

# BETHEL NOTES

## THIS SUNDAY

### Readings:

*First Reading:*

*Job 38:1-11*

*Psalm:*

*Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32*

*Second Reading:*

*2 Corinthians 6:1-13*

*Gospel Reading:*

*Mark 4:35-41*

## Serving Sunday

### Accompanist

Mary Seim, Piano

### Lay Assistant

Sue Hesse

### Usher

Randy Gilbertson

Earl Terwilliger

### Tech

Gabe Smith

### Projection

Tami Grosenick

### Children's Church

Addi Carlson

Allison Marr

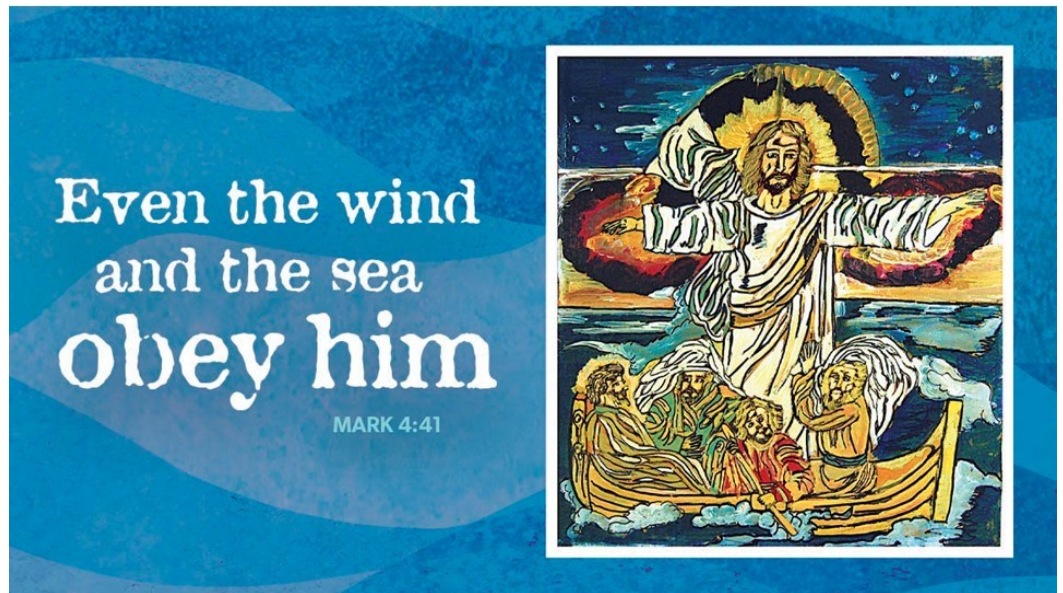
### Hospitality

Judy Johnson, Laurie Turner, Patty Braget, Kelsey Johnson

### Counters

Pam Dougherty

Randy Gilbertson



## This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**

We welcome and thank **Rev. Sara Mac-Gilvra Branom** for preaching and presiding in worship this morning.

We also welcome **The Redeemer congregation** who is worshiping with us today.

No **Adult Forum** after worship today.

Next Sunday we are blessed to have **Rev. Aaron Decker** leading worship. Pastor Aaron has been working in our Companion Church, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, for two and a half years as a theological educator.

**Join us at 9:30 AM in person or online at [bethelmt.org](http://bethelmt.org).**

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*Lord,  
in your mercy  
hear our prayers.*

- ✠ Prayers of healing and support for **Leonard Murphy** who is fighting a bronchial infection and also **Shelly Murphy** who is in ICU with infection and pneumonia.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he is admitted to the Grandview for therapy.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Charlie Hill**, *friend of Jeanne Rankin*, who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and is meeting with specialist to determine treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Shannon Obrecht**, *family friend of Karen Lord*, as she experiences complications with cancer treatment.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Don Bisgard** as he has recovers from surgery as part of 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.
- ✠ 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 healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pat Berkeley**.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✠ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.

Combined  
Worship  
at Bethel June 23rd  
9:30 am  
All are Welcome!



