



# The Bethel Newsletter

January 2019

Porter, Minnesota

## Holy Communion:

Bethel—January 6, & 13  
Hemnes—January 6, & 13

## New Email Address!!

Bethel's new email address is  
[bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com).  
We have closed the frontier.com  
address.

## Bethel Annual Meeting

January 27, 2019

Approximately  
12:00 noon



## Thank You!!!

Bethel meet the December  
special budget offering  
match.

We raised \$7,705.44 so  
including the \$2000  
match, a total of  
\$9,705.44 was raised.

This is the time for all members to  
reflect on the past year and plan  
for the coming year at Bethel.

Share Sunday morning worship, followed  
by congregational potluck and annual  
meeting.

*If you have topics for discussion, talk to Lance  
Moeller, congregation president.*

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Bethel Lutheran Church is affiliated with the South-  
west 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:  
 1st, 2nd & 4th Tues—9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
 3rd Wed—9:30a.m.-12:00 p.m.

E-mail address: [bethellutheran@frontier.com](mailto:bethellutheran@frontier.com)  
 Website: [bethelofporter.com](http://bethelofporter.com)

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

#### Your Church Officers

President	Lance Moeller	296-4634
Vice President	Mike Knutson	507-829-2767
Treasurer	Virginia Thomsen	223-7918
Financial Sec.	Josh Sumption	296-4497
Secretary	Sue Alley	507-530-1628

#### Deacons

Anna Kamrath, Chair	507-530-5558
Martha Melrose	296-4515
Craig Petersen	296-4483
Terry Dybsetter	296-4401
Sara Wollum	223-5844

#### Trustees

Jerome Bruns, Chair	296-4645
Tom Gawerecki	224-2267
Roger Longhenry	296-4422
Bob Merritt Jr	296-4436
Curt Blumeyer	223-7339

#### Board of Education

Tracy Wente, Chair	296-4623
Anna Noyes	296-4477
Carmon Mamer	223-7751
Darcy Bruns	223-7395
Megan Syltie	507-829-9931

#### Custodian

Lou Knutson	296-4489
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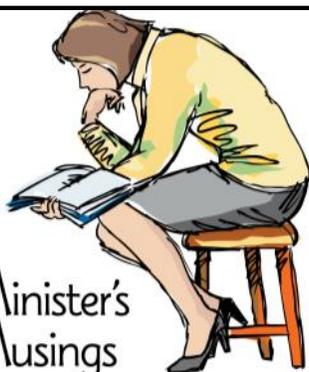


### January Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Brandon Moeller, Janet Hulzebos,  
 Brady Carstens  
 4<sup>th</sup> Mervyn Anderson  
 5<sup>th</sup> Thomas Gawerecki, Jeff Wilke, Amber Moeller  
 6<sup>th</sup> Pearl Knutson, Rose Anderson, Heather Hurt  
 9<sup>th</sup> Todd Blumeyer  
 10<sup>th</sup> Daniel Anderson  
 11<sup>th</sup> McKenzie Evjen, Hailey Evjen,  
 12<sup>th</sup> Jerome Bruns, Jim Moeller  
 15<sup>th</sup> Rich Syltie  
 16<sup>th</sup> Mark Anderson  
 21<sup>st</sup> Cora Meier  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Spencer Moeller, Tulane Alexander  
 24<sup>th</sup> Ellie Dybsetter  
 25<sup>th</sup> John Appelen, Robyn Hulzebos, Amy Drietz  
 27<sup>th</sup> Nicole Kamrath, Chance Negen  
 29<sup>th</sup> Ella Dybsetter

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

## Minister's Musings



“Arise, shine for your light has come!” Isaiah’s words come to us in the context of our Lord’s revelation as the beacon of salvation for the whole world. In response to that, the Epiphany season calls us to rise up, to leap out of those places where we live in spiritual dimness. God calls us to polish our glasses, clean our windows to be able to see with clarity this new thing that has happened. Arise! Shine! We are invited to greet and welcome the light—a luminescence that shines with such magnitude that it melts the icy coldness of our hearts. Epiphany is no wimpy one-candle-in-the-darkness deal, but rather a blast of brightness heretofore unseen. Get up and see it! Bask in its brightness! Behold the light that shines upon us, scattering the darkness of our minds so that we may walk as children of the light .

The light is Christ. Any spiritual light that we have is His, shining in and through us. And indeed, so great is the grace that shines upon us that it seems that our faces, like Moses’, should be glowing with reflected glory. At the very least, our way of living surely will catch the light of Christ’s love and shine it on those around us. Such is the extroverted, mission nature of this season.

