

# BETHEL NOTES

## Reformation Sunday

### Serving This Sunday

**Accompanist:** Lynn Ryan

**Lay Assistant:** Anne Vannatta

**Usher(s):** Mike and Joyce Harding

**Projectionist:** Ava Fossen

**Counters:** Jody Arvanetes and Doug Sexe

**Nursery:** Kaleb Stringer & Carly Cushman

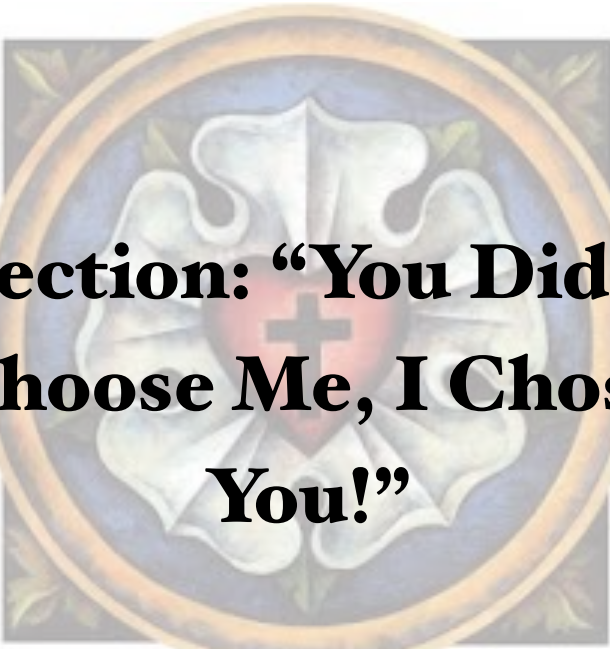
### Readings:

**Genesis 12:1-3**

**John 15: 13-16**

### Happening This Sunday

- **The Jubilate Choir** will be singing "Here I Am Lord"
- **This Sunday we welcome Kristine Voorhees** to offer a stewardship message on God's generosity and how it has enriched her life.
- **This Sunday we celebrate** the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Kian, Kendall and Kari Ryan. They are the children of Patrick and Lynn Ryan.
- **Today 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 wrap up and summarize your thoughts and concerns.



**Election: "You Didn't  
Choose Me, I Chose  
You!"**

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.

## This Week's Events

### Monday 10/30

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- 7pm Joint Lutheran/Catholic worship at Cathedral of St. Helena, 530 N Ewing St, Helena. \*\*

### Tuesday 10/31:

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

### Wednesday 11/1:

- LOGOS Family Worship starts at 6:00 pm, worship at 7:00 pm. Saturday 10/28:
- Make It With Wool workshop from 9am to 3pm.



## Adult Forum concludes, this Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Pastor Steve will conclude the discussion based on the questions: Will Bethel have a wedding policy and will it allow Same-Sex Marriage ? Together, we will wrap up and summarize your thoughts and concerns.

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

This Sunday is Reformation Sunday and concludes our sermon series.

**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.



## 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

October 27, 2017

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday 11/5:

- Daylight Savings time ends. set your clocks back one hour!
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor for James Peterson at 2:30 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.

Pope Francis and members of the Lutheran World Federation, the service will include leadership by Bishop Michael Warfel, Diocese of Great Falls/Billings; 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 you would like to carpool by Sunday, Oct 29. We will be meeting at the church on Monday, Oct 30 at 3:30pm and leaving for dinner and Helena at 4pm.**



## Pastor Steve's Message

Stewardship  
Giving  
Generosity Gifts  
Thanksgiving  
Talents Faith  
Sharing  
Blessings Treasures  
Abundance

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God** through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to **God.**”

**2 Corinthians 9: 10- 12, NRSV**

Generosity. All of us have been on the receiving end of generosity in many and varied ways. We have been overwhelmed, inspired, blessed, and thankful for the ways a generous giver has touched us. This, in turn has moved us to act in generous ways. A number of years ago, I was following a vehicle here in Great Falls that displayed a bumper sticker that read *Live Generously*. This bumper sticker's origin was *Thrivent Financial* and its aim was to inspire the blending of faith and finances in generous ways to serve needs in communities. The idea of living generously actually has its origin in the Creator God, the giver of all good gifts.

