

BETHEL NOTES

Sunday, November 28th

First Sunday of Advent

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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

Readings

First Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm

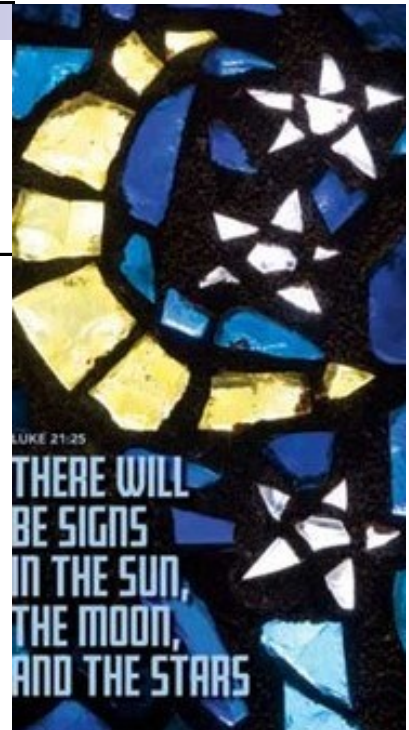
Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36



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SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Accompanists	Lynn Ryan, piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar
Lay Assistant	John Blank
Usher(s)	Sandy Pepos
Tech	Kaleb Stringer
Children's Church	Isabelle Grosenick and Olivia Violet
Counters	Stephanie Cummings and Anne Vannatta

No Adult Ed, but you are invited to stay for some refreshments and help decorate the church for Christmas.

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM CLOSED FRIDAY

OFFICE: (406) 761-1543

WEBSITE: www.bethelmt.org

EMAIL: bethelgf.church@gmail.com



- † Prayers of comfort and support for **Anna Johns and her family** as they mourn the sudden death of her son, Chris.
- † Prayers of comfort for the **friends and family of Tracy Rosenow**, *cousin of Jo Ann Dullum*, as they mourn her passing.
- † Prayers of comfort for **Terree Wozny** and her family as they mourn the passing of her brother Bruce.
- † Prayers of healing for **Heather Beck**, *daughter of Kathy Johnson*, who is undergoing medical testing.
- † Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he recovers from surgery.
- † Prayers of healing as well as thanksgiving for **Kim**, *daughter of Dick and Mary Seim*, who continues to recover and regain her strength.
- † Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she undergoes medial testing.
- † Prayers of healing for **Cody Buus**, *Cindyl Considine's nephew*, who is undergoing medical treatment.
- † Prayers of strength and healing for **Arlene Sexe** and she continues to undergo treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of strength & leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America
- † Prayers of thanks and continued healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- † Prayers of continued healing for **Katie Madsen**, *niece of Doug Sexe and granddaughter of Arlene Sexe*, as she continues cancer treatment and is responding well.
- † Prayers of healing for **Steve Young**, *brother of Sue Hesse*, as he continues to manage back issues.
- † Prayers of support and healing for **James Trunkle**, *friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen*, as he manages health issues.
- † Prayers of healing for **Bob and Marj Vander Aarde** they continue treatments for Bob.
- † Prayers of support and strength for **Trudy and Earl Terwilliger** as they manage Trudy's health.
- † Prayers of healing for **Leonard Murphy** as he recovers from complications of knee surgery.
- † Prayers of comfort, support and healing for **Don Bisgard** as he continues to manage after medical procedures.
- † Prayers of strength and recovery for **LaRae Veitch** as she rehabs after knee surgery.
- † Prayers of healing for **Eric Peterson** as he continues treatment for cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Tony Marcson**, *brother-in-law of Jessica Crist*, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.
- † Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he recovers from a recent surgery.
- † Prayers of healing for **Bob Walker**, *brother of Colleen Walker-Nelson*, who is managing kidney disease.
- † Prayers of support for **Glenn Vannatta** as he continues with medical testing.
- † Prayers of healing for **Mathias Pepos** who is recovering from injuries from a car accident.
- † Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues to recover at home from a recent hospitalization.
- † Prayers of strength and healing for **Lisa Leland**, *niece of Sandy Bechard*, as she begins treatment for breast cancer.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Can you believe it is already Thanksgiving? It feels like the last six months or so have simply flown by. This time of year seems to come so fast, and before we know it, it is gone in the blink of an eye. As you gather this week, or as you have some time on your own, I would encourage you to simply take some time to stop and reflect on the last year. It has been an eventful one! What were some of your favorite moments? What were some of the most difficult moments? Who are the new people that have come into your life? Who are some of the people who have left your life? And finally, of course, what are the things you are thankful for in this season of life?

