

Bethel Notes

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Sunday, October 1, 2023

A Service Commemorating the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, as part of the ELCA's Truth and Healing Initiative

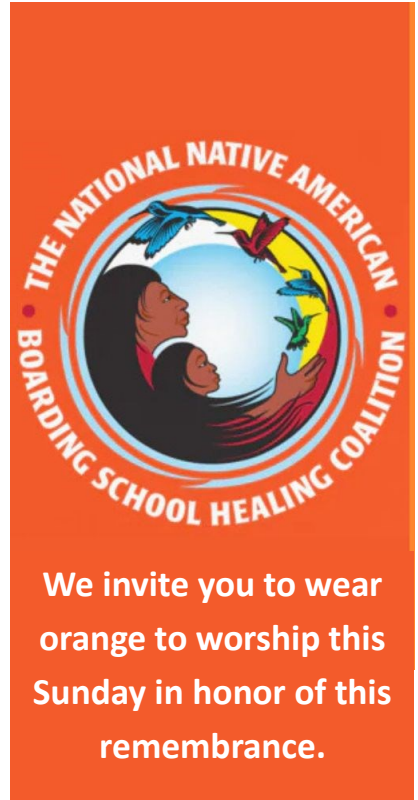
Today we remember the innocent children who were torn from their families, taken to boarding schools, and abused by their caregivers, and who died so far away from their communities.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:15-17

Psalm 124

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18



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

Serving This Sunday

Musicians:

Lynn Ryan, piano

Lay Assistant:

Sandy Pepos

Usher:

Laurie Turner

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Colter McCarty

Children's Church:

Julia Elkin

Tyler Grosenick

Counters:

Pam Dougherty

Laurie Turner

Hospitality:

Bethel Lutheran Church

THIS SUNDAY AT BETHEL...

We celebrate the **A Service Commemorating the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, as part of the ELCA's Truth and Healing Initiative**

Welcome and thank you to **Pastor Jessica Crist**, preaching and presiding for us today.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship today for an **Adult Forum** exploring the Indian Boarding Schools, the role of the Church, and the ongoing impact on indigenous families.

With Gratitude to **Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy**, whose liturgy, "A Prayer Service for Children of Indian Boarding Schools" was adapted. The passing of the peace is based on a Navajo prayer.

Requesting Your Prayers

- ✝ Prayers of strength and support for **Leona Ost** as she prepares for oral surgery Tuesday, October 3rd.
- ✝ 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 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 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.



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.

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.

Nez Perce version of the Lord's Prayer.

*Oh Great Spirit,
You are our Shepherd Chief,
in the most high place whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.
Whatever You want done let it be done everywhere.
Give us Your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil, for everything belongs to You.
Let your power and glory shine forever.
Amen.*

(Written by Hattie Corbett Enos -Nez Perce Elder)



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



Adult Education after Worship Beginning October 8th

First Season of The Chosen, we will be watching the episode and have discussion to follow. This series will cover 8 Sundays to complete the first season.

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series. Created, directed and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, it is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him. The series stars Jonathan Roumie as Jesus, alongside Shahar Isaac, Elizabeth Tabish, Paras Patel, Noah James, and George



The first season is set in 1st century Galilee, where Jesus starts to build a group for his ministry, inviting several people with different backgrounds. As he performs his first miracles, Jesus calls the redeemed woman Mary Magdalene; the stonemason Thaddeus; the choir member Little James; the fishermen Simon, Andrew, Big James, and John; the caterer Thomas and vintner Ramah; and the tax collector Matthew to follow him. As the group travels through Samaria, Jesus launches his public ministry after revealing himself to Photina, a Samaritan woman.

Information courtesy of Wikipedia.



September 2023 Newsletter

It has been a busy summer here at Family Promise Great Falls, but we welcome fall and all the exciting events that are coming up! On September 7th we will be doing a kickoff with The United Way and City Motors for the City Motors Saving Families event! Greg and Tiffany will be on hand from 4-6 p.m. to talk about how United Way dollars help homeless children and their families in our community. From the 7th—15th City Motors will donate \$250 from every vehicle sold to Family Promise...WOW! The generosity and kindness of this donation event is simply amazing. Then on September 11th we will be at The Mighty Mo Brew Pub for "Raise a Pint Night" benefitting Family Promise! Join us there from 5-8 p.m. for some brews and pizza, we may even have a gift basket to raffle off! Last but by no means least, on Saturday, September 30th we will be at the Schroeder farm at 87 Meridian Lane in Vaughn for Jordan's Pumpkins for a Cause. Also, Greg and Tiffany will be in training from September 18th -21st, so our office will be closed to the public.

A new beginning

This month we have welcomed a new family into Promise Place Shelter. The family of three has moved in and is getting settled. Over the next 90 days we will be collaborating closely with them to set goals and move them towards a brighter future. We are optimistic for this mom and her two children, and we wish them all the best as they embark on their new beginning!

