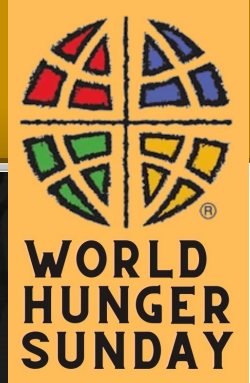


BETHEL NOTES



THIS SUNDAY

Readings:

First Reading:
Amos 7:7-15

Psalm:
Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading:
Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Reading:
Mark 6:14-26



**John
was a
righteous
and holy man**

MARK 6:20

Serving

Accompanist

Lynn Ryan, Piano

Lay Assistant

Tamy Scholten

Usher

Laurie Turner

Tech

Gabe Smith

Projection

TBD

Children's Church

Julia Elkin

Tyler Grosenick

Hospitality

Sandy Pepos

Counters

Stephanie Cummings

Laurie Turner

This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **8th Sunday after Pentecost.**

We welcome and thank **Jim Carlson, LPA** presiding in worship this morning. Jim has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Today we lift up **ELCA World Hunger** and receive an additional offering in the wicker basket.

Blessings for a wonderful trip to **New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering.** Kyle and Ryan Gilbertson, Ainsley Kubas, Austin Kupfner, and Kian Ryan. Thank you to our chaperones Amy and Randy Gilbertson and Colter McCarty.

New Adult Forum Book Study to begin August 4th after worship. Future Faith, Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century. If you would like Bethel to order a book for you, the cost is \$13.50, sign up on the table in the Narthex.

July 15th is our **Bethel Blood Drive**, the Red Cross is offering an incentive, *all who come to give blood July 1-31 will get a Fandango Movie Ticket by email to see TWISTERS! Plus, all who come to give in July will be automatically entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn®!* You may sign up on the Red Cross donor site or call the Bethel Office and Tami will help you sign up for your spot.

VBS is right around the corner, and we need your help with some snack and lunch item donations. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

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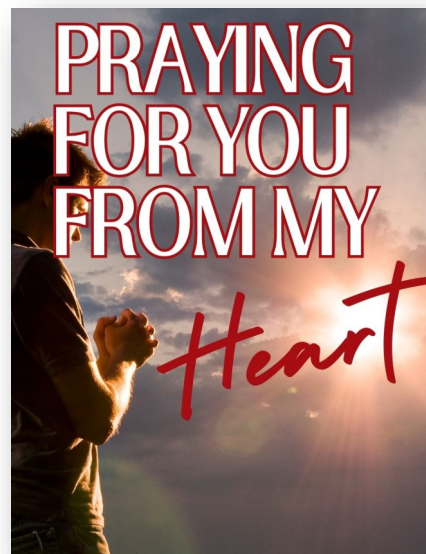
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Join us at 9:30 AM in person or online at bethelmt.org.

*Lord,
in your mercy
hear our prayers.*



- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Charlie Hill**, *friend of Jeanne Rankin*, who has had brain surgery and will be receiving radiation treatments in Houston, TX.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Sharon Bossie** as she manages chemotherapy treatments.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Broc Cole**, *child of a friend of Ali Morris*, as he battles lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort and support for **Don and Kathi Bisgard** as Don's cancer has progressed and treatment is not an option.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin, Bobbie Bowen's daughter**, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing **Shelly Murphy** who was recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as who is home and continues to regain strength.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she experiences complications with cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kathleen**, *friend of Dena Wagner-Fossen*, as she continues medical testing at Mayo Clinic.
- ✝ Prayers of continued healing for **Eric Peterson** as he receives chemotherapy that has slowed the progression of cancer growth.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Georgia Miller**, *cousin of Amber Erickson's*, as she has been going through treatment for breast cancer and is doing well. Hoping to only have a couple more treatments to go.





American Red Cross

Blood Drive at Bethel

July 15th

1:00 – 6:00 pm

As the busy summer season rolls towards fall, the American Red Cross asks donors to be a powerful force for good by giving blood now and in the weeks to come. You can be the difference between someone's storm and their sunshine. Donors are critically needed right now after a sharp decrease in donations since late spring. **All blood types are needed, especially donors giving type O blood and those giving platelets.**

Full summer calendars and holiday plans may prevent regular donors from being able to give. Additionally, significant summer weather threats such as wildfires, flooding and tornadoes can result in travel hazards and blood drive cancellations that could impact the blood supply.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Universal Pictures for the theatrical release of TWISTERS to help avoid a summer blood shortage. All who come to give blood or platelets July 1-31 will get a Fandango Movie Ticket* by email. BONUS: Those who come to give blood in July will also automatically be entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn®.

