

# BETHEL NOTES

## Serving This Sunday

### Accompanist

Lynn Ryan, Piano

### Lay Assistant

Ainsley Kubas

### Ushers

Walt Nuessle

### Tech

Gabe Smith

### Projection

TBD

### Children's Church

No Children's Church This Sunday

### Hospitality

Lynn Ryan

### Counters

Stephanie Cummings  
Tammy Good



## THIS SUNDAY

### Readings:

*First Reading:*  
Daniel 12:1-3

*Psalm:*  
Psalm 16

*Second Reading:*  
Hebrews 10:11-14[15-18]19-25

*Gospel:*  
Mark 13:1-8

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

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Fraud Awareness Meetings

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## This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate **26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**.

We welcome and thank **Pastor Jessica Crist** for leading worship for us today.

**Worship Planning Committee** will meet after worship today in the Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Forum The Chosen** season 4 continues after worship in the Pastor's office.



*Lord,  
in your mercy  
hear our prayers.*

- ✠ Prayers of comfort for **the family and friends of Thelma Seyfert** as they mourn her passing.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Sue Cassell**, *friend of Sara Sexe*, as she is receiving treatments for cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of Healing for **Kendra**, *TLC Daycare employee*, who was diagnosed with cancer and will begin treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who is in Park Place receiving physical therapy and preparing for surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Carrie O'Brien** as she is in the hospital following complications after surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Dylan Erickson** as he recovers from hip surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Shelly Murphy** as she continues with cancer treatments and to regain strength.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she manages cancer diagnosis with complications.
- ✠ **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America, who is in the hospital.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Laurie Jungling, and Associate to the Bishop Rev. Brenda Frelsi.**

"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things."

- Mother Teresa

# Help Us Get Ready for Christmas!

We are getting ready for Christmas here at Bethel. Here are a few things that we need YOUR help with!


Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 pm in the Gathering Place. Since we are still in our Call Process, we will be offering 1 Christmas Eve service this year. With the Good Lord's help, we will go back to our two services next year! In order to get the Gathering Place ready, we need help with the following:

## NOVEMBER 24th

- After Worship, decorate the church for Christmas!
- Vacuuming in the Gathering Place, we are going to rent a lift and vacuum the top of the red curtains as well as the gray curtains around the top.
- Clean the projectors in the Gathering Place.
- Put up the large Tree in the Gathering Place and decorate it.
- We would also like to refresh the homemade/family decorations that we use to decorate the tree in the Gathering Place. If you and/or your family would like to create an ornament or purchase one to donate and we will add them tree.

For vacuuming the curtains, we will set up a schedule to have people do short sessions on the lift. More details to come as we get closer to the date.


LEARN WHY HOMELESSNESS IS A GROWING CRISIS




# Night Without a Bed

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

**THURSDAY  
Nov. 21st**  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



University of Providence - Student Center  
1301 20th Street South



## Save the Date

### FRAUD AWARENESS WEEK


WEBINAR SERIES

Joining forces to educate Montanans on the red flags of fraud.

Hear from fraud-fighting agencies on how to identify red flags and protect your hard-earned money.

- November 18th | 10:30 AM
- November 20th | 5:30 PM
- November 21st | 1:00 PM

Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI)  
Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)  
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)  
Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)



REGISTRATION & ADDITIONAL DETAILS COMING SOON!



## BURGERS FOR BENEFITS

ORGANIZATION NAME:  
**FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP**

DATE: NOV 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

5:00 - 9:00 P.M.

PRESENT THIS TICKET AT THE TIME YOU ORDER AND YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL RECEIVE 20% OF THE TOTAL TICKET VALUES FOR YOUR FUDDRAISER NIGHT. **NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY**

ADMISSION TICKET



# Bell Ringers Needed

The Salvation Army are looking for Volunteers to ring bells during this holiday season. Bell ringing begins this Friday, November 15th and continues until Christmas Eve. They ring Monday through Friday beginning at about 10:00 am until about 7:00 pm. You pick your time and how long you ring.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Anita at the Salvation Army 406-453-0391.

