

Bethel Notes

Inside this issue:

Prayers	2
Message From Pastor Jessie	3
Ash Wednesday Worship Service	
Education—Grief	4
Family Promise Fundraiser	
Worship Helpers	5
3rd Grade Bibles	
New Members	
Gospel Message	6
A View From the Pew: Feb. and March	
Just for YOU th	7
Calendar	8
Ministries	

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Mary Seim - piano
Sara Graft- djembe

Lay Assistant:

John Blank

Usher:

Walt Nuessle

Tech:

Colter McCarty

Children's Church:

Olivia Violet
Maya Stringer

Counters:

Pam Dougherty
Laurie Turner

Hospitality:

The Erickson Family

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Transfiguration of Our Lord

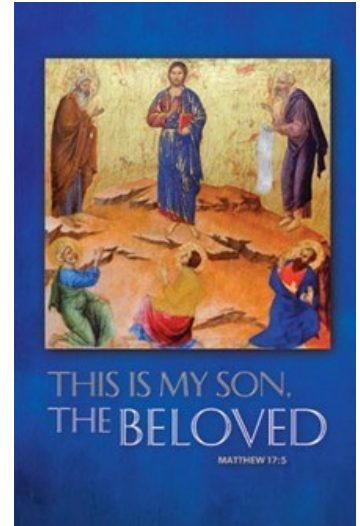
Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM
In-person or live stream
at bethelmt.org**

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We are so excited to have the Bethel Bell Choir to bless our worship service.

We have been trying to come up with a name for our Bell Choir so if you have a creative idea, there is a box on the table in the narthex as you enter the church. Just drop your idea in the box with your name

on it and if the Bell Choir selects your idea, you will win a \$10.00 gift card to Wheat Montana !

Don't forget after worship , we will be welcoming Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Chaplin at Peace Hospice who begins a

three part series on grief. Due to the subject matter, we will not be offering this education session online, but will have copies of any handouts or references that Rev. Sara shares with us.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Heather Beck**, *Kathy Johnson's daughter*, as she recovers from brain surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort and support for **the family and friends of Jude Myhre** as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Grant Smith** recovering from a detached retina.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnston** who is recovering at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Glen Vannatta** as he recovers after receiving a pacemaker.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dorothy Krueger**, *Greg Grosenick's grandmother*, as she recovers after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Payton Carle**, *friend of Karrie Pepos*, who is recovering from a car accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she continues to slowly make progress as she recovers at home from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ 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 **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, friend of *LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of faith and strength for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, *friend of Pastor Jessie*, as she battles cancer.
- ✝ 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.

Celebration of Life
Doug Kickbusch
Bethel Lutheran Church
Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 pm
Reception to follow at Bethel.



Shrove-what?

Shrove Tuesday, a beginning to Lent

It seems like every year the season of Lent sneaks up on me. Before I know it I start reading news articles of the folks down in New Orleans getting ready for massive Mardi Gras celebrations, and immediately following those celebrations Ash Wednesday kicks the season of Lent off. The Tuesday before Lent begins is known as Shrove Tuesday.

The word “shrove” is the equivalent to the English word “shrive” that means the confession and absolution of sins, or a kind of penitence. Now, I don’t know about you, but everything that I have seen about Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras has seemed to be just the opposite of confession and absolution. Originally, this was a day where folks gathered to confess and cleanse themselves in preparation for the forty days of fasting and focusing that came during the season of Lent. There was a practice that started to use up all of the luxurious or delicious foods before that time of Lent was upon them, and so interestingly enough this day of confession and absolution got mixed in with one heck of a feast to kick off the Lenten season as well.

Another practice that has historically taken place on this Shrove Tuesday is the burning of the Palm Sunday palms. The branches that were waved the year before on Palm Sunday are saved, dried, and burned on this day in preparation to be used on Ash Wednesday. These palms hold the memory of the day in which the people celebrated Jesus and welcomed him into the great city of Jerusalem. They remind us that this welcome was also the precursor to Christ’s path towards the Cross. On Ash Wednesday we each receive these ashes and hear “You are dust, and to dust you shall return”. This is a reminder of our mortality and our deep need for reconciliation with God and with one another. These ashes bring together both the great joy and excitement of Christ’s arrival as our King, and the harsh reality that humanity chose to reject and kill him instead of accept his message of transformation. In this way, Ash Wednesday prepares us for the season of Lent where we fast, we ponder, and we prepare ourselves to be able to be transformed by this story of Christ instead of ignoring it.

