



# The Bethel Newsletter

June  
2023

Porter, Minnesota

## June

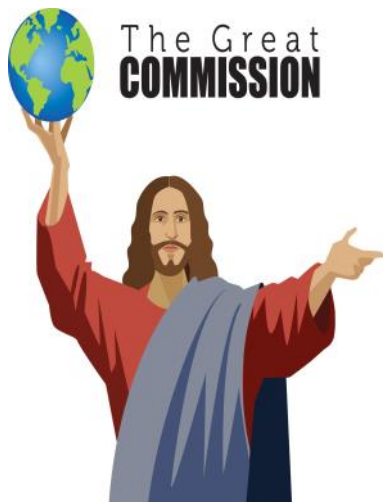
### Confirmation



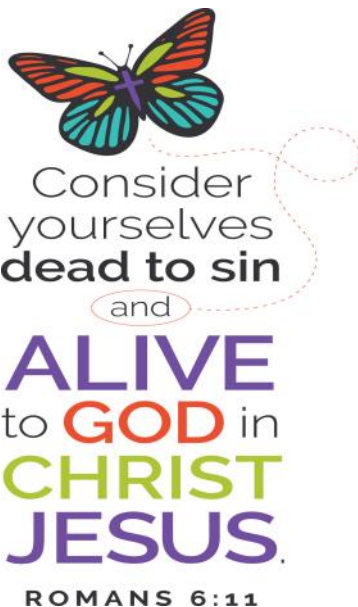
June 4



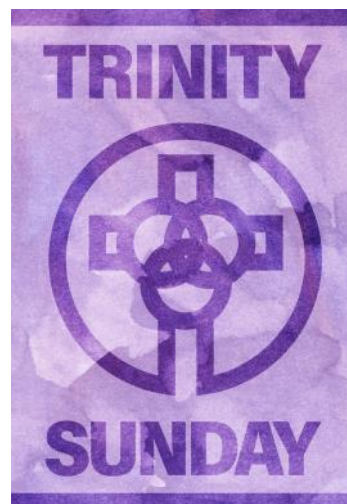
June 11



June 18



June 25



June 4

### Holy Trinity Sunday

The Trinity expresses the heart of our faith.

God of creation made know through Jesus Christ and, with us in the 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](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com)

Website: [bethelofporter.com](http://bethelofporter.com)

Pastor Rev. Ellen Munter 296-4558 (home)  
 507-828-1000 (cell)

Email: [pastormunter@gmail.com](mailto: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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## June Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Kaden Petersen, Joshua Wollum

14<sup>th</sup> Megan Evjen, Nathan Hulzebos

15<sup>th</sup> Braden Knutson,

Greg Crowser

19<sup>th</sup> Ralph Dovre, Karla Farrell,

Keith Petersen

20<sup>th</sup> Roger Petersen

22<sup>nd</sup> Butch Wilke

24<sup>th</sup> Zelda Goslar, Monica Wilke

27<sup>th</sup> Sharon Hunt

28<sup>th</sup> David Petersen

29<sup>th</sup> Bob Merritt

If you have any corrections or additions, please contact the church office at 296-4658, or email: [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto: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

This month marks the Church's transition from festival time to Ordinary Time. It's pretty much been one festival or observance after another since the end of November – the beginning of Advent. Especially this year where we only had a few Sundays after Epiphany before we dove headlong into Lent. But May 28<sup>th</sup> was the Festival of Pentecost which brings the formal celebration of Easter to a close. I say "formal" because every Sunday is celebrated as a "little Easter."

The switch to Ordinary Time also marks our return to the gospel according to St. Matthew. We haven't heard from Matthew since Easter Day, but we will be immersed in this gospel (for the most part) until the end of the year. So now seems like the time to think a little about this gospel in a broad sense. The best way to do that, of course, is to read it through. We will be hearing most of it on Sunday mornings, but like any good story, it's better to read it though as a whole.

One of the first things to remember is that Matthew was writing to a community of believers sometime around 80 or 90 A.D. These were mostly Jewish Christians or Gentiles who didn't know much about the Jewish faith or life. As a result, a main theme in this gospel is that of identity. What does it mean to be a Christian? Especially since Christ had ascended back into heaven, but had not yet returned. The first disciples thought He'd be right back, but it's been fifty years or more. Thus Matthew's gospel is often referred to as "the teaching gospel." A large part of the book is devoted to the five "Great Discourses" of Jesus – five different times when Jesus speaks uninterrupted – teaching the disciples about what it means to be His followers, who He is as Christ and Son of God, and, in turn, who God is.

