

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, September 17, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

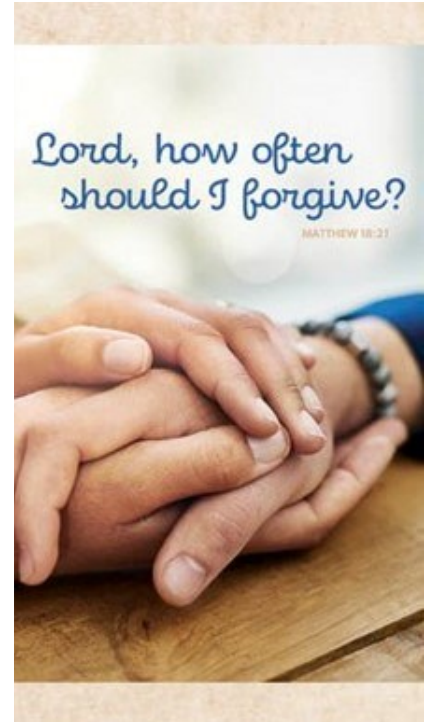
In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Walt Nuessle

Usher:

Patty Braget

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Addi Carlson

Rylee Virts

Counters:

Patty Braget

Kaleb Stringer

Hospitality:

Bethel Lutheran Church

Mark Your Calendars for Adult Forum after worship starting October 8th! We will be watching and discussing the first season of *The Chosen*. More details coming in next week's Bethel Notes.

Do you have an adult forum or adult education idea that you would like to share? Email the Bethel Office at bethelgf.church@gmail.com or drop your idea in the Bethel Office on Sunday.

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **16th Sunday after Pentecost**.

Thank you to **Dave Scholten, LPA** who has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

A huge thank you to all who participated and donated items for **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday**. We had a wonderful time and look forward to next year!

Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of **Clara Bangert** as mourn her passing.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** recovering at home after a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ 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 **Matt, Dena Wagner-Fossen's brother-in-law**, as he continues to monitor his health.
- ✝ 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) Over turf**, as she continues to slowly make progress as she recovers at home from a serious injury after a fall.
- ✝ 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.



Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram
Pumpkins for a Cause

Jordan's
Pumpkins for a Cause

**Pumpkin Picking
Popcorn
& Hay Rides**

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 30th, 2023
87 Meridian Lane, Vaughn MT

Free Admission & Free Parking

**All donations to benefit Family
Promise**

Family Promise
FP
of Great Falls

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10
2023



Dave Scholten triumphs over lawn debris.



John Blank and Turner Graybill stock food for FISH!



Warren Johnson and Mathias Pepos stain boards for Bethel Patio.



Leonard Murphy, Mark Kohoutek, Shelly Murphy and Laurie Turner set up lunch they prepared at the Angle Room.



Sara Sexe, Jeanne Ranking and Grant Smith deep clean at the Women’s Shelter.



A motley crew of volunteers.

From back left: Turner Graybill, John Blank Grant Smith, Jeanne Rankin, Patty Braget, Shannon Marr, Jessica Crist, Sara Sexe, Laurie Turner, Shelly Murphy, Jo Ann Dillum, Sandy Pepos, Tamy and Dave Scholten, Taylah Jaques, Hailey Marr and Ainsley Kubas.

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES AND TRIBAL RELATIONS



September 30 is National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, and Bethel will be including remembrance in our worship and prayers on October 1. People are encouraged to wear orange, and to hang an orange banner on the Sunday nearest to September 30. We will hang the banner made by Sue Hesse in 2021, when the first group of unmarked graves was found at a former boarding school site in Canada. Since then the Orange t-shirt movement has taken hold of people's imagination. A young girl heading to a boarding school was given a brand new orange t-shirt by her grandmother. When the girl arrived at the school, the t-shirt was taken from her, as part of erasing her identity. As a way to remember the erasure of so many children's identity, the Orange t-shirt movement began. For more information and to order a t-shirt, go to www.elca.org/indigenous/boardingschools.

There are a number of opportunities to learn more about Indian Boarding Schools and other ELCA work with American Indian and Alaska Native people, all on Zoom.

September 18, 6-7 pm Mountain Time **"A Conversation with Descendants of Indian Boarding School Survivors."**

September 21, 6-7pm Mountain Time **"The ELCA's Truth Seeking and Truth Telling Initiative"**

September 26, 6-7 pm Mountain Time **"Introduction to the Truth and Healing Movement"**

September 28, 6-7 pm Mountain Time **"Indian 101"**

Information on joining the classes (free) is at www.elca.org/indigenous.

Indigenous People's Day is October 9. November is Native American Awareness Month.

In the 1960's and 1970's the Lutheran Church was very involved in working with American Indian communities, seeking justice and reconciliation. Through the National Indian Lutheran Board, the Lutheran Church was a partner with many tribal communities and movements. Since 2016, the ELCA has re-engaged, first with the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery in 2016, then with the Declaration to American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2021, and now with the Truth and Healing Initiative, coming out of the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. To learn more about the history and some of the present efforts, go to www.elca.org/indigenous.

