
BETHEL NOTES

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist:

Marj Vander Aarde

Lay Assistant: Sue Hesse

Usher(s): Mike and Joyce
Harding

Projectionist: Dave Scholten

Counters: Tim Lightbourne and
Dave Scholten

Nursery: Heather Farris

Readings

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Source: Sunday's and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2017 Year A

This Sunday

- ELCA World Hunger Sunday. An additional offering will be received in support of world hunger relief.

This Week's Events

- Labor Day 9/4 office will be closed.
- Boy Scout Troop 1028 will meet in

Upcoming Events

- Extra help needed for the Synod Build 9/9 7:30 am to 4 pm
- Family Promise 9/10-9/17
- Church Council meeting in the Gathering Place Tuesday, 9/12 6:30 PM.
- Confirmation/High School Logos Kickoff retreat Wednesday 9/13 from 6-8 PM
- Logos begins Wednesday 9/20 5:30 PM
- Hope Circle will be meeting on Thursday, 9/21 at 7:30 PM at LaRae Veitch's home located at 2005 2nd Street South

Benefis Peace Hospice Volunteer Training

Become a volunteer for **Peace Hospice!** Areas of opportunity include helping serve meals at the Peace Hospice House, Patient and family Support, Office Assistance, Bereavement and the Children's Bereavement Team.

Pre-registration and a pre-training interview is required. Registration Deadline Wednesday, September 6th. Training will be held at Benefis Hospitals in Great Falls Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM on the following dates September 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th & 27th. For more information call (406) 455-3040



SAVE the Date! Crop Walk October 1st!

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs.

From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 70 years of working in partnership around the world. For more information go to www.crophungerwalk.org.



Prayers for **Jane O'Brien**, mother of Carrie O'Brien.

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 God's presence and healing for **Sharon G.** (sister-in-law) of Arlena Crandell. Sharon will undergo breast cancer surgery today, August 31st.

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.

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

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





Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Retreats, Events, Updates"

October 6-7: Harvest Festival & Annual Meeting

Don't miss FLBC's second biannual Harvest Festival! This weekend includes live and silent auctions, wagon rides, games and activities for all ages, a fun run, arts and crafts, and much more as we raise funds for camperships!

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

Extra Help Needed!



We have a big day at the Synod Build site and we need all the extra hands we can get. Saturday, September 9th starting at 7:30 to 4 pm, you do not need to be there all day if you only have an hour or two that would be great. Please come and help!

We have stone!



Exciting things are happening on the Montana Synod House building site. With help from 4 volunteers from Seguin, TX, 1 from Our Redeemers', Helena, and 4 high school students and 2 chaperones from Our Savior's, Great Falls we built and erected the remaining interior walls, installed house wrap around the parts of the building that will have stone siding and made progress on closing in the clerestory and preparing to install roof decking.

The exterior walls on the clerestory and roof decking must be finished before the roofer can start his work. This is an exciting time to work on the building. Although all the work done up to this point is just as important as the upcoming tasks, now is the point in building when our work has visible results. We have many, many tasks of varying difficulty to do. Your help would be greatly appreciated on the job. Call Jim Dyess to schedule yourself for a morning, day, or week of volunteering.

This week we look forward to fellowship and hospitality from Bethel, Great Falls. Come out and join the exciting work!



A New Adventure for Nathan Clements

Help us thank and celebrate the ministry of Nathan Clements, and his service as Associate Director of FLBC. Nathan has accepted a call to serve as Pastor at American Lutheran Church, LaPorte, Iowa. Nathan begins his new call Sept 5th, but will return October 6th to FLBC to be honored at our Harvest Festival Dinner and be one of the auctioneers at our Bi annual Harvest Festival fundraising auction. Please contact the office to reserve your spot for dinner. (Suggested Donation \$20) If you cannot attend, please send your note, email, card, photo, etc, to include in our thank you book to Nathan, entitled "An all Around Good Guy!"

THANK YOU NATHAN for an awesome 5 years of ministry!!

Save the Date

FLBC Fall Harvest Festival and Auction - Oct 6&7

Mark your calendars!

