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 •

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-36

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Serving Sunday

Thank you for your service!

Accompanist
Lynn Ryan, piano
Lay Assistant
Mindy Leach
Ushers
Tamy Good
Tech
Gabe Smith
Children's Church
Liz Aakre, Kendall Ryan
Hospitality
Laurie Turner
Altar Guild
Marilyn Carlson, Terry Korpela
Counters
Pam Dougherty, Tammy Good

Announcements

Summer Evening worship
Wednesday 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.
Sunday's chapter: K Is For King Solomon.

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 keep **Jeanne Moe,** *Kris Voorhees mother***,** in your prayers. She has been experiencing episodes of atrial fibrillation (AFib) and is currently spending time in the hospital as her medical team works to evaluate and treat her condition. We pray for healing, wisdom for her doctors and caregivers, comfort during this time, and God's peace to surround her.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE

Receiving medical treatment

Mike Evans, *Tami Grosenick's brother*
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

Stephanie Cummings
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

Donna Gilbertson, *Randy Gilbertson's mother*
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

BETHEL LOGOS
YOUTH MINISTRY

Share Your Faith. Build a Relationship. Make a Difference.

You don't need to be a Bible scholar or a professional teacher. You simply need a willing heart, a listening ear, and a desire to spend time with our children and youth. Some of the most meaningful moments happen through simple conversations, laughter, questions, and encouragement.

As a volunteer, you'll help create a safe and welcoming place where kids can grow in their faith, build friendships, and know they are loved by God. Whether you're leading a discussion, helping with an activity, or simply showing up each week, your presence matters more than you know.

If you've ever wondered if God could use your gifts—this may be your invitation. Our young people need to konw there are adults other than their parents who care for them.

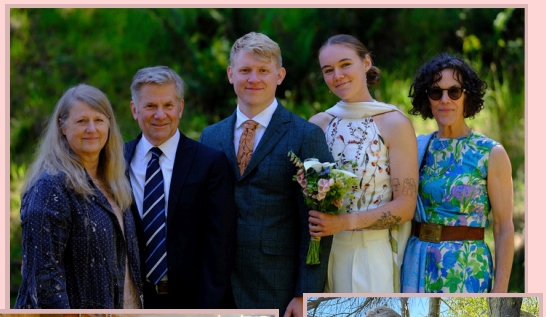
Come be part of a ministry that is shaping the next generation, one Wednesday evening at a time.

Interested or have questions? Contact Kelsey Johnson johnsonkelsey149@gmail.com or Tami Grosenick in the church office. We'd love to visit with you and help you find a role that's a great fit.

Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Scholten

Congratulations to Bridger & Zoe Scholten on their marriage on June 13!

May God bless your new life together with abundant love, steadfast faith, joyful laughter, and the grace to grow together through every season. May your home always be filled with peace and God's presence. Congratulations and blessings on your marriage!



Blessing TLC as They Begin a New Chapter

As many of you know, TLC Daycare will soon be moving to its new location. While we are sad to see them leave Bethel, we are grateful for the years of ministry and care they have shared with so many children and families. We pray God's blessings on their next chapter.

On Sunday, **July 26,** Pastor will offer a special prayer of blessing for the TLC staff during worship. A farewell card will also be available on the table in the narthex before and after the service for anyone who would like to share a note of encouragement or well wishes.

We will also be hosting a **staff appreciation lunch on Tuesday, July 28, at 11:30 a.m.** as a small way to thank the TLC team for their partnership and faithful service.

As TLC prepares for their move, Bethel would like to bless them in a practical way by **gifting the rental of their U-Haul moving truck** to help ease the transition. If you would like to contribute toward this gift, there will be a basket for donations and a card to sign on Sunday. You may also contact Tami in the Bethel Office for other donation options. Thank you for helping us send our friends at TLC with our prayers, gratitude, and support.

Deeper Engagement

When Compassion Becomes Exhausting

One day, while I was working, I found myself feeling what I like to call "compassion fatigue." I typed a question into ChatGPT: "Can there sometimes be too much Jesus?" What I really meant was: Can the constant exposure to suffering, need, and concern become too much to carry? With Pastor Dawn's permission, I'd like to share the reflection that came from that question…

Sometimes, especially when faith is a large part of our life, it can begin to feel like "too much Jesus." Usually, though, **it is not Jesus himself that feels exhausting**. It is the constant exposure to suffering: hunger, homelessness, grief, conflict and war, politics, illness, and needs we cannot possibly fix.

