





- ✦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) is improving every day and is now working on building her lung strength on her own after double lung transplant.
- ✦ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ✦ Continued prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart) as she finished treatment for breast cancer and continues to heal.
- ✦ Prayers for God's continued healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she has completed her treatments for cancer and continues to heal.
- ✦ Prayers for healing and strength for **Katie Madsen**, niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe as she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing, strength and support for **Rita Johnson (LaRae Veitch's sister)** as she continues treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- ✦ Prayers for healing for **Steve Young** (brother of Sue Hesse) as he recovers from back surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Rob Brattain** (son of Patsy Berkley) as he recovers.
- ✦ Prayers of support and healing for **Trina Wagner** (Dena Wagner-Fossen's sister) as she recovers from surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of health and healing **Kathy Meier** (friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen) as she resolves knee pain.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and strength for **Mick Davis' sister** who is in the hospital.
- ✦ Prayers of comfort and support for **Thelma Seyfert, her family and friends** as they mourn the death of Don Seyfert.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Jodi, sister of Patti Godel**, as she recovers from a stroke as well as **Patti's Aunt Allison** who suffered a heart attack and is recovering in the hospital.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and support to **Mary Pearl Lode** (family member of Holly Lode Bernice Johnson's daughter) who is hospitalized with Covid 19.
- ✦ Prayers of healing for **Paul Bossie**, son of Sharon Bossie with a recent diagnosis of diabetes and liver failure.
- ✦ Prayer of healing and health for **Anne Vannatta** as she is in the hospital with Covid 19.
- ✦ Prayers of strength and healing for **Joanne Spiker**, Greg Grosenick's aunt how has been diagnosed with Myelodysplastic syndrome.
- ✦ Prayers of healing and well-being for **Dusty and Kristin Terwilliger** (Earl and Trudy Terwilliger). They are both in the medical field and have been diagnosed with Covid 19.

### MARTIN LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son. That you have kept me this night from all harm and danger and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil. That all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself. My body and soul and all things. Let Your Holy Angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

## Guidance from the Bishop regarding climbing Covid Numbers

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the Covid-19 numbers continue to climb in our communities, you and your councils may be wondering, “what should we do about worship and other in-person activities at the church?” Should we continue to meet in-person? Should we cut back on the numbers allowed inside our worship spaces to allow for more social distancing? Should we take a step back and stop in-person worship altogether for a few weeks until the numbers come under some control? I encourage you to take the following actions as you make your decisions in your county and context:



1. Talk to your local county health officials and ask for their guidance.
2. Do a refresher course on how Covid-19 spreads and review the practices you’ve been taking as a congregation to minimize its spread. Some practices, like mask-wearing or physically distanced Holy Communion, may have slipped to the wayside and could need to be reinforced again.
3. Councils and Pastors make your decision together and then take the fallout of your decision together. Councils, please don’t leave your pastor blowing in the wind by themselves to deal with upset people. Stand united and together for the safety and love of the people of the congregation.
4. **When in doubt of what to do, I am strongly encouraging congregations to take a step back from in-person worship for a few weeks and do online worship until the numbers drop again.** Perhaps, if we can lower the numbers now and flatten the curve, we can actually gather in-person for more normal-like Christmas services. Right now, with the numbers climbing and no end in sight, Christmas Eve worship with our favorite carols seems a very small possibility indeed.

Always remember that our primary Christian value – the principle that is to govern ALL of our actions as the body of Christ – is love. Christ-like Love. In Colossians 3, Paul lifts up “meekness” as one important aspect of Christian love. In Matthew 5, Jesus blesses the meek as those who will inherit the earth.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book on *Discipleship* (once called *The Cost of Discipleship*) describes “meekness” as the willingness to give up one’s rights for the sake of Christ and loving one another. “Meekness” is neither cowardice nor weakness; in fact it’s one of the strongest, bravest thing a person or group of people can do: give up one’s own life, including one’s own freedoms, to protect others in their rights to life and health. So please “Above All, clothe yourselves in love.” (Col 3:12-15) Love is what God commands us to do.

*Bishop Laurie Jungling*

### TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump Charitable Foundation has invited **FISH** to be part of the 19th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign.

Town Pump will match each dollar collected by **FISH** up to \$20,000 from September 1 through November 30. What a great way to double your donation!



## Words from the Bishop: Fool for Christ

A man and his pastor were walking through the parking lot toward the church one Sunday. It was a cold and blustery day and snow had carpeted the asphalt in front of the building. Both were wearing thick winter coats and boots and gloves. The pastor was also wearing a mask to protect against the spread of Covid, but the man was not.