Swarms of tornadoes and extreme flooding in recent months have tragically taken lives and destroyed entire communities. Most recently, millions of people have endured one of the longest lasting and strongest heat waves in years, including large portions of the Midwest. Unfortunately, in states like Arkansas, Ohio and Nebraska, many communities are still picking up the pieces and recovering from the second most active tornado season on record, according to the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center.

"The Red Cross is grateful to have partners like Universal Pictures who are not only lending this support to encourage blood donations during this critical time of year but have also generously donated to help support disaster relief," said Jennifer Pipa, vice president of Disaster Programs for the Red Cross. "Because of the climate crisis, the Red Cross is now launching twice as many relief operations for major disasters than we did a decade ago. And disasters are not only straining our relief operations but also our ability to collect lifesaving blood donations. So far this year we have collected 20,000 fewer blood donations due to severe weather."

In just the first five months of the year, the Red Cross has responded to 20 tornado-related disasters across 13 states. Unfortunately, meteorologists expect more powerful and destructive storms to continue in the months to come as the effects of the climate crisis continue. This year's outlook is part of a years-long trend of more frequent and intense climate disasters, such as hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and floods.

Dare to be a force of nature this summer. Give blood To sign up: [Click this link](#) to be directed to the Bethel sign up page by entering zip code 59404.

- Select the time and type of donation you want to give
- Sign in or create your new account

If you would like assistance in signing up, please call the Bethel Church office at 406-761-1543. If you are a Facebook User, please consider sharing the Blood Donation post on our Facebook Page. We could reach many potential donors by inviting them to this great outreach opportunity!

