

BETHEL NOTES

THIS SUNDAY

Readings:

First Reading:
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm:
Psalm 51:1-12

Second Reading:
Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel Reading:
John 12:20-33



Unless a grain of
wheat falls into
the earth and dies,
it remains just a
single grain

JOHN 12:24

Serving Sunday

Accompanist

Lynn Ryan, piano;

Lay Assistant

Walt Nuessle

Usher

Sue Hesse

Tech

Gabe Smith

Projection

Tim Lightbourne

Children's Church

Julia Elkin

Tyler Grosenick

Hospitality

The Grosenick Family

Counters

Patty Braget

Randy Gilbertson

This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **Fifth Sunday in Lent**.

We welcome and thank **Jim Carlson, LPA** for preaching and presiding in worship this morning. Jim has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 continues in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

ELCA Youth Gathering Parent Meeting today after worship in the sanctuary.

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



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*Lord,
in your mercy
hear our prayers.*

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Shelly Murphy** who is in ICU.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and health for **Seth Boucher** who has been diagnosed with cancer and working on a medical plan.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Corey Korpela** who is going through treatment for prostate cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort for **the family and friends Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of continued healing for **Beverly Finnegan** as she recovers after a recent illness and hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of support and fast recovery for **Leona Ost** who will be having a procedure on her eye the end of March.
- ✝ Prayers of thanks for **Travis Cushman** who's health has stabilized after long cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, as he waits for results of more medical testing and possible new procedures.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she manages a new cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she meets with her doctor on a cancer treatment plan.
- ✝ Prayers healing of **Quentin Kubas** as he recovers at home after an auto accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin, Bobbie Bow-**
en's daughter, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and strength to continue to fight for **Eric Peterson** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of strength and support for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of strength and healing for **Kiera Howard**, *niece of Dave Scholten*, as she prepares for upcoming surgery and treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pat Berkeley**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he continues regaining his strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and answers for **Anna Boucher** as they determine a cause and treatment for seizures.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Georgia Miller**, *cousin of Amber Erickson's*, as she has been diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 24th -
Palm Sunday, worship led by
Dave Scholten LPA

Thursday, March 28th
Maundy Thursday,
worship led by
Pastor Jessica Crist

Friday, March 29th -
Good Friday, worship led by the
Jubilate Choir

Sunday, March 31st -
Easter Sunday
9:00 am and 11:00 am,
both services led by
Pastor Jessica Crist



LEARN WHY
HOMELESSNESS IS
A GROWING CRISIS

Night Without a Bed

Join us for an afternoon
to meet the agencies that
are committed to helping
the homeless

**SATURDAY
March 23rd**
Noon to 3 p.m.



University of Providence - Student Center
1301 20th Street South

Holden Evening Prayer

MARTY HAUGEN

Lenten Schedule

Thursday, March 14th

6:00 pm Soup Supper

6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Thursday, March 21st

6:00 pm Soup Supper

6:45 pm Holden Evening Worship Service

Happy St. Patrick's Day

*May your mornings bring joy.
And your evenings bring peace.
May your troubles grow less
As your blessings increase.*

Bethel Church Council Meeting Highlights

Bethel Church Council met in person on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All members were present. Here are some highlights from that meeting.

- Randy Gilbertson gave an update on how the planning was going for the ELCA Youth Gathering and they will be doing more fundraising in the very near future.
- In his property report, Randy said they have been working with Mission Electric on a bid for changing out the fluorescent lights in the Fellowship Hall and Gathering Place, to more cost-effective and efficient LED lighting.
- We approved providing a silent auction basket for the upcoming Family Promise SOC HOP fundraiser. More details to follow.
- We approved holding semi-annual blood drives for the Red Cross at Bethel. The extreme weather across the country has contributed to an already short supply of blood. Tammy Good will be contacting the Red Cross to set that up.
- We also voted to adjust the open office hours to give Tami more flexibility to run church errands. Beginning April 1st, office hours will be 10:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Thursday. Tami's hours do not change, just open office hours.
- Some members of our congregation have asked about the church's financial standing, and we decided we would try to have a condensed report in the Bethel Notes monthly. The first of these reports will be in April.
- Patty Braget reported the Call Committee has begun the paperwork for the synod to approve, which is the first step in our search for a new pastor.

Next Council meeting is April 9, 2024, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted Laurie Turner, Bethel Council secretary

Thank You Thank You Thank You!!!!

WOW! We have received all the Linus Blanket Kits we need for our Service Project Night with High School LOGOs.

We would love to have a team of people bring their best fabric cutting shears to prep these kits by cutting the edges that the kids will be tying. If you are interested in helping, please call Tami in the office 406-761-1543 or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com



GOSPEL MESSAGE

Called Where Jesus Goes

It isn't only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked about his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with—not against—his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our "life in this world," we will miss God's gracious intention for us. Christ's judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ's death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, "Whoever serves me must follow me." Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world's terms. Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord's table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, "We wish to see Jesus." God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God's unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.