So how are you getting ready for this season of Lent? How are you preparing to hear this story yet again, but in a new way? I pray that this Shrove Tuesday you might find ways to clear your minds, prepare your hearts, and step into this season of Lent knowing that God is leading us to something new.

Peace,

Pastor Jessie

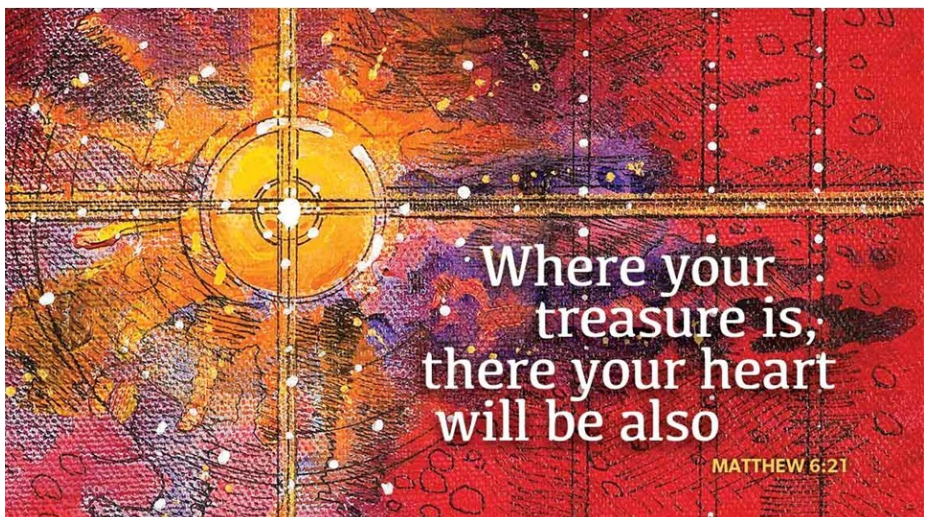
Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 22, 2023

7:00 PM

Lenten Soup Supper and Holden
Evening Prayer Services,
Thursday evenings

beginning at 6:00 pm - in March.



Grief Workshop Begins February 19th

Grief is **the anguish experienced after significant loss, usually the death of a beloved person.** Grief often includes physiological distress, separation anxiety, confusion, yearning, obsessive dwelling on the past, and apprehension about the future. Join our guest speaker Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Chaplin at Peace Hospice in Great Falls, as she leads us in discussion about how we, as people of faith, talk about and manage grief.

This will be a three-part education series, you may come to one or all three. February 19th, 26th and March 5th in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Reverend Sara MacGilvra Branom is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. (UCC) Her call is to chaplaincy, she currently serves as the chaplain for Benefis Peace Hospice. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from San Jose State University, a Master's in Human Services from the University of Great Falls, and her M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary with a concentration in chaplaincy. Chaplain Sara's basis for her ministry is a response to Jesus' words when the disciples failed to be with him in his greatest time of need the night before his crucifixion. "So could you not watch with me for one hour?" Matt 26:40. Chaplaincy is being with someone in their time of need. To sit with them, share that space invoking the presence of God for comfort, and understanding and perhaps find meaning in their lament, and despair by providing spiritual and/or emotional support to all who request it, regardless of their faith, beliefs, or traditions. loving them on their terms as the holy Creation they are.



SAVE THE DATE



**SOCK HOP FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE,
APRIL 22, 2023 DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM
BLACK EAGLE COMMUNITY CENTER DINNER, AUCTION, FUN!!
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT FAMILYPROMISEGF.ORG OR
AT KAUFMAN'S MENSWEAR DOWNTOWN**

Worship Helpers Needed!!

We have lots of space in our **Usher/Greeter Sign Up** binder for ANYONE or TWO or FAMILY who would like to help on the Sunday of your choice.

We also have a lot of openings for **Hospitality Team** to bring treats to enjoy after worship.

Altar Flower sponsors are also available.

