# BETHEL NOTES

# "Jesus is God's Best Idea Ever"

# **Serving This Sunday**

**Accompanist:** Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant: Sandy Pepos

**Usher(s):** Kaye Van Gilder

**Projectionist:** Dina Davis

Counters: Jody Arvanetes and

Grant Smith

Nursery: Kaleb Stringer and

Lillian Erickson

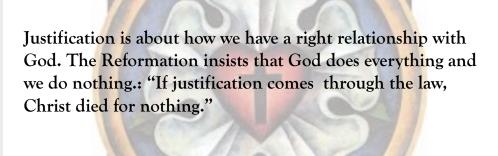
# Readings

**Galatains 2:16-21** 

Luke 24:44-48

# **Happening This Sunday**

- Pastor Steve's 8 week sermon series marking the 500th anniversary of the reformation will begin with "Jesus is God's Best Idea Ever"; Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Patio Furnishings Dedication and Coffee Hour in the Courtyard.
- Bethel will begin our week of hosting Family Promise with support from LDS.



To mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, many Christians from the Reformation tradition will want to hear and learn about essential Reformation teachings. Pastor Steve will be using a preaching series developed by Dr. Rolf Jacobson beginning this Sunday and continuing for 8 weeks.



# This Week's Events

### **Tuesday 9/12:**

- Council meeting 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place
- Men's breakfast will reconvene at 6:00am
- Bible Study at Electric City Coffee at 6:30am

## Wednesday 9/13:

- Confirmation & High School Logos kickoff at KOA from 6 to 8 pm
- Family Promise fundraiser at the Sip and Dip Lounge from 5:30pm to 9:30 pm

#### Thursday 9/14

 NRIT Event at Our Savior's Lutheran Church from 7pm to 8:30pm

# 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 for Church World Service! Church World Service is our ecumenical organization supported by Week of Compassion that provides disaster relief and recovery, selfhelp 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.



# SERMON SERIES IN ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A 1 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 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.

# **Upcoming Events**

#### Monday 9/18:

•6 pm TLC Staff meeting in the Gathering Place.

#### Tuesday 9/19:

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

## Wednesday 9/20:

- •LOGOS from 5:30pm to 7pm at Montana Park.
- •Aitz Chaim celebration of Rosh Hashanah from 6pm to 7pm in the Sanctuary.

#### Thursday9/21:

- •Hope Circle at LaRae Veitch's home 7:30 pm
- •Conclusion of Aitz Chaim Rosh Hashanah celebration from 10am to 11am in the Sanctuary.
- •Pastor Steve will be on vacation from Thursday 9/21-Monday 9/25. He will return on Tuesday 9/26

#### 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.

#### Friday 9/29:

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

# Saturday 9/30:

•Conclusion of Aitz ChaimYom Kippur celebration from 10am

# **Upcoming Family Promise Events:**

September 13th 5:30 - 9:30 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 got 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

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

LOGOS News

this - God does not cause the suffering.

Suffering is the result of sin, human

We are still in need of a 6th grade teacher and 4th and 5th grade co-teacher. If you would like to volunteer please contact Shannon Marr, (406) 788-7431.



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 God's presence and healing for **Sharon** (sister-in-law) of Arlena Crandell. Sharon as she recovers from breast cancer surgery.

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.

Prayers for the **LOGOS ministry**; as they search to fill their needs of a 6th grade and 4th-5th grade coteacher.

# **Synod House Build Update**

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

# Now adding all the little details..

# From Immanuel Lutheran Communities:

Last week, Immanuel Lutheran Communities sent a group of our top leaders to help build the Montana ELCA Synod House. It was a rewarding day working with the Mission Builders and we accomplished a lot.

Our Montana ELCA has been there for us when we needed them over our 60 years and we feel it's time to give back to help our Synod. The Mission Builders have a job for all talents.

Our team stayed at the Ursuline Centre the night before which was perfect for this mission.

With, peace, love and joy,

Jason Cronk | Chief Executive Officer





# **FREE NRIT Event**

You are invited to a <u>free</u> 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.



## **ATESTIMONIAL**

I am writing to sincerely say Thank You for a wonderful scriptural Mission Freedom Funding Campaign. God surely blessed this church through your patience, gentle spirits and strong leadership.