I had a good friend while growing up whose family each Thanksgiving would write down what they were thankful for and put them in a glass canister that sat in the center of their dining room table throughout the year. The next year when Thanksgiving rolled around, they would pull the bits of paper out of the canister and read them together, remembering the things that they had held so dear a year earlier, and then continue the tradition of writing a new list of what they were thankful for again. I always loved hearing their stories of this tradition and peeking into that canister whenever I went over to the house to see if I could read a thing or two that they were thankful for. For them, the little glass canister was a grounding piece for the year that reminded them to live from a place of thankfulness and hopefulness throughout the year. It helped them in their reflection time together as a family, and as individuals as well.

As I reflect on the last year or so personally, one of the many things I am thankful for is you all. I am thankful to be in this place and serving as your Pastor. I am thankful for the many generous ways you all share of yourselves in this place. I am thankful for the ways that you strive to follow Jesus in this place. Finally, I am thankful for ways that we together walk boldly into the future together trusting in God's promises for us and for those who will come after us as well. Happy Thanksgiving Bethel, thank you for being God's church in this place.

Peace,

Pastor Jessie



Christmas Zoom Party! **Saturday, December 11th 6:30 PM**

It's time for the Annual Hope Circle Ornament Exchange and Christmas Party. We will once again be meeting via Zoom so get your name on the list for the exchange, mix up a beverage of your choice and join in! Spouses and friends are welcome to join in with the festivities. Here's what you need to know...

Email Terry Korpela at terry.korpela@gmail.com to get your name on the ornament exchange list by Sunday, December 5th. She will draw names and let you know who you are exchanging with. Ornaments can be anything from very fancy to silly, store bought or hand-made. If you like, with your ornament for your person you can include a treat of cookies, candy, snacks, etc. if you wish, but not expected.

Terry will send out the link to all who are participating. Then on Saturday, December 11th at 6:30 pm, connect through the device of your choice and share in the fun.

If you have questions or want to get on the list email Terry today! Merry Christmas!



Cat Fans Sue Hesse and Jeanne Rankin share some pre-game camaraderie with Griz Fan Marilyn Carlson during choir practice before the Brawl of the Wild last Saturday.



November News

“Where did you sleep last night?” That’s the question our case managers ask families that come in to seek assistance. The case managers ask this question to get a clear picture of the family’s immediate need. Many of us don’t even think about whether we have a comfy bed and warm house in which to sleep every night so it can be hard to imagine what it could be like not to know where you and your family will be sleeping tonight, or for the nights to come. The stress of this immediate need compounded with the feelings of failure and vulnerability are very evident when families come to see us. Our mission? To end this, this stress, this feeling of failure, this being in a very vulnerable situation, for every family who comes to us for help. We are hearing about increased homelessness in Great Falls and Family Promise is committed to helping homeless children and their families find shelter and ultimately achieve long term stability.

How do we do this? It depends upon each family’s situation. That is where professional case managers are critical to assessing each family’s need and to developing an individual stability case plan for each family. Families choosing to abide by a case management plan receive assistance in the form of help with finding housing, shelter, food, job searches, and navigating all the social services available. Families that receive assistance from Family Promise are committed to improving their current situation and ultimately providing future stability for their children.

Currently we have two case managers on site for two hours every weekday. To serve more families, we want to hire a Family Advocate who can also provide some case management services but who would also run the Day Center and shelter operations. This is a full-time position for someone who is passionate about serving children and their families. The job description is posted on our website at www.familypromisegf.org on the Home and News pages.

UPDATE from the Board Board of Directors

Jordyn Rogers, president; Steve Van Gilder, vice president; Mary Lehman, treasurer; Katie (Batterbee) Pung, secretary; Judy Stat-ham, director; Lisa Beavers, director; Dar-reck Hale, director; Tom Mora, director; and Rachel Arthur, director; spent over 10 hours last month developing our strategic plan. We want to share it with you in hopes that once you know our priorities, you will be willing to participate in the plan we have for ending childhood homelessness, one family at a time.

