

# Bethel Notes

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**Sunday, May 21, 2023**

## Seventh Sunday in Easter

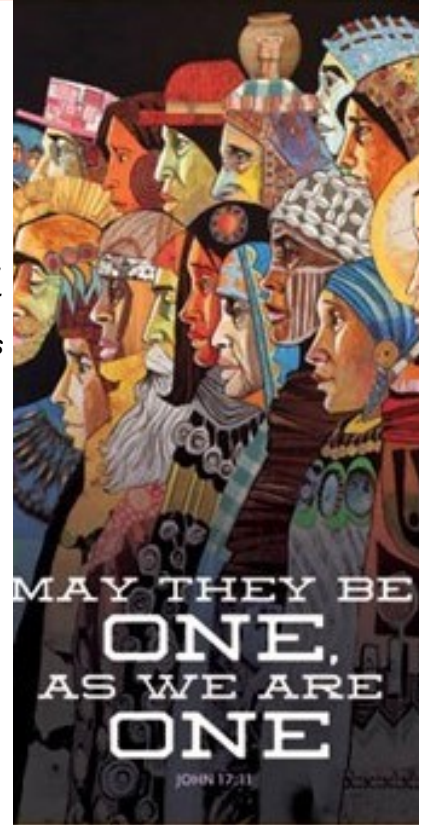
*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

*First Reading: Acts 1:6-14*

*Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35*

*Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11*

*Gospel: John 17:1-11*



**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM  
in person or online at  
[bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org)**

## Serving This Sunday

### Musicians:

Connie Titcomb, Piano,  
Mac Carlson, violin

### Lay Assistant:

Tamy Scholten

### Usher:

Shannon Marr

### Tech:

Adam Elkin

### Children's Church:

Allison Marr

Abbie Virts

### Counters:

Pam Dougherty  
Shannon Marr

## THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the Seventh Sunday in Easter.

Thank you to **Jeff Skogley and the Jubilate Choir** for honoring us with the beautiful music at worship today.

Congratulations to **our graduating class of 2023**. Dawson Bernardi, Valerie Cushman, Adam Elkin, Isabelle Grosenick, Christopher Kubas, Allison Marr, Lane Seim, Olivia Violett, and Abbie Virts.

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 comfort and support for **Thelma Seyfert** as she manages a new diagnosis of lung cancer.
- ✝ 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 manages a new cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ 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.



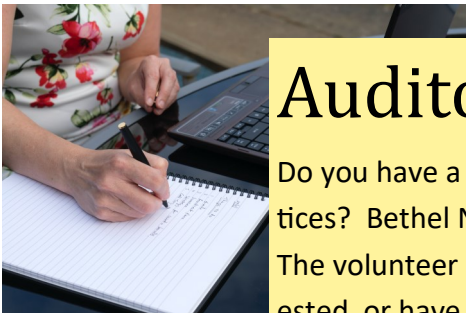
*Sending love and prayers*

The SOC HOP on April 22, 2023, was a TREMENDOUS success thanks to the generous sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped support our mission to end childhood homelessness. After crunching the numbers, we garnered close to \$12,000 from the event! These funds go directly to homeless children and their families. As of today's date, Family Promise of Great Falls has served 44 families with 98 children with services to prevent homelessness and provide stability. Compared to last year, we are on track to have three times the impact on the community!

We have been doing well fundraising the last couple of weeks! Taco John's on the Northwest Bypass held a Family Promise Night on April 28 that was a success thanks to our supporters! Give Great Falls Week concluded on Friday, May 5. This has been our most successful year for Give Great Falls Week yet! We totaled \$1,905 in online donations, simply amazing! Thursday May 4 was also Family Promise Day at The Double Barrel Coffee House Café. If you missed Greg's live interview you can find it on The Double Barrel Coffee House Café's Facebook page. We at Family Promise of Great Falls feel so blessed by the generosity of the donors and sponsors for these events.