## A Special Invitation:

### Making It Through The Holidays

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

*Lewis and Clark Conference Room  
Benefis West Campus  
500 15<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Great Falls, Montana*

Entering the holiday season after the loss of a loved one has many challenges. Our time together on November 24<sup>th</sup> offers an opportunity to reflect and be supported in what you are experiencing. Making it Through the Holidays is part of the Peace Hospice Team's commitment to be with you on this journey. We will provide a safe environment offering you tools to cope with this time of year more effectively.

*Presented by:  
Staff Members at Peace Hospice of Montana  
Please call with questions: 455-3040*



\$\$ DONATIONS  
11-3 pm on 11/23

Christmas Photo Mini's  
1ST COME, 1ST SEVE BASIS-  
ONE EDITED PHOTO  
DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED

CRYSTAL WILL BE AT THE  
TLC BLC SITE FROM 11-3 ON  
SATURDAY NOV 23RD FOR  
WALK INS

All donations will be donated to  
one of our teachers that recently  
started a battle with cancer.

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 23RD  
2:00 PM

ELECTRIC CITY CHORALE  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

**Live Music**

PERFORMANCE BY  
**ELECTRIC CITY CHORALE**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
610 2ND AVENUE NORTH, GREAT FALLS




Help Helping Hands raise \$7500 by the end of November and Town Pump will match dollar for dollar. Donations can be made directly to Helping Hands of Great Falls or you may donate to Helping Hands through your Bethel Giving (please note that it is for Helping Hands) and we will make sure the donations get passed along to them.

# Mission Endowment Update

Last Sunday, we were so honored to welcome Carrie Parker, Executive Director of *Helping Hands*. She focused her sermon on the message of LOVE... our calling to the Christian ideal of loving our neighbors with the extravagant love of Christ. This fits our own Bethel mission... that God calls us and transforms us and sends us.



Carrie shared in the homily and in last week's Bethel Notes the **mission** of Helping Hands. These staggering numbers demonstrate the program's need: serving close to 490 guests in ONE day this year and last year serving over 12,000 people and distributing almost 70,000 pounds of food without requiring vouchers which, for many people in our community, is a barrier to receiving help. Helping Hands spends between \$800 to \$1200 each WEEK on food alone. To help meet their mission, Bethel was so pleased to gift \$2,000 to Helping Hands. This gift, combined with others, helped them reach their November goal of \$7,500. That is significant because it means they qualify for the

matching dollars grant from Town Pump. So, our gift of \$2,000 really became a gift of \$4,000!

How did we make this contribution? At Bethel, we have something called the **Mission Endowment Fund**. It's important to note that this fund is not the same as our Mission Freedom Fund. It is easy to confuse the two, but *Freedom* is for our mortgage. The Endowment is a fund that we hold with Mission Investment Companies. The Fund's purpose is to make annual distributions (up to 5% of the annual value of the Mission Endowment Fund balance), when appropriate and supported by the Fund, beyond the operating budget of the congregation, to ministries which may include, but not be limited to:

- ◆ extraordinary programs/ministry initiatives within this Congregation;
- ◆ to special projects within the local area wherein this Congregation resides;
- ◆ to special ministries within the Montana Synod, ELCA; and/or to ELCA Churchwide ministries.

Over the last several years, our awesome committee of the “J’s” (Jim Carlson, Janet Smith, Johnna Lightbourne, and JoAnn Dullum) accomplished some incredible ministry initiatives in within our congregation. They planned both engagement and outreach activities such as the May Day basket assembly and distribution in our church neighborhood, the Food Truck events that invited our community to experience the Bethel community, and potluck and church social events. These all served a great need for fellowship and outreach, especially during and after COVID. The J’s served more than required term commitments of three years (most of them serving since 2018) and before Pastor Jessie left, we transitioned to a new committee, currently with just me! But we want to begin the committee again and I invite all of you to prayerfully consider involvement. Educating you all about the committee and Fund is one way to elevate the purpose and importance of Mission Endowment.

