

Easter Sunday April 20, 2025

Worship Services 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that <u>all</u> of God's people are always welcome here at Bethel.

If you would like to know more about Bethel Lutheran, her pastor, the Rev. Peter I. Ray, or any of the parish's programs and activities, please contact the church office (875-0510). You may also check out our website by scanning the QR code below. Again, welcome; and may you have a blessed week!



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 nonprofit 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)

Worship and young children

All children are welcome in worship. They are a valued part of this faith community. In addition, Bethel's Nursery (for children up to approximately four years of age) has paid staff at both services. This is available to meet the needs of your family and the worshiping needs of the congregation.

We have a "Parentseeker" paging system for optimal communication between nursery and parents worshiping in the sanctuary. Children's bulletins are also available in the narthex for younger children to help them make age-appropriate connections with our weekly themes. Bethel has video monitors in the narthex and hallways if your child gets restless.

Today's Biblical Theme

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- Quiet reverence before the liturgy allows prayer and meditation
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the Sanctuary during Worship
- Throughout the service, C means the congregation responds as the **bold print** indicates.
- As a worship courtesy, please silence or turn off all cellular phones and other communication devices during the service.

Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(please stand and face the baptismal font)
THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

P Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C make us one as you are one.

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

C make us one as you are one.

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

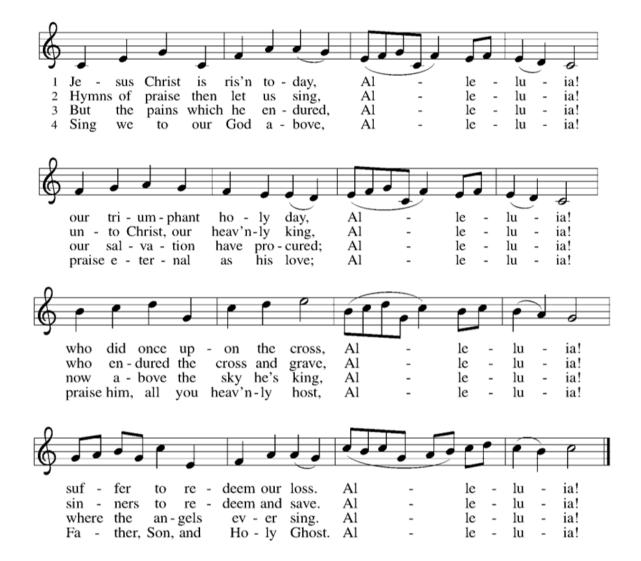
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C make us one as you are one.

P Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C Amen.



APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending



FIRST READING (10:30)

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM (10:30)

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the ¹Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.
²Let Israel ¹ now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."
¹⁴The Lord is my strength ¹ and my song,
and has become ¹ my salvation.
¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents ¹ of the righteous:
"The right hand of the ¹Lord acts valiantly!
¹⁶The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the ¹Lord acts valiantly!"
¹⁶I shall not ¹ die, but live,
and declare the works ¹ of the Lord.

¹⁸The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.
¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.
²⁰"This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter."
²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.
²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
²³By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING (10:30)

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all

.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.
²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;
²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.
²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.
²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

P The Word of the Lord.C Thanks be to God.please stand, as able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded ACS #933, V.1



- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Luke 24:1-12

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ¹ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁶ Then they remembered his words, ⁶ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹¹ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

ACS #933, V.2

(hymn on pg. 11 of bulletin)

(please be seated)

(please stand, as able)



- 1 Thine is the glo ry, ris en, con-qu'ring Son; end less is the 2 Lo, Je sus meets thee, ris en from the tomb! Lov ing ly he
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glo rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! greets thee, scat-ters fear and gloom; out thee; aid us in our strife; An - gels in bright rai - ment let his church with glad - ness make us more than con - qu'rors,



hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth; through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay. death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring to thy home a - bove.



NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries (*local examples may be named*), that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife (*places or situations may be named*). Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving (especially). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community (communities and neighborhoods may be named). Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace,

C hear our prayer

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(You may share a sign of God's peace such as a handshake, wave, hug or other appropriate greeting.)

(please be seated)

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, and the care of those in need. If you are a first-time visitor, it is our privilege to have you worship with us. Please do not feel the need or obligation to give a financial offering. Your presence is gift enough to God and to us.

Our members and friends have the privilege to participate in faithful financial stewardship. They share their gifts by envelope, direct deposit and other electronic means. Scan the QR Code below where you can give electronically.



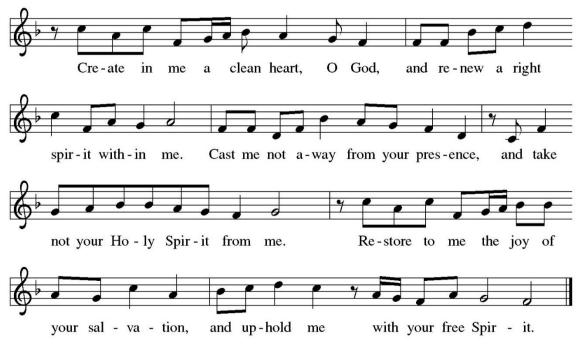
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Because He Lives!

Chancel Choir & Gabriel Choir

(please stand, as able)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

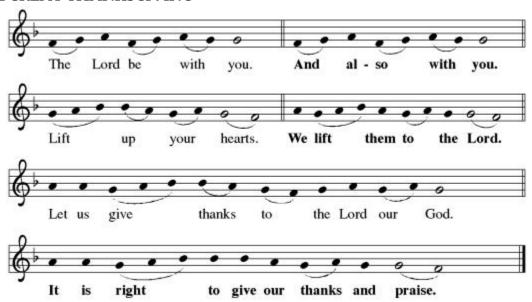


OFFERTORY PRAYER

A The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

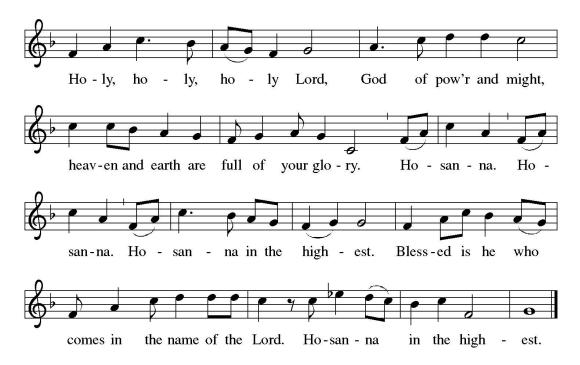




PREFACE



SANTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)



EUCHARIST PRAYER

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

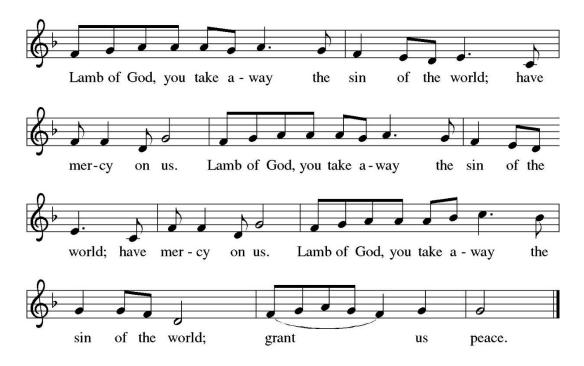
C Amen.

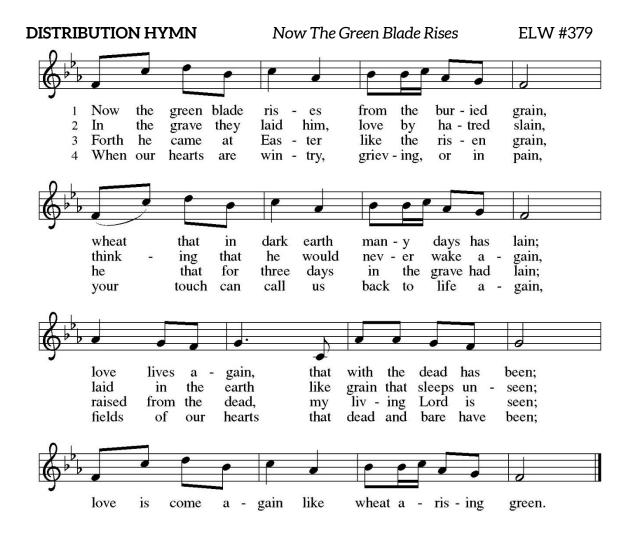
(please be seated)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Bethel welcomes to the Lord's table all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of this meal. Children and adults who want to receive a blessing instead of bread and wine may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward. All are welcome!

AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)





(please stand, as able)

PASTORAL COMMENDATION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.



BLESSING

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

 + bless you now and always.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW #382



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al le lu ia! Ris en our vic to rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead! through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more; now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day. We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears; death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now, See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground; All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears. an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow. Christ was dead, but now is liv-ing; he was lost, but he is found. hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



Bethel's Staff

Lead Pastor: The Rev. Peter I. Ray

Organist/Director of Music: Ward Matthias

Pianist/Associate Musician: Ruth Hiles

Director of Choirs: Bree Johnson

Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Bueter

Nursery Director: Crystal Smith

Pre-School Directors: Kelley Valentine & Cathy Tallman

Church Administrator: Cathy Tallman

Custodian: Jennifer Horvath

Care & Visitation Pastor: The Rev. Jeffrey N. Wise

Retired Visitation Pastor: The Rev. Wil Hallman

Retired/Resource Pastors:

The Rev. Andrew Mazak

The Rev. Joe Stark

The Rev. Joy Miller

A Land Statement

"We acknowledge that we gather as Bethel Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Shawnee and Ofo and Kaskaskia Peoples past and present, including the Adena/Hopewell Cultures, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well."



$MAY4^{TH}$

10:00 A.M. (one worship service)

Luncheon to follow in fellowship hall

YOUTH EVENTS

All Church Camp Out at Bethel: May 31st-June 1st Bring your tents, campers, etc.(no electric available)

Youth Trip to TAO House: (Cincinnati) June $6^{th} - 11^{TH}$ (Sign Up to join them at the Red's game)

VBS: Week of July 20th – 25th