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Celebration of Life for Karen Kubas

Saturday
April 6, 2024
11:00 am

**Reception to follow
in the Gathering Place.**



3125 5th Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana
59405
406-315-1203
*Sharing our faith in Christ by serving all
with respectful compassion.*

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC

AT

NOON (16H)

Doors Open at 11:45

Bring a Bag Lunch; Coffee,
Tea, Water, Cookies
Provided

Concerts begin at 12:05 pm
and conclude at 12:55 pm

Final performance
March 20

**SHAKE
& RATTLE
& ROLL**
Proceeds Benefit
Homeless Families

Family Promise
FP
of Great Falls

APRIL 27 - 5:30-10 PM

**SOC
HOP**

Serving our Community ★ Honoring our Promise

ELKS CLUB
Tickets: \$50
Inquire about table options
1019 Central Ave
10-4 p.m. M-Th; 10-2 p.m. F or online at
www.familypromisegf.org
406-564-5267

DINNER
Classic '50s Fare
By Clark and Lewie's
DJ: Caleb Ford
SILENT AUCTION

New Office Hours

Beginning April 1, 2024

BETHEL OFFICE HOURS	
MONDAY	10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
TUESDAY	10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
THURSDAY	10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
FRIDAY	CLOSED

Christ in Our Home

April, May, June

New Christ In Our Home
2nd Quarter Edition
Now Available for pick up
on the Track Rack
in the Narthex.

If you would like a copy
mailed to you, email
bethelgf.church@gmail.com
or call the Bethel Office
406-761-1543

Loaves and Fishes Dinner **FRIDAY, MARCH 15th**

The annual **Loaves & Fishes Dinner** will be from 4:30pm until 7pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Great Falls (1326 First Avenue North).

The dinner will also include a silent auction. The proceeds of the dinner go to the emergency food program FISH. Free will offering.

For more information, call Harold at

406-761-5009.

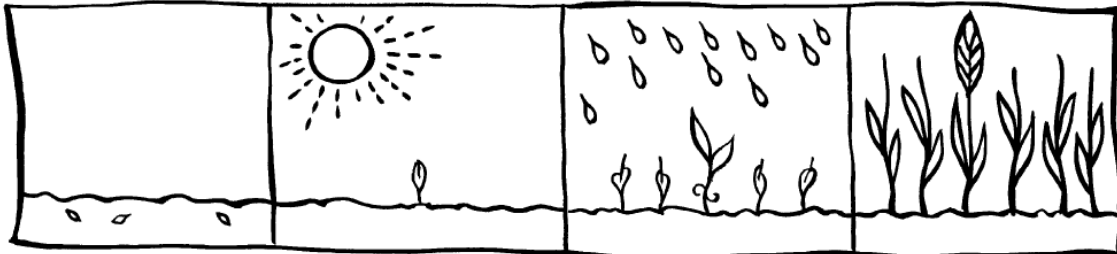


JUST 4 YOUTH

Planting seeds

John 12:20-33

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the celebration of Passover. While he was there he talked a little bit about planting seeds. Jesus said, "A seed of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain of wheat unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat." [John 12:24]



Add more seeds to panel 1, add sprouts to the seeds in panel 2, add leaves to the sprouts in panel 3, and add heads of grain to the plants in panel 4.

Seeds of Love



I wonder how Jesus' love is like a grain of wheat?

Color all the ways Jesus' love has grown, then search for 10 hidden hearts.



Thank you, God, for seeds, wheat and bread. Help us plant love seeds in our neighborhoods. Amen

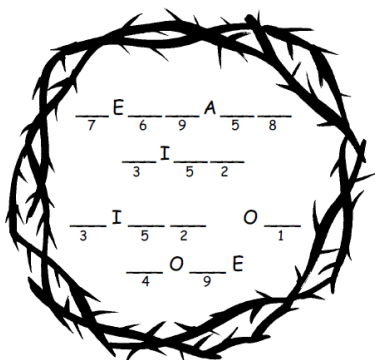


Look closely at the hangings on the altar or banners in the church. What symbols are on them during this Lenten season?

gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the fifth Sunday in Lent and the color on the altar is still purple. Purple is the color of kings and it reminds us that Jesus is our king. But what kind of a king is Jesus, whose crown was made of thorns?

Solve the puzzle below and find out!

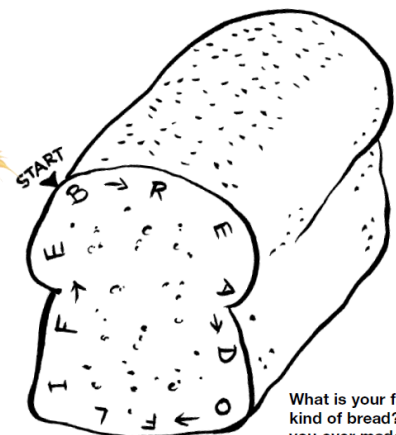


1=F 2=G 3=K 4=L 5=N 6=R 7=S 8=T 9=V



Living bread

Wheat seeds grow into grains of wheat, which can be ground into flour to make bread. Follow the letters around the loaf of bread and discover another name for Jesus. Why do you think he is called this?



What is your favorite kind of bread? Have you ever made bread for yourself or anyone else?

Photo credit

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 3/19

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Hope Circle at Terry Korpela's home 2:00 pm

Wednesday 3/20

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

Thursday 3/21

- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Worship in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

Friday 3/22

- Bethel office is closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3/24

- Palm Sunday Worship service led by Dave Scholten, LPA in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Tuesday 3/26

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 3/27

- No LOGOs Youth Ministry
- Jubilate Choir Retreat for Holy Week 6:30 pm

Thursday 3/28

- Maundy Thursday worship service led by Pastor Jessica Crist 7:00 pm

Friday 3/29

- Bethel office is closed.
- Good Friday worship service led by the Jubilate Choir 7:00 pm



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

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.

Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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.

March 19th 2:00 pm Terry Korpela's

Preaching And Presiding at Bethel in March

March 17th	Jim Carlson, LPA
March 24th	Dave Scholten, LPA
March 28th	Pastor Jessica Crist
March 29th	Jubilate Choir
March 31st	Pastor Jessica Crist