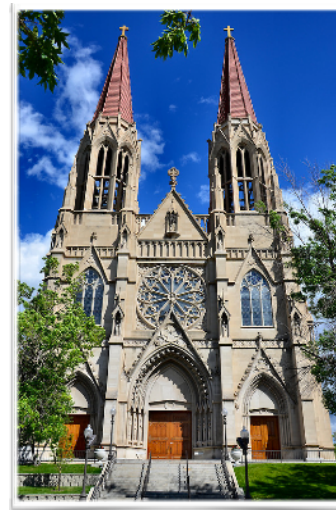
Pastor Steve



Reformation Commemoration at the Helena Cathedral

On October 30th at 7:00 pm, Lutherans and Catholics will gather for evening prayer at the Helena Cathedral, in a special service to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Based on the prayer service “From Conflict to Communion” held in Lund, Sweden a year ago, with Pope Francis and members of the Lutheran World Federation, the service will include leadership by Bishop Michael Warfel, Diocese of Great FallsBillings; Bishop George Thomas, Diocese of Helena; Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod ELCA, and former Bishop Mark Ramseth. If you are interested in attending this combined service. Pastor Steve will be driving to Helena and coming back the same night. Please see him if would like to carpool.



Hospitality Team



We have a wonderful refreshment program here at Bethel and it is all thanks to our wonderful Hospitality Team! Each Sunday we have people provide yummy goodies for us to munch while we catch up with each other after the service. If you are newer to Bethel and ever wondered how you can participate now is your chance! We are changing things up a little bit on how we sign up to bring these delightful treats. Each quarter we have a sign up online (on Sundays we have a hard copy for those who want to sign up that way) and you may choose to bring 2 or 4 dozen items when it is convenient for you.



Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Retreats, Events, Updates"

November 3-5: Men's S-S-S Retreat

The S-S-S (Scripture, Scales, and Suds) Retreat is a one-of-a-kind FLBC experience featuring Bible study, fishing, and homebrewing! Register early to secure your spot!

November 3-5: Bread of Life Retreat

Warm hearts and warm ovens unite as you join our fabulous bakers to make 8 different breads throughout the weekend and of course, take the recipes home with you! We will join the S-S-S Retreat participants for morning and evening worship experiences, and enjoy Bible studies on the theme, "Jesus, the Bread of Life." Whether you are new to quilting or an advanced quilter,

November 9-12: Crazy About Quilting!

Whether you are new to quilting or an advanced quilter this retreat is for you! Lots of time for quilting, great food, worship, massages, hiking and more are all included.

Our Hospitality Team leaders will keep an eye on the sign ups for their month and if we have spots that need to be filled, they will be calling their team to pitch in.

To access the sign up online go to our website www.bethelmt.org and click on ministries, scroll down to Hospitality Team and click on the link. There you will find an explanation of duties and at the bottom a button to click to take you to the sign up page and select your date. You can choose to do all the goodies for a given Sunday or team up with a friend!

Thank you all so very much for all of your treats and if you are interested in being a team leader we have a couple spots available, just contact Tami Grosenick or Amber Erickson.



Council Highlights - Meeting Date 10/10/17

- There will be a joint celebration with the Catholics at the Helena Cathedral: October 30th, 7PM. Pastor Steve is looking to rent a van and carpool with those interested.
- On Thanksgiving Monday, November 20th, 7PM, there is a joint service with First Presbyterian and Our Savior's Lutheran Church here at Bethel. Please come.
- Mick Davis presented the building report. Steve Vinnedge, Matt Crampton, Mick, Gary Sorum and Grant Smith trimmed trees on Sunday, Oct 8th. This saved the church **\$7800! Thank you!**
- Wedding Policy discussions will continue to occur after services on Oct 15th, Oct 22nd and Oct 29th. Please come, be a part of a respectful discussion to help guide Bethel policy.



Thanksgiving Service at Bethel

Each year we have a shared Thanksgiving worship service with First Presbyterian, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Bethel. This year it is Bethel's turn to host! The Service takes place on Monday, November 20th at 7:00 PM. Pastor Anna Merritt is preaching. Please join us in giving thanks!





A note of Thanks

A special note of "Thanks" to Steve's, "Out on a limb Tree Service", Vinnedge. Grant Smith, Gary Sorum, and Matt Crampton, who gave up their Sunday afternoon to trim the trees at Bethel. What a GREAT job.

If you wish to take the firewood by the side of the parking lot, please help yourself. Also I have several bags of tree shavings if you would like one. Please let Sarah at the Church Office know.

Mick Davis





LOGOS Fall Service Project

**We will be assembling 50 hygiene kits to send to
Church World Service.**

The kits will be distributed to hurricane and other natural disaster victims
throughout the world.

In order to simplify the project, we ask you to do one or both of the following:

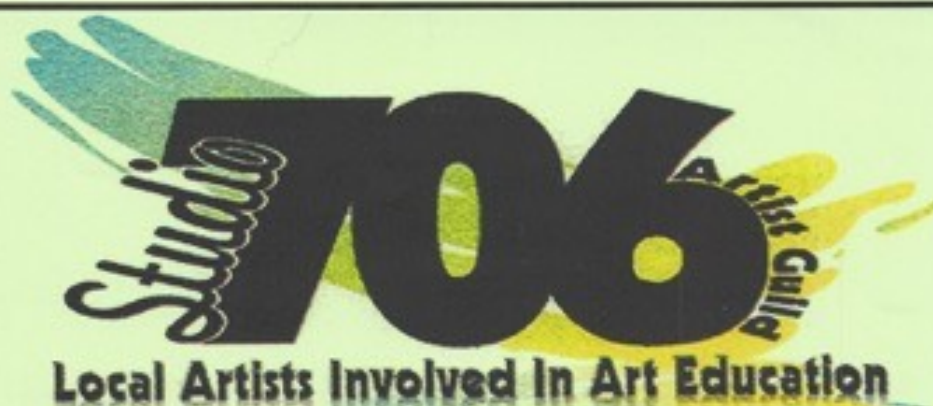
- 1. Give a monetary donation that will cover the cost of kit items and the shipping. Suggested amount is \$8 per kit.**
- 2. Have your child volunteer to assemble the kits. With just a little bit of help, this project will go quickly.**

Kit assembly will happen on Wednesday, October 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the church. This is the evening before the school break so there is no regular LOGOS.

To volunteer, you must notify Shannon (788-7431 or smarr@bresnan.net) no later than Monday, October 15.

Pizza and drinks will be provided for volunteers.





2017

Fall Festival of Art

Ursuline Center

2300 Central Avenue, Great Falls

(2nd floor)

Saturday October 21 from 10am to 7 pm

Sunday October 22 from 11 am to 3 pm

Tour of the Ursuline Center Saturday October 21 at 2:00 pm