

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, January 22, 2023

### Third Sunday after Epiphany

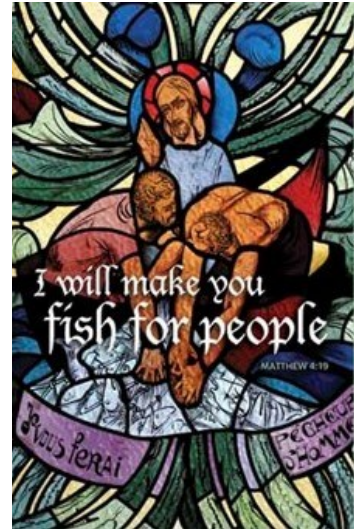
*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.*

*First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4*

*Psalms 27:1, 4-9*

*Second Reading: Corinthians 1:10-18*

*Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23*



**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:

Sue Hesse

### Usher:

Laurie Turner

### Tech:

Adam Elkin

### Children's Church:

Allison Marr  
Olivia Violet

### Counters:

Tim Lightbourne

Laurie Turner

### Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos  
Cindy Considine

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

After worship we will be holding our Budget Review Meeting. This meeting will take place in the sanctuary.

Information covered in this meeting is a review of how our budget ended with the last fiscal year and where our dollars will be spent in the upcoming fiscal year.

This is a great opportunity to see what major projects we are looking toward in the future and how those projects will be covered.

We encourage questions about how and where we spend the money that is donated to Bethel.

This is in preparation for the Annual Meeting that will take place on Sunday, January 29th.

Both meetings will be available to those at home via Zoom, please see page 3 of this newsletter for instruction on how to get the link.



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rebecca Boucher** as she recovers at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ 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 Terry Spalinger, *Doug Sexe's brother-in-law*, as they mourn his sudden passing.
- ✝ Prayers of faith and strength for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Payton Carle**, *friend of Karrie Pepos*, who is recovering from a car accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, *friend of Pastor Jessie*, as she battles 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 strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Doug Kickbusch** as he manages his health with God's guidance.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is managing kidney disease.
- ✝ 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.

Giving Statements for 2022 will be available for pick up Sunday, January 29th and will be mailed out Monday, January 30th. Thank you all for your continued generosity to Bethel Lutheran Church and the outreach ministries we support.

# 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 combined in-person and Zoom meeting. Those voting members joining on Zoom will be counted toward our quorum required for voting. Regular attendees (non-voting) are welcome to join the Annual Meeting, but will not be counted in the quorum or vote. ***Our quorum requirement for this year's annual meeting is a minimum of 32.*** As per our constitution, no proxy votes will be allowed.

**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.**

**This Sunday printed copies of the proposed budget will be available. Annual Reports will be emailed out next week and printed copies will be available Sunday, January 29th. If you would like a hardcopy mailed to you, please call the Bethel Office.**

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





## JANUARY UPDATE

As we prepare our Annual Report for 2022 we would like to thank everyone who has helped us help 57 families for a total of 206 individuals see a brighter future in Great Falls.



### Board Treasurer Mary Lehman

has been a godsend to Family Promise. As a retired CPA, Mary's accounting knowledge and willingness to donate many hours of her time helping us set up an internal accounting system has greatly improved our financial processes. Even while she was working fulltime, Mary liked to stay involved. She has served on boards for the YWCA, Great Falls Symphony, Habitat for Humanity, Great Falls Food Bank, Great Falls Library Foundation, and Montana Food Bank Network. She has always felt that no one

should go hungry or be homeless and is dedicated to ensuring that Family Promise achieves its mission of ending childhood homelessness. Mary is a native Montanan who has resided in Great Falls for 30 years. Due to her love of history, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Eastern Montana College in Billings. She then went on to get a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the College of Great Falls (now University of Providence). After four years in public accounting, she became the chief financial officer for Spectrum Medical. Mary finished her career in the credit union industry as vice-president of finance for Community Federal Credit Union and then CFO for CUsource. Mary and her husband Jerry recently celebrated their 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; "I feel so lucky to have married my best friend who is also my travel and fishing buddy." She is very proud of and enjoys spending time with their children, 10 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. When she's not volunteering and traveling, she enjoys reading and knitting.

### January Needs List

- \* Sanitizing wipes
- \* Baby wipes
- \* Blankets
- \* Fruit cups
- \* Mac n Cheese microwave cups
- \* 8 ½ by 11 office paper
- \* Single sheet sets
- \* Chunky Soup
- \* Dish soap liquid
- \* Socks (new, all sizes)
- \* Saltine crackers
- \* Coffee regular and decaf pods
- \* Soup (pull top lids)
- \* Light gloves (all sizes)
- \* Paper towels
- \* Chef Boyardee (pull top)

Thanks to **Great Falls Rotary Foundation and Town Pump** for ensuring that one of our Promise Place Shelter families, artfully pictured below, received a memorable Christmas complete with presents and a fantastic feast. And their story even gets better! The family moved into one of **NeighborWorks Great Falls'** rental houses and are in the process of completing Good Tenancy and Financial Literacy Classes to start on their path for a brighter, more stable future. Because of a community wide effort, one less family is homeless!



