

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, January 15, 2023

### Second Sunday after Epiphany

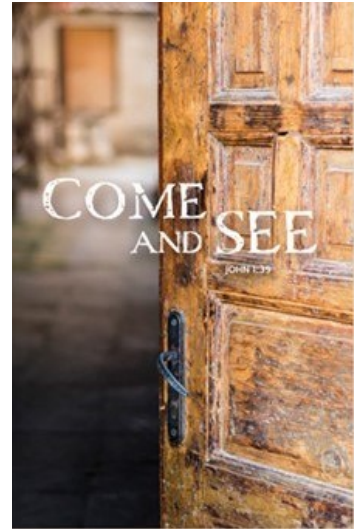
*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7**

**Psalm 40:1-11**

**Second Reading: Corinthians 1:1-9**

**Gospel: John 1:29-42**



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM  
In-person or live stream  
at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Mary Seim-piano  
Sara Graft- djembe

### Lay Assistant:

Stephanie Cummings

### Usher:

Dena Wagner-Fossen

### Tech:

Adam Elkin

### Children's Church:

Isabelle Grosenick  
Olivia Violet

### Counters:

Stephanie Cummings  
Dena Wagner-Fossen

### Hospitality:

Bethel Lutheran Church

## OPEN POSITIONS AT BETHEL...

We are in need a of a few good people to work as Tech or Children's Church leader.

The Tech positions runs our livestream each Sunday and for special occasions at Bethel as well as the in-person projection.

Children's Church Leader works Sunday mornings

during worship in the Fellowship Hall and leads our Children's Church bible story and activities. Bringing the children out to hear Pastor Jessie's Children's message and communion/blessing.

*These are both paid positions. You must be at*

*least 14 years old to work at Bethel.*

*If you are interested in either (or both) positions, please contact Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)*



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **AnneRose Rogers** who is recovering at home after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort **for the friends and family of Linda O'Brien**, *Sue Hesse's sister*, as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Laura Kupfner** as she manages a new diagnosis for her eyes.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, friend of *LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for the **friends and family of Dawn Murray**, *Mick Davis's sister*, as they mourn her recent passing.
- ✝ Prayers of faith and strength for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ 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 **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of support and safe travels for **Doug Kickbusch** as he adjusts to his new home in Columbia Falls.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, *friend of Pastor Jessie*, as she battles cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ 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 **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Clark Walburger**, *brother-in-law of Grant Smith*, who is recovering from a broken pelvic bone.
- ✝ 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.**

Both meetings will be a combined Zoom and in-person.

Any member of Bethel or regular attendee (non-voting) are welcome to join in. For the Budget Review Meeting, online participants may ask any questions. We will use the chat option on the Zoom call to relay questions from those joining in.

During the Annual Meeting voting will be completed through the Zoom call as well and those voting members will be counted as part of our quorum requirement. Regular attendees (non-voting) are welcome to join the Annual Meeting, but will not be counted in the quorum or vote.

**If you will be joining the meetings online, please email the Bethel Office at [bethelgf.churc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.churc@gmail.com) and the links will be sent to you, prior to the scheduled meeting times.**

For any questions, please contact Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office 406-761-1543.

