

January 9, 2025

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Bethel Weekly NOTES

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

Serving This Sunday

Accompanist

Connie Titcomb

Lay Assistant

Sue Hesse

Usher(s)

Tammy Good

Worship Tech

Gabe Smith

Children's Church

Claire Woods

TBD

Hospitality

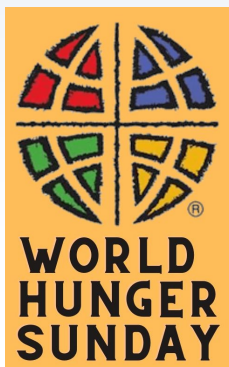
Walt and Leone

Nuessle

Counters

Stephanie Cummings

Tammy Good



This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **Baptism of our Lord**.

We welcome and thank **Dave Scholten, LMA** for leading worship.

ELCA World Hunger Sunday, we will receive and additional offering in the wicker basket.

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

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

Mark your calendars for these important upcoming meetings. January 26th Budget Meeting, February 2nd Annual Meeting. Both meetings will take place after worship on the respective Sundays.

Readings:

First

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 29

Second

Reading: Acts 8:14-17

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

In This Issue:

Page 2—

- * Prayers
- * New Back Entrance Sign In Sheet

Page 3—

- * A Year In Pictures

Page 4—

- * National Day of Racial Healing
- * Family Promise of GF Needs

Page 5—

- * Upcoming Online Book Study
- * FLBC Events
- * Bethel Handbell Choir

Page 6—

- * This Week's Gospel
- * Blood Drive at Bethel

Page 7—

- * Just for YOUTH

Page 8—

- * Fellowship Ministries
- * Church Calendar
- * Giving Statements and Upcoming Meetings

Lord, in your mercy...

HEAR OUR PRAYER

- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Turner Graybill**, who is having a biopsy on his head.
- ✠ Prayers of support and healing **Laura (Wandke) Overturf**, exploring treatment for breast cancer .
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for **the Pepos Family** as mourn the passing of Matt's mother, Nell.
- ✠ 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 **Carol Ann**, *Marilyn Carlson's sister*, as she recovers from surgery and determines future treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Ryan's mother**, as she awaits a surgery for a double lung transplant.
- ✠ Prayers healing for **Maddie** and support for her family, *she is the daughter of a friend of Lindsey Turner Johnson's*, who is having surgery.
- ✠ 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.

Back Door Sign In Sheet

In an effort to keep track of individuals and groups using the Bethel during non-business hours, we have put a clipboard by the backdoor for anyone who is coming in to sign in and sign out.

We have not had any instances of misuse of the building, but would be great to know how much the building is being utilized.

Please let the Council know if you have any questions.

Thank you so very much.

A Year In Pictures

Bethel 2024



ELCA Youth Gathering In New Orleans



Colter FIINALLY Graduates!



Baptism Myla Frieling



Baptism Beckett Stucker



Men's Breakfast keeps the conversation lively!



LOGOs Nativity

God's Work Sunday



Choir Sing!



Farewell to Pastor Jessie.



Handbells Ring!

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-healing)

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



Family Promise of Great Falls Update and Needs

1. **We're searching for volunteer families from congregations within the community to serve as mentors for our housing program families. Interested in learning more?** Please reach out to Tiffany Wilkson at Tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org to learn about how your family could help support a housing program family.
2. Next month we're partnering with P. Gibson's Great Falls for a community night fundraiser. Join us on **February 4th from 5-8 p.m.** for some delicious food for a great cause!
3. We will be hosting our housing program families at our Day Center a few times a year for either a movie or game night with food (pizza or tacos anyone?). These family fun night events are aimed at connecting our staff, board, and volunteers with our housing program families in a casual atmosphere of fun. We will be **seeking donations** to help fund these nights, and donations of Pizza Hut gift cards or Taco Bell gift cards would help tremendously. We also welcome any families interested in mentoring our housing program families, as this would be a way to make introductions and see if the two families fit together in a way that would be beneficial for both. Tami Grosenick Friday 5 for the week of January 1st 1 message Tiffany Wilkson Fri, Jan 3, 2025 at 12:42 PM Reply-To: Tiffany Wilkson To: bethelmc.church@gmail.com
4. We will be registering to be involved in the Give Great Falls Campaign that typically kicks off in April. We'll need everyone's support for our campaign to crack the list of the top #10 registered nonprofits this year. **Let's get together to raise funds for the families we serve!**
5. (Source, Business Insider 11/05/24) **Montana saw a 551% increase in homelessness between 2007 and 2023 — the largest increase in the nation.**

To Help Out or for more information contact tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org.

Book Study Opportunity:

Tuesdays in January

You Are Not Your Trauma:

Uproot Unhealthy Patterns,

Heal the Family Tree

January 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th

11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. MT

with co-author **Caroline Beidler,**
MSW



[Click to Register](#)

Tired of feeling weighed down by your past and ready to heal and let go?

In [You Are Not Your Trauma: Uproot Unhealthy Patterns, Heal the Family Tree](#), mental health and addiction recovery expert Caroline Beidler, MSW, helps you identify unhealthy patterns that keep you stuck and live more freely without your trauma—or your family’s trauma—holding you back.