The FLBC Fall Harvest Festival and Auction is coming up on October 6 & 7. Auction donations are gladly accepted and there are forms available at the church. Tickets to the event are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our FLBC representatives Dan & Steph Richardson at stephfrichardson@gmail.com or 406-579-8897.



*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



FREE NRIT Event

You are invited to a free class on the religion of Islam, taught by Steven Benson, a retired Montana pastor. The venue was changed from St. John's Lutheran church to Our Savior's.

Thursday Sept. 14th at Our Savior's Lutheran in Great Falls 7:00 pm-8:30pm



THE MUSLIM THREAT? - OR THE THREAT TO MUSLIMS?

We have seen an explosion in recent years of information about Islam and about Muslim people. TV specials, magazine articles, books, specially-produced DVDs - each presenting its own viewpoint on the world's second-largest religion. Some are produced by Muslims and portray a tolerant, peace-loving religion practiced by a culturally diverse population. Others challenge this with a picture of a backward religion and culture which is completely incompatible with modern Western civilization and which fosters violence and extremism. Which are we to believe? How can we evaluate such conflicting claims? And is there an unseen force behind this flood of publicity?

Pastor Steven Benson will shed some light on these and other issues. He will draw on his experiences and conversations over many years with Muslims and Christians in America, the Middle East, and South Asia. He will also bring to bear insights from the past 1400 years of Christian-Muslim encounters and studies of modern propaganda campaigns.

Family Promise News -

On September 10th Bethel will start hosting Family Promise with the support of LDS. The link to volunteer time or donate food is on the homepage of our website www.bethelmt.org. There are lots of different ways to be part of this wonderful program that helps our homeless children and their families. At this time, we have one family who has suffered a tremendous loss of their husband and father. The mother and two teenage daughters have a steep hill to climb and we want to be there for them. There are other families being interviewed. As we know - things change in a heartbeat.

I will be reaching out to some for help, so please check your phone and email so you can respond in some way to me. I have more calls to make as I want to pair new volunteers with experienced ones so everyone is comfortable. Please feel free to call me at 452-0988 or email me at rda.elkingtf@gmail.com or visit with me at church. Tami Grosenick will also be available to answer questions and help you with signing up.

I have been volunteering with Family Promise for well over four years. It is a very rewarding program in so many different ways. I hope you will enjoy being a active part of supporting this program that is making such a difference in the lives of so many. I thank each and every one of you for your thoughts, your prayers and your support. Dew Elkin

Upcoming Family Promise Events:

September 13th 5:30 - 9 PM
Ramp It Up at the Sip n Dip

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

October 1st Crop Walk 25% proceeds will go to Family Promise

October 8th 7 PM Choir Extravaganza First Congregational Church.

October 8th-15th Family Promise Week.

For more information go to www.familypromisegf.org

Pastor's Message



Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response

The driving distance between Great Falls to Houston is approximately 1,500 miles, give or take a few, but we are only a prayer away. Here in Great Falls it is another hot and smokey Summer day. Many wildfires are still burning up forests and threatening homes and properties across our state. In Houston the deluge of wind and rain from Hurricane Harvey is just beginning to subside. But the flood waters, their damage and the loss of loved ones, homes and a way of life are overwhelming and staggering.

The news and pictures depicting the human (and pets, livestock, all God's critters) suffering in Houston and surrounding region have evoked heart-felt empathy from us. Calls have come to the church asking for guidance on our response towards the overwhelming need. The ELCA, is active and present in the areas affected through the collaborative efforts of "Lutheran Disaster Response." LDR is working together with those attending to the needs and will be involved for the long haul. They send this message to us:

"Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. Together we have a strong history of working with disasters in the Gulf Coast area. Recovery effort are expected to take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those affected through every phase of this disaster."

How can you help?

- *First*, pray.
- *Second*, help share information (available at elca.org, Bethel Notes, this Sunday's Bulletin, etc.)
- *Third*, you can give through Bethel (please footnote: "US Hurricane Disaster Response"). You can also give directly through the ELCA.ORG website as well.
- *Fourth*, do not organize in-gatherings of anything. Right now money is needed. Donations of items are more of a burden than a help.
- *Fifth*, do not self-deploy. When volunteers are needed, you can sign up with a reputable group.