A great evening of baseball

Thank you so much to everyone who worked to make our August 25th evening at Centene Stadium such a success! It was a wonderful night for a ball game, and even though our hometown team did not win, we still had fun cheering them on. The weather was almost perfect, and our volunteers were simply amazing! A huge shout-out to Greg's beautiful wife Tammy for coordinating the volunteer group and working so hard at the raffle table. This year's event was far more successful than last year, and we hope to grow this event in the future. A very special thank you to Candice Griffith for throwing the first pitch on behalf of Family Promise. You rock Candice!



GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 1, 2023

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Change for the Better

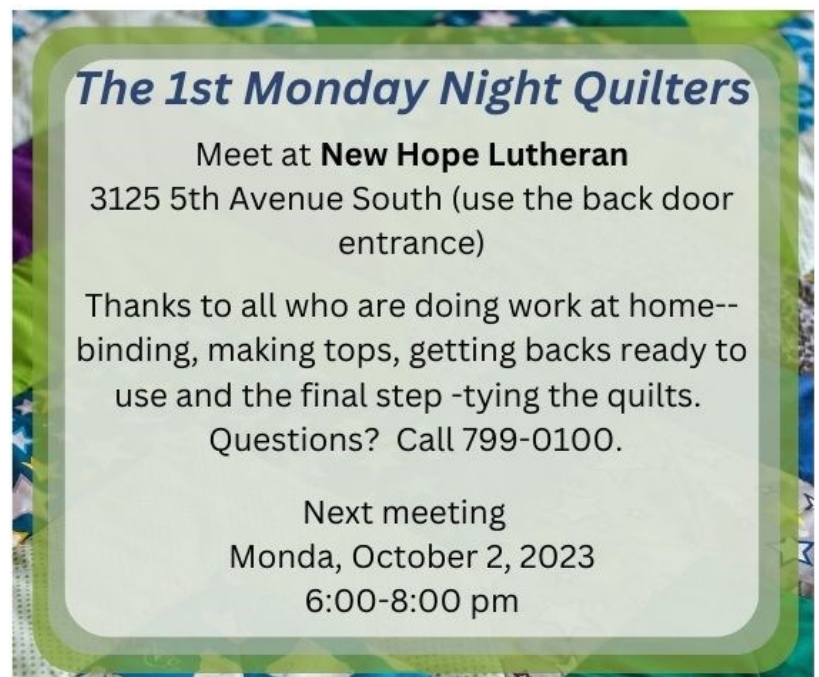
Public officials routinely get drilled about changing their minds, especially around reelection time. One's past pledges as a political candidate are not easily left behind or forgotten. Earlier promises are often used to measure one's moral character in light of one's actual voting record. A change in opinion can be viewed with suspicion or lead to accusations of hypocrisy. We want consistency. Above all, we want to know that we can trust others to follow through on their word. This is understandable.

Unfortunately, such political norms don't often allow for the power of changing one's mind. Jesus' parable of the two sons suggests that a change in heart can in fact be a sign of deeper listening and transformation. Conversely, a refusal to change can leave us stalled on our spiritual journeys. In this way, "flip-flopping" might not always be a bad thing but rather might indicate our faithfulness to God's ongoing role in our lives.

God's promises in baptism make such change possible. Martin Luther encouraged that we daily return to our baptism. Every day God's grace frees us to admit the possibility that we have previously been or done wrong, or perhaps simply haven't been able to see the whole picture before. Grace also affords us the chance to allow that anyone can be transformed in ways previously thought impossible or unexpected. The promises that God makes in baptism open the door not only for us but for everyone else too. We can learn perhaps to trust not in consistency but in the endless possibilities for change and growth. Sometimes a change in opinion goes only as far as what we think will be most popular. But changing our mind, when done in a spirit of authentic discernment and from the heart, can be transformative. It might even open us to the kingdom of God in ways unknown before.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Just for *YOUTH*

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 of things show what you believe about God and Jesus? Search the picture and mark any God-Jesus reminders with a cross [there are at least 11], then quietly tell someone else why you marked what you did. Look for people, places, and things.

This Week...

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



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

Welcome to worship. In today's gospel reading people ask Jesus questions. Listen for questions today. **Each time you hear a question in the reading make a ? inside this big ?.**



My question for Jesus: _____

What question would Jesus ask you? _____

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 for ideas!]



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 10/3

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

Wednesday 10/4

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

Thursday 10/5

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm
- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

Friday 10/6

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

Saturday 10/7

- Olson/Marrs Wedding 3:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 10/8

- Family Worship led by Dave Scholten, LPA in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Adult Education, *The Chosen* first season
- Great Divide 4H meeting in the Fellowship Hall 2:00 pm

Tuesday 10/10

- 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 6:30 pm

Wednesday 10/11

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

Thursday 10/12

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

Friday 10/13

- 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

—resumes October 4th led by Udo Wozny

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.

