

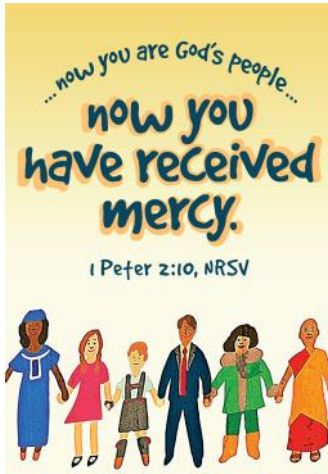


The Bethel Newsletter

May
2023

Porter, Minnesota

May



May 7



May 14



May 21



May 28



May 28, Pentecost Sunday

This day we celebrate 50 days after Easter and we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. The Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame and we are given the breath of the Holy Spirit.

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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	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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May Birthdays

1st Brent Merritt, Kelly Jeremiason, Randy Schmidt
 3rd Aidyn Bruns
 5th Kassidy Emery
 7th Caullin Frank
 9th Louaine Knutson
 10th Alexis Bakalakos
 11th Ryan Evjen
 12th Randy Kamrath,
 15th Jessica Dybsetter
 16th Daniel Dybsetter
 18th Jodi Merritt
 19th Charlie Anderson, James Kamrath,
 Elizabeth Kamrath, Casen Syltie
 20th Tricia Koussis
 21st Daniel VanDerostyne
 22nd Sarah Hurt, Martin Evjen
 24th Chad Moeller
 27th Kyle DeVos
 30th Nikki Petersen
 31st Barb Anderson, Andrew Keating

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

Easter is sometimes called, “The Queen of Seasons”. It is the ultimate, the highest, the most important season of the church year. It is certainly the longest. Easter is fifty days long – a week of weeks, plus a day, eight Sundays. The early Christians set this up on purpose. It was to be an excessive festival to reflect the amazing grace given to us by Jesus’ death on the cross and his glorious resurrection. It was an intense festival designed to anchor the entire Christian identity. The events surrounding this festival and the Sundays that encompass the season are the center point around which our lives as Christians revolve. We are Easter people!

There are all kinds of interesting aspects to this season. For one, what Sunday is to the week, the fifty days of Easter are to the year. They provide us with the central proclamation of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Every Sunday is a day of celebration of the risen Lord, and these fifty days can be seen as one long day – one extended celebration of the “Lord’s day” when death was finally defeated once and for all.

There is also the concept of the “Eighth Day”. Every Sunday is the eighth day, the beginning and ending of the seven-day round of our lives. The eight Sundays of Easter reinforce this idea. Here at Easter, our lives come to an end and are re-born again. We who are baptized into Christ Jesus die with Him and then rise with Him to new life. We celebrate this truth every week, but especially during the Easter season. These eight Sundays in which we hear again the stories that so mirror our own: Thomas, who had trouble believing what he could not see; the disciples on their way to Emmaus, who recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. These eight Sundays when we are reassured that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who knows His sheep by name; that He has prepared a place for us with Him in His Father’s house, that where He is, we shall be too; that Jesus will not leave us alone, but is sending the Holy Spirit as comforter and guide. Here on this eighth day we encounter something that our everyday lives cannot give us, something our regular seven days cannot imagine. We encounter the word and truth of Jesus’ resurrection. We encounter the grace and mercy poured out for us in bread and wine given here and now. We encounter all the love that God has worked in the passion, death, resurrection and promised coming of Christ.

I’ll end this month with a passage about this season from one of my favorite theologians, Dr. Gordon Lathrop. I’ve altered it a little (took out the Latin!), but the rest remains Dr. Lathrop.

Easter and Eastertide are for us and for all the needy ones of the present world, that we may believe. Jesus Christ was crucified once-for-all, long ago. His resurrection is forever true. Our festivals make use of the rhythms of time to proclaim this to us, in our own place and time. Easter makes use of the Passover deliverance festival to tell again the deliverance that is in Christ’s cross. Easter gives us the occasion to immerse new Christians into that deliverance and to remember and live from our own immersion. The fifty days, this joyous time, gathers us deeper into the overflowing mystery of Christ’s resurrection. He is risen. So are we. He pours out the Spirit. That Spirit is alive in our meeting. By the Spirit, the risen one encounters us with mercy now, in word and meal and needy neighbor. His wounded hands show us that our death is even now transformed. He is ascended to be everywhere with such transforming love. He is ascended to be with us in bread and wine and water. The whole of the story of his resurrection is the pouring out of the living Spirit, so the final day, the fiftieth day, called now “Pentecost”, is not a new thing. It is a summary of all the fifty days, poured out into our hearts, giving grounds for the ongoing life of the church.