Like the other two Synoptic Gospels (Mark and Luke), Matthew is a narrative – a story – the central meaning of which is found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Son of God. This Passion story is what makes the gospels Gospels (Good News) and not just interesting stories about a guy who lived a long time ago and could do amazing things. All the teaching in Matthew, all the questions and answers about identity, revolve around this one point: Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who came into the world to die for the world in order that the world could be put back into a right relationship with God the Father.

So if we identify ourselves as followers of Jesus, then Matthew helps us to understand what that entails. How do Jesus' followers act? How does Jesus want and expect us to live our lives? What are our values? What does it mean that Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us?" These are the questions Matthew's community were asking in their time, they are the questions we are asking in ours.

The first three months of Ordinary Time (Summer!) is not usually noted for the number of people flocking to worship on Sunday mornings. And while it's perfectly understandable that we take some time for recreation (re-creation), I'm going to ask you not to give up worship for the summer. This is Minnesota. Unless you are in the middle of the deep woods or afloat in the Boundary Waters, there is most likely a church pretty close by no matter where you go. Probably even a Lutheran one! But really, it doesn't matter – in fact, it might be fun to check out a denomination you've never been to before (bring me a bulletin!).

Ordinary Time is teaching time. It's growing time. It's the time when the Church settles in after the whirl of festivals and celebrations to really think about and reflect on what those celebrations mean for us. That Jesus came to earth, born of a human mother in a lowly stable. That strangers from afar traveled hundreds of miles just to see him. That He willingly gave His life for you and for me, so that we would never be separated from God. That He rose triumphant on the third day, defeating death forever. And that He ascended back into heaven, sending us the Holy Spirit to lead us, teach us, comfort us, support and defend us. Maybe Ordinary Time isn't all that ordinary after all!

In Christ,

*Pastor Munter*



## The Church Council and Board reports for May 2023

### Trustees

Lance, Brian and Jerome attending  
Voted to approve the monthly bills.

### May Minutes

Voted to approve the monthly bills.  
Discussed lawn spraying  
Discussed getting the “bug” man from Hendricks to remove bugs and vermin

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” “ Porter Park Shelter”
- 

### Board of Education

April Minutes: The Board of Education met April 30 following church. Members present were Anna Kamrath, Lillie Wollum, Katie Munter, Charli Wilke, and Paula Syltie,

The last day of Sunday School, May 14, was planned as a kick-off to VBS with the theme “Rainforest Explorers, Jesus Leads the Way”. Charli would bring snacks, Lillie and Katie will bring games, Anna will coordinate the craft of making rain sticks and Paula will buy supplies.

Vacation Bible School will be on July 10-13 and the crafts were planned with Izzy and Anna in charge of crafts. Charli will be in charge of snacks for each day. Paula will order supplies and work on Bible Stories. Lillie, Katie, James and Izzy will be helpers. Jodi Boulton will help with games.

Confirmation is coming up June 4. Charli is waiting for the Bible verses for each Confirmand. Gowns and flowers will be ordered.

## 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](mailto: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](https://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

### July

Marlys Petersen  
Barb Anderson

## 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



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

Bethel family and friends, We need your help!

As we continue our plans for Celebrate 150, we would like to contact extended family and friends who are not in our data base and who may be interested in celebrating with us during the year.

We have two purposes:

To gather memories, pictures, and/or clippings to include in our Celebrate 150 memoir. We would like to expand the information we have about the activities that were a part of the history of our faith congregation. Any era – especially the past 25 years – would be great. We have lost some of the faithful members who chronicled our history with scrapbooks and newspaper clippings and we need others to step up.

To include more interested people in the Celebration. We want to celebrate with everyone interested but are unable to reach out easily without your help. Perhaps some friends and family may choose to attend Sunday worship or other activities to again experience “Bethel’s fellowship”.

We ask that you connect with family and friends who may be interested in following our “history tidbits” and attending some of our celebration activities. We are planning **church dinner the first Friday night in November**. This catered dinner is scheduled on the traditional date of the “annual lutefisk” supper. We will need to sell tickets so we can plan.

