



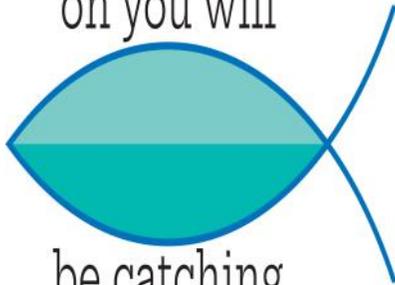
The Bethel Newsletter

January 2022

Porter, Minnesota

Sundays in February

“From now
on you will



be catching
people.”

LUKE 5:10, NRSV

February 6



February 13



February 20



February 27

Transfiguration Sunday

February 27

This is the time when we celebrate the public proclamation “This is my Son, my chosen” on the mountain top. This is the bridge between Christ’s baptism and the beginning of Lent.



Inside this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Birthdays/ Council info | 2 |
| Pastor’s Message | 3 |
| Board Reports | 4 |
| Current & Upcoming Events | 5 |
| Monthly Financial Update | 6 |
| Workgroup Schedule | 7 |
| Calendar/ Bible Readings | 8 |
| Kids’ Page | 9 |



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 |
| Tracy Wente | 296-4623 |
| Craig Petersen | 296-4483 |
| Terry Dybsetter | 296-4401 |
| Sara Wollum | 223-5844 |

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 |
| Pat Petersen | 296-4483 |
| Rachel Wollum | 223-5844 |
| Megan Syltie | 507-829-9931 |
| Amber Moeller -assist | |
| Katie Munter-assist | |
| Lillie Wollum-assist | |

Custodian

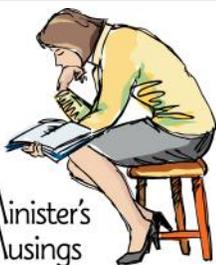
| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Lou Knutson | 296-4489 |
|-------------|----------|



February Birthdays

2nd Jeff (JJ) Horner
3rd Gail Sumption
6th Samuel Drietz
9th Shawn Jackson
12th Riley Carstens, Mike Knutson
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!



This year, Easter is relatively late (April 17th) and so we have a much longer time after Epiphany—a bridge of sorts between Christmas and Lent. Early in Epiphany, the theme revolves around the manifestation of Christ. Jesus is baptized and declared God's son, He turns water into wine and proclaims that He is the one foretold by Isaiah, come to set free, to release and the usher in the “year of the Lord's favor.”

But after the hub-bub in Nazareth calms down, the focus switches to one of discipleship. Jesus calls fishermen away from their nets to follow Him. And in the next two weeks, He will begin teaching a radical gospel. It starts in Luke chapter 6:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

This is not Matthew's “poor in spirit, hungering and thirsting for righteousness.” This is Luke and Jesus is speaking in plain truths. These are the ones God is concerned about. And they aren't the ones that the world considers interesting or important enough to care about.

The next week, we get more from this sermon: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Do not judge, do not condemn. Forgive. I don't know if this sounds good even in theory. It goes against all our natural instincts. It works against our sense of self-preservation. But this is clearly the job description for a disciple. Jesus calls the disciples and this is the next thing we read. Being a disciple is not for the faint of heart.

One of the things that the Christianity has lost sight of in the centuries since it became the official religion of the Roman Empire is the willingness to be truly counter-cultural. To stand up against the prevailing ideas of the day when they go against the gospel of Christ. And I don't mean the “culture warriors” who are anti-LGBTQ+, and who have appointed themselves hall monitor of everyone else's behavior and morality. Mostly because they are never angry about the right things. Where is the outrage about the levels of poverty and food insecurity in this country and the world? Where is the compassion and care for those who are struggling, grieving, anxious or depressed? Where are the calls for prayer for people we think are wrong (and real prayer, not prayers that they will come over to our side!)? Where is the call to care for and do good for the people we know hate us? Where is the example of true forgiveness?