Have a blessed and joyous Eastertide!

In Christ,

Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for March/April 2023

Trustees

Bob, Roger, Brian and Jerome attending

Voted to approve the monthly bills.

March Minutes:

Parsonage microwave not working as it is old. Brian will check it out and may look for a new one.

Church bell is in need of some repair.. We will connect with SMI.

Furnace—we are using LP now. Electric boiler is in need of parts– relay and contacts—Vlaminck Electric will repair.

Lorraine (Toov) Miller estate gifted Bethel \$8689.46. This will be invested in the Manna Fund.

April Minutes

Voted to approve the monthly bills.

The furnace sensor needs to be moved to the north side of the church as sensor gets wormed from the sun on the south side.

Motion was made to approve Josh opening a Vanguard Account to accept a donation of stock from a church member.

Sec. Jerome Bruns

Deacons

- Deacon for May : Terry Dybsetter
- Pentecost is on 5/28
- Communion in May is 7,14,28
- June 4th is confirmation
- “Coins for Community” “ The Connection”

Board of Education

April Minutes: The Board of Education met on Wednesday, March 29 with 5 members present. Cards were signed for the three first communion and four confirmands. Flowers were ordered for the first communion recipients. Paula will order the robes and flowers for the confirmands. Confirmation Sunday will be June 4th. It was decided to have the last day of Sunday School be May 14th with an introduction to Vacation Bible School. A starter kit for the VBS theme Rainforest Explorer will be ordered. The dates for VBS will be July 10th to July 13th. Submitted by Paula Sylie.

I REMEMBER.....

There is a box in the Narthex that says - "I REMEMBER". Please take this opportunity to write a special memory of yours related to Bethel. The 150 anniversary committee would like to gather memories of present and former members and extended Bethel family. Please write your memory on the sheets on the table or any paper will do, and drop it in the box. If you would rather spend more time, please submit your memory by e-mail to bethel@bethelofporter.com. We are also looking for photos, clippings, or other items. Please add your memory to our celebration.

Please encourage others with a past connection to the Bethel family to add their memories and send them to Bethel.

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

CELEBRATE 150 "SNIP IT "

Snip its (little pieces) of memories from the past:- Ladies Aid Members

"Mrs. Inga Arneson Olson: (b. 1894– d.1975) joined "Aid" in 1920 when she married Olaf Olson and joined Porter Lutheran Church."

"Inga seldom missed Aid, (Ladies Aid was an important part of the faith life of women in the Porter Lutheran Church) but it was often a problem for her to get there. She often walked. She said ' The road was wide and no excuse to stay at home. When there is a will, there is a way' says Inga and also "Vilja drag halle lasse."

"She has come to town in a lumber wagon, has taken her food to the road in a little wagon and caught a ride with some of her neighbors. She says, 'with the help of others it can be done'".

"Inga was always willing and ready to help anyone in need of help both in the church and in one's home. "

Inga was Silas Olson's mother, Dan and David Dybsetter's and Bonnie Merritt's great aunt

JUST A SNIP IT: want more? Look through some of the books in the CELEBRATION ROOM (the nursery Sunday School room) and experience stories from Bethel's past.



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.