We ask that interested friends and family either connect with us via e-mail, or regular mail so we can put them on a special Celebrate 150 mailing. The earlier we get the information the earlier we can include them in the Celebrate 150 mailings.

E-mail us at [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com) Or mail us at: Bethel Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 126, Porter, MN 56280

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/bethelofporter)

Other resources are available on our website. [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

**Porter Lutheran Church  
building  
1895 –1964**



### Coming Events

James **Worship with Communion**

**June 4, 11,**

Sundays, Worship

10:00 am at Bethel

Sundays 8:30 am Hemnes

Church Council/Boards:

Monday, June 19, 7:30 pm

Confirmation June 4:

James Kamrath, Izzy Kamrath,

Kendon Knutson, Joselyn Lacek

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



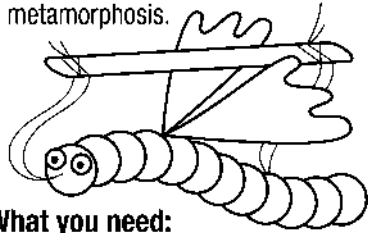
## Readings for the month of June

June 4 Holy Trinity	June 11 Pentecost 3	June 18 Pentecost 4	June 25 Pentecost 5
Genesis 1:1-2:4	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Exodus 19:2-8	Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalms 8	Psalms 50:7-15	Psalms 100	Psalms 69:7-18
2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Romans 4:13-25	Romans 5:1-8	Romans 6:1-11
Matthew 28:16-20	Matthew 9:9-26	Matthew 9:35-10:8	Matthew 10:24-39



# CHANGED!

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

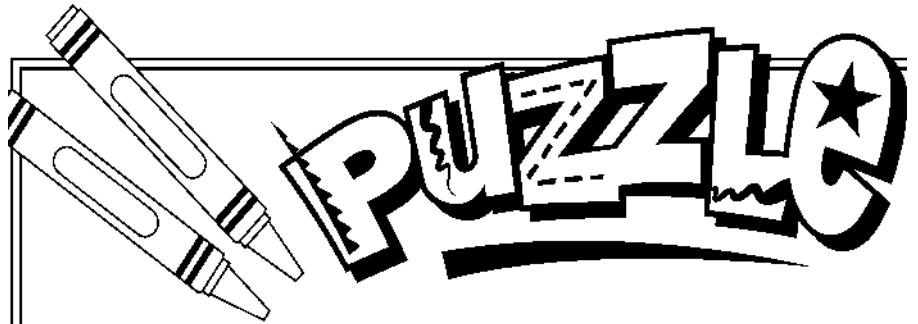


**What you need:**

- 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.



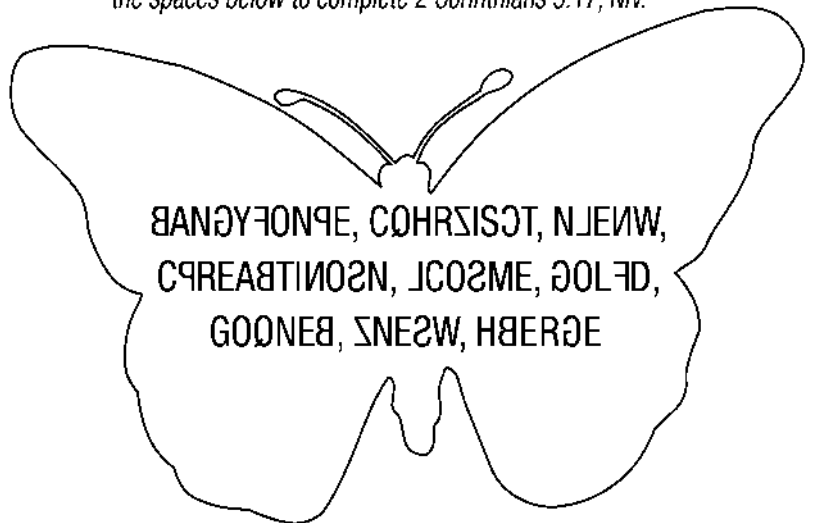
## Transformation **POWER**



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

June 2023

*Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am*

*Live streamed on the Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/bethelofporter](http://www.facebook.com/bethelofporter)

