

Bethel Notes

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Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Connie Titcomb, Piano,
Mac Carlson, violin

Lay Assistant:

Ainsley Kubas

Usher:

Sue Hesse

Tech:

Colter McCarty
Jade Metzler

Children's Church:

Tyler Grosenick
Olivia Violet

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings
Jeanne Rankin

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Easter

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

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

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

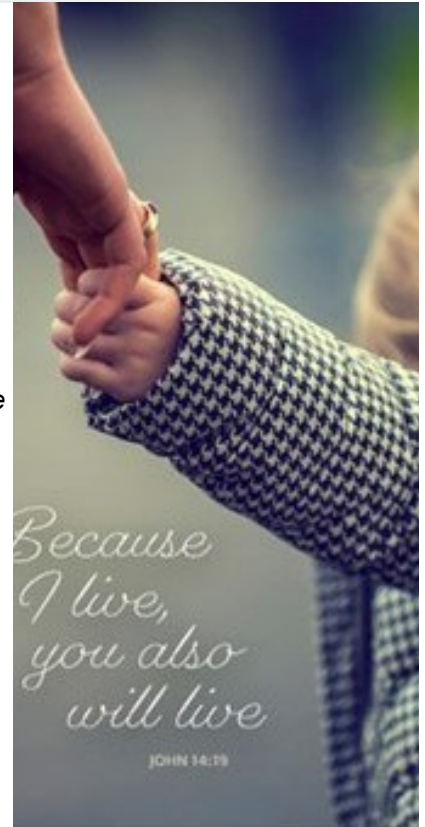
We celebrate the Sixth Sunday in Easter

Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful women in our lives who make the world a better place. Join us on the patio after worship for Mother's Day Tea.

Thank you to **Steve Mueller and Chris Wilson** for singing "For the Healing of the Nations" for **World Hunger Sunday** and in recognition of those missing and murdered indigenous peoples. We will be receiving an additional offering in the wicker basket in support of this ELCA Ministry.

Thank you to **Sharon Mueller and the Bethel Bell Choir** for honoring us with the sweet ring of bells at worship this Sunday.

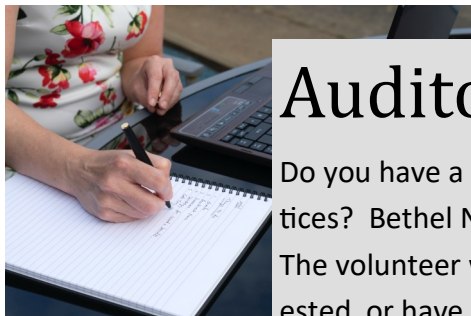
Mark your calendars for a special **Congregation Meeting June 11, 2023** after worship to discuss and vote on replacing the chairs in the sanctuary.





Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sam Salois**, *friend of Jack Pinski*, recovering at home after a car accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin, Bobbie Bowen's daughter**, as she is undergoing medical testing and awaiting results.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he begins chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Pastor Trina Johnsten** who continues to recover from an illness.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Holly Lode**, *granddaughter of Bernice Johnson*, recovering from surgery on her arm after an injury.
- ✝ Prayers of peace for the **People of Sudan** and an end to the fighting.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Janet Hussli**, *Greg Grosenick's aunt*, managing a stage 4 metastatic cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is at home, regaining strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Cindy Doughty**, *Patty Braget's sister*, as she manages ALS.
- ✝ 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.



Auditor Needed

Do you have a background in bookkeeping? Are you familiar with tax and payroll practices? Bethel Needs You! We need to have an annual audit done, as soon as possible. The volunteer who has done this for us in the past has stepped down. If you are interested or have questions about this audit please contact Kelsey Johnson bethelgf.council.treasurer@gmail.com

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

Youth Gathering Information Night

June 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Bethel Sanctuary

The 2024 Youth Gathering will be in New Orleans, Louisiana. Any youth who will be in High School in 2024 is eligible to go. We will also need chaperones.

We would like to see who might be interested and have set this time aside for Great Falls area youth and their parents/guardians to come learn about the Gathering and ask questions.

Attending this event does not obligate you or your youth to attend the Youth Gathering.

Spread the word! All are welcome!



First Communion Classes

May 17th and 24th 6:00 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Open to anyone, any age who would like to learn more about the Holy Sacrament of Communion.

After the two sessions, the celebration of First Communion will be Sunday, May 28th during our 9:30 am worship service.

For more information or to sign up for the class, you may talk with Pastor Jessie or email her at bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

All are welcome!

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.

We pray for guidance and strength as we fight for justice on their behalf. We will not forget those who have lost their lives or the love that remains in their wake. Today, we honor their memory in prayer, grateful for the hope you provide in times of heartache and injustice. Hear us as we offer our prayers and plea for justice. Amen.



GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Easter

Life with the Spirit

What do we do when we feel abandoned by people we believed would always be there for us? When relationships end or coworkers betray us? When friends move or someone close to us dies? The impact of those losses can change our whole world. It can make us question our self-worth and make us wonder if we are really of any value. When this happens, it's easy to ask if what we do actually matters.

As Jesus prepares his disciples for what life will be like for them after he dies, he tells them to keep his commandments and assures them they will not be left orphaned. It's an important message for them to hear. They are about to experience the trauma of witnessing Jesus' betrayal and death, the fear of being wanted men hiding from the authorities, and the grief of feeling like they have lost their purpose in life. Their world is about to be thrown into chaos because the person who had led them, taught them, and taken care of them would now be gone.

Jesus' words are a promise that God's love is too great to leave them abandoned. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever" (John 14:15-16). His words are also a promise that what they continue to do matters. Keeping his commandments isn't necessary for God to love them, but doing so will serve as a reminder of their love for Jesus and will open them up to experiencing the Advocate in their lives. Jesus' command to love God and our neighbor isn't a fee we have to pay for the Spirit to spend time with us. It is our response to the powerful good news that the Spirit is with us forever.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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A Month of Sundays In May!

Sunday, May 14th

Mother's Day with Tea on the Patio

Sunday, May 21st

Graduate Blessing

May 28th

First Communion

Celebrate this whole month with us!

All are welcome.

Help Needed

A member from our sister congregation in Hoglund is moving to Great Falls. Her faith family is helping her with this move and when they arrive on Wednesday, May 24th, they will need a few people to help them move items from the rented U-Haul Truck into a temporary storage unit.

If you are willing to help, please let Pastor Jessie know and she will help coordinate this event. The time of day is yet to be determined and we will announce as soon as we have more information.

Bethel Church Council

Highlights

Hello Bethel, here are the highlights from the council meeting Tuesday, May 9th.

- * The May Baskets were a HUGE success! We had lots of positive feedback and heard from members of Bethel and folks in the neighborhood who received them. Thanks to all who helped fill and distribute them!
- * We continue to work with Deffinbaugh Accounting and things are running more smoothly as we learn the best way to handle our specific needs with them.
- * Our girl Tami has an opportunity to go on a trip with her family the week of VBS, so Pastor is going to step in to help direct. It sounds like we are building a good team.
- * We are currently beginning to search for another accompanist for Sunday mornings. No one is leaving, but we could use another pianist so we don't overwhelm the ones we have. If anyone is interested or knows someone who might be, please contact Tami or Pastor.
- * We are also looking for an accountant to do our yearly audit/review. Once again, if anyone would be interested in helping us out with this, please talk to Pastor Jessie, Tami, or Kelsey Johnson, council treasurer.
- * New chairs- we set a date for a congregational meeting on June 11 after services to approve the purchase of 150 new chairs and the re-upholstery of 10 arm chairs. An idea for "Adopt a Chair" has been suggested as one way to contribute. We need to address this soon before the quote given by the company is no longer valid.

Council will be meeting exclusively on Zoom for the summer months.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Turner, Council Secretary



Memorial Day Work Weekend

May 26-29, 2023 (Fri - Mon)

Cost: By donation, registration required ☺

Register by May 12th!

You are invited to help transform camp for the summer season. All ages are welcome for this FREE retreat which includes Fun, Fires (campfires, that is), great Food, and Fellowship, and bible study and worship. This retreat is a great way to experience camp for the first time!

Consider applying for your own Thrivent Action Team grant and join us! Contact the FLBC office for project ideas.



Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends with a sack lunch on Monday

2023 REGISTRATION

Memorial Day Work Weekend // May 26-29, 2023

Women's Retreat

"TELLING OUR FAITH STORIES"

With Pastor Meggan Manlove

Friday, June 9 - Sunday, June 11, 2023

\$250/person || Saturday only: \$150

Registration & \$100 deposit due by May 26th, 2023

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation!

Enjoy a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp full of fellowship, fun, great food, and relaxation. Experience insightful sessions on Telling Our Faith Stories with Pastor Meggan Manlove, and enjoy time for worship, pottery, nature walks, yoga on the docks, and more.

About the retreat theme: Together, we will undertake the practice of story-linking, originated by Anne Streaty Wimberly, with the goal of being able to speak more confidently about our own lived Christian faith. We will engage memoirs of the Mountain West, the Biblical narrative, faith stories from the American Christian tradition, and finally our own decision making. Through it all we will tell and listen to one another's stories—stories of childhood, stories of faith, stories of mentors, milestone stories, stories of hardship, and stories of joy.

Congregational Meeting Announcement

We will be holding a meeting to discuss and vote on new chairs for the sanctuary (see bullet point in above Council Meeting Highlights.)

**June 11, 2023 following worship,
estimated start at 10:45 am.**

Just for *YOUTH*

Sharing the good news

The Holy Spirit is with us to help us share Jesus' story with others.

Circle things in the picture we can use to:

- Listen to someone reading Bible stories
- Write a letter inviting your friend to worship
- Send an e-mail message to cheer up a sad friend
- Sing a Sunday school song together
- Look at Bible storybooks
- Call a friend with an invitation to come to Sunday school



Welcome to worship.

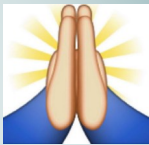
Today is the sixth Sunday of Easter. All our senses help us to worship God. In worship today think about the different ways you use your senses—seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting.

Seen

Unseen



Draw some things you see when you are in worship?



**Dear Lord,
Help us hear you
speaking to us.
Help us speak to
others about you.
Amen.**

This Week...

Listen to the Holy Spirit. Which friends or neighbors need your help this week?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 5/16

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

Wednesday 5/17

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- First Communion class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Friday 5/19

- Bethel office is closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5/21

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- 2023 Graduate Blessing

Tuesday 5/23

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

Wednesday 5/24

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am
- First Communion class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Friday 5/26

- 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.

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:

May 23 at Terry Korpela'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.