

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, July 30, 2023

### *9th Sunday after Pentecost*

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

*First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12*

*Psalms 119:129-136*

*Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39*

*Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*



## Serving This Sunday

### **Musicians:**

Lynn Ryan, piano

### **Lay Assistant:**

Ainsley Kubas

### **Usher:**

Greg Grosenick

### **Tech:**

Adam Elkin

### **Children's Church:**

Julia Elkin

Tyler Grosenick

### **Counters:**

Pam Dougherty

Greg Grosenick

### **Hospitality:**

Sonja Baumgardner

Debbie McCarty

**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM  
in person or online at  
[bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**

We are planning our **LOGOs 2023-2024** year set to begin in September. We are in need of adult volunteers for teachers, table parents, kitchen help, rec leaders, music leaders, or any other talent you would like to share with our youth! As you prayerfully consider volunteering, know that the amount of time that you wish to share is up to you. Please visit with Tami Grosenick or Pastor Jessie for more information or details on how to help.



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of thanksgiving for **Earl Terwilliger**, who is recovering after a successful heart procedure.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and strength for **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law* managing adverse reactions to medication after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cathy Rankin**, *Jeanne Rankin's sister-in-law*, as she begins treatment for stage 1 breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Thelma Seyfert** as continues to regain her health after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** continues to work on regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✝ 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 **Abby Bisgard-Clegg**, *daughter of Don and Kathi Bisgard*, continues to manage health issues, but feeling and doing very well.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Linda O'Connor**, friend of *LaRae Veitch*, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues treatment for 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.

*With Deepest*  
**GRATITUDE**

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your prayers. God has listened and he has answered. I am already feeling the positive signs as a result. Prayer is a powerful thing and to have such supportive and living church family means so much. I know God will reward your efforts and bless you, and for that, I'll forever be thankful for your prayers.

Sincerely,

*Earl Terwilliger.*

# THE POWER OF PRAYER



I've been thinking a lot about prayer lately. The power it holds, and the deep meaning communicating with God has in our faith lives. When I was younger I remember struggling with prayer. What should I say? Was it ok to ask for things? How could I possibly say thank you for all of the blessings that I have received throughout life? Who should I even begin to pray for in a world that needs God's love in so many areas? The overwhelm of it all was enough to stop me in my tracks on most days. Then in 2012 something changed that for me. I was in Malaysia serving as a volunteer with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, and I began to receive communication that my name had been put on a circulating prayer list that would pray for each of the volunteers throughout our year of service. That week folks all around the ELCA were praying for ME and MY placement site. They were thinking of us, caring for our well being, and lifting us up in their own personal time with God. A few months later I got several letters in the mail from a Sunday School class in Southern California. Malaysia was their companion synod (like Bolivia and South Africa are our companion synods), and they were sending letters of encouragement and prayer to all of the ELCA folks deployed in Malaysia at the time. During that time I was on the opposite side of the globe as my family and many of my friends, and those prayers sent to me by complete strangers made me feel a bit less alone and a lot more loved and uplifted. For me, that is a huge piece of what the power of prayer is. It brings us deeper into community, and helps us remember that we are sewn together across the globe to be built up as the body of Christ.

As I think back to those critical moments in my life, I am also reminded that prayer is something that churches are notoriously good at. Our prayer chains, prayer groups, and ability to share our concerns, hurts, and joys with our Pastors and fellow church members are incredibly important! It reminds us that we are not alone! It brings us together as God's faithful people, and it reminds us that we have a God who is attentive and caring and loving. So dear church, today I wonder, who are you praying for these days? How can we lift one another up and marvel at the incredible power of prayer that comes from that lifting up? I hope and pray that you might ponder those questions in the days ahead. Pray for one another in the good times and the bad, and pray knowing that you speak to a God who loves you and this world more than you could ever imagine.

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

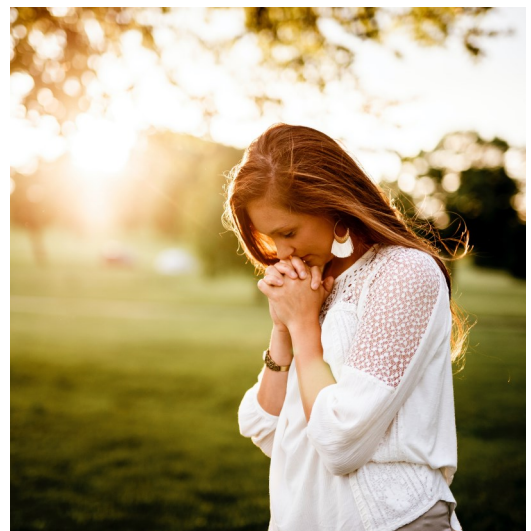


Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Holy Trinity, Wholly Love  
Vacation Bible School 2023

Praise and thank you to all our Bethel family for another successful Vacation Bible School!