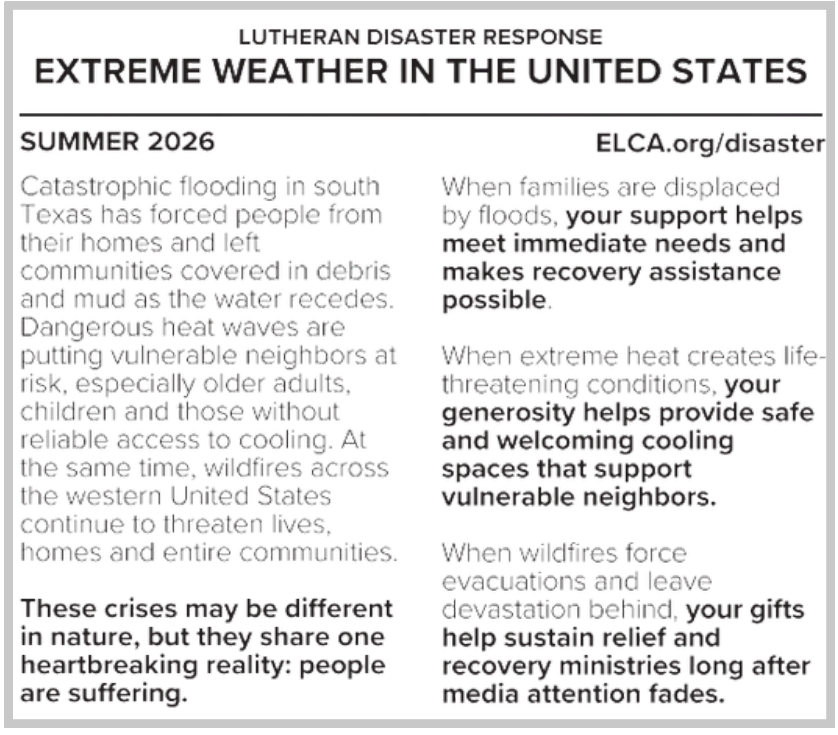
Many people call this compassion fatigue. We care deeply, but after a while our hearts and minds become overwhelmed by carrying concerns that were never ours to solve alone. Jesus did not model constant availability. He withdrew from crowds, rested, prayed, and allowed some needs to remain unmet. He cared deeply without carrying everything at once.

Perhaps the invitation is not to **care** less, but to **carry** less. Compassion says, "I see your suffering." It does not always mean, "I am responsible for fixing it."

Sometimes faithful living looks like serving. Sometimes it looks like stepping away, resting, and remembering that the world already has a Savior—and it is not us.

If you or someone you know is experiencing compassion fatigue, please reach out to Pastor Dawn or another trusted individual who cares about you. You are not alone.

This reflection was generated with the assistance of ChatGPT and edited by Tami Grosenick.



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 Solomon" (7/26)
- 8/2 N is for Naomi
- 8/9 W is for Walking on Water
- 8/16 Z is for Zacchaeus
- 8/23 D is for David
- 8/30 D is for Deliverance

Come as you are and be part of the discussion!

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

It's The Small Things • Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Children like to collect things: rocks, sticks, and more. Adults tend to pretend–love the items that are brought to them: "Oh, how beautiful!" "Oh, that's a good one." Children, encouraged, continue their collections, finding the smallest of things and displaying them like they are the most valuable items in the world.

Jesus' parables in today's gospel reading teach the disciples about things that are so small they are often overlooked: a mustard seed, a little bit of yeast, a tiny pearl, and even a net that is quite small until it is filled with fish. These little things in his parables are treasures important for understanding the reign of God.

Adults tend to overlook the small things while seeking larger things, heavier things, shinier things. We walk right past the tiny flower in the crack of a sidewalk, which once would have caught our eye. One pearl? A full necklace is better. A shrub that provides creatures a home? It's now in an inconvenient place.

But Jesus teaches that in God's reign all things, large and small, matter. All people matter. It is a wise disciple who recognizes this. Even King Solomon, with all his wealth, prayed for wisdom. Wisdom helps us see more clearly and begin to understand the depth of God's grace.

And that grace Jesus displayed immediately. "Have you understood all this?" he asked. The disciples answered simply, "Yes" (Matthew 13:51). What a bold answer! They were too worried to admit they did not understand. A little yeast, though, goes a long way. Jesus knew this. Each parable would build on another until the disciples understood the entire collection.

For us today, understanding God's grace takes study, prayers for wisdom, and walking the path while looking for the small things that matter. The reign of God is like a rose among a bramble bush? A child's picture of their home? However you visualize it, it is a treasure to cherish and to share.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS:

1. What "small thing" has God placed in your life that you may be overlooking?
2. Where have you seen God's kingdom growing in quiet or unexpected ways this week?
3. How can you help someone else see their worth today?

