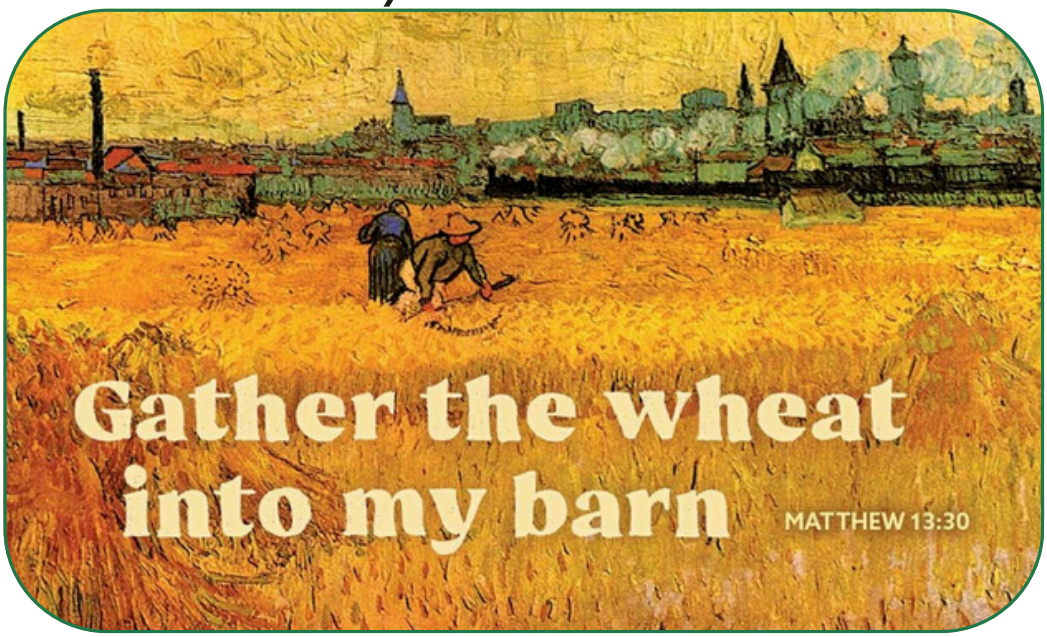
Bethel Notes

Let's Worship together Sunday 9:30 am
in person at Bethel or livestream at bethelmt.org.
All are welcome!

God calls us
God transforms us
God sends us
BETHEL
Lutheran Church

1009 18th Ave SW •
Great Falls, MT 59404 •
406-761-1543 •
bethelgf.church@gmail.com •
bethelmt.org •
Rev. Dawn Busch •

8th Sunday after Pentecost



Readings

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

Serving Sunday

Thank you for your service!

Accompanist
Lynn Ryan, piano
Lay Assistant
Mark Kohoutek
Ushers
Terry Korpela, Jeanne Price
Tech
Gabe Smith
Children's Church
Tyler Grosenick, Kendall Ryan
Hospitality
Sue Hesse, Colleen Walker-Nelson
Altar Guild
Marilyn Carlson, Terry Korpela
Counters
Greg Grosenick, Jeanne Price

Announcements

Summer Evening worship
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on the patio. Join together for worship and fellowship around the smokeless fire pit.

Summer Book Study: A Is For Alabaster
continues after worship at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Today's chapter: K Is For King Herod.

PRAYERS

We hold in prayer those in our community and beyond who are in need of healing, strength, comfort, and peace. We trust that God knows each story more deeply than words can express.

NEW OR CHANGED

Please join us in celebrating the marriage of **Karolina Pepos and Peyton Carle** as they begin their life together. Congratulations, Karolina and Peyton! May God richly bless your life together.

Please keep **the family and friends of Joshua Fladstol** in your prayers as they continue to mourn his unexpected passing with Saturday's memorial service celebrating his life.

