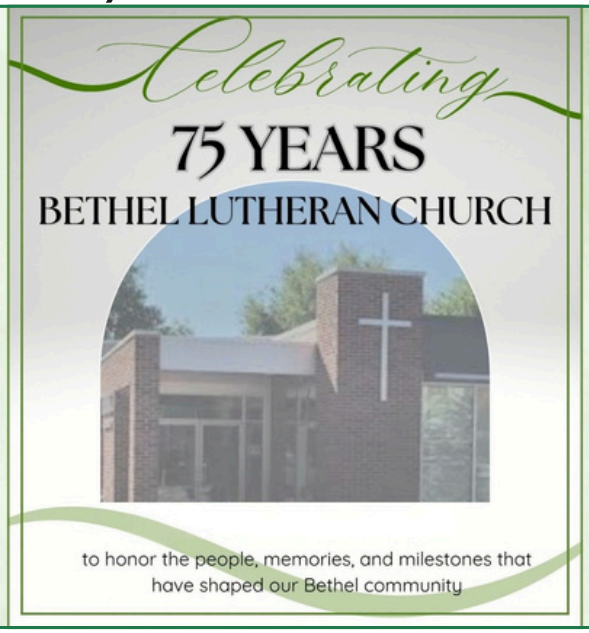
Bethel Notes

Let's Worship together Sunday 9:30 am
in person at Bethel or livestream at bethelmt.org.
All are welcome!

God calls us
God transforms us
God sends us
BETHEL
Lutheran Church

1009 18th Ave SW •
Great Falls, MT 59404 •
406-761-1543 •
bethelgf.church@gmail.com •
bethelmt.org •
Rev. Dawn Busch •

18th Sunday after Pentecost



Readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

1 Peter 2:1-9

Matthew 21: 23-32

Serving Sunday

Thank you!

Accompanist
Connie Titcomb, piano
Communion Assistants
Laura Kupfner, Tesher Johnson, Chris Gleason, Kari Ryan, Sue Hesse
Worship Assistants
Pr. Kristie Bummer, Taitlyn Ames, Laura Kupfner, Chris Gleason, Dave Scholten LMA, Earl Terwilliger LMA, Jim Carlson LMA
Ushers
Earl Terwilliger, Walt Nuessle
Tech
Gabe Smith
Children's Church
Tyler Grosenick, Addi Carlson
Hospitality
Bethel Lutheran Church
Altar Guild
Patty Kain, Debbie McCarty
Counters
Greg Grosenick, Shannon Marr

Announcements

We are grateful to welcome all of our guests, former pastors, former council members, and friends who have been part of Bethel's story through the years. Thank you for joining us as we **celebrate 75 years** of faith, fellowship, and ministry. We are so glad you are here!

PRAYERS

We hold in prayer those in our community and beyond who are in need of healing, strength, comfort, and peace. We trust that God knows each story more deeply than words can express.

NEW OR CHANGED

Prayers continue for **Jim Carlson,** as he continues to recover from surgery at home. We pray for healing, renewed strength, and comfort in the days ahead.

Praying for **the family and friends of Darrell Chauvet,** *Marilyn Carlson's brother-in-law*, as they mourn his passing. May God surround them with comfort, peace, and the hope of the resurrection.

We pray for **Bethel Lutheran Church,** as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary this weekend. We give thanks for 75 years of faithful ministry, for all who have been part of Bethel's story, and for the generations who have worshiped, served, and shared God's love through this congregation. May God continue to guide and bless Bethel as we move faithfully into the years ahead.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE...

