

BETHEL NOTES

"The Bible is God's Word For You"

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist: Mary Seim

Lay Assistant: Van Arventes

Usher(s): Sue Hesse

Projectionist: Lisa Carlson

Counters: Pam Dougherty and
Donna Vinnedge

Nursery: Carly Cushman and
Heather Farris

Readings

Psalm 1

John 1 1-5; 10-14

Happening This Sunday

- Pastor Steve's 8 week sermon series marking the 500th anniversary of the reformation will continue with "The Bible is God's word for you."
- Adult Forum immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve will lead a discussion based on the last couple of week's sermon topics.
- LOGOS Staff meeting at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall



God's Word is the means of grace through which God transforms our lives. Jesus himself is the living Word made flesh. The Bible is the living water through which God nourishes us, so that like trees that can withstand crisis and yet bear fruit, we live lives of faithfulness and love.

This Week's Events

Monday 9/18:

- 6 pm TLC Staff meeting in the Gathering Place.

Tuesday 9/19:

- Men's breakfast at 6:00am
- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am

Wednesday 9/20:

- LOGOS from 5:30pm to 7pm at Montana Park; inclement weather Meadowlark Elementary School - gym
- Aitz Chaim celebration of Rosh Hashanah begins at 6pm.

Thursday 9/21:

- Hope Circle at LaRae Veitch's home 7:30 pm
- Conclusion of Aitz Chaim Rosh Hashanah celebration concludes at 1pm.
- Pastor Steve will be on vacation from Thursday 9/21- Monday 9/25. He will return on Tuesday 9/26. Dave Scholten, LPA will be preaching and presiding

Friday 9/22:

- Family Promise board meeting in the Fellowship Hall from 6pm to 9pm

Saturday 9/23:

- Family Promise board meeting from 9am to 3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE the Date! Crop Walk October 1st! - Sign up this Sunday!

Want to help with disaster relief and flood recovery in Texas? Want to provide hope and housing for homeless families with children in Great Falls? Participate in the 2017 CROP Walk/Run/ Stroll for Church World Service! Church World Service is our ecumenical organization supported by Week of Compassion that provides disaster relief and recovery, self-help hunger programs, and refugee resettlement. Twenty-five percent of funds raised will go to support Family Promise of Great Falls. Registration begins at 1pm at Gibson Park with the Walk at 1:30. You can choose the short Sunday Stroll pond loop or walk the new changed route taking the River's Edge Trail across the Missouri River. Prize for the person who raises the most pledges. For more information go to www.crophungerwalk.org or

see Sue Hesse.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 9/26:

- Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling presentation 6:30-8:00pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 9/27:

- Logos at 5:30pm in the Gathering Place

Friday 9/29:

- Aitz Chaim celebration of Yom Kippur begins at 6pm.

Saturday 9/30:

- Continuation of Aitz Chaim Yom Kippur celebration concludes at 10pm.

Sunday 10/1:

- Crop Walk registration begins at Gibson Park 1:00pm-event begins at 1:30pm

Wednesday 10/4:

- 7:00 PM LOGOS Family Worship with Holy Communion

Upcoming Family Promise Events:

September 18th Buffalo Wild Wings! Pick up ticket with Dew Elkin to have portion of cost of entire meal donated.

October 8th 7 PM Choir Extravaganza First Congregational Church.

October 8th-15th Family Promise Week.

For more information go to www.familypromisegf.org

SERMON SERIES IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10th

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. Beginning on Sunday, September 10th and continuing for 8 weeks, the sermon focus will be on several essential Reformation teachings.

SEPT 17, 2017 -

"The Bible Is God's Word for You" * The Word of God**

The Heart of the Matter: God's Word is the means of grace through which God transforms our lives. Jesus himself is the living Word made flesh. The Bible is the living water through which God nourishes us, so that like trees that can withstand crisis and yet bear fruit, we live lives of faithfulness and love.

