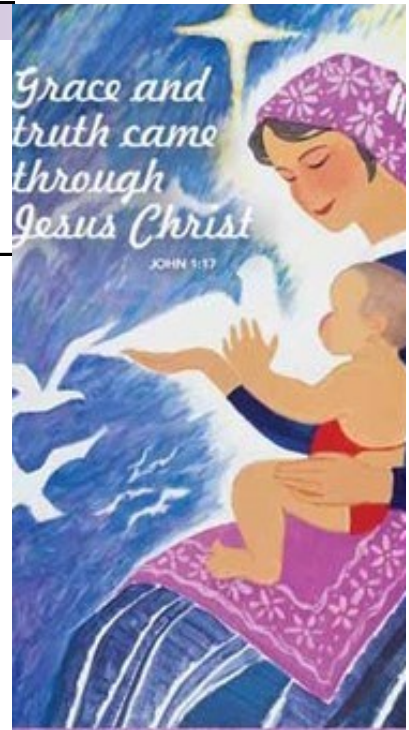


BETHEL NOTES



Sunday, January 2nd

Second Sunday of Advent

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Readings

<i>First Readings</i>	<i>Second Reading</i>
Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-14
<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
Psalm 147:12-20	John 1:[1-9]10-18

**Join us
Sundays
9:30 AM
in-person
or
online at
bethelmt
.org**

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Accompanists	Mary Seim, piano; Steve Nelson, guitar
Lay Assistants	Sue Hesse
Ushers	TBD
Tech	Adam Elkin
Children's Church	Isabelle Grosenick and Oliva Violet
Counters	Stephanie Cummings and Greg Grosenick

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OFFICE HOURS

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

OFFICE: (406) 761-1543

WEBSITE: www.bethelmt.org

EMAIL: bethelgf.church@gmail.com



- † Prayers of healing for **Gordon Lord** as he recovers from surgery and prepares for a third surgery.
- † Prayers of healing for **Mary Hill** as she recovers from surgery.
- † Prayers of healing for **Heather Beck**, *daughter of Kathy Johnson*, who is preparing for brain surgery in January. If anyone would like to send a note of support, call the Bethel office for her address. 406-761-1543.
- † Prayers of healing as well as thanksgiving for **Kim**, *daughter of Dick and Mary Seim*, who continues to recover and regain her strength.
- † Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she undergoes medial testing.
- † Prayers of healing for **Cody Buus**, *Cindy Considine's nephew*, who is undergoing medical treatment.
- † Prayers of strength and healing for **Arlene Sexe** and she continues to undergo treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of strength & leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America
- † Prayers of thanks and continued healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- † Prayers of continued healing for **Katie Madsen**, *niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe*, as she continues cancer treatment and is responding well.
- † Prayers of healing for **Steve Young**, *brother of Sue Hesse*, as he continues to manage back issues.
- † Prayers of support and healing for **James Trunkle**, *friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen*, as he manages health issues.
- † Prayers of healing for **Bob and Marj Vander Aarde** they continue treatments for Bob.
- † Prayers of support and strength for **Trudy and Earl Terwilliger** as they manage Trudy's health.
- † Prayers of healing for **Leonard Murphy** as he recovers from complications of knee surgery.
- † Prayers of comfort, support and healing for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to manage after medical procedures.
- † Prayers of strength and recovery for **LaRae Veitch** as she rehabs after knee surgery.
- † Prayers of healing for **Eric Peterson** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Tony Marcson**, *brother-in-law of Jessica Crist*, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is managing kidney disease.
- † Prayers of support for **Glenn Vannatta** as he continues with medical testing.
- † Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues to manage cancer treatment.
- † Prayers of strength and healing for **Lisa Leland**, *niece of Sandy Bechard*, as she begins treatment for breast cancer.

Mark Your Calendar

Important Upcoming Dates:

January 9th

First Communion Class following worship at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

January 16th

New Member Inquiry Class following worship at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

January 23rd Annual Budget Review Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary.

January 30th Annual Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary. If you are a voting member of Bethel please try to attend, we need a quorum to vote in new council members and 2022 budget. We will be announcing , at a later date, if we can offer this as a hybrid meeting with in person and Zoom.

A Christmas Greeting from Sri Lanka



The Sri Lankan Army puts on a massive Christmas caroling event in Colombo. They hand out programs that explain when Christmas carols were first translated into the native tongue of different populations, and they sing in Sinhala and English. It never ceases to amaze how powerful singing can be even if the words aren't understood, the meaning is felt.

May God's grace and peace be with you! Merry Christmas.

Casey Ross

Covid Guidelines for Worship

Masks are **strongly recommended**, but not required.

Continue physical distancing.

Coffee Hour on hold



NRIT Coming Zoom Events:

Getting Political with Luther; Cultivating Virtues to Serve God and Neighbor.

Anthony Bateza is a specialist in Martin Luther, moral theology and Christian ethics. His primary area of research examines Luther's political theology, focusing on the reformer's understanding of human agency and his relationship with the virtue tradition. Dr. Bateza's other

scholarly interests include the broader Augustinian tradition, the impact of Luther's thought on 19th century philosophy, and questions of race, identity, and social justice.

Dr. Bateza has earned degrees from Iowa State University (B.S., 2002), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2006), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D., 2017). An ordained pastor in the ELCA, Dr. Bateza enjoys speaking in various congregational settings learning alongside God's people.

Taught by Dr. Anthony Bateza, professor at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

Tuesday, February 22 (via Zoom)

9:30 am to 2:30 pm with a break for lunch—4 Contact Hours

Reading Revelation without Fear — a two-part class

God's word, both Living and written, are meant to encourage, uplift, instruct, and guide us. Yet, we all know there are passages in the scriptures that give us indigestion, discomfort, and apprehension. For most people, Revelation (no 's') tops the list of Bible books to avoid because of how confusing and complicated it can be to read and to understand. In this course, we will discuss what's *behind* the text, what's *in* it, and what's *in front* of it. Behind is the social and political setting in which the text was written. Then we look at what's actually in the book (and what's not!). We consider all of this alongside our own context- what's happening in our homes, towns, and in the world right now. Please join this NRIT offering as an opportunity to learn more about this fascinating book of the Bible and why it continues to be so important in worship and useful for discipleship.

Pastor Julia Seymour has served Big Timber Lutheran Church since November 2018. Prior to that, she and her family (spouse and 2 children) lived in Alaska. She likes knitting, reading, and visiting Yellowstone National Park, which she refers to as "her backyard".

Taught by Ref. Julia Seymour, pastor at Big Timber Lutheran Church

Thursday, February 10th and Friday, February 11th

9:30 am to 12:30 pm both days — 6 Contact Hours

Sign up by clicking on this [NRIT Link](https://www.montanasynd.org/nrit.html). Scroll down to find the class you are choosing. Or go to the Montana Synod NRIT homepage <https://www.montanasynd.org/nrit.html>.

First United Methodist Church Downtown Ministry

How can you help? We have many volunteer opportunities at First Church, please contact the church office at 406-453-3114 if you are interested in any of the following ministries.

- Help to stuff lunch bags for our daily lunch program Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
- Help serve a meal on Tuesday evenings at 4:30 p.m.
- Volunteers at a greeters table at the door offering a lunch, socks, a hat, gloves, letting our outside folks use the bathroom and to hand out resource fliers if needed. We will need a volunteer Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- And coming soon.....Volunteers for our warming center on Thursdays 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. this would be helping serve a meal, giving out hygiene bags, clothes, blankets and just to have people on site to help.

Training is available for all volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for your support.



Altar Flower Sign Ups

The Altar Flower Sign Up book will be available for 2022. If

you would like to sponsor the flowers on the altar, sign up for a Sunday or Sundays and you can make a dedication of a celebration or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15.00 per Sunday and can be paid in advance or on the Sunday that you sponsor. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday and are not going to be here this Sunday, please call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com with the Sunday you would like to sponsor and your dedication. The book will be available each Sunday until all Sundays are selected.

North Middle School Asking for Help

Each Thursday the North Middle School PTA sends home food baskets for families of students at the school. They have run into a shortage of help to assemble the baskets and also handing them out this school year.

If you are available Thursday during the day or in the afternoon and would like to help the school, please contact Mandy 406-868-9315.

Financial Secretary Needed!

The Financial Secretary is responsible for the efficient and effective management of the contributions statements of the church. This volunteer position calls for significant dialogue with Bethel's Treasurer so they are fully apprised of matters being considered and acted upon. The Financial Secretary must be sensitive to the nature of information he/she has access to and must treat it confidentially.

Highlights of duties include:

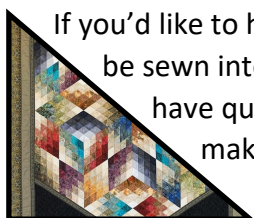
- Receive counter's spreadsheet from Sunday offering and enter into our database-must be proficient with Excel
- Update weekly spreadsheet totals
- Assist in disbursement of giving statements bi-annually

For full duty description, more information, or to volunteer for this position, please contact the Bethel Office at 406-761-1543.

MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS TO MEET

MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS TO MEET

Reminder: 1st Monday Night Quilters will meet in January on the **second** Monday, January 10, 2022, 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5th Ave. So. Please park in the alley. Again, we will tie the quilts before the last step of binding them is done. Thank you to Peggy for binding the quilts made in December, and measuring and sewing backs for the needed size.



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. If you have questions, or would like to pick up some squares kits to make tops or fabric to cut into squares, call 799-0100.

What's Happening at
FLBC

Holy Land Pilgrimage
June 20-29, 2022

There are still spots available for this long awaited journey to the Holy Land! Join FLBC staff and guide, Elias Nawawieh as we experience the Holy Land in a whole new way. Visit <https://www.eliastours.com/tours/flathead-lutheran-bible-camp-holy-land-trip> to learn more!

**Upcoming Retreats/
Important Dates**

- Summer 2022 Staff Application IS Open!
- Registration for Youth Camps open
- January 14-16, 2022 Jr. and Sr. High Ski & Snowboard Retreat

For more information on these events go to flbc.net or call the office at 406-752-6602

FISH for December 30th Bethel Notes

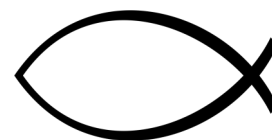
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of FISH, thank you for your kind and generous support. Your love and concern make this worthwhile organization possible. You have been generous to FISH in the following ways: contributing to the Town Pump challenge; volunteering at FISH when your week is scheduled; donating food; supporting FISH with financial gifts; and praying for our continued success.

FISH was very blessed this year with the Town Pump Challenge raising \$32,787.42! As you can see, the support from the community and the 14 FISH partners was outstanding. Even during our unsettled times and COVID, there were so many generous folks.

Thank you again for all your support and your partnership in the FISH program during 2021. May God bless you and watch over you and during the coming year.

FISH, Board of Directors.













Just for Youth

Send

We can be little lights for Jesus by sharing his love.

Unscramble the words to find five ways we can share Jesus' love. Write the first letter of each unscrambled word inside the star. Then write the letters in the stars in order to finish the sentence.

 _____ (hesra)
 _____ (pleh)
 _____ (tiveni)
 others to church.
 Be  _____ (cine)
 to others.
 Tell  _____
 (oveyneer) about Jesus.
 Let your love      every day.



Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us about your love.
Amen

This week



Light a candle at dinner every evening. Have everyone name one way they can share Jesus' love tomorrow.



gather

Welcome to worship.

The season of Christmas lasts for _____ days.

To find the answer, count the  and the , and put the numbers in the boxes at the bottom. Add the two numbers. Write your answer in the blank.



 +  =

Logos resumes January 12, 2022. If you have someone who may be interested in attending Logos, we always have room. Call the Office for more information 406-761-1543 or go to bethelmt.org/youth_ministries.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday 1/4

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

Wednesday 1/5

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am.
- Logos on hold until January 12th

Thursday 1/6

- Bethel Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm.

Friday 1/7

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 1/9

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream at 9:30 am
- World Hunger Sunday
- First Communion Class following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 1/11

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

Wednesday 1/12

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos resumes 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Friday 1/14

- Bethel office is closed.

Online Ministries

Electric City Bible Study

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

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of each week's lectionary texts as we meet both in person and via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for a link to join the meeting or for more information.

Hope Circle

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting and Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie

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.

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

Contact information

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

Phone: 406-761-1543 ext. 202