

# Bethel Notes

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## Sunday, March 19, 2023

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

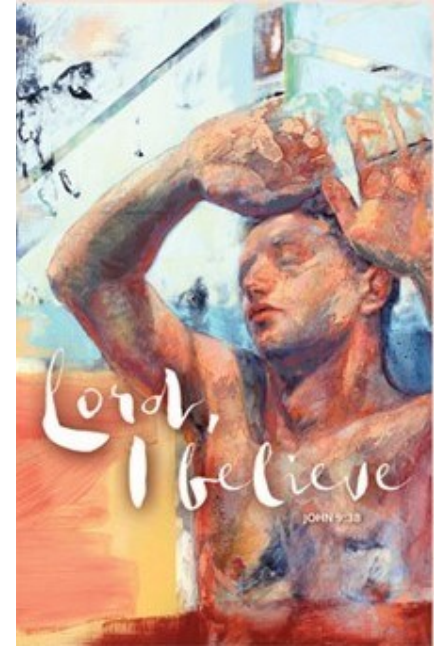
*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

*First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

*Psalm 23*

*Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14*

*Gospel: John 9:1-41*



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM  
In-person or live stream  
at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Connie Titcomb, piano  
Sara Graft, djembe

### Lay Assistant:

Walt Nuessle

### Usher:

TBD

### Tech:

Colter McCarty

### Children's Church:

TBD

### Counters:

Tim Lightbourne  
Greg Grosenick

### Hospitality:

The Grosenick Family

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We continue our Lenten services celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

We will be blessed with the beautiful sounds of the Jubilate Choir as they sing *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone.)* Led

by Jeff Skogley.

Celebration of Life for Doug Kickbusch is Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 pm with reception to follow. Please join us in celebrating the life of our brother in Christ.

*We would like to apologize to those who have signed up for Altar Flowers in March. The March Page was removed from the book and we are unsure who had signed up. If you signed up for Altar Flowers in March, please email or call the Office so we can note in our bulletins this month.*



# Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is in the hospital receiving treatment for an infection.
- ✝ Prayers of support and healing for **the people of Malawi, Africa** who have been ravaged by a deadly cholera outbreak and tropical cyclone.
- ✝ Prayers of support **the people of California** experiencing heavy snow and rain.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Mike Seyfert**, *Thelma Seyfert's nephew*, who is recovering at home after gallbladder surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Anne Vannatta** as recovers at home from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who continues treatment as she manages an illness.
- ✝ 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 **Colleen Walker-Nelson** as she continues to heal from a broken leg.
- ✝ 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.

**Celebration of Life  
Doug Kickbusch  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 pm  
Reception to follow at Bethel.**

*If you would like to help with the reception, desserts or snacks are needed as well as with serving and clean up.  
Please let Tami know if you would like to help.*

# Soup Supper Discussion Prompt

## *Have a hot bowl of soup and warm conversation!*

### THIS WEEK, March 16th

What are the relationships that you see as role models in your life? Not just romantic relationships, but friendships or collegial relationships as well.

What makes you admire or respect these relationships?

As a community, country, and world, what are the communal relationships you think we do well?

What are some relationships on a communal basis that simply don't seem to work, and why do you think that is?

Why is living in right relationship with certain groups or people seemingly one of the hardest things for us to do when it comes to "righteousness"?

### NEXT WEEK, March 23rd

In Matthew 18 Peter asks Jesus how often one should forgive his brothers and sisters in Christ. Peter offers a generous 7, but Jesus returns with an answer even more astronomical...77!

Outside of this story, where can you recall hearing stories of forgiveness in the Bible?

How have these stories helped you in approaching forgiveness with others? How have they frustrated you?

What are the most difficult aspects of forgiving that you have encountered?

## 2023 Mid - Week Lenten Schedule

### **March 16 –**

Supper Host: Altar Guild    Cantors: Ensemble Choir

### **March 23 –**

Supper Host: Men's Breakfast    Cantors: Warren Johnson and Rev. Steve Nelson

### **March 30th –**

Supper Host: Hope Circle    Cantors: Pastor Jessie and Colter McCarty

## Holy Week Schedule

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Palm Sunday**, Pancake Breakfast before and after worship, free will donation to benefit Vacation Bible School

**April 6<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday 7:00 PM** - performed by the Jubilate Choir

**April 9<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am** in the sanctuary



# Family Promise Update for March

Finding a home for one family took a lot of effort and commitment. The family came to us last fall while they were living in a trailer at an RV Park. The parents knew that living in their camper all winter would not be healthy and they wanted to get their children enrolled in school. They came to Family Promise asking for ideas about how to find permanent housing close to schools. How did they end up living in an RV Park? The husband had been badly burned in a work accident and couldn't work. With rents in the Bozeman area rapidly rising they decided that moving to Great Falls where rents were reasonable was their best option. However, once they arrived, they found it difficult to find a place large enough for their five-person family and they also discovered that they had some rental history issues that needed to be addressed before a landlord would accept their rental application. "The staff at Family Promise didn't judge us, they helped us outline a path for going forward", says the mom, who is now working as a manager at a local retail store.

So that Family Promise could help them secure permanent housing, the family paid off their past debt. "We can only help parents who are ready to correct the past and make the lifestyle changes that will give their children a better future", says Maggie Hooker, Family Advocate. Maggie went on to say, "this lovely family has had numerous obstacles and challenges that many of us could not fathom, but they have been steadfast in making good, and at times very difficult, choices for the benefit of their children, including making the decision to send their oldest son to a drug treatment program." The dad is going to Vocational Rehabilitation Training to explore a new career that he can manage given his physical limitations and the other two children are doing well; one's at Head Start and the other is attending Chief Joseph School. They joined a local church which has given them another outlet for support and inspiration. Going forward, Family Promise will stay in touch with the parents to encourage them to keep focused on their goal of providing a bright future for their children.



## Volunteer Highlight on Debra McCorrison

Being a person of deep faith through action, Debra McCorrison has been a true godsend to Family Promise.

Debra had volunteered when Family Promise was operating the rotational sheltering program. "I enjoyed getting to meet the families, spending the night, and making meals", she said, "and when Covid-19 came along and that shelter model was no longer operating I decided to volunteer at the Day Center." Once a week, Debra organizes all the donations and makes sure the Day Center (HUB) is clean and orderly. Also, she and Kathy Remington help the families staying at Promise Place with planning their meals and shuttling them to St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank to pick up their food. Family Promise is just one of Debra's volunteer commitments. She is also a CASA Advocate, she helps at the Eagle Mount barn every Monday, and she works parttime at the Great Falls Public Library. Her journey to Great Falls started when she and a friend were driving through on their way to Glacier Park. When they stopped for gas, Debra looked around and thought to herself, "I could live here", four years later when she retired from the University of Pennsylvania Hospital Transplant Unit after working as a registered nurse for 42 years, she moved to Great Falls. When Debra isn't volunteering, she enjoys completing jigsaw puzzles, reading, hiking, snowshoeing with her ladies' group, and traveling to see her family. Debra, thank you for your continued commitment to Family Promise and to making Great Falls a better place to live!

## "Camp" Basket Donation from Bethel for the SOC HOP

Judy Statham is putting together a donation to help raise money for Family Promise at their SOC HOP in April (*see ad on next page*). She is buying a firepit and would like to fill it with items like flashlight, bundle of wood, camp chairs, smore's fixin's, roasting sticks, etc. If you would like to buy items for the basket or donate toward the purchase of the fire pit, we would love to have your help. Drop items off at the Bethel Office or donate online or through our weekly offering by noting Camp Basket in the memo line. If you have any questions email Judy Statham at [ewe2me2001@yahoo.com](mailto:ewe2me2001@yahoo.com)

## Bethel Church Council Report

Council met for a retreat Sunday, February 5th for a retreat at the Synod Office. We welcomed new members Patty Braget, Shannon Marr, Ava Fossen, and Kelsey Johnson and got to know one another a little better.

We elected:

- Sara Sexe as President
- Patty Braget as Vice President
- Kelsey Johnson as Treasurer
- Laurie Turner as Secretary

At this meeting we voted to engage Deffinbaugh Financial Services to do our bookkeeping and payroll as bookkeeper Bonnie Sears retired.

They do books for several other churches in town, and it looks like they will be able to fill our needs. After a trial period we will decide if we will continue with them.

We met for our March meeting on Tuesday, the 14th. Patty, who does Outreach, is working on a luncheon for the staff of Child Protective Services, and Jeanne is working on more permanent name tags for greeters and council members to help new members and visitors get acquainted with us.

We have a new team that will work well together on new projects coming up.

Next Council meeting April 18th 6:30 pm.

Laurie Turner, secretary

*If you have questions or concerns for the Council, feel free to speak with any member of our Church Council or Pastor Jessie.*

*Additional Council Members are:*

*Ava Fossen, Greg Grosenick, Shannon Marr, Jeanne Rankin, and Kaleb Stringer*



**St. Patrick's Day Dinner!**

**Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner**  
\$15 - Adults  
\$5 - Ages 6-10  
Under 5 free  
*\*40-Family*

**Silent Auction**  
5:00 - 8:00  
**Live Auction**  
at 7:00 pm

**Friday, March 17th**  
5:00 Social Hour  
5:30 - 8 Dinner

**Raynesford Community Center**

**2023**

The poster features a green and white diamond-patterned background with shamrock illustrations and two leprechauns at the bottom.