The Apostle Paul, in his Corinthian correspondence, tells the story of God's work of inspiring generosity in the hearts and lives of God's people. This generosity produced a sacrificial and generous giving by some congregation in Macedonia to help serve the needs of the poor. Enriched by stories of God's generous giving, we are privileged to live generously as our thanksgiving to God.



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 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.

Prayers for the **Adult Forum discussions.**

Prayers for **Marj VanderAarde** as she recovers from surgery.

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 undergoes medical tests.

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

This year the Stewardship Task Force at Bethel has chosen to ground our 2018 Stewardship Campaign in Paul's witness to God's generosity which we trust will inspire us to living generously through our faithful stewardship of our time, talents and financial resources. You will be hearing personal testimonies, from Bethel members for the next few Sundays in worship, about an experience of generosity in their lives which enriched them and inspired them to offer thanksgiving to God. This Sunday we welcome Kristine Voorhees to offer a stewardship message on God's generosity and how it has enriched her life.

Blessed and enriched in every way, we will be able to give generously in every way, as our thanksgiving to God.

Live generously !

Pastor Steve



## LOGOS NEWS

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Come join us for LOGOS Family Meal Worship Night. It starts with dinner at 6:00pm on Wednesday, Nov 1 , followed by worship at 7:00pm. Kids, bring your families, have dinner, and stay for worship.

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## Thanksgiving Service at Bethel

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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. There will also be a joint choir performance directed by Jeff Skogley. The offering will be given to Family Promise. Please join us in giving thanks!





## Eamon's Blog

Please visit his blog's website: <https://www.smores.com/bhgr6-hubba-hubba>



### Hubba Hubba

### *A Montanan on a Mission Volume II, October 2017*

What does peace mean to you? How do you teach English to a room filled with 30 antsy children? What is the difference between a *servees* and a taxi and how much kanaafe is too much? These are a few of the questions I've been asking myself as I've settled into my new life here.

It rained for the first time in a while last week, marking the traditional beginning of the olive harvest. The rain nourished not only the olive trees but people's spirits too. There are really only two seasons here — rainy and not-rainy—and the language reflects it. The classical Arabic word for winter is *shita'a* (شتاء), but because it mostly rains here at-Taqs *shita'a* al-yom (the weather is winter today) to mean its raining.

October 1st marked my first full month here in the Holy Land, and with it I have begun to feel more settled. It was difficult to say goodbye to Missoula, which was my home for the the last six years of life. After graduating from college, I satiated my wanderlust by traveling to Morocco and Western Europe. After I returned to Montana, a feeling gnawed at me to return to Missoula, and I moved back in January of 2016. Yet, at the same time, I knew that I would not and could not stay indefinitely in order to keep growing. The last year and a half was both thrilling and droll. I embraced jobs in wilderness therapy and organizing while confronting the challenges of adulthood like figuring out health insurance and plotting a career.

In September, I began volunteering at Dar al-Kalima in Bethlehem, a school operated by the Palestinian Lutherans of the ELCJHL. I see grades 2-10 at least once a week. As a student of language, I find it interesting to watch the process of language acquisition at various ages. With over 30 students in each class, the classes here are big, but the students are enthusiastic to learn. The more time I spend in the classroom, the more respect I gain for the teachers I work with and teachers in general. When I'm able, I also help out with the table tennis activities after school. Working with kids has always been a passion of mine, and this makes Dar al-Kalima feel like home. Some of the kids here struggle to even attend school due to the occupation. Still, the their eyes flicker with curiosity, and this makes me eager to come to school every morning.