The magi followed an unmistakably bright star previously unknown, a luminous sign from God to pay attention. During the season of Epiphany we also celebrate the baptism of Jesus, introducing the one Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. This is a time to celebrate the brightness of being a child of God, washed in the bright waters of baptism, burning again with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

And the brightness carries on through the season. At Cana, Jesus does the first of His signs, revealing His glory. Jesus proclaims the recovery of sight for the blind and freedom for the prisoners in his first sermon in Nazareth. Jesus is a light seemingly too intense for some in His hometown. He invites others into the circle of his light, inviting fishermen to pull in people. Christ is a light that shines where none has before, blessing the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful. And finally comes the dazzling light of the transfigured Lord.

This light is for all people: “a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel” in the words of Simeon. This light and fire of God shines like a laser right into the places where it is most needed. This cleansing light sears away the scales on our eyes, cauterizes the wounds of sin, and halts the gnawing darkness of anxiety. This is a healing light, a refining light, a burnishing light and a purifying light. This light is like no other. This light has the power to save.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter





## The Church Council and Board reports for December 2018

### Trustees:

The following discussion/decisions were made:

Discussed The board moved and second to pay all bills.

The Board presented the 2019 budget to the Church Council.

*Bob Merritt, Curt Blumeyer, Tom Gawerecki and Jerome Bruns*

### Deacons

- Deacon of the Month: Martha Melrose
- Food Shelf: Canby
- Communion Dates for Bethel and Hemnes will be January 6 (*Epiphany of our Lord*) and January 13 (*Baptism of our Lord*).
- The Deacons discussed current visitation and prayer needs.

The Deacons Members Present: *Terry, Anna, & Martha*

### Board of Education:

The Board of Education reviewed the past year and discussed information for the annual report.

They talked about Christmas Program offering and options to where the money can be used.

*Submitted by Carmon Mamer*

## The Challenge of \$10

So what are we doing? We are challenging each of you to use your unique gift(s) plus the \$10, to bring a gift to the manager. First we will give you \$10.00, yes, a ten dollar bill, to use as you choose to bring a gift to the manger, the gift might be a cash offering or the offering of a story of how this affected someone else. We will conclude this challenge on January 27 during worship. We hope your gift will multiply during the month as you use your unique talents and any cash offering will be added to the Bethel's general fund and the stories shared as prayers.



The challenge can done by a family, an individual, a group, child or adult – anyone up for a challenge. Take the \$10 and your imagination to plan how you can use the money and your unique talents to multiply the money or share the love of Christ. *Idea\*\* buy cleaning supplies and offer your services to clean for someone, fix someone's computer etc. The sky is the limit to your ideas.*

Pray about your challenge and the individuals involved. The profit is not the gift. It is possible that you use your \$10 and not have it multiply monetarily but be a gift to someone else. That is great. **It is the gift of ourselves that we offer and how each of us is needed as a part of the church body to support each other.**

*\*\*\* The financial support for this challenge was provided by an anonymous donor.*

## Annual Reports

**Church Boards and Committees:  
Please submit you annual reports to the  
church secretary (office)  
By January 18th.**

*Thank you, Terry*

## ELCA Parish Publication Update

### Seeds of the Parish

Do you receive the paper copy of “Seed of the Parish”? It is being discontinued in paper form but——

If you wish to continue receiving “Seeds” go to **ELCA.org/subscribe** and select Seeds Monthly.

*“For the Sacrament of Holy Communion has no blessing and significance unless love grows daily and so changes a person that they are made one with all others.” —Martin Luther, 1519*

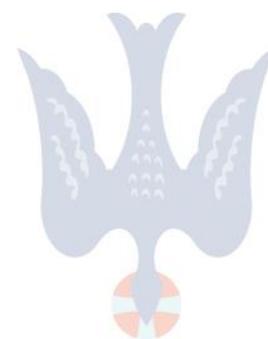
### 2018 Memorial Service

Sunday, January 20, 2019—2:00 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

108 Haarfager Ave North

Canby, MN



This service is dedicated in memory of those who passed away in our communities in the past year, January 1, 2018—December 31, 2018.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

Sponsored by the Houseman Funeral Home and  
Canby Ministerial Association.

## Epiphany In Eastern and Western Christianity

By Rev. George Dion. Dragas Ph.D., D.D.

On the 6th of January Eastern Orthodox and Western Christians celebrate the great Feast of Epiphany (Western) or Theophany (Eastern). This Feast [is] a celebration that goes right back to Christian beginnings and opens up the meaning of the Christian faith and tradition.



