



The Bethel Newsletter

February
2023

Porter, Minnesota

February



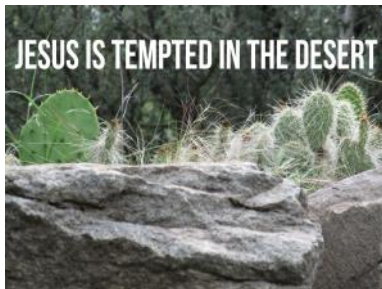
February 5



February 12



February 19



February 26




February 22
Ash Wednesday

Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

February 5,
approximately 12:00 noon
following congregational potluck

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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	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
Anna Kamrath	507 530-5558
Amber Moeller	
Charlotte Wilke	507 829-4790
Katie Munter	
Lillie Wollum	

Custodian

Tom Gawerecki	507-828-6099
	296-4489



February Birthdays

3rd Gail Sumption
 9th Shawn Jackson
 12th Riley Carstens, Mike Knutson, Eric Dybsetter
 14th Hannah Heideman, Blake Heideman
 15th Tate Ackerman
 17th Jerry Anderson, Graham Dybsetter
 18th Logan Sik, Terry Dybsetter, Shelly Schrunk
 19th Barrett Kack
 21st Cathryn LoPiccolo
 22nd Keith Wente
 24th Thomas Syltie
 25th Nathan DeVos, Taylor Ourada
 27th Deana Moeller
 28th Michael Syltie, Michael Petersen

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

I'm just going to come out and say it – Transfiguration is a weird festival. It's this strange thing that happened, seemingly out of nowhere and for no reason. Jesus goes up on a mountain and suddenly glows. He talks to Moses and Elijah, the disciples are freaked out (my interpretation) and Peter babbles about putting up tents, and then God the Father talks about Jesus to the disciples. It's weird. The story is only in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, by the way. Not John. (Are we surprised? No, we are not!) And because we are in Matthew's gospel this year, I'll focus on that one. But some of the aspects of this text are

in all three gospels.

For one – the Transfiguration happens at the same relative time in all three gospels. Jesus has previously asked the disciples who everyone says He is. And they say, “John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets.” Then He asks what they think and Peter gets it right. “You are the Messiah.” Then Jesus predicts His death and resurrection for the first time and Peter gets angry. Jesus rebukes Peter and tells them all that if they want to follow Him, they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow. This basic pattern is in all three gospels, almost all exactly the same. Some time after this, Jesus takes Peter, James and John (the big three) up on a mountain with Him where He commences to glow.

What does that tell us? The disciples have just heard that they must do something not only difficult, but downright terrifying – risk themselves for Jesus. “Take up your cross” might seem like a cliché to us, but it would have been horrifying for them. Being willing to do or say things that might land them on a cross was nothing to just shrug off. It was a hideously painful and humiliating way to die. So I have to wonder if the Transfiguration was for their (and our) benefit – to give us hope and encouragement for the difficult days of following that lay ahead.

What do we see happening? Jesus doesn't just ‘shine.’ He glows or radiates light from *within*. He is not reflecting light – He *is* light. And He is speaking with Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the prophets). It seems to me that what we have here is a vision of the end times, when Jesus has fully and finally fulfilled all the Law and prophets. Of the future glory and majesty of Christ when He comes again.

I think in the Transfiguration Jesus is showing us the future, our future, when all that we have been struggling with, all that has been weighing us down, all the difficulties and pain are over. This is an *eschatological* vision. Eschatology is concerned with the end times and the Second Coming of Christ. And regardless of what some say, it is not intended to be scary. It is intended to produce hope. We hope in the coming of the Lord because we know that God loves us, forgives us, sent Jesus to die for us *so that* at the end we could be with God. Visions and stories of the end times are hopeful and inspiring because God wins! Light and goodness and love win over darkness and evil and hate.

So as weird as the Transfiguration is, it tells us that no matter what else is going on, no matter what we are or will face, our victory in Christ is assured. We may be hurting now, but it won't always be so. We may be struggling and it may feel overwhelming, but our future is safe with God. There is a reason that the Church puts Transfiguration as the last Sunday before Lent – but I would argue that it is important to keep in mind throughout the year. No matter what happens, God wins (and so will we!).

Pastor Ellen



The Church Council and Board reports for January 2023

Trustees

The Trustees approved the monthly bills

The annual budget was completed and approved by the Trustees

The Trustees presented the proposed budget to the council for approval.

The Trustees presented the proposed Bethel/Hemnes budget for the council for approval.

Note of explanations were given regarding the Housing Equity. This will be removed and added to pastor's salary.