From this extensive process, we have decided to go forward with a static site shelter. A static site is a Family Promise emergency shelter program where the guests do not rotate weekly through host sites and congregations, but instead sleep at one location. Instead of rotating sites, the volunteers come to serve and host the families. We are actively looking for a church or a property to consider. While static site shelters are more expensive to operate, we think that this solution will provide more continuity for the families staying there.

Additionally, we want to expand the hours our Day Center located at Central Christian Church is open. At the Day Center we provide case management, agency navigation services, shower and laundry facilities, internet and computer access, and meals.

What can you do to help? Find a property owner or church willing to provide space for a static site shelter that meets current safety codes. Contribute funds to help pay for the facility. Continue to volunteer to serve families at the Day Center or at the static site shelter when it is up and running. Great Falls has been actively supporting Family Promise for over seven years because Family Promise provides a communitywide response for addressing childhood homelessness. We are confident that together we can continue to work together to help our neighbors who are facing homelessness.

Bethel Art Auction November 18th to 30th....

We are excited to announce our first fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis November 19-30.

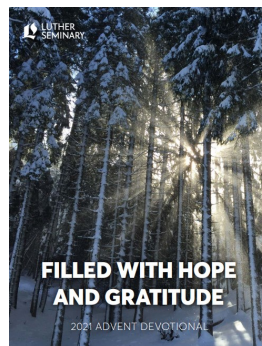
This fundraiser will help raise money for our youth that will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July, 2022! We have 13 youth that have signed up for this life changing event. However, we will need the help of our church family!

Marty Johnson, a longtime member of Bethel passed away in 2018. He was a large supporter of youth ministries and donated his entire Art collection to Bethel to help raise money for youth ministries.

We will have a Silent Art Auction, where bidders can post their bid on the bid sheet posted on the art. This art will be displayed in the hospitality room. You can bid in person or you can contact Patty Bra-gret 868-7641 or Tami at the church to place your current bid. We will run this auction for 12 days. At the end of the auction, the highest bidder will be the winner. They will be notified by telephone.

There are nine pieces of art, ranging in sizes from 15" X 18" – 30" X 42". The artwork is from a variety of artists like: Gary Holland, James Seward, Lane Kendrick, John Peterson, and Colt Schendel.

See pictures of the artwork and details in the addendum to this newsletter and online at bethelmt.org



Free Advent Devotional from Luther's Seminary.

Pick up your copy of this free devotional in the Narthex at Bethel. You can also go to our website for a free download on our homepage bethelmt.org.

Please let the office know if you would like to have a copy mailed to you and if you would like regular print or large print.

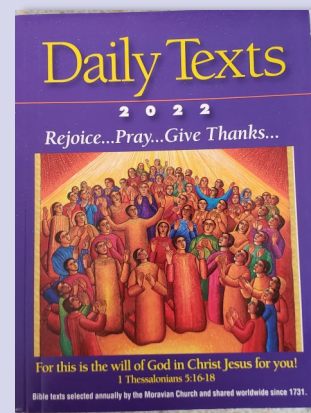
Email bethelgf.church@gmail.com or call 406-761-1543

2022 Daily Texts Are In

Pick up your copy in the Narthex at Bethel. First Copy free. For additional copies we ask for a donation of \$8.50 to cover the cost of the text. You can drop a donation in the offering tray on Sundays, mail in a check, or donate online at bethelmt.org.

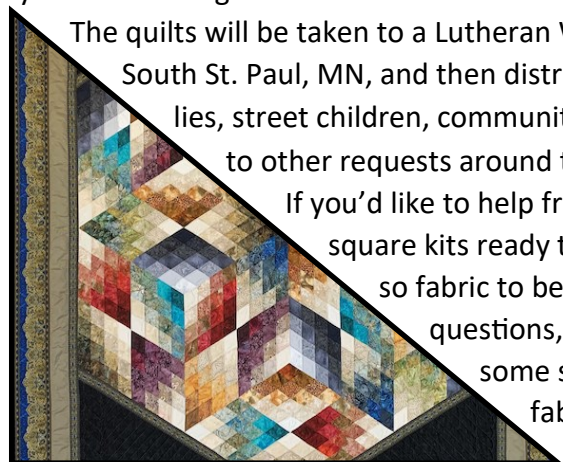
Please note: Daily Text in the memo.

