

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday, December 12th

Third Sunday of Advent

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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



Readings

First Readings

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Psalms

ISAIAH 12:2-6

Second Reading

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Gospel

LUKE 3:7-18

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This week is World Hunger Sunday, we will be receiving an additional offering in support of their world wide efforts.

*No Adult Education
this week.*

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Accompanists	Lynn Ryan, piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar
Lay Assistants	Ainsley Kubas
Ushers	Walt Nuessle
Tech	Adam Elkin
Children's Church	Allison Marr and Abbie Virts
Counters	Stephanie Cummings and Laurie Turner

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 **Mary Hill** as she recovers from surgery and awaits test results
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Gordon Lord** as he prepares for a second surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Heather Beck**, *daughter of Kathy Johnson*, who is preparing for brain surgery in January.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he continues to regain strength after surgery.
- ✝ 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 **Mathias Pepos** who is recovering from injuries from a car accident.
- ✝ 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.

**NRIT Digital Class:
Leading Holy Conversations amid Polarization:
Equipping Followers of Christ to Communicate in Faith-filled
Ways**



Purchase this class and download to use at any time and to watch in any time increment. This is an excellent class for individual continuing education for leaders and would also make for a quality adult education as well.

We live in a time when it is nearly impossible to communicate with one another with any depth. Our conversations, whether in person or on social media, can descend into angry retorts, judgmental suspicion, reactive demonization,

and hateful dehumanizing until there seems nothing left to do but retreat into same-thinking groups or go to battle with the so-called "enemy."

How do we as followers of Christ and leaders in Christ's Church respond to such challenges that intrude into our congregations and ministries? Do we say nothing and try keep everyone happy? Do we engage in the same divisive rhetoric? Do we leave the church altogether? Or do we seek different approaches designed to lower the anxiety level, build up community, and equip us to love one another into faith-filled communication? This workshop will offer various tools, guidance, and methods so that you can better lead healthy and effective conversations in your communities.



**[CLICK HERE TO
ACCESS THE
LINK FOR THIS
ONLINE EDU-
CATION.](#)**



CALLING ALL BELL RINGERS

**and those who have always wanted to
play the handbells.**

The Bethel Bell Choir will play during the 6:00 pm Worship Service on Christmas Eve and will have practice on Saturday, December 18th 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

If you are available during these times and would like to be in the Bell Choir, contact Sharon Mueller at oboecclar@gmail.com

Covid Guidelines for Worship

- ◇ Masks are **strongly recommended**, but not required.
 - ◇ Continue physical distancing.
 - ◇ Coffee Hour on hold
- If you have a fever or are feeling unwell, please take care of yourself and join us online for worship.

Giving Tree Project



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET PROJECT

This year we are excited to help support a local organization for our giving project. We are partnering with **HELPING HANDS** to help them fill 100 Christmas Food Baskets! Helping Hands is a food pantry that is 100% supported through community donations and staffed by volunteers from throughout Great Falls. **Helping Hands** provides much needed food for up to 1000 people in need, each month. In addition to food, **Helping Hands** accepts donations of gently used clothes, toys, diapers, toiletries, and other basic necessities that go directly to our neighbors in need.

Through our Giving Tree Project, we will help supply all the items needed to fill a basket with all the fixings needed for a yummy Turkey/Ham dinner for 100 families! We will be asking for monetary donations, along with items that you can purchase and put under our Giving Tree.

We are looking for volunteers to help assemble the baskets on Sunday, December 12th @ 1:00 at First English Church, 112 8th Street N. This project will only take about two hours. We are also looking for Volunteers to help hand out the baskets on Monday, December 13th, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Sign up sheets will be available soon.

Our Giving Tree wishes consist of:

\$45 meal for 4 people, \$25 Turkey or Ham

\$25 Gift Card to Vans IGA (downtown)

\$15 side dishes (green beans, stove top stuffing, potatoes, dinner rolls, gravy)

\$10 Dessert, fruit, candy for stocking

\$5 Christmas Stockings

Please feel free to pick an ornament off of the tree and add your donation to it. You can also purchase the following items and place them under the Giving Tree to be used to fill our baskets: Green Beans, Canned Corn, Stove Top Stuffing, fresh potatoes or packet of instant potatoes, Gravy packets or Jars of Gravy, packaged dinner rolls, Holiday cookies or desserts, Christmas Stocking, bags of wrapped candy (for stocking), Gift Card to Vans IGA, downtown (please place these in the Sunday offering or deliver to the office).

For any questions, please contact Patty Braget 868-7641 or Tami in the office. Thank you in advance to Bethel members for your giving hearts!