Some may remember that I was a bit skeptical when asked if I would consider serving on a committee to raise funds to reduce/retire our building debt. After our first meeting it was decided not to retain the service of our professional mentor, instead to utilize the knowledge and talent from members of our congregation. The process we went through made sure we had the leaders God wanted to lead our campaign, was vital to the success. Mike Kubas and Lisa Carlsons expert leadership and meticulous attention to details certainly made a huge difference. The committee functioned flawlessly and each member took ownership and our efforts have been marvelously successful in a very short period of time. Our scriptural based approach was a real blessing and growth opportunity for all of us on the committee. The total involvement of the people who served on this committee has been the best. The feelings we have about what we went through has been so positive.

We are overjoyed by the generous response of our congregation. Based on prayers and meditation our campaign resulted in both large and small gifts of equal importance. Was our campaign a success? YES!! It was a success in so many ways. People listened to God's call and as a result they have grown in their faith.

The pledge cards we have received already have allowed us to surpass the "PRAISE" goal level (\$285,000). It is true we have not yet reached our ultimate goal of "PRAISE GOD" however we are optimistic that we still have gifts that will make their way into our "GOLDEN BOX". I appreciate that Biblical principles were the foundation of this campaign and that with Gods help and blessing the funds needed to reach our "GLORY TO GOD "level will be realized.

In closing I considered it an honor to have served with such a dedicated group of volunteers (Van Arvanetes, Lisa Carlson, Mike Kubas, Jane Mart, AnneRose Rogers, David Scholton, Patty Braget and Pastor Steve Van Gilder) who gave so much time and effort to such a great cause.

In the love of God; Earl Terwilliger



# 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 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 Bíble

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 he S-S-S Retreat participants for morning and evening worship experiences, and enjoy Bible studies on the theme, "Jesus, the Bread of Life."



# Montana Wildfires

As you are all aware wildfire season in Montana is very much alive and appears to be becoming more fierce, rather than starting to subside as we approach fall.

Large fires in the Seeley Lake and Missoula regions continue to threaten homes and structures. Several hundred homes in both locations are under evacuation orders. Other communities affected by fires and evacuation orders and warnings include Eureka, Plains-Thompson Falls and Lincoln. The American Red Cross and others currently have



7 shelters open and others on standby to accommodated those evacuated from their homes.

To keep current on Montana fire activity, please visit the Inciweb at <a href="https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/27/">https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/27/</a>.

## Ways you can help:

Food banks are a source for food to help the shelters and families in general when they are evacuated from their homes. Food shelters in the affected areas accept offers of food and money to help them remain a resource in times of disaster. Please contact your local food bank to see how you can best help out.

As a rule of thumb it is better to give money than goods. The exception to this would be specific requests for items from the emergency managers and agencies on site. Often times, unsolicited items provided in disaster go unused, because they are not the items needed. It also takes additional time and effort to organize and make available these items. When emergency managers and agencies have funds, they can purchase, often at a discount, the specific items required in a timely fashion.

Montana Synod maintains a disaster relief fund, funded entirely by your donations to help unmet needs for folks who have a disaster related need with no way to fund it. We anticipate that this fund will be utilized more this year as the fire season and winds down and folks access the damages from the fires. Your donations to that fund are always appreciated. Donations can be mailed to the Synod office at 3125 5th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405-3337.

Aside from fire, Montana is suffering Severe to Exceptional drought condition in over 50% of the state, with over 25% of that in the Exception (D-4) (worst) category. Unlike fire, drought is long-lasting, and can be as devastating as fire. Drought dramatically affects rangeland which is a main source of feed for grazing animals domestic and wildlife alike. Drought adversely affects the livelihood of Montana's ranchers. Providing hay can alleviate the affects of the drought for those affected. The Montana Department of Agriculture operates the Montana Hay Hotline <a href="http://agr.mt.gov/Hay-Hotline">http://agr.mt.gov/Hay-Hotline</a>. This is a site where those in need of hay or pasture may search for hay and pasture available. If you, or someone you know has hay or pasture to sell or are in need of hay or pasture please check the link above.

Montana also has a donation hotline for hay and pasture. That number is **1-844-515-1571** 

Individuals wishing to donate hay or pasture to those affected by the Lodgepole fire or the drought may visit these two sources.

Above all else, please keep those affected by disaster, responders and victims, in your prayers.

# Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response



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!

Eamon Ormseth joined us on August 13th and spoke about his upcoming mission in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Church Council voted to direct the congregation's ELCA Global Missionary Sponsorship this next year towards Eamon's work.

# A Montanan on a Mission Volume 1 -- Friday, September 1st, 2017

*Marhaban bikum fii SafHatii*. Welcome all to my page. Today I was awoken by the sound of lambs baa-ing as locals drove them down the streets to be slaughtered. Today is Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of the Sacrifice. Muslims commemorate the story in the Quran of Abrahams' willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael. This day is one of the holiest days for Muslims, and a common greeting you will hear is *Eid Mubarak*, or Blessed Eid. We saw people lining up at butcher's shops throughout the day to get their share of meat.

