

# BETHEL NOTES

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

## ***First Sunday of Christmas***

*As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

### **Readings:**

**First Reading:**

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

**Psalm:**

*Psalm 148*

**Second Reading:**

*Hebrews 2:10-18*

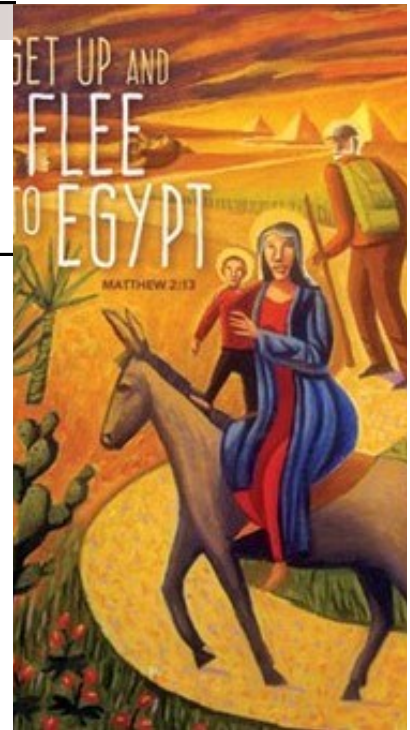
**Gospel:**

*Matthew 2:13-23*

## **This Sunday**



**Join us Sundays  
9:30 AM in-person or  
online at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org).**



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### **SERVING THIS SERVICE**

<b>Accompanist</b>	TBD, piano
<b>Lay Assistants</b>	John Blank
<b>Usher</b>	Sara Sexe
<b>Tech</b>	Colter McCarty
<b>Children's Church</b>	No Children's Church this morning
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Dougherty and Sara Sexe

### **OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM    CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE: (406) 761-1543

WEBSITE: [www.bethelmt.org](http://www.bethelmt.org)

EMAIL: [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)



- † Prayers of love and guidance for **Casey, Joanie, and Levi Ross** as they approach the end of their tour in Sri Lanka and take the next step in their journey as a military family.
- † Prayers of support and safe travels for **Doug Kickbusch** as he moves to Columbia Falls to be closer to family. Godspeed.
- † Prayers of healing for **Don and Sue Hesse** as they both recover at home from respiratory illness.
- † Prayers of healing and strength for **Ron Elkin** as he recovers at home from a heart procedure and a recent diagnosis of the flu.
- † Prayers of healing for **Turner Graybill** who recovering from surgery for a broken wrist.
- † Prayers of support for **Payton Sexe** as he receives treatment at Rocky Mountain Treatment Center.
- † Prayers of healing and support for **Dena Wagner-Fossen** who is home recovering after a recent hospitalization.
- † Prayers of healing for **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- † Prayers of healing for **Abby Bisgard-Clegg**, daughter of Don and Kathi Bisgard, continues to manage health issues, but feeling and doing very well.
- † Prayers of healing for **Bill Van Hovel**, Connie Titcomb's brother-in-law, who is receiving treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Clark Walburger**, brother-in-law of Grant Smith, who is recovering from a broken pelvic bone.
- † Prayers of healing for **Carol Smith**, Shirley Cayko's mother-in-law, who is recovering from a burn injury.
- † Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturn, as she recovers at home from a serious injury after a fall.
- † Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- † Prayers of healing for **Laura Kupfner** as she manages a new diagnosis for her eyes.
- † Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, friend of LaRae Veitch, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- † Prayers of comfort for **Linda O'Brien**, Sue Hesse's sister, as she battles chronic pain.
- † Prayers of faith and strength for **Cindy Doughty**, Patty Braget's sister, as she manages ALS.
- † Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, sister of Jan Robitaille, who is undergoing continued medical testing and treatment planning for cancer diagnosis.
- † Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he receives treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, friend of Pastor Jessie, going through chemotherapy.
- † Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- † Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- † Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson, who is managing kidney disease.

# Bethel Meeting Announcement

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**  
**Budget Review Meeting**

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**  
**Annual Meeting**

Both will be held after worship. Mark your calendars for both of these meetings and more information will be provided in upcoming Bethel Notes.

## Special Office Hours

Bethel Office  
will be closed  
**Monday,**  
**January 2, 2023**  
in observance of  
New Year's Day

## *We Need You to Write ...*

### *'A View From The Pew'*

In the new year we are launching a new segment to the Bethel Notes. Each month we will have a article topic, and we would like to hear from you, yes you the reader on your thoughts about that topic. We can have up to four articles per month regarding the topic and you may submit two articles per year. We have listed the topics below to choose from. Each article should be no more than 500 words.

Each article will be due on Wednesday of each week.

### **January's topic – My favorite Bethel memory**

For more information or to submit your article, email Tami in the bethel office [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com) or call her at 406-761-1543.





# A Preview of the Gospel for

January 1, 2023

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**Necessary Truths**

This tragic account in Matthew's gospel [this Sunday] comes as a bleak and jarring interruption in this season of joy. It is a hard text to hear and a hard text to preach. And yet this text speaks truths that we would do well to hear, in this and all seasons.

This story of terror also invites us to see, confront, and lament the griefs and injustices in our world, none of which take a nice, neat break for the holidays. As the holy family fled to safety, so also do current populations of refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers flee their homelands in search of security and opportunity. As Herod rages out of insecurity and fear, so also do our government and world leaders grapple and ever go to war over questions of power, authority, and control. As the trauma of violence gives way to inconsolable loss, so also do many in our midst know the sting of deep and even debilitating grief.

This gospel account draws us beyond our own celebrations out to the persistent needs in our world. It challenges us to stand in solidarity and compassion with all who do not have the luxury of joy in this season. It gives us permission to honor the griefs and struggles that we are too often told have no place in Christmas cheer and celebration.

Howard Thurman, in his poem "The Work of Christmas," reminds his listeners that when the bustle of holiday celebrations is through, the needs of the world remain. The true work of the season is hearing the call of the vulnerable and powerless infant Christ, and going forth to attend to the needs of our neighbors and to work toward a world of peace and provision that is truly good news for all people.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).  
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## The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings  
and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



## New Job Opening

Share the news! We're looking for a dedicated person.

# Outreach and Operations Specialist

The objective for the person in this position to be responsible for fundraising, marketing, outreach, building community partnerships, and general operations. To be successful, this person must be proficient in lead generation, reporting, promoting our mission, and must have the ability to foster strong partnerships that support the Family Promise mission.

**This is a part-time position with 50% of job time spent on marketing, communications, and fundraising.**

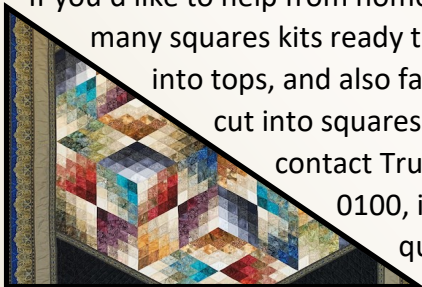
Call Greg Grosenick, Executive Director at 406-564-5267 for additional information and visit our website at

[familypromisegf.org](http://familypromisegf.org)

## MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS

The 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Night Quilters will meet Monday, January 9, 2023, 6-8 p.m. (the second Monday) at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. So. Please park in the alley. The quilts will be tied before the last step of binding is done. Thank you to Peggy for binding the quilts made in December.

If you'd like to help from home, there are many squares kits ready to be sewn into tops, and also fabric to be cut into squares. Please contact Trudi, 799-0100, if you have questions.



**Praying God's  
Grace blesses you  
each day of this  
New Year!  
2023!!**

# Sign-Ups for 2023 Now Available

Our volunteer books for 2023 are now available.

- ♦ *Hospitality*—bringing the cookies and goodies for our coffee time after worship.
- ♦ *Usher/Greeter*—one to two people per worship service to assist with greeting and answering questions, assisting with the Offering and communion.
- ♦ *Altar Flowers*—sponsor the altar flowers each week, \$15.00 per service and note a special person or memory with each sponsorship.

Please let Tami Grosenick in the office know if you have any questions 406-761-1543.



## Local Giving To The Legacy House.

As you know we are supporting the Poulsen Legacy House for individuals and their caregivers to stay free while they are receiving medical treatments in Great Falls. For more information about the house click this link <https://www.gfcllegacy.org/about-our-housing/>

From now until January 1, 2023 we will be collecting Items for donations to include:

- toilet paper
- paper towels
- tissues
- dish scrubbers
- Swiffer wet jet solution/pads
- Clorox wipes
- dish soap
- hand soap
- games
- puzzles
- shelf stable snacks
- coffee add-ins such as creamer and/or sugar (creamer must be non-dairy and shelf stable)



For more information call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or email questions to [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

# Just for YOUTH

## All God's children

Matthew 2:13-23

When Jesus was born King Herod became very angry and afraid. He thought Jesus had come to take over his kingdom. Herod killed many young children in his anger when he couldn't find Jesus. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had already escaped to Egypt.



God loves all children.

**Circle the cross on each child. Crosses remind us we are children of God. Draw a cross here:**

All of God's children are unique, but there is one thing in common for the three children in each row.

**Check all rows—up, down, and diagonal. Circle the common item in each row.**

## THIS WEEK...

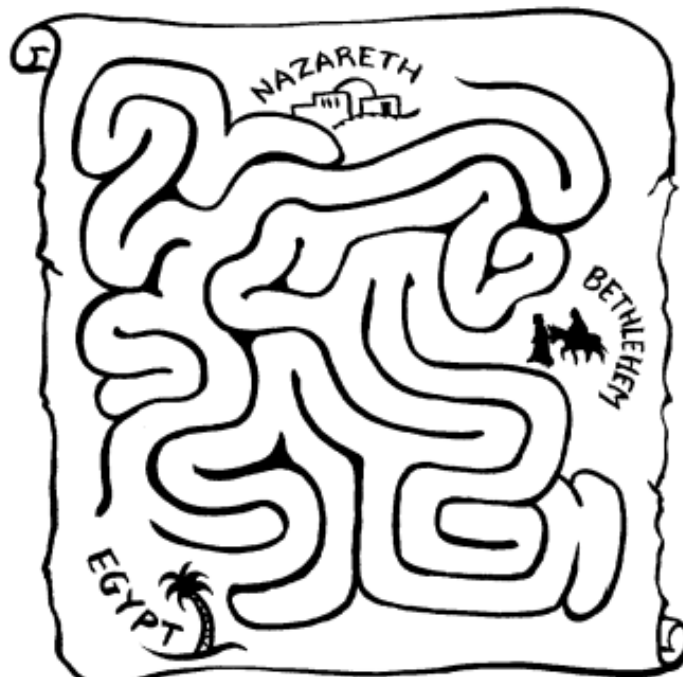
Keep those who are traveling in your prayers this week.

## LET US PRAY...

*Keep all children safe in your care, Lord. Be with us when we care for those who are hurting. Amen.*

## gather

Welcome to worship. Joseph was told in a dream to leave Bethlehem for a safer place. So he took Mary and Jesus on a long journey.



**Follow the maze.**

Print the name of the first stop for Jesus' family.

**Finish the maze.**

Print the name of the last stop for Jesus' family.

**LOGOS**  
**On Break Until**  
**January 11,**  
**2023**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Monday 1/2**

- New Year holiday observed, Bethel Office closed

### **Tuesday 1/3**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 1/4**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth ministry on break until January 11, 2023

### **Friday 1/6**

- Bethel office closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm
- High School Logos lock-in beginning 8:00 pm in the Gathering Place

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 1/8**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- World Hunger Sunday

### **Tuesday 1/10**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Council Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday 1/11**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth ministry resumes 5:30 pm; HS

### **Friday 1/13**

- Bethel office closed

### **Saturday 1/14**

- Ryan Gilbertson's Eagle Scout Ceremony 3:00 pm

## **Fellowship Ministries**

### **Electric City Bible Study—online**

What a great way to connect with one another! Join our bible study via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting.

### **Men's Breakfast Meets in-person**

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of each week's lectionary texts as we meet in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for more information.

### **Hope Circle—in person**

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

**Next meeting: January TBD**

### **Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie-online**

Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie will be leading discussion on the text readings for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the interpretation of the readings and discuss ways they give us guidance in our daily lives. If you would like to join this meeting, email bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