*Redeemer*  
Lutheran Church



## Rev. Aaron Decker Leading Worship at Bethel

Sunday, June 30th, Rev. Aaron Decker will be preaching and presiding in worship at Bethel. Pastor Aaron has been working in our Companion Church, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, for two and a half years as a theological educator. This work has included teaching and writing learning materials to educate local pastors and Sunday school teachers throughout the Bolivian Church—and of course, learning from them! Before going to Bolivia, he served congregations near Boston and Philadelphia, and was a lecturer in Old Testament and Malaysia Theological Seminary.

Bolivia is the second poorest nation in the Americas (after Haiti.) But despite few resources, it is probably the only Lutheran Church body in the Western hemisphere that is growing. Pastor Aaron will be sharing his experiences in Bolivia and ways that the church is bringing extraordinary resurrection to ordinary people's lives.

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## 2024 Montana Synod Assembly Voting Member Report

The Montana Synod assembly was May 31st through June 1st in Billings. Voting members from Bethel were Colleen Walker-Nelson, and Shirley Cayko. Pastor Steve Nelson attended as a visiting member. The theme was "Equipping for Justice"

The first day consisted of opening worship and then business of the Synod including the treasurer's report and the budget report. Dave Scholten, the Synod treasurer, gave an inspirational budget report, which is hard to do when many churches in our Synod are without a pastor, and some offerings from the member churches were down. Some offerings also were up, but our church was not among those who raised their offering. As a result of this information, I thought it good to encourage Bethel to raise our giving to the Synod! The Synod is supported by our offerings, and 6% of what we give goes to churchwide. This giving supports many people who work in the ELCA and variety of ministries and services in Jesus name for the sake of the world.

The assembly passed the budget and then elections were held for new Montana Synod Council members as well as committee members. Elections were also done for those who would be attending the 2025 churchwide assembly. Our own Kian Ryan was among those elected! Let's keep him in our prayers for a wonderful and inspirational experience for him.

The afternoon consisted of choosing two workshops out of many interesting topics. I attended the workshop on Bolivia and refugee resettlement. Pastor Aaron Decker, our missionary to Bolivia spoke about his ministry there. He will be coming to Bethel on June 30th, so be sure to attend Bethel and hear about our companion church in Bolivia.

In the evening, there was a banquet where pastors were honored for their years in the ministry. Pastor Steve Nelson was honored with 45 years. Other activities included: approval of the transfer of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Westby, Montana from the Montana Synod to the Western North Dakota Synod. A decision by the Synod Council to exercise a Synod preservation of the property of Peace Lutheran Church in Missoula was supported by the assembly. We discussed some options of how to conduct the upcoming Montana Synod Bishop election at the 2025 assembly. We heard presentations from Lonnie Taylor, the region one ELCA churchwide Council representative, Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, the ELCA churchwide representative who also preached at the closing service on Saturday.

*Continued on page 4*



The Council approved the contract for Reverend Jessica Crist, who will serve as acting bishop during Bishop Laurie Jungling's sabbatical June 20th through August 18th, 2024.

Thank you for sending me to the assembly. It is always an uplifting experience and gives one a wider perspective of all the wonderful ministries our church is involved in. It is a privilege to be a part of this church.

May the Lord bless us all, and may we continue to grow deeper in our faith, and our knowledge that we are greatly loved and treasured by our God.

~ Colleen Walker-Nelson

**Blood Drive at Bethel**  
**July 15th 1:00 -6:00 pm**



### Who Can Donate

- Be in good general health and feeling well.
- Be at least 17 years old in most states (16 years old with parental consent in some states).
- Weigh at least 110 pounds. Additional weight requirements apply for donors 18 years old and younger and all high school donors.
- Have not donated blood in the last 56 days

### What to Expect at My Donation

1. Register, show your ID and read some required information.
2. Health History and Mini-physical, answer some questions and receive a general health check.
3. The Donation, you will be seated comfortably while a pint of blood is drawn. This will take about 8-10 minutes.
4. Refresh and Recover, afterwards, you can enjoy a snack and drink for 10-15 minutes before resuming your day.

Let's roll up our sleeves and help save lives! Bethel Lutheran Church has a rich history of outreach, and we are excited to partner with the American Red Cross. Please consider donating and helping us reach our goal of 29 donors. For more information about donating, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

To sign up: [Click this link](#) to be directed to the Bethel sign up page.

- 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!