## LWF Peace Messengers

I recently participated in the inaugural training of the Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) Peace Messengers program (linked at bottom). Along with my fellow YAGM Hannah and a cohort from Colombia, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany, and Palestine, we spent a week learning about peacebuilding in various contexts. We considered what academic literature, faith traditions, and each other had to say about peace; our diverse backgrounds and our immediate setting of Israel/Palestine provided natural fodder for discussion. Seven languages were spoken in our group, which was composed of Muslim, Christian, and non-religious participants. The organizers of the conference brought compelling content for discussion, and in the down time that we created some great memories. One night, each of us shared a dance from our cultures; naturally we danced until past midnight. To me, this illustrates the essence of peacebuilding. It is a dynamic process of give and take, an orientation towards life, and a practice we can all strive for. As Bishop Munib Younan commented, you can't have peace without justice. I would humbly add love to the equation.

I've been blessed with so many amazing experiences already, but I would be remiss to leave out some of the challenges. I studied Arabic before coming here, and I have a decent grasp of the dialect. Still, everyday I have conversations in which I struggle to understand and express myself. Naturally, I am dealing with some familiar habits—unproductive internet use, excessive self-criticism, and a lack of mindfulness. Underneath it all though, I hear a voice telling me to listen—in my conversations, in church, in school, and to the rhythms of life around me. *Hubba hubba* as they say in Arabic. Bit by bit.

I've also read a few books in my time here. I recently finished *Mornings in Jenin* by Susan Abulhawa, a multi-generational novel that evokes the tragedy and *sumood* (steadfastness) of the Palestinian people. History here carries a certain weight that often goes unappreciated in the United States, for Palestinians have had to fight for even the right to tell their own story to the world. On the topic of storytelling and its power, I'm now reading *Jesus* by Marcus Borg. As a historian, I've grown in my faith by learning about the social context of Jesus and the early Christian movement. In many ways Jesus set a model for nonviolence, one that many people, not just Christians, can aspire to. The book is quite incredible. I found one passage quite striking, linked [here](#). The more I learn about Jesus' radical nature, the more I'm encouraged to grow in my faith and the more my faith challenges me. As for figuring out what faith means to me, that is still an ongoing process and practice.

P.S.

There is no such thing as too much [kanaafe](#), Palestinian cheesecake, and a *servees* is like a taxi but its only \$1 instead of \$6. For an online donation, go to <http://support.elca.org/goto/eamondo>. To send a check, make it out to the ELCA and write "Eamon Ormseth – GCS3347" written in the memo line.\* Address the envelope to:

