

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, July 2, 2023

5th Sunday after Pentecost

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM
in person or online at
bethelmt.org**

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Randy Gilbertson

Usher:

Tami Grosenick

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Isabelle and Tyler Grosenick

Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Greg Grosenick

Hospitality:

The Grosenick Family

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **5th Sunday after Pentecost**.

Everyone have a **Blessed 4th of July!**

Please check out the **donation list for Vacation Bible School** (on page 3), if you are able to help with some snacks or lunch items, it would be most appreciated.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of celebration and joy for the baptism of **Sullivan Davenport**, his parent Jason and Megan Davenport, his sponsors and grandparents Don and Carol Davenport and Jim and Marilyn Carlson.
- ✝ 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 she heals after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she manages a new cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Holly Lode**, *daughter of Bernice Johnson*, who continues with rehabbing her shoulder after surgery.
- ✝ 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.



Vacation Bible School Needs List and Other Volunteer Opportunities

We are feverishly planning Vacation Bible School Camp Week and it is arriving fast! We have put together a lunch menu and snack menu for our week and have it listed below. We have also put in a link to online sign up for items that you are willing to donate and will have a hardcopy sign up at church this Sunday, July 2nd and Sunday, July 9th. See the list below:

Snacks	Desserts
2 bags-String cheese 48 count	1 box Oreos individual 30 count
2 box - Mott's Fruit Snacks 90 count	1 box pudding snack pack 36 count
2 boxes-Fruit Gushers 42 count	3 dozen cupcakes
2 boxes-Members Mark Fruit Strips	4 dozen brownies
3 boxes-Gogurt 32 count	2 bx Fat Boy Ice Cream sandwiches 18cnt
3 boxes-Veggie Straws indiv. 30 count	4 dozen cookies - variety
3 bx-Skinny Pop Orginl Popcorn 28 count	Monetary Donations
3 boxes-Applesauce 32 count	2 people \$75 donation for Jimmy Johns or 1 \$150.00
1 box Otter Pops -200 count	\$100 donation for Pizza
Lunches	\$50 donation for fried chicken
2 boxes- chips variety 50 count	
2 large bags baby carrots	
4 dozen hot dog buns	
4 dozen hot dogs	
4 dozen hamburger buns	
1 box Doritos Individual 50 count	
2 large jars salsa	
2 squeeze containers sour cream	
4 cans sliced black olives	
4 heads iceberg lettuce	
8 large tomatoes	
1 crockpot full baked beans	
1 large fruit tray	
1 large macaroni salad	
1 large potato salad	
1 large veggie tray	
1 large fruit salad	

[CLICK HERE TO LINK TO ONLINE SIGN UP](#)

We are in need of someone to provide treats for coffee time after worship on the following Sundays:

July 16th

July 23rd

July 30th

We are also in need of one or two ushers on the following Sundays:

July 16th

July 23rd

July 30th

If you are able to provide some goodies and/or can usher on any of the above dates, please let Tami in the office know or use the sign-up books in the Narthex on Sunday.

Thank you all in advance!

Vacation Bible School

July 17th—21st 9:00 am to 1:30 pm



It's time to register for Vacation Bible School for grades (entering) Pre-Kindergarten to 6th. Junior Counselors (entering) 7th grade and up.

More information and online registration at <https://www.bethelmt.org/junior-vbs.html> - this camp is FREE for all participants.

**junior
counselors**

**adult
volunteers**

If you are interested in attending Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp at Lakeside this year, Jean Humphrey Camperships are available. Send a copy of your invoice from FLBC (they send you once you register and pay your deposit) to Bethel and we will pay \$250 directly to FLBC.



**ADOPT
A
CHAIR**

donate today!

**\$75.00 PER
CHAIR**

Suggested donation amount.

