

January 23, 2025

Third Sunday after Epiphany

# Bethel Weekly NOTES

Sunday Worship 9:30 am in person and livestream at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)

## Serving This Sunday

### Accompanist

Connie Titcomb,  
piano

### Lay Assistant

Mindy Leach

### Usher(s)

TBD

### Worship Tech

Gabe Smith

### Children's Church

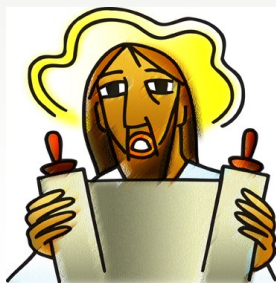
Tyler Grosenick  
TBD

### Hospitality

Patty Kain

### Counters

Greg Grosenick  
Laurie Turner



## This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **Third Sunday after Epiphany**.

We welcome and thank **Pastor Jessica Crist** for leading worship. Thank you to **Kolton Kupfner, Kendall Ryan and Parker Schoenen** for sharing our Children's Message.

We welcome **Greg Grosenick, Director of Family Promise Great Falls** who will be sharing information about the future of Family Promise.

Thank you to **Jeff Skogley and the Jubilate Choir** for the glorious music.

After worship we will be holding **Our Future Funds Assessment Meeting** (formerly our Budget Review Meeting) to look at the 2025 Budget ahead of our annual meeting next Sunday.

### Readings:

#### First

Reading: *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

Psalm: *Psalm 19*

#### Second

Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*

Gospel: *Luke 4:14-21*

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*Lord, in your mercy...*

# HEAR OUR PRAYER

- ✠ Prayers of continued healing and thanks for **Kendra**, *TLC Daycare employee*, who has completed her treatment and is on her way to regaining strength and health.
- ✠ 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 mourn the passing of *Sara's Aunt Janet Mann*.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Kathy Johnson's mother Ethel** who is preparing for surgery for a shattered elbow.
- ✠ 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 recovers and regains strength.
- ✠ 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 **Sue Cassell**, *friend of Sara Sexe*, as she is receiving treatments for cancer.
- ✠ 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.

*Ladies Valentine Luncheon*  
*Friday February 14th, 2025*  
*11:30 am*  
*Tickets: \$5*

*Redeemer Lutheran Church*  
*332 Riverview 3 West*  
*Guest Speaker*  
*Carley Juss, Grace Home for Vets*

Monies toward this event provided by Thrivent Financial  
Please RSVP to 406.453.2351



## Words from the Bishop

*Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'*

Today I learned about a practice called a “Tactical Pause.” The teacher was a airplane pilot who described how to respond to a situation of being overwhelmed or being in crisis. The tactical pause goes like this:

### **Stop – Breathe – Focus**

There is a lot happening in our lives and in our world that feels like a crisis. Right now the information that is flooding out of Washington DC and the implications of the many changes feels overwhelming. There are also changes facing the ELCA and its future as well as other realities I am thinking about as I choose to stand for election to a second term as the bishop of the Montana Synod.

So when I learned about the “tactical pause” today, I practiced it. And then I practiced it again, this time with God so that it became a “tactical God pause”:

### **Stop – Breathe – Focus on God – Invite God.**

And it helped. I felt calmer and more ready to face the day ahead. I felt a greater sense of focus than when I started. And I was better able to pray the following prayer in a deeper way.

