

TENETS OF FAITH



The Bible:

Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) Luton, accepts as its creed, discipline, rules of order and doctrine the Word of God as taught and revealed by the Holy Ghost (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:9-13).

“All scriptures are given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”
(II Timothy 3:16-17).

We stand for all scripture when rightly divided.

The One True God:

“God is a Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and truth”:
(John 4:24).

There is but one God, in essence and in person, from whom and in whom there is a divine three fold manifestation and relationship made known as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

As *Father*, God is creator, source, origin and progenitor of all that is, things and souls. He is the self-existent, omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent one.

As *Son*, God became the perfect Man that He intends all men to be like. Thus, as Son He redeems man from sin, coming into the world and assuming personality through the miracle and mystery of the virgin birth. “In his own body He bore our sins” and wrought redemption through death for all mankind. “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”.

As *Holy Ghost*, God is regenerator and perfecter of those who believe, the organiser and baptiser and sustainer of the Church, the divine executor of the world.

God as Father is Creator and first cause of all existence; as Son He is the redeemer in time, and as the Holy Spirit, He is Regenerator – The Lord Jesus Christ our saviour and this is the true God and eternal life”.

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life (1 John 5:20)

TENETS OF FAITH



Thus, we believe that Jesus was both human and divine; God manifest in the flesh, the eternal Father made visible apart from whom there is no God.

Salvation – How Obtained

As members of the Body of Christ, which is the true church (Eph. 1:22-23), the Word of God declares that there is one way of entrance therein “by one spirit are we all baptised into one body”. Believers are added to the church and believers accept His Spirit, His Name and His nature. Thus they are born of “water and the spirit” (1 Cor. 12:12-27; Gal. 3:26-28; Romans 6:3-8; John 3:5; Acts 2:38).

Salvation – God’s Standard of Living

We believe in, and earnestly contend for, God’s standard of salvation. The Word of God reveals nothing short of a Holy Spirit filled life with signs following as on the day of Pentecost. (Mark 16:16-17; Acts 2:4; 8:14-17; 9:17-18; 10:44-48; 19:1-6; Romans 12:12; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15).

Those admitted to membership must subscribe to God’s standard of salvation in full accord with the teaching of the same as set forth in the Bible:

All members shall take as their rule of conduct the Word of God and shall conform outwardly and inwardly in their daily walk and conversation to its teachings (Gal. 6:16).

The Sacraments of:

BAPTISM – We baptise by full immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ because it is Apostolic in origin and practice (Acts 2:38; 8:12-17; 10:47-48). Bible students agree that the apostles founded and gave direction to the Church of God, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. Their teachings and doctrines are the fundamental principles upon which the church is built. In the days of his flesh, Jesus taught his disciples the plan of salvation. According to Acts 2:38 the apostles obeyed the commandments of Jesus Christ and became the first in the long line of believers to baptise in the name of Jesus Christ. Thus baptising in the name of Jesus Christ is not only Apostolic in origin, but in practice as well. No other mode of baptism is to be found in the New Testament. For more than one hundred years after Pentecost, believers were baptised only in the name – Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins.

TENETS OF FAITH

The logo for Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) Luton features a stylized dove with its wings spread, rendered in shades of purple and yellow. Below the dove, the word "BETHEL" is written in a large, purple, serif font. Underneath "BETHEL", the text "United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) Luton" is written in a smaller, purple, sans-serif font.

We do not baptise babies/infants. We bless them or dedicate them to the Lord as early as possible after birth. It is the duty or privilege of parents to dedicate their children to God, thereby claiming God's covenant and promises to parents and children.

THE LORD'S SUPPER – The Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord. It was an act first instituted by the Lord to show forth an example of commemorating His suffering and death. The twelve disciples were witnesses as narrated by Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Lord's Supper is a sacred rite to be carried out by the Christian Church. It cannot be neglected without suffering serious harm and incurring the gravest responsibility.

We believe the "fruit of the vine" and unleavened bread to be the proper elements for this ordinance. As to time, place and frequency of observation, we have no direct scriptural teaching. Our custom is to observe it as often as possible (1Cor 11:23-32; Luke 22:28; Matt. 26:26-29).

FEET WASHING – We believe that this ordinance is as much a divine command as any other New Testament ordinance. Jesus gave us an example that we should do even as he had done. He said that we ought to wash one another's feet. Again, "if ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them" (John 13:4-17). There is scriptural evidence that feet washing was practiced by the Church in the days of Apostle Paul (1 Tim. 5:10).

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We believe it is both a privilege and a duty, plainly enjoyed in the Bible to make regular, systematic and proportionate contributions, tithes and offerings, for the support of the ministry of the Church and for the propagation of the gospel in our own and foreign lands, and for the relief of the poor. This should be done as an exercise of grace and as an act of worship.

We believe in the Apostolic principle and custom of financing the Church and its programme through tithes and free-will offerings. An offering is what is given of free will in honour and sacrifice to God, above one's tithes (Exodus 25:1-5; Numbers 18:20-26; Genesis 14:18-20; Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3:6-10; Gal. 3:29; Matthew 23:23).