As they approached the door, the man said, "Pastor, why are you wearing that mask? You look like a fool. Don't you have faith in God? You should take it off and trust that God will protect you."

The pastor studied the man for a moment and then said, "I notice that you're wearing your heavy winter coat and warm gloves and good snow boots, John."

John paused, wondering at this change in subject, and finally said, "Of course I am. It's my turn to shovel the walks and it's cold outside. So what?"

The pastor said, "So, why don't you take off all those clothes and trust that God will keep you warm while you shovel? Don't you have faith that God will protect you from the cold?"

John's mouth moved up and down silently for several seconds as he caught the pastor's meaning. "Yeah, well, that's different," he finally mumbled looking away.

"You're right, John, it is different," the pastor replied with a smile easily seen behind the mask. "You've decided to use the brain God gave you to keep yourself warm. I've decided to use the brain and the love God gave me to protect you from a virus that could hurt or kill you. And if being a fool for Christ means loving you by wearing a mask, that's what I'm going to do."

In his first letter to the Corinthians (chps 1-3), Paul declares himself a fool for Christ's sake and that Jesus' followers in Corinth should be become fools in order to become wise in God's way of the gospel. "If you think you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you can become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God," he writes. What did Paul mean by this?

Well, he certainly didn't mean shoveling snow without warm clothes on. Nor did he mean choosing not to wear a mask to prove our faith or because it makes us look silly. No, faith in God does not mean we're supposed to dump reason beside the road altogether just because we're anxious.

Instead, God's foolishness is a message of love in a world of hate; a message of meekness that empowers others rather than powers over others; a message to support one another instead of competing with each other; a message to come together in a community of peace instead of falling into division and fighting over something doctors, nurses, and tricker-treaters wear regularly. God's foolishness is a proclamation of hope in a time of despair and a flaring of light in the midst of deep darkness. Finally, God's gospel foolishness says



“no” to the world’s judgment, meanness, apathy and selfishness and says a resounding “YES” to forgiveness, kindness, compassion and generosity.

In the end, God gave us brains as well as hearts, bodies and spirits, and we are called to use our whole selves in the best possible way to protect the lives God gave us as well as protect and care for the lives of our neighbors. “Love your neighbor as yourself,” remember?

You don’t have to shovel snow in the cold naked to prove your faith to God or others. And neither do you have to go maskless to show your trust in God. Instead, in today’s world, wearing a mask to protect others from the Covid-19 virus is a sure sign of faith in God and in the love God gives us in Christ. And it is this very faith that calls us to share God’s love with all whom we meet, even if the world thinks it looks foolish.

*Bishop Laurie*

# MAC Connect 2020



Speaking up for All Montana’s Children:  
Ecumenical Prayer & Citizen Advocacy 101

*“Let the Children come to me – Jesus”*

*Matthew 19:14*

**Friday, November 13th via**

**ZOOM 11 AM – 1 PM**

**Free**

**To Register:** Email [mac@macmt.org](mailto:mac@macmt.org)  
[www.macmt.org](http://www.macmt.org) for more information



MAC is a non-partisan organization – that is we have Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, Green, & Independent members—who recognize we are each created in God’s image. We seek to empower Christians to speak up on behalf of the hungry, the prisoner, the homeless and other marginalized populations (Matthew 25: 31-46). Our panel will include legislative and lobbying voices sharing strategies for communicating with your Montana state house and senate representatives.

# Thank You Altar Guild



## BBB (Bread- Beverages-Bible-Boats) Retreat

November 6-8, 2020

\$180/person (Saturday only: \$100/person) || Ages 21+

Join in fellowship on the lake as we learn new bread baking recipes & techniques, enjoy fishing from the dock or one of our boats and try your hand at home brewing!

## Crazy About Quilting & Crafting Retreat

November 12-15, 2020

\$210/person (Thurs-Sun) // \$195 (Fri-Sun) // \$65/day (Commuter)

Bring your quilt and craft projects and work alongside friends old and new on the shores of Flathead Lake. FLBC will also be providing opportunities to learn new skills!

## Family Advent Retreat

December 4-6, 2020

\$140, Ages 13+ / \$120, Ages 7-12 / \$75, Ages 2-6 / Free Children under 2 / \$480 maximum cost per nuclear family

Join us for time at camp as we prepare for Christmas! Make awesome crafts, cut your own Christmas tree, and soak in time for worship and prayer this Advent

## Jr + Sr High Ski & Snowboard Retreat

January 8-10, 2021

\$115/person (2 adults free with each church group // Lift tickets are separate from retreat cost)

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and FUN!