Please keep **Earl Terwilliger and his family** in your prayers as they mourn the passing of his brother-in-law. In this time of grief, may God's comforting presence surround them with peace, strengthen them with hope, and remind them that they do not walk this journey alone.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE

Receiving medical treatment

Mike Evans, *Tami Grosenick's brother*
Donna Gilbertson, *Randy Gilbertson's mother*
Janel, *cousin of Dan and Jenny Woods*
Kathleen Rankin, Jeanne Rankin's sister
Marcia, Sara Sexe's cousin
Ashley, friend of Ali Morris
Carol Ann, Marilyn Carlson's sister

Living with ongoing health concerns

Abby Clegg
Jane Mart
Gordon Lord
Jace Binder, young cousin of Kady Murphy
Clarice Skogley, Jeff Skogley's mother
Carrie O'Brien
Bob Underhill, Sue Hesse's brother-in-law
Ed Pottratz
Alex Bostic
Dennis McCarty

Recovering at home or in rehabilitation

Stephanie Cummings
Jim Carlson
Cole Dingle, *great-grandnephew of Sonja Baumgardner*
Doris Winter, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's Godmother*
Rob Kellenbeck, Dena Wagner-Fossen's cousin

Serving in the military or law enforcement

Nolan Smith, grandson of Walt and Leone Nuessle

Care-giving loved ones

John and Debbie Blank
Bob and Mary Lou Norbie
Karen Lord
Debbie McCarty
Marilyn Carlson

Receiving Hospice or end-of-life care

Jerry, Jeanne Rankin's brother's father-in-law
Rita Palmer, mother of Kristie Henry

To add or update a prayer request, please contact the Bethel Office by email or call 406-761-1543. To contact the **HUGS Ministry** for visitation or communion click this link or call the Bethel Office.
Names remain on the list until we are notified of a change.

Life at Bethel

Last Sunday we celebrated with the Link Family as their son Mackenzie Robert Link was baptized!

Mom Emma holds Mackenzie while Pr. Dawn pours the living water of baptism over his head.

Sponsors Chris and Katie Link along with brothers, August, Charlie Link (standing infront of Chris) Parents Emma and Austin (holding Mackenzie) and Pr. Dawn.

Sponsors Chris and Katie holding the baptismal candle to remind Mackenzie he is a shining light of God.

Pr. Dawn Goes To Indianapolis

An ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering is held in a different location every three years. Who is an ELCA Rostered Minister? This is a person who is ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament or a minister of Word and Service. These are most often our Pastors and Deacons in the church, whether serving in congregations, synod offices, churchwide offices, or other ministry sites. This year, we met in Indianapolis, IN, for a time of continuing education, reconnection with colleagues, and an opportunity to be reenergized for ministry. Each day we heard from different leaders and keynote speakers on the theme "Woven Together". During the event the gathering's artist-in-residence wove a banner reflecting our diverse stories using fabric contributed by rostered ministers.

We were reminded that we are woven together with God, for Creation, as a community. I invite you to consider all of the congregations hearing similar scriptures and prayers each week and how that connects us with the larger Church. At Bethel, we have the gift of being part of a larger church with resources and gifts that we share mutually.

Did you know that you are also a minister!? Each in our own vocations, in our retirements, or in our families have something to contribute to the Church. It might be your care for others, your care for creation, your care for property, your care for justice, or your care for whatever else you are passionate about that contributes to the common good. These are the ways you do ministry, and together we are the Church.

I was able to attend workshops on writing mission statements and strategic planning, disability justice, and the upcoming ELCA youth gathering. I also came back with more information on church property resources, youth resources, and planning resources. I hope that I will have opportunities to share these resources with groups at Bethel who will be able to use them for the common good in our community and beyond. Thank you for your contributions to our MT Synod and the ELCA from whom we receive these gifts. If you are interested in any of these details please reach out to me! I'd be happy to share.

+Pastor Dawn

Pr. Baird Linke (Our Savior's-Missoula), Pr. Stacey Heggem (Synod Staff-AtoB for Lay Ministry), Pr. Gretchen Wagner (Trinity/First English-Culbertson/Bainville), Pr. Dawn Busch (Bethel-Great Falls), Pr. Heidi Hester (Hope-Bozeman), Pr. Teri Ditslear (Trinity-Cody, WY).

Deeper Engagement

Stilling Storms

Jesus got into a boat with experienced fishermen (most of them), he laid down and fell asleep. He slept so hard that even when the boat was being tossed to and fro, the waves were splashing into the boat, and the wind had to be blowing water in his face, he slept.

Mark 4:35–39 [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ... A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Did Jesus have so much confidence in the boat that he could sleep knowing it wouldn't begin to fall apart? Or did Jesus have so much confidence in his experienced fishermen friends that they would guide them all safely across a lake that was known to have storms come up in the afternoons? Or did his faith land in the one true God who he trusted to keep them safe? He had to have trust in God in order to sleep so peacefully.

