

# Bethel Notes

## Inside this issue:

Prayers	2
Mission Endowment Project	3
Legacy House	
Pastor Steve Nelson Art Awards	4
Meeting Dates	
Gospel Message	5
Ryan Gilbertson Eagle Scout Ceremony	
CANstruction	
A View From the Pew - Terry Korpela	6
Bell Ringers wanted	
Just for YOUTH	7
Calendar	8
Ministries	

## Sunday, January 8, 2023

### Baptism of Our Lord

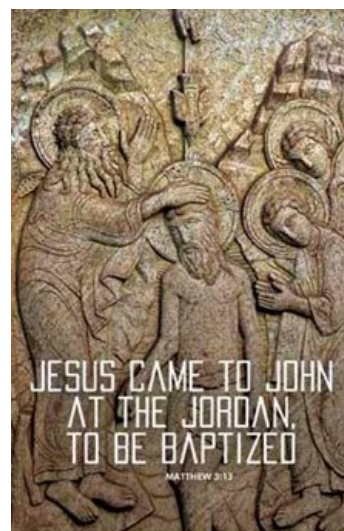
*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism, we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

*First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9*

*Psalms 29*

*Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43*

*Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17*



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



**world hunger**

## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Connie Titcomb-piano  
Rev. Steve Nelson- guitar

### Lay Assistant:

Tamy Scholten

### Usher:

Mary Gernaat

### Tech:

Adam Elkin

### Children's Church:

Ava Fossen  
Julia Elkin

### Counters:

Patty Braget  
Kaleb Stringer

### Hospitality:

Judy Johnson

## This Sunday at Bethel...

**World Hunger Sunday,** we will be receiving an additional offering to support ELCA World Hunger.

Pastor Jessie will be holding a **New Member Class** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in

becoming a member at Bethel and would like more information about what ministries we offer, outreach opportunities and what it means to be a member please plan on attending.

We will also be completing our **Christmas Clean Up** so if you have

some time after worship to help put away the Christmas decorations it would be very much appreciated.

# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of comfort for the **friends and family of Dawn Murray**, *Mick Davis' sister*, as they mourn her recent passing.
- ✝ 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 **Bill Van Hovel**, *Connie Titcomb's brother-in-law*, as he recovers from surgery and awaits pathology results.
- ✝ Prayers of love and guidance for **Casey, Joanie, and Levi Ross** as they approach the end of their tour in Sri Lanka and take the next step in their journey as a military family.
- ✝ Prayers of support and safe travels for **Doug Kickbusch** as he adjusts to his new home in Columbia Falls.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ 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 **Clark Walburger**, *brother-in-law of Grant Smith*, who is recovering from a broken pelvic bone.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Laura Kupfner** as she manages a new diagnosis for her eyes.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, *friend of LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **Linda O'Brien**, *Sue Hesse's sister*, as she battles chronic pain and has been admitted to Hospice.
- ✝ Prayers of faith and strength for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, who is undergoing continued medical testing and treatment planning for cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Rev. Inge Williams**, *friend of Pastor Jessie*, as she battles cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is managing kidney disease.



# 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.

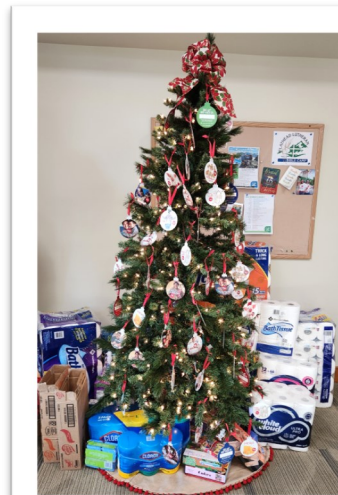
So, who would benefit from this class? Did you over-

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](https://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, friends, work associates. Help us get the word out!



As we wrap up our donations for the Legacy House, I would like to thank our generous congregation, once again! We are so blessed.

– Patty Braget



# Pastor Steve Nelson Earns Awards for His Artwork

Pastor Steve Nelson was surprised and honored to win the Silver Award for Second Place in the 40th Annual National Watermedia Exposition hosted by The Dana Gallery in November. His winning watercolor entitled "Answering the Bugel" depicts a bugling elk silhouetted on the skyline with an impressionistic foreground and a soft wash of trees in the upper right. Colors used were Payne's gray, Raw Sienna, and a touch of Thalo blue.