[For more information click here](#)

JoAnn and Jon -

Thank you so much for getting the beautiful prayer shawl for us. The color is perfect.

The friend Dale wanted it for had a heart attack & then a stroke. He's coming along slowly but the frustrating part is his speech. Hoping it will improve.

The shawl was perfect for him. Thank you. Can we donate to your church or ladies group? It was a special gift.

Dale really liked the one you sent him. He thought of doing this for Mike right away.

Thanks again. Let us know if we can make donation!

Love you guys!  
Char + Dale

**BETHEL'S NEW OFFICE HOURS  
WILL BE**

**MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY**

**9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM**

**CLOSED FRIDAY**

# MINISTRIES MEETING VIA ZOOM

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of this week's Lectionary texts as we meet through a social distancing approved Zoom video call each Tuesday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 am. Breakfast recipes and ideas will be provided. If you are interested in more information or would like to be added to the call invitation list, click on the email link below and type "breakfast" into the subject line (and then of course press send).

[dscholten@dlsconsulting.net](mailto:dscholten@dlsconsulting.net)



## Weekly Text Bible Study

Pastor Trina will be offering a weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and Thursdays at 7:00 pm (except the Thursday when Hope Circle meets). Studying the lessons for the upcoming Sunday together. Each week stands alone, you can join anytime! No experience necessary! For the time being, we will meet via Zoom. Please email or call the office if you'd like to receive the Zoom link.

**No Bible Study October 28th or 29th**

Confirmation Zoom Class  
**WILL** be meeting  
Wednesday, October 28th at  
6:30 pm as usual.

## Electric City Bible Study

What a great way to connect with one another!  
Join the Electric City Bible Study on a Zoom conference Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. If you are interested in joining email Laurie Turner at [loli51gus@icloud.com](mailto:loli51gus@icloud.com) and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.

## High School Logos

Meets in person at Bethel  
in the Gathering Place  
Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
*Face Masks are required.*

*Our church family is a circle of strength and love. With every new connection, the circle grows. Every joy shared adds love. Every crisis faced together makes the circle stronger.*

## Bethel Lutheran Church

### Church Council Reopening Guidelines

*We will still be offering a live stream of the service for those who wish to worship from home.*

#### Guidelines:

- Front doors will be propped open and the only entrance into the Church. The west side entrance through the TLC Daycare will remain locked.
- Masks will be **required** and we have some available.
- A table is at the front doors with hand sanitizer, masks, tissues and an offering plate. Ushers will be there to assist with masks and help people find seats.
- Physical distancing of 4 feet will be observed.
- Windows and doors will be opened to increase air circulation.
- Signs on the restroom doors should be used to indicate if you are in the bathroom in an effort to keep physical distance.
- The kitchen, Fellowship Hall and back office hall doors will be closed.
- Hospitality area will be closed.
- We will pass the peace in a no-contact fashion.
- Sanctuary will be cleaned with disinfect cleaner after each Sunday worship service

Please consider the following before you return to worship:

- Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone who has traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms in the past 30 days?
- Have you had any of these symptoms:
  - Fever over 100.4
  - Persistent cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Sudden loss of taste or smell

**If you answered YES to any of these questions, please do not enter and contact your health care provider.**

### Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

#### Contact information:

Email: [bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com)

Bethel number non-emergencies: 406-761-1543 ext 202

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306

### Calendar Of Events

#### Monday 10/26

- Boy Scouts meet 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

#### Tuesday 10/27

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am

#### Wednesday 10/28

- Confirmation meeting on Zoom 6:30 to 7:30 pm
- High School Logos meets in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 to 8:00 pm

#### Friday 10/30

- Bethel Office Closed

#### Saturday 10/31

- Have a happy and safe Halloween!
- Pastor Trina back in office

### Upcoming Events

#### Sunday 11/1

- All Saints Sunday!
- World Hunger Sunday 9:30 AM worship service
- Day Light Savings fall back 1 hour.

#### Monday 11/2

- Boy Scouts meet 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

#### Tuesday 11/3

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am
- Call Committee meets at Bethel 6:30 pm

#### Wednesday 11/4

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation/Middle School Logos 6:30 pm on Zoom
- High School Logos in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

#### Thursday 11/5

- Exec Board conference call 5:30 pm
- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

#### Friday 11/6

- Bethel Office Closed

#### Saturday 11/7

- Make It With Wool at Bethel 8 am to 3 pm
- Close Knit meets at 9:00 am in the Gathering Place