Bethel Notes

Let's Worship together Sunday 9:30 am in person only. No livestream worship this Sunday. All are welcome!

God calls us BETHEL God transforms us God sends us Lutheran Church
1009 18th Ave SW •
Great Falls, MT 59404 •
406-761-1543 •
bethelgf.church@gmail.com •
bethelmt.org •
Rev. Dawn Busch •

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-11, 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Serving Sunday

Thank you for your service!

Accompanist
Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant
Laura Kupfner

Usher
Randy Gilbertson

Tech
Gabe Smith

Children's Church
Addi Carlson, Tyler Grosenick

Altar Guild
JoDee Black, Tami Grosenick

Counters
Pam Dougherty, Tammy Good

Announcements

Summer Book Study: *A Is For Alabaster* continues after worship at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! If you would like to support this ministry, please stop by the Narthex and check out our VBS Needs List. Donations of food and snack items help keep our volunteers, counselors, and campers well-fed throughout the week. We are grateful for your generosity and support.

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

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 **Greg Grosenick** in your prayers as he undergoes a knee procedure this Friday. We pray for wisdom and skill for his medical team, a successful procedure, relief from pain, and a smooth recovery in the days ahead.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE

Receiving medical treatment

Donna Gilbertson, *Randy Gilbertson's mother*
Janel, *cousin of Dan and Jenny Woods*
Mike Evans, *Tami Grosenick's brother*
Jim Carlson
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

Cole Dingle, *great-grandnephew of Sonja Baumgardner*
Rev. Steve Nelson
Joan Schmidt, *Sandy Pepos' aunt*
Doug Cayko, *Shirley Cayko's son*
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

Council Meeting Highlights - June 2026

The Church Council met on June 16 and shared updates and plans for the months ahead.

Pastor and Ministry Highlights

- Membership and worship attendance continue to increase, and the Mutual Ministry Committee recently convened to support Bethel's ministerial efforts. Pr. Dawn will attend the National Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis in July and will also serve as pastoral support staff at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in August. We also want to recognize the work our LMAs (especially Jim Carlson) are doing to support Our Savior's Church over the past year since they have been without a pastor. Tami Grosenick and Earl Terwilliger have finished their LMA training, were both commissioned at the Synod assembly May 30th, and are prepared to lead. Pastor Stacey (Assistant to the Bishop of the MT Synod) will join us at Bethel in October for a special celebration of them
- Planning is already underway for another year of the LOGOS program. Following a successful year, Kelsey Johnson will assume overall coordination of LOGOS, while Tami Grosenick will oversee the high school group. Family survey responses were overwhelmingly positive, with strong support for maintaining the current schedule and continuing to provide meals.
- Vacation Bible School preparations are also in full swing. While registration numbers are currently modest, we are hopeful that participation will increase as the week approaches.

Facility and Property News

The church's new sound system continues to take shape with the installation of a new mixer. Additional work remains, but steady progress is being made.
The Property Committee reported that the sprinkler installation project is nearly complete. Once TLC has vacated the building, the committee will assess additional property needs and priorities.

Celebrating 75 Years of Ministry

Plans for Bethel's 75th Anniversary celebration remain on schedule. "Save the Date" postcards are being mailed this month, with formal invitations and RSVP information to follow in August. Commemorative brick sales continue to go well, and work has begun on the brick display. Historical displays, photographs, and ministry highlights are also being prepared to help tell the story of Bethel's rich history and faithful service.

Financial Update

The Council reviewed and approved the May financial report.
While congregational giving increased from April, overall giving remains below budget projections. Through May, giving totals are around $84,500, which is $12,000 lower than the $96,300 budgeted at this point in the fiscal year.
Expenses continue to track closely with the approved budget. However, due to the summer cash flow needs funds will be temporarily transferred from church reserves to maintain operations.
The annual financial audit was recently completed. The audit team reported no major concerns and offered several recommendations to strengthen financial procedures, including the development of investment policies and exploring electronic payroll payment options.

See the next page Deeper Engagement for continuation of this article.

Special Request

We are committed to thoughtfully planning options for the vacated space and intend to include this in an overall strategic planning effort. However, without the rental income from TLC, the financial committee anticipates a budget shortfall for the remainder of our fiscal year. The Council asks the congregation to prayerfully consider your financial gifts as we adjust to the loss of this revenue.