The jurist for the show was Japanese artist Keiko Tanabe and the award included prize money of \$750.00.



Pastor Steve also was awarded the Juror's Choice for Watercolor in the juried show at the Montana State Fair in August. This painting depicts an alert red fox in another impressionist setting which employs washes with thrown paint and sprayed water. The colors used were Payne's gray, Burnt Sienna and a touch of Cerulean blue.

## 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.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

#### Baptized and Beloved

It was a relatively common scene: a first-century Palestinian man waiting on the banks of the Jordan River for his turn to be baptized. And yet there was something different about this time, this place, this man. This time God would enter into the waters of God's own creation.

This story gives us a glimpse of how God enters fully into this life with us. God enters into our earthbound, created existence of river banks and dusty earth, rushing water and cloud-spotted skies. Jesus enters into our time-bound realities of life and death too, not shying away from the hard parts of being human. In these mysterious waters of baptism, Jesus immerses himself in pain and sin, sickness and death. And then Jesus emerges from the depths into new life—a life rooted in his identity as the Beloved One, the one sent by God to bring all of creation into renewed relationship with God and one another.

Jesus' baptism is just the beginning of his earthly ministry. From here, he will enter the wilderness, call his disciples, preach and teach and heal. He will disrupt the status quo, scandalize the authorities, and challenge his most loyal followers in his mission to offer the world a glimpse of the kingdom of God.

At its core, this is an Epiphany story. It reveals to us who Jesus is: Beloved. Sent by God. The one in whom God is pleased from the very beginning. The one in whom God is made known to the world. And this story reveals to us something else as well. It has the power to remind us who we are, as we too are swept up in these life-giving waters. We too emerge as a new creation made whole in Christ. May we hear God's words to us too: "This is my child the beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

### Ryan Gilbertson Eagle Scout Ceremony to Be Held at Bethel

**Saturday, January 14th**

**3:00 PM**

**Livestream on [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

Reception in the  
Fellowship Hall to  
follow.



## 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



# A View From the Pew ...

## Terry Korpela

*My favorite Bethel Memory:*

We have been members of Bethel for over 40 years so needless to say I have several wonderful memories. Winter retreats in the Lincoln area, summer retreats at camp Rotary in Monarch area, women's retreats at the Ursuline Center; Lutheran Church Women gatherings which resulted in road trips in and out of state; 50 below zero weather one Christmas Eve where we had to pick up Pastor Peters as his car wouldn't start; Bethel's first FISH food cupboard which just happened to be the old office closet; painting the church nursery which is now the kitchen; teaching Sunday School behind a rolling island in the church kitchen which is our current Narthex; Vacation Bible School where we borrowed the cemetery's canvas shelter so we could host kids outside; float trips on the Missouri where a certain couple got in their canoe each facing the opposite direction; fundraising campaigns where Alison Sexe Morris was the video star; first logos gatherings and figuring out if we could get kids interested; youth gathering trips to Mexico, Seattle, and the Gorge; Bethel Bunch get togethers; and our annual Hope Circle ugly ornament exchange for the spouses.

But one of my favorite memories is when I was one of three leaders for the Senior High Logos group and we were planning a year end party. We decided or I decided that we should reinvent "The Amazing Race". I made up clues for different locations around town. I twisted arms for church members to be at different locations to pass along the next clues. Think I talked new members - Leone and Walt Nuessle to hang out at the caboose on River Edge Trail as one of the stops. Another stop was to spend \$5.00 at a Big Box Store on food items for FISH. Only problem is the kids weren't sure which Big Box Store I meant so they couldn't find the adult handing out the dollars or to get their next clue. Eventually all adult driven teenage packed cars returned for a celebration and to see who completed the course first and who purchased the most food items for FISH. We also invited all the members who were hanging out at the designated spots to join us. Was a fun evening for all and we got to share our high school youth with members who were not currently involved with Logos. A win- win for all of us. Working with the youth at Bethel has never been a disappointment. Whether I attended the little ones in the nursery, taught Sunday School, handled the PR for Logos, or prayed with the Senior High Group, I always walked away feeling a little more apart of my church family.

