

## 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 29, 2024

### MEMBERS AT HOME

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

### HOSPICE

Roy Klaus (at home)

### HOSPITALIZED:

Carolyn Janney (Dr's W)

### MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING

Ann Schmidbauer & Bill Smith (Traditions)

Jean Spillman (Ashford)

Gail Wilcox & Dianna Klaus (Carriage Court)

Carol Pozz, Marie Leitz & Dick Wirtz (Storypoint)

### RECEIVING CANCER TREATMENT:

Kenny Hoffman and others.

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Cheryl Dempsey, Julie Evans, Marie Lietz, Ben Hunt, May Meeks, Carla Bletsch, Brandy Digangi, Brock Morgan Haley Rauch

### FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN BY:

Rafi and Gloria Melendez in honor of their 57th anniversary.

**SYMPATHIES:** To the family of Martha Massie.

### Coming Soon: Epiphany - A Limited Series!

Jan. 12 Episode 1: Jesus gets dunked

Jan. 19 Episode 2: Jesus goes to a wedding

Jan. 26 Episode 3: Jesus returns to his home church

Feb. 2 Episode 4: Jesus gets in a fight

Feb. 9 Episode 5: Jesus goes fishing

Feb 16 Episode 6: A radical message

Feb. 23 Episode 7: Jesus asks the impossible

**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

**FOOD PANTRY MINISTRIES:** We are packing each bag with the same items each month. Here is a list of the items that are needed: If you bring these items to church, please set them on the table in the hallway across from the Fellowship Hall door.

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 vegetables   | 1 can of fruit           |

**JOIN IN EUCHRE FUN:** We meet on the 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of the month, 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!

**CRAFTY GROUP:** Will be meeting Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>., & March 21<sup>st</sup>. 4-9:30 p.m. Come join the group, you can bring your own crafts to work on or there are cards and other crafts you can do when you come!

**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. **Last call!**

**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](mailto:froggieteacher@twc.com). All are welcome to sing in the choir, young and old. There will be no practice on 1/1/2025.

**YOUTH EVENTS & INFORMATION:**

- Middle School Mixer – Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. Please See Jennifer Bueter for more details.
- Youth Nite – Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.
- Mid-Ohio Food Bank – Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>

**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)

**OFFERING ENVELOPES 2025:** For those of you who still give by hand, you may pick up your 2025 offering envelopes in the Narthex.

**GUIDING LIGHT GROUP: (retired, seniors – everyone !)** Lunch and a Movie! Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. We will meet for a box lunch before watch “Conclave”. Pastor Ray will lead the event. \$5.00 to help cove costs of lunch, if you can.

SUN Dec 29	MON Dec 30	TUE Dec 31	WED Jan 1	THU Jan 2	FRI Jan 3	SAT Jan 4	SUN Jan 5
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	A.A. 7:00 p.m.			Martha Massie Funeral 11:00 a.m.	A.A. 7:00 a.m.		Worship Service 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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

**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. Please remember he is bound to his boot, scooter, and Valorie!

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN WORSHIP:**

- Cross Bearer – carry the cross in at the beginning of worship/out at the end
- Book Bearer – carry the book in at the beginning of worship/out at the end

These opportunities are open to all ages (need to be able to lift)  
Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex to receive more information and look for a practice date.

**A.V./STREAMING MINISTRY:** Interested in helping revamp & revitalize some well-worn equipment? Want to help with how we produce our on-line product? Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to find out more about these next few exciting months.