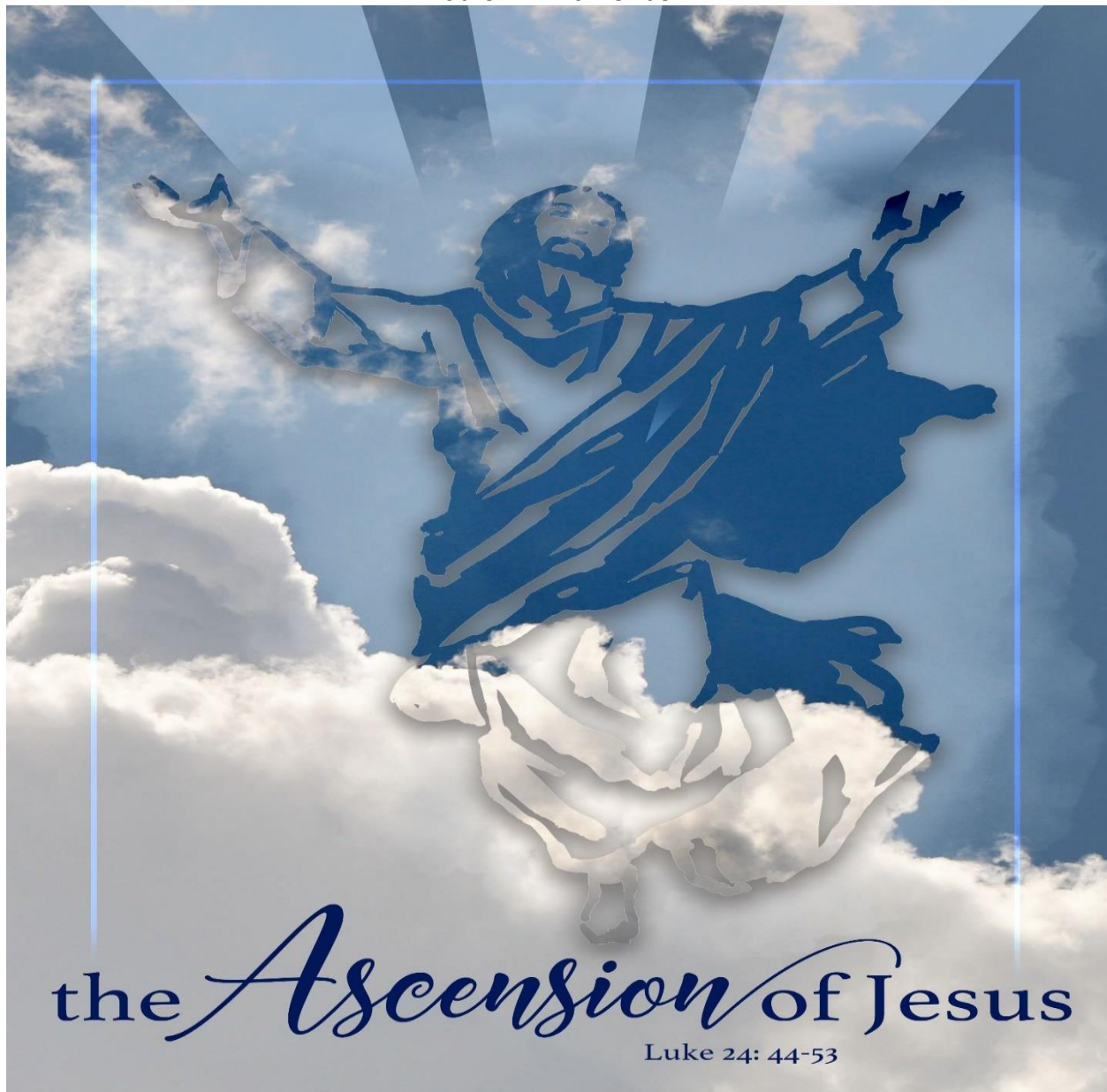


Sunday, May 21, 2023
The Ascension of Jesus
Pastor Kim Swenson



GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 on this terrestrial ball we at his feet may fall!
 to him all majesty ascribe We'll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all. and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5–6

Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

**When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.

**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, Almighty God, **your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Choir

Go Ye Into All the World

WORD

First Lesson: Acts 1: 1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 47 (read responsively by verse)

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.
²**For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**
³who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;
⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**
⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.
⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**
⁷For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.
⁸**God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**
⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The Word for All Ages

