



January 16, 2025 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Bethel Weekly NOTES

Sunday Worship 9:30 am in person and livestream at bethelmt.org

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant

Walt Nuessle

Usher(s)

Tammy Good

Worship Tech

Gabe Smith

Children's Church

Tyler Grosenick

TBD

Hospitality

Sandy Pepos

Counters

Patty Braget

Tammy Good



This Sunday at Bethel...

We welcome and thank **Earl Terwilliger, LMA** for preaching at our worship and **Dave Scholten, LMA** for presiding over communion.

Thank you to **Sharon Mueller and the Bethel Handbell Choir** for providing beautiful music.

We continue with **season 4 of The Chosen** after worship in the Pastor's office.

HUGS Ministry will meet after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Next Sunday after worship, stay for the **Outlook for Future Funds (Budget) Meeting** following worship.

Readings:

First

Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Second

Reading: Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

In This Issue:

Page 2—

- * Prayers

Page 3—

- * Council Meeting Highlights

Page 4—

- * Thank You from Longfellow Elementary
- * National Day of Racial Healing Online Event

Page 5—

- * Lutheran Disaster Relief California Wildfires
- * FLBC Events

Page 6—

- * This Week's Gospel

Page 7—

- * Just for YOUth

Page 8—

- * Fellowship Ministries
- * Church Calendar
- * New Pastor Arrival

Lord, in your mercy...

HEAR OUR PRAYER

- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **JoDee Black and her family** as they mourn the passing of her father.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **The Graft Family** as they are with *Sara's Aunt Janet Mann* as she is passing.
- ✝ Prayers thanks for **Maddie** *she is the daughter of a friend of Lindsey Turner Johnson's*, is much better and has a good prognosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Brian**, after surgery for cancer removal and begins treatment. (*family has asked to only use first name per Brian's request*)
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kathy Johnson's mother Ethel** who is preparing for surgery for a shattered elbow.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **the family of Richard Austad**, *Sonja Baumgardner's brother*, who passed on January 4, 2025.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bob Underhill**, *Sue Hesse's bother in law*, diagnosed with brain lesions and determining treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dennis McCarty** as he continues to recover from surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ron**, friend of *Tamy Scholten*, who is managing a retinal detachment.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Doug Gordon** as he gets settled in his new home.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Ryan's mother**, as she awaits a surgery for a double lung transplant.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Shelly Murphy** as she continues with cancer treatments and is doing well.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sue Cassell**, *friend of Sara Sexe*, as she is receiving treatments for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of Healing for **Kendra**, *TLC Day-care employee*, who was diagnosed with cancer and will begin treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Carrie O'Brien** as she continues to recover following complications after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she manages cancer diagnosis with complications.
- ✝ **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America, who is in the hospital.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.

Bethel Church Council

Meeting Highlights

The Bethel Church Council met Tuesday, January 14th in a combined in person and Zoom meeting. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- * Warren Johnson, of the Property Management Committee, reported the lights in the Fellowship Hall have all been replaced with LEDs, also the island has been removed and carpet squares installed where the island was sitting. (see next page) The lights in the Gathering Place, including classrooms, loft, kitchen, and the hallway leading to it will be replaced with LEDs by Mission Electric. These, along with tree trimming and the new curb cut in front, are all paid for with donations, reimbursements from NW Energy, and funds remaining from money we had budgeted from pastor's salary last year.
- * Four more episodes remain in season 4 of The Chosen. We're looking to buy a sturdy, moveable TV stand, so the tv can be moved to accommodate various functions.
- * The Red Cross Blood Drive on the 13th was a success, and we plan to host another this summer.
- * The clothing drive for Helping Hands was a huge success.
- * We received a thank you from Longfellow elementary for our help with the clothing drive there. (see next page)
- * Jim and Marilyn Carlson have been nominated to represent Bethel at the Montana Synod meeting. Sue and Roger Reppe are nominated to represent Bethel at FLBC. Terry Korpela and Bob Norbie are nominated for church council, as Laurie Turner and Jeanne Rankin's terms are up.
- * Finally, we voted to accept the budget (which will now be known as the Outlook for Future Funds).
- * Bethel will be celebrating our 75th anniversary in September 2026. So we will need to put together a committee to start planning that.

Next Executive Board Meeting February 13th at 6:30 pm; Next Council Meeting February 18th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Turner, Bethel Council Secretary

Thank You From Longfellow Elementary



Together we make a difference • Thank you!

Longfellow Elementary
1101 7th AVE S
Great Falls, MT 59405

We are deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness and commitment to making a positive impact in our community. Many of our students will now have access to the clothing they need for the school Christmas program, helping them feel confident and empowered. Thank you for being a beacon of support for our students.

Sincerely, Longfellow Lynx

POSTAL CLASS



US POSTAGE
STAMP
HERE
ZIP 59405 \$ 000.56⁰
02 7W
0008027069 DEC 12 2024

Deliver To: Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Ave SW
Great Falls, MT 59404



Thanks Warren Johnson for great work making more space in the Fellowship Hall.