Epiphany (from the Greek *epiphaneia*) means “manifestation from above,” that is, “divine revelation.” The Christian feast of the Epiphany primarily entails the manifestation of God in Christ, Christ being manifested as the Son of God and God as the Trinity of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Eastern Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan by John the Baptist or “Forerunner” (in Greek *Prodromos*) as the event of the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God and its corollary, the manifestation of God in Trinity, and also as the event that marks the beginning of Christ’s saving mission. This is particularly revealed in the service of the Great Sanctification of the Waters (*Megas Agiasmos*), which is reminiscent of Christ’s Baptism and constitutes a conspicuous feature of the Eastern celebration.

In the Christian East, Epiphany is the oldest Feast of the Lord next to Pascha (Easter), and was always celebrated on the 6th of January. The first reference to Epiphany is found in Clement of Alexandria at the end of the second century AD. If Pascha marked the climax of the saving work of Christ, Epiphany marked the disclosure of the divine person of Christ who opened up the mystery of God and initiated the process of [our] salvation. Baptism joins human beings to Christ, granting them remission of sins and eternal life through the sanctifying grace of God. The Holy Water blessed at Epiphany is a great blessing that is much treasured by the Orthodox who use it to renew (re-consecrate) themselves and their physical environment.

The Western Epiphany celebrates the veneration of the newborn Christ by the wise Oriental Magi as the event that marks the manifestation of the divinity of Christ to the “nations.” Especially since medieval times, Western Christianity developed an elaborate tradition around these Oriental figures – fixing their number to three and identifying them with three kings, called Melchior, Gaspar (ed. or Caspar) and Balthasar.

The origins of the Feast of the Epiphany in the West are rather obscure. There is a consensus that Epiphany was first introduced in the Western Church from the East in the fourth century about the same time as the new Feast of Christmas took root in the Roman Liturgy, commemorating at first the Birth and the Baptism of Christ. It came to be primarily associated with the visit of the wise Magi to Bethlehem, especially after the establishment of the Feast of Christmas on the 25th of December.

What is the meaning of Epiphany for the Western Church? It is primarily the manifestation of the divine Savior Christ to the gentiles; but it is also the acknowledgment of Christ by the gentiles. This double meaning is expressed by the way the Western Church interpreted the offering of gold, frankincense and myrrh, by the wise Magi. On the one hand it saw these gifts as symbols of the three aspects of Christ’s life, his being king, priest and prophet. On the other hand it re-enacted the offering in various ways by instituting appropriate acts of offering, to the poor, to the church and to the sick.

There is no doubt that both Eastern and Western traditions of Epiphany share a common message: the manifestation of the divine identity and saving work of Christ. The difference lies in ethos and emphasis. The Eastern tradition seems to be more attuned to the dramatic and theophanic aspect of Christ’s ministry, whereas the Western tradition seems to be seeking to follow the historical Jesus as he unfolds his message through his deeds and words. The one is more vertical and the other more horizontal. Combining the two could only be a source of enrichment.



# 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.

### Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison

This report is based on budgeted expenses only, divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. The actual expenses each month may be more or less than was budgeted. This analysis is to be used as a guideline only and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.

This report does not include revenues or expenses regarding the Hemnes Lutheran Church portion of the joint parish budget.

	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid
January	\$5,110.85	\$8,448.13	-\$3,337.28		
February	\$10,165.70	\$16,896.25	-\$6,730.55		
March	\$18,825.49	\$25,344.38	-\$6,518.89		
April	\$25,332.32	\$33,792.50	-\$8,460.18	-\$3,000.00	
May	\$31,615.49	\$42,240.63	-\$10,625.14	-\$2,000.00	
June	\$40,025.51	\$50,688.75	-\$10,663.24		
July	\$44,241.56	\$59,136.88	-\$14,895.32		
August	\$51,030.71	\$67,585.00	-\$16,554.29		
September	\$58,445.88	\$76,033.13	-\$17,587.25	-\$3,000.00	
October	\$63,530.88	\$84,481.25	-\$20,950.37		
November	\$71,934.13	\$92,929.38	-\$20,995.25		
December	\$93,028.83	\$101,377.50	-\$8,348.67		

Don't forget that you can donate to Bethel just by shopping at Amazon. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose "Bethel" as your charity. There are many, so go to about the fourth page and you will find a "Bethel" in Porter, MN. That's us! You can to change your bookmark for Amazon to be [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) so it comes up automatically. Then when you shop just look for the "eligible for AmazonSmile" in the product details page and