Make checks payable to Bethel with Chair drive on the memo line, online at bethelmt.org/onlinegiving/Adopt-A-Chair or scan the QR code below. taking donations until August 1, 2023



HOLY BAPTISM



Join us in celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for

Sullivan Davenport

Thursday, July 6th 10:00 am

Rev. Jessica Crist presiding

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 2, 2023

A Welcome Promise

Earlier in the chapter from which today's gospel comes, Jesus gave his first twelve disciples instructions and advice before he sent them out to minister, teach, and preach (Matthew 10:1-8). We too are called to proclaim good news wherever we go, and like those first twelve, we may wonder why anyone should be interested in what we have to offer. We're not sure that we are good enough with words to persuade anyone. We're not sure that we are good enough with tools to be helpful with practical tasks. We're not sure that we have the financial resources to change lives with charitable giving. Often, we're not sure that we are brave enough to even try.

It's a good thing Jesus never sends us out alone. He always comes with us! That's why he can say that anyone who welcomes us welcomes him. What a wonderful gift to be able to bring to the people we meet: the opportunity to meet Jesus himself!

Sometimes Jesus sends us to faraway places. Sometimes he sends us deeper into our own communities. Sometimes he sends us to welcome others, and sometimes he sends us to be welcomed by others.

In all of those times, and in all of those places, Jesus has this reminder for us: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me" (Matt. 10:40). We can depend on that because we can depend on him. Jesus is with us when we experience amazing hospitality and when we feel like we are all alone. Jesus is with us whether we are brave or timid. Jesus is there for the people we meet along the way, and Jesus is here for us. The promise is as certain as the waters of baptism, as real as the taste of bread and wine.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Worship Techs Needed

Do you love working with technology? Then we would love you to join our Sunday Worship team and become a Worship Tech. Our Techs run our live stream and in-person worship on Sunday mornings and for special services at Bethel.

This is a paid position at Bethel.

If you are interested and would like to see a full job description. Contact Tami in the Bethel Office or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com and we will send you a copy of the job description. There is an urgent need to train in qualified people as our primary Worship Tech, Adam Elkin, will be leaving for college in the fall. If you are interested or know someone who would be, reach out today!!

1ST MONDAY NIGHT

QUILTERS TO MEET

The 1st Monday Night Quilters will meet Monday, July 10, 2023, (the second Monday) at 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5th Ave. So. Please park in the alley. The quilts will be tied before the last step of binding is done.

If you'd like to help from home, there are many squares kits ready to be sewn into tops, and also fabric to be cut into squares. Please call 799-0100 if you have questions.

Holy Closure: Leaving a Legacy of Mission and Ministry

Like living organisms, congregations have a life cycle: from birth to maturing to dying. In a world of change and challenges, there are congregations in the Montana Synod who are wondering about their future and if their congregation will close. These are painful and difficult questions.

Recently, my mother entered Hospice. She is nearing the end of her life (at 96). Now, although she feels quite good and is not actively dying, she is receiving care and support for what I am thinking will be the final chapter of her life. The gift of hospice is that it gives us, her family, the words and ways to care for her now and to be honest about what is coming – that she will die. We are not in control of when, but we know that it will happen. There is a freedom and gift in facing the truth and then living into each day to savor and live with fullness. The gift of hospice is that we can focus on living now, prepared to face the eventual death of my mom.

Some congregations in the Synod (and all around the church) are more actively dying than others. The word hospice is used in some of these circumstances. The honest conversations about the closing of a congregation allow those who are a part of the congregation to grieve openly, and to make plans for the end to come, not with dread but in hope that we are people who believe in new life and that we are gifted to trust that God's promise of new life comes out of death.

There are resources and guides for congregations to access to begin (or continue) the conversation about how to close a congregation and to leave a legacy. The Montana Synod staff desire to walk with you in your discernment and encourage you to engage in courageous conversations about the future of your congregation, whether that is in faithfully making the decision to close or to engage in some process of renewal. There are strong emotions that people feel about the reality of being part of a declining congregation. Grief and loss, losing the stability and comfort of a congregation, and shame and fear of failure, wondering how the congregation got to this point. If your congregation is asking these questions, please know that you are not alone. There are many explanations for why congregations are facing the possibility of closure: shifts in the culture around us, changing demographics in rural communities and in our towns and cities.

The question is how we honestly and openly address these realities. I first heard about "holy closure" several years ago. I've seen and heard about congregations making the hard decision to close, based on facts and trends, not with a sense of shame, but with a hopeful view of the future and God's grace and mercy that brings new life even out of what appears to be ashes. Some congregations have sold their building and been able to make significant gifts to support Synod and churchwide ministries as well as other Lutheran and local ministries that allow the congregation's legacy to be passed on.

First English Lutheran in Great Falls is in the process of closing and gifting their building to Helping Hands ministry that has been involved in feeding the hungry in the community and which has expanded their ministry in significant ways in the last three years. With the use of the building dedicated to the ministry, the leadership is looking into how they can expand the ministry in the future to share Gospel love with those who are in need. Some congregations have discerned that their building is a burden and that upkeep and repairs hinder the people from being engaged in ministry in their community, so they have sold or given their building away and have gathered as people of God in another space to focus on a ministry of outreach and care.

Leaders in congregations: there are resources to assist you as you engage in discerning the future of your congregation. Please contact the Synod Office for a list of resources and to consult with Bishop Laurie, Pastor Brenda or me about engaging in a conversation about Holy Closure. May God's grace and peace sustain you,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Director for Evangelical Mission Montana Synod

Just for *YOUTH*

It is good to be here

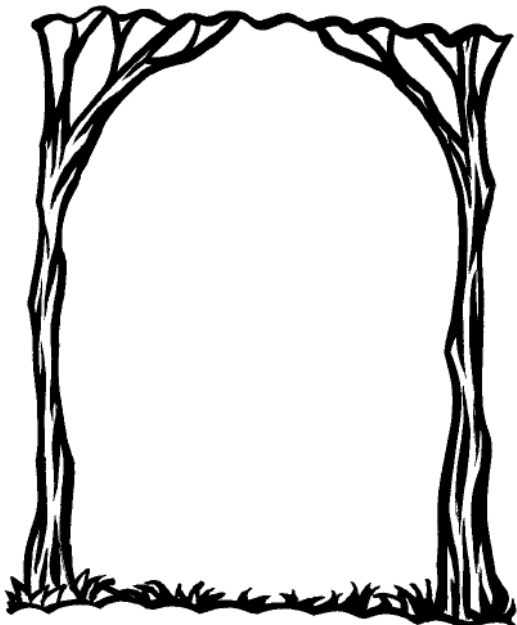
Matthew 10:40-42

Color the things you see, do, hear, or feel today. Use the picture clues on the right side of this page for hints.



Wherever you go

Playing is fun. Draw a play space that is just right for you.



Use the picture clues to help you fill in the blanks and complete the sentences. What word do you find when all of the blanks are filled?



__ater in the baptismal font welcomes us into God's family.



Pray__r welcomes us to talk to God.



__ove in our church family welcomes us to worship together.



__andles welcome us to think of the light of Jesus.



God's W__rd teaches us about God's welcoming love.

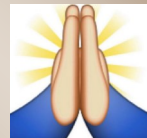


__usic welcomes us to sing to God.



W__ are all welcome in God's church!

W
E
I
L
C
O
M
E



Thank you God, for welcoming me into your family. Amen

This Week...

Practice welcoming people. Welcome others to play with you, read with you, or visit you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 7/3

- Bethel Office closed for Independence Day holiday
- Pastor Jessie out until July 14th

Tuesday 7/4

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Happy Independence Day! Bethel Office is closed

Wednesday 7/5

- Bible Study cancelled this week

Thursday 7/6

- Sullivan Davenport baptism 10:00 am
- Exec Board Zoom Meeting 5:30 pm

Friday 7/7

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7/9

- Worship led by Rev. Jessica Crist, in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- World Hunger Sunday

Tuesday 7/11

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Church Council Zoom meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday 7/12

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Friday 7/14

- 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.

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 to be added to the mailing list.