



The Bethel Newsletter

March 2020

Porter, Minnesota



Holy Communion:

Bethel—March 1, 8

Hemnes—March 17, 29

Sundays in March

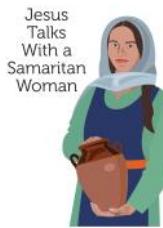
March 1—*The struggle between good and evil*
Worship with communion



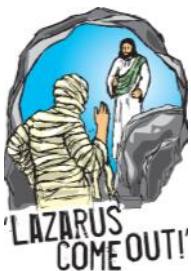
March 8—*We are given new life through baptism*

Worship with communion

March 15—*Like the Samaritan woman, we are given life giving water through Jesus.*



March 22—I was blind, but now I see.



March 29—*Jesus reveals his power.*



Bethel Lutheran Church is affiliated with the Southwest Synod of Minnesota of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Email Address!!

Bethel's new email address is
bethel@bethelofporter.com.

FORTY Days OF LENT

Join Hemnes and Bethel in mid-week worship to enhance your journey through the forty days of Lent.

Wednesday night:

Worship with Hemnes at 5:00 pm

Worship with Bethel at 7:00 pm

Bethel's youth and families will be serving a light supper at about 6:15 pm before worship

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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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March Birthdays

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



As you might imagine, I've been thinking about Lent quite a bit, and I came upon an essay by a former Luther Seminary professor I respect quite highly – Dr. David Lose. My letter this month is essentially his essay, with a few of my own moderations.

Why Lent?

Let's face it. Lent's in trouble. Most of us have favorite holiday seasons. For some it's Christmas, with the family get-togethers and presents. For others it's the Fourth of July and summer, filled by a sense of national pride and beach vacations to boot. But each year at just about this time, it strikes me that very few of us would pick Lent, a season that seems to most of us as grim as the weather that usually attends it.

Lent's Problem

The trouble with Lent, I think, is fairly clear. It's buried right in the heart of the primary reading for Ash Wednesday, from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6: "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward."

You don't have to read the whole verse, as the brunt of Lent's problem is in the first four words, "And when you fast...." And when you fast?! There it is in a nutshell, you see, the trouble with Lent: it feels like this strange, weirdly archaic holiday that celebrates things we don't value and encourages attitudes we don't share. No wonder that each year fewer churches observe this age-old (fourth century!) tradition.

So let's face it. Lent's in trouble. Maybe it's that Lent asks us to give up things. Or maybe it's Lent's themes that trouble us. Penitence. Sacrifice. Contemplation. These are the words of Lent, and I, for one, have a hard time believing they were popular even with the Puritans let alone now. And so each year, the same question inevitably demands loudly to be answered: Why Lent. I mean, who really needs it?

Lent's Promise

But you know what? Just maybe...I need Lent. Just maybe I need a time to focus, to get my mind off of my career, my social life – and a hundred other things to which I look for meaning – and center myself in Meaning itself. Just maybe I need a time – is forty days really enough? – to help clear my head of the distractions which life in this world will necessarily bring and re-orient myself towards the Maker of all. Maybe I need the opportunity to clear my eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy which comes from situation after situation where I feel nearly helpless so that I can fasten my eyes once more on the almost unbearable revelation of the God who loves his children enough to take the form of a man hanging on a tree.

And maybe, just maybe, Lent really isn't mine to do with whatever I please. Perhaps Lent isn't even the Church's, to insist upon or discard at will. Maybe Lent isn't any of ours, to scoff at or observe. Maybe Lent is God's. Maybe Lent is God's gift to a people starved for meaning, for courage, for comfort, for life. And if it is – if we can imagine that Lent is not ours at all but is wholly God's – then maybe we'll also begin to recall that we, too, are not ours at all, but are wholly God's – God's own possession and treasure.

Seen this way, Lent reminds us of whose we are. The "sacrifices," the disciplines, these are not intended as good works offered by us to God; rather, they are God's gifts to us to remind us who we are, God's adopted daughters and sons, God's treasure, so priceless that God was willing to go to any length to tell us that we are loved, that we have value, that we have purpose.

Yes. I need Lent. I need an absence of gifts so that I might acknowledge the Gift. I need a time to be quiet and still, a time to crane my neck and lift my head, straining to hear again what was promised me at Baptism: "You are mine! I love you! I am with you!" I need Lent, finally, to remind me of who I am – God's heir and Christ's co-heir – so that, come Easter, I can rejoice and celebrate with all the joy, all the revelry, all the anticipation, of a true heir to the throne.

And so yes, I need Lent. And to tell you the truth, I suspect that you do, too. You see, if Lent's in trouble, it's only because we're in trouble, so busy trying to make or keep or save our lives that we fail to notice that God has already saved us and has already freed us to live with each other and for each other all the rest of our days. And so we have Lent, a gift of the church, the season during which God prepares us to behold God's own great sacrifice for us, with the hope and prayer that, come Good Friday and Easter, we may be immersed once again into God's mercy and perceive more fully God's great love for us and all the world and in this way find the peace and hope and freedom that we so often lack.

To which, Pastor Munter can only add, "Amen, brother!"

In Christ,
Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for February, 2020

Trustees:

Members present: Bob, Curt, Roger and Jerome

Discussion topics were:

Motion was made and second to pay bills.

