

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

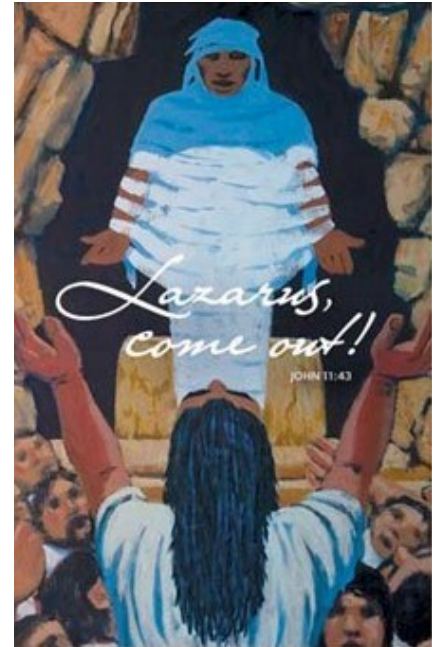
In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM
In-person or live stream
at bethelmt.org**

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Connie Titcomb, piano
Sara Graft, djembe

Lay Assistant:

Tamy Scholten

Usher:

TBD

Tech:

Adam Elkin

Children's Church:

Abbie and Rylee Virts

Counters:

Patty Braget
Laurie Turner

Hospitality:

Sandy Pepos

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

we celebrate the
Fifth Sunday in
Lent.

Thank you to **the
Jubilate Choir** led
by Jeff Skogley for
singing today.

Practice after wor-

ship today for our
Maunday Thursday
Last Supper play.

Next week is **Palm
Sunday!** Join us for
a pancake breakfast
before worship from
8:00 am until 9:15

am and after wor-
ship until noon.
Free will donation in
support of Vacation
Bible School.



Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is recovering at home after 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.

Estate Sale

1505 9th St NW #116

Thursday, March 23rd and

Friday March 24th

9:00 am to 6:00 pm both days

Soup Supper Discussion Prompt

Have a hot bowl of soup and warm conversation!

THIS 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?

NEXT WEEK, March 30th

This week our focus is on reconciliation. When you hear the word reconciliation, who or what do you think about?

What do you think is necessary to move from forgiveness to reconciliation?

In light of all of our conversations throughout this Lenten season, what do you think the connection is between reconciliation and righteousness?

What have you learned, or maybe unlearned, about righteous as we have journeyed through this Lenten season together?

2023 Mid - Week Lenten Schedule

March 23 –

Supper Host: Men's Breakfast Cantors: Rev. Steve Nelson and Jeanne Rankin

March 30th –

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

Holy Week Schedule

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

April 6th - Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

April 7th - Good Friday 7:00 PM - performed by the Jubilate Choir

April 9th - Easter Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am in the sanctuary

See What We Are Doing At LOGOs!

Sally and her daughter Sammie Seidel were baptized!



Pajama Night Games!!



Bell practice for Palm Sunday!



Donated Cereal for FISH!

APRIL 22 - 5:30 PM
Benefit for Family Promise GF

SOC HOP
Serving our Community
Honoring our Promise

family promise
FP
of Great Falls

Black Eagle
Community
Center

ON SALE MARCH 1
TICKETS
\$40
from Kaufman's or
1019 Central Ave
\$42
Online at
FamilyPromiseGF.org

SILENT AUCTION

DINNER
Brian's Top Notch
Burgers, Dogs, Fixings

"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

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.

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1. Go to smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire
2. Sign into your digital account or choose "create an account" and fill in the information.
3. Link your Rewards Card to Bethel using code LC427 or type in Bethel Lutheran Church.
4. Choose Save.

The place where Marty Haugen wrote Holden Evening Prayer ...



The Fourth Fall Sojourn Holden Village Sept. 24 - Oct. 1, 2023

Holden Village is a Lutheran retreat center nestled in a beautiful Cascade Mountain valley of Washington State. After the busy summer schedule, fall is quieter and a beautiful time to visit. This late September week will feature the following teaching staff.

- **Mark Gravrock** is wonderful Biblical teacher and scholar. He has taught Bible, Greek, and Christian spirituality for 22 years at Trinity Lutheran College in Washington. He has taught us scripture with keen insight, humor, and grace on three of our other sojourns. His working title for Holden is *"To Give You a Future and a Hope."* He will work with texts in both testaments.
- **Larry L. Rasmussen**, no stranger to Holden, is a renowned Christian environmental ethicist and the Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics, emeritus, at Union Theological Seminary. His newest book (2022) is *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren when Uncertainty's a Sure Thing*. He is also the author of *Earth Community, Earth Ethics*; winner of the Grawemeyer Award; and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Christian Ethics. He has mentored a generation of scholars in eco-theology and green religion, rooted in practices of environmental justice within community contexts. At Holden he will use selections from his new book and build it around the theme of *"How the Changing Planet is Changing Christian Norms."*
- **Mark Sedio** served as Cantor at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis until he retired in 2022. In addition, he has held teaching positions both at Augsburg University and Luther Seminary. Sedio is an active recitalist, clinician, conductor, and composer, having presented hymn festivals and workshops throughout North America and Europe. He will be the Village Musician for the week and will help the worship and music life of the village come alive.
- **Jacqueline Bussie** is the Executive Director of the Collegeville Institute in MN. She is also an award-winning author, professor, theologian, speaker, and workshop facilitator. Her 2nd book, *Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules* won the 2017 Gold Medal Illumination Award for Christian Living. Her 3rd book, *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for a Love with No Exceptions*, won the IAN Outstanding Religion Book of the Year Award, and just came out in its 2nd edition in August 2022. *Love Without Limits* was also named by Publisher's Weekly as "a must-read for all Christians interested in inclusivity for their communities." At Holden Jacqueline will speak on her books and the themes of grief, love, loss, compassion, and interfaith peace building.