Receiving medical treatment

Jodi, *Patti Godtel's sister*
Logan Good
Mariah Nunnally, *family friend of Terry Korpela*
Keyvin Pollington, *family friend of Terry Korpela*
Jeanne Moe, *Kris Voorhees' mother*
Janel, *cousin of Dan and Jenny Woods*
Kathleen Rankin, Jeanne Rankin's sister
Marcia, Sara Sexe's cousin
Ashley, friend of Ali Morris
Carol Ann, Marilyn Carlson's sister

Care-giving loved ones

Tammy Good
John and Debbie Blank
Debbie McCarty
Marilyn Carlson

Receiving Hospice or end-of-life care

Rita Palmer, mother of Kristie Henry

Living with ongoing health concerns

Tyr, *grandson of AnneRose Rogers*
Donna Gilbertson, *mother of Randy Gilbertson*
Stephanie Cummings
Jane Mart
Jace Binder, young cousin of Kady Murphy
Clarice Skogley, Jeff Skogley's mother
Carrie O'Brien
Bob Underhill, Sue Hesse's brother-in-law
Ed Pottratz
Alex Bostic

Recovering at home or in rehabilitation

Bernice Johnson
Dennis McCarty
Cole Dingle, *great-grandnephew of Sonja Baumgardner*
Doris Winter, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's Godmother*
Rob Kellenbeck, *Dena Wagner-Fossen's cousin*

To add or update a prayer request, please contact the Bethel Office by email or call 406-761-1543. To contact the **HUGS Ministry** for visitation or communion click this link or call the Bethel Office.
Names remain on the list until we are notified of a change.

Life at Bethel

Help Us Reimagine the Gathering Place!

We want to hear from you!
As we look at the future of our Gathering Place, we would love to hear your ideas about how this space could best be used to serve our congregation and community.

As good stewards of the resources we have been given, Bethel also needs to consider how this space might generate additional income to support our ministries and the ongoing needs of God's Church. The Finance Committee has provided us an update with current trends for our consideration as we explore our options and timeline. Possibilities could include renting the space, developing new partnerships, creating opportunities for community use, or exploring something we haven't thought of yet. We know some options may be limited by zoning requirements, but we want to begin by hearing your ideas.

What would you like to see happen in this space? How could the Gathering Place continue to be a place of welcome and ministry while also helping support God's mission for Bethel?

Please join your council members for one of these informal conversation times:

- **Sunday, October 4 at 11:00 AM**
- **Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 PM**
- **Sunday, October 11 at 11:00 AM**

You only need to attend one session. Come share your thoughts, listen to the ideas of others, and help us imagine what the Gathering Place could become.

Your ideas matter, and we want your voice to be part of the conversation!

Bethel Ministries - Hospitality

Don't you love that there are always treats after Sunday worship? Whether you've been a Lutheran since birth or for just a short time, you must now realize that Lutherans love to get together, especially when food is involved.

It's a great reason to stay after church, have a cup of coffee or tea, and snack on a treat or two while catching up with fellow congregants.

These treats don't magically appear. They are provided by your fellow Bethel members, or, if no one has offered to provide the treats, Sandy Pepos or Tami Grosnick make sure "coffee hour" is well provided for.

So, if you enjoy these times to socialize, why don't you help out and sign up to provide treats one Sunday? Treats do not have to be homemade. Treats don't have to be sweet. They can be whatever you'd like to provide, homemade or store–purchased.

Signing up for treats is just that, as setup (coffee brewing) and cleanup (dishwashing, coffee pot drained) are all handled by Sandy Pepos. Yes, Sandy diligently sets up the coffee and cleans up every Sunday. Your responsibility is just to bring the treats.

So, the next time you are at church, check out the hospitality white notebook on the front entry table and be a part of the ministry that brings us together for conversation, good times, and the good old Lutheran tradition of gathering together around food.

Thank you for your consideration. Hospitality needs your help. Sign up next Sunday.

Deeper Engagement

75 Years Built On God's Strong Foundation

Seventy-five years is a remarkable milestone in the life of a congregation. But as we prepare to celebrate Bethel Lutheran Church's 75th Anniversary on September 26–27, we are celebrating far more than the number of years that have passed since Bethel was chartered in 1951. We are celebrating 75 years of God at work.