Being a disciple is serious business. It demands a lot from us. It can put us in the cross-hairs of a lot of angry people on Facebook or Twitter. It can lead to seriously awkward conversations with friends and family. But this is the call. And we are not alone. We are the children of God. We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We gather together to encourage each other, to hear the Word proclaimed, to share in the Lord's Supper, and to be strengthened together to live the life of discipleship to which we have been called.

In Christ, *Pastor Munter*



The Church Council and Board reports for January 2022

Trustees

Trustee action taken:

- Motion was made and second to pay bills.
- We need to do work on the bell as it is not working properly
- Board approved the Manna Fund totals for 2022.
- The Board approved the 2022 proposed General Budget
- The Board presented the proposed budget to the Council.

Brian, Bob, Lance and Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for February: Terry Dybsetter
- Coins for community: SACH (Students Against Childhood Hunger) NHS food backpacks at the Canby Elementary School
- Communion Dates February 6, 13, and 27
- A list of Spare Coin topics was created.
- Update on congregation prayer cards. Sara will take the lead

Board of Education

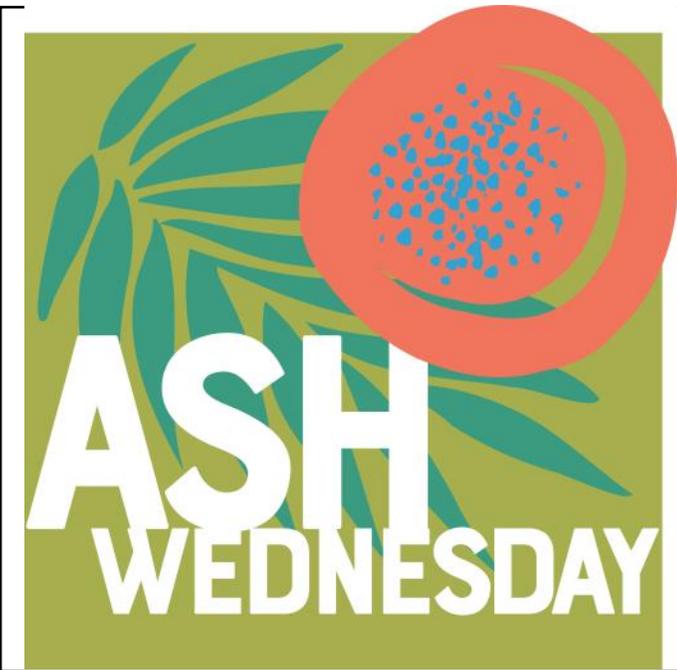
Report on the Youth gathering in Mpls this Summer

VBS is planned for July 25-28

The Board of Education will meet together on another day to accommodate the variety of schedules.

Confirmation is scheduled for May 15, 2022





*Lent begins on March 2,
with our Ash Wednesday
Service.*

*Lenten services will be held
at 7:00 pm*

*Invite a friend or
relative to worship with
Bethel either in person
or online and pray
always.*



**SPARE COINS FOR COMMUNITY—
FEBRUARY- **SACH****

**SACH IS AN EFFORT OF THE CANBY HIGH
SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY TO
PROVIDE FOOD -VIA BACKPACKS -FOR THE
WEEKENDS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

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.

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.

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--|
| | 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 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 | \$8,039.85 | \$8,039.85 | \$10,555.98 | -\$2,516.13 | | | |



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!



Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in February

Dan and Terry Dybsetter

Roger and Nancy Longhenry

Altar Workers for Sundays in March

Brenda Knutson

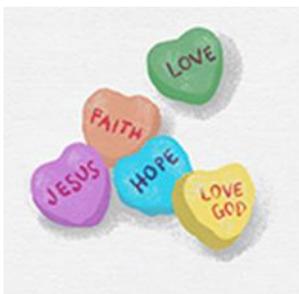
Randy and Anna Kamrath family

GROUP #3

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sandy and John Appelen | 303 828-6300 |
| Christy Hulzebos | 507 829-0182 |
| Denise and Greg Crowser | 223-5734 |
| Marlys and Kevin Petersen | 296-4564 |
| Darlene and Jim Moeller | 296-4472 |
| Pat and Craig Petersen | 296-4483 |
| Martha and Jim Melrose | 320-333-2870 |
| Sara and Nick Wollum | 507 829-8513. 223-5844 |
| Shawn Jackson | 296-4699 |
| Karen and Mike Evjen | 296-4474 |
| Nancy and Mark Syltie | 296-4404 |
| Jessica Dybsetter | 296-4448 |