National Day of Racial Healing Online Educational event Tuesday, January 21 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mountain Time

The 2025 National Day of Racial Healing is an annual observance that follows Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This year, the ELCA will join the movement of racial healing for our church and the nation. Join this free online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color. This event is open to all ELCA rostered ministers, lay leaders and members, as well as the church's affiliate organizations and ecumenical and interreligious partners.

[Learn more, browse speaker bios, and register today.](#)

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/racial-justice-ministries/national-day-of-racial->

Your support is needed

Over the last few days, multiple wildfires have broken out across Los Angeles County in California, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life.

This disaster is just one of many — including hurricanes, war and famine — to which Lutheran Disaster Response is still responding. [Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond quickly and generously, wherever and whenever disaster may strike.](#)

Firefighting efforts continue in Southern California, and we won't know the full impact until the fires are extinguished. Even as these fires still burn, Lutheran Disaster Response is here to support the families and communities that will be rebuilding their lives.

As Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton said in her statement about the wildfires, "The prophet Isaiah writes that even when fires rage, the final word is faith, not fear. God redeems us and calls us by name to be agents of healing and hope, even amid staggering loss. In faith, we respond through prayer, accompaniment and action." Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod and Pacifica Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to address immediate needs amid the destruction and assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.

Unfortunately, disasters such as these are increasing across the globe and in your neighborhoods. [By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you allow us to mobilize quickly for wildfires and other disasters, giving the gift of relief today and resilience tomorrow. Will you give today?](#)

More information

- Read Bishop Eaton's [statement about the LA wildfires here](#).
- Learn more about wildfire response at [ELCA.org/wildfires](https://www.elca.org/wildfires).
- Find current updates from the Lutheran Disaster Response team at [facebook.com/ELCALDR](https://www.facebook.com/ELCALDR).



Updates

Blessed Epiphany! Seek the light! Follow the light! Share the light of Christ!

Registration for Weeklong Summer Family Camp opens TODAY!!! To register call (406) 752-6602 or email registration@flbc.net

Feb 7-9 - [Elementary Retreat](#) -- Bring your kids/grandkids/church kids for an awesome weekend of fun, games, worship, Bible study, and community building.

Mar 7-9 - [Grandparents Retreat](#) -- A chance to enjoy your grandkids, while having FLBC lead them in Bible study, play time, crafts, games, worship, hiking, snow fun, and more!

Registration for volunteering Summer 2025 is now open! [Register Here!](#)

Gospel Message

Jesus Does Care

There is humor to be found in the words “And his disciples believed in him” . . . because he could turn water into wine! Really? That’s it? This small miracle performed at a wedding was *all* that was required at the start of Jesus’ ministry to gain his disciples’ faith and trust?



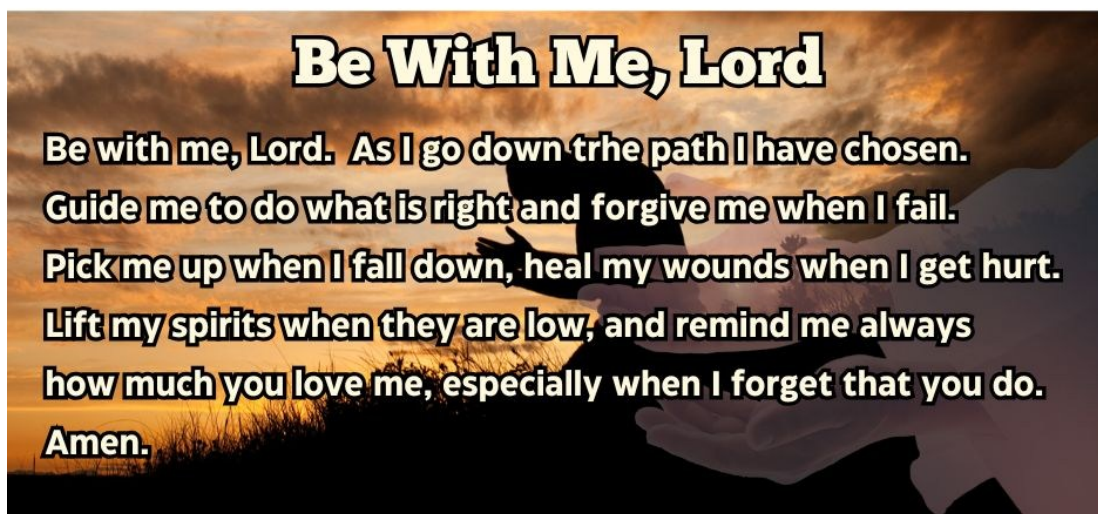
That such a minor event could prove so significant might sound silly if we are tempted to think God cares only about big things, such as war, environmental justice, and world hunger. But if we pay attention, we notice that many people encounter God in the most mundane moments of life: sitting quietly in a deer stand, floating on a calm lake while fishing, breastfeeding an infant and rocking in a chair, or holding the hand of an aged neighbor.

