



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
May 31, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Amplify Our Witness Trinity Sunday

Presiding

Elder Jeff Cady

Announcements / Special Doins

Welcome and Call to Worship

2 Cor 13: 11-14

11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfected; be comforted; be of the same mind; live in peace: and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

12 Salute one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints salute you.

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

***Hymn** "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

CCS #196

***Invocation**

Fred Troeh

***Response** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" **CCS #52**

Prayer for Peace

Sandy Billings

O Prince of Peace,

You have called us to pursue peace and establish the cause of Zion. We understand this as the call to share our peace in all of its personal, interpersonal, community and worldwide dimensions. Help us invite others into our quest for justice and equality. The tendency to feel as though we are too small to engage our voice is difficult to find courage to speak up. This call is not our own, but God's. Most of us here are confident that our own voice has been a blessing for someone who needs to feel this Holy Spirit to salve their wounds. A soft and sympathetic word or a smile demonstrate that Christ is presence, even though the name of Jesus isn't spoken, it is truly who we are. In concert our voices have shown that we

are not alone and will help bear the the music of the chorus that soothes the soul. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen

Focus Moment *As you listen, hear the music*

Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" **CCS #52**

Message for All of Us **Elder Grace Troeh**

Disciples' Generous Response <https://bit.ly/BethelGift>

Moroni 10: 13 (Adapted) "I would exhort you....That you remember that every good gift comes from Christ."

Just as each person's invitation to Christ is important, every gift is important to God and the ministry of the church. We can celebrate the joy by offering our responses to God's invitation and grace.

***Closing Hymn** "Send Me Forth" **CCS #651**

***Closing Prayer** **Kristine Shipley**

***Sending Forth** **D&C 163:2a-b**

2a Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's shalom, invites all people to come and receive Divine peace in the midst of difficult questions and struggles of life. Follow Christ in the way that leads to God's peace and discover the blessings of all of the dimensions of salvation.

2b Generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the living Christ who heals and reconciles through redemptive relationships in sacred community. The restoring of persons to healthy of righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith.

GO IN PEACE

***Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ

bethel.forthrightsystems.com

Pastor

Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer

Jeff Cady

Media Host

David Troeh

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Announcements

- **Sunday 5/31** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Matt. 28:16-20
10:30 am **Amplify Our Witness**—Grace Troeh
Fifth Sunday – Potluck following service
- **Sunday 6/7** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Romans 4:13-25
10:30 am **Grow in Faith**—Jeff Cady
- **Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links:** bethel.forthrightsystems.com
- **Give through eTithing** (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

Recordings

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord - CCS 196 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=HlkvB-NEGvU>

CCS 53 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=9uIzVX-gffg>

Send Me Forth - CCS 651 - The Beyond the Walls Choir (2024)
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=VJ3X8rf59AQ>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week May 31 [Amplify Our Witness](#)

Matthew 28:16-20	Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Next Week Jun 7 [Grow in Faith](#)

Romans 4:13-25	Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Focus Moment Isaiah 40: 1-11

- ¹ *Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.*
- ² *Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she hath received of Jehovah's hand double for all her sins.*
- ³ *The voice of one that cryeth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway for our God.*
- ⁴ *Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the uneven shall be made level, and the rough places a plain:*
- ⁵ *and the glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it.*
- ⁶ *The voice of one saying, 'Cry.' And one said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field.*
- ⁷ *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the breath of Jehovah bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass.*
- ⁸ *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever.*
- ⁹ *O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up on a high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold, your God!*
- ¹⁰ *Behold, the Lord Jehovah will come as a mighty one, and his arm will rule for him: Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.*
- ¹¹ *He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and will gently lead those that have their young.*

The Instrument of Love

Being at a different Midlands MC congregation each week has been outstanding! On Sunday, April 26, I worshipped with the Shawnee Drive Community of Christ.

Worship is so important, *including the time we all take to prepare to worship*. There were specific elements choreographed into the Shawnee Drive Sunday Worship that helped my mind open and warm my heart.

One by one, each person who played a part in the worship wove a thread of **Love** into the tapestry of the worship experience. A critical question asked during the worship was, *What is LOVE to you?* or *What comes to mind when you think of LOVE?*

Many responded to the question. I heard people inferring that Love meant **compassion**. Love means **supporting** others. Love implies **devotion**. Love means being **empathetic**. Love means **support**. Love brought about **acceptance**. Love creates **peace**.

While I didn't answer out loud, as I listened, it was clear that every perspective on Love shared was based on **sacrifice**.

And sacrifice *is* the character of Jesus.

Christlike Love is sacrifice. Sacrifice does not put a priority on individualism or being your most authentic self.

If we love like Jesus, it compels us to **put a priority on sacrificing for others**.

Our church's late Apostle Arthur Oakman once said, *"Sacrifice is the instrument of love; in fact, sacrifice is its only instrument. The only way love knows how to accomplish its purpose is to sacrifice itself, to give itself away.*

And so, my Midlands Sisters and Brothers, I ask that we challenge ourselves to be more relentless in our sacrifice for others. That we reflect the love of Jesus in all we are confronted with.

Love God with all your heart, might, mind, and strength. And love others as you love yourself.

Let sacrificial Love be our priority. The priority for ourselves, for our congregations, and for future new expressions of the Community of Christ.

Shalom, Shalom. Rob



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Online Education

Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

Information and \$25 enrollment at graceland.edu/CIMM.

May 4 – June 28

- **Introduction to Scripture** – David Lloyd
- **CYW Core Training**



CIMM Sessions

Broadcast live and free on **Zoom at 7:00pm most Wednesdays**.

Register at graceland.edu/cimmssessions.

- May 6 – **Reunion 2026 Adult Class #4**
- May 13 – **Reunion 2026 Adult Class #5**

World Church Facebook Group

We're excited to announce a new Facebook group hosted by the World Church Communications Team! Join to find event announcements, updates, and news from around the church. Platforms like Facebook and Instagram are now designed to reach people who don't follow us yet. This means our public pages are better for introducing Community of Christ to new people than for staying connected with those who already know us. The new Facebook group is where we'll connect directly with members, seekers, and friends. We encourage you to keep following and sharing from our public social media because every share helps more people find our message of Christ's peace. Join at bit.ly/CofCFBGroup.

Youth Leader Check-In

12 pm or 8 pm Friday, May 22

Local congregational leaders and teachers, mission center youth leaders, and youth camp directors are encouraged to attend to hear updates, build community, and share encouragement before the busy camping season. The check-in will include more information about the new Camping Guide, updates to the Registered Child and Youth Worker training, and information about upcoming national and international youth events. Register here at bit.ly/YLCheckInMay26.

Historic Sites Tour to Australia

September 5 – 18

Trace the footsteps of the early missionaries and hear stories about Australia's founding church members. Visit the beautiful Tiona reunion ground as well as famous sites such as the Sydney Opera House, the Great Barrier Reef, and so much more! Extend your travels with optional pre- and/or post-tours filled with church history, scenic views, fellowship, and delicious foods. Information at bit.ly/CofCAustralia26.

International Peace Forum

Seeds of Peace: Environmental Justice and Action

October 16 – 18

The event builds on the tradition of the International Peace Colloquy, offering worship, learning, and community engagement. All are welcome! Registration is now open! cofchrist.org/peace-forum

Experience Summer Camp!!

Youth Camps 2026

June 5–16 — Caravan \$500 **POSTPONED TO 2028**
June 28–July 3 Junior/Middle School Camp \$335 (\$355 after 5/15)
July 12–19 Spectacular @ Graceland \$495 (\$595 after 6/30)
July 12–17 Camp MITIOG @ Doniphan
July 23–25 Youth Quest @ Olathe

Family Camps (Reunion)

Doniphan – Excelsior Springs, MO – June 18 to 22
Joint event with Central Missouri Mission Center
Guest Minister: Apostle Richard James

Chihowa – Perry, KS – July 5 to 10
Guest Minister: Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
Directors: Dawn & Greg Bassett



Family Camp Prices (Early Bird/Regular)

Age	Doniphan*	Chihowa
Adults (age 16+)	\$360	\$260
Youth (age 13-15)	\$320	\$170
Children (age 5-12)	\$320	\$125
Children (age 0-4)	FREE	\$25

*Price for main lodge, cabins and RVs are cheaper



Register NOW

- YOUTH: www.midlandsmc.org/camps Find camp & click “Register Here”
- FAMILY CAMP www.midlandsmc.org/family : Find your camp and choose “Pay” now (credit card) or “PAY LATER” (check, cash, credit)

Camperships are available: bit.ly/MMCcampership26. **Application forms must be submitted TWO WEEKS prior to the event.** If you have questions, please contact mcfoteam@midlandsmc.org.