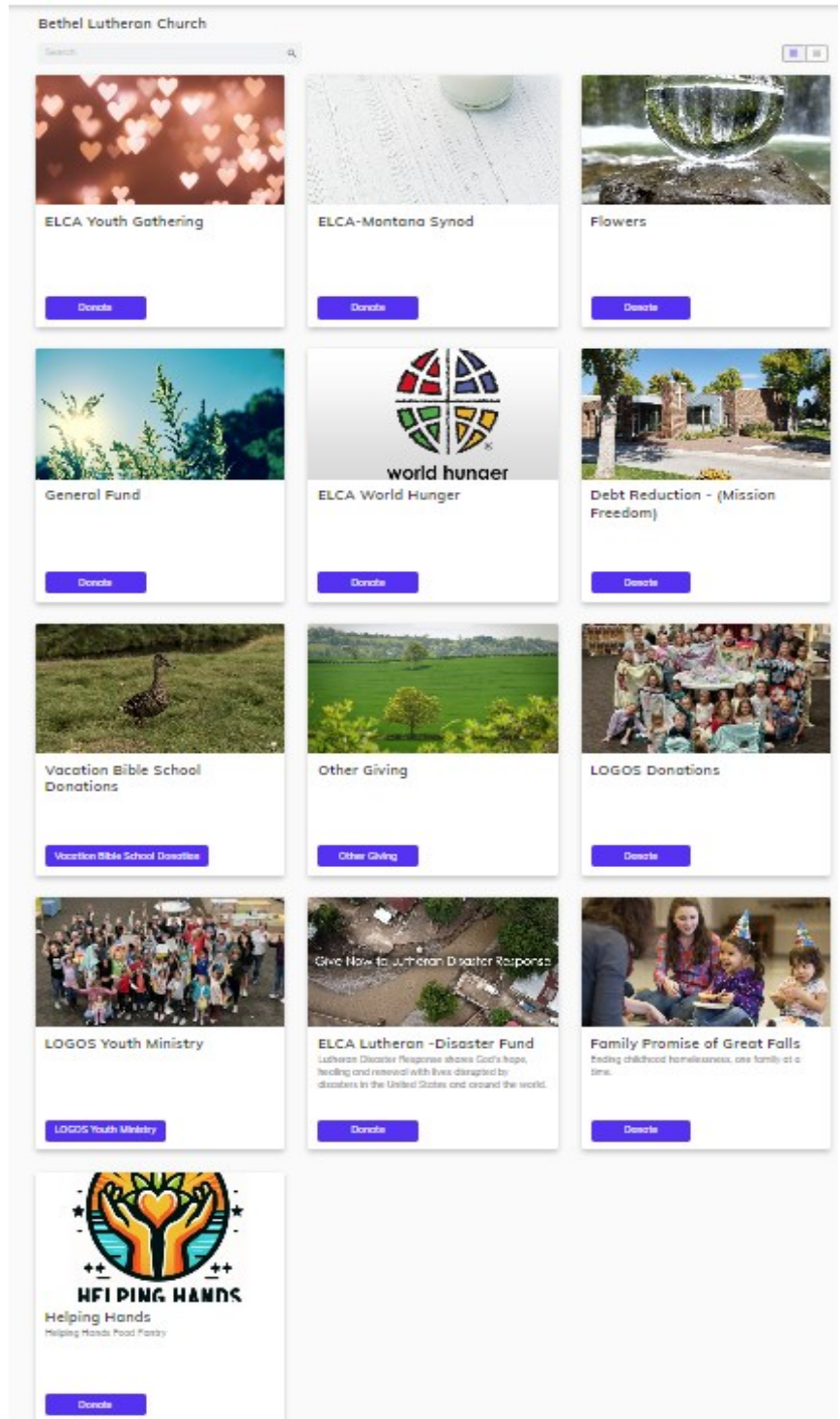


The illustrious Jeff Skogley, directed the Municipal Band concert last Wednesday evening. Jeff is one of several conductors that share the honor of leading the talented musicians. Concerts are free Wednesdays at 7 pm at the band shell at Gibson Park.

VANCO

ONLINE GIVING UPDATED

We have updated the online giving page to include Family Promise of Great Falls, Helping Hands and Lutheran Disaster Relief. For those who wish to give to those organizations through their Bethel donation. To give online go to bethelmt.org and click the online giving tab, you will be directed to our online giving page and click the donate button, to have the options as seen on this page. If you have any questions, please contact Tami Grosenick in the Bethel Office.



“God’s work. Our hands.”



Join us for a day of service!

September 8, 2024

If you know of an organization who would like to be recipient of a service project or if you have an idea for a service project for those who to do a project here at Bethel reach out to the Bethel Office 406-761-1543 or bethelgf.church@gmail.com

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,700 congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands.” day of service. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God’s love. Join us as we do God’s work with our hands!



The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Smith’s Inspiring Donations. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Smith’s and swipe your Shopper’s Card.

1. Create a digital
2. Link your Smith’s Rewards Card to Bethel by using the code LC427 or look up Bethel Lutheran Church

Every time you shop at Smith’s with your Rewards Card, they donate 0.5% of your total order. This is paid by Smith’s Food and Drug and does not effect the overall cost of your order.

Go to Smith’s Food and Drug Inspiring Donations or [click this link](#) to be connected.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Risk-taking Witness

What makes a good leader? Confidence, compassion, or courage? Popularity and prestige? A quick Google search offers no shortage of books, articles, and classes on leadership. And it's no wonder: organizations, communities, and entire governments depend on the abilities of those who step into decision-making roles. A good leader can inspire the masses and impact the world in profoundly positive ways, while a corrupt leader can cause entire systems to crumble, resulting in devastation for individuals and communities alike.

It turns out these concepts are not new. Scripture has much to say about the qualities of leaders and the consequences of their decisions. The Bible offers several stories of faithful leaders: those who think about what is best for the whole community, particularly the people who are most vulnerable. These kinds of leaders follow God's call at great personal risk. John the Baptist is just one example.

Meanwhile, corrupt leaders are most concerned with self-preservation. They are governed by fear and greed, easily threatened by those on the margins. Herod finds himself in this position. While he may have been intrigued by John, saving his own reputation mattered more to him than John's life. The result is nothing short of horrific, culminating with an innocent man's head on a platter.

Our world is full of leaders who wield their power for their own benefit. But the good news is, God continues to call faithful leaders who pave the way with risk-taking, truth-telling witness. This type of leadership is not easy, and the personal risk is great. John's story illustrates this in alarming ways. And yet, John's story is not defined by his death—in Christ, his prophetic words and deeds echo through the ages. His impact lives on, calling us to the humble, compassionate way of Jesus.

So, what kind of leader will you be? And whom will you choose to follow?