*Thank you, gracious God, for the gift of this precious day.*

*Awaken me to your abiding presence and help me to walk humbly with you.*

*Open my eyes to see your creation.*

*Open my ears to hear your promises.*

*Open my bodies to do your will.*

*Open my spirits to receive your gifts.*

*Open my minds to welcome your truth.*

*Open my hearts to respond to the needs of others.*

*Saturate me with your Holy Spirit and guide me today and every day in works of loving kindness, peace, and mercy.*

*In ALL that I do, direct me toward the fulfilling of YOUR purpose and the coming of YOUR kingdom.*

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light, love and true life of the world. Amen

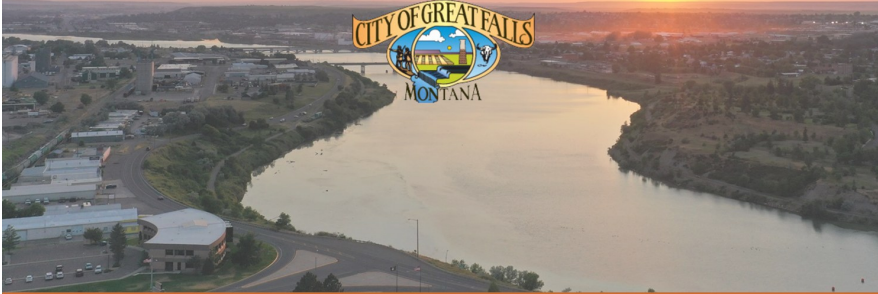
Today, in the face of whatever realities you are thinking about and whatever feelings these realities may be bringing up in you, I encourage you to try a tactical God pause.

### **Stop -- Breathe -- Focus on God -- Invite God**

Christ himself has breathed the Spirit upon you in your baptism and has promised you a peace beyond anything we can understand. In Christ's Peace, Bishop Laurie

# Future GREAT FALLS

GROWTH POLICY 2025 - 2045



## JOIN US THIS MONTH!

- January 27th @ 5:30pm - Civic Center Gibson Room
- January 28th @ 12:00pm - MT Expo Park Paddock Club
- January 28th @ 5:30pm - Meadowlark Elementary School Library
- January 29th @ 5:30pm - East Middle School Cafeteria
- January 30th @ 12:00pm - Great Falls College MSU B139

Meet us after work or on your lunch break and discuss the future of our community! Ask questions, give feedback, and learn more about how we can shape Great Falls over the next 20 years!

This is not a drill our Growth Policy Survey is live! The survey won't stay open forever, so hop on and take it as soon as you can – such an easy way to share your thoughts and feedback!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FutureGreatFalls2045>

And if making a difference in the future of Great Falls wasn't enough – if you complete the survey you will be entered into our weekly drawings for amazing prizes! Fire Pizza, Hometana, The Living Room, Enbar, Big Dipper, City's Park and Rec, Downtown Parking, Buffalo Blanc, and Sip N Dip came together with over 50 prizes for our survey takers Let's go, Great Falls!



### STILL Open Position!! Director of Northern Rockies Institute of Theology (NRIT)

We are announcing the opening of Director of NRIT, please download the job description below for more information about the position and responsibilities.

**The Northern Rockies Institute of Theology is the continuing education ministry of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that equips both lay leaders and clergy for their various ministries.**

#### Position Description:

The Director of NRIT works to plan, promote, and host quality Christian education for the Montana Synod and its neighbors. This position may include the duties of a Lay Ministry Associate (LMA) program support person who works with the Montana Synod Associate to the Bishop in coordinating their education courses. Both positions involve planning and hosting seminars, retreats, and workshops on a variety of topics for all members of the synod: clergy, church members, and candidates for lay ministry (i.e. LMA training). Training will be provided.

[Download the full description and how to apply here](#)

# 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](mailto: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

## Praised by Everyone



Jesus' ministry began in triumph. He had endured the testing in the wilderness and emerged victorious, ready to begin his good work in the community. One of the first places he stopped was in the synagogues, teaching in such a way that he "was praised by everyone" (Luke 4:15). One day, upon reading from Isaiah, Jesus revealed himself as the one who would bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recover the sight of people who were blind, free those who were oppressed, and proclaim the Lord's favor. Alleluia!

As followers of this very same Jesus, we know that God is still at work accomplishing these glorious tasks in our communities. We also know people who long for us, Jesus' followers full of the Holy Spirit, to bring good news to the poor.

