



The Bethel Newsletter

November 2019

Porter, Minnesota



Holy Communion:

Bethel—November 3, 10 & 24

Hemnes—November 17 & 24

New Email Address!!

Bethel's new email address is

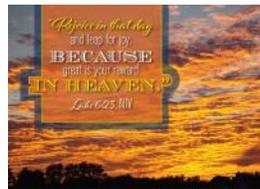
bethel@bethelofporter.com.

We have closed the frontier.com address.

Sundays in November

November 3—All Saints Sunday
communion

*In baptism, God makes saints out
of sinners*

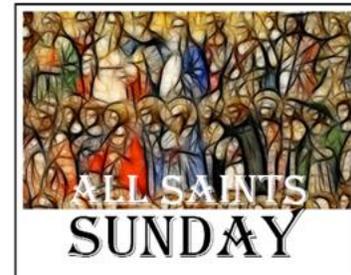


November 10 -
communion

Every Sunday is a little Easter

November 17

*Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in
doing what is right*



November 24—Christ the King
communion

Our Lord opens the door to paradise.

Inside this Issue

Birthdays/ Council info	2
Pastor's Message	3
Board Reports	4
Current & Upcoming Events	5-7
Monthly Financial Update	8
Workgroup Schedule	9
Calendar/ Bible Readings	10
Kids' Page	11



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:

1st, 2nd & 4th Tues—9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

3rd Wed—9:30a.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

Anna Kamrath, Chair	507-530-5558
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
Anna Noyes	296-4477
Nikki Petersen	507-829-0555
Rachel Wollum	223-5844
Megan Syltie	507-829-9931

Custodian

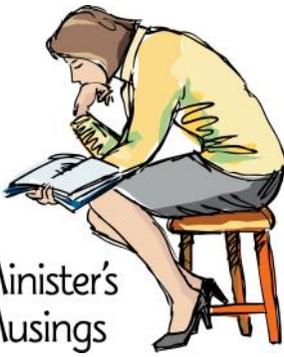
Lou Knutson	296-4489
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November Birthdays

1st Levi Hurt, Hadley Hurt
 4th Lauren Ningen
 5th John Mamer, Matthew Petersen
 6th Travis Longhenry
 9th Crystal Alexander, Daniel Pridal, Addison Emery
 10th Dick Anderson
 13th Heather Cottingham
 14th Gayle Fredricks
 16th Muriel Wadsworth
 17th Monica Tuttle, Lawrence Petersen,
 19th Kendon Knutson
 20th Linda Bruns, Grant Schrunk
 21st Rick Anderson, Lance Moeller, Sue Alley
 22nd Devin Sumption
 26th Julie VanHyfte
 29th Lacie DeVos

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

For most of my life, my sense of time has been structured less by the Gregorian calendar than by the liturgical one. It's not December, it's Advent. Not Spring, but Lent and Easter. Not September, but Rally Day. It not just because of my profession. I know pastors who do not think in terms of Church seasons in their own lives – which is fine. But the rhythm – the pulse and beat – of the year as it flows is, for me, that of the Church's year. And it is a cadence that gives me solidity, keeps me grounded when other things seem to be flying in all directions.

I know that every year I will be walking once again through Jesus' life. Anticipating His coming again in Advent, and as the sun returns in December, giving praise for the coming of the Son amongst us at Christmas. Rejoicing with the Wise Men at Epiphany, and then spending time contemplating what it means that Jesus came not just for the Jewish people, but for the world. In late winter and early spring we begin the journey with Jesus toward the Cross during Lent. The earth seems desolate and dead, the promise of growth and harvest a distant hope. But with God, all things are possible, even life out of death. And we sing and shout songs of joy and Alleluia! on Easter morning and throughout the season as we celebrate the power of God's love, the power of life, the power of resurrection in our own lives and in the life of the earth. One more festival, Pentecost, rejoicing in the gift of the Holy Spirit empowering us to share with the world the amazing love of God in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

After Pentecost we go into Ordinary time. The green season where we again move in tandem with the world around us and take in all that we have been given in the previous months and settle down to the business of growth. Learning, incorporating, absorbing the teachings of our Lord and then using them to help us produce good fruit. A harvest of 30, 60, 100 fold.

