

BETHEL NOTES

Forgiveness Is the *Foundation* for Reconciliation

INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of



**World Hunger
and
Communion
Sunday**

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ACCOMPANIST - LYNN RYAN

LAY ASSISTANT - SUE HESSE

USHER - WALT NUESSELE AND EARL TERWILLIGER

PROJECTIONIST - KIAN RYAN

TECH - COLTER McCARTY

COUNTERS - STEPHANIE CUMMINGS AND
DENA WAGNER-FOSSEN

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Sunday, September 6

Readings for 14th Sunday after Pentecost

EZEKIEL 33:7-11

PSALM 119:33-40

ROMANS 13:8-14

MATTHEW 18:15-22

Bethel Office Will Be Closed Monday for Labor Day

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE TELEPHONE: (406) 761-1543 WEBSITE: WWW.BETHELMT.ORG EMAIL: BETHELGF.CHURCH@GMAIL.COM



- ♦ Prayers for **Faith Crouch** (granddaughter of Bernice Johnson) and her family as she continues to wait for a double lung transplant.
- ♦ Prayers of healing **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Lee Klette**, son of Russ & Cheryl.
- ♦ Continued prayers for **Angela Mart** (daughter-in-law of Jane Mart) as she finishes treatment for breast cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for God's continued healing for **Linda Juvik** (sister of Sandy Bechard) as she has completed her treatments for cancer and continues to heal.
- ♦ Prayers for healing and strength for **Katie Madsen**, niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe as she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Jeremy Hawks** as he prepares for surgery.
- ♦ Prayers for safety and support for **Eric Poser**, Connie Titcomb's nephew as he is deployed overseas.
- ♦ Prayers of support and good health for **RN's Katie and Kelsey**, daughters of Grant and Janet Smith.
- ♦ Prayers of healing, strength and support for **Rita Johnson (LaRae Veitch's sister)** as she continues treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for healing for **Steve Young** (brother of Sue Hesse) as he recovers from back surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Rob Brattain** (son of Patsy Berkley) as he recovers.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Rebecca Boucher** who is undergoing treatment for auto-immune challenges.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and support for **Cathy Rankin** (sister-in-law of Jeanne Rankin) as she undergoes medical testing.
- ♦ Prayers of healing for **Pam Casnter** as she is in the hospital.
- ♦ Prayers of support for **Velma Oakland** as she moves to a new home.
- ♦ Prayers of support and healing for **Thelma Seyfert** as she undergoes carpal tunnel surgery this Friday.
- ♦ Prayers of healing and strength for **Melissa Pottratz** (Sue Hesse's daughter) as she recovers from an illness.
- ♦ Prayers of support and healing for **Trina Wagner** (Dena Wagner-Fossen's sister) as she prepares for surgery later this week.
- ♦ Prayers of health and healing for **Udo Wozny** who is having surgery today.

Prayer for Labor Day

Bless, O God, all those who labor.

Whether they are compensated by paycheck or pride, let them know their true worth in your eyes.

May all workers be gifted with a sense of service to the common good, and graced with the satisfaction of a job well done.

Thank you for those whose work provides protection, comfort, healing, and relief from suffering and stress.

May all of our labors be for your goodness and glory, O God.

Amen.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SHOES CAN SHELTER WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE?

THE YWCA GREAT FALLS IS FACILITATING THE MERCY HOME SHOE DRIVE, WIN/WIN/WIN PROGRAM TO:

1. To raise funds through a Funds2orgs program to support the Mercy Home Shelter. All funds will support the women and children in the Mercy Home.
2. Gather shoes for Funds2orgs to use to help micro-enterprises in developing nations, and empower women. In these developing nations, shoes are the primary mode of transportation. We believe a HAND UP is more beneficial than a HAND OUT.
3. To keep those shoes out of landfills and send them where none will be wasted. In the United States each year, over 600 million shoes go into landfills. The majority can still be worn. The shoes we collect will be kept from landfills in our country, and will help others in developing nations start micro-enterprises that will create sustainable incomes for their families.

If you have shoes to donate that are gently worn or new, bring them to a drop off site.

- YWCA Great Falls, 220 2nd Street North
- Albertson's , 2250 10th Avenue South

For every 25 pairs of shoes you bring to the YWCA, we will enter you into a raffle to win a **\$100 Gift Certificate from Dragonfly Dry Goods!** Please support our efforts and gather from your work, neighborhood, or church. We will be happy to assist you with a drop box sign.



Help Pastor Trina get to know you and Bethel better

Due to Covid, we don't have all the typical ways that a new pastor gets to know a congregation...fellowship times, meetings, Bible studies, coffee and lunch dates. Pastor Trina would like to meet you and hear more about why you are part of the Bethel community, so please sign up for a time to share your story with her. You can come to the church to meet (with appropriate social distancing), or we can set up a Zoom meeting, or have an old-fashioned phone call. Whatever works best for you! The sign up sheet is on a table in the narthex, or give Tami a call at 771-1543 and she can get you on the schedule.

Are you joining us from home?

Each week we can see that many of you are joining us on-line for worship but we don't know who you are! As Pastor Trina tries to get to know the people of Bethel, she'd like to know who is worshipping with us from home. If that's you, please leave a message at the office phone (761-1543) or send us an email (bethelgf.church@gmail.com) and let us know that you are part of the extended people of Bethel.



The board of Family Promise of Great Falls would like invite you and any of your volunteers that are interested to a meeting on September 17th at 7 pm at Central Christian Church, 1019 Central Ave in Great Falls.

The purpose of this meeting is to talk about the future of the program and the next steps we will be taking. Donna Lawson from the national office of Family Promise will be in attendance.

Donna helped us with the startup of Family Promise in Great Falls, and has experience with helping affiliates that have faced similar issues as we have, and we are very grateful and excited that Donna will be available to us again.

Please pass on the date and time of this very important meeting to your volunteers, congregations, and anyone else you think would be interested!

Masks will be required at this meeting, and there will be ample opportunity for social distancing.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to see you there!

Hope Circle to ReZOOM!

It is that time of year again when Hope Circle will begin meeting again. Unfortunately this first meeting will not be in person, but via Zoom.

We will Zoom it together on **Thursday September 10th at 7:00 p.m.**

We will once again use the devotion from the "Gather" magazine, starting with the September issue. If anyone wants a copy of that ahead of time, let me know. I can scan it on an email to you.

Looking forward to getting together once again. As much as I wish it was in person, Zoom is a second best option. Thank you Laurie for purchasing and providing the extended Zoom meetings for us. It is much appreciated. If you have not attended Hope Circle before and would like to join us, send me your email and I will include you on the invite.

Take care everyone. Stay safe, Stay healthy and see you Thursday 9/10 at 7:00 p.m.

(Pastor Trina I hope it works that you can join us as well. If not there will always be the next get together.)

God Bless everyone.

Terry Korpela terry.korpela@gmail.com



We are diligently preparing to offer Logos Youth Ministry this fall. The following information is regarding the **Pre-k through 6 grade Logos**. Next week we will cover Confirmation/Middle School and High School.

Logos will begin Wednesday, October 7th 6:15 PM

To do this safely we have modified our program to keep physical distancing and safety of our students and staff as well as keep God's fellowship and presence as we work through this pandemic.

All staff and students over the age of 5 are required to wear a mask. We will not be offering a full meal, but will have take home, pre-packaged snack at the end of the evening. Our hours will be modified, Pre-K through 2nd grade will be from 6:15 pm to 7:00 PM with aftercare available for those who have students in the older grades. 3rd through 6th grade will be from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm. All Pre-K through 6th grade will come in through the West (TLC Daycare) entrance. Church entrance at the front will be for Middle and High School students only. Our nurse Krystal Tweet will be checking temperatures at the door as your student enters. We ask that parents accompanying their child(ren) into the church at drop off or pick up wear a mask. For the fall we will not be offering Family Worship - we hope to revisit this in the new year. There is no charge for Logos this year, free will offerings to cover the cost of snacks is welcome, but not expected. If your child is not feeling well we ask they remain at home for their own health as well as the health of others. Guests are still welcome, we ask their parent fill out a guest registration form (can be printed off the website www.bethelmt.org) and brought in with the student. We ask they follow all the guidelines presented above.

More detailed information and registration will be sent to Logos Families and questions or concerns can be directed to Laura Kupfner bethelgf.logos@gmail.com or Tami Grosenick bethelgf.church@gmail.com.



"For the Lord is good, God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

FLBC was fortunate to use a curriculum compiled by the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries education team this summer. This curriculum was written and presented in a pre- pandemic world, a world where schedules were normalized, faces were unmasked, hugs were given to new friends, and people of all ages knew what to expect at school... and at camp. God's

enduring love is a message we all need to be reminded of at times, but felt particularly poignant this summer.

Our bible stories reminded us that our anger is holy, our confusion is justified, our fear is natural. And we were reminded that God comes alongside us through these ups and downs in life-- not to fix everything but to love us through them. We listened as God accompanied Abraham & Sarah, David, Joseph, Mary and the disciples- each unique story with it's own challenges and God's faithfulness being displayed in new and surprising ways. Summer staff read our theme verse aloud during many evening campfires to welcome folks to their time at FLBC. They asked our guests to share about times they have witnessed God's enduring love with their families or small groups. One of the many gifts of a new way of doing camp this summer was watching these intergenerational conversations happen. Families shared about ways they'd seen God's faithfulness through illness, virtual learning, uncertainty in employment, life changes- so many scenarios! As individuals shared with the larger group, we watched others nod their heads, connecting in a shared humanity in a time of such isolation in our world.

God's enduring love was present not only in these shared relationships between guests, but throughout all of camp this summer. Guests shared that their time at camp was the first time they had felt actual rest or that their children had played outside for hours on end or that they hadn't had to cook meals in months. The summer staff offered God's love through laughter, song and joyful friendship. The camp grounds remained green and beautiful throughout the summer- flowers blooming and the garden growing. God's faithfulness was apparent through so much.

And of course things are still hard, and the pandemic still rages on and remote schooling is not always easy, but we are reminded that God remains steadfast, present, loving and eternal in our lives, walking with us through these challenges. Summer staff reminded guests that they are part of the beloved community of God and that the spirit of this community travels with them wherever they go. "For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace, the mountains and the hills before you, shall burst into song and rejoice, and all the trees in the field will clap their hands, for you..." These words from Isaiah 55 are sung as a blessing over campers as they depart from FLBC-- may the joy and peace of God's spirit go with you in love.

I am so thankful for all those folks who were able to join us at camp this summer, in physical presence or in spirit. God's love endures!

Kyle Lefler
Associate Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9th

FLBC Golf Tournament Bigfork

October 15-18

Youth Worker's Retreat with Mark Jackson

November 6-8

BBBB - Bread Beverage Bible and Boats

for more information go to www.flbc.net

Opportunity to support FLBC!

In celebration of their 125th anniversary, St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helena, MT, is raising funds being matched by a \$62,500 challenge gift that will then be equally given to 5 organizations, one of them being Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!

If you would like to help St. John's celebrate 125 years of ministry and help them support Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp, Helena YMCA, Helena YWCA, and ELCA World Hunger, please visit their website for information on how to give: <https://www.helenastjohns.org/>

TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE

Town Pump Charitable Foundation has invited **FISH** to be part of the 19th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign.

Town Pump will match each dollar collected by **FISH** up to \$20,000 from September 1 through November 30.



What a great way to double your donation!

1st Monday Night Quilters

will meet at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Ave. So., September 14, 6-8 p.m. Please use the alley door, and we meet downstairs. We have squares ready to be sewn into quilt tops if you'd like to do that at home. The main task on Monday night is to tie the quilts. They will be shipped to Minneapolis and then distributed in this country and in many places overseas. Come and join us on September 14.



MEN'S BREAKFAST IS BACK!!!

Join us for fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of this week's Lectionary texts as we meet through a social distancing approved Zoom video call each Tuesday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 am. Breakfast recipes and ideas will be provided. If you are interested in more information or would like to be added to the call invitation list, click on the email link below and type "breakfast" into the subject line (and then of course press send).

dscholten@dlsconsulting.net



A Quote for Quiet Contemplation

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. What Am I Doing to Uplift Humanity?
2. How Do I Find Dignity in My Labor
3. How Can I Best Pursue Excellence

Bethel Lutheran Church

Church Council Reopening Guidelines

We will still be offering a live stream of the service for those who wish to worship from home.

Guidelines:

- Front doors will be propped open and the only entrance into the Church. The west side entrance through the TLC Daycare will remain locked.
- Masks will be **required** and we have some available.
- A table is at the front doors with hand sanitizer, masks, tissues and an offering plate. Ushers will be there to assist with masks and help people find seats.
- Physical distancing of 4 feet will be observed.
- Windows and doors will be opened to increase air circulation.
- Signs on the restroom doors should be used to indicate if you are in the bathroom in an effort to keep physical distance.
- The kitchen, Fellowship Hall and back office hall doors will be closed.
- Hospitality area will be closed.
- We will pass the peace in a no-contact fashion.
- Sanctuary will be cleaned with disinfect cleaner after each Sunday worship service

Please consider the following before you return to worship:

- Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone who has traveled outside the U.S. in the past 30 days?
- Have you been in close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms in the past 30 days?
- Have you had any of these symptoms:
 - Fever over 100.4
 - Persistent cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sudden loss of taste or smell

If you answered YES to any of these questions, please do not enter and contact your health care provider.

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

Contact information:

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

Bethel number non-emergencies: 406-761-1543 ext 202

Cell number for emergencies: (402) 984-4306

Calendar Of Events

Monday 9/7

- Labor Day, Bethel Office Closed

Tuesday 9/8

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am
- Council Meeting location TBD 6:30 pm

Thursday 9/10

- Hope Circle, via Zoom 7 pm

Friday 9/11

- Bethel Office Closed

Upcoming Events

Sunday 9/13

- 9:30 Worship

Monday 9/14

- Boy Scouts meet 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 9/15

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am

Friday 9/18

- Bethel Office Closed
- Rosh Hashanah begins

Friday 9/18

- Rosh Hashanah, Aitz Chaim celebrates

Electric City Bible Study On - Line!

What a great way to connect with one another! Join the Electric City Bible Study on a Zoom conference Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. If you are interested in joining email Laurie Turner at loli51gus@icloud.com and give her an email or cell number and she will send you a link to the meeting.