

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday, January 16th

Second Sunday After Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

Readings

First Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading

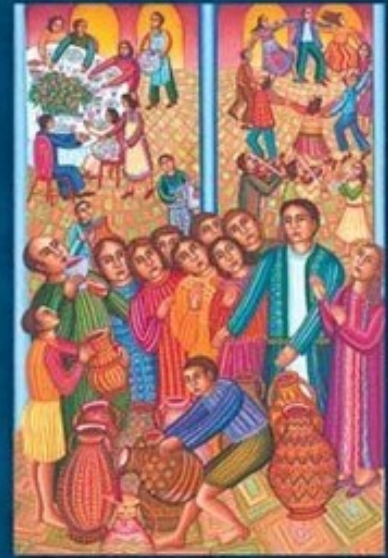
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Psalms

Psalms 29

Gospel

John 2:1-11



Jesus did this, the first of his signs,
in Cana of Galilee

JOHN 2:11

Inside this issue

Prayer Requests.....	2
Important Dates	3
CANstruction	3
Covid Guidelines.....	3
Young Adult Fellowship .	4
A Note From Pastor	5
Council High Lights	6
Just For YOUTH.....	7
Calendar of Events	8
Online Ministries	8
Contact Pastor Jessie.....	8

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

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Accompanists	Lynn Ryan, piano;
Lay Assistant	Judy Statham
Ushers	Carrie Ann and Julia Elkin
Tech	Adam Elkin
Children's Church	Allison Marr and Abbie Virts
Counters	Pam Dougherty and Kaleb Stringer



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 **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she prepares for a cardiac oblation next Tuesday.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Heath Poser**, *nephew of Connie Titcomb*, who has been diagnosed with brain tumors and awaiting tests results to determine treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bernice Johnson** as she recovers at home from gallbladder surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and strength for **John Korpela** as he begins another round of chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers for **Bob Vander Aarde** who has transitioned to Peace Hospice.
- ✝ 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 later this month.
- ✝ Prayers of continued healing for **Kim**, *daughter of Dick and Mary Seim*, as she continues to gain strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she manages a health issue.
- ✝ 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 support and strength for **Trudy and Earl Terwilliger** as they manage Trudy's health.
- ✝ 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 strength and healing for **Lisa Leland**, *niece of Sandy Bechard*, as she begins treatment for breast cancer.

Mark Your Calendar

Important Upcoming Dates:

January 16th New Member Inquiry Class following worship at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. *This class is for anyone who would like to know more about Bethel Lutheran Church, the ministries and fellowship opportunities that we offer, our outreach ministries and community support. To make the decision to formally join and what membership means. No obligation, an open forum to learn more about who we are. All are welcome.*

January 23rd Annual Budget Review Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary. *Our Bethel Treasurer, Dena Wagner-Fossen will be review the proposed budget for 2022. This is an opportunity to ask questions about where Bethel's funds are spent. All are welcome to attend this meeting.*

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 the 2022 budget. All are welcome to attend, but only members of Bethel may vote.*

Please call the Bethel Office if you have questions about any of these meetings or to let us know if you will attending the Communion Class or the Inquirer's Class.

LOGOS CANstruction

On February 2nd, Logos, our youth group will be building with canned food! This fun event sparks creativity, teamwork, and is a great way to collect canned food for FISH. We are asking for help with donations for canned food for the kids to use in their creations. Our Logos Youth will be collecting canned food for the month of January and will donate all the food to FISH after February 2nd. If you would like to help, please bring canned food items to Church anytime in January and join us February 2nd starting at 6:30 pm to see what the kids create! Or check out the Bethel Notes and in Worship to see pictures from CANstruction 2022.



Covid Guidelines for Worship

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

Continue physical distancing.

Coffee Hour on hold



Connecting Great Falls Area Young Adults

In an effort to provide a place for young adults who are living in and around Great Falls we are starting a new thing.

The Great Falls Lutheran Fellowship (Name TBD) exists for those who are building their lives here in the Great Falls area after high school and college. No matter if you are in your 20s, 30s, or 40s, all are welcome to come and join this gathering of people with a Lutheran background once a month to share in fellowship, get to know one another, and provide a space to grow in community together. Child care will be provided and we encourage you to bring your spouse or partner.

If interested, please join the Facebook group [here](#) or email/text/call Colter McCarty: colter.mccarty@gmail.com 406-899-5254 and provide your name and contact info so we can let you know event details.

Our first gathering will be **January 27th**
at 6pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. Dinner will be provided and our goal will be to meet together and decide what we desire to do together as a group.



How can we worship?

Hello Bethel!

As many of you have seen in the last week or so, the Omicron Variant of the COVID-19 virus has been raging in our community and across the region. This last week, Great Falls Public Schools has transitioned to online learning and cancelled many of their weekly activities that happen outside of the classroom as well. Here at Bethel, we have postponed our LOGOS program for the week, moved meetings to online formats, and postponed the kick-off of the Young Adult gathering that was to take place here. Amid all these big decisions you may be wondering, "What is the plan for Sunday?". After deep conversation and prayer, the Council and Staff have decided to continue worshipping in person this week while recommending that folks seriously consider joining us online, especially if you are feeling unwell or are immunocompromised. At the beginning of this COVID adventure, our church was lucky to have the resources and knowledge to put together an excellent online worship system that allows us to adequately reach our community in new ways. As we walk into this time of uncertainty once again, I would encourage you to use this excellent resource that we have created together.

