



The Bethel Newsletter

October 2022

Porter, Minnesota

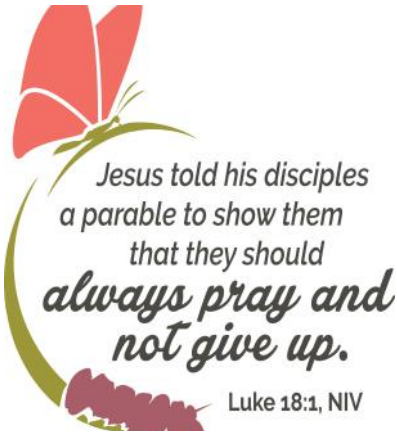
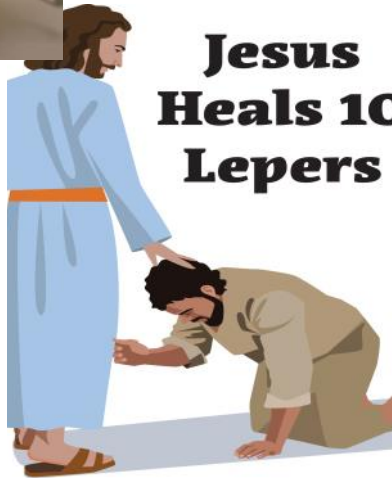
October



October 2

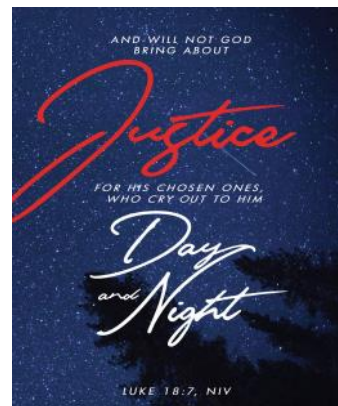
October 9

Jesus Heals 10 Lepers



October 16

October 23



October 30



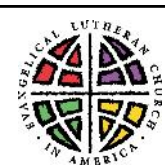
October 30,

Worship with

Communion at 10:00 am

Inside this Issue

Birthdays/ Council info	2
Pastor's Message	3
Board Reports	4
Current & Upcoming Events	5
Monthly Financial Update	6
Workgroup Schedule	7
Calendar/ Bible Readings	8
Kids' Page	9



Bethel Lutheran Church is affiliated with the Southwest Synod of Minnesota of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Bethel Lutheran Church
 P. O. Box 126
 2429 County Hwy 16
 Porter, MN 56280

Telephone: (507) 296-4658

Office Hours at the Church:
 Wednesday —9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

E-mail address: bethel@bethelofporter.com

Website: bethelofporter.com

Pastor Rev. Ellen Munter 296-4558 (home)
 507-828-1000 (cell)
 Email: pastormunter@gmail.com

Your Church Officers

President	Randy Kamrath	507 530-4417
Vice President	Mike Knutson	507-829-2767
Treasurer	Deana Moeller	507 530-5816
Financial Sec.	Josh Sumption	296-4497
Secretary	Sue Alley	507-530-1628

Deacons

Linda Bruns	296-4645
Tracy Wente	296-4623
Dawn Gawerecki	507 828-6087
Terry Dybsetter	296-4401
Sara Wollum	507 829-8513

Trustees

Jerome Bruns, Chair	296-4645
Brian Mamer	507 829-8708
Roger Longhenry	296-4422
Bob Merritt Jr	296-4436
Lance Moeller	507 530-5814

Board of Education

Paula Syltie	507 828-3587
Shelly Schrunk	507 530-3714
Anna Kamrath	507 530-5558
Amber Moeller	
Charlotte Wilke	507 829-4790
Katie Munter-youth	
Lillie Wollum-youth	

Custodian

Tom Gawerecki	507-828-6099
---------------	--------------



October Birthdays

1st Gloria Fredricks
 2nd Nick Wollum, Martin Syltie
 4th Lindsey Syltie Dahl
 6th Nancy Syltie, Angela Heideman
 7th Janelle Meier
 9th Kristen Petersen
 11th Mason Merritt
 13th Elin Gunlogson
 19th Ashley Mamer, Marlys Petersen
 20th Clayton Lalim, Brian Mamer
 21st Conner Sik
 26th Ken Jeremiason, Hadley Noyes
 28th Leonard Stone, Hattie VanDerostyne
 29th Penny Anderson, Katie Munter
 30th Roger Longhenry

If you have any corrections or additions, please contact the church office at 296-4658, or email: bethel@bethelofporter.com If your name does not appear in the month of your birthday, it means we don't have your birth date. Thanks!



Ah, October! When every Lutheran's heart turns to the Reformation. I know mine does! And why not? Luther's understanding of Scripture and our relationship with God has been absolutely foundational in my life. The sheer grace found in his discernment of Law and Gospel is freeing in a way I have not found elsewhere. Unfortunately, many Lutherans themselves don't really know what he meant when he spoke of Law and Gospel and miss the overwhelming love and mercy it represents. Having a grasp on what God has done and is continuing to do in Jesus Christ helps us to see – to really comprehend – the grace and mercy of God.

Central to Luther's understanding of Scripture is Law and Gospel. And central to his theology of Law/Gospel is this: The Law drives us to Christ. The Law is just what it sounds like – all the ways we are expected to live as faithful people of God. All the 'thou shalt' and 'thou shalt not's'. The Ten Commandments are the embodiment of the Law. And Jesus' words capture the entirety, both letter and spirit, of the Law:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

How are you going to do that? How are you going to be perfect? And before you say that you don't have to be perfect, have a look at Matthew. Jesus finishes the first part of the Sermon on the Mount (on how to live as people of God) with this summation: “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48) Paul picks up this theme as well in 2 Corinthians 13:9 “For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect.”

We are to be perfect, to keep the Law perfectly. But as you know from your own personal experience, there is no way we can do that. We cannot make ourselves perfect enough for God to save us. Luther is not breaking new ground here. Paul knew this as well.

For “no human being will be justified in His sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)

And no matter how hard we try, we can't stop sinning. Which is where Jesus comes in. The Law is not evil. It is not something to throw out as “so Old Testament.” The Law keeps our society together. It really is better for all of us if we don't murder, steal, lie under oath or sleep with someone else's spouse. But for Luther, the spiritual importance of the Law is that it drives us to Christ.

If God expects perfection and you can't achieve that, what else can you do but throw yourself on the mercy of Christ? Christ Who loves you. Christ Who forgives you. Christ Who died for you. Christ Who took your sins on Himself to the cross, exchanging your sinful self for His perfect one. Luther called this the “Happy Exchange”. Christ takes on our sinfulness and gives us His righteousness. When God looks at us, He doesn't see our sinfulness, but instead He sees Christ.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. (Philippians 3:9)

The Law is given for our good, to restrict our bad behavior and teach us how God wishes us to live together. But the Law also convicts us of our sins, confronts us with our inability to keep it no matter how hard we try. And in the face of that reality we turn to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Good News of His love and forgiveness. The Good News of His death and resurrection. The Good News of His promise to be with us “always, to the end of the age.”

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5.17)

In Christ,

Pastor Munter

CHURCH COUNCIL



The Church Council and Board reports for September 2022

Trustees

Trustee action taken:

Motion was made and second to pay bills.

Discussed the parsonage excessive electric caused by furnace malfunction, Approved reimbursement to Pastor Ellen \$495.64.

Parsonage furnace needs new switch. Discussed a new furnace—the cost is about \$9,000. No action taken. Tabled

Trustees will take care of window air conditioners and picnic table.

Brian, Bob, Brian and Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for September : Sara Wollum
- Coins for community: Canby Hospice
- Communion Dates : October 2, 9, 30
- Will order new candle lighters/snuffers for the church
- Discussion of volunteer drivers for Canby riders.

Terry, Sara, Tracy, Dawn and Linda

Board of Education

No report



Bethel is looking for Sunday Drivers.

Right now, we have two members who are unable to drive and so cannot attend worship here at Bethel. We would like to get a group of six or seven people who would be willing to bring one or both of these members to worship on the first or second Sunday of each month. If we could get at least six drivers, each would only have to drive twice a year.

If you are interested, please contact the church office, Pastor Munter, or any of the Deacons.



Spare Coins for Community

In October we are
contributing our spare coins to
Canby Hospice

Table Setting for
Hospice
luncheon will be at OSL on Octo-
ber 8, 10:00 am,
tickets are available at OSL.



All Saints Sunday is November 6.
If you have a friend or relative who
has died or been baptized since last
November and you would like to
have them remembered on All
Saints Sunday, please leave the
names on the desk in the office by
October 30th.

Monthly Financial Update

Miscellaneous Revenues

The Revenues taken into account are all weekly and holiday offerings as well as special offerings designated to the general account such as Fuel, Missions, and Food Shelf Offerings. This comparison is only for Revenues and Expenses associated with Bethel's responsibility for our parish budget, meaning checks from Hemnes Lutheran Church are not included in the Year to Date Revenue and their 25% share of our

parish budget is not included in the Year to Date Budgeted Expenses. This comparison also does not take into account Refunds and Reimbursements or Savings Reimbursements. These sources of revenue are normally received to pay expenses that are not a part of Bethel's operating budget, so are not used to make comparison to our budgeted expenses.

The Year to Date difference will show on a monthly basis if we are receiving sufficient offerings to cover our budget, or if we are behind. The running total for each month will be in a Year to Date total, not a monthly total.

If it is necessary to borrow money from Savings Reserves to fund the operations of Bethel, the amount will be denoted in the Cash Reserves Expended column. If funds are repaid to the Savings Reserves during a surplus, the repayment will be denoted in the Cash Reserves Repaid column. Reserves Expended and Reserves Repaid are not represented in the Revenues and Expenses columns of this report.



Don't forget that you can donate to Bethel just by shopping at Amazon. Click on this link: smile.amazon.com or type it into your browser, and choose "Bethel" as your charity. There are many, so keep going and you will find a "Bethel" in Porter, MN. That's us! You can change your bookmark for Amazon to be *smile.amazon.com* so it comes up automatically. Then when you shop just look for the "eligible for AmazonSmile" in the product details page and you're good to go!

July and August were great months of stewardship through our offerings! Though we are still over \$12,000 behind on year to date offering to meet our budgeted expenses thus far, our offerings the past two months have put us in a better position than we were in June! With the winter heating months ahead, we need your help to keep the spirit of giving going!

	Year:	2022
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$	126,671.81 *Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses
Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$	10,555.98

Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison-

This report is based on budgeted expenses divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. Actual expenses per month vary greatly. This analysis is to be used as a guideline, and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.

This report now includes revenues received from Hemne Luterhan Church as they are applied to all expenses related to the Bethel-Hemnes Joint Parish.

	Total Revenue for Month	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid	Reserves Repaid Notes
January	\$8,039.85	\$8,039.85	\$10,555.98	-\$2,516.13			
February	\$9,784.73	\$17,824.58	\$21,111.97	-\$3,287.39			
March	\$8,770.48	\$24,674.56	\$31,667.95	-\$6,993.39			
April	\$10,459.73	\$35,009.29	\$42,223.94	-\$7,214.65			
May	\$8,622.45	\$43,631.74	\$52,779.92	-\$9,148.18	-\$5,000.00		
June	\$6,040.58	\$49,672.32	\$63,335.91	-\$13,663.59	-\$2,000.00		
July	\$10,236.24	\$58,805.81	\$73,891.89	-\$15,086.08			
August	\$12,074.48	\$71,983.04	\$84,447.87	-\$12,464.83			
September	\$5,044.22	\$77,027.26	\$95,003.86	-\$17,976.60			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in

November

Bonnie Merritt

Darcy Bruns

Altar Workers for Sundays in

October

Tracy Wentz

Virginia Thomsen

Group #4

Terry and Dan Dybsetter	296-4401
Anna Noyes	507 828-7366
Phyllis and Harvey Melrose	223-5512
Dawn and Tom Gawerecki	507-828-6087 or 507-828-6099
Deanna and Lance Moeller	507 530-5814 or 507 530-5816
Gail and Marlo Sumption	507 828-2860
Ralph Dovre	223-7771
Joy and Randy Schmidt	224-2286
Hattie and Jim VanDerostyne	296-4563
David Dybsetter	296-4648, 507 828-1397
Chad Moeller	507-828-3536
Danny VanDerostyne	507-829-0070
Kayla and Brady Watson	507-829-6745
Barb Pronk	507 401-3263, or 507 828-1404



**Please note: The first person or couple on the list are chair for the next funeral.*

Fall Worship Schedule

Worship

10:00 am

Sunday School

9:00 am



Worship Schedule

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page. Bulletins are e-mailed weekly or available for pickup in the narthex.

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter

Other resources are available on our website. www.bethelofporter.com



Coming Events

Worship with communion will be held on October 2, 9, 30

Worship is Sundays,
10:00 am at Bethel
and Sundays 8:30 am at Hemnes

Confirmation 6:30 pm Wednesday's
Church Council/Boards: Monday,
October 17, 7:30 pm

The attached QR code can be used to directly access the online giving form for Bethel



Readings for the month of October

October 2 Pentecost 13	October 9 Pentecost + 14	October 16 Pentecost + 15	October 23 Pentecost + 16	October 30 Reformation
Habakkuk 1&2: Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15 Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Jeremiah 14:7-22 Psalm 84:1-7 2 Timothy 4:6-18 Luke 18:9-14	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.



What you need:

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.

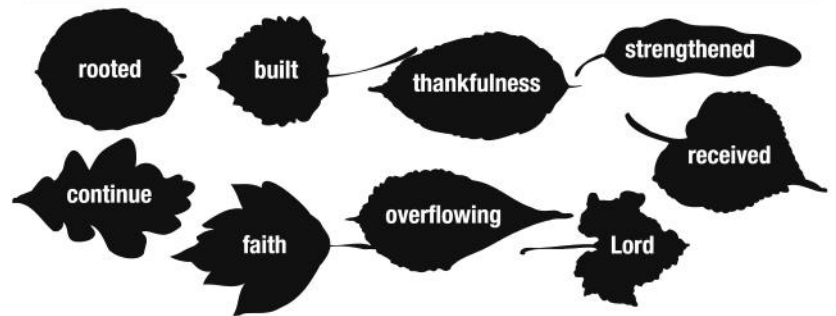
Kids Page



Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves. What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____,
 _____ to live your lives in him, _____ and
 _____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you
 were taught, and _____ with _____.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O Box 126

2429 Co. Hwy. 16

Porter, MN 56280

Bethel Lutheran Newsletter

October 2022

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School 9:00 am

*Live streamed on the Facebook page
and later at bethel@bethelofporter.com*

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter

www.bethelofporter.com