CALLING ALL BAKERS & GOODIE MAKERS!

Planning has begun for our 2022 Vacation Bible School July 18th through 22nd.

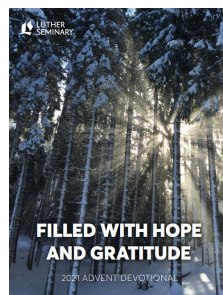
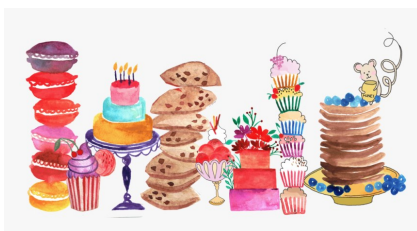
As a fundraiser for this week long day camp, we are going to have a bake sale December 19th after worship and our Logos Christmas Program.

If you like to bake, make candy, or make a craft that you would like to donate for sale, we would love your help! You can drop your donation off on Saturday, December 18th between 10:00 am to Noon or the morning of December 19th.

Please let Tami Grosenick know if you would like to donate, 406-788-9587 or email bethelmc.church@gmail.com or call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543.

We will also need people to buy these goodies so if you are not a baker, but love to eat baked goods, don't miss our bake sale!

We will be holding our regular Dessert Auction on Palm Sunday 2022!



Free Advent Devotional from Luther's Seminary.

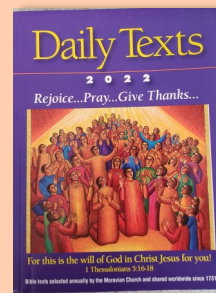
Pick up your copy of this free devotional in the Narthex at Bethel. You can also go to our website for a free download on our homepage bethelmt.org.

Please let the office know if you would like to a copy mailed to you and if you would like regular print or large print.

Email bethelgf.church@gmail.com or call 406-761-1543

2022 Daily Texts Are In

Pick up a copy in the Narthex at Bethel. First Copy free. For additional copies we ask for a donation of \$8.50 to cover the cost of the text. You can drop a donation in the offering tray on Sundays, mail in a check, or donate online at bethelmt.org. Please note: Daily Text in the memo. These texts make great gifts!



Altar Flower Sign Ups

This Sunday 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.

A Thank You from FISH

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



As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

Choose from lots of great global gifts like \$10.00 for chicks, \$20.00 for honeybees, \$30.00 for a pig, \$50.00 for a goat or help with \$10.00 to buy school supplies, \$12.00 for bibles, \$30.00 for water filter, and so much more! Check out the ornaments on the giving tree to see all the options to send help this Christmas. Make sure you note on your check or online donation where you want your dollars to be spent. If you have no preference, note Good Gift General and your money will go where it most needed.

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!
- December 3-5, 2021 Advent Retreat –see above
- December 15, 2021 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

***CLOSE KNIT MINISTRY
on hold until spring 2022.***

Just for YOUTH

Send

Getting ready for Jesus

One way we can get ready for Jesus is by sharing. God wants us to share our clothes, food, and the gifts and talents that God has given us.

Draw a heart by each of these things you can give to someone.

_____ A hug



_____ A smile



_____ A homemade Christmas card



_____ A homemade Christmas ornament



_____ Christmas cookies



_____ A good shirt and pants
you have outgrown



*Thank you, God, for blessing me with
gifts to share with others. Amen*

this week

kids
Celebrate
Third Sunday of Advent



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the third Sunday in Advent. How many candles are burning on the Advent wreath today?

Color and light three candles.



Count the Advent-colored things that you see in your worship space. Write down the number you find. _____

We are wrapping up our fall semester of Logos for 2021. We have one Wednesday left and we are having a Christmas party! If you have someone who may be interested in attending Logos, we always have room. We will start again January 12, 2022. Call the Office for more information 406-761-1543 or go to bethelmt.org/youth ministries.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday 12/14

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

Wednesday 12/15

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

Friday 12/17

- Bethel office is closed.

Saturday 12/18

- Christmas Program rehearsal 10:00 am to Noon.
- Bell Choir rehearsal 1:30 - 3:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12/19

- Worship and Logos Christmas Program led by Pastor Jessie and Logos Youth Ministry in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Bake Sale to raise money for 2022 Vacation Bible School and Christmas program reception immediately following worship.

Tuesday 12/21

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

Wednesday 12/22

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

Thursday 12/23

- HS Logos Worship Set Up, Christmas party and Late-Night Meet.

Friday 12/24

- Christmas Eve, Bethel office is closed.
- Christmas Eve Services 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

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