### **A story from Promise Place Shelter**

This month we spoke with a young couple experiencing homelessness with their three sons. The boys are ages 5, 3, and 2 and are so adorable and full of energy. Mom keeps a smile on her face, but you can tell she is tired. Working two jobs and around sixty-five hours a week, plus raising three young boys, puts a huge strain on this young mom. The boy's father is soon to be a full-time college student. When asked how long they have been homeless, mom responds with one year. They were separated from one another for a period of time, as it was difficult to find somewhere to stay that could accommodate a family of five. When asked how they became homeless, mom responds with that they were in the process of purchasing a mobile home but got evicted after spending close to \$11,000 on down payment and repairs. Mom and Dad, both tell me that the person they were purchasing the mobile home from was supposed to be a friend of theirs. This friend neglected to pay the taxes on the mobile home, and this led to the family being evicted. They received no money back from what they had invested, and the owner of the mobile home has since moved to another state. This is the first time the young family has ever experienced homelessness, and they were losing hope until they found Family Promise of Great Falls. Greg and Maggie were able to offer them shelter for the entire family, allowing them to be free to function as a family unit once more. Mom and Dad are working hard on their goals of finding a suitable apartment or house to move into soon.



## **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](mailto:bethelgf.council.treasurer@gmail.com)



# Vacation Bible School

**July 17th—21st 9:00 am to 1:30 pm**



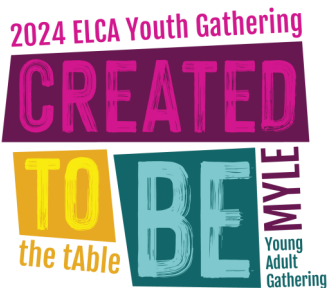
It's time to register for Vacation Bible School for grades (entering) Pre-Kindergarten to 6th. Junior Counselors (entering) 7th grade and up.

More information and online registration at [https://www.bethelmt.org/junior\\_vbs.html](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.*



## 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!

## The 1st Monday Night Quilters

will meet June 5, 2023, 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5th Avenue So. Please park in the alley. The quilts are made for Lutheran World Relief and shipped to their shipping center in November and then distributed to needy areas in the US and around the world. Thanks to all who have been cutting squares, sewing tops and preparing backs. Questions? Call 799-0100

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 21, 2023

### Seventh Sunday in Easter

#### God Doesn't Do Magic

It happens in the movies all the time: just as we are made to believe that all hope is lost and evil will triumph, suddenly the hero discovers a mystical phrase that will give him supernatural strength to defeat the enemy. Or the heroine finds a charmed sword that gives her the power to do the same. Believing in movie magic can be a welcome respite from the grind of everyday life. Knowing an enchanted word that keeps us impervious to harm sounds incredible—who wouldn't want that? Those moments may work in the movies, but they don't happen in real life.

Don't confuse Jesus' words in today's gospel with a magic spell or incantation. As Jesus prays for his disciples, he knows the suffering they will soon endure because they have come to believe in him. There is no way to avert what they will undergo; each one of his disciples is headed toward a certain and painful death, just as Jesus is. Jesus knows these things cannot be prevented, but that isn't the point of his prayer.

Being in the world means bad things will happen to us. Crosses aren't special charms that keep evil away, and wearing one won't keep you from harm. Tragedies take place, people get sick, bullies victimize, the innocent get blamed. There are no magic words to prevent hardships or disasters. When Jesus prays for the Father to protect those who belong to him, he isn't asking God to keep those bad things from happening. The name of God was never intended to create force fields around us keeping bad things out. God and the one who comes in God's name make us one together with them. In this unity, life always triumphs in the end.

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

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### Congregational Meeting

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.

We will be offering an online Zoom Meeting option as we need a 32 voting member quorum to be able to vote.



Men's Quartet were awesome during our Mother's Day Tea. Thank you to Jeff Skogley, Dave Scholten, Steve Mueller and Patrick Ryan.



There will be a candlelight vigil at Bethel Lutheran Church on Thursday, June 1, at 8 pm, honoring and remembering Missing and Murdered Montanans. The Vigil is sponsored by the Ra-Force of the Montana Synod, and takes place the Synod Assembly begins at the Heritage come.