L & L LED rebates are still available.

Grinnell Insurance will doing a loss assessment soon.

Discussed the bookkeeping system: approved QUICK Books

Discussed parsonage snow accumulation and possible actions: remove bushes, widen sidewalk and additional steps. *submitted by Jerome*

Deacons

- Deacon of the Month: Linda Bruns
- Food Shelf: Canby
- Communion Dates for Bethel are March 1,8
- Deacons discussed: Food Share Month (March) decided to do Themes (1) Pasta/Sauce (2) healthy snacks/ canned fruit (3) meat/ veggies (4) breakfast (5) cash donation: **"Focus on the CANs not the CAN'Ts"**
- Officers: Terry, chair, Sara, Secretary.
- Possible activities: prayers for families, Lenten worship theme.

Members Present: Terry, Sara, Linda & Craig

Board of Education:

- Reminder on FB to signup for Green Lake ASAP as some sessions are filling up.
- First Communion: April 5th, Hayden Noyes and Braden Knutson. Boutonnieres, Megan
- July 13,16 VBS tentative date.
- Wondering about sprucing up the playground. Funding available?
- Last day of SS, May 10th : Possible Flat Jesus, Snacks
- Hand out Lenten books Ash Wednesday
- Have asked 10-12 graders if there is interest in attending the Youth Gathering in Mankato. One interested.

Tracy Wente, Pat Petersen, Rachel Wollum & Megan Syltie



March 8th

Daylight Savings Time begins



About Lent

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *lencten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea.

By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when He was tempted by the devil. The six

Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."

Focus on the CANS not the CAN'TS

The March Food Drive Campaign

We at Bethel want to encourage everyone to pray for those suffering from hunger and contribute to help relieve hunger in our community this month.

Each week Bethel will emphasize special food shelf needs.

March 1st

Breakfast Items

March 8th

pasta and sauces

March 15th

Healthy snacks, canned fruits, and vegetables

March 22nd

Proteins- canned tuna, beans and meat

March 29th

Personal Care or paper products &

Cash offering during worship for Canby food shelf

All donations remain in Yellow Medicine County and all cash donations are matched by Minnesota Food Share.



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 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!



This report is published in the Newsletter on a monthly basis. Each month include all previous months to give the full picture of the annual running total

		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
						Reserves Repaid Notes
January	\$7,964.02	\$8,659.98	-\$695.96			
February	\$11,721.02	\$17,319.95	-\$5,598.93			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in March

Brenda Knutson

Anna & Randy Kamrath

Altar Workers for Sundays in April

Martha Melrose

Deana Moeller

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 Cassidy 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.



Worship Schedule

Hemnes:

Sundays at 8:30

Lenten—5:30 pm , Wednesday

Bethel:

Sunday School 9:00 am

Sunday—10:00 am Worship

Sunday—11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

Lenten—7:00 pm, Wednesday

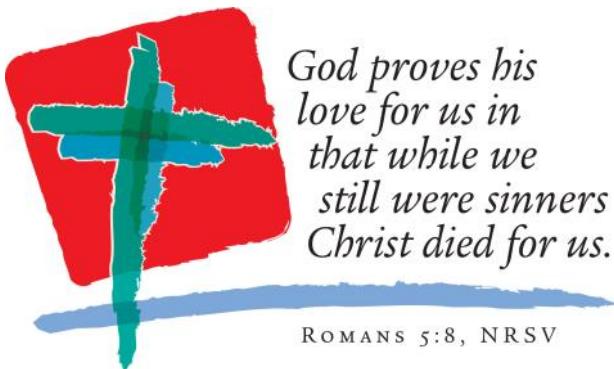
Holy Communion:

Bethel– March 1, 8

Hemnes –March 22, 29

Pastor's Office Hours:

9:30 am—12:00 pm Wednesday



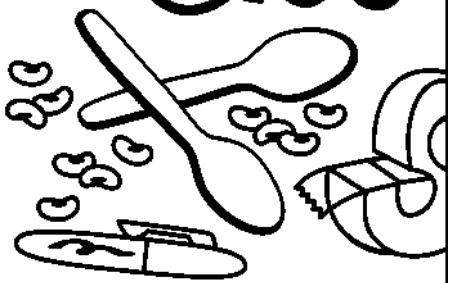
Coming Events

March 4, 11, 18 & 25	7:00 pm Lenten Worship
March 8	11:30-3 Confirmation
March 16	7:30 pm Boards and Council
March 15	1-4 pm First Communion
March 22	11:30-3 Confirmation
March 26	10:15 am Sylvan Court Worship 2:30 pm Minneota Manor



March 1 Lent 1	March 8 Lent 2	March 15 Lent 3	March 22 Lent 4	March 29 Lent 5
Genesis 2:15-3:7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-17 John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

Kids Page



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



A type of horn _____ MURTEP

Played by King David ___ PRHA

Plucked to make sound _ ___ IGSNSTR

Similar to a tambourine _____ ___ MRBELIT

A type of harp _____ ___ ELRY

Blown through to make sound _ ___ EPPI

A percussion instrument _____ ___ YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the Lord; Psalm 150:6, 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
March 2020**

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Hemnes Worship Sunday 8:30 am