## June 2024 Newsletter

As summer gets into full swing, we are welcoming the warmer weather and all the wonderful summer activities that come with it. We're looking forward to our August 11th Voyager's game at Centene Stadium, tickets are on sale now. We'll be accepting donations of gift baskets to raffle off during the game, so please contact the office if you've got some items to donate. Also exciting, we've just gotten a new volunteer in the office. Darlene Wilkson brings over 30 years of experience in early childhood learning with her, and she will be on hand a few days a month to help. We are always on the lookout for volunteers to add to our roster, so if you're interested in donating some of your time, please stop by to pick up a volunteer packet.

### Fresh Faces at Promise Place Shelter

We have welcomed a new family at Promise Place Shelter this month. A young single mother with a 3-year-old son have just moved in and are working on getting settled. They arrived at Family Promise a few weeks ago, brought in by another family we have worked with. The young mom and her son were couch hopping from place to place with nowhere to go. As we were working on transitioning a family out of the shelter, her timing was just right. Greg and Tiffany were more than happy to get started working on goals of stable housing, attaining healthcare, and attaining childcare for the young mom and her son. We see a bright future for their little family, but there's a lot of hard work to be done in the next few months .

### Batter Up!

August 11th is our Voyagers Game Day at Centene Stadium. Tickets are \$13, and \$5 for every ticket sold benefits homeless children and their families in our community. Tickets are available in our office, or you can call (406)868-3026 for more information. Come out and enjoy a great game for a great cause!

### What it takes

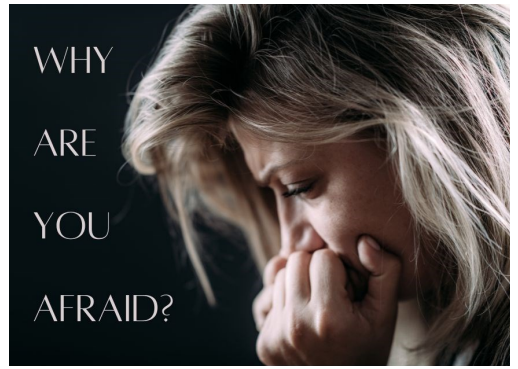
As we work towards stable housing with our two families, we see that the rental prices have gone insane! Even a small two bedroom costs upwards of \$1,300 a month plus utilities. The average cost of utilities is about \$180 a month. The average cost for groceries for a two-person household is over \$600 a month. That means for a single parent with one child they would have to bring home (after taxes) over \$2,000 a month just to pay for the cost of rent, utilities, and groceries. That doesn't cover childcare or gas in a vehicle, or insurance. Once you total it all up, a single parent needs to make at least \$20 per hour to cover the absolute basics. That's for one parent, with one child, to cover necessities. It is harder than ever for a family to get by and make ends meet. We're working towards raising money so that we can move three families into permanent housing before the end of the year. Our goal is to raise \$9,000 to help with deposit, first month's rent, and a utility deposit for these families.

### New Addition to Our Family

This month we will be welcoming a new staff member to the office. Tiffany Cage will be joining our Family Promise family this month as our new Case Manager/Family Advocate. Tiffany brings with her plenty of experience and lots of enthusiasm. A former advocate for a partner organization, Tiffany is excited to be serving our community once more. We're excited to see what the rest of the year brings us, and of course to watch Tiffany's progress with our families. Welcome to Family Promise Great Falls Tiffany Cage!

# GOSPEL MESSAGE

WHY  
ARE  
YOU  
AFRAID?



## Why Are You Afraid?

We often find ourselves swamped by the storms of life, wind and waves beating into our boat. Perhaps it's a literal storm like the disciples experienced in today's gospel reading. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and even brutal blizzards have the power to upend our lives. So, too, do health crises, financial struggles, lost jobs, divorce or other relationship difficulties, the death of loved ones, and so many other situations.

Like the disciples, we may become overwhelmed by the storms and angry with God, who appears to be sleeping on the job. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" is a common prayer in such moments. In response to that prayer, the disciples witnessed a miracle. Jesus stood up, rebuked the storm, and suddenly, all was calm.