A long time ago, the prophet Isaiah spoke God's promise to a fearful, displaced and overwhelmed people, *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."* Isaiah 43: 1a-2

Thanks be to God that we have the promise of God's abiding presence amidst all of life and especially during the trials and storms, and that we are a part of a church which responds, generously, with help and hope!



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 10, 2017 - "Jesus is God's Best Idea Ever"

*** Salvation by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ**

The Heart of the Matter: Justification is about how we have a right relationship with God. The Reformation insists that God does everything and we do nothing: "If justification comes through the law, Christ died for nothing."

SEPT 17, 2017 - "The Bible Is God's Word for You, but It Isn't Your God" ***

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 WEEK 3 "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?

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.

Reformation Commemoration on Monday, October 30th, 7:00pm at the Helena Cathedral

On Monday, October 30, 2017, at 7 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 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.

Pastor Steve would like to help organize transportation to this event. If you might be interested in attending, please contact the church office. bethelgf.church@gmail.com or 761-1543.

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...

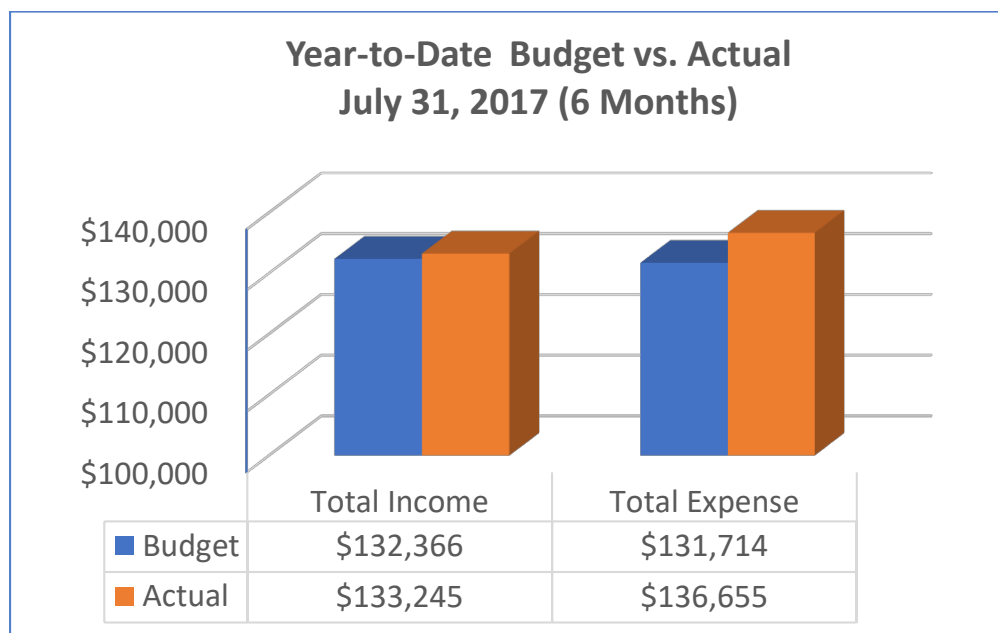
Please register using the form on our website: www.bethelmt.org

Questions?

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

From the Treasurer

Last year the stewardship team said “There shall be showers of blessings” and our Bethel family has continued to do just that! Below is a quick update on the overall church budget.



	Budget	Actual	Difference
Total Income	\$132,366	\$133,245	\$879
Total Expense	\$131,714	\$136,655	\$4,941
Net	\$652	(\$3,410)	(\$4,062)

Thanks to faithful and generous giving, income was \$879 ahead of budget.

However, expenses have exceeded budget by \$4,941 through six months ending July 31, 2017. This is due largely to:

- Unexpected copier expense of \$3,353.75 due to significant overages in color copy use. This issue has been addressed by church staff and council with new procedures put in place to avoid future overages.
- Office supplies exceeding budget year-to-date by \$1,385.02 due in part to the purchase of new letterhead and a new sign. These expenses are infrequent, generally occurring once very year or two.
- Grounds maintenance and repairs exceeding budget by \$2,196.86 due to higher than anticipated repairs and maintenance expenses through the first six months of operations.

These overages were partially off-set by being under-budget in other areas.

Thank you for your continued showers of blessings.