

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, October 15, 2023

20th Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14



Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Sue Hesse

Usher:

TBD

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Isabelle Grosenick

Olivia Violet

Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Kelsey Johnson

Hospitality:

Sonja Baumgardner

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

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **20th Sunday after Pentecost**.

Welcome and thank you to **Pastor Steve Nelson** preaching and presiding for us today.

We are blessed to have the **Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley** singing for us the morning.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship as we continue our **Adult Education** on the first season of *The Chosen*.

Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of support for **Carmen Goodhart**, *Bernice Johnson's grand-daughter*, that she may find safe and affordable housing.
- ✝ Prayers of celebration for **Matt**, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law*, has recovered from his health issues and is doing great.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** who recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Leona Ost** as she recovers from oral surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, who is recovering at home after surgery.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pastor Jessie and Jade** as they mourn the loss of their precious baby boy, **Kai Wilder Metzler**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **John Korpela** as he continues with chemotherapy.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as they manage medical care for Don.
- ✝ 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 from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ 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.



LORD IN YOUR MERCY,

Hear Our Prayer

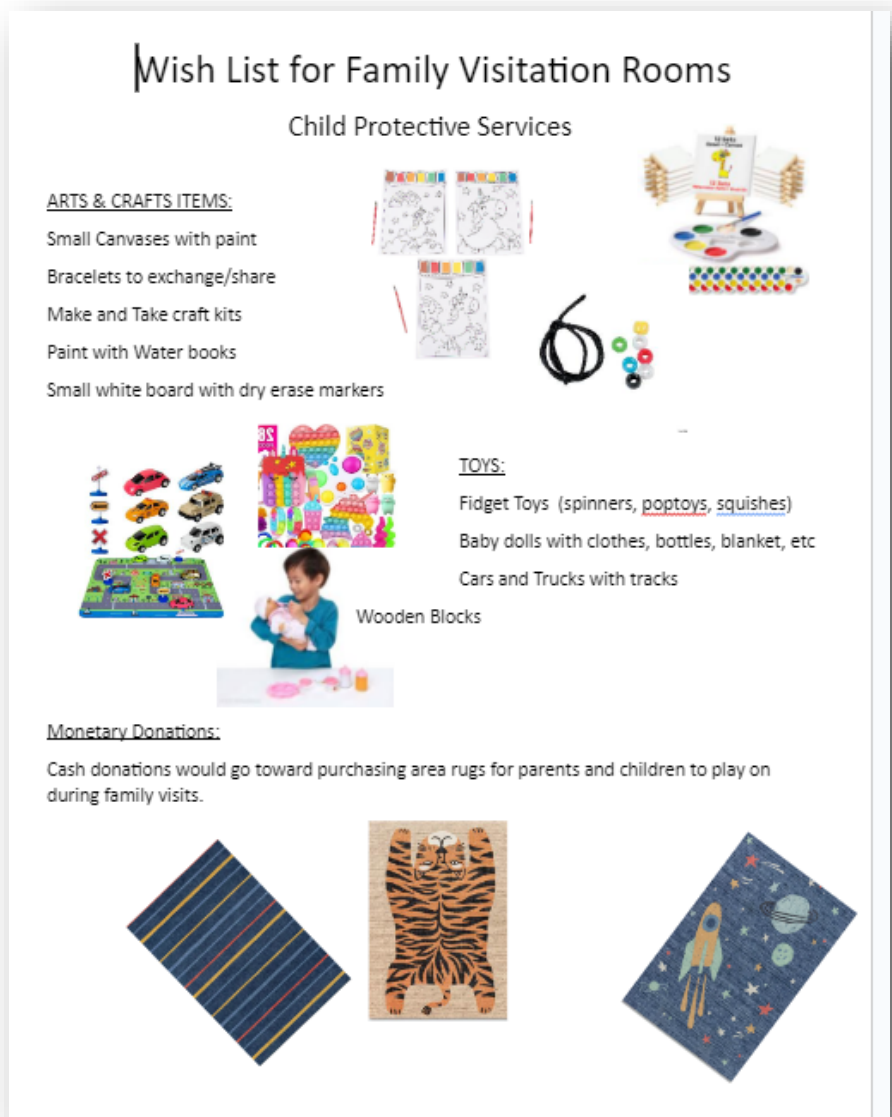
Furnishing Family Visit Rooms for CPS

Our Bethel Congregation has reached out to our local social workers and Child Protective Services staff this past year to show our support and appreciation for all they do for our community. They work tirelessly to advocate for the needs and rights of those whose voices are often less heard by our society. They are vital to helping families, particularly those experiencing hardship, while ensuring families have access to the resources they need to thrive. Like so many critical professions in our world, social workers deserve extra praise because of the significant sacrifices they make every day to better our communities.

Our local heroes have greatly appreciated your acts of kindness and gifts, including goodie bags for staff, yummy snacks, holiday treats, thank you cards, and the Spring Luncheon. To cap off this campaign, we have collaborated with the Family Visitation Supervising Team to identify ways we can enrich the special time children are reunited with their loved ones.