## We have a new Job Opening!

We are seeking a dedicated candidate for a new position, **Outreach and Operations Specialist**. The position is parttime and will be critical for continuing the work that Family Promise does to help homeless families. Go to <http://www.familypromisegf.org> or call Greg for additional information.

## Congratulations Ryan Gilbertson on becoming an Eagle Scout!



## 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



## THE FIRST ANNUAL GREAT FALLS DRAMA CLUB **CABARET!** *Music! • Theatre! • Frivolity!*



**THREE NIGHTS ONLY!**  
*at Great Falls High School*

<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>January 26</b>	<b>January 27</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<b>at 7:30</b>	<b>at 7:30</b>	<b>at 2:00</b>

*Tickets are \$8 for Adults  
and \$5 for Students*

## DEBT *is the* **THIEF** *of your* **FUTURE**



Are you tired of being sick and tired?

You work way too hard to be this broke! Now is the time to take back control of your money, and that starts by taking Financial Peace University.

Bethel Lutheran Church is hosting Financial Peace University!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Starting Monday, February 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM for 9 weeks.

Register at [fpu.com/1157959](http://fpu.com/1157959) —and start making your money work for you.

For more information contact the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com).

*Please note that Bethel Lutheran Church does not affirm the theological beliefs or business practices of Dave Ramsey, but encourages healthy financial practices with inclusion and welcome for all.*



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 22, 2023

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

#### Worth the Risk

Perhaps Peter, Andrew, James, and John had heard rumors of this wandering preacher Jesus. Maybe they had been growing restless for some time in their lives as fishermen. It's possible they sensed that something was shifting in the world around them. They could have been fed up with the brutality of the Roman Empire and were looking for a leader to bring about change. Maybe they longed for something more, for a better way of living and loving and being. Maybe they were just so taken aback by this invitation to drop everything and follow that they couldn't help but say yes. We don't know their reasons for joining the Jesus movement that day, but there was clearly something so compelling about this kingdom of heaven (Matthew 4:17) that they were willing to drop their nets, risk everything, and not look back.

Perhaps we too hear in the gospel today a renewed invitation to get swept up in this kingdom, a call to drop old ways of being and embrace a life of following Jesus. Maybe this vision of the kingdom catches us when we witness ancient scripture finding new life in our hurting world. Perhaps we glimpse the possibilities of the heavenly kingdom when communities of unlikely people gather to share bread and wine at the same table, and when we see the hungry being fed, the suffering being cared for, the lonely finding welcome, the oppressed finding freedom. Suddenly, we know that this is God at work.

As Jesus reminds us, the kingdom of heaven is not a far-off kingdom. It draws near to us, breaking in around us perhaps in the moments when we least expect it. And when we catch sight of it, we just might never be the same. A world where the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the outcasts find belonging, and ordinary days are filled with holy purpose? That's a kingdom worth risking everything for.

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

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## *Calling All Writers for February's*

### *'A View From The Pew'*

February's topic –  
My favorite hymn and why



If you would like to submit an article for February, email or drop of your no more than 500 words submission. Articles are due on Wednesday of each week.

For more information or to submit your article, email Tami in the bethel office [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com) or call her at 406-761-1543.

# Just for *YOUTH*

## Did you know?

We look for God to lead us each day in the same way we look for light each day. God will lead us in all times and seasons.

No matter where you live the name of the church season is:

E \_ \_ P H \_ \_ Y.

**Circle any kind of light you can see in the picture.**

People look for light especially when daylight is short and nights are **long**.

Jesus asks us to shine the light of God's love everywhere we go, even to the four corners of the world: north, south, east, and west.



What season is it where you live? Winter or summer? God's people live in all parts of the world.

**Find the globe in the picture and draw the Northern Hemisphere.**

The person who lights the candles is called the acolyte. *Acolyte* means "one who follows."

**Draw the acolyte's face in the picture. Then unscramble the words from Psalm 27:1.**



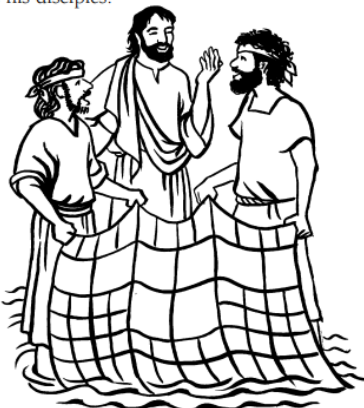
We will follow you, Jesus. Amen

and is Lord my my The

\_\_\_\_\_ light \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.

Welcome to worship.

In Matthew 4:12-23 Jesus asks Peter and Andrew to be his disciples.



Print "FOLLOW ME" in their fishing net. Draw three fish in the net for the third Sunday after Epiphany.

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## Logos

Wednesday, January 25th

### Lesson:

Matthew 4:12-23

### Dinner:

Taco-In-A-Bag with all the fixins'  
Spanish Rice  
Churro Twists with Vanilla Ice Cream

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **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
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Sunday 1/29**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Jubilate Choir Sings
- Annual Meeting after worship, quorum required for voting

#### **Tuesday 1/31**

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

#### **Wednesday 2/1**

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

#### **Friday 2/3**

- 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 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.