



The Bethel Newsletter

July
2023

Porter, Minnesota

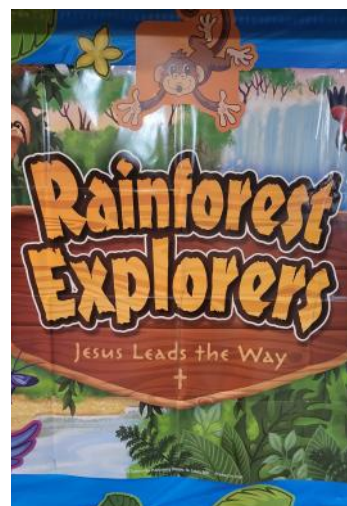


July 9

July

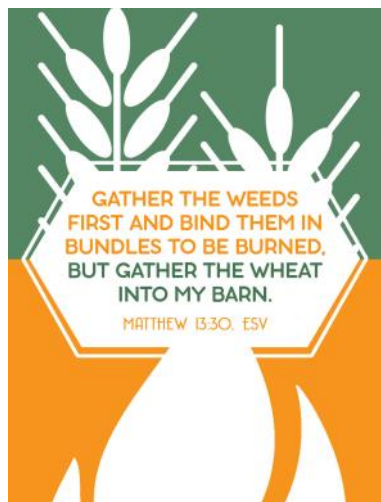


July 16



Parents, grandparents, and special others, invite your young friends to Bethel's VBS next week.

Vacation Bible School starts Monday, July 10th, 6:00 - 8:15 pm at Bethel! No need to sign up ahead of time. Everyone is welcome! Ages 3 to 5th grade.



July 23



July 30

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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

Website: bethelofporter.com

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

Your Church Officers

President	Brenda Knutson	507 829-2767
Vice President	Bonnie Merritt	507 296-4436
Treasurer	Deana Moeller	507 530-5816
Financial Sec.	Josh Sumption	296-4497
Secretary	Sue Alley	507-530-1628

Deacons

Linda Bruns	296-4645
Tracy Wenthe	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
Anna Kamrath	507 530-5558
Amber Moeller	
Charlotte Wilke	507 829-4790
Katie Munter	
Lillie Wollum	

Custodian

Tom Gawerecki	507-828-6099
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July Birthdays

2nd Dawn Gawerecki
3rd Harvey Melrose
5th Paige Fliss
6th Evan Meier
8th Saylor Longhenry
9th Brenda Knutson
10th Ben Syltie
11th Josh Sumption, Carter Schrunk
12th Maya Frank
16th Vicki Gawerecki, Nancy Longhenry
17th Darlene Moeller
18th Carmon Mamer
19th Doug Anderson
20th Paula Syltie
21st Rachel Wollum
25th Bonnie Merritt
28th Hailie Bierschbach, Maya Wenthe
30th Michelle Evjen
31st Andrea Weisbond, Jessica Moeller,

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!


 Minister's
Musings

The beginning of this green season has been a bit bracing as far as Gospel texts are concerned. We've heard Jesus send out the disciples to "cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons" (Matt. 10:8); then we heard Him say that He didn't come to bring peace, but a sword and set families against each other (Matt. 10:34-37). Even in the parables there is a sense of warning, of unease, in His words. The seeds that are snatched away by birds or choked by thorns, the weeds among the wheat left to grow until harvest when they will be bound up and thrown into the furnace of fire, "where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 13:42). Pretty heavy going for these

long, lazy summer days.

The truth is, Jesus came to turn things upside down and inside out. And challenging accepted norms makes people uncomfortable. If you don't think so, re-read the Sermon on the Mount.

You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder." But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire.