It is our hope to provide items that promote positive, loving communication in a comfortable environment. Playing and creating together is a great way to start a natural flow of conversation, so you will see a variety of toys and activities that will do just that. An outdoor patio table umbrella and corn hole game were donated this summer for the outdoor space.

Please take a moment to look over the Wish List of items that would help make these family visits a special time for both parents and children. Gently-used items are also welcome. Stuffed animals cannot be accepted for health reasons. Donation boxes for items will be set up at church October 1 – 22. Monetary donations can be made in the weekly offering (please designate CPS) or given to Tami in the office.





October 2023 Newsletter

Hello, Fall is here, and all the beautiful colors surround us. September was a busy month full of good work here at Family Promise Great Falls. We had several fundraising opportunities, including "Raise a Pint Night" at The Mighty Mo, "City Motors Saving Families" event (they sold 35 vehicles garnering us a \$8,750 donation), and the Jordan's Pumpkins for a Cause event. All the events were special, and we sure had fun attending them. Donation events such as these allow us to continue with our mission of ending childhood homelessness, one family at a time.

A place to call home.

We currently have two families in Promise Place Shelter. We have a total of 5 children, three boys and two girls. Both of our shelter families are working hard on their goals of securing permanent housing and attaining financial security. One family is taking advantage of an extension to our normal 90-day service plan, and the other family is still in their first 90 days. Both families are working with our family advocate, Maggie, on their individual goals.

Halloween fun

We have decided to participate in the Kiwani's Club "Trunk or Treat" event on Sunday, October 29th. The event will be held at The Salvation Army from 2-4 p.m. Come by and say hello and grab some candy for your kiddos. The event gives a safe space to trick or treat for kids, and we'd love to see you there!

A party to thank our donors and supporters, board, and committee members.

Please join us November on the 16th from 4-7 p.m. for a special holiday thank you party for all the amazing people who make Family Promise possible. This event is open to all our donors, volunteers, supporters, board, and committee members. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Christmas is right around the corner...

Christmas is right around the corner, and we will be seeking businesses and individual donations to support Christmas presents for our shelter families. Donations of money or gifts can be made in our office. We appreciate all your help and support, as we work to give our two shelter families a nice Christmas, complete with gifts. We will put up our "Giving Tree" in the month of November so that wrapped, new presents, can be placed under the tree.

In-kind donations were huge in September!

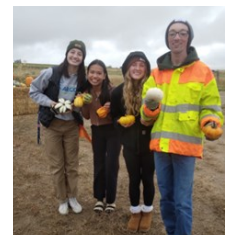
We were the blessed recipients of two huge in-kind donations in the month of September. We would like to thank the County Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office for their donation drives that garnered us a huge in-kind donation. We don't need much here in the office, and we are prepared to help serve a lot of families this winter, so thank you so much!

A very special Thank You:

To all our sponsors, donors, and supporters for all your help supporting our mission to end childhood homelessness. Thank you also to all the volunteers who came together to help us on the farm for Jordan's Pumpkins for a Cause. Special shout-out to the Lady Argos Wrestling Team and The Great Falls High Cheerleaders for coming out to help.



Thank you to the County Attorney and Public Defender's Office.





Service of Thanksgiving and Holy Closure

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
726 2ND AVE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023
2:00 PM

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE

1905 - 2023



Calling All Servers and Bakers

Bethel has been asked to serve and provide some goodies for the reception following the Holy Closure for First English. If you are available or would like to donate some baked goods, please reach out to Laurie Turner to volunteer or for more information. Email: bethelgf.council.secretary@gmail.com or call 406-899-4903.

Join us for the Trinity Lutheran Church **Lutefisk Dinner**



Sunday, Oct. 29 • 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church • 38 1st Ave. S.W. • Choteau

*Lutefisk, Lefse, Swedish Meatballs, Rutabagas
and all the Trimmings served family style.
Preschool: Free • Grades 1-6: \$8 • Adults: \$20*



Take Out Meals Available – Will Deliver in Choteau.

Handicap and wheelchair accessible
seating provided on the main level.
Call the church office at 466-2291
for more information.

Great Falls Drama Club Proudly Presents

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare



NOVEMBER 2-4 AND 9-11
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AT 7:30PM
SATURDAY AT 2:00PM

Tickets are \$5 for Students and \$8 for Adults

FOLLOW US ON INSTA  @GREATFALLSDRAMA

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 15, 2023

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Biggest Banquet Ever

If you have ever planned and paid for a wedding banquet, you know you have to limit the number of guests you invite. There is only so much table space, and the cost to provide food and drink for each guest can be enormous. You have to make choices about whom to include and whom to exclude.

The wedding banquet in Jesus' parable is a metaphor for God's great gathering of people into relationship with God. This banquet does not have the same economic and spatial limits as ancient or contemporary weddings. At God's table there is room for everyone. God is happy to pay the bill. Everyone gets to eat and drink. The more, the merrier!

Except, some of those God invites to the table wanted an exclusive event, a limited guest list for VIPs only. They wanted to feel special for being included by having others excluded. Jesus' ministry was always about including, not excluding, and some within earshot of him didn't accept that. So he told a parable to shake up the listeners' complacency and superiority. If those who are invited reject the invitation, God will keep inviting others to the party.