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Just for YOUth

Thank you for loving me no matter what. I love you, too. Amen

This week

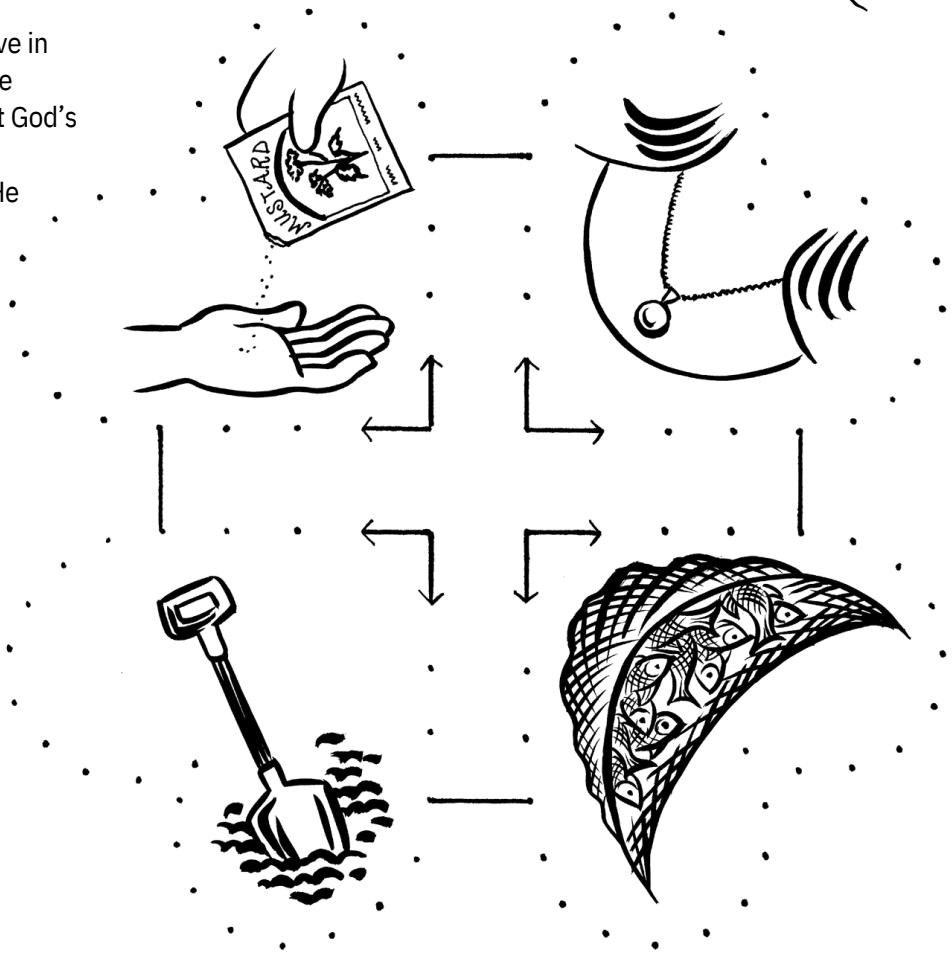
Look for hidden treasures of God's kingdom indoors and outside.

How do you experience God's love when you worship?

God's kingdom is like . . .

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

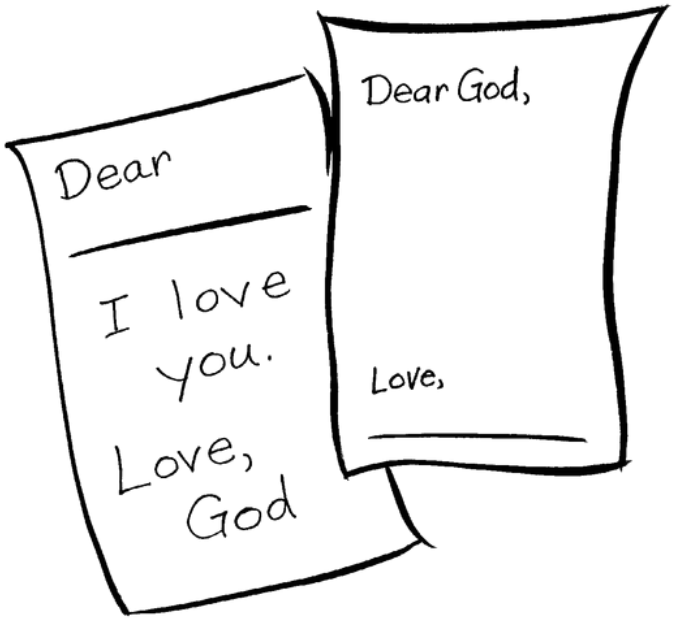
Paul told about God's love in letters. Jesus didn't write letters, but he told about God's love in parables—stories about everyday things. He described the treasures in God's kingdom of love.



Listen for signs of God's kingdom in the Gospel of Matthew. Trace the heart around each part of the story as you hear it. Color the empty space between the hearts. What do you see?

Love letters

Write your name in the letter from God. Then write or draw a message of love to God.



Looking Ahead

This 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.

Next Week | August 2 - August 7

Sunday 8/2
- Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Adult Forum, book study: A Is For Alabaster, topic: N is for Naomi

Monday 8/3
- Pastor Dawn will be at FLBC this week.

Tuesday 8/4
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)
- 75th Anniversary Committee meeting 11:30 am (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday 8/5
- Summer Evening Worship – 7:00 pm (patio)

Thursday 8/6
- No Jeremiah Book Study

Friday 8/7
- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

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

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!