SEPT 24, 2017

"Forgiveness Will Change Your Life"

*** The Forgiveness of Sins**

The Heart of the Matter: The Bible proclaims this good news: "in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us" (2 Corinthians 5:19). We are all born into sin, into brokenness, into death. We all sin. In Christ, there is forgiveness for all. And the forgiven in turn forgive and forgive and forgive.

OCT. 1, 2017 -

"Church Is Messy and Holy"

*** The Church and the Christian Life**

The Heart of the Matter: The church -- which is the people of God, not a building or an organization -- is both fully human and fully divine. And every Christian is both fully made holy and also still fully a sinner. After being given a right relationship with God through grace, we paradoxically remain sinners (people who need a right relationship with God) and are already saints (people who already have right relationship with God).

OCT. 8, 2017 -

"Finding God the Last Place You Would Look" * The Theology of the Cross

The Heart of the Matter: The cross is God's promise -- God's solemn commitment -- to be present in the last place human reason would look for God...in the midst of suffering, oppression, violence, even death. Be clear about this -- God does not cause the suffering. Suffering is the result of sin, human



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

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

For God's presence and healing for **Dave Johnson** (brother of Marty Johnson) from a bicycle injury.

Prayers for healing for **Marty Johnson**.

For God's comfort and consolation for the **Sletten family & friends** who grieve the death of Bob Sletten.

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

Prayers for the **people, and relief efforts in Houston**, and the surrounding region, in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and also for those in the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Prayers for **the peoples & wildlife of MT. & the West who battle the threat and devastation of wildfires**, especially those evacuated and the firefighters.

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

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.



Pastor Steve’s Article

“Can We Talk...Together About Sexuality ?”

Can we talk together at Bethel about sexuality ? I believe the answer is yes, and plans are now underway to do just that. What has brought us to the decision of talking about sexuality within the church, now ? There have been some on-going conversations within the Church Council for a couple of years, and more recently, a wedding policy task force regarding Bethel’s wedding policy. The question being, “Can same sex couples be married here?” Might we just leave it for the pastor or the congregation to decide? The Supreme Court’s decision, declaring same-sex marriage legal in all fifty states in June of 2015, has brought up the topic of same sex marriage. Before that it was the ELCA’s vote in 2009 to recognize same gendered relationships and ordain ministers in such relationships. Bishop Jessica reminds congregations and their rostered leaders, “It is important to distinguish between church and state. The Supreme Court ruling means that states may not discriminate. That is now the law. But the First Amendment is still in effect in the U.S. Neither the courts nor the states can force congregations to perform or host weddings for anyone. All the ruling means is that states can no longer refuse to grant licenses to same-sex couples. It does not force churches to do anything.” The MT. Synod of the ELCA, nor the Church-wide expression is

telling congregations that they have to develop wedding policies. That is up to the congregation to do so, if they so choose. Bethel has no wedding policy as it's just been left up to the pastor to decide.

As we -the Council, myself and task force- have wrestled with the wedding policy question, we have come to realize that an even bigger question is, "Who is welcome at Bethel?" Are ALL welcome and need we even define who the ALL includes. We have also been reminded that the topic of sexuality and the church is broad and continues, still, to be an anxiety producing concern. There are those who remind us of the potential of conflict and hurt which we witnessed first hand right here in Great Falls several years ago between those at Faith Lutheran. That is why the "how" we go about such a conversation is so vitally important. And the "why" is important as our sexuality matters to God. And so do the conversations and discussions because they are about the relationships of God's children. They are about our fellow members, our children, family and friends.

On Tuesday evening, September 26th, from 6:30 - 8pm, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling will be making a presentation on the topic of sexuality and the church at Bethel. Dr. Jungling has offered a number of lectures on the topic of sexuality and the church, and most recently offered ***"Can We Talk Together About Sexuality in the Congregation?"*** a workshop offered at the MT. Synod Assembly in Great Falls in June. Pastor Laurie has taught ethics at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD, one of the ELCA's liberal arts colleges. Pastor Laurie grew up in Great Falls and is no stranger to Bethel as she has worshipped with us and preached and presided in worship on a number of occasions. She has also directed the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, and is currently serving as a part-time intentional interim pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran in Cut Bank, MT.