Budgets were approved by the Council.

Josh reviewed the Manna Fund budget.

Manna fund budget discussion about disbursements of external Manna fund donations. Brought to the Council for approval.. Approved

Deacons

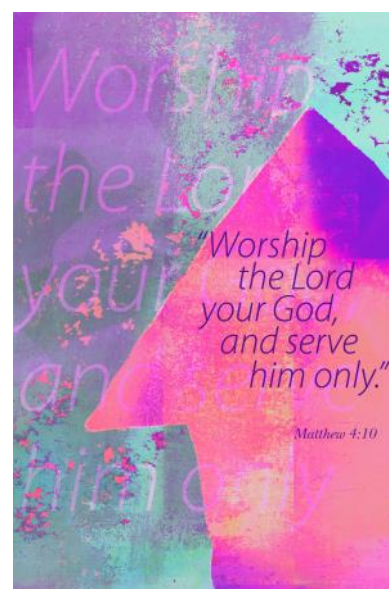
- Deacon for February: Linda Bruns
- Coins for Community : SMSU Campus Ministry for snacks and treats
- Communion: February 5, 12, and 22

Board of Education

The Board of Education reviewed and prepared the 2022/23 annual report.

Lent begins on Wednesday,
February 22, 2023 with
Ash Wednesday worship at
7:00 pm .

The worship will include distribu-
tion of Ashes and Communion.



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. If you are interested in providing rides from Canby, please contact the church office or Pastor Munter, or any of the Deacons.

Spare Coins for Community

During the month of February we will make a donation to the Campus Ministry at SMSU for snacks for their student activities.



Wednesday nights in Lent Sing with All the Saints in Glory: A Lenten Midweek Series

Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus—and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism. We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful Lutheran understanding of sinner and saint.

We have a rich calendar of saints in the Lutheran tradition—Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. This year, our midweek services will honor the commemorations that occur during the weeks of Lent. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our Christian journey as we are further connected with our history and the Church across time and space.

Week 1: Inheritance of Faith – George Herbert; John Wesley & Charles Wesley.

Week 2: Perseverance with Endurance – Perpetua & Felicity; Harriet Tubman & Sojourner Truth

Week 3: Faithful in Prayer – Gregory the Great; St. Patrick

Week 4: Striving for Justice – St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord; Oscar Romero.

Week 5: Dying and Rising with Christ – Hans Nielsen Hauge; John Donne

Please join us as we commemorate these individual and use their memory and work as a starting point for a deeper engagement with our own Christian faith.

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 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 meet 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	\$15,798.51	\$15,798.51	\$10,903.67	\$4,894.84			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in February

Dan and Terry Dybsetter
Nancy and Roger Longhenry

Altar Workers for Sundays in March

Brenda Knutson
Randy and Anna Kamrath and family

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.*

Bethel is **150** years old in 2023.

Theme, ideas, activities, committee, will be discussed during the annual meeting. Come and join the discussion!



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

Bethel Lutheran Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Congregation Potluck 11:15 am

Annual Meeting 12:00 noon

Coming Events

Worship with Communion

February 5, 12, & 22

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, February 20, 7:30 pm

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 pm

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



Readings for the month of February

February 5 Epiphany 5	February 12 Epiphany 6	February 19 Transfiguration	February 22 Ash Wednesday	February 26 Lent 1
Isaiah 58:1-9 Psalm 112:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-19 Matthew 5:21-37	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Joel 2:1-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Matthew 6:1-21	Genesis 2:15-3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

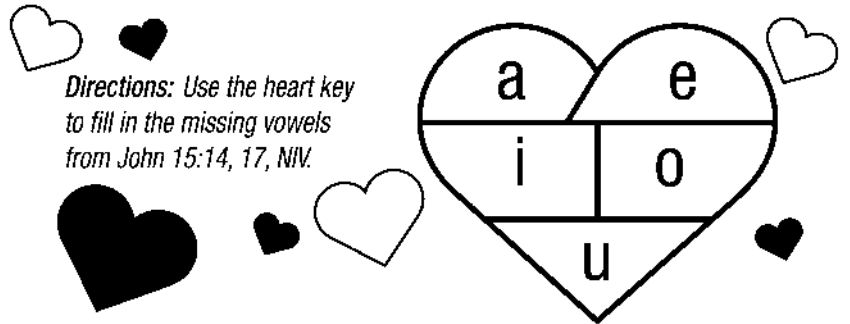
1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

Kids Page



A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, 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

February 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

www.bethelofporter.com

ANNUAL MEETING

February 5, 12:00, noon