# Bethel Workgroup Schedule

## Altar Workers for Sundays in January

Linda and Jerome Bruns  
 Ken and Carol Jeremiason

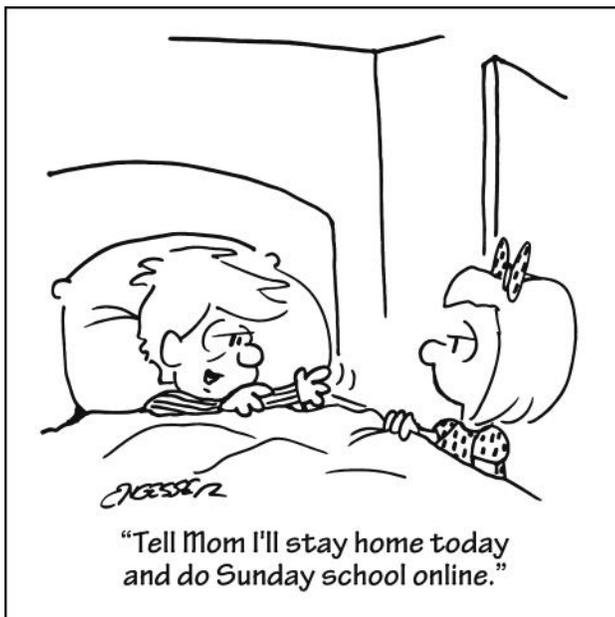
## Altar Workers for Sundays in February

Terry and Dan Dybsetter  
 Ray and Beryl Kuester



### Group #4

Barb Pronk	296-4549
Deanna and Lance Moeller	296-4634
Gail and Marlo Sumption	296-4609
Norma and Ralph Dovre	223-7771
Terry and Dan Dybsetter	296-4401
Anna Noyes	296-4477
Phyllis and Harvey Melrose	223-5512
Dawn and Tom Gawerecki	224-2267 Or 507-828-6087 Or 507-828-6099
Joy and Randy Schmidt	224-2286
Hattie and Jim VanDerostyne	296-4563
David Dybsetter	296-4648
Chad Moeller	507-828-3536
Danny VanDerostyne	507-829-0070
Kayla and Brady Watson	507-829-6745



Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the magi, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the time after Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

### Worship Schedule

**Hemnes:**

8:30 am Sunday Worship

**Bethel:**

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Sunday Worship

11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

**Communion Worship:**

**Bethel**– January 6, 13

**Hemnes** – January 6, 13

**Pastor’s Office Hours:**

9:30 am—12:00 pm 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tuesdays, 3rd Wednesday



### Coming Events

- January 3 10:15am Sylvan Worship
- January 5 Wedding DeVos/Regnier
- January 10 2:00 pm Hendricks Worship
- January 21 7:30 pm Council/Boards
- January 24 2:30 pm Minneota Manor
- January 27 12:00 noon Annual Meeting

**RESPECT  
FOR THE  
LORD  
IS GOOD:  
IT WILL LAST  
FOREVER.**

PSALM 19:9, NCV



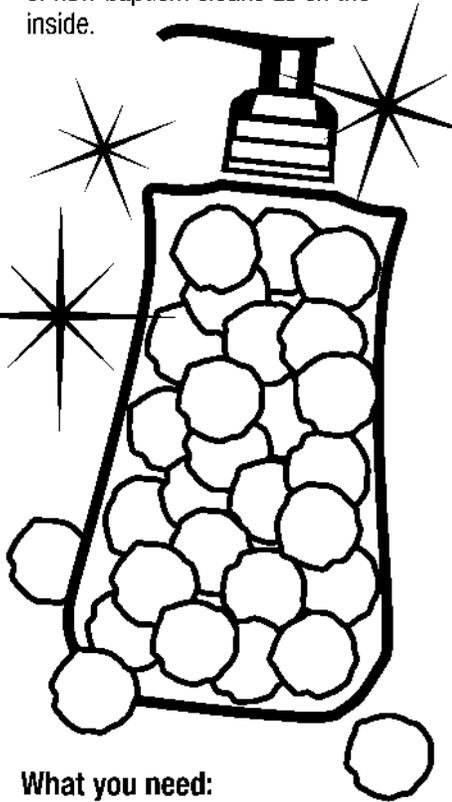
“The more we pray, the more we come to the heartbeat of God.”  
—Richard J. Foster



January 6 <b>Epiphany of our Lord</b>	January 13 <b>Baptism of our Lord</b>	January 20 <b>Epiphany 2</b>	January 27 <b>Epiphany 3</b>
Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 12 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

# Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



### What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

### What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.

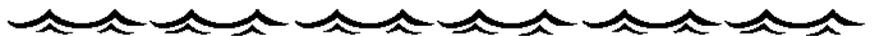
## KIDS PAGE



# A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

*Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.*



We were therefore buried with him  
 through baptism into death in order that,  
 just as Christ was raised from the dead  
 through the glory of the Father,  
 we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 6:4, NIV

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: f i e l e w n y, new life



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  
January 2019

*Fall/Winter Sunday Worship 10:00 am*

*Sunday School 9:00 am*