We often overestimate our ability to volunteer help and become overwhelmed (our boat becomes swamped). Even in the summer months when we try to find rest, chaos arises. Some of our storms we create for ourselves and others come up out of nowhere. Sometimes our storms are beyond our control. When life seems overwhelming, we might have skills to prioritize and delegate but ultimately it doesn't help us when we worry and stress.

Jesus has invited us into this boat of life together. Although we don't place our faith in the boat or in each other, we each do our part. So often there is nothing we can do in our storms, but we can **always** call out to God. We are all in this boat together and yet we don't put our faith in the boat or in our friends. While admitting *we still need the boat and our neighbors*, we put our faith in our Savior Jesus. Jesus reminds us, during our storms (and when there is still calm), to depend on our faith. **Trust in God to calm the storm**. That doesn't mean the storm will go away, but maybe the wind and the waves will stop tossing you around.

Your storm might be a little different than my storm, but we are all in the same boat, with the same Savior. We all have Jesus with whom to leave our fears and sorrows and to rejoice in our joys and celebrations. We are all in the same boat, and Jesus is there with us to calm our storms! Thanks be to God!

+Pastor Dawn

Congratulations Dr. Jason Gleason!

We are thrilled to announce that our esteemed Bethel member, Dr. Jason Gleason, has been chosen as a finalist for the 2026 VA Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice.

This distinguished award recognizes VA nurses who excel in clinical practice, leadership, innovation, and Veteran–centered care. As a clinician, educator, and valued member of the Fitzgerald Health Education Associates, Jason embodies the dedication and compassion that motivate nurse practitioners throughout the field.

Prayer Shawls for Peace Hospice: Hands at Work, Hearts in Prayer

Peace Hospice is in urgent need of prayer shawls for those in their care. The hospice chaplain has requested that the shawls follow a consistent pattern, and instructions are available at in the Bethel Office. Shawls may be either knit or crocheted.

If you are able to help, AnneRose Rogers will deliver completed prayer shawls to Peace Hospice House. If you have any questions, contact AnneRose or the Bethel Office.

Upcoming Events & Invitations

Summer Adult Forum: A is for Alabaster

Our summer book study on "A is for Alabaster" by Anna Carter Florence is open for new participants!

Join us for discussions on biblical themes without any homework or book requirement. Each session is independent, allowing for lively conversation.

Upcoming topics include:
- "K is for King Herod" (7/19)"
- "K is for King Solomon" (7/26)

Come as you are and be part of the discussion!

Thank you to Shirley Cayko for leading our Adult Forum in Pastor Dawn's absence.

Family Promise Night at Voyagers Baseball!

SAVE THE DATE! July 22, 2026, join Family Promise Great Falls and The Voyagers at Centene Stadium at 6:30 p.m. Visit our table to learn about tackling childhood homelessness in Great Falls and how you can help. Purchase $12 tickets through our office or online—every ticket supports our families! Click the link to buy yours!

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-voyagers-game-night

Family Promise of Great Falls

Lend a Hand to TLC Daycare

For the past 23 years, TLC Daycare has been a part of the Bethel family, providing loving care to countless children while leasing space in our building. As they prepare to begin an exciting new chapter in their own location, they could use our help.

Moving a daycare means packing classrooms, organizing supplies, and transporting years' worth of toys, furniture, and countless boxes. While the main move will take place August 1–2, there are many opportunities to help with packing and making smaller trips in the days leading up to the move.

Whether you can give an hour, an afternoon, or help during the main moving weekend, your time and willing hands will make a tremendous difference. Let's thank TLC for the many years they've shared with Bethel by helping them start this new journey with encouragement and support.
If you're willing to help, please contact TLC Daycare 406-453-6670.

Thank you for doing God's Work with Our Hands!

Stop in the Sunshine Room and see the 75th Anniversary Board! Lots of pictures and memories!!!

75th Anniversary Brick Campaign Update

Celebrate 75 Years of Bethel by Becoming Part of Our Story!
As we prepare for our 75th Anniversary Celebration, you're invited to dedicate a commemorative brick for just $10 per brick in honor or memory of someone who has been an important part of your faith journey or Bethel's history. More than 120 bricks have already been purchased, creating a meaningful display that reflects the people, memories, and faith that have built our congregation over the past 75 years. Proceeds from the brick campaign help support our anniversary celebration, as no budgeted funds were allocated for the event. Bricks may be purchased after worship, on our website bethelmt.org/give or by contacting Tami Grosenick. Thank you for helping us celebrate God's faithfulness and build this lasting tribute together.

