

# Bethel

Sunday, April 16, 2017

## WELCOME TO BETHEL

### WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to you? Is it simply an event in the far distant past with little relevance for 2017, or does it affect how you think and act each day?

Many people look at Resurrection Sunday as an occasion to buy new clothes and make their twice-yearly visit to a church. But it's more than just a day to celebrate an empty tomb and then move on with life as if nothing has changed.

Since we didn't personally witness the resurrection with our own eyes, imagining the reality of that first resurrection morning can be difficult. Not only that, our familiarity with the story can make it easy to overlook the stunning magnitude of what really transpired. We run the risk of taking the resurrection for granted and missing the powerful impact that it should have on us today.

In 1 Corinthians 15:13-17, the apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of the resurrection's importance by describing what would have happened if Jesus had not been raised: our faith would be worthless! Even worse, we would still bear the guilt for every sin we've ever committed—with no hope of forgiveness, salvation, or of eternal life in heaven. If Jesus had not been raised, His death would have accomplished nothing.

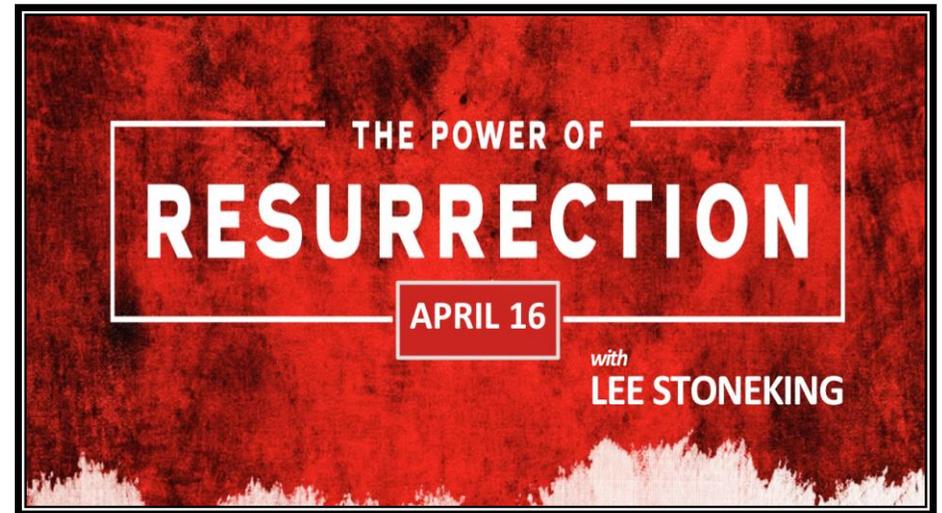
That's why Resurrection Sunday is

an awesome reason for an exuberant and over-the-top celebration. Jesus died in our place to satisfy the requirement for our atonement—a price far too high for us to pay. His resurrection proves that God was satisfied with His sacrifice (Romans 3:25) and counted it sufficient for the forgiveness of all our sins (1 Cor. 15:20-23). And because of this, we too can be resurrected and receive everlasting life. This living hope enables us to rejoice, not just on Resurrection Sunday, but every day, even in the midst of our trials and suffering (1 Peter 1:3-9).

So if we think of Resurrection Sunday as just another day, we've really missed the point. Because Jesus is alive, everything about life has changed! His resurrection should affect our character and conduct. It should affect our attitude and faith, our purpose and mission. It should change the way we view life and face life. It's simple, yet profound: the resurrection simply changes everything!

Today, celebrate the resurrection with your Spirit-filled brothers and sisters. Sing joyously and listen in awe once again to the story of the empty tomb. Don't allow the familiarity of the event to steal your wonder and appreciation. Look forward with joy to that day when He will return and resurrect all those who have the same Spirit within them that raised Him from the dead. (Romans 8:11) And remember; keep living in the newness of life that He's provided for us through the power of His resurrection!

Christ  
is  
Risen!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**  
*This Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 PM*  
*Classes for children, youth & adults*
- **BETHEL TEEN SCENE (BTS)**  
*This Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 PM*
- **STARTING POINT**  
*This Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 PM*  
*In the Multi-purpose Room*  
*(For those who are new to Bethel)*
- **PURPOSE INSTITUTE**  
*This Friday & Saturday, April 21 – 22*  
*For Registered Students only*
- **THROUGH THE BIBLE CLASSES**  
*Will begin next Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10 AM*  
*Please sign-up in the Lobby*
- **DISCIPLESHIP CLASS 1 & 2 COMMENCEMENT**  
*Next Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – during service*
- **WOMEN'S PRAYER**  
*Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 PM*
- **BYG SERVICE (Youth)**  
*Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM*

Church bulletin and events  
are listed at [www.BethelUPC.org](http://www.BethelUPC.org)

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR SPECIAL REHEARSALS

*April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, & May 7<sup>th</sup>*  
*In the Multipurpose Room*

*For children ages 4 – 11 & age 12 if they  
are not part of the Youth Choir*

The Children's Choir will be singing in the worship service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be special choir rehearsals for the children on the three Sundays preceding Mother's Day.

On those 3 Sundays, parents of children ages 4–5 should sign their children in at 11:45 AM and sign them out at the dismissal of service.

Parents of children ages 6–12 should sign their children in at 11:45 AM and sign them out at 1:00 PM.

**Please Note:** Children ages 6–12 must return to the sanctuary with their parent at 1:00 PM.

Please do your best to be on time for all rehearsals as there will not be a practice CD for the children to take home.