This presentation will be a kick off for further discussions (Adult Forums, led by Pastor Steve) to be held over the Sundays in October, beginning Sunday, October 1st, following worship (10:45 - noon). These forums (topics of each forth coming) and your participation will be vital in helping the Council leadership and congregation discern future plans and decisions. I encourage your prayers for our upcoming conversations.

Pastor Steve



"Can We Talk... Together About Sexuality?"



On Tuesday evening, September 26th, from 6:30 - 8pm, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling will be making a presentation on the topic of sexuality and the church. Dr. Jungling has offered a number of lectures on the topic of sexuality and the church, and most recently offered this one as a workshop at the MT. Synod Assembly here in Great Falls in June. Pastor Laurie has taught ethics at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD, one of the ELCA's liberal arts colleges. Pastor Laurie is no stranger to Bethel as she has worshipped with us and preached and presided in worship on occasion. She has also directed the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, and is currently serving as a part-time intentional interim pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran in Cut Bank, MT. This presentation will be a kick off for further discussions (Adult Forums) to be held over the Sundays in October, beginning Sunday, October 1st, following worship.



Mission Freedom Capital Campaign Update

First of all, we would like to thank Earl Terwilliger for his testimonial published in last week's Bethel notes – Rising to the challenge of Mission Freedom. Earl always does a great job of keeping us grounded in faith and reminding us what we are trying to accomplish. Thank you Earl!

We have made excellent progress in our fundraising efforts to retire our mortgage debt but **we still have more work to do.** As you recall, our financial goal was to obtain pledges of \$500,000 to be fulfilled between 2018-2022 – a five-year pledge period. We also had a participation goal to get at least 50% of the members of Bethel to participate in this effort.

We had some very generous gifts and are so thankful and grateful to all of you who gave money and/or contributed to our silent auction. **Thank You!**

The number of financial pledges received thus far is 31, which represents about 20% of our membership (giving units), far short of our admittedly ambitious 50% goal. As a reference point, last campaign we had about 30% of our members submit a pledge. Our pledges to date total \$290,232 which is very impressive considering it came from 31 members. **We are nearly 60% complete in our goal of Mission Freedom!**

You might ask, what if we fall short of our goal? What will happen? The answer is our congregation is on the hook for thousands of dollars of avoidable interest owed to the bank – the longer we take to pay the more interest we incur. We also will be directing funds to interest expense instead of our ministry efforts. Finally, we will need to conduct another capital campaign to continue to fund the mortgage payment because the mortgage will not be retired by our 2022 goal. **For those of you who have not submitted a pledge, please prayerfully consider submitting a pledge to help us in this important effort!**

We plan to keep the campaign open until early 2018 and will communicate our progress along the way. We also will have an annual (in the spring) Mission Freedom event to recruit additional participation and maintain awareness of our goals.

Lastly, we would like to clarify how to classify the gifts so the bookkeeping is accurate. For gifts fulfilling pledges to the 1st capital campaign that continues through 12/31/2017 please designate them **“Capital Campaign”**. For gifts to the 2nd capital campaign (2018-2022) please designate them **“Mission Freedom”**. We understand this can be confusing so please reach out with any questions on how to designate your gift. Also, if you would like information on how much you have contributed to your prior capital campaign pledge please reach out, we are happy to provide that information.

LOGOS News

We are still in need of a 6th grade teacher and 5th grade co-teacher. If you would like to volunteer please contact Shannon Marr, (406) 788-7431.

It's time to register for another fun year of



LOGOS is our fun, mid-week youth ministry which aims to nurture young people into faith and discipleship through Christian relationships.

Who: Any Bethel youth* grades Kindergarten through 12th grade

*LOGOS is an outreach, community-minded ministry so we also invite non-Bethel members. If you have friends or family you'd like to invite, please do!