Jesus cares about all manner of small things—the grief of one widow, disease in the life of a teenager, the lack of wine at a wedding. While these things may seem small to an outsider, we know they are big to the one experiencing them. Thank God, no matter how large or small our concerns, Jesus does care!

At all times, and in all places, God is at work using ordinary things and people to produce extraordinary results. At the Cana wedding, Jesus turned ordinary water into wine to provide an extraordinary blessing: continued joy and celebration among family and friends. Today Jesus often uses coffee and cookies to create bonds among people—just ask the fellowship committee in your congregation! Jesus does care about our fellowship with one another. We are even commanded to gather around tables, to break bread and drink wine to remember him.

This season after Epiphany, may you catch sight of the ways Christ is present at your tables and in your gatherings, deepening relationships and spreading joy.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

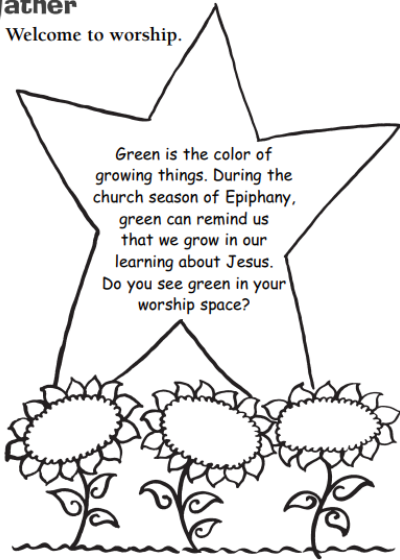


Just for youth

gather

Welcome to worship.

— Epiphany



Green is the color of growing things. During the church season of Epiphany, green can remind us that we grow in our learning about Jesus. Do you see green in your worship space?



What did you learn about Jesus today in worship? Inside each flower, write one word that describes Jesus. Add drawings of your favorite flowers.

Pouring out God's love

Jesus was filled with God's love. You're filled with God's love, too. Out of love, Jesus changed water into wine. Out of love, how could you help these two?



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.

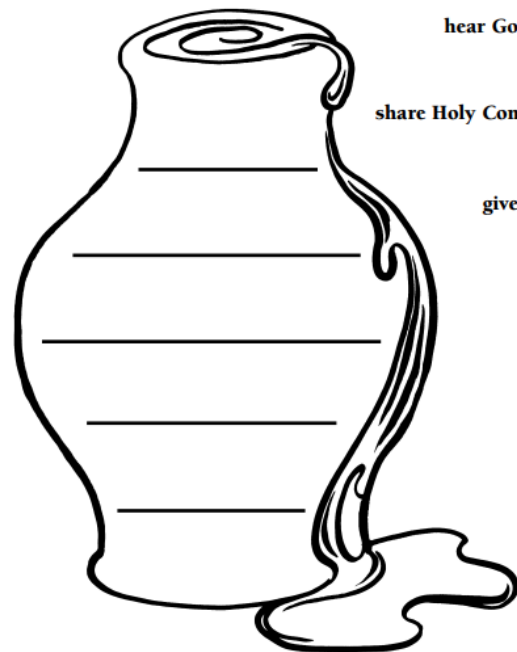


In this picture, draw the faces of Jesus' friends who were sad because the wine was gone. Write *No wine!* in the cartoon balloon.

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

BETHEL CHURCH CALENDAR

WEEK OF JANUARY 19TH

Sunday 19th

- Worship led by and sermon by Earl Terwilliger, LMA; Communion by Dave Scholten, LMA in person and live stream 9:30 am
- HUGS Ministry meets after worship
- Adult form The Chosen season 4 continues

Monday, 1/20

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

Tuesday, 1/21

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

Wednesday, 1/22

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

WEEK OF JANUARY 19TH

Sunday 1/26

- Worship led by Pastor Jessica Crist in-person and live stream 9:30 am with guest speaker Greg Grosenick, Director Family Promise Great Falls.
- Future Spending Plan (Budget) Meeting following worship, questions regarding our 2025 budget in preparation for our Annual Meeting Sunday, February 2nd.

Tuesday, 1/28

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

Wednesday, 1/29

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 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

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 dscholten1118@gmail.com for more information.

Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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 January 16th 2:00 pm

Terry Korpela's home



Timeline for Our New Pastor

This is a very exciting time for our Bethel Congregation as we prepare for the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Dawn Busch.

She and her husband are now in Great Falls and getting settled as they look for a house.

Pastor Dawn will begin working in the office Monday, January 27th and use that week to get familiar with her new congregation and the building. Her first Sunday leading worship with us will be Sunday, February 2nd which is not only our Annual Meeting, but LOGOs Family Worship! Our LOGOs Youth will help welcome Pastor Dawn as they assist in leading worship.

Join us in prayers of thanks for bringing us all together as we continue the mission of Bethel Lutheran Church, God's Work Our Hands.