How are we, members of the body of Christ, called to be in such a deep relationship with our neighbors that they share with us their greatest needs? Have we established such profound trust that they are willing to allow us to accompany them as God produces solutions sufficient to their greatest crises?

We have the most exhilarating mission—to proclaim the Lord's favor in the neighborhood! We get to remind people that they are not forgotten. How we do this in our own contexts is as various as the number of churches represented around the world. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to Christian ministry. But in all cases, we are called to invite everyone to praise Jesus and live into his mission of freedom.

As we gather each week for word and sacrament, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit as we pray that Jesus' fame will spread into "all the surrounding country" (Luke 4:14), as our neighbors experience God's good work through each of us. Holy Spirit, reveal to us new ways to accompany our neighbors in this Epiphany season.

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**You are all invited to  
the Installation of Rev. William Rima**

2:00pm on Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
332 Riverview 3 West  
Great Falls, MT 59404

Clergy are invited to vest (White) and process. Please be at the church at 1:40 pm to vest in the office or the copier room.

There will be a reception to follow downstairs in the fellowship hall.

# Just for YOUTH

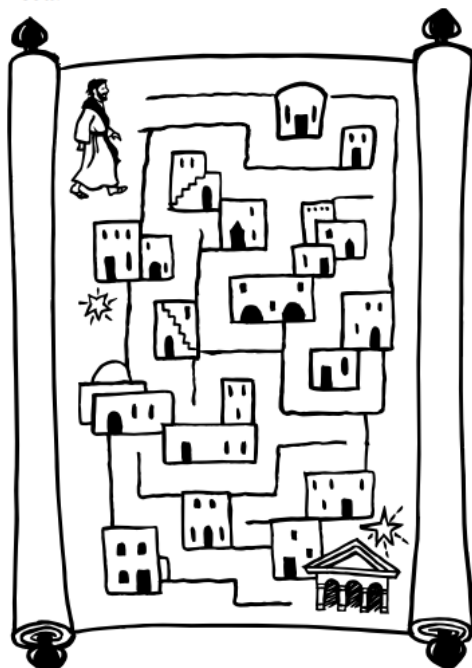
## hear & celebrate

### Jesus reads God's word

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus went to the synagogue, his place of worship. He stood up to read God's word. Jesus read, "God's Spirit is with me. God has chosen me to bring good news to people who need love and hope for a better life." Then Jesus said, "Today these words have come true." Jesus meant that he was the one God promised.

Help Jesus find his way to the synagogue.



### God's love is for everyone

God sent Jesus to share the good news with all people around the world.

Here are some ways Christians around the world greet each other and tell about their love for God. Have someone help you pronounce the words.



In parts of South America, Christians greet each other by saying **hermano** (err-MAH-no), which means "brother" in Spanish, and by saying **hermana** (err-MAH-nah), which means "sister." This means that we're all Jesus' brothers and sisters.



In the country of Tanzania in Africa, people speak Swahili. Here is how they say, "Thank you, Jesus," when they pray: **Asante sana Yesu** (a-SAHN-tay SAH-nah YAY-soo).



Christians in Hong Kong say **ping-an** to greet each other. The word **ping-an** means "peace."

Draw or write a way to worship God each day.

Monday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Friday	Saturday



Thank you, God, for Jesus, who spreads the light of your love around the world. Amen

### This week

Choose a different worship activity to do with your family each day.

# BETHEL CHURCH CALENDAR

## **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. *Childcare available.*

## **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

## **Friday, 1/31**

- Office Closed

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **Sunday 2/2**

- Family Worship led by Pastor Dawn Busch with LOGOs Youth Ministry in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Annual Meeting following worship voters are asked to stay to for this meeting a quorum is required. *Childcare available.*

## **Tuesday, 2/4**

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

## **Wednesday, 2/5**

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

## **Friday, 2/7**

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

Next meeting February

## ***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.