After a week of orientation in Chicago with all the 93 Young Adults in Global Mission, or YAGMs for short, we flew to Jerusalem August 23. I have wanted to travel back to Jerusalem ever since I traveled here three years ago, but I could not have predicted the turn of events that would lead me back to this enchanting yet tragic city. When I took a look at the YAGM program here, it seemed serendipitous, as I was working for Emmaus, a Lutheran Campus Ministry, and a voice in the back of my head had been urging me to return to the Holy Land. Since the program started, I've realized this voice calling me into service may be God.



Cooking Class
Participating in a cooking
class at Aida Refugee Camp



Damascus Gate
All 8 of us in front of the
Damascus Gate, one of the
entrances to the Old City of
Jerusalem.



**Restaurant Yafawii Fteem**Digging into some of the best hummus in Bethlehem.

Since arriving in the Holy Land, we have been moving through our in-country orientation. We've talked logistics, gone on several tours, and learned some history and Arabic to boot. At the beginning of the week, we toured the Old City of Jerusalem with a learned local guide. During its long history, Jerusalem has been attacked 52 times, captured and recaptured 44 times, besieged 23 times, and destroyed twice. As we walked the Via Dolorosa (Way of Grief in Latin), believed to be the way Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion, our guide narrated the various epochs in Jerusalem's history, of which there are too many to list. The Old City's bustling little shops and narrow streets hewn of worn stone always enchant me. Later in the week, we toured through Bethlehem, went through the infamous Checkpoint 300, which many Palestinians with Israeli work permits pass through. As I walked through the checkpoint, I I felt watched and claustrophobic, even briefly imprisoned. We took part in a Catholic prayer service at the Church of the Nativity, descending underground at different times. Later in the week, we took a tour with Ir Amim, an Israeli organization dedicated to an equitable Jerusalem. We drove through Israeli and Palestinian neighborhoods and noted the discrepancy in infrastructure. I did not see one public park in a Palestinian neighborhood, though I did see many dumpsters full of trash. The night before, we took a cooking class at a community kitchen in Aida refugee camp. Women from the camp organized these classes to raise money for special education in the camp. We chatted with Islam and her husband Ahmad while we made dawali, stuffed grape leaves, and stuffed faquus, a regional variety of zucchini. We broke bread with their family, and their incredible generosity really warmed my heart, especially considering that Eid al-Adha began at sundown that night.

By now, I'm sure you've noticed that I am on a Christian mission, a word with so much historical baggage that I tend to shy away from it in conversation. In the context of the Americas, missions were part and parcel of the colonial project of subjugating Native Americans and settling the West. I'm happy to say that the ELCA's model of mission is based on accompaniment, which is a fancy way to say walking alongside our partners, rather than in front of them. Not my God vs. your God, but rather where God is in our shared story. Who are our partners? The Palestinian men and women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).



Shuafat Refugee Camp
A neighborhood of Jerusalem ringed by the Wall.



Bamba
A popular snack in Palestine.
Like Cheetohs Puffs but a
peanut butter flavor.



Beit Jala and the Wall/Fence Beit Jala, a Christian community and the Wall/Fence cutting it off from Jerusalem.

I have always felt like I have a faith in something, though I've resisted trying to put a finger on it. As an interfaith organizer last year, I realized I could be a part of a church and still have my own story within it. This year for me, I want to practice seeing how my story is shared with others, or our shared journey in faith. I value my independence very highly, so I anticipate learning to allow others to help me will be a challenge. I spent a lot of time worrying about this trip during the summer. As the departure date approached, though, I realized that much of it was out of my control, and that having faith things would work out was a healthier and happier way to live. This year, I hope to continue by becoming part of my community here in the Holy Land. There are a lot of intricacies to the history and politics of this place, which I hope to dive into more in later posts. Please also feel free to email or message me with any specific questions you may have. Next week, we'll officially start volunteering at the schools and finish up some of our Arabic classes. I hope to do at least one newsletter a month, so stay tuned!

I am deeply indebted to my community back home: my family, friends, teachers, and the many people who have supported my trip so far. Thank you for making my dream come true. If you'd still like to donate, I am still accepting donations here: support.elca.org/goto/eamondo. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about my year of service.

Ma3a as-salaama -- With peace,

#### Eamon



# 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

Questions?

Contact Shannon Marr, LOGOS Director <a href="mailto:smarr@bresnan.net">smarr@bresnan.net</a> or 788-7431