Deeper Engagement

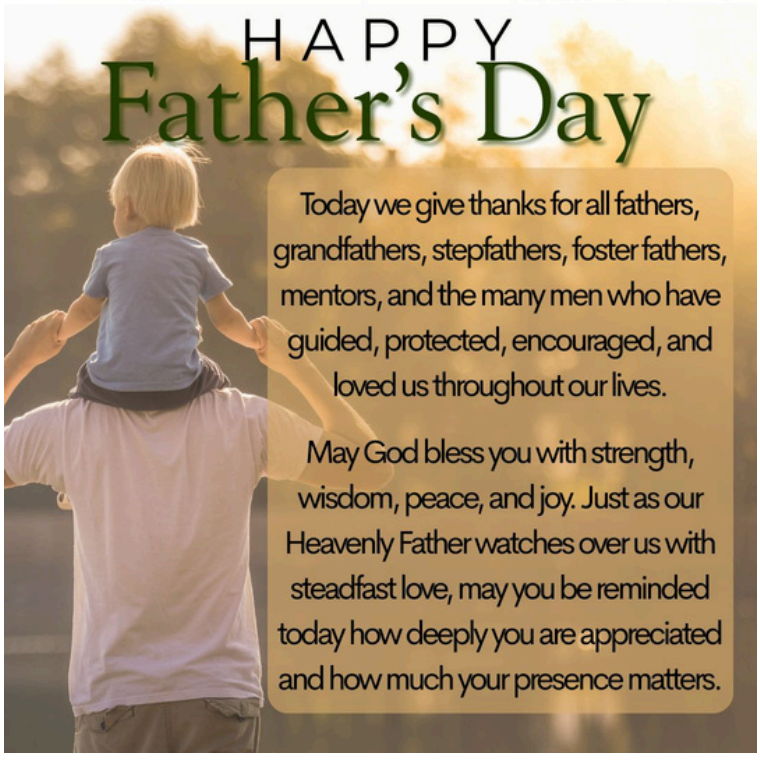
Summer Adult Forum: A is for Alabaster

Our summer book study is underway, but there's still plenty of time to join us! Together we're exploring A is for Alabaster by Anna Carter Florence, discovering familiar and unexpected biblical themes through engaging conversation and reflection.
No homework required, and you don't need the book to participate. Drop in when you can—every session stands on its own, and there's always room for new voices, lively discussion, and perhaps even a surprise chapter or two from Pastor!

Upcoming Discussions:

- June 21 – W is for Whirlwind
- June 28 – M is for Mary Magdalene

Come as you are and join the conversation!



Council Meeting Highlights continued

Transition as TLC Lease Concludes
A significant portion of the meeting focused on the upcoming conclusion of TLC's lease agreement with Bethel. Council reviewed the lease termination details, discussed final billing arrangements, and considered plans for the transition.
The Council approved an amended agreement that abides by contractual language and allows flexibility, if needed. We intend to enforce all final payment dates by fiscal year end and maintain accountability for outstanding obligations. We also discussed the possibility of recognizing and blessing TLC during their departure from the facility.

There will be no Council meeting in July. The next Executive Council meeting will be held on August 20, followed by the regular Council meeting on August 25. As always, thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and faithful participation in the life and ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church. We are always open for questions and concerns.
-Shannon Marr, Secretary

Thank You!

In loving memory of Debbie Kunz, we give thanks to Bob Kunz and his family for their generosity in supporting our youth ministry. Debbie loved having a special book to read to her children and grandchildren, and this contribution will help us purchase Bibles and other materials for youth to learn about God and God's love for us and our neighbors. We look forward to sharing this gift with our youth!

Upcoming Events & Invitations

Help Us Build Our 75th Anniversary Legacy Wall

As we celebrate 75 years of faith, friendship, and community at Bethel, we invite you to be part of our story.
Purchase a commemorative paper brick for just $10 in honor or memory of:

- A family member
- A loved one
- A past or present Bethel member
- Someone who helped shape your faith journey

Each personalized brick will be displayed during our 75th Anniversary Celebration, creating a beautiful reminder of the people whose faith, service, and love have helped build Bethel's foundation through the generations.
Together, these bricks will tell your story, our story, and God's story.
All proceeds will support our 75th Anniversary Celebration Weekend, September 26–27.
Bricks may be purchased after worship or by contacting Tami Grosenick in the Bethel office.
Help us honor the people, memories, and faith that continue to make Bethel home.

Family Promise Night at Voyagers Baseball!

Mark Your Calendar!!! July 22nd, 2026
Join Family Promise Great Falls as we team up with our hometown team, The Voyagers! Centene Stadium gates open at 6:30 p.m., and we'll be running a table with information about our services as well as ways you can join in our mission to end childhood homelessness in Great Falls. Tickets purchased through our office or online platform will benefit the families we serve. Tickets are $12 each, and can be purchased online at the link below.

Family Promise of Great Falls

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

Gospel Reflection

Between Hiding and Exposing ■ Matthew 10:24-39

The desire to make known that which is currently hidden can evoke various responses. When abusive power and fear suppress opposition, or when liberating truth is just under the surface, the desire for uncovering and justice is likely strong. However, when harm or injustice is not an obvious outcome and that which is hidden is perceived to benefit stability or peace, there may be resistance to making the hidden known.

Through a variety of images, the speech in Matthew's gospel calls for the unknown to be revealed and intentions made plain. Our liturgical practice of corporate confession provides an opportunity to acknowledge our relationship with what stays hidden and what we wish to reveal in our own lives. The confession may be discomforting, but it reminds us of an important dynamic in the life of faith: Just as Jesus tells his disciples not to fear and reassures them of their value, the words of forgiveness in the liturgy orient us toward a God who restores relationships and calls us beloved.

If only the liturgical practice of confession and forgiveness would once and for all set us on the right path and give us permanent assurance! But that would also free us from curiosity about what taking up the cross means in our lives. Once the cross is exposed, we must face our response to it, and it challenges our allegiances and prods at our vulnerabilities. However, Jesus is clear that the cross also uncovers a path to life. Instead of this path being a lonely, exposing journey, Jesus knows it well and joins us on the way.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS:

1. What am I afraid others might see in me?
2. Where is God inviting me to greater honesty?
3. What truth needs to come into the light so healing can begin?

Loving God,
give me courage to face what is hidden within me.
Help me trust your grace more than my fears.
Reveal the truth I need to see, and lead me in the way of life.
Amen.

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Just for YOUth

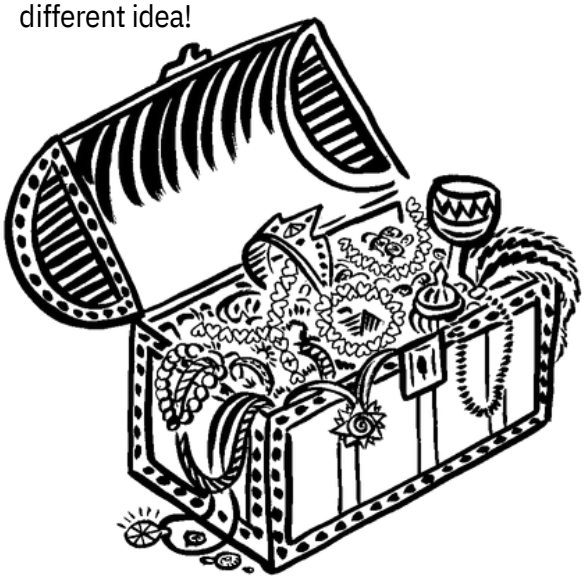
Upcoming Events for Youth:

- Vacation Bible School Day Camp: June 28th to July 2nd 9:00 am to 1:30 pm register online at https://forms.gle/bmuz3WQqb4eXu3Kq9

Signs of God's love

Find signs of God's love hidden in this picture. Find and circle a church, an apple, a pair of pants, a person, and a house.

What is a treasure? It is something very important and valuable. Some people think money is the best treasure, but God has a different idea!



Color the tiny hearts to find out what God treasures.

Talk about how the things you found could be used to share God's love with others.

God, help me remember that you treasure me. Amen

This week

Show people you love that you treasure them.

VBS Day Camp 2026

June 29th to July 2nd
Mon - Thurs
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

This day camp is ***free*** to all participants. For children going into grades Pre K through 6th.

Grades 7th and up are needed to fill Junior Counselor positions!

FLBC Summer Camp Reservations are open! Pastor Dawn will be the camp pastor the week of August 2nd through the 7th. Go to flbc.net to register.

See the back page for FLBC Campership information.

Looking Ahead

This Week | June 21-26

Sunday 6/21
- Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Adult Forum, book study - 11:00 am (Fellowship Hall)
- Happy Father's Day!

Tuesday 6/23
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)

Wednesday 6/24
- Summer Evening Worship with communion – 7:00 pm (patio)

Thursday 6/25
- Jeremiah Book Study – 10:00 am* (Fellowship Hall)

Friday 6/26
- Bethel office is closed.

Next Week | June 14-20

Sunday 6/28
- Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Set up and Welcome dinner VBS 5:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Monday 6/29
- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Tuesday 6/23
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)
- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Wednesday 7/1
- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Counselor/Jr Counselor service project and Picnic
- Summer Evening Worship – 7:00 pm (patio)

Thursday 7/2
- No Jeremiah Book Study
- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Day Camp program and BBQ – All are welcome! 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Friday 7/3
- 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.*

Summer Camperships Available!

Bethel is pleased to offer camperships of up to $300 per camper for youth attending summer camp.

To receive a campership:
- Register for camp
- Email a copy of your registration to bethelgf.church@gmail.com or drop it off in the Bethel Office

Bethel will send the campership payment directly to the camp on your behalf.

We believe camp is a wonderful opportunity for youth to grow in faith, build friendships, and create lasting memories.

PLANT WATERERS NEEDED!

Bethel has a summer Water Team that maintains outdoor planters by watering and pruning flowers. If you have spare time each week, join our team! Contact Tami in the Bethel Office.

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!