To sign up for one or all of these, look in the binders by the bulletin board as you enter the church to sign up. If you have any questions about any or all of these worship helpers, give Tami a call in the office 406-761-1543 or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com

We Need You!

Third Graders Receive Their Bibles



Pastor Jessie presents third grade, Renee Delorit, her Bible last Sunday.



New members welcomed to Bethel last Sunday.

From left to right, Mindy Leach, Tyler and Nicole Frieling and Pastor Jessie.

We are so excited to welcome them to our Bethel Family!

welcome

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 19, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

A New, Old Covenant

To his disciples and followers, Jesus must have seemed like someone wholly new and unique. His wisdom and power amazed them and left them wondering about his new teachings and extraordinary authority. As Peter, James, and John join Jesus on the mountain, they see yet another new thing as Jesus is transfigured before them. This experience, however, is not disconnected from God's past works: Jesus is accompanied by Moses and Elijah, and the disciples hear the voice of God. Jesus' transfiguration is a new part of the old story of God creating life in the world. As they descend, Jesus points ahead to another unprecedented experience that is to come: his death and resurrection. Change is wrapped up in God's continuity.

Humans are challenged by change, which seems to be even more present in a world defined by instant-communication channels and headline news. Change is particularly difficult when new ideas or experiences upend our long-held beliefs about the world around us. Change can be even more difficult when such experiences push us to rethink what we believe about God. It is easier to hunker down in the comfort of what we have always known than to admit we are wrong and work to think and live differently.

The amazing thing about God's story is that it has always encompassed all of who we are and all of the change we have experienced or ever will. God's grace gathers up everything from the beginning of creation to the promised heavenly feast, and every broken and blessed bit in between, each new covenant consistent with the old. When we gather in confession, we admit that we have been wrong, and we are blessed into newness by the forgiveness found in the words of absolution. The font and table further remind us that God makes all things new, and that God's continuity holds grace-filled space for our beloved transformation.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



'A View From The Pew'

**There is still time to submit your article on
February's topic – My favorite hymn.**

March's Topic

What Does Lent Mean To Me

**We are so thankful to those who have submitted thus far, and
look forward to hearing from anyone in our congregation!**

Just for *YOU*th



Dear Lord, we will listen to you and follow you. Amen.

Mountaintop times

Exodus 24:12-18

Words like *alleluia* express awesome mountaintop times. Because Lent begins on Ash Wednesday this week, the word *alleluia* won't be heard in worship for a long time. On Easter morning *alleluias* will be all around.

Find the words **ALLELUIA** and **GLORY** at least three times in this puzzle.

F	M	G	A	G	I	S	G	A
R	P	J	L	C	B	N	L	B
W	S	O	L	G	G	L	O	Z
Y	R	H	E	A	E	P	R	O
Y	E	U	L	L	W	Q	Y	N
K	A	I	U	L	E	L	L	A
O	F	I	I	H	V	J	S	U
D	A	C	A	G	L	O	R	Y



THIS IS MY SON;
LISTEN TO HIM!



Countdown

Like Moses, Jesus was changed on a mountain, too. Hold up this page to see the mountain through the paper. This picture should have:

- 4 men—Jesus, Peter, James, and John. **Draw Jesus.**
- 3 tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. **Draw two more tents.**
- 2 Old Testament visitors—Moses and Elijah. **Draw Moses.**
- 1 God saying “This is my Son, listen to him!” **Draw a cloud around God’s words.**

4, 3, 2, 1. Go and serve the Lord!

This Week...

Begins the season of Lent.
Join us for Ash Wednesday
Worship, February 22nd
7:00 pm in the sanctuary!

No Logos Wednesday, February 22, 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 2/20

- President's Day, Bethel Office is closed
- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Tuesday 2/21

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

Wednesday 2/22

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Ash Wednesday worship service 7:00 pm
- No Logos Youth

Friday 2/24

- Bethel office closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 2/26

- Worship led by Jim Carlson, LPA in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Adult Education on grief with Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Chaplin at Peace Hospice in Great Falls in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Monday 2/27

- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Tuesday 2/28

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

Wednesday 3/1

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Thursday, 3/2

- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Prayer worship service for Lent in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

Friday 3/3

- Bethel office closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 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:

Thursday, February 16th 7:00 pm at Marilyn Carlson's

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.