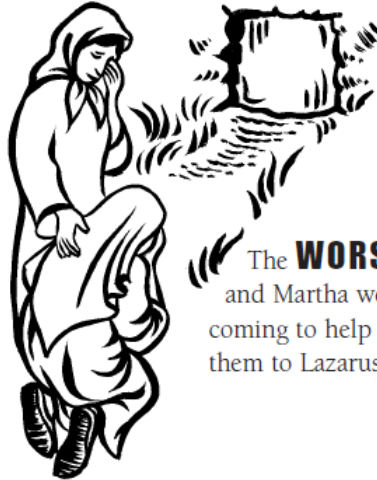
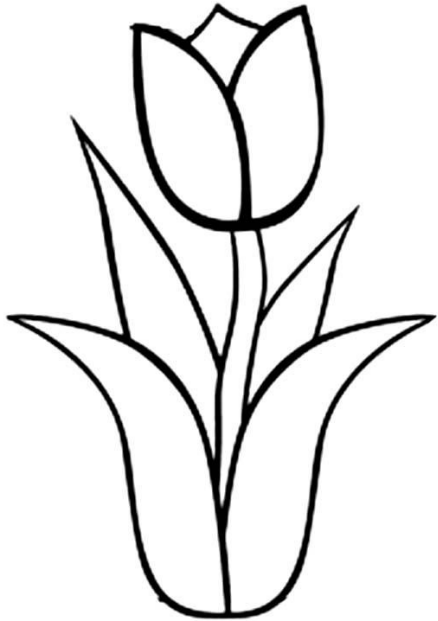
While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythms for each day according to your interests. Teaching sessions and opportunities for creative engagement will be bountiful. You are encouraged to take time for rest and recreation - hiking, fly-fishing, weaving, other crafts, and a host of other activities.

- Please let Darius Larsen know ASAP if you or others may be interested or have questions at dariuslarsen@msn.com.
- To discover more about Holden Village, go to www.holdenvillage.org/visit.

Just for *YOUTH*

Amazing changes

John 11:1-45

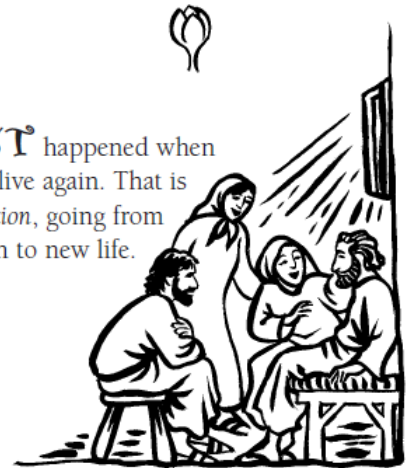









Today's gospel story tells about best days and worst days for Jesus and his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

The **WORST** happened when Lazarus died. Mary and Martha were upset when they thought Jesus was not coming to help them. Jesus cried when he went with them to Lazarus's grave.

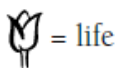


The **BEST** happened when Lazarus was alive again. That is called *resurrection*, going from death to new life.



Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the . Those who believe in  even though they , will , and everyone who  and believes in  will never .

John 11:25-26a



= life



= me



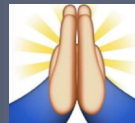
= die



= live

This Week...

Do a yard or neighborhood search for new spring plants and other signs of spring. New Life is coming!



Thank you, Jesus,
For bringing us new life.
Amen

LOGOs Wednesday, March 29 End of Year Carnival

Dinner: Burgers with the fixins', tater tots, apple slices, ice cream/fudge bars

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
- Hope Circle Judy Johnson's 7:00 pm

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4/2

- Palm Sunday Worship led by Pastor Jessie and LOGOs Youth Ministry in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to 9:15 am and after worship until noon. Free will donation to support Vacation Bible School.

Tuesday 4/4

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Exec Council Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

Wednesday 4/5

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Jubilate Choir Holy Week Retreat and Rehearsal 6:00 pm

Thursday, 4/6

- Maundy Thursday worship service 7:00 pm

Friday 4/17

- Bethel office closed
- Good Friday worship service 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 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.