Because I am just one person, the Council is currently acting on behalf of the committee and we decided to make an annual distribution of this fund to Helping Hands because we believe it fits the mission of the Mission Endowment Committee and Fund AND because Helping Hands is actively practicing “Gods Work, Our Hands”.

I encourage you to consider future involvement in the committee, supporting the Endowment with financial contributions and/or making regular contributions to Helping Hands through your regular gifting in our congregation. I look forward to more guidance and work for Mission Endowment soon!

-Shannon Marr



There are lots of exciting events coming up this month. First, we have City Motors THANKSgiving event from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. For every vehicle sold, City Motors will donate \$250 to Family Promise Great Falls and the families we serve. Then, on November 20<sup>th</sup> we have a fundraiser with Taco John's on the NW Bypass from 5-8 p.m. On November 21<sup>st</sup>, we have our awareness event Night Without a Bed from 5-8 p.m. at The University of Providence Student Center. Snacks provided by Horizon Credit Union, and there will be plenty of partner organizations on hand to talk about the work that they do within the community.

### **Holiday Happenings**

Our fabulous volunteers are busy decorating the Day Room for our appreciation party coming up on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. December 3<sup>rd</sup> also happens to be "Giving Tuesday" and this year we're holding our campaign on the Givebutter platform. See our Facebook page for the link to donate. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to move our two shelter families into permanent housing. Help us help them!

### **Donations needed**

We're still seeking a donation of a Christmas tree and ornaments for one of our shelter families. We've been blessed with the donation of one tree and ornaments, but now we need one more for the other family. If you have a tree and ornaments, you'd like to donate, please email [Tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org](mailto:Tiffanyw@familypromisegf.org).

### **Night Without a Bed**

Join us on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at The University of Providence Student Center for an evening of educational awareness and snacks provided by Horizon Credit Union. We'll be there with 16 partner organizations to educate our visitors about the services that are available within our community for those who are struggling with homelessness.

### **Taco John's and Family Promise Fundraiser**

Join us on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at Taco John's NW Bypass location for some great food for a great cause! During the event, 20% of your order total will be donated to homeless families in our community. Special thanks to Michelle Hankes for helping us get this organized with our board.

### **Panda Express Fundraiser**

Join us in December at Panda Express for a great day of great food for a great cause. Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 p.m. show the event flyer on your mobile phone at Panda Express for your order total to benefit Family Promise Great Falls and the families we serve.

### **Our current needs list:**

Bottled water	Cream and sugar for the office	Diapers large sizes	Wipes
Office printer paper	Soda (for NWAB)	Gift cards for the holidays	
Presents for shelter kids	Chef Boyardee canned raviolis	Fruit cups	
Ramen noodles	Macaroni and cheese cups	Pop tarts	

As always if you're craving more news from Family Promise Great Falls, please see our website at [www.familypromisegf.org](http://www.familypromisegf.org) or follow us on social media at Family Promise Great Falls.

# GOSPEL MESSAGE

## Holy Presence

In Jesus' day the temple in Jerusalem loomed large, both as a central physical structure in the city and as a powerful symbol of God's presence among the people. It was a major part of Jewish religious life of the time, and the location where it stood remains important for many people today. The disciples would certainly have found it unsettling to listen to Jesus forecast the temple's destruction. Would it really fall? How could such an important place ever be lost?

We often look to buildings, institutions, and societal structures for stability. But even our surest foundations can fail, and often do. Jesus reminds us that though stability comes and goes, we are not alone amid the changes. When the world comes apart at the seams, when we don't know what will happen next, God accompanies us through it all. Though wars continue, though death is near, Jesus responds, "Do not be alarmed." We are not alone! Through all the endings and beginnings of our shared human life, God goes with us.