These texts make great gifts!



MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS TO MEET

1st Monday Night Quilters will meet Monday, December 6, 2021, 6-8 p.m. at New Hope Lutheran, 3125 5th Ave. So. Again, we will tie the quilts before the last step of binding them is done. Thank you to Leanna for binding the quilts made in November. We made 36 quilts this past year even though we missed two months.



The quilts will be taken to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul, MN, and then distributed to impoverished families, street children, communities devastated by flooding and to other requests around the world.

If you'd like to help from home, there are many square kits ready to be sewn into tops, and also fabric to be cut into squares. If you have questions, or would like to pick up some square kits to make tops or fabric to cut into squares, call 799-0100.

In Search Of... A Treasurer to Serve on Council

Bethel is looking for a Treasurer to take over for Dena Wagner-Fossen. Dena has one more year of council/treasurer and would mentor a new council member for an entire year before handing over the reins. This is a three year commitment. If anyone would have an interest in being part of our church's financial ministry please let us know. You can call the church office or anyone on the nominating committee: John Blank, Terry Korpela, Doug Sexe or Donna Vinnedge. We ask that you prayerfully consider what a huge help you would be to your Bethel family. God Bless.



Covid Guidelines for Worship

As of August 10, 2021

- ◇ Masks are **strongly recommended**, but not required.
- ◇ Continue physical distancing.
- ◇ Coffee Hour on hold

If you have a fever or are feeling unwell, please take care of yourself and join us online for worship.

What's Happening at FLBC

Advent Family Retreat

December 3-5, 2021

Ages 12+ = \$178; 4-11 = \$89;
3 & under = free

Come to camp to prepare for Christmas! Families of all sizes are invited to join us for a cozy winter getaway with crafts, delicious food, and an opportunity to find & take home your perfect Christmas tree!

Holy Land Pilgrimage

June 20-29, 2022

There are still spots available for this long awaited journey to the Holy Land! Join FLBC staff and guide, Elias Nawawieh as we experience the Holy Land in a whole new way. Visit <https://www.eliastours.com/tours/flathead-lutheran-bible-camp-holy-land-trip> to learn more!

Upcoming Retreats/ Important Dates

- December 1: Summer 2022 Staff Application Opens!
- December 3-5, 2021 Advent Retreat –see above
- December 15, 2021 Registration for Youth Camps open
- January 14-16, 2022 Jr. and Sr. High Ski & Snowboard Retreat

For more information on these events go to flbc.net or call the office at 406-752-6602

Just for Youth

Send

Getting ready for Christmas

Jesus told a story to help his disciples get ready for his coming. Jesus wants us to get ready for his coming, too. Praying is one way we can get ready for Christmas.



Ask someone to help you write a prayer of thanks to God.



Dear God, please help me get ready for Jesus' birthday by talking to you. Amen

This week

Every day, thank God for something good that happened that day.



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent means “coming.” During Advent we get ready and wait for Jesus to come. What’s different in your worship space today? What colors do you see? Do you see an Advent wreath? What color are the candles? Is one candle burning?

Color and light one candle here.



Join us for Logos Youth Ministry
Wednesday evenings Pre-K through 8th grades 5:30 to 7:30 pm
High School 6:30 to 8:30 pm
To register or for more information call the Bethel Office
406-761-1543 or go to bethelmt.org/youth/programs/logos

Calendar of Events

Tuesday 11/23

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

Wednesday 11/24

- No Bible Study
- No Logos

Thursday 11/25

- Happy Thanksgiving, Bethel Office is closed.

Friday 11/26

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 11/28

- Sunday Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Deck the Halls of Bethel after worship, enjoy some cookies and coffee as we spread a little Christmas cheer and decorate!

Tuesday 11/30

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast Zoom & in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Silent Action Art Sale Fund-raiser ends.

Wednesday 12/1

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos 5:30 pm; HS Logos 6:30 pm

Friday 12/3

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

Saturday 12/4

- Close Knit meets at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Online Ministries

Electric City Bible Study

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 both in person and via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for a link to join the meeting or for more information.

Hope Circle

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting and Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie

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.

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

Contact information

Email: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com

Phone: 406-761-1543 ext. 202