As part of Bethel's commemoration of the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, we will have an adult forum after the service on October 1. You are welcome to come and learn more about the Boarding School System in both the US and Canada.

Logos Youth Ministry

Wednesdays

Pre-K through 8th Grade 5:30—7:30 pm

High School 9th – 12th grade 6:30—8:30 pm

for youth in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

LOGOS is the fun, mid-week youth ministry program which aims to nurture young people into faith and discipleship through Christian relationships.

- LOGOS means “The Word” and this ministry is theology (Word) in practice. LOGOS helps churches like Bethel bring the Word to youth.
- LOGOS is a unique, intergenerational program where people of all ages from our church and community actively participate.
- LOGOS consists of bible study, a shared meal, games and worship.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

LOGOS begins in September

First night September 13, 2023

Cost of program per child \$70.00/year

Scholarships available. Contact the Bethel Office for more information.



September 20th

Table Parents Needed for LOGOs

This year we are bringing back table parents. Each Table Parent will have up to 5 children at their table. Each Wednesday we will have conversation cards for the you to use based on bible study topic of the evening, current events, or church events. Table parents will be eating with the kids, teaching manners and serving family style. The table parents will also "assign" one of their kids a task each week for clean up at the end of the meal. For example, one of the kids will be responsible for taking the beverage containers to the kitchen, or collect all the garbage, etc. Each student will be responsible to put their own chair away. We ask that Table Parents arrive by 5:55 pm and will be done by 6:30 pm. If you want to get to know some fantastic kids, eat with them, and share with them then we WANT YOU!!! Can't commit to every Wednesday, but would like to help once or twice a month? We can make that happen!! Contact Tami in the Bethel Office.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 17, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

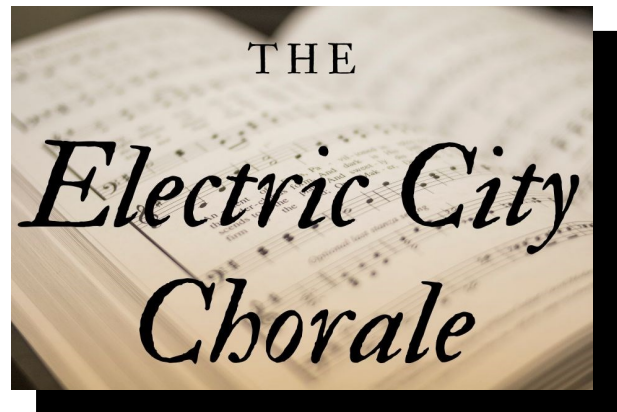
God's Immeasurable Mercy

Forgive seventy-seven times? Jesus' instruction seems, at best, all but impossible and, at worst, dangerous. Sometimes the Bible has been used to excuse abuse in the name of mercy, but Jesus doesn't mean to condone suffering for its own sake or to commit us to endlessly enduring hurt and harm. Instead, Jesus wants to orient Peter and us to the all-encompassing nature of forgiveness. Seven days make the week complete and whole. Grace also extends to us the promise of wholeness, and yet forgiveness that comes from the heart is immeasurable.

Forgive seventy-seven times. The number suggests that forgiveness isn't to be doled out or strictly accounted for, but rather is endless. Forgiveness is not a singular event as much as it is a process. We are amazed and rightly inspired when some Christians are able to so quickly forgive others even the most horrendous crimes, like the Amish community after the West Nickel Mines School shooting in 2006, or some families of the Emanuel Nine in 2015. But today's gospel does not preclude the rest of us. Probably for most of us, forgiveness is much more the destination we are journeying toward than the place at which we've already arrived. Jesus' encouragement to Peter can encourage us as well.

Every day God calls us back to the everlasting promises made in baptism. Our participation in the church's worship life assures us that forgiveness is not something we endeavor to do alone, but rather is a lifelong journey in which we can turn to one another for support. Every Sunday at Jesus' table, we are freely given the bread of mercy and cup of forgiveness. God's grace sets all of us free to extend that same mercy to others. God's forgiveness erases every debt.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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The Electric City Chorale will begin rehearsals at Bethel Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 21. The Chorale is a chamber choir specializing in performing a diverse repertoire of choral music spanning hundreds of years in choral history and modern compositions as well. The choir will also perform music featuring SSAA and TTBB voices. Rehearsals will take place at Bethel Lutheran Church on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be handed out at the first rehearsal. A concert will take place in between late November-early December and will be decided once the choir meets. If you love to sing in community with others and are interested in performing with the Electric City Chorale, please contact Lynn Ryan at (406) 249-3250 (cell-text or call) by September 16.

A promotional graphic for a golf outing. The background is a green and yellow gradient. At the top, the text "PAR-TEE" is in large white letters, "GOLF" is in white letters on a yellow banner, and "OUTING" is in white letters below it. In the center, a white golf ball sits on a wooden tee. Below the ball, the text "THE BETHEL MASTERS" is written in a large, white, serif font. In the bottom right corner, a yellow circle contains the text "2:00 PM" in black. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text: "You are invited to participate in the first annual PAR-TEE Golf Outing. Sunday September 17th at Hickory Swing Golf Course. All are welcome to join after the tournament for refreshments and snacks. Sign up in the Narthex or call the Bethel Office 406-761-1543. For more information contact Earl Terwilliger 406-217-5477".

Just for *YOUTH*

Hear & Celebrate

News flash! Joseph forgives brothers

Genesis 50:15-21

Forgiveness is a way of saying "I love you" after you've been hurt by another person. The Bible is full of stories of forgiveness because God always forgives!

I forgive you guys. It's OK! I love you.

Oh look at my beautiful new coat! It's awesome. Thanks Dad!

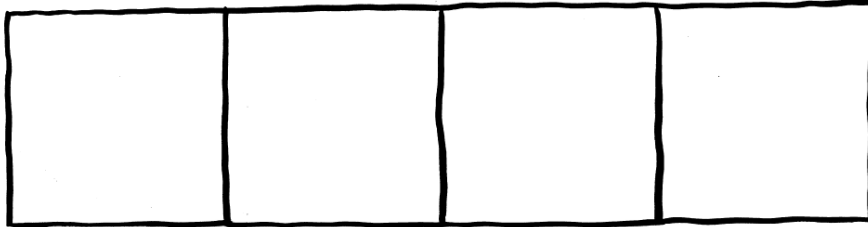


Hope you like it down there, Joseph! Now we won't have to look at your coat anymore!

Draw a line from the story boxes to their matching pictures. In the speech bubbles write something else you think each person said.

Why did YOU get a new coat and WE didn't? We're mad at you!

Draw a comic strip that shows you forgiving someone.



This Week...

Make a cross by tying two sticks together with your favorite color ribbon.



Thank you God, for your amazing forgiveness. Help me forgive others. Amen.

God's amazing forgiveness!

God always forgives us and loves us no matter what.

Find the following phrases in the word search and circle them. What shape do you find?

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

ITS OK

GOD LOVES YOU

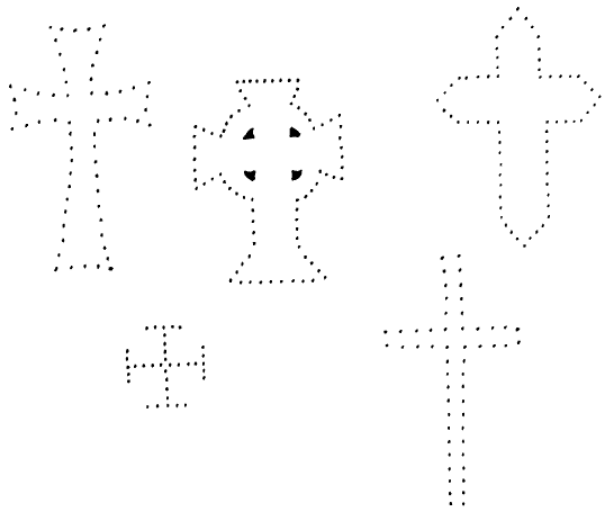
AMAZING FORGIVENESS

JESUS LOVES YOU

I FORGIVE YOU

K I K C K E S E V E N T Y T I M E S S E V E N
 I T S O K F S F D J K L S R K L E A L Z C V N
 F J K E I R C E L E K K E S L C K V I E N N F
 O K K C O Z K B J S N E K W U C L E M V L P G
 R J V K E H V K K U R L W P E L D K B N E K O
 G K W O E L O E K S L E E K R O W K E M I Z D
 I Z K U I O K C O L W L R A L W Q V N N M D L
 V A M A Z I N G F O R G I V E N E S S O L E O
 E E K L K R K C K V K K S L E K O C K R K E V
 Y K V K R O P P W E Q V M N T L S L E K R L E
 O P K E R J C U L S R C L B K E K T H E K R S
 U O Q P E L L K R Y L V K E K R M R J E Y S Y
 D P A L I E J S M O Y C K V L N E K L D L X O
 C M R I O P N E N U K R K L K N W R J E L K U

Welcome to worship. Holy Cross Day comes on September 14. The cross reminds us of Jesus. Look around your worship space and notice the crosses. Where are they? Do they all look the same?



Trace the dotted lines to uncover different kinds of crosses. Do you have a cross at home? What does it look like?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 9/19

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

Wednesday 9/20

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- 5:30 LOGOs Youth Ministry begins

Thursday 9/21

- Hope Circle Meets at LaRae Veitch's 7:00 pm
- Electric City Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday 9/22

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 9/24

- Worship led by Jim Carlson, LPA in-person and online 9:30 am,
- Yom Kippur begins at 6:00 pm

Monday 9/24

- Yom Kippur worship continues throughout the day

Tuesday 9/25

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

Wednesday 9/26

- Bible Study on hold until further notice
- 5:30 LOGOs Youth Ministry begins

Thursday 9/27

- Hope Circle Meets at LaRae Veitch's 7:00 pm
- Electric City Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday 9/28

- 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.

Thursday, September 21st at LaRae Veitch's

Weekly Text Study with Pastor Jessie

—On Hold Until Further Notice

Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, September 24th. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, September 23rd from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon

Mueller at oboecclar@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 19th.