Through personal stories, accessible research, and practical steps, Beidler provides a framework for healing. To promote trauma recovery, well-being, and wholeness, she’ll lead you through five powerful rhythms about:

- ◆ honoring your story,
- ◆ having radical compassion,
- ◆ finding ways to create everyday courage,
- ◆ getting honest with yourself,
- ◆ and living open-handed.

JOIN NOW Bethel Handbell Choir

Playing on Sunday, January 19th.
Rehearsal will be Saturday,
January 18th from 10 am to Noon
If you would like to play in the Bell Choir,
email Sharon Mueller at
oboeclear@gmail.com by
Tuesday, January 14th



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

Filled with Expectation



At the beginning of the Epiphany season, we encounter John the baptizer, serving people who are filled with expectation. Curiosity is the birthplace of expectation. Many people were curious about whether John might be the expected messiah. They were hopeful that the dreams of their people were about to be fulfilled by this strange and solitary prophet.

Sometimes we are exuberant when our expectations are fulfilled. We know this feeling when a new baby is born, a family member graduates from college or attains a new job, or a summer vacation is around the corner. Other times, we are devastated by unfulfilled expectations—when a loved one dies in hospice, a pink slip is given at work, or a house is foreclosed.

Expectation can lead to great happiness or to depression. John's followers' expectations were correct but misplaced. John redirected their hopes to Jesus, who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

In what ways can we joyfully expect God's good work in our own lives? Have we put our hope in people or things guaranteed to disappoint us? How might life be different if we put all our hope for the future in the good plan of God?

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened and a dove descended. Then God spoke these life-changing and transformative words: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

When we were baptized, God spoke words like these over us as well. As creations made in God's own image, we are innately beloved and pleasing to God. May this truth change how we navigate through the world and fill us with joyful expectation for God's good plan to come.

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American
Red Cross

Community of Giving

January 13, 2025 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a hop bowl of soup and dessert
after donating.

For an appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org Or call 1-800-733-2767

Would you like to help, but cannot give blood? How about a plate of cookies or bars? Contact Tammy Good if you are willing to donate some baked goods. tcgood1964@gmail.com

Just for YOUTH

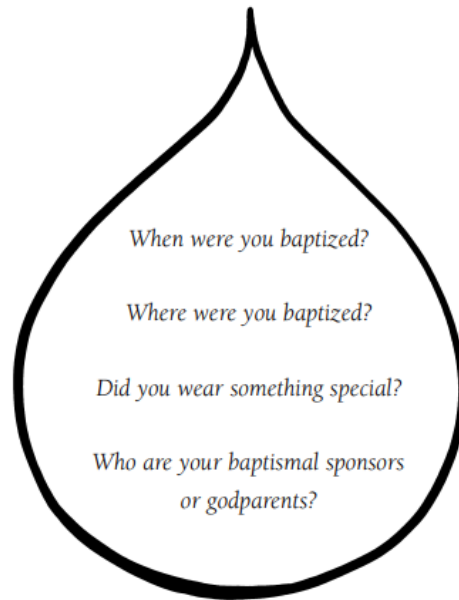
Baptism

When we are baptized, we are welcomed into God's family through water and God's word. At a baptism, the pastor might light a candle and say to the person being baptized, "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven."



Your baptism

Have you been baptized? Ask a family member help you answer these questions about your baptism:



Jesus' baptism

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Use the pictures to help you read the story.



John the Baptizer



baptized



Jesus






dove




many people in the Jordan River.

One day  came to  to be .

When   , heaven opened.

A  flew down. The , the Holy Spirit of God, came down on .

A voice from heaven said to , "You are my beloved Son.

I am pleased with you."

Today is the first Sunday in the church season called Epiphany. Epiphany is also called the season of light. The Bible stories during Epiphany teach us how Jesus filled the world with the light of God's love. Connect the dots to find a church symbol for Epiphany. Why is this a good symbol for light?

BETHEL CHURCH CALENDAR

WEEK OF JANUARY 12TH

Sunday 12th

- Worship led by Dave Scholten, LMA in person and live stream 9:30 am—World Hunger Sunday
- Adult form The Chosen season 4 continues

Tuesday 14th

- Electric City Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Council Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM

Wednesday 15th

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

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
- Adult form The Chosen season 4 continues

Tuesday 21st

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

Wednesday 22nd

- 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.

DATE CHANGE

Next meeting January 16th 2:00 pm

Terry Korpela's home

Giving Statements are available for pickup this Sunday at Bethel. Any statement not picked up will be mailed the following Monday.

Annual Reports and Budget Information

We are putting the finishing touches on the Bethel Annual Report for 2024 and they will be available and emailed on January 16th. If you would like to pick up a printed copy or have a printed copy mailed to you contact Tami in the Bethel Office by phone 406-761-1543 or online at bethelgf.church@gmail.com and one will be provided.

Please review the Annual Report and Budget information provided within prior to our Budget Meeting on January 26th after worship. Bring any questions, comments or concerns you have at that time. If you will not be available for the meeting and have questions you can email Kelsey Johnson, Bethel Treasurer at bethelgf.council.treasurer@gmail.com.