



The Bethel Newsletter

April 2020

Porter, Minnesota

Sundays in April

Worship with us via the internet



April 5th



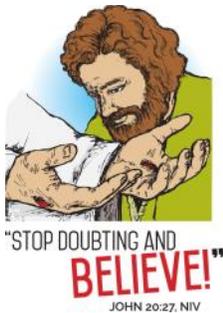
April 9th



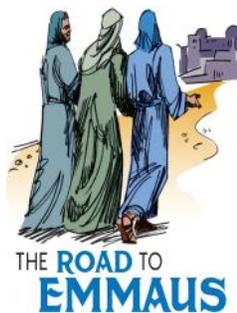
April 10th



April 12th



April 19th



April 26th



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Join us for Worship

Bethel will continue with live stream worship through May 3rd because of the Corvid-19 shut down. The worship times remain at 7:00 pm for evening worship and 10:00 am for morning worship including Easter Sunday morning.

Not able to live stream on our Facebook page, the service will be posted to our website after the worship.

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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	Mike Knutson	507-829-2767
Vice President	Randy Kamrath	507 530-4417
Treasurer	Deana Moeller	296-4634
Financial Sec.	Josh Sumption	296-4497
Secretary	Sue Alley	507-530-1628

Deacons

Linda Bruns	296-4645
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
Pat Petersen	296-4483
Nikki Petersen	507-829-0555
Rachel Wollum	223-5844
Megan Syltie	507-829-9931

Custodian

Lou Knutson	296-4489
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April Birthdays

2nd Thomas Stone
5th Kris Wilke
8th Justin Hurt, Gracie Horner
9th Denise Crowser
10th Steve Anderson, Trent Blumeyer,
Ann Petersen
11th Tyler Heideman, Ryan Heideman
13th Grace Drietz, Benjamin Drietz,
Darcy Bruns
15th Christine Stone
17th Nancy Bakalakovs
18th Erin Kamrath, Tracy Wente
19th Karen Potz,
22nd Paul Bruns
25th Denise Anderson, Kyle Mamer
26th Maya Lundin

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!



Let's be honest, this is not how any of us thought 2020 was going to go. How could we have ever imagined that we would be living under severe social restrictions and watching with growing horror as the death toll rises. And now that it has reached us, it's become all the more real. I have read the history of the polio outbreak, but I could never really grasp what that must have been like – to be afraid to catch a debilitating or deadly disease just from going swimming. Unfortunately I do now.

As with all crises, COVID-19 has brought out the best and the worst in people. The panic buying and hoarding and even price-gouging (I did find toilet paper at a store I won't name, but the 24 pack was \$30!) have begun to give way to a more measured response and care for our neighbors. I know many of you are reaching out not just to family but to neighbors and fellow members to see how everyone is doing. While it is definitely difficult for many to be so isolated, those calls are no doubt more than welcome.

As I write this, the distance learning at Canby Schools has begun which is good and not so good. It is great for our children to be taught, but it can be pretty stressful on both teachers and students. I am very grateful for all the work our educators have done and continue to do in order to keep our children learning. And to all those who are preparing lunches for the children and supporting this new enterprise. It's been an adjustment, and I only have one child. I'm sure the stress is much higher on those of you who have larger families. We should also remember the other indispensable workers – at the grocery store, gas station, pharmacy, etc – who keep our community functioning. And of course, our medical staff (from custodians to surgeons), police and postal workers deserve a great deal of gratitude.

I've been thinking about those of you who have older family members that you worry about. My mom is here (she sorta got stuck!) and while I do worry about her, it has been a real blessing for Katie and me. It does remind me every day to be careful, however. And we are finding many closets and rooms to clean out! So that's at least one good thing to come out of all this.

The work of the church does still go on. We are live streaming on the Facebook page and will continue to do so. Also, the gospel readings and sermon will be available to listen to on the website, and the bulletin will be posted as well. I realize that not being together physically for Holy Week is difficult for everyone, and that logging on to view the services live has been hit and miss for some. The Synod office has made some resources available for use in the home that will be posted on our webpage. You can use them to worship with your family, or for your own devotions. The Church is not a building! It is the Body of Christ no matter the circumstances.

From my undergraduate degree in history I learned that we have been beset with crises like this before, and they always pass. This time will be no different. We will find a vaccine and the virus will be defeated and our life together will resume. Hopefully we will be a bit wiser, a bit kinder and have a greater appreciation for both the necessities and the luxuries we enjoy. Until that time comes, I encourage you to read the Scriptures, worship as you are able, and pray for one another. Remember that you are God's beloved child, set free in Christ to love and serve others in His name.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for March, 2020

Please note: a special ZOOM council meeting was held on March 30th to discuss the upcoming church calendar. We will continue with live stream worship through May 3rd because of the Corvid 19 shut down.

Trustees:

Members present: Bob, Roger and Jerome

Discussion topics were:

Motion was made and second to pay bills.

Grinnell Insurance will doing a loss assessment visit and only had three small items to "fix".

Submitted by Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for April: Sara, May: Terry, June : Martha, July: Craig, August: Linda,
- Food Shelf: April: Ivanhoe, May: Canby, June : Ivanhoe, July: Canby, August: Ivanhoe,
- Communion Dates for Bethel are March 5,9,12. We discussed Holy Week and members who need special calls and thoughts during this isolating time.
- *Members Present: Terry, Sara, Linda, Martha & Craig*

Board of Education:

The Board discussed background checks for teachers that need to be renewed and some alternative materials for online study for Sunday School Students during Sundays when Sunday School is canceled.

Tracy Wentz, Pat Petersen, Rachel Wollum & Megan Syltie



Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...

Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

Focus on the CANS not the CAN'TS

The March Food Drive Campaign



Thanks to everyone who donated in March. We delivered what we had to the food shelf on March 17th.

There are a few items at Bethel for anyone who is in need. If you are aware of someone who could benefit from this, please

let them know. The building is open from about 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Saturday.

Updated March Giving: Usually published in the weekly bulletin

March 22, 2020: General: \$475.00 (\$135.00 received through electronic giving)

March 29, 2020: General: \$956.16 (\$348.25 received through electronic giving)

Includes: \$100.00 Food Shelf Offering, \$232.91 from Savings for Sunday School Supplies.

Savings: \$30.00 in memory of Jerry Thomsen.



Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Christian church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude.

It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

“The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant.” (*Life Together*)

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. Go to smile.amazon.com 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 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:	2020		
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$	103,919.70	*Does not include the Hemnes share of the Parish Budget.	
Monthly giving required to meet budget:	\$	8,659.98		

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. Actual expenses per month varie greatly. 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 assigned to the Hemnes Lutheran Church portion of the joint parish budget or transfers from savings accounts that cover special, non-budgeted expenses.

	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	\$7,965.95	\$8,659.98	-\$694.03			
February	\$12,129.19	\$17,319.95	-\$5,190.76			
March	\$20,996.19	\$25,979.93	-\$4,983.74			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in April

Martha Melrose

Deana Moeller

Altar Workers for Sundays in May

Paula Syltie, Rose Anderson &

Megan Syltie

GROUP #1

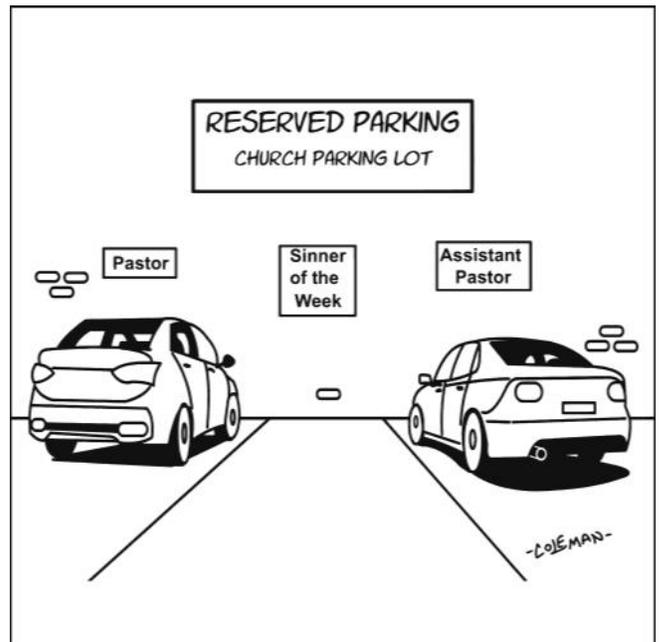
- Brenda and Mike Knutson 507-829-2767
- Paul and Darcy Bruns 507-530-0327 and 507-530-5036
- Rose and Dick Anderson 296-4440
- Marilyn and Waldo Petersen 223-5829
- Sue Alley 507-530-1628
- Marty and Meghan Syltie 507 829-9931, 507 829-9924
- Linda and Jerome Bruns 296-4645
- Bill Ningen 296-4693
- Josh Sumption 296-4497
- Tiffany Keating 223-5542
- Brian and Kassidy Emery 605-880-3569
- Matt & Victoria Bliss 605-941-4062 and 320-287-1050



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



Celebrate the beauty of the Earth with action on Earth Day, April, 22, 2020. Invite a friend or family to help.



Worship Schedule

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page for the month of April.

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter/

Other resources are available on our website.

www.bethelofporter.com

Coming Events

- April 1 7:00 pm Lenten Worship
- April 5 10:00 am-Palm (Passion) Sunday
- April 8 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday
- April 9 7:00 pm Good Friday
- April 12 10:00 am Easter Worship



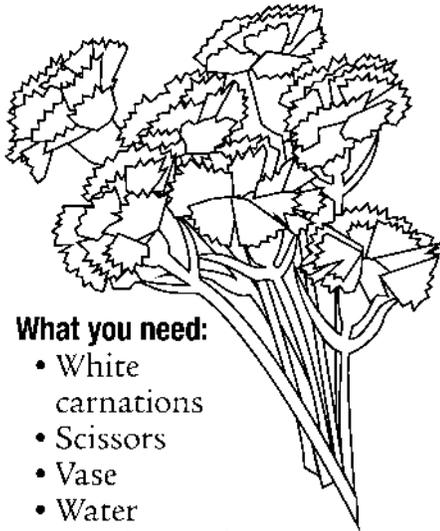
April 5 Palm Sunday	April 12 Easter	April 19 Easter 2	April 26 Easter3
Isaiah 50:4-9 Psalm 31 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66	Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 114 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Luke 24:13-49	Acts 2:14-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Acts 2:14-41 Psalm 116:1-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13.35

April 9 Maundy Thursday	April 10 Good Friday
Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-35	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42



Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.



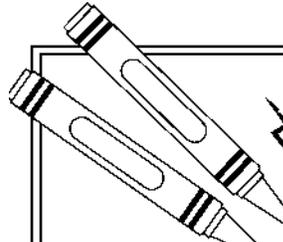
What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.

Kids Page



PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took , gave  and  it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my  given for you; do this in  _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This  is the new  in my blood, which is  out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, poured, covenant, cup, poured



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

April 2020

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Easter Worship 10:00 am

*Live stream on the Facebook page and later on the
Bethel website*