May 26-29, 2023 (Fri – Mon)

**Cost:** By donation, registration required 😊  
Register by May 12<sup>th</sup>!

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, 2022



## 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## 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.



# Just for *YOUTH*

## In the world as one

John 17:1-11

Last Thursday marked 40 days after Easter, the day of the Ascension of our Lord. The disciples knew they needed to carry Jesus' story to others. Jesus prayed for his disciples and for all who would follow him:

"Father, protect them in your name so they may be one."

Jesus wanted his followers to work together as **1** family of God.

Find the number **1** seven times in this picture, one for each week of the Easter season.



**Dear Lord,  
Make us all 1 as a  
family of God.  
Amen.**



Christians say a creed to tell what they believe about God. Look at the 3 sentences below, on a separate paper, write each sentence and draw a picture to make your own creed. What will your pictures tell about God?

*I believe in God who made all things.*

*I believe in Jesus who died and rose again.*

***I believe in the Holy Spirit who is with me all the time.***

## This Week...

**Look for red clothing to wear to church or red flowers to bring to worship next Sunday for Pentecost.**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **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
- New Lay Assistant Training in the Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm
- First Communion class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

### **Friday 5/26**

- Bethel office is closed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 5/28**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- First Communion

### **Monday 5/29**

- Memorial Day, Bethel Office is closed

### **Tuesday 5/30**

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

### **Wednesday 5/31**

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

### **Friday 6/2**

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

**May 23 at Terry Korpela's**

### **Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie-online**

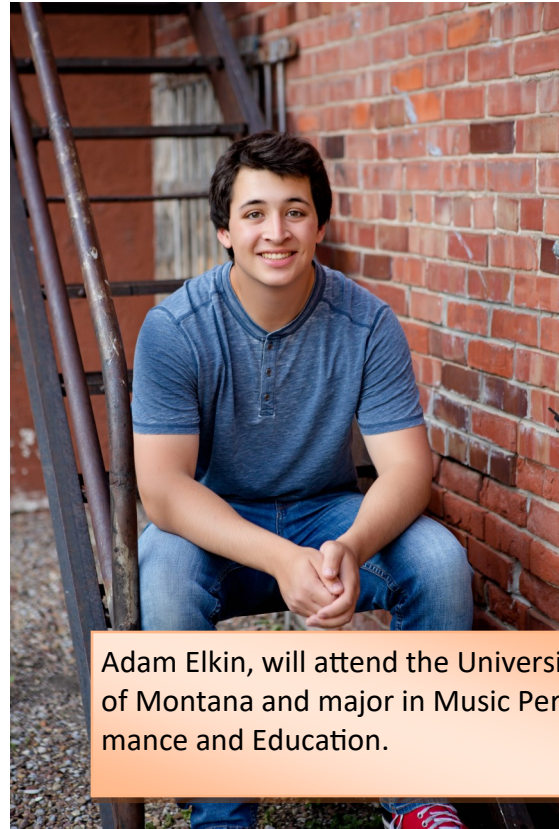
Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie will be leading discussion on the text readings for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the interpretation of the readings and discuss ways they give us guidance in our daily lives. If you would like to join this meeting, email bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.