For some of you, worshipping in person may be a lifeline that you need, and/or simply your preferred way of connecting this week. That is good! We welcome all who feel comfortable enough, and desire to join in person this week. You may notice as you arrive, that chairs will be a bit further apart, and that we will re-emphasize the use of masks. This is an effort to continue to keep our staff and congregation healthy so that those who strongly desire to join in person can continue to do so during this time. I don't know about you, but I love to be together. I love to see your faces, to talk with you, and to place the body and blood of Christ in your hands. With that said, as your Pastor, my number one priority is to make sure that you are safe and that you know that your church is always a safe place. So this week we will join in worship together from near and far. Some of you will be dressed to the 9s while others will be in their PJs. Either way, please know that you are loved, you are an active member of this community of faith no matter what, and that this moment in time will indeed pass.

On behalf of the Council and the Staff I want to say thank you for being flexible during this time. Thank you for calling one another and checking in. Thank you for being respectful of one another and loving each other. Most of all though, I simply want to thank you for being the body of Christ in our world during this crazy time of life. I appreciate you all deeply.

See you on Sunday, in many different forms, and stay healthy out there!

Pastor Jessie

Church Council Meeting Highlights

Bethel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights January 11, 2022

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

- Marilyn led from our devotional book, Live in Grace - Walk in Love by Bob Goff. James 1:22 was the Bible verse and the devotion was titled, "No one is remembered for what they just planned to do."
- Tami reported Logos has been postponed this week because of school closure due to Covid.
- The 2022 Budget was approved. The Budget Forum is January 23, 2022.
- The transition protocols ([addendum](#)) were revisited. If there is adequate staff and volunteers, Sunday services will continue to meet in person and online. Members are encouraged to make informed, personal decisions.
- Pastor Jessie is planning to do some stewardship work in February.
- Council had a discussion on how to conduct the budget forum and the annual meeting. The health and well being of our members is our main priority. Therefore, after weighing the various options, we will hold the annual meeting and budget forum as hybrid in-person and zoom meetings. We will also provide a telephone option. We will provide detailed instructions in the Bethel Notes as well as the church announcements, and mail support to members that do not use the on-line option. All those attending in-person and electronically can vote and ask questions. No proxy voting will be allowed.
- Any members interested in serving as representatives to the June 3-4, 2022 Synod Convention in Billings should let Council know prior to the annual meeting.
- February 6, 2022 was tentatively set as a possible date for a council retreat.

To view the December minutes in their entirety, please go to [December minutes](#)

**ONLY GOD
CAN TURN A MESS
INTO A
MESSAGE,
A TEST INTO A
TESTIMONY,
A TRIAL INTO A
TRIUMPH,
A VICTIM INTO A
VICTORY.**

Just for YOUTH

hear & celebrate

The Wedding

John 2:1-11

Jesus was invited to a wedding. The groom was sad when he ran out of wine for his guests. Jesus asked someone to fill six stone jars with water. Surprise! Jesus turned the water into wine. Now the guests had wine to drink. Jesus surprised the people to teach them about the power of God's love.

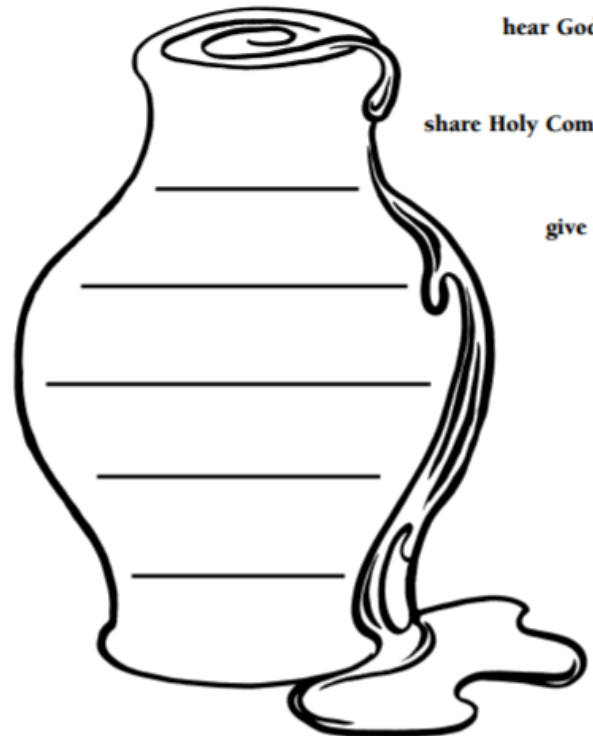


In this picture, draw the faces of Jesus' friends who were sad because the wine was gone. Write *No wine!* in the cartoon balloon.

In this picture, draw the faces of Jesus' friends who were happy when Jesus turned water into wine. Write *Thank you!* in the cartoon balloon.

Filling up with God's love

Each time we worship, God fills us up with love until we're overflowing. God wants us to share that love with people around us. Write one of these parts of the worship service inside each level of wine in the jar. In the puddle of over-flowing wine, write one way you can share God's love.



hear God's word

share Holy Communion

give offering

pray

sing

Logos resumes January 19, 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](http://bethelmt.org/youth%20ministries).

Calendar of Events

Monday 1/17

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

Tuesday 1/18

- **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 1/19

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

Friday 1/21

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 1/23

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Budget Review Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary and via Zoom

Tuesday 1/25

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

Wednesday 1/26

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

Friday 1/28

- 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