



# The Bethel Newsletter

September  
2022

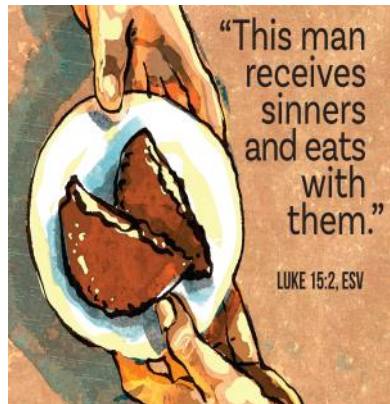
Porter, Minnesota

## September



September 4

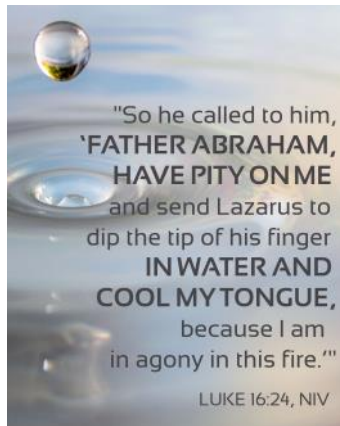
September 11



"And if you have not been  
**FAITHFUL**  
with what belongs to another,  
who will give you  
what is your own?"

LUKE 16:12, NRSV

September 18



September 25



Fall Worship Schedule

Worship returns to

**10:00 am**

September 11, 2022

Sunday School begins

September 18, 9:00 am

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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](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.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	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
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## September Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Esping

3<sup>rd</sup> Martha Melrose

6<sup>th</sup> Myles Anderson

7<sup>th</sup> Reid Glasser, Chris Anderson

9<sup>th</sup> Daniel Pridal

11<sup>th</sup> David Schrunk

17<sup>th</sup> Justin Anderson, Sean Cristian-  
William Goslar,

17<sup>th</sup> Caitlyn Anderson,

20<sup>th</sup> Ivan Anderson, Hope DeVos Lund

22<sup>nd</sup> Becky Sik,

23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Jeremiason, Denise Lalim

28<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Melrose, Tanner Sik

29<sup>th</sup> Hailey Noyes

If you have any corrections or additions,  
please contact the church office at 296-4658, or  
email: [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto: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!



heaven!

I love fall. It's my favorite season. The air is crisp, the leaves are turning, and things start picking up again. Fall is a return to a more normal routine – at work, at school, at church. While I know many people are sad to see the more relaxed days of summer come to an end, I think we all benefit from the energy that comes with cooler weather (hopefully!) and more structured living. There is, after all, a time for all things under

We are on the last few months of the Church Year – Advent begins Nov. 27! And this year, being that we are in the Gospel according to St. Luke, that means more focus on discipleship and the discipline that entails. But discipleship does not mean only hardship or suffering. There is great joy to be found in a life of faith. Redemption, grace and the promise of abundant life await us as we follow Christ.

One of the aspects of discipleship we will encounter several times in the next few months is stewardship. The prophets bring strong messages from the Lord for those who would cheat the poor or place material goods above the need for justice. We will hear stories about wealthy and poor, tax collectors and beggars, which offer both warning and encouragement for reform. The right use of money is a clear theme that will run through many of the readings this fall, urging us to think about how we are allocating the resources God has blessed us with.

As I said, there is also joy in discipleship, and we will hear those stories as well. Stories of the joy in heaven when one who was lost is found, of the grace seen in the healing of lepers, and the true power of faith. We will be encouraged to persistence in prayer and holy wisdom. Readings from 1 and 2 Timothy, letters ostensibly written by Paul to a young disciple, remind us that youth is no impediment to leadership. We are all called and equipped for ministry. And Reformation Sunday's second reading reminds us that we are "justified by [God's] grace as a gift" (Rom. 3:24).

In the best Lutheran theology, this gift of grace frees us to be disciples in a new way. With God's law written on our hearts, we can dare to take up Paul's call to Philemon, serving our neighbor not out of duty but on the basis of love. Discipleship is a serious calling but also a joyful one. What are we waiting for?

In Christ,

*Pastor Munter*



# CHURCH COUNCIL



## The Church Council and Board reports for August 2022

### Trustees

Trustee action taken:

Motion was made and second to pay bills.

Noyes Tree service to trim tree at the parsonage.

Brian, Bob, and Jerome

### Deacons

- Deacon for September : Linda Bruns
- Coins for community: Staff Appreciation for Sylvan Court
- Communion Dates : September 4, 11
- Rally Sunday: September 11
- Discussion of volunteer drivers for Canby riders.

Terry, Sara, Tracy, Dawn and Linda

### Board of Education

Paula Syltie reporting:

Reviewed Rally Sunday activities for September 11, 2022—backpacks, Bibles, fun and food.

Sunday School begins September 18.

Sign-up sheets for Sunday School Teachers/ snacks in the narthex.



## **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 September we are contributing our spare coins to a staff appreciation at Sylvan Court

A small thank you from us to the hard working individuals who support those who need nursing home assistance 24/7, 365 days a year. .

**Sunday September 11**

**Rally Day**

**Worship—Fun & Food**

The fun begins following worship with games

Then—

An old fashioned picnic.

Please bring salads and sides to share. (we have bbq's, chips and ice cream)



# 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](https://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 Lutheran 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			

# Bethel Workgroup Schedule

## Altar Workers for Sundays in September

Dawn Gawerecki  
Sara Wollum

## 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.*

## God among the rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I'm reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God's hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God's heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with "tax collectors and sinners" and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are His very body and blood.

In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us.



—Heidi Hyland Mann

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/bethelofporter)

Other resources are available on our website. [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

### Coming Events

**Worship with communion will be held on September 4 & 11**

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

**Worship time change begins on September 11**

**Rally Sunday September 11**



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



### Readings for the month of September

September 4 Pentecost 13	September 11 Pentecost + 14	September 18 Pentecost + 15	September 25 Pentecost + 16
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10





Create some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.

**What you need:**

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush



**What you do:**

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.

# Kids Page

## PUZZLE



## SEEING CLEARLY



God's character is evident through what he made.

*Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV.*

FOR SINCE THE NOITAEBO OF THE WORLD

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ETERNAL SH — HIS JARETE

-----

POWER AND ENIVD NATURE — HAVE BEEN

-----

YJRAEJC SEEN, BEING DOOTSDNU FROM

-----

WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT EJOE ARE

-----

WITHOUT EXCUSE. 2NAMOR 1:20, NIV

-----

answer: creation, invisible, eternal, divine, clearly, understood, people, Romans



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

September 2022

*Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am*

***Time changes: September 11, 2022***

*Live streamed on the Facebook page  
and later at [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com)*

[www.facebook.com/bethelofporter](https://www.facebook.com/bethelofporter)  
[www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

