

About Bethel Lutheran Church

Bethel has been serving the Grove City community since 1968, ministering to its members and friends, supporting Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and LSS Food Pantry.

Bethel is in partnership with nearly 9,000 sister congregations, 26 Lutheran colleges (including Capital University, Bexley and Wittenberg, Springfield), 7 seminaries (including Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Bexley, 240+ world-wide missionaries in more than 40 countries and non-profit social services network, Lutheran World Relief...all ministries of the 4-million-member **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.)**. Bethel Lutheran Church is also home to The Amazing Kids Academy Preschool, Stephen Ministries, AA groups, as well as other community organizations.

Bethel Lutheran Church is a member of Pride in Grove City.

An "Open and
Affirming" Congregation

Welcome

We, the members of Bethel Lutheran Church, Grove City, Ohio, believe the following statement represents our commitment and desire to reach out and welcome those in need of and searching for God's love.

We believe we are all created in God's image and are all called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnic background, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and theological backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will continually strive to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

We proclaim the "good news" of the Gospel - that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to reunite us with God's plan for abundant life now, here in time, and for eternity. Despite our own sins and failings, we are **loved, forgiven, redeemed, and called** to be reflections of God's love in our dealings with all people. The free gift of God's love drives us into care for those most in need and who often subsist at the margins of our society. We work intentionally against racism homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, sexism and other attitudes or actions of prejudice and hate and for the care of creation. We seek to be an anti-racist community that seeks to stand up against the insidious power of white supremacy and Christian Nationalism.

As a church, we are liturgical and sacramental: that is, we follow rites and rituals for worship that connect us with those who have gone before and those who will come long after our time on earth is past. Our liturgy is a "to do" list for "the work of the people" in worship - confession, absolution (assurance of forgiveness), prayers, proclamation of the Gospel lessons and learning through scripture and preaching and celebrating the sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) acts of redemption instituted by Christ himself. Worship prepares us for our service to others in **lives of gratitude for what God has done for us** - for encountering Christ in the needs of others, and for loving our neighbors as ourselves. We rely on the Scriptures (both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible) as the source and guide of our teachings, knowing that the Holy Spirit can lead to new understandings and applications of God's word in our lives.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 15, 2024

MEMBERS AT HOME

John & Madge Triance
Helene Glenn
Rafi & Gloria Melendez
Cy & Linda Wolske
Dennise Hunt

HOSPICE

Roy Klaus (at home)

MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING

Ann Schmidbauer & Bill Smith (Traditions)

Jean Spillman & Martha Massie (Ashford)

Gail Wilcox & Dianna Klaus (Carriage Court)

Carol Pozz, Marie Leitz & Dick Wirtz (Storypoint)

RECEIVING CANCER TREATMENT: Kenny Hoffman and others.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Zack Adams, Fran Day, Jonathan Harberts, Andria Canning, Amy Emmelhainz, Mark Mayers, Teresa Benedetto, Jon Moore, Evan Hastings, Jayne Mayers

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN BY The Stotts family in memory of Gary Stotts (Corry's father).

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Dec. 15 Advent III - One more powerful is coming

Dec. 22 Advent IV - My soul magnifies the Lord

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

4:00 p.m. Children/Family Service

7:00 p.m. Traditional Candle Lighting

11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00 a.m. **One Service Only**

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRIES: We are packing each bag with the same items each month. Here is a list of the items that are needed:

1 box cereal	1 can/jar of pasta sauce	1 can of chicken/tuna	1 box pasta
1 can of soup	1 jar peanut butter	1 can of fruit	1 can of vegetables

DEC. SERVICE EMPHASIS: Angel Tree for Monterey Care Facility, Adopt-A-Family and Hat/Mitten Tree for Stiles Head Start. See the Narthex bulletin board for more details.

JOIN IN EUCHRE FUN: We meet on the 3RD Sunday of the month (**TODAY**), at 4 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Refreshments are always appreciated but not required!

KNITTING GROUP: Come to the knitting group if you enjoy knitting or just want to learn how! The group meets the *last Saturday of each month*, 2-4 p.m. in the Fishbowl Room!

COUPLES RETREAT: Jan. 24-25, 2025. **\$200 PER COUPLE** (includes a lite dinner & breakfast!) The Drury Inn offers an evening lite meal such as tacos, chicken fingers, hot dogs, etc. and a breakfast buffet. You can arrive as early as 4 p.m. and enjoy the pool and hot tub. Please drop check in collection plate or at the church office, **no later than December 15th** and add "Couples Retreat" in the memo.

CHOIRS: Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. for Gabriel and 7:00 p.m. for Chancel. Anyone interested in singing, contact our Choir Director, Bree Johnson at 614-266-5940 or email froggieteacher@twc.com. All are welcome to sing in the choir, young and old.

YOUTH EVENTS & INFORMATION:

- Youth Nights - December 19
- HS Christmas Party-December 15 after late service
- Children's Choir-Practices on December 15
- Perform on December 22nd-late service & 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR STARK: Song of Solomon

Most folks will be more familiar with it as Song of Solomon, for thus it is entitled in both the King James and Revised Standard Versions of the Bible. Despite all that has been written about it, little agreement has been reached. There is both a broad difference of opinion and a variety of interpretations. Runs through December.

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP: Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to have a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. The cost is \$10.00, and you can take your poinsettia home after the last Christmas Eve Service (11 p.m.).

FLOWER CHART 2025: The new flower chart is up on the bulletin board near drinking fountains! If you want to sponsor flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, the cost is \$35.00, which can be placed in the collection plate.) We have a church group of flower arrangers who will make a beautiful bouquet, and you may take it home after the last service. (please return vase)

RESPONSE CARDS: Thank you to our Bethel members for returning your response cards! If you haven't yet, please do so. If you need another form, they can be found at the Usher's table or in the office.

SUN Dec 15	MON Dec 16	TUE Dec 17	WED Dec 18	THU Dec 19	FRI Dec 20	SAT Dec 21	SUN Dec 22
Worship Service 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	A.A. 7:00 p.m.	Council 7:00 p.m. At Pastor Ray's home	Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Gabriel 7:00 p.m. Chancel	Youth Night 6:00- 7:30pm	A.A. 7:00 a.m.		Worship Service 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

VISITOR ORIENTATION (NEW MEMBER CLASS): On Saturday, January 11 at 10 am all visitors/friends/guests who have been attending Bethel for a while may join us to talk about Bethel, her ministries and how exactly to become a member of this faith community. Call the church office or Pastor Ray to RSVP.

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL: Ken Linn, Ann Hoffman, Kat Wenger, Andrea Canning, Marcia Gormley, Amy Phipps, Allison Garriga, Sari Klepacz, May Meeks and Heather Terry.

NEW IN ADVENT: The altar table starts as far back as we can see in our sanctuary. It will move toward the assembly, every week, as a symbolic way to see God coming near to us this Advent/Christmas. There are also Three candles instead of four up near the table. This will increase weekly to imitate our Advent Wreath. There will be no second reading this season so that we might better make connection between Old and New testaments.

Pastor Ray is back at work! He will be in the office and at his home during his rehabilitation. If you need him for anything, please call the church office.