Which brings us to November, which isn't really a season except for how it is. This is the last month of the year, a door about to close, the curtain about to come down. And while it isn't a season, it has its own, distinctive character defined by the very first day: All Saints' Day. Though All Saints' Day falls on November 1st, the Church moves the celebration to the first Sunday. All Saints is a festival of death in the midst of life, and life in the midst of death. We come face to face with the reality that death is a part of who we are as creatures on this earth. And at the same time, we are reminded that God our Creator does not leave us there, for we "look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." What seems lost is found, what seems sure is lost. The great paradigm of life in Christ.

With such a beginning, it is not surprising that the Scriptures we hear during November are ones that focus our attention toward the end times. The focus is actually sharper in Advent, but November gets us started. This year we will hear hope proclaimed for the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and woe to those who are rich, full and laughing. Jesus assures the people that God is God not of the dead, but of the living, and that to Him all [those who have died] are alive. We are warned about how to behave in the time between the Ascension of Jesus into heaven and His return and end our liturgical year with the final celebration of Christ the King. Christ who is named king only in His crucifixion.

We end the year with a mix of darkness and light, of proclamation and admonition. There is no way around the uncomfortable reality of saints who die and a king who was crucified. But there is also no fuller joy than knowing our beloved saints are sleeping safe in God's arms and that we are loved so completely that our king would die for us. For you. For me. And as we turn the corner from this year to the next, we find waiting for us a candle. One candle lit to watch for the coming of our Lord. One candle that becomes two and then three and then four and we are off again walking a new year with our Savior right beside us.

In Christ,
Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for October 2019

Trustees:

Members present: Bob, Josh and Deana

Discussion topics were:

Motion was made and second to pay bills.

Need to repair the parsonage kitchen faucet

Replaced a furnace pump.

Submitted by Bob

Deacons

- Deacon of the Month: Terry Dybsetter
- Food Shelf: Canby
- Communion Dates for Bethel will be November 3, 10, & 24 (Christ the King)
- Deacons discussed:
- Thanks Giving tree. We will again promote this endeavor with Prairie Five.

Members Present: Anna, & Terry

Board of Education:

Discussed the Christmas Program which is scheduled on December 8th and set practice dates.

Cooper gowns (confirmation robes) is going out of business. We will purchase robes from them for our continued use.

Jr. high youth gathering is in November. We will have a car load (5) attending with Pastor Ellen as chaperone.

Tracy Wentz, Rachel & Megan Syltie

The ThankGiving Tree

Bethel's ThanksGiving Tree will again appear in church Narthex.

The tree is decorated with ornaments designating gifts (\$25-30) for children in our community who are in need of Christmas gifts.

No wrapping needed.

Please check out the tree during November .



Thanks for sharing!



Christ the King
Sunday
November 24th

This is the Last Sunday of the Church year .
At this time we celebrate Christ as the King who is shepherd, crucified one and illustrating Jesus' great power over life and creation.

Worship together with Holy Communion
at 10:00 am

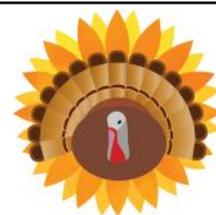
The first Sunday in December marks the beginning of the new church year with the beginning of Advent.



Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. As John of Patmos greets the seven churches in Asia, he writes: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty'" (Revelation 1:8, NIV). "The Alpha and the Omega" is a metaphor that points to God's eternal nature.

Present tense

After "turkey day" came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not "How *was* your Thanksgiving?" but "How *is* your Thanksgiving?" After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.



That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? "Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms." That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being "thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice."

So . . . how *is* your Thanksgiving?

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.

