

# BETHEL NOTES

## "Forgiveness Will Change Your Life"

### Serving This Sunday

**Accompanist:** Lynn Ryan

**Lay Assistant:** Walt Nuessle

**Usher(s):** Matt & Judy Crampton

**Projectionist:** Ava Fossen

**Counters:** Patty Braget & JoAnn Dullum

**Nursery:** Carly Cushman and Kaleb Stringer

### Readings:

**Psalms 51:1-12**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

**John 20:19-23**

### Happening This Sunday

- Week 3 of the 8 week sermon series; marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, continues with the theme of "Forgiveness Will Change Your Life."
- Adult Forum immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Shirley Cayko, LPA will lead a discussion based on this Sunday's sermon.
- Dave Scholten, LPA will serve as our presiding minister this Sunday in Pastor Steve's absence. Dave has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services at Bethel this Sunday.
- Lynn and Kian Ryan will perform the beloved hymn "Jesus Loves Me".



## *"The Forgiveness of Sins"*

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.



## This Week's Events

### Monday 9/25:

- Boy Scout Troop 1028 meeting at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

### Tuesday 9/26:

- Men's Breakfast at 6am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Bible Study at 6:30am at Electric City Coffee.
- The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling 6:30 - 8:00pm in the Sanctuary will be presentation "Can We Talk...Together About Sexuality?"

### Wednesday 9/27:

- Logos at 5:30pm in the Gathering Place

### Friday 9/29:

- Aitz Chaim celebration of Yom Kippur from 6pm to 7pm in the Sanctuary.

### Saturday 9/30:

- Conclusion of Aitz Chaim Yom Kippur celebration from 10am to 11am in the Sanctuary.

## 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](http://www.crophungerwalk.org). or

see Sue Hesse.



## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday 10/4:

- Logos Family Worship Night starts at 5:30pm, worship service at 7:00pm.

### Monday 10/9 - Tuesday 10/10:

- Pastor Steve at Chico for Luther Lectures. He will be back in the office on Wednesday, 10/11.

### Tuesday 10/10:

- 6:30pm Council meeting in the Gathering Place.

### Wednesday 10/18:

- No regular LOGOS

### Monday 10/30:

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

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## 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Just a reminder for those of you planning to attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Your \$150 deposit for registration is due this Friday, Sept 22. Please make checks payable to Bethel Lutheran Church with "2018 Youth Gathering" on the memo line.

## Reminder...

Pastor Steve will be out of the office from Thursday, Sept 21 through Monday, Sept 26. He will return on Tuesday, Sept 26.

## SERMON SERIES IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 500<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>

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 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

**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?



Prayers for healing for **Terree Wozny** as she recovers from 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 **LOGOS, that ministry needs will be filled** for Bible Study and Middle School teachers and guides.

Prayers for the **people affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria**.

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.

**Prayers for the upcoming discussion** on the topic of Human Sexuality and the Church.

**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? Currently, Bethel has no wedding policy. I believe that the matter of formulating a wedding policy is done after careful, respectful conversations with the congregation, it's leadership, and in a non rushed and non-pressured way.

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 Churchwide expression is telling congregations that they have to develop wedding policies. There is nothing in ELCA policy that requires us to do same-sex marriages. And there is nothing that prohibits it, where the law allows. Writing a wedding policy is up to the congregation to do, if they so choose.



As we -the Council, myself and task force- have wrestled with the wedding policy question, we have come to realize that an even 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 College, 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 will be forth coming..flowing from the presentation next Tuesday night) 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?”***

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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.



# 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bethelmt.org)

Questions?

Contact Shannon Marr, LOGOS Director  
[smarr@bresnan.net](mailto: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 | <b>Harvest Dinner &amp; Live Auction - Cockrell Center</b><br>(\$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<br>(\$15 Includes t-shirt)  |
| 10:00 am        | 5k Trail Run & 1 Mile Run/Walk Begins  |
| 10:00 - 2:00 pm | <b>Family Fun Games, Activities, BBQ &amp; Live Music</b><br>- Pumpkin Activities      - Apple Creations<br>- Wagon Rides              - Face Painting<br>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



September 22, 2017



## 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 24<sup>th</sup> St. S and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S**

**Dry!**



What progress has been made in the past couple weeks on the synod house! Last week, the roofers put down insulation and membrane on the flat part of the roof and ice and water shield (think tar paper) on the sloping roof. The roofers will return to put the metal on top of the ice and water shield, and cover the parapet that hides the flat roof. The Mission Builders, with help from 4 volunteers and several regular

Great Falls volunteers put in all the ground floor windows. Now the building is considered “dried in”. So when the rain came we were dry inside!

Inside, we secured all the interior walls, began working on interior soffits, and framing openings for ductwork.

Thank you to First English for providing snacks for the week, and to our volunteers from Our Redeemers', Helena, First English, Great Falls, and Bethel, Great Falls. We appreciate the help and friendship. This week we welcome two volunteers from Hope, Bozeman.

Our time is growing short. One Mission Builder couple will be leaving after this week, another at the end of September, and two more after the first week of October. Please come by to volunteer one last time, or just to say Hi/Goodbye.