**APRIL 22 - 5:30 PM**

**Benefit for Family Promise GF**

**SOC HOP**

Serving our Community  
Honoring our Promise

**Black Eagle Community Center**

**TICKETS**  
\$40 from Kaufman's or 1019 Central Ave  
\$42 Online at Familypromisegf.org

**ON SALE MARCH 1**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**DINNER**  
Brian's Top Notch Burgers, Dogs, Fixings

The poster includes a QR code and a silhouette of a couple dancing.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 19, 2023

### Fourth SUNDAY IN LENT

#### What? Or Why?

What do we believe? Our Lutheran heritage is rooted in theological debate, and such conversations have always been a part of our tradition. Disagreements about theological propositions and biblical interpretations have led to split after split among Lutheran church bodies and congregations. At the same time, our theological and biblical commitments have led us to seek the unity of the church with mergers among Lutheran denominations and with common communion agreements with our ecumenical neighbors. In our broader culture it also seems that theology often leads the way in conversations about faith. Theological principles from various religious communities are used to argue for or against laws, corporate practices, and cultural expectations.

In today's gospel story we find something different leading the way: the blind man's experience of the healing power of Jesus. This experience is at odds with the theological thought of the religious leaders. The narrative reads like a trial, one in which the primary witness is hostile to the line of questioning from the prosecution. The conversations the leaders have with the man and his parents are a mess of misunderstanding that leads to insult and accusation. They are talking about theology; he and his parents are talking about experience. No one is there to translate between the two.

Why do you believe? Our understandings of God are certainly shaped by the communities of which we have been a part and theologies we have learned. Yet, God's grace is not something we logic our way through; it is something we experience. The early church debated all sorts of theological positions, but their witness was grounded in their experience of death and resurrection. *What* we believe is important, but as we step into each day as witnesses of God's love for the world, *why* we believe may be the most hope-filled message we have to share.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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### **Name the Bell Choir Contest!**

We have been trying to come up with a name for our Bell Choir so if you have a creative idea, there is a box on the table in the narthex as you enter the church. Just drop your idea in the box with your name on it and if the Bell Choir selects your idea,

### **Estate Sale**

1505 9th St NW #116  
Thursday, March 23rd and  
Friday March 24th  
9:00 am to 6:00 pm both days

# Just for *YOU*th

## Seeing is believing

John 9:1-41

The man couldn't believe his eyes. He could see Jesus. He could see everyone. He could see *everything* through his own pair of eyes!



Draw a line connecting the pairs of eyes, candles, Bibles, crosses, and water drops hidden in this picture.



light

Once you were darkness.   
 but now in the Lord   
 you are light.   
 Love as children of light.   
-Ephesians 5:8

Learn the sign for the word *light* in American Sign Language. Use it as you hear the lector read Ephesians 5:8-14.

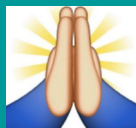
### This week

Plan a way to bring God's light to someone in your neighborhood. Bring cookies, share a Sunday school song, or send a letter or e-mail inviting them to worship on Palm Sunday or Easter.

We are children of the light on Sundays, Saturdays, and every day in between!

How many times do you hear the word *light* in the reading from Ephesians? Listen, then circle the number.

1      2      3      4      5



Dear Lord,

We will share your light every day.

Amen

## LOGOs Wednesday, March 22-PJ Night and Cereal drive

Lesson: JOHN 9:1-41      Dinner: Cereal, fruit cups, Gogurt, pastries

Dinner HS: Pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and parfaits

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Monday 3/20**

- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

### **Tuesday 3/21**

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

### **Wednesday 3/22**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

### **Thursday, 3/23**

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

### **Friday 3/24**

- Bethel office closed

### **Saturday 3/25**

- Celebration of Life for Doug Kickbusch at Bethel 1:00 pm, dessert reception to follow.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 3/26**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am

### **Monday 3/27**

- Financial Peace University Class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

### **Tuesday 3/28**

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

### **Wednesday 3/29**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth all ages end of year party 5:30 pm

### **Thursday, 3/30**

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

### **Friday 3/31**

- Bethel office 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.

### **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.

### **Next meeting:**

**March 28th, 7:00 pm at Judy Johnson's**

### **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.