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

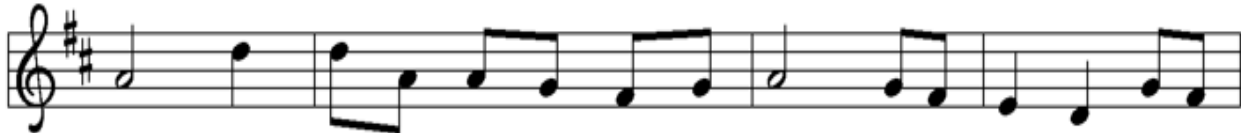
Sermon



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers
 sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav-ior!" thus they
 sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.
 say, "this is his glo-rious tri-umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
 see re - turn-ing in great maj - es - ty."
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Ever-present God, root your church firmly in you. Let us neither become entranced staring up into the heavens, nor distraught by the suffering of the world. Teach us to see you in every face, every place, and every moment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the cosmos, you cradle creation in your loving arms and anoint it with signs of your presence. In the budding of flowers, the birth of a baby, and the formations of the land and sky, reveal your abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, your reign is above us, around us, beneath us, and beside us. As you rule the cosmos with justice and mercy, pour out your Spirit upon those in authority, that they serve humbly and justly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship, provide clarity and direction for those experiencing life transitions—in births and deaths, new employment and new relationships, divorces and departures. We pray for those receiving new diagnoses or undergoing treatment for illness or injury. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Immanent God, in you we live, move, and have our being. Draw us closer to you and clothe us in your power. Encourage those preparing for baptism, those affirming their baptism, and all who are assuming new roles in this congregation's ministrie. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

God of welcome, you call us to feast at your eternal banquet. We give thanks for those who came before us, whose lives witnessed to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

MEAL

Offering Prayer

We give because we are abundantly blessed. We are given more than we need, so we can give to those in need. We give joyfully and humbly, knowing we are simply following the way Jesus gave himself to us.

Let us pray, Merciful God,
our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance,
just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again at this table
for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living, you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths
to praise you again: **The earth is full of your glory. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Communion Hymn



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Go to the World

Insert



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistant

Assisting Minister:	Kay Zastrow
Reader:	Sharon Hilla
Altar Guild:	Kathy Long
Communion Assist	Terri Hilbert
Ushers:	Carl Andrews & Doug Scholes
Video Tech:	Pegi BeDell
Fellowship Hour:	Linda Grunewald & Gaye Richardson

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Thank you to Linda Grunewald and Gaye Richardson for providing Fellowship Hour today. Please if you are able to help on a future date, June through August sign up in the hallway.

Pastor's Recovery: As you know Pastor's surgery went well and she is on the mend. She will return on a part-time basis. For pastoral emergencies please call pastor first. If not available Pastor Jennifer of Good Shepherd in Howard may be called 920-737-8202.

First Communion Class: A preparation class will be held on **Tuesday, May 30th at 6pm**. The invitation is for all children in 1st -4th grade, and older students who have not yet taken 1st communion. We will be using the material, *A Place for You* by Daniel Erlander, to help your child/children understand the importance of this special meal and how they are invited to the table. This session is for **students and parents. Please let Pastor know if you will or will not participate.** 1st Communion will be June 4th.

Summer Worship: Midweek summer worship will begin Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 pm.

Memorial Day Remembrance: Memorial Day is right around the corner. This is the day we honor the men and women who died while serving their country. Many gave some---and some gave all. Lets honor these Veterans and remember them always. Please share with us the names of those to be remembered at Worship on Sunday, May 28th. Call Bethel Lutheran Church 920-494-3737 and leave the name and branch of service with the Administrative Assistant Deb. Example: Donald D. Sigl-Army. Veterans Day is in November, we would also like

a list of living Veterans within this membership so they can be honored for their service. Thank you and God Bless our Veterans.

NEW Shelter Meal: Sunday, June 11th. Sign-up is in the hallway.

Bike Blessing & Tune-up: Bethel's 2nd Annual Bike Blessing & Tune-up will be held on Sunday, June 11th. Worship will be at 9am in the parking lot with the celebrations happening afterwards. Bring your bike for a free tune-up and a blessing for this season on the road. If you have a yard sign from last year, please bring it to the office as soon as possible so it can be updated with the proper information. Yard signs will be available mid-May.

Landscape Edging Donations: Donation cards available in hallway for those who would like to remember a loved one through a donation for the landscape edging.

Copyright and Streaming Licenses:

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #22041

CCLI License #2623795

One License #734715-A