Gospel Reflection

Deep-Seated Grace • Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The things we learn early on in life matter. Maybe the first time you rode a bike taught you about a deep sense of fulfillment. The first time your heart swooned with romance taught you about a whole new dimension of love. Painfully, we find out the stove is hot by that first, uninformed touch, and we learn to watch for the flame. That first heartbreak sows some mistrust in future relationships.

These core memories inform how we see and interact with the world, shaping our expectations and actions. They are like seeds planted deep that grow and grow within. As Jesus speaks in this parable of weeds among the wheat, we are reminded that within us are both good seeds and invasive plants that get in the way. As our early memories remind us, people can sow both good and evil. There is fulfillment and romance, and there is pain and mistrust—good seeds and pesky weeds.

In a radical move, God the gardener has planted the deepest seed, a seed of grace. And herein lies the promise of this story from Jesus: Though we may try to uproot the sin—the weeds—separating us from God and each other, only God can make this grace come to life. With dusty overalls and a warm smile, God, the greatest gardener, removes the weeds of pain and mistrust. In Jesus, all that separates us from one another and from God is no more. The earliest seed planted deep within (even before we can remember) is the seed of grace that cultivates the deepest connection to God.

How have you seen God's grace at work in you, and how has the Spirit sown trust and connection in your life?

JOURNAL QUESTIONS:

1. What "good seeds" has God planted in your life?
2. Are there weeds of fear, hurt, or mistrust that God is inviting you to release today?
3. Where have you experienced God's grace bringing healing and new life?

Gracious Gardener, thank you for planting the seed of your grace deep within me. Help me trust your work in my life, remove the weeds that keep me from you and from others, and grow in faith, hope, and love each day. Amen.

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Just for YOUth

Show your personal parable to someone and talk about it.

Dear God, help me grow like good seeds. Amen.

This week

Collect ideas to tell stories about God's love.

The seeds and the weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus knew there were good and bad things in the world. He told a story about good and bad seeds. The wheat grew from the good seeds even though weeds were growing around them.

Fill this garden with flowers from the good seeds. Mix in some weeds.

A parable is a story. Jesus told parables about simple things people saw every day such as a coin, sheep, families, and food.

then

now

Draw a line from then to the things people saw in Jesus' time and from now to things people see today.

Looking Ahead

This Week | July 19–25

Sunday 7/19
- Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Adult Forum book study: A Is For Alabaster

Tuesday 7/21
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)

Wednesday 7/22
- Summer Evening Worship – 7:00 pm (patio)

Thursday 7/23
- Jeremiah Book Study – 10:00 am* (Fellowship Hall)

Friday 7/24
- Bethel office is closed.

Next Week | July 26–July 31

Sunday 7/26
- Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Adult Forum, book study: A Is For Alabaster, topic: K Is For King Solomon

Tuesday 7/28
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)

Wednesday 7/29
- Summer Evening Worship – 7:00 pm (patio)

Thursday 7/30
- Jeremiah Book Study – 10:00 am* (Fellowship Hall)

Friday 7/31
- Bethel office is closed.

**Zoom option available. Please email the Bethel Office at bethelgf.church@gmail.com to receive a link.*

Dear Lord,

So far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped. I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent.

I'm very thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed; and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help!

PAR-Tee Golf Scramble this Fall??

We are taking an interest list for anyone who would like to participate in our annual PAR-Tee Golf Scramble. There is a sign up in the narthex or email the Bethel Office at bethelgf.church@gmail.com. We need a minimum of 12 people to hold the scramble. Date to be determined, but looking at the end of August or early September. This is a fun way to have fellowship on a beautiful Golf course and expertise is NOT required.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

- **Hope Circle** — Monthly gathering for connection and care - contact Terry Korpela by clicking this link Email Terry - **Resumes fall 2026**
- **Electric City Bible Study** — Tuesdays at 7:00 am (Zoom) - contact Terry Korpela by clicking this link Email Terry
- **Men's Breakfast** — Tuesdays at 7:00 am in Fellowship Hall - contact Dave Scholten by clicking this link Email Dave - **Resumes fall 2026**
- **LOGOs Youth Ministry** - Pre K thru High School — Wednesdays 5:30 pm 6:30 pm (HS) - contact Tami Grosenick by clicking this link Email Tami - **Resumes fall 2026.**

There is a place for you here...All are welcome!