Thank you Bethel family for 45 years of laughs, gatherings, Bible Study's, church services, great potlucks, life long friends, love and prayers.



### 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.

# Just for *YOUTH*

## Jesus' baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

Imagine being there with John and Jesus at the water.

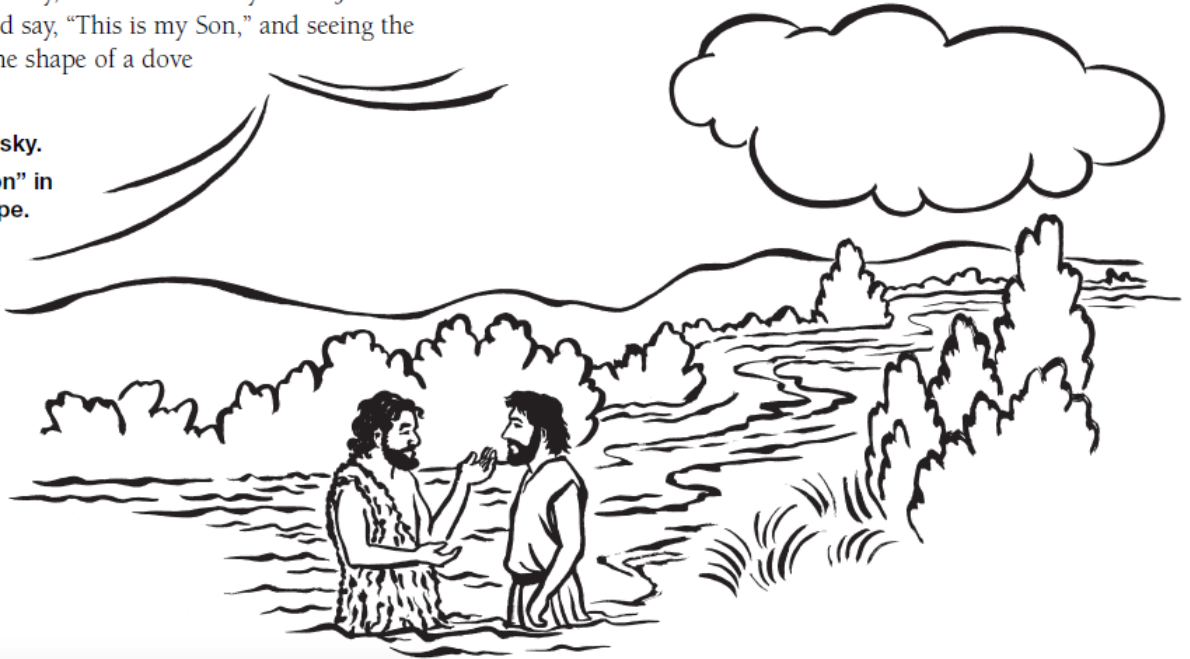
Here's another "epiphany," another new way to see Jesus.

Imagine hearing God say, "This is my Son," and seeing the sky open to show the shape of a dove coming to Jesus.

Draw a dove in the sky.

Print "This is my Son" in the puffy cloud shape.

Draw a triangle connecting God's words, the dove, and Jesus.



## Water everywhere

We use water all the time for many things.

Find pictures of three things that could use water.  
Draw a line to the kind of water they need.



Talk about the water of baptism, the water that gives us new life, washes away our sins, and splashes us with the good news that we are God's children.

### This week

Look at pictures from baptisms in your family and tell baptism stories.



## Logos

Wednesday, January 11th

### Lesson:

Matthew 3:13-17

### Dinner:

Tater Tot Hot Dish  
Strawberries and bananas  
Baby Carrots  
Oreo Pie



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday 1/10**

- 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 1/11**

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

### **Friday 1/13**

- Bethel office closed

### **Saturday 1/14**

- Ryan Gilbertson's Eagle Scout Ceremony 3:00 pm

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 1/15**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am

### **Monday 1/16**

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Bethel Office is 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

## **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.