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

This is pretty challenging stuff. This is Jesus showing people that it's not just the letter of the Law that matters, it's the spirit as well. You can't separate Law-keeping from other aspects of life. Jesus comes along to re-orient God's people back along God's priorities. That is, care for the widows, the orphans and the strangers in the land. And He challenges their understanding of what it means to have God's favor.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'

Into a world that sees the poor, the grieving, and the humble as lesser, that sees people who don't agree with their understanding of God as sinners who are getting what they deserve, Jesus preaches the opposite: These are the people who *have* God's favor. God loves and cares for all people, whether they know Him or not. And we are to care for them as well.

There's been a lot of talk about challenging accepted norms and shaking things up lately. But it seems like people are challenging and shaking up the wrong things, choosing to make the lives of those who are struggling or marginalized even more difficult. We are called, we are sent into the world, to do what Jesus did. Jesus confronted the leaders of the people and questioned how they were living out not only the letter of the Law, but the spirit. He showed them their hypocrisy and invited them into a new way of living. He didn't scold or demean them, but demonstrated in word and in deed the new Kingdom God was inaugurating. A Kingdom where the last are first, the least are favored and the mercy and love of God is found not in a palace or a temple, but on a cross.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for July 2023

Trustees

Lance, Brian and Jerome attending
Voted to approve the monthly bills.

Sec. Jerome Bruns

Deacons

- Deacon for July: Linda Bruns
- Communion in July is 9, 16
- July, "Coins for Community" "Stuff the Bus"
- August Coins : Personal care Kits to School and Prairie Five
-

Board of Education

The Board of Education has held several special meetings to organize and prepare for Vacation Bible School to be held July 10-July 13, 6:00—8:30 pm with the Theme "Rain forest Explorers"

Special Bethel Council Meeting

A special Bethel Council meeting was held on June 25, 2023 for the purpose of finalizing the discussion of church pew cushions.

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.

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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!

	Year:	2023	
	Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 130,844.06	*Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses
	Monthly revenue required to sustain budget:	\$ 10,903.67	

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	\$15,800.06	\$15,800.06	\$10,903.67	\$4,896.39			
February	\$8,615.85	\$24,415.91	\$21,807.34	\$2,608.57			
March	\$8,820.81	\$33,236.72	\$32,711.02	\$525.70			
April	\$15,325.18	\$48,560.80	\$43,614.69	\$4,946.11			
May	\$8,855.78	\$57,417.68	\$54,518.36	\$2,899.32			

I REMEMBER.....

There is a box in the Narthex that says - "I REMEMBER". Please take this opportunity to write a special memory of yours related to Bethel. The 150 anniversary committee would like to gather memories of present and former members and extended Bethel family. Please write your memory on the sheets on the table or any paper will do, and drop it in the box. If you would rather spend more time, please submit your memory by e-mail to bethel@bethelofporter.com. We are also looking for photos, clippings, or other items. Please add your memory to our celebration.

Please encourage others with a past connection to the Bethel family to add their memories and send them to Bethel.

The committee is: Terry Dybsetter, Pastor Ellen, Bonnie Merritt, Sara Wollum, Carmon Mamer, Paula Syltie and Lou Knutson.

CELEBRATE 150 "SNIP IT "

Snip its (little pieces) of memories from the past:- Ladies Aid Members

Bernice Anderson Thomsen was born in Porter on June 13, 1916 the oldest of seven children. Bernice married Ernest Thomsen who was employed by Page Bros. Implement in Canby. They had two children, Virginia and Jon. They lived in Porter on Sunrise Avenue.



Some special attributes of Bernice's : She sang alto in the Ladies Quartet that provided music for many church functions. She enjoyed sewing and did Hardanger, a type of Norwegian embroidery. *(I know this for a fact as she skillfully repaired a piece of Hardanger for me many years ago. Terry Dybsetter)*

Bernice's favorite verse was *"Rejoice always, Pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; Christ Jesus is for you "*. 1 Thesalonians 5: 16-18

A quote "She leads a busy life. Her ready smile and good humor have won her many friends. She is a good neighbor, never too busy to help anyone who comes to her with a problem."

Bernice was Virginia Thomsen's mother.

JUST A SNIP IT: want more? Look through some of the books in the CELEBRATION ROOM (the nursery Sunday School room) and experience stories from Bethel's past

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in

July

Marlys Petersen

Barb Anderson

Altar Workers for Sundays in

August

Sandy Appelen

Ken & Carol Jeremiason

Group #1

Paul and Darcy Bruns	507-530-0327 and 507-530-5036
Rose Anderson	296-4440
Marilyn and Waldo Petersen	223-5829
Sue Alley	507-530-1628
Marty and Megan Syltie	507-829-9931, 507-829-9924
Linda and Jerome Bruns	296-4645
Brenda and Mike Knutson	507-829-2767
Josh Sumption	296-4497
Brian and Kassidy Emery	605-880-3569
Matt & Victoria Bliss	605-941-4062 and 320-287-1050
MacKenzie & Ethan Kack	507-531-6111



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

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction

July 21st and July 22, 2023

Friday, July 21, 2023:

Quilt Review, Hot dish Supper, and Beachfront Concert

Saturday, July 22, 2023:

Quilt Review, Bounce House, Pulled Pork Lunc, Live Auction Silent Auction, & online Auction

More information and times: Check out GLLM.org or check the Bethel bulletin Board



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

James **Worship with Communion**

July 9, 16,

Sundays, Worship

10:00 am at Bethel

Sundays 8:30 am Hemnes

Church Council/Boards:

Monday, July 17, 7:30 pm

Bethel Parsonage 1999– current



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

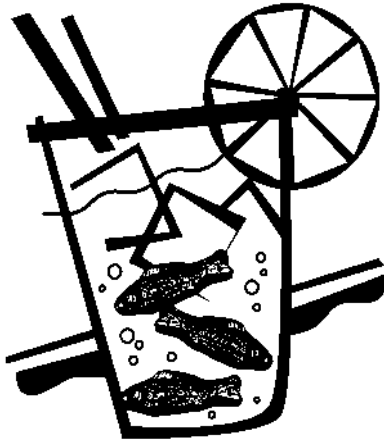


Readings for the month of July

June 9 Pentecost 7	June 16 Pentecost 8	June 23 Pentecost 9	June 30 Pentecost 10
Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14 Romans 7:15-25 Matthew 11:16-30	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:9-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Isaiah 4:4-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

OCEAN WATER

After a busy summer day, relax in the shade with this cool drink.



What you need:

- 3 Tablespoons water
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 3 drops blue food coloring
- 24 oz. (2 cans) lemon-lime soda
- Clear cup or glass
- Ice
- Swedish Fish candy

What you do:

1. In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the water and sugar. Heat for 1 minute. Stir until sugar is dissolved.
2. Pour the mixture into a pitcher. Add coconut extract, food coloring and soda. Stir.
3. Pour into cup. Add ice and fish. Enjoy!

PUZZLE

UNDER THE SEA

This summer, consider God's marvelous creation under the sea.



Directions: Write the animal names on the blanks. Then use the circled letters (they may not be in the right order) to create a new word from Psalm 148:7, NIV. Finally, match the words to their numbered blanks below.

	○ ○ _____ ○ >>>> _____ d
	2
	_____ ○ ○ _____ >>>> _____ t _____
	4
	_____ ○ ○ m _____ ○ _____ >>>> g _____
	6
	_____ ○ _____ g ○ ○ _____ >>>> p _____ e
	1
	_____ _____ ○ _____ >>>> _____ o u
	5
	_____ ○ _____ n ○ _____ >>>> _____ r _____ m
	3
	_____ (s) ○ ○ _____ ○ _____ >>>> c _____ u r e _____
	7

_____ the _____ the _____ ,

1 2 3 4

_____ sea _____ .

5 6 7

PSALM 148:7, NIV

Answers: lobster > Lord, sea horse > earth, hermit crab > great, stingray > sea, jellyfish > you, clownfish > from, sea star > creatures

Use the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures. Psalm 148:7, NIV



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

July 2023

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Live streamed on the Facebook

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter



Thankful