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

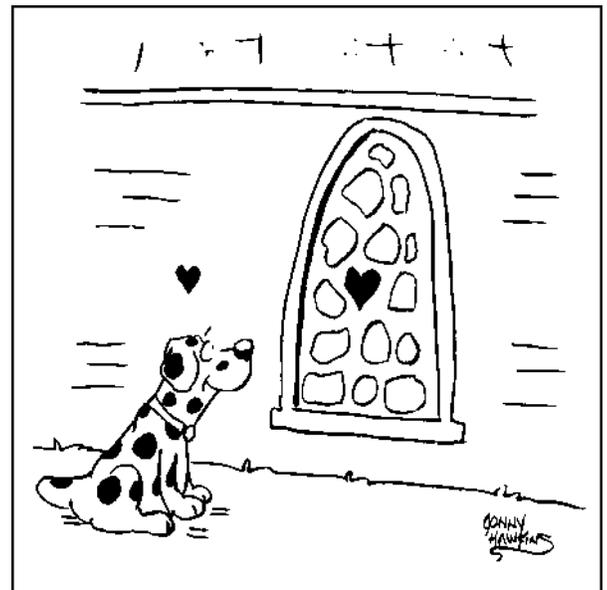


Beyond candy hearts and roses

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author

Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.



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

Worship with communion will be held on February 6, 13 and 27
Confirmation on Wednesdays from 6:30—7:45 pm

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2, at 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 6 Epiphany 5 | February 13 Epiphany 6 | February 20 Epiphany 7 | February 27 Transfiguration |
|--|---|--|---|
| Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 Luke 5:1-11 | Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corint. 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26 | Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corint. 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38 | Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corint. 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-43 |

Friendship SOUP

Make jars of Italian barley soup to share love and warmth with friends.



What you need:

- 1 cup pearled barley
- ½ cup sundried tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp dry minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp dry minced onion
- 1 veggie bouillon cube
- Glass pint jars with lids
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pen

What you do:

1. In order, layer the first five ingredients into the jar.
2. Trace the outline of the lid onto cardstock. Cut out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Remove wrapper from bouillon cube. Add contents of jar to saucepan. Add 4 cups water and a can of diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low. Simmer about 20 minutes, until barley is tender. Serve with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Screw on the canning ring to keep it in place.

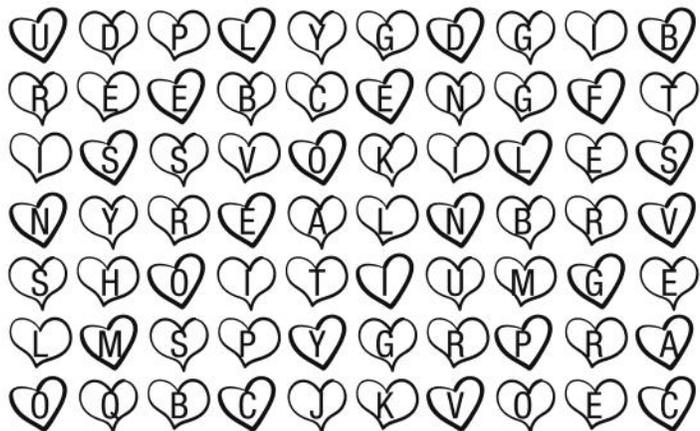
Kids Page



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love

 over a multitude of . Offer to one another without . Each of you should use whatever you have received to others, as faithful stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace



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 2022

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School, 9:00 am

*Live streamed on the Facebook page
and later at bethel@bethelofporter.com*

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter