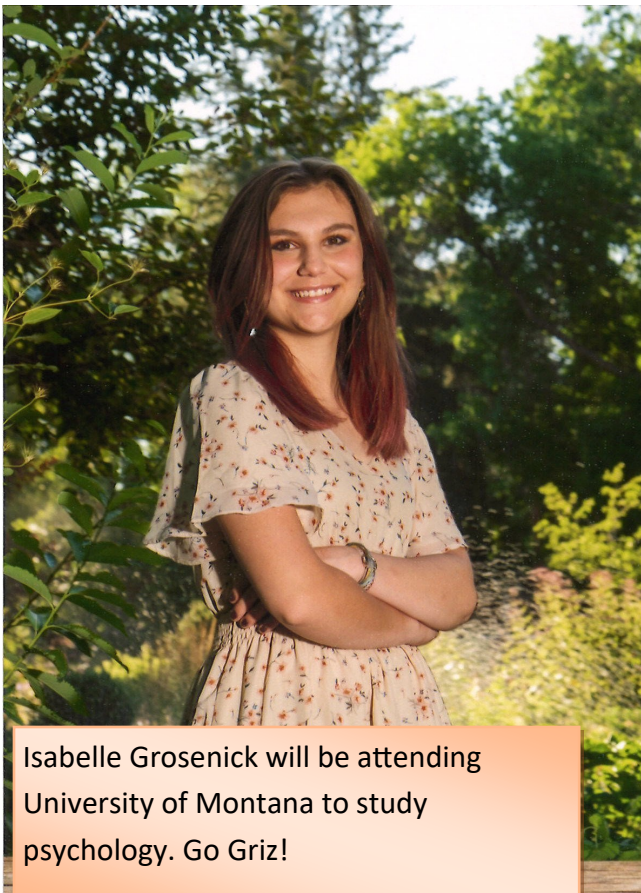
# 2023 Graduating Seniors



Valerie Cushman



Adam Elkin, will attend the University of Montana and major in Music Performance and Education.



Isabelle Grosenick will be attending University of Montana to study psychology. Go Griz!



Christopher Kubas will be attending Montana State University in Bozeman this fall, studying Financial Engineering.



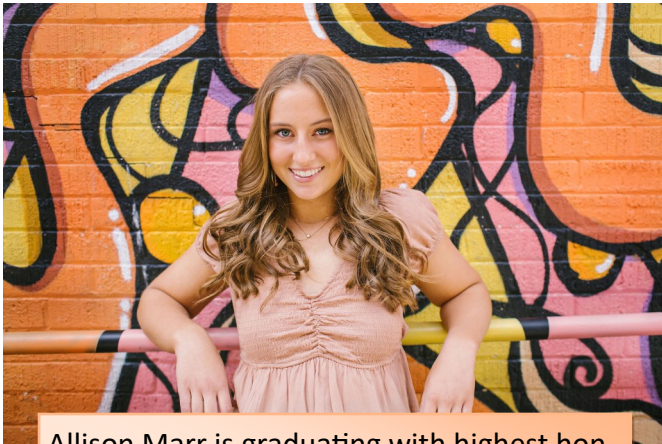
# 2023 Graduating Seniors



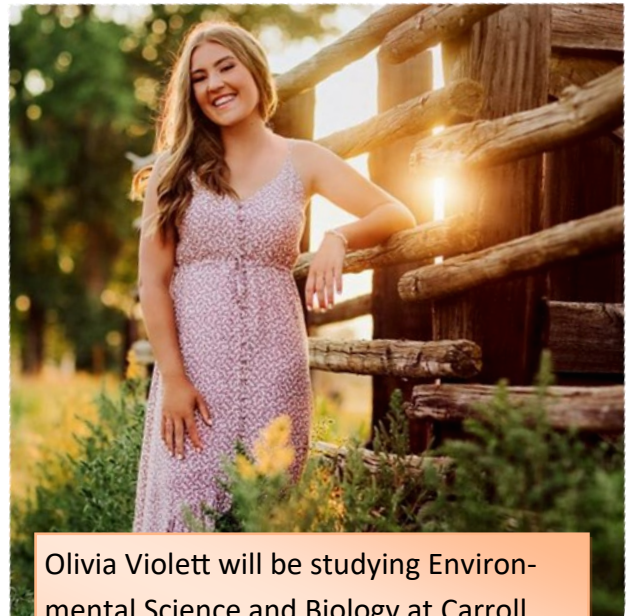
Abbie Virts is going to Carroll College to study nursing! She plans to join campus ministry and the outdoor clubs. Her goal is to become a nurse anesthetist one day!



Lane Seim will be playing baseball for MSU Billings and studying pre-med.



Allison Marr is graduating with highest honors from CM Russell High School. She will attend The University of Montana in the fall and plans to study speech therapy as part of the Davidson Honors College.



Olivia Violet will be studying Environmental Science and Biology at Carroll College. She will also be on the Women's Golf Team.