	Year:		2019		
	Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$	103,597.50		
	Monthly giving required to meet budget:	\$	8,633.13		
<p>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. The actual expenses each month may be more or less than was budgeted. This analysis is to be used as a guideline only and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.</p> <p>This report does not include revenues or expenses regarding the Hemnes Lutheran Church portion of the joint parish budget.</p>					
	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid
January	\$6,379.79	\$8,633.13	-\$2,253.34		
February	\$10,340.19	\$17,266.25	-\$6,926.06		
March	\$20,569.52	\$25,899.38	-\$5,329.86		
April	\$31,065.19	\$34,532.50	-\$3,467.31		
May	\$39,411.07	\$43,165.63	-\$3,754.56		
June	\$43,920.85	\$51,798.75	-\$7,877.90		
July	\$49,397.77	\$60,431.88	-\$11,034.11		
August	\$56,081.87	\$69,065.00	-\$12,983.13		\$3,115.00
September	\$65,435.87	\$77,698.13	-\$12,262.26		
October	\$71,613.20	\$86,331.25	-\$14,718.05		

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 to change your



Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in November

Darcy Bruns

Bonnie Merritt

Altar Workers for Sundays in December

Carmon Mamer

Lou Knutson

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
- Beryl and Ray Kuester 223-7935
- 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.*

We must always
give thanks to God
for you ... because your

faith
is growing abundantly.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3, NRSV

Campbell

“... And after he saved the animals, he started turning up on the mailing lists of environmental organizations.”

Worship Schedule

Hemnes:

Sundays at 8:30

Bethel:

Sunday School 9:00 am

Sunday—10:00 am Worship

Sunday—11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

Holy Communion:

Bethel— November 3,10, & 24

Hemnes —November 17 & 24

Pastor’s Office Hours:

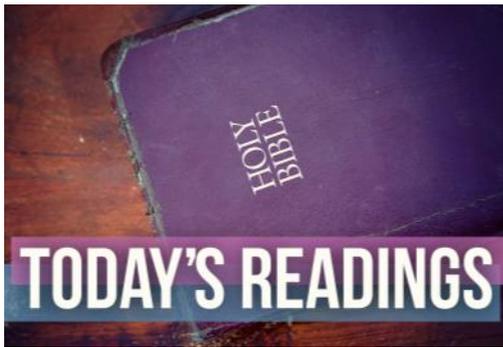
9:30 am—12:00 pm Wednesday

Confirmation 6:15 pm Wednesday



Coming Events

- November 2 9-11 Hope Lund and baby shower
- November 7 Hendricks Worship
- November 11 10:15 am Spiritual Reflections
- November 6,13,20 & 27 6:15-pm Confirmation
- November 18 7:30 pm Boards and Council
- November 21 2:30 pm Minneota Manor
- November 22-23 Je High Youth Gathering
- November 28 Thanksgiving—no worship



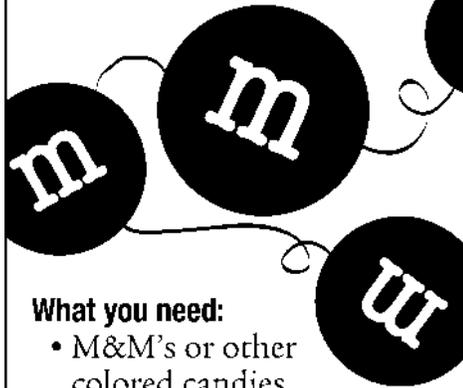
Begins on December 1

November 3 All Saints Sunday	November 10 Pentecost 22	November 17 Pentecost 23	November 24 Christ the King
Daniel 7:1-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31	Job 19:23-27 Psalm 17:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 Luke 20:27-38	Malachi 4:1-2 Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43



GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.



What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for

Orange: a gift you've received

Yellow: something you've recently learned

Green: something in nature

Blue: a special memory

Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!

Kids Page



A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

Hannah

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47

David

"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2

Mary

"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1

Paul

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30

Moses

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David



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
November 2019

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Hemnes Worship Sunday 8:30 am