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church

When: Each Wednesday **beginning September 20**

Little LOGOS (Grades K, 1, and 2)

5:30-6:00 p.m. Bible Study
6:05-6:35 p.m. Family Time (Dinner)

Junior LOGOS (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

5:30-6:00 p.m. Recreation
6:05-6:35 p.m. Family Time (Dinner)
6:40-7:10 p.m. Bible Study
7:15-7:45 p.m. Worship Arts

Middle School LOGOS (Grades 7 and 8)

5:30-6:00 p.m. Recreation
6:05-6:35 p.m. Family Time (Dinner)
6:45-7:45 p.m. Confirmation Class

High School LOGOS (Grades 9-12)

6:00-6:30 p.m. Recreation
6:30-7:00 p.m. Family Time (Dinner)
7:00-7:45 p.m. Bible Study/Worship

Parent Involvement

New in 2017-18! The first Wednesday of each month is devoted to Family Meal & Worship where we ask families to join us at dinner and then stay for worship.

LOGOS will provide the main course and families will be asked to contribute sides.

Calling all congregation members...

We invite and encourage all congregation members to actively participate in our LOGOS ministry.

We are still in need of **Table Parents** for the upcoming year. If you are comfortable conversing with a small group of young people in a positive, fun way (we provide the training and topics), let us know.

To register and pay for LOGOS...

Please register using the form on our website: www.bethelmt.org

Questions?

Contact Shannon Marr, LOGOS Director
smarr@bresnan.net or 788-7431

Save the Date

FLBC Fall Harvest Festival and Auction - Oct 6&7

Mark your calendars!



*All Are
Welcome!
Oct. 6-7, 2017
At Flathead
Lutheran Bible
Camp*

Friday, October 6th

6:00 pm	Silent Auction Opens
6:15 pm - 8:45 pm	Harvest Dinner & Live Auction - Cockrell Center ((\$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; beer & wine available for purchase)
6:15 pm - 8:45 pm	Free Food & Activities for Youth & Children
7:00 pm	Live Auction (Live Auction Entrance Only \$10)
9:00 pm	Worship & Beach Bonfire

Saturday, October 7th

9:30 - 10:00 am	Registration for Run/Walk - Pavilion ((\$15 Includes t-shirt)
10:00 am	5k Trail Run & 1 Mile Run/Walk Begins
10:00 - 2:00 pm	Family Fun Games, Activities, BBQ & Live Music - Pumpkin Activities - Apple Creations - Wagon Rides - Face Painting And Much More!
2:00 pm	Harvest Festival Dessert for all - Cockrell Center
2:30pm	Silent Auction Closes

Proceeds Support the Outdoor Youth Ministries of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
For dinner tickets in advance, for overnight reservations,
and/or to donate an item for the auction please contact the FLBC office.

Event Held at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp located 17 miles south of Kalispell, 3 miles S of
Lakeside 550 Lutheran Camp Road, Lakeside MT 59922 Office: 406.752.6602 web: flbc.net



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."

Synod House Build Update

At the corner of 24th St. S and 13th Ave S

Lots of Things Happening!



Welcome to two mission builders who arrived this week! Mission Builders Carole and Steve Schenk arrived over the weekend. They have been involved in the program for many years and joined the Synod House project after managing a project at the Carol Joy Holling Ministry in Nebraska.

It's an exciting week for those working on the Montana Synod House. Last week, with the help of volunteers from Great Falls, Helena, and a couple of Mission Builder spouses we completed installing house wrap on the entire building, installed windows in the clerestory, AND completed all the prep work on the roof so that the roofers were able to start their work this past Monday! When the roof is installed, the electrician and plumber will be able to continue their work inside the building. While we worked on the roof and house wrapping the walls, the mason continued to add stonework to the outside walls.

Thank you to Our Savior's, Great Falls for bringing break snacks last week and to First English, Great Falls for providing snacks this week. We are thrilled to have some volunteers from Our Redeemer's, Helena working with us for much of this week, the regulars from Great Falls, and welcome Carole and Steve Schenk, a new Mission Builder couple, to the job. We are grateful for the housing that was provided by Kristine Voorhees and Jim and Marilyn Carlson for the Helena Mission Builders this last week.

Don't worry; there's still room for you on the jobsite. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the new Synod House!