For three-quarters of a century, people have gathered as Bethel around God's Word and Sacrament. Children have been baptized and confirmed. Couples have begun their married lives here. Families have gathered to grieve those they loved and to hear again the promise of resurrection. Generations have worshiped, prayed, learned, served, sung, shared meals, taught children, welcomed strangers, and cared for neighbors.

Programs and ministries have changed through the years. Pastors and leaders have come and gone. Buildings have changed, families have changed, and the community around us has changed. Yet the foundation beneath it all has remained the same: the grace and love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Perhaps that is what it truly means for a church to remain active for 75 years. It does not mean that everything has stayed the same. Quite the opposite. A living church grows, adapts, struggles, celebrates, says goodbye, welcomes new faces, tries new things, and continually listens for where God may be calling next.

Bethel's story has been written by thousands of ordinary people who offered what they had—their time, their gifts, their prayers, their leadership, their music, their cooking, their teaching, their generosity, and their love. Together, those individual lives have become part of something much larger.

As we gather for our anniversary celebration, we honor those who laid the foundation, those who faithfully carried the ministry forward, and those who are part of Bethel today. But an anniversary also turns our eyes toward the future.

The greatest way we can honor the first 75 years is not simply by remembering them. It is by continuing the work: welcoming, worshiping, serving, growing, and trusting that the same God who has accompanied Bethel since 1951 is already leading us into whatever comes next.

Thanks be to God for 75 years—and for the story still being written.

Blessing of the Animals: Celebrating All God's Creatures.

October 4 is the day the global church commemorates Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Born into a wealthy merchant family, Francis gave up his inheritance and chose a life of service, especially among those living in poverty. He was also known for his deep joy, gratitude, and love for all of God's creation, referring to the creatures around him as his brothers and sisters.

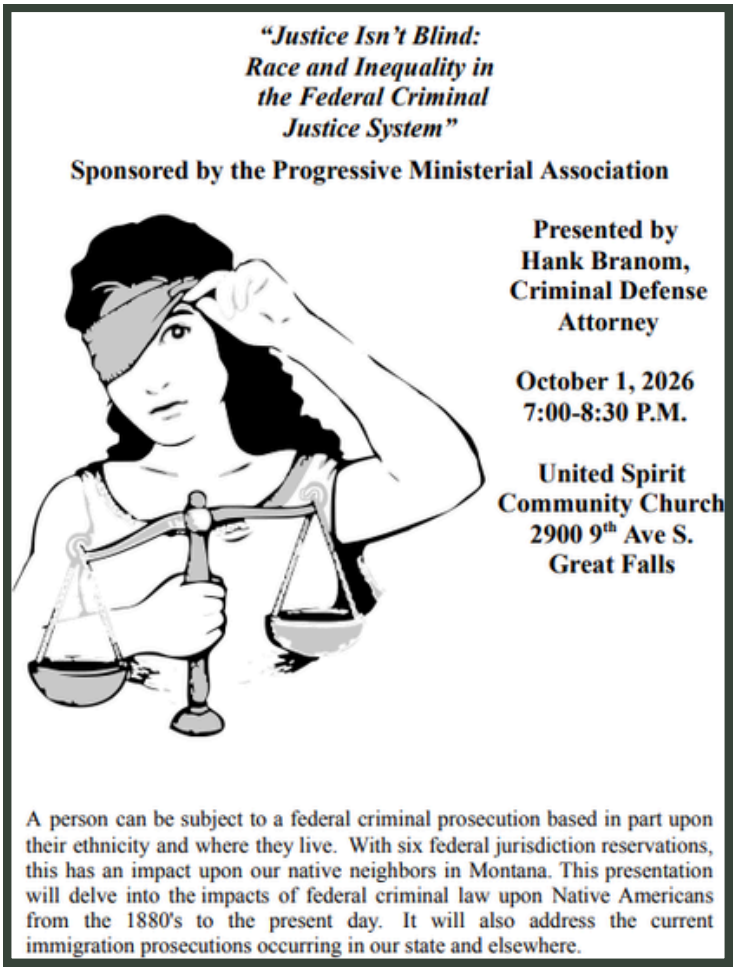
Because of Francis' great love for creation, his commemoration has become a traditional time for churches to bless pets and animals. A Blessing of the Animals is a joyful reminder of G od's love and care for all creation and of our responsibility to care for the creatures with whom we share this world.

This year, October 4 falls on a Sunday, so Bethel will celebrate with a Pet Blessing on the patio!

We welcome leashed or crated pets who are comfortable around people and other animals. After the blessing, you are welcome to keep your pet with you in one of Bethel's outdoor spaces or take them home to a more comfortable setting.

And if your beloved companion would much rather stay home, simply bring a photo! We would be delighted to include them in the blessing as we celebrate the animals who bring so much joy to our lives.

Upcoming Events & Invitations



Montana Synodical Women's Fall Convention & Gathering
October 2–3, 2026 | Billings, MT *Hope*

Join women from across the Montana Synod for the 2026 Fall Convention and Gathering at St. John's United Kathy Lillis Chapel, 2429 Mission Way, Billings. This year's theme is "HOPE — Holding onto Hope in Hard Times." The weekend will include worship, Bible study, fellowship, learning, great meals, and opportunities for crafting and conversation.

Featured guests include Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, award-winning author and theologian, and Myrna Wells-Ulland, past president of Women of the ELCA.

Convention: **Friday, October 2**
Gathering: **Saturday, October 3**
Saturday Gathering Cost: **$50, including lunch**

Registration has been extended to September 25.
All are welcome!
For questions, contact Ella Tweten at 406-942-0324.

Fall Retreats at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
October 29–November 1, 2026

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is offering two retreats the same weekend, giving you the chance to choose what fits you best:

- **Faith, Fellowship & Fishing Retreat** — Explore the connection between faith and creation through study, fellowship, and fishing for lake trout. Fishing tackle is suggested, but no experience or gear is required. Open to ages 18+ (16+ with an adult).
- **Quilting & Crafting Retreat** — Bring your quilt or craft projects and enjoy a relaxing weekend of creativity, fellowship, worship, evening devotions, good food, and opportunities to learn new skills.

Cost: **$275/person**, including housing and meals
Registration deadline: October 15
$100 non-refundable deposit required
Register at FLBC.net or contact registration@flbc.net

Gospel Reflection

Marching Orders • Matthew 21: 23-32

Members of the string quartet look around at each other, nod, and begin tuning up to play. The basketball team huddles around the coach as she draws up the play on a dry-erase board. The volunteer teams go over their assignments one last time before heading off to their positions for the charity run. In each instance, before beginning their mission, the group takes a moment to get on the same page, to get their marching orders. In our lives as disciples of Christ, that moment is baptism.

Our marching orders, our mission guidelines, are marked on our hearts in baptism. The good news of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ that is poured over us spills out in our lives, and we are called to be agents of restoration: to bind up the brokenhearted, to care for all people and all creation. Just as the coach draws up the play or someone makes a list of the things that need to get done, we are imbued with a way of life in baptism's waters. Our motivation for this way of life is the love that has also been shown to us in Jesus: the love that feeds us each week as we gather around our Savior's table.

Even if we are sometimes reluctant, like the son in Jesus' parable who initially says he will not go to the vineyard but eventually goes, we are motivated to carry out the work to which God has called us because of the baptismal grace we have received. And whenever we pause to collect ourselves—whether it's tuning up before the performance, getting the play in the huddle, or just taking a deep breath before beginning the next item on the to-do list—we think of baptism, when our marching orders and our motivations are indelibly marked on us by Jesus.