ELCA

PO Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116



## Blessings and Congratulations

### Sacrament of Baptism

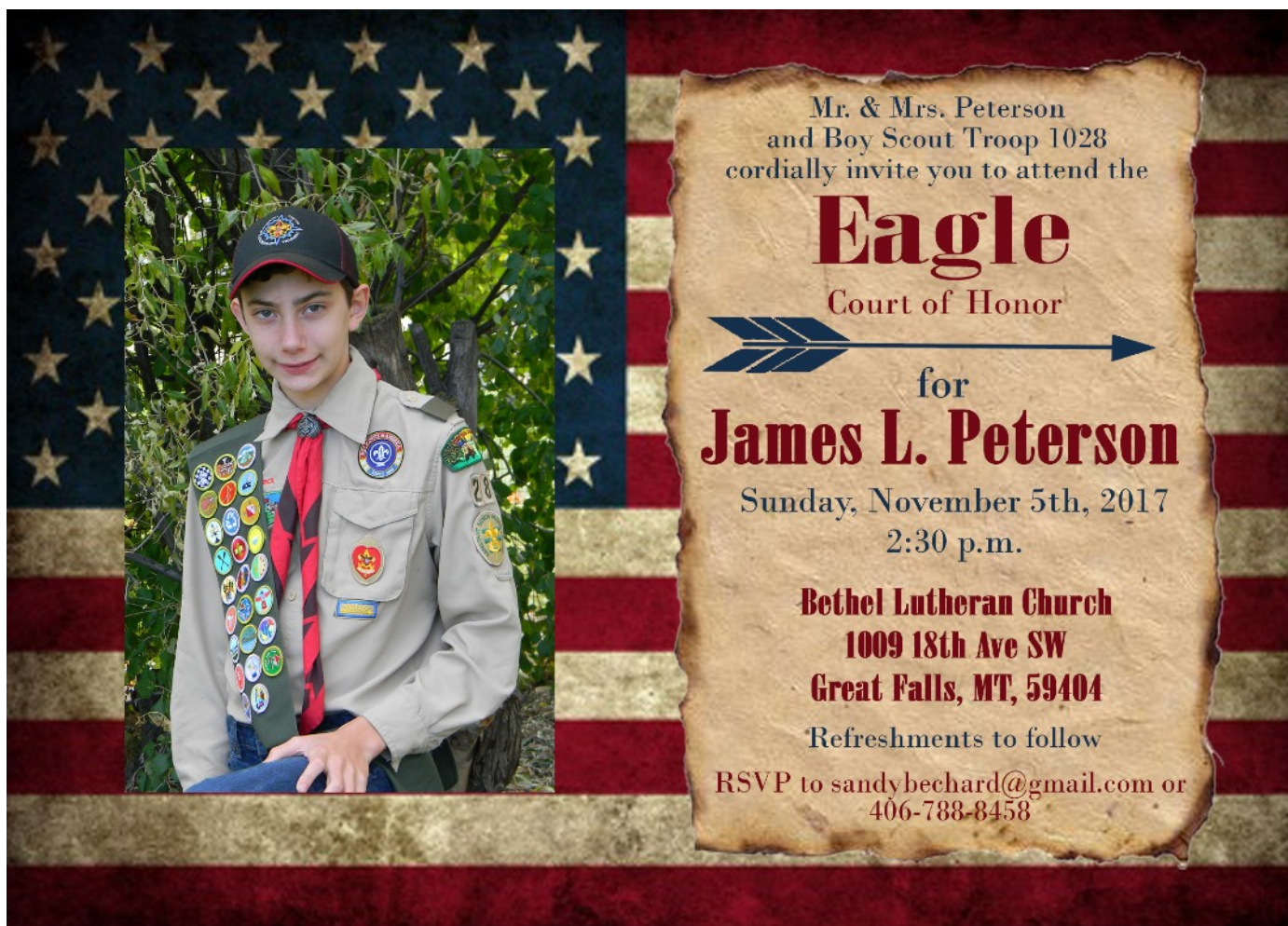
This Sunday we celebrate the sacrament of holy baptism for Kian, Kendall and Kari Ryan. They are the children of Patrick and Lynn Ryan. Sponsors are Kevin and Camille Ryan and John and Diana Fransen.

Kian, Kendall and Kari, 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.




### Eagle Scout Court of Honor



Mr. & Mrs. Peterson  
and Boy Scout Troop 1028  
cordially invite you to attend the

# Eagle

Court of Honor



for  
**James L. Peterson**

Sunday, November 5th, 2017  
2:30 p.m.

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**1009 18th Ave SW**  
**Great Falls, MT, 59404**

Refreshments to follow

RSVP to [sandybechard@gmail.com](mailto:sandybechard@gmail.com) or  
406-788-8458

★ BEER ★  
&  
*Hymns*



Dear Friends,

What can I say? You are an amazing congregation! Thank you for all the support you have been to Family Promise of Great Falls over the years! You are incredible hosts, hard workers, generous financial supporters!

And you answer calls in response to need like no other. Our recent request for coffee, creamer, sweetener, laundry detergent and butter is so appreciated. We are stocked with these supplies now, so no one has to go without coffee. That would be horrible!

Again, thank you for continuing to support us in many ways and most especially for your prayers.

Shalom,

Sharon Odden





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## Hospitality Team

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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.

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](http://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.