But how often have you cried out to the Creator only to find that your personal storm rages on? The tests come back with bad news, the bank account remains overdrawn, the relationship ends, death still seems to have the last word. In these moments, it's easy to doubt: Why hasn't God stopped *my* storm? This side of heaven, we likely will never know why God stills some storms and not others. Yet, just as the disciples had Jesus with them in their boat, so do you. They were safe with their Teacher and the same is true for you.

The storms may beat against your boat with unimaginable force. But in your baptism, Jesus "climbed into your boat" and promised to be with you forever. You may be holding on for dear life. But truly Jesus is also holding onto *you*. Though your boat is rocking all over the stormy sea, he is with you, and you are safe. Do not be afraid.

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## We Are Wrapping Up Our Adult Forum

We will watch and discuss the last episodes of The Chosen Season 3 on Monday June 24th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Bethel.

*"I love the Chosen series and with the bible study workbook things are coming together and giving us a deeper reflection and time on Jesus and his mission not only while he was here on earth, but what it means for us today. The series has helped with a grieving part since losing another family member on February 28th.*

*I appreciate the group and their insight as well! "*

Jeanne Rankin

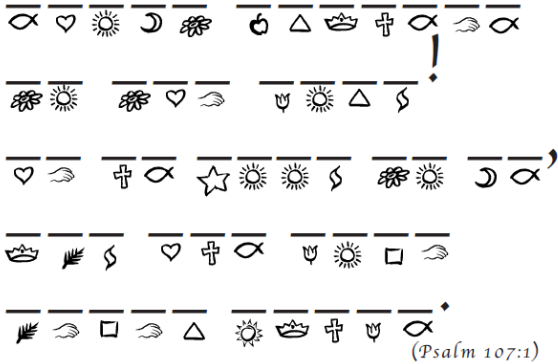




# JUST 4 YOUTH

## Crack the code

We know that God's love is always with us. Finish the puzzle below by matching the correct letter to each symbol.



P = D = S = L = H = F = U = N =   
 R = T = E = I = V = A = O = G =

## This week

Use Psalm 107:1 as a mealtime or bedtime prayer this week. Memorize it so that it will be with you when you are afraid, when you are happy, when you are away from home ... always!

## Trouble on the waves

The disciples were scared. A storm came up while they were in the boat. They cried out for Jesus to help them.

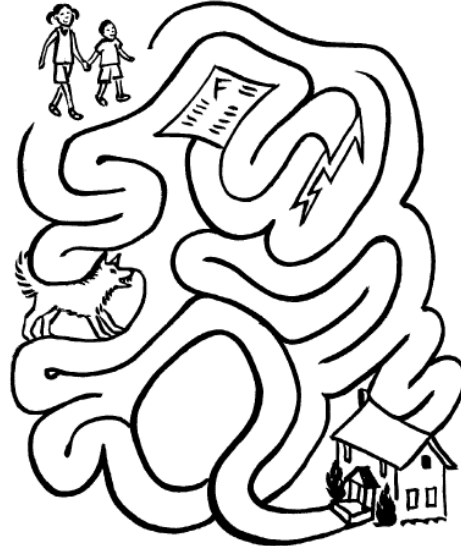
What did Jesus say? Follow the line of letters to find out. The first one is given for you.

We hear "Peace be with you" at worship. Make a mark here each time you hear the word "PEACE" in worship today.



## Welcome to worship.

It is good to have Jesus as our friend when things are going bad. Sarah and Nick are afraid they will get lost in their new neighborhood. They prayed, "Dear God, be with us on our way. Amen."



Follow the maze to help Sarah and Nick get home. Circle the things in the maze that make you afraid or worried. Add a picture of another worry in the empty space.

Peace is more than this.



God's peace is powerful in our lives. God's peace helps us when troubles come or when we are afraid.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### THIS WEEK

#### Tuesday 6/25

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am.

#### Friday 6/28

- Bethel office is closed.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Sunday 6/30

- Worship service led by Rev. Aaron Decker in person and live stream at 9:30 am.
- Adult Forum Pastor Aaron's missionary work following worship.

#### Tuesday 7/2

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am.

#### Thursday 7/4

- Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Bethel Office is closed.

#### Friday 7/5

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

June 23rd	Pastor Sara MacGilvra-Branom
June 30th	Pastor Aaron Decker
July 7th	Pastor Steve Nelson
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	TBD
August 25	TBD