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JOURNAL QUESTIONS:

- What does your baptism mean to you today?
- Where might God be calling you to bring healing, hope, or care?
- When have you hesitated to respond to something you knew God was calling you to do?
- How does remembering that you are already loved and forgiven change the way you serve others?

Gracious God, remind us of the promises you made to us in baptism. Fill us with your love and send us out to care for your people and your creation. Give us courage to follow where you call. Amen.

Just for YOUth

Oh God, thanks for loving me.
Help me do what I believe. Amen.

This week

What does your family believe? What is important to you? Create a family creed together.

I believe

Matthew 21:23-32

What do you believe about God and Jesus? Christians in many places say what they believe each week in the creed. Listen for the words *I believe*during worship—that's the creed!

What kinds ofthingsshow what youbelieve aboutGod and Jesus? Search thepicture and mark anyGod-Jesusreminderswith a cross [there are at least 11], then quietly tell someone else why you marked what you did. Look for people, places, and things.

Following Jesus, doing God's work

We can all follow Jesus and do God's work, yet be very different people. When you finish these lists, are they the same as anyone else's? Keep doing what you love to help others! God loves you for you!

I am good at…

_____
_____
_____

I love doing….

_____
_____
_____

My 3 favorite foods are…

_____
_____
_____

What are 3 ways you might do God's work? [Check the other lists forideas!]

_____
_____
_____

Looking Ahead

Next Week | September 27 to October 2

Sunday 9/27
- 75th Anniversary Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- Reception to follow

Tuesday 9/29
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)
- Men's Breakfast – 7:00 am (Fellowship Hall)
- Monthly LMA Meeting - 4:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday 9/30
- LOGOs Youth Ministry – 5:30 pm
- *High School LOGOs begins in October 21*

Thursday 10/1
- Jeremiah Book Study* – 10:00 am (Fellowship Hall)
- Progressive Ministerial Association Worship "Blind Justice" – 7:00 pm (United Spirit Community Church)

Friday 10/2
- Bethel office is closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship – 6:00 pm

This Week | October 4 to October 10

Sunday 10/4
- LOGOs Family Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- St. Francis of Assisi Blessings for Pets and Animals

Tuesday 10/6
- Electric City Bible Study – 7:00 am (Zoom)
- Men's Breakfast – 7:00 am (Fellowship)

Wednesday 10/7
- LOGOs Youth Ministry – 5:30 pm
- *High School LOGOs begins in October.*

Thursday 10/8
- Jeremiah Book Study* – 10:00 am (Fellowship Hall)

Friday 10/9
- Bethel office is closed
- Wedding Rehearsal – 5:30 pm

Saturday 10/10
- Wedding of Kirk Skari and Britteny Hagberg – 3:30 pm

**Zoom option available. Please email the Bethel Office at bethelgf.church@gmail.com to receive a link.*

"Worry ends where faith begins."

There is a place for you here...All are welcome!

HELP US REIMAGINE THE GATHERING PLACE!

We want to hear from you!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Sunday, October 4 at 11:00 am
Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 pm
Sunday, October 11 at 11:00 am

You only need to attend one session.
Your ideas matter!
Come share your thoughts and help shape the future of the Gathering Place.

See the article on the Life at Bethel page for details.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

- **Hope Circle** — Monthly gathering for connection and care - contact Terry Korpela by clicking this link Email Terry - ***Next meeting October 22nd 2:00 pm @ Terry Korpela's***
- **Electric City Bible Study** — Tuesdays at 7:00 am (Zoom) - contact Terry Korpela by clicking this link Email Terry
- **Men's Breakfast** — Tuesdays at 7:00 am in Fellowship Hall - contact Dave Scholten by clicking this link Email Dave
- **LOGOs Youth Ministry** - Pre K thru High School — Wednesdays 5:30 pm 6:30 pm (HS) - contact Tami Grosenick by clicking this link Email Tami