This year we had 4 counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp who led our 62 campers in a week full of prayer, songs, lively activity, devotions, laughter, crafts and a VBS camp sing-a-long. Their daily focus was on: Who is God the creator? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? Who am I? and Who are we? The weather was perfect and we held small group games and community building activities outside, bible study was in the sanctuary and crafts in the Fellowship Hall.

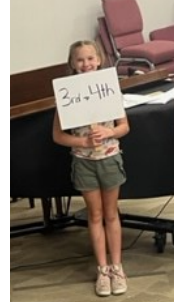
We could not have had such a successful week without out 22 fabulous junior counselors. They arrived full of energy and their willingness to help in any way. They were wonderful mentors to our youth, helping to make our days successful.

Our junior counselors, led by Colter McCarty and Warren Johnson, completed a fun and colorful service project, by painting ours sheds in the back parking lot. They followed their painting activities up with dinner and some fellowship time.

Our week was highlighted by our Summer Celebration that was had in conjunction with the Mission Endowment Committee. Brian's Top Notch food truck and Mr. Frosty Ice Cream treats supplied the food. The campers, led by FLBC Counselors and Jr. Counselors entertained with songs and stories from Camp Week.

There are so many people to thank for making camp a huge success. We had over 20 adult helpers show up to help us with our weekly activities. Special thanks to Pastor Jessie, our musicians, Pastor Steve Nelson, Keenan and Patrick Ryan, all of our kitchen help; Sandy Pepos and her whole committee who served snack and a delicious lunch every day. Marilyn Carlson for managing the registration table and putting out fires all day. For Udo and Terree Wozny for all the wonderful craft projects they created and for John Blank and Marilyn Carlson for running "crafting" all week with the campers. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher, Della and all her Jr. Counselors, signage and games for the Summer Celebration Jo Ann Dullum. A huge thank you for all the food that was provided and the free will donations from our congregation members and our campers.

This year our campers helped with our service project, by donating items to be used in the visitation rooms at Child Protective Services. The children donated, toys, books, paint canvas, paints, crayons, markers, art supplies, rocking horse, fidget toys, sensory poppers, cars, trucks and so much more. These items will used in the rooms while the children in protective care have visitations with their parents.





# Logos Youth Ministry

If you are looking for a way to get involved in ministries at Bethel and you love working with children, Bethel has a wonderful opportunity for you! Prayerfully consider volunteering for our Logos Youth Ministry. We are in need of youth teachers ages Pre K—Kinder through 6th grade, kitchen help, rec/game leaders.

We are extremely flexible to match you with the amount of time and talents that you have to help with this ministry. You can team teach, volunteer once a month, or any variation you can think of.

LOGOs Year starts mid September and ends mid April. We take a few weeks off around Christmas.

This is a fun way to be involved with Bethel. If you want more information or would like to volunteer, talk with Pastor Jessie or Tami Grosenick. We NEED You!!!



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 30, 2023, 9th Sunday after Pentecost

### The Greatest of Shrubs

Surely God's kingdom should end up sounding more impressive. Surely God can do better. Providing shelter for birds does sound like something God would do, but why can't the birds nest in a more attractive tree? A mustard seed, at its best, grows into a sort of weedy shrub. The greatest of shrubs is not that great.

Maybe that's the point. Maybe these little stories are supposed to seem a little strange. After all, God's choices often seem that way to us. God does not always value what we value. God likes small, weedy shrubs as much as big, majestic trees.

That is extremely good news for those of us who suspect we have more in common with the shrub than the tree. It is good to know that God loves both! It is good to know that God loves the mustard seeds of this world enough that God sends Jesus to be a mustard seed, to be the living proof that the kingdom of heaven is real. And the kingdom of heaven is here, because Jesus is here. And as we are filled with his Spirit, we also become living signs of that same kingdom.

After all, a God whose kingdom can be compared with something like a mustard seed is probably not going to stop short of using other unlikely things. A God like that might even decide to use people like us. So look around. What do you see? What do you see that surprises you? What do you see that you normally take for granted? What do you see that's alive? The kingdom of heaven is like that. The kingdom of heaven is even like us, right now. The kingdom of heaven may not do what we expect, or even what we want—but one way or another, the kingdom of heaven will grow.



