



THIS WEEK AT BETHEL:

July 4th, 2021

Office hours:

Monday-Wednesday, 9am-12pm.

Pastor Dave's office hours:

Monday, 9am-12pm.

Altar Flowers: If you are interested in providing altar flowers for a special occasion, please contact Kathryn Carpenter (kbcarr44@gmail.com).

Special Guests: Today we are excited to have several special guests with us in worship. Kyle & Jeneal Duff are visiting from Lutheran Theological School at Chicago. Kyle just completed his 2nd year in seminary and is sponsored by Bethel. If you would like to make a donation to help fund special needs for them while Kyle is in seminary, please write a check to Bethel and designate *Seminarian Fund* on your check or envelope.

We also welcome back Libby Beller (Clarinet) and Jacob Pemberton (Bass), former Shenandoah Conservatory Students who played with the worship team previously. Jacob recently graduated from the University of Iowa School of Music where he completed his Master's Degree in Jazz Studies. If you would like to help us continue to support our local musicians, please consider a donation to the *Jones/Joyner* music fund.

Virtual Vision Trip to Guatemala: Have you been to Guatemala to see Escuela Integrada? Are you and your family interested in traveling this year but are cautious about traveling during a pandemic? Well, you are in luck! Bethel Youth will be hosting a 'Virtual Vision Trip' to Escuela Integrada in Antigua, Guatemala on July 9th from 3 to 5pm.

The in person gathering will take place in Discipleship Hall but if you are out of town and still want to join, a Zoom invitation will be available. During our trip, we will be meeting an Escuela Integrada student and their family, learning about how they are participating in school during the pandemic, and then joining Escuela Integrada in a dance class or a Spanish class. After our trip, we will enjoy some Latin food for those gathering in person.

This is a fundraiser for Escuela Integrada, so a donation of \$30 per person is recommended- you can give a check to Bethel with Guatemala Vision Trip in the note section. RSVP to Beth Garner by Monday July 5th to 'reserve' your spot (text to 540.514.7022 or email bethgarnercm@hotmail.com).

Want to assist in worship? A "Sign Up" genius link for greeters, readers, prayers, etc. is available in the weekly e-news and the Bethel Website. Please look for this link where you can sign up to participate in worship when it is convenient for you.

WOW: Worship on Wednesdays continues this week at 6:00 pm at the picnic shelter. Bring a lawn chair and a friend! Worship will be held in Discipleship Hall if weather is not favorable.

Bethel Week at Camp: Join us for another exciting week at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center! Each year we do our "Bethel Week at Camp" and again this year, after Covid-19, we are excited to offer this again. Pastor Heidi will be serving as the chaplain at camp during our week together. There is scholarship money available, so please talk with Pastor Dave if you are interested in attending and would like some assistance. Dates are July 11-15, 2021.

For more news and updates on what is happening at Bethel, checkout our Facebook Page and Website: www.bethelwinchester.com

Ready to Bear Witness

Where does power come from? The usual answers—family connections, reputation, possessions—are all rejected in this reading from Mark's gospel. Jesus' power is not only independent of his family connection—it is hindered by it. While it isn't entirely clear why the people of Nazareth reject Jesus, the fact that they do may sound familiar to us. How often do we find exactly what we expect when we encounter something new? How open are we, really, to the possibility that God's power might come from an unexpected corner? The first part of today's reading suggests that even miracles take two things: both divine power and willing witnesses.

Perhaps Jesus sends his disciples out stripped of their possession precisely so that *they* are ready to witness to God's power in a new way. They go without any of the usual trappings of security or wealth, with no guarantee that their ministry will be received. In fact, Mark reminds us a few verses later (Mark 6:14-28) just how hostile the world can be to receiving the proclamation of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist will lose his life because of Herod's resistance to repentance. Nevertheless, Jesus' teaching continues to astound, and the word continues to spread.

The willingness to bear witness, even when we are not certain of answered prayer or mission success, is a theme that unites all this day's readings. Even the Psalm, in its simple gaze of faith, invites us to let go of results in favor of relationship. Paul's sometimes confusing logic about spiritual experiences becomes clear as he sums up God's word to him: "My grace is sufficient for you" That is a powerful word, which can make almost any experience an opportunity to witness to Christ's power.