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Recipe for Happiness

2 cups of patience, heaping

1 heartful of love

2 handfuls of generosity

1 handful of understanding

1 dash of laughter

1 sprinkling of generosity

1 pinch of kindness

Add plenty of faith and mix well. Spread over a period of a lifetime and serve to everyone you meet.



JUST 4 YOUTH

The straight truth

God's prophets speak the truth to God's people.

Bring these people through the maze to God's truth. Follow the arrows to find the right path.



John the Baptist was killed by King Herod for being a prophet.

	→	↗	→	Amos	↓	←	↓
↑	Isaiah	↓	↑	←	↓	Elijah	↑
↓	←	←	JOHN THE BAPTIST	↑	←	→	Jeremiah
→	↓	Jonah	→	→	JESUS	→	↓
↓	↔	→	↑	Hosea	↓	Joel	←
←	Ezekiel	↑	↓	←	→	→	

Amos was a prophet who told the people of Israel the straight truth from God, even when people didn't want to hear it.



Jesus told the straight truth to many people. They didn't want to hear it because it would make them change the way they lived. So Jesus was crucified and died. But we know that Jesus lives again. We still look to Jesus to find the straight truth for our lives.

What do you hear?

God speaks to us through the things we hear at worship: the words, the music, and even sometimes when it's quiet. Draw one or two pictures of something that you hear today in worship.

Welcome to worship.
Amos saw a vision of God holding a plumb line, ready to "measure the actions" of the people of Israel.

Plumb line – a weight hung from a string that's used to judge the straightness of a wall or building, or the depth of water.

You and one other person take turns connecting two dots next to each other with straight lines. Two lines are drawn for you. If your line completes a square put your initial inside the square. How many boxes did you make?

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. Psalm 83:8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

Monday 7/15

- Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 1:00 pm.

Tuesday 7/16

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Friday 7/19

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7/21

- Worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church 10:00 am
- Set Up for VBS and FLBC Counselors arrive 5:00 pm

Monday 7/22

- VBS Day Camp begins 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Tuesday 7/23

- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Wednesday 7/24

- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Counselor/Junior Counselor service project 2:00 pm
- Counselor/Junior Counselor event 6:00 pm

Thursday 7/25

- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Family Program and carnival 6:00 pm

Friday 7/19

- Bethel office is closed.
- VBS Day Camp last day 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

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.

On hold until September

Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. 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.

On hold until September

Preaching And Presiding at Bethel

July 14th	Jim Carlson, LPA
July 21st	Joint worship at Redeemer
July 28th	Dave Scholten
August 4th	Dave Scholten
August 11th	Jim Carlson, LPA
August 18th	Hymn Sing with the Ryans
August 25th	Pastor Sara MacGilvra Branom
September 1st	Pastor Jessica Crist
September 8th	God's Work Sunday



Adult Forum Book Study Begins August 4th



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In *Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping the Practice of Christianity*, author Wesley Granberg-Michaelson provides a lucid view of how the top ten winds of change blowing through global Christian faith are reshaping the practice of Christianity today. He is uniquely qualified to identify and interpret connection points between global Christian trends and the American church.

Drawing on the stories, examples, and personalities of pastors and congregations from throughout the U.S. as well as those from Africa, Asia, Latin America, who are the faces of Christianity's future, *Future Faith* is designed to inform and empower followers of Jesus to seek new ways of becoming the face of Christ to a rapidly changing world.

Leaders and practitioners in church growth, renewal, and planting will be a primary audience for this book. Students of religion from Catholic, evangelical, Pentecostal, and historic Protestant streams will find this book an informative and stimulating resource for pondering together the future of their faith. Small groups engaged in congregational nurture and growth will find in the author a welcome companion for guiding them through the multi-cultural landscape of contemporary faith.

Colter McCarty will facilitate this book study. Each week we will cover one chapter in the book and participants will take turns leading the discussion regarding their chapter. Only those who would like to lead will be asked to lead, there is no obligation for those who opt out of leading the discussion.

We will be Sunday, August 4th after worship and continue through October 6th.

If you would like to participate in the study, Bethel will order the books, the cost to cover the book is \$13.50 and you may sign up in the narthex or email Tami in the Bethel Office to get a book ordered for you. You are welcome to pick up the book on your own if you wish.

If you have any questions please contact Tami in the Bethel Office.