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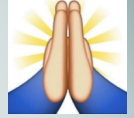
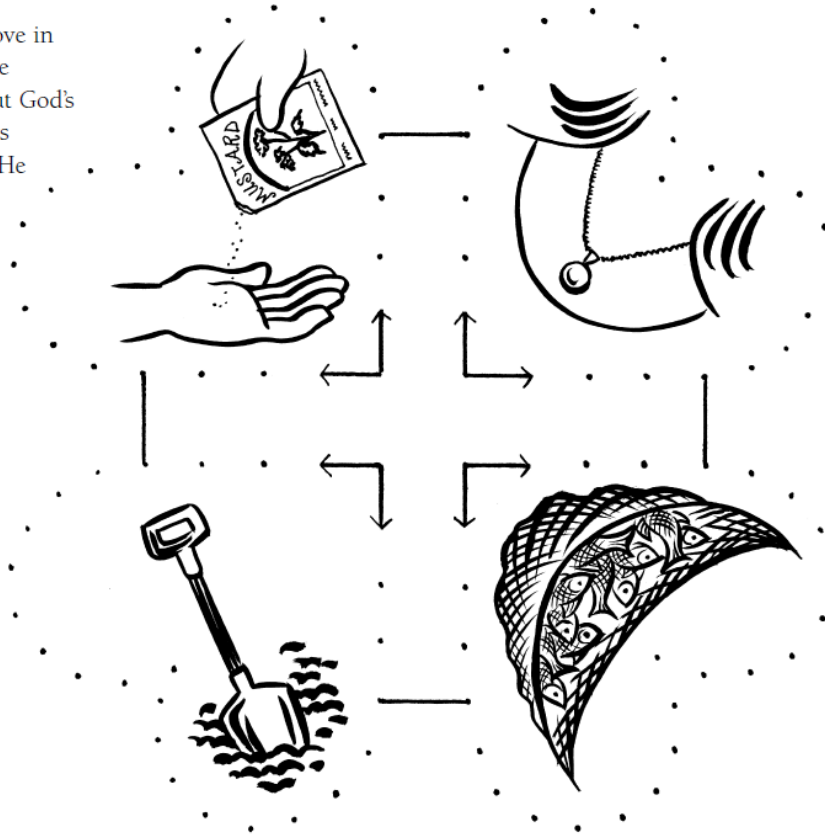


Suggested donation amount.  
Make checks payable to Bethel with  
Chair drive on the memo line, online at  
[bethelmt.org/onlinegiving/Adopt-A-Chair](http://bethelmt.org/onlinegiving/Adopt-A-Chair)  
or scan the QR code below.  
taking donations until August 1, 2023

# Just for *YOUTH*

## 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.



**Thank you  
 God, for lov-  
 ing me no  
 matter what.  
 I love you,  
 too.  
 Amen**

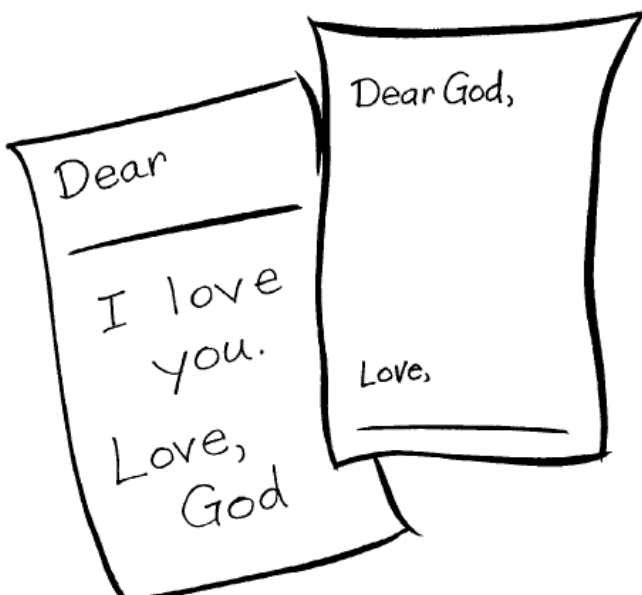
## This Week...

Look for hid-  
 den treasures  
 of God's king-  
 dom indoors  
 and outside.

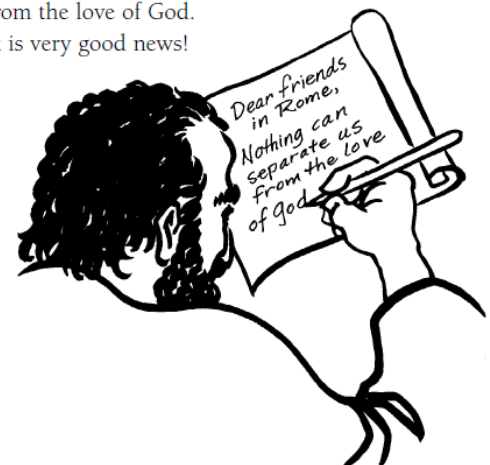
Listen for signs of  
 God's kingdom in  
 the Gospel of  
 Matthew. Trace the  
 heart around each  
 part of the story as  
 you hear it. Color  
 the empty space  
 between the hearts.  
 What do you see?

## Love letters

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



Welcome to worship. Paul lived long ago. He wrote many letters, telling people about Jesus and about God's love. One of these letters is called Romans. In Romans, Paul wrote that God loves us all the time, no matter what! He wrote that nothing anywhere can separate us from the love of God. That is very good news!



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

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday 8/1**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 8/2**

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

### **Thursday 8/3**

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

### **Friday 8/4**

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 8/6**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Worship Planning committee meets in the Fellowship Hall following worship

### **Tuesday 8/8**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Council Meeting on Zoom 6:30 am

### **Wednesday 8/9**

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

### **Thursday 8/10**

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

### **Friday 8/12**

- Bethel office is 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.

**ON HOLD UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

### **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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

**On hold until the fall.**

### **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](mailto:bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.