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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 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 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	\$15,800.06	\$15,800.06	\$10,903.67	\$4,896.39			
February	\$8,615.85	\$24,415.91	\$21,807.34	\$2,608.57			
March	\$8,820.81	\$33,236.72	\$32,711.02	\$525.70			
April	\$15,324.08	\$48,560.80	\$43,614.69	\$4,946.11			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in

May

Paula Syltie
Rose Anderson
Megan Syltie

Altar Workers for Sundays in

June

Denise Crowser
Shelly Schrunk

Group #1

Paul and Darcy Bruns	507-530-0327 and 507-530-5036
Rose Anderson	296-4440
Marilyn and Waldo Petersen	223-5829
Sue Alley	507-530-1628
Marty and Megan Syltie	507 829-9931, 507 829-9924
Linda and Jerome Bruns	296-4645
Brenda and Mike Knutson	507-829-2767
Josh Sumption	296-4497
Brian and Kassidy Emery	605-880-3569
Matt & Victoria Bliss	605-941-4062 and 320-287-1050
MacKenzie & Ethan Kack	507 531-6111
Barb and Doug Anderson	296-4503
Carmon and Brian Mamer	507 828-8471, 507 829-8708



Bethel's Bell *"SNIP IT"*

OUR bell originally hung in the 1896 church across the street. The recorded date on the bell is 1902, so it appears that the church did not have a bell in the bell tower when it opened, but was hung later. OUR bell was installed in the "new" church bell tower in 1964.

OUR bell was cast by the Stuckstede foundry in St. Louis, Missouri. Recorded and cast on the bell are the foundry name, Stuckstede and Bros, the year 1902, the church name, Poter (misspelled Porter), Norwegian Lutheran Church, and Pastor A.N. Kleven

Our bell had two ring tones or peals, each with a separate clapper. The ushers call the two tones, the "happy" and the "sad" bell. The "happy" bell rings before worship and the "sad" bell rings at the end of worship. The "sad" bell is also rung at funerals.



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

**Porter Lutheran Church
building
1895 –1964**



Coming Events

Worship with Communion

May 7, 14, 28

Sundays, Worship

10:00 am at Bethel

Sundays 8:30 am Hemnes

Sunday School 9:00 am through May 7th

Confirmation 6:30 pm Wednesday's

Church Council/Boards:

Monday, May 15th, 7:30 pm

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

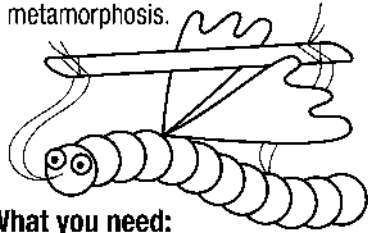


Readings for the month of May

May 7 5 Easter	May 14 6 Easter 2	May 21 7 Easter	May 28 Pentecost
Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31	Acts 1:6-14	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 31:1-16	Psalm 6:8-20	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	Psalm 104:24-34
1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	1 Corinthians 12:3-13
John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21	John 17:1-11	John 20:19-23

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:



- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

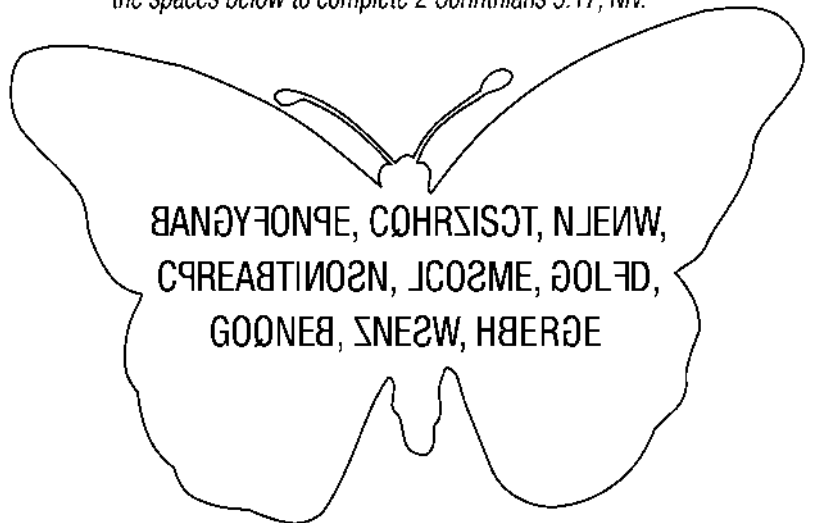
1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



Transformation POWER

 Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,  God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
 the _____ has _____:
 The _____ has _____,
 the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here



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

May 2023

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Live streamed on the Facebook

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter

