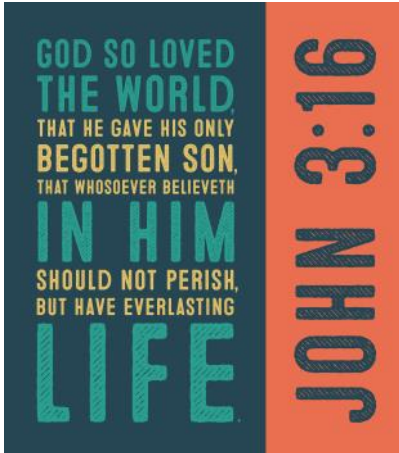




# The Bethel Newsletter

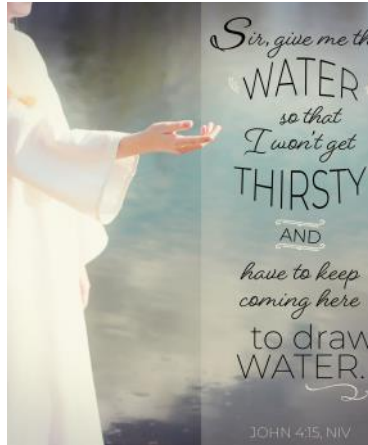
March  
2023

Porter, Minnesota



March 5

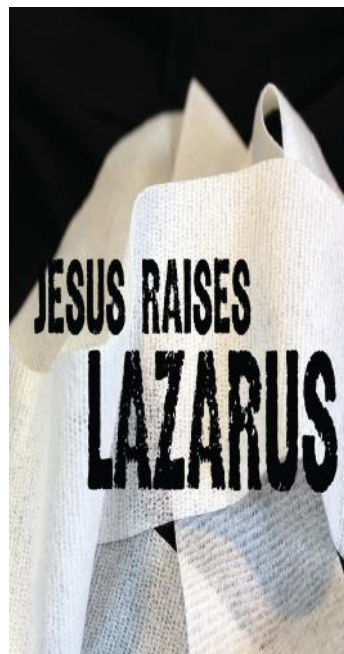
## March



March 12



March 19



March 26

### Have You Heard?

### Bethel's 150 years old!

Do you have pictures, clippings, e-mail files, memories, recordings, and memorabilia. Please share, old or new. There is a changing display in the narthex of clippings and misc. media. A year long display will remain in the "nursery room" for continual browsing.

There is additional information on page 5 about how to make an impact during our 150th year.

There will be many opportunities during the upcoming year to participate in a variety of celebration activities. Opportunities will be available to all ages and many interests.

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

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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

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 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	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 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
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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### March Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Heidi Christianson  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Tim Bakalakos  
 7<sup>th</sup> Stephen Pridal  
 11<sup>th</sup> Joy Schmidt  
 12<sup>th</sup> Barb Hurt  
 16<sup>th</sup> Jon Anderson, Jacob Crowser  
 18<sup>th</sup> Joni Fredricks, Marney Negen  
 21<sup>st</sup> Marilyn Petersen  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Kayla VanDerostyne, Lorelei Dybsetter  
 24<sup>th</sup> Ethan Evjen  
 29<sup>th</sup> Virginia Thomsen,  
 30<sup>th</sup> Ashley Anderson  
 31<sup>st</sup> Kevin Petersen, Dawn Hansen,  
 Laura Appelen, Dylan Bruns

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!


 Minister's  
Musings

The Gospel readings for Year A (which is this year) are ones that have been used since the early church to teach those preparing for baptism. The forty days of Lent (Sundays don't count!) developed as a time for the catechumens (the ones preparing for baptism) to pray and fast and learn the faith before their baptism at the Easter Vigil. And these readings out of the Gospel according to St. John were primary. Until the Church adopted the three year schedule of readings, these were the texts heard every year during Lent.

After we contemplate Jesus in the wilderness for forty days we hear about Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night. He had what he probably thought was a very strange conversation about being born again and the power of the Spirit and finally the amazing declaration that “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

Next we sit with Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and listen to their conversation about worship and her life and the astonishing declaration of Jesus that, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Jesus restores sight to a man born blind next, but he hardly speaks. Instead, we find ourselves as bystanders in a dispute between the man who was blind and the Pharisees. It's a fascinating conversation/argument—they even bring his parents in at one point—and includes a wonderful witness to Jesus, “...though I was blind, now I see. ... We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

And then, finally, we get the extraordinary story of Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. This text is remarkable in so many ways, it's hard to find just one to zero in on. Jesus delaying His travel until He knows Lazarus has died, the conversation with Martha and then with Mary, Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb and, finally, His command, “Lazarus, come out!” A command Lazarus obeys. This one story brings together all of the others—demonstrating not only Jesus' power but also the love and salvation of God, summed up in Jesus great proclamation: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.” It also launches us into Holy Week, for at the end we overhear the chief priests and Pharisees talking together and openly planning to put Jesus to death.

These stories out of the Gospel of John have formed and shaped the Christian life for centuries. As we hear again about our God, Who gave us His only begotten Son Who quenches our thirst, heals our infirmities and gives us life, we give thanks for our own baptisms. And as we contemplate the great love of our God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of His Son, we are, I hope, moved not only to deeper faith, but are filled with hope and joy for the future. A hope and joy that then leads us out into the world God so loves to continue to work in His name.

In Christ,

*Pastor Munter*



## The Church Council and Board reports for February 2023

Each Board meet independently due to a scheduling problems.

### Trustees

The trustees meet and voted to pay the bills for the month.

The trustees have been evaluating the boiler in the church.

The trustees are checking the exit lights around the church

### Deacons

- Deacon for March : Sara Wollum
- Lent begins February 22, Ash Wednesday
- Communion in March: 5, 12
- June 4th is confirmation
- 1st Communion will be April 2, 2023
- “Coins for Community” Canby Food Shelf—Food Share Month—Special offering on March 26th .

### Board of Education

The Board of Education is researching VBS for 2023

## March is Food Share Month:

### A note from the Canby Area Food Shelf

“Greetings!

As you may well know, financial strain and hunger have affected many Minnesotans this year. With the continuation of the pandemic, rising cost of goods and services, and changes to the work force, many families in Yellow Medicine County are struggling to make ends meet. When emergencies arise, people are often forced to choose between buying food, paying rent, childcare, medication or housing.

No one can grow, maintain good health, or reach their full potential if they are hungry. With a **tax-deduction of \$300**, you can supply a family of four with a 3-day emergency supply of food once a month for a year. This is equivalent to only **\$25 a month**. All donations received by the food shelf stay in Yellow Medicine. **March Campaign donations are proportionately matched by Minnesota Food Share!**

Help us leverage these matching funds by giving during our March Campaign and help us reach our goal of \$5,000. “

“Coins for Community” is supporting the Canby Food Shelf in March with a special offering during worship on March 26.

## Celebrate 150 with Bethel

### The Impact of 150

As Bethel Lutheran Church celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, we want to celebrate the impact that our congregation makes on the church, our community and the world through what we are calling “The Impact of 150”

#### *A 150 challenge of benevolence for our congregation*

Throughout the course of our anniversary year, we are challenging each member of our congregation to make a goal of providing an additional \$150.00 to your giving to Bethel through a Special “150 Impact” offering. You can choose to provide your \$150.00 impact offering all at once, as a monthly donation of approximately \$13 or on a weekly basis of \$3.00. The goal is provide \$150.00 during this anniversary year so that you are a part of the lasting impact on your congregation for years to come. This effort will conclude February 28, 2024.

These offerings will be used to replenish Bethel’s Reserve Fund which is utilized to compensate for short-term shortfalls in our general fund when our regular offering does not meet what is needed to pay our monthly operating expenses.

#### *A 150 challenge of benevolence from our congregation*

Each month during our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the congregation will provide a gift of \$150.00 to a cause of our choice outside of Bethel. This may be a local impact project to meet the specific need of a member of our congregation, an outreach to our local community, or a program that is making a difference throughout the world. This monthly impact will be provided through the Bethel Manna Fund and be a unique way for our congregation to make a difference wherever we find the need!

We will designate the “Coins for Community” as the \$150 benevolence monthly cause. In addition, the congregational “coins” offering will be matched dollar for dollar to a maximum of an additional \$150 by the Manna Fund. Potentially the monthly impact could be \$450 to the chosen monthly outreach.

The Deacons will take “coins for community” suggestions for the monthly efforts. Please give us suggestions.

# 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.

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.



**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!

	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 Joir 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	\$8,614.43	\$24,414.49	\$21,807.34	\$2,607.15			

# Bethel Workgroup Schedule

**Altar Workers for Sundays in**

**March**

Brenda Knutson  
Kamrath Family

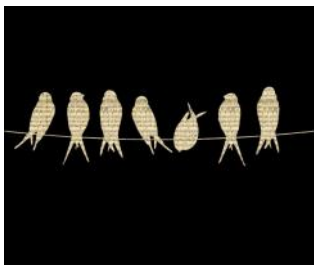
**Altar Workers for Sundays in**

**April**

Martha Melrose  
Deana Moeller

**Group #5**

Barb and Doug Anderson	296-4503
Carmon and Brian Mamer	507 828-8471, 507 829-8708
Bonnie and Bob Merritt	296-4436
Carol and Ken Jeremiason	296-4512
Louaine Knutson	296-4489
Zelda Goslar	223-7450
Merv Anderson	223-7981
Paige Fliss	507-828-3896
John and Barb Hurt	296-4467
Jodi and Kory Boulton	507-530-4814
Monica and Butch Wilke	296-4470
Nancy and Tim Bakalakos	507 828-0693
Charlotte and Kris Wilke	507 829-7962
Charlie and Amy Anderson	605 695-6240, 605 695-0499



**“O God, Our Help in Ages Past,  
Our Hope for Years to Come,”**

**We are reflecting on our 150 year history and looking toward the future of hope and faith with our chosen theme.**

**We are Bethel and continue to look forward with faith to the years to come. Verse 3 concludes with: “from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same”.**

### 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)

**Bethel's First Church  
building  
1881-1895**



### Coming Events

## Worship with Communion March 5 & 12

Sundays, Worship

10:00 am at Bethel

Sundays 8:30 am Hemnes

Sunday School 9:00 am

Confirmation 6:30 pm Wednesday's

Church Council/Boards:

Monday, March 20, 7:30 pm

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



## Readings for the month of March

March 5 Lent 2	March 12 Lent 3	March 19 Lent 4	March 26 Lent 5
Genesis 12:1-4	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalms 121	Psalms 95	Psalms 23	Psalms 130
Romans 4:1-17	Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14	Romans 8:6-11
John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41	John 11:1-45



# DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



**What you need:**

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

**What you do:**

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

# Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins  
 colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer  
 confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns  
 cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y  
 C L E U X B M T H B U C W B  
 N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y  
 A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B  
 N G N L I S N L A I N E D X  
 E W M P R V R D H B N R D F  
 P S O G O L G O T H A B S C  
 D L N R O C O N F E S S I K  
 O T H T C P E K W U O U N D  
 M N S H N P W E D R H F S K  
 U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E  
 H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M  
 H V H N C X S O C C J R L O  
 F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C  
 C R U C I F I X I O N S R V



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

March 2023

*Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am*

*Sunday School 9:00 am*

*Bible Seeds – Adult Devotional, 9:30 am*

*Live streamed on the Facebook*

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

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



**Lenten Worship**

**Wednesday's in March**

**7:00 pm**

**Dinner starts 6:00 pm**