## Church Council

## Bethel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights January 10, 2023

### Meeting Highlights

Bethel Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, by zoom. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- The 2023 Bethel budget was approved. The budget forum is scheduled for Sunday, Jan 22, and our annual meeting on Sunday, Jan 29, both immediately following church services.
- The 2023 Bethel budget was approved. The budget forum is scheduled for Sunday, Jan 22, and our annual meeting on Sunday, Jan 29, both immediately following church services.
  - Both meetings will have a zoom option. All those attending in person or zoom can ask questions and vote. No proxy voting will be allowed. If you need a zoom link, please call the church office.
  - The nominating committee is still working on getting 2 more candidates for the next term on council. We currently have Kelsey Johnson, Patty Braget and Ava Fossen.
  - Pastor and Jeff are working on a library of small ensemble and solo music to be used during worship.
  - Due to the cost of our new chairs, we decided to wait until next year to redo the pavement on the west side of the church. We are looking at patching the existing pavement for now.
  - Pastor Sara Branum, chaplain at Peace Hospice, will be joining us Feb 19 and 26, and March 5 after worship to teach a series on grief and grieving.
  - We ask your prayers for Our Savior's as they work to call a new pastor.
  - Ash Wednesday services will be Weds, Feb 22.
  - Please consider wearing a name tag. They are on the table as you come in the door.
- Next Council meeting and retreat is Feb. 5 from 12-2:30.*

# Mission Endowment Project 2023

As part of the National ELCA REBOOT training last year, we were encouraged to "take risks and experiment" when reaching out beyond our church community. The Mission Endowment directive in Bethel's Constitution is to support extraordinary programs/ ministry initiatives within this Congregation and special projects within the local area.

With all the latest news on student loan forgiveness and mounting personal debt, we have chosen Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). For those of you who don't know who Dave Ramsey is, he is a radio/podcast personality who personally had to declare bankruptcy in his 20's while married with 2 young children. After panicking, blaming others and soul searching, he not only dug himself out of debt but also tried to learn what went wrong and not to do it again. On his way out of debt, he also became a Christian. He began asking successful, older people how did they do it? How were they able to make, keep and grow their money? He listened, learned, and put into practice the lessons he learned and became successful applying those lessons. He teaches 7 baby steps to getting out of debt, growing savings, building wealth and generosity. He has a saying "Live like no one else so that you can live AND GIVE like no one

else." Meaning, that in doing these baby steps, families will have to sacrifice some things (while their friends likely go out to dinner, movies, etc) but later, they will be debt free and can live and give generously like no one else.



## Financial Peace University

A program that takes a 9-week commitment from participants. The cost per family is \$79.00 for a year access to the online tools and cost of the class. We would love to invite the Great Falls community to participate in this class attending 1x per week, meetings will be held at Bethel. Participants view a 1-hour video and walk through about 30 min for the assignments. We are not financial advisors so we would facilitate the classes as volunteers. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to facilitate a class or help in any way.

So, who would benefit from this class? Did you over-

spend at Christmas? Are you feeling overwhelmed by credit card and other debt?

- Credit cards, car loans, student loans . . . they'll keep you paying way too much money for way too long. But there's one way out of the mess of debt, and it starts right here with *you*.
- Have you been looking for a way to finally get on top of your money? This. Is. Your. Time.
- According to a study by the Ramsey Solutions research team, 40% of Americans say their financial situation has caused them to lose sleep in the past month. If that's you, it's time to make a change.

You can change your future today by joining our *Financial Peace University* class at **Bethel Lutheran Church**. You'll learn to pay off debt fast, save more money, and build lasting wealth. Class starts on **Monday, February 6, 2023 6:00 pm**, so sign up today at [fpu.com/1157959](http://fpu.com/1157959)!

If you have questions, need assistance with registration, or would like to volunteer contact JoAnn Dullum [jdockterdullum@hotmail.com](mailto:jdockterdullum@hotmail.com) or call her 406-899-8004. please share with family members,

## It's Time For CANstruction!!

Bethel Logos will be holding our CANstruction activity on February 8th during our regular Logos night.

We will be collecting canned food items for the youth to use in their creations that night. All food will be donated to FISH! Ministry.

If you would like to donate some canned food items, we will be collecting until February 8th. Check the Bethel Notes that week for pictures of what the Logos Youth create



# Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, January 22nd. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, January 21st from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at [oboecclar@gmail.com](mailto:oboecclar@gmail.com) by Tuesday, January 17th.