This challenging story reminds us that our being invited and included comes on God's gracious terms, not our own. In the parable, the king expects everyone to wear a wedding garment, to dress appropriately for the occasion. Refusing to wear it meant wanting to attend on one's own terms and disrespecting the host. The shocking imagery of the parable doesn't mean this is how God treats us when we miss the mark. The king is not God. But it does help us see that our inclusion is a gift, and one we can only receive as a gift. Our thanks and praise are our wedding garment as we join Christ and each other at the table of grace.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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THE GREAT FALLS SYMPHONIC CHOIR
Special Concert!

2pm Sunday October 15
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Requiem
GABRIEL FAURÉ

OCTOBER 15 2PM
GREAT FALLS SYMPHONIC CHOIR

October 15 2023

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONIC CHOIR
CHOIR DIRECTOR CYNTHIA STEVENS

Songs of Nature Antonín Dvořák

Esto Les Digo Kinley Lange
LAURA DETRICK SOPRANO

Bear Me Gently Kinley Lange
DENICE BURGESS MILLS SOPRANO

Requiem Gabriel Fauré
DAVID SASLAV TENOR
ASHTEEN SMITH MEZZO-SOPRANO
DARRYL STEVENS BARITONE

Praise His Holy Name Keith Hampton
CORBIN SWANSON TENOR
ELLA EKSTEDT MEZZO-SOPRANO

ACCOMPANIST KIMBERLY PEACHY

Tickets

Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, October 22nd. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, October 21st from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at oboeclar@gmail.com by Tuesday, October 17th.



Just for *YOUTH*

The fabulous feast

Matthew 22:1-14

Today's gospel is about a huge wedding feast.

The king invited everyone—even strangers! God is like the king in this story. Each of us is invited to be a wedding guest. Will you go to the party?



*Thank you,
God, for
inviting us to
your fabulous
feast. Amen.*

This Week...

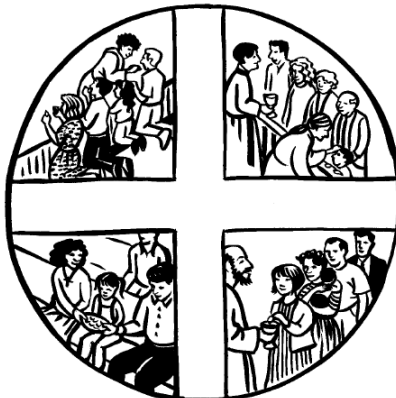
Make bread together and invite friends to share it with you.

Draw yourself at this fabulous feast.

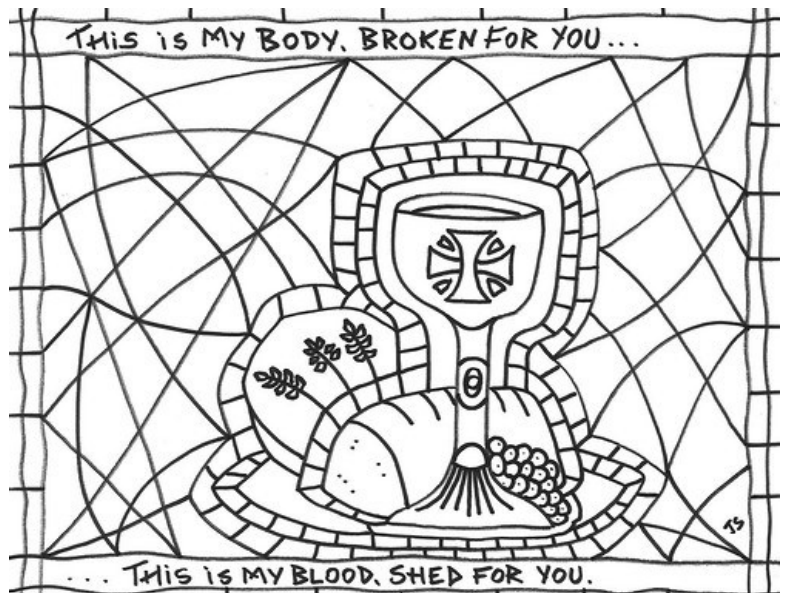
Find 3 people who don't feel welcome to join the party and are hiding.
How might you help them? How can you tell God is at this party?

A fabulous feast

Holy Communion is a feast for all of us—friends and strangers. We share bread, wine, and blessings together at the table (altar), sing songs, and pray.



People celebrate Holy Communion many ways. Circle the picture closest to the way your congregation shares this fabulous feast!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 10/17

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

Wednesday 10/18

- Bible Study on Zoom led by Udo Wozny
- NO LOGOs Youth Ministry

Thursday 10/19

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

Friday 10/20

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 10/22

- Worship led by Dave Scholten, LPA in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Adult Education, The Chosen to follow worship

Tuesday 10/24

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

Wednesday 10/25

- Bible Study on Zoom led by Udo Wozny
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Thursday 10/26

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

Friday 10/27

- 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

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.

October date to be announced.

Weekly Text Study

with Pastor Jessie

—led by Udo Wozny in October

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.