

# BETHEL NOTES

## "The Church and the Christian Life"

### Serving This Sunday

**Accompanist:** Mary Seim

**Lay Assistant:** Anne Vannatta

**Usher(s):** Sue Hesse

**Projectionist:** Tim Lightbourne

**Counters:** Jody Arvanetes & Mary Lou Norbie

**Nursery:** Heather Farris & Kaleb Stringer

### Readings:

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

**Mark 10:35-45**

### Happening This Sunday

- Week 4 of the 8 week sermon series; marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, continues with the theme of "The Church and the Christian Life"
- An additional offering will be received in the wicker baskets in support of ELCA World Hunger. Margie Holland will offer the message to our children about a school in Peru which is supported by your support of ELCA Word Hunger.
- Adult Forum immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve will lead a discussion based on the topic of Sexuality in the Church.



*"The Church is Messy  
and Holy"*

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).

## This Week's Events

### Monday 10/2:

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

### Tuesday 10/3

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

### Wednesday 10/4:

- LOGOS Family Meal Worship Night starts at 6:00pm, worship service at 7:00pm. \*Kids and families arrive together at 6:00 p.m., have dinner, stay for worship.

## Upcoming Events

### 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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God) and are already saints (people who already have right relationship with God).

## CROP Walk this Sunday!

It's not too late to participate in the 2017 CROP Walk/Run/Stroll for Church World Service! 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. Twenty-five percent of funds raised will go to support Family Promise of Great Falls. For more information go to [www.crophungerwalk.org](http://www.crophungerwalk.org). or

see Sue Hesse.



## 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. 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 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?

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

Prayers for **our Jewish friends, Aitz Chaim**, as they gather this Friday and Saturday to celebrate the festival of Yom Kippur.



## Pastor Steve's Message

### "The Church and the Christian Life: The Church is Messy and Holy"



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My Uncle Al and I had differing viewpoints about faith and the life of the Christian in the world. For him it boiled down to ethics. Follow the "Golden Rule." Live respectful of others, be honest, be and do good. At the end of the day, that's it. There was no need for him to be a part of organized religion (a local church). Often he would site the reason that he didn't want to be a Christian and live the Christian life because he witnessed professing Christians living in ways that were contrary to their faith. "Christians are all hypocrites!" he said.

A couple of Sundays ago, I climbed up a ladder in church as a sermon illustration. My aim, to illustrate a viewpoint of the Christian life as striving to reach God by climbing the "ladder of good works to heaven." An ancient approach, developed by Aristotle and taught by Thomas Aquinas, was the understanding of God being the "good" towards which people would work or strive. As a person increased their participation in greater works of doing "good," they would move up closer to God and in degrees of holiness. This viewpoint was problematic for the Reformers. They believed that viewpoint (striving) would lead people to believe that they have no need for Christ. One can be "self-righteous." The Reformers taught the good news that the "righteous shall live by faith in Christ, not by climbing the ladder of good works and ascending in degrees of holiness. Salvation is received not achieved! Good works had their place - serving the neighbor in love.

The heart of the matter for this coming Sunday's theme is that the "Church is Messy and Holy." How so? Because the church (Body of Christ) is the people of God who are simultaneously saint and sinner. Dr. Martin Luther described this state of being as "simultaneously justified and sinful at the same time." In Latin it is expressed **simul** (simultaneously) **justus** (just or justified) **et** (and) **peccator** (sinful). It is a paradox of the faith. The Christian has a dual identity as they are 100% sinful and 100% justified and forgiven through the gift of Christ's righteousness. The Church is therefore both messy and holy at the same time. We have our life experiences which bare witness to this truth.

The church is God's people, simultaneously saint and sinner. It has room for the sceptics like my Uncle Al as well as the seeking souls. It is God's gift used to bless the world.

Pastor Steve





## LOGOS News

### A change to LOGOS Family Worship!

In the last couple of years, we instituted a once-a-month, mid-week worship service for our LOGOS youth, their families and the congregation. This has become a favorite monthly tradition which showcases God's word in action, among our energetic and involved youth.

This year, we continue the tradition of our monthly Family Worship but we are changing the format. On the first Wednesday of each month (October 4, November 1, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 7), we will be having **Family Meal & Worship** so the entire evening is devoted to family time. The schedule will be altered those Wednesdays to include the following:

6:00 p.m. Arrive for LOGOS

- Children and their parents will arrive together and dine together

6:05 p.m. Opening Prayer

6:10 p.m. Dinner

- LOGOS will provide the main entrée and dessert but we will ask families to sign up to bring side dishes

6:40 p.m. Clean-Up and Prep for Worship

7:00 p.m. Family Worship begins

7:45 p.m. Dismissal

We invite all congregation members to join us for dinner and worship in an environment that fosters fellowship and fun. We look forward to this being an opportunity for our families to know each other better and experience the joy and enthusiasm that a youth-led/involved service is.



*Thank you from Terree Wozny*

I want to thank the Bethel congregation for all your thoughts and prayers as I successfully underwent breast cancer surgery. I especially thank all of you who have also walked this path and provided me with much support and encouragement. I am healing nicely and thankfully do not have to undergo any further major treatment. I hope to be returning to worship in the near future.

Difficult times are truly made easier by having supportive people around you. Bethel is a wonderful, caring, supportive community that I am proud to be a part of.

God Bless you all.

Terree



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## Family Promise News

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Another very successful Family Promise hosting with three happy families. I do want to thank each and everyone of you for your devoted participation in this wonderful program. There are many ways to serve be it donate funds, food, laundry, working directly with the families serving dinner or being an evening helper, staying overnight or remembering our families in your prayers. Every single thing done has a very positive reaction to the effectiveness of our mission to help homeless children and their families.

I also want to thank everyone for your encouragement to me to continue serving as coordinator for Bethel. I appreciate your positive comments on the slide presentation. I feel it is very important for the congregation to see how and what we are doing during our hosting. Already I have had members asking when they can sign up for our next week of service which is December 17th. I will let you know when it gets closer to the time and I look forward to seeing even more trained volunteers engaging in service. It is such an uplifting sharing of doing God's Work With Our Hands.

Dew Elkin



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## Synod House Build Update

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**At the corner of 24<sup>th</sup> St. S and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S**

Visitors and volunteers are welcome. We work from 7:30 – 4:30 with a break and devotions at 9:30, lunch at noon and afternoon break at 2:45.

One Mission Builder couple left for home on Sunday and one more Mission Builder will leave at the end of this week. At the end of next week the manager and another couple will leave, leaving Allan & Sue Ost to supervise the final sub-contractors—roofers, electrician, plumber, HVAC, mason, drywall/painting, earthmoving/landscape.

Several of these trades are working alongside us this week as we continue putting up siding, finishing soffits, installing blocking, and a myriad of small tasks. We are pleased to have help this week from a volunteer from Bismarck, ND. Next week we will work Monday-Thursday. To volunteer after next week please contact Allan or Sue Ost.

# Save the Date: FLBC Fall Harvest Festival and Auction - Oct 6&7



*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> (\$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	<b>Family Fun Games, Activities, BBQ &amp; Live Music</b> - 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."