When God gathers us around the font for baptism, we are reminded of how Divine Presence has been with people throughout the ages. The words often shared as water is poured into the font recall scenes from the great flood, the deliverance of the Israelites at the Red Sea, and John baptizing Jesus. God has shown up, again and again! These promises of God's presence are still for us, every day that we live. Whenever we find ourselves interacting with water, we have the chance to be reminded that God has claimed us as beloved, and still carries us through life's hard moments. How might you remember your baptism today? Where is God's presence most important for you?

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

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December 15th after worship, we will have our second annual Christmas Market fundraiser for Vacation Bible School Day Camp 2025!

If you are a crafter or baker we would love your donation for this event.

Please let Terry Korpela know what you would like to donate.



# JUST 4 YOUTH

## The Lord's Prayer

Draw lines to connect these actions to their matching words from the Lord's Prayer. Use these actions to remember part of the Lord's Prayer. Use these words as you pray today in worship. Remember them at home or at play when you are feeling afraid. God's power and love are with you always.



kingdom



power



glory



now and forever

## This week

Pray the Lord's Prayer before bedtime each night as rest for your mind and body.

### God keeps Daniel safe

Daniel trusted God to keep him safe even when he was in danger. Finish the drawing of the hungry lions.



Welcome to worship. There are times when we feel afraid. Complete the prayer below and pray it when you need to remember that God is with you.

Dear God,

Be with me when I feel afraid. Sometimes when I am \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I am afraid.

*(add a place)*

Sometimes when I'm doing \_\_\_\_\_  
*(add an activity)*

I get worried. Please be with me. When I know you are  
with me I feel \_\_\_\_\_ . Thank you

*(add a feeling)*

for loving me at all times and in all places. Amen



### "Mom . . . Mom . . ."

Amanda was whispering late at night from her bed. "Mom, I can't get to sleep. I read a scary story before bed. Did you lock the doors? Can you leave the light on in the hallway? What if I can't fall asleep? I feel afraid."

Mom stroked Amanda's hair to make her feel calm. Then she pulled up Amanda's covers to make a cozy place in bed. "You know that we will do everything we can to keep you safe. We love you. But when you still feel afraid you can pray. We can feel safe in God's strong love. Let's whisper the Lord's Prayer together."

" . . . for the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
are yours, now  
and forever.  
Amen."

When they finished praying Amanda felt better. "I know God really is more powerful than that scary story!"



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Tuesday, 11/19**

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

### **Wednesday, 11/20**

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School LOGOs 6:30 pm

### **Thursday, 11/21**

- Hope Circle in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm

### **Friday, 11/22**

- Office Closed

### **Saturday 11/23**

- Electric City Chorale concert at First United Methodist Church, 610 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N. at 2:00 pm

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 11/24**

- Worship led by Pastor Sara MacGilvra-Branom in person and live stream 9:30 am
- Jubilate Choir will sing
- Decorate the church following worship, clean the Gathering Place curtains

### **Tuesday, 11/26**

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

### **Wednesday, 11/27**

- NO LOGOs Youth Ministry

### **Thursday 11/28**

- Thanksgiving Day Bethel Office closed

### **Friday, 11/29**

- 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**

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 [dscholten1118@gmail.com](mailto:dscholten1118@gmail.com) 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](mailto:terry.korpela@gmail.com).

Next meeting November 21st, 2:00 pm at  
Bethel Fellowship Hall

### **Preaching And Presiding at Bethel**

November 17th Pastor Jessica Crist

November 24th Pastor Sara MacGilvra-Branom

December 1st Pastor Jessica Crist

December 8th Jim Carlson, LMA

December 15th, Christmas Program and Hymn Sing

December 22nd Dave Scholten, LMA

December 24th Pastor Jessica Crist

December 29th TBD