*The following was published in the Montana Synod Weekly Announcements dated January 9, 2023*

## **World Hunger Offering**

Bethel Lutheran Church in Great Falls has a long-standing tradition of supporting the work of ELCA World Hunger. A number of local organizations in the Great Falls community have received ELCA World Hunger domestic grants over the years. Bethel is intentional about connecting with these organizations especially Helping Hands Ministry which the congregation has supported financially and through adult and youth volunteers. A number of people from Bethel have traveled to visit our Lutheran siblings in Bolivia. They returned wanting to support God's work beyond their own community. ELCA World Hunger has given the church an excellent way to do this. Through the local and global exposure, the people at Bethel have seen firsthand the need as well as the positive impact of ELCA World Hunger locally and globally.

A team of about three people from the congregation plan and carry out a whole variety of ways for the congregation to engage with and support the work ELCA World Hunger is doing globally and locally.

Each month a Sunday is designated as ELCA World Hunger Sunday on which a special offering is taken, a spotlight moment is shared, and the congregation prays for the work of ELCA World Hunger. At Christmas they decorate a tree with Good Gifts decorations and encourage folks to grab a decoration and support the Good Gifts campaign. As part of their vacation bible school each year they use resources from ELCA World Hunger to engage participants in conversation and action related to local hunger needs and how those needs connect to global needs. This year they invited a representative from ELCA World Hunger come share more information with the congregation during their worship service and adult education hour.

Thank you Bethel for your support of ELCA World Hunger!

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 15, 2023

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

#### See for Yourself

Sometimes you just have to experience something for yourself in order to understand its true impact. It's just not the same to listen to someone else describe the rich flavors of an extravagant meal or list reasons a choral piece was so moving to its listeners. Few words are adequate to describe a magnificent sunset. A sticky summer's day, the bitter chill of winter, the palpable excitement that builds inside a sports stadium—sometimes you just have to be there to really understand what it's like.

Perhaps to some extent this is true of our faith too. "Come and see," Jesus tells two of John's disciples (John 1:39). Come and see for yourself where Jesus resides. Take a risk. Jump in. These words echo across time and space, offering us an invitation as well.

Every week we are invited to come and see where God dwells. Not only that, but we are invited to taste, to hear, to touch. We are invited to feast on the bread of communion, to hear ancient words of promise, to splash in the waters of baptism. We are invited to raise our hands, hearts, and voices in praise. Perhaps we are invited to bear witness to the power of digital community that unites us across time and space. We are invited to follow Christ's call into worship with our bodies as well as our souls. We are invited to let ourselves be surprised by whom and what we encounter. Finally, we are invited to listen for Christ's voice as we leave the worship space and search out God's presence in the world.

Where is God inviting you to come and see? Where might Christ already be dwelling among you?

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

**Ryan Gilbertson**  
**Eagle Scout Ceremony**  
**At Bethel**  
**Saturday, January 14th**  
**3:00 PM**

**Livestream on**  
**[bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**  
Reception in  
the Fellowship  
Hall to follow.



## Legacy House Donations

Patty Braget and her grandsons delivered the donated items to the Legacy House on January 5th.

The items were received by Megan Cinnamon, Foundation Coordinator and Grant Bebee, Executive Director. You would have thought we had given them a winning lottery ticket! They were so excited and so grateful. Grant helped unload all the supplies and he kept saying how grateful they were!

Bethel is so gracious at doing God's work with our hands!!

Grant would love to host a tour of their facility for those who are interested. If you would like to have a tour, please call the Bethel Office at 406-761-1543 and we will coordinate a group tour. Thank you again for your generosity.



# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Monday 1/16**

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Bethel Office Closed.

### **Tuesday 1/17**

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

### **Wednesday 1/18**

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

### **Friday 1/20**

- Bethel office closed

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 1/22**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Bell Choir performs
- Budget Review meeting after worship in the sanctuary

### **Tuesday 1/24**

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

### **Wednesday 1/25**

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

### **Friday 1/27**

- Bethel office closed

# **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 1/12 at LaRae Veitch'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.