



The Bethel Newsletter

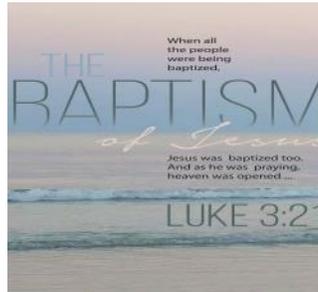
January 2022

Porter, Minnesota

Sundays in January



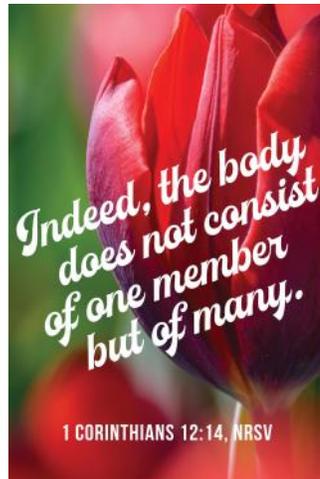
January 2



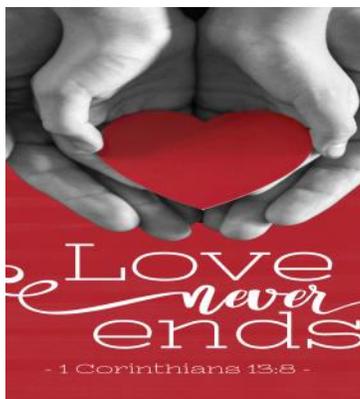
January 9



January 16



January 23



January 30

Bethel's Annual Meeting

The Bethel Annual Meeting will be held on January 23rd. Please join your Bethel family during this time of fellowship, leadership, information and decision making as we look forward to the coming year.



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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	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
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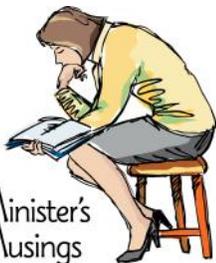


January Birthdays

3rd Brandon Moeller, Janet Hulzebos, Brady Carstens
 4th Mervyn Anderson
 5th Thomas Gawerecki, Jeff Wilke, Amber Moeller
 6th Pearl Knutson, Rose Anderson, Heather Hurt
 9th Todd Blumeyer
 10th Daniel Anderson
 11th McKenzie Evjen, Hailey Evjen,
 12th Jerome Bruns, Jim Moeller
 15th Rich Syltie
 16th Mark Anderson
 21st Cora Meier
 22nd Spencer Moeller, Tulane Alexander
 24th Ellie Dybsetter
 25th John Appelen, Robyn Hulzebos, Amy Drietz
 27th Nicole Kamrath,
 29th Ella Dybsetter

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



The new year is a chance to begin again. To make resolutions or to try new directions in life. This year, I'm issuing a challenge—read the Bible.

Yes. Read the Bible. It's not as hard to start as you might think. There are lots of plans out there to get you through the Bible in one, two or three years. And if you do, trust me, you'll have questions. Lots and lots of questions, which I will do my best to answer or to seek the answer with you.

The Bible is definitely a challenge. As Luther might say, it kills and resurrects us. When you read the Bible, I guarantee you will find things that will shock, offend, upset, relieve, confuse, enlighten or just plain irritate you. Some parts will speak so directly to you that it will seem as though it was written just for you. Other parts will require some wrestling, like Jacob wrestling with the angel all night until he obtained a blessing.

The Bible is not so much a book as it is a library. We are used to thinking of it as having two parts, the Old and New Testaments, but it may be more helpful to think of it as having five parts: the Law, the Prophets, the Writings (mostly history), the Apocrypha (yes, that should be included), and the New Testament. I would be happy to recommend translations or study editions.

The Bible is made up of at least 66 books, written by over 50 authors, over the course of 1000 years. It contains history, mythology, liturgy, prophecy, poetry, songs, prayers, comedy, tragedy, parables, legends, genealogies, apocalypses, and everything in between. And then there are the Gospels—which are their own literary genre, unique to the Bible. Some of the books are compilations of works, collections of letters or prophecies or sermons. Some are addressed to societies that haven't existed for thousands of years. And some books will seem to blatantly contradict others. The Bible is an evolving understanding of God and His relationship with His people, and as with any discussion of religion, there are disagreements and argumentation.

To assist you in this challenge, we will be printing weekly readings for morning and evening (matins and vespers) in the bulletin. These are readings used across the church daily, and if you follow them, you will read through the entire book of Psalms (the Psalter) every month and the whole of Scripture every two years. We will also have copies of the Daily Readings for Year Christ—a single reading each day that relates to the Gospel reading for Sunday. Try either—or both!—for a year: a year of reading and prayer, or wrestling and questioning.

If even a slice of our congregation did this—followed the readings regularly and prayerfully at home—it would transform Bethel from the ground up. For generations, Christianity was the default setting in the Western world, and much of the faith could be absorbed through the culture around us. But that isn't the case anymore. Practically no one reads the Bible with any regularity anymore, Christian or otherwise. And those who do tend to read it through the lens of American fundamentalism—which is not the way the Scripture has been read or understood for most of history.

Read the Bible. Just do it. Argue with it, laugh with it, get angry at it, live in it. Bring the Scripture into your homes, and bring your questions back to the Church. Because the Bible in and of itself is not the Word of God: Jesus is the Word of God. But the Bible gives us Jesus—crucified and resurrected. It give Jesus to us and us to Jesus. And the Holy Spirit winds in and through Scripture to bring the pages to life and pulls us in so that this story—God's story—becomes our story.

Continued on page 7.



The Church Council and Board reports for December 2021

Trustees

Trustee action taken:

- Motion was made and second to pay bills.
- Approved the concrete bill \$2178.89—will use Manna fund to pay for the parsonage sidewalk. Thank you Bob for a great job.
- Heating system at the parsonage. Discussed conversations with furnace people for the cost of replacement should the furnace fail. Cost estimate \$30,000.00
- Discussion of the 2022 proposed budget.
Brian, Bob, Lance and Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for January: Tracy Wentz
- Coins for community: Tornado relief in the Midwest (Lutheran Disaster Relief)
- Communion Dates January 2, and 9
- A list of Spare Coin topics was created.
- Gifts for home shut-ins to deliver in January
- Update on congregation prayer cards.

Board of Education

No report



Please Help

The nominating committee is looking for nominees for positions on the various boards and jobs in the church. Please contact one of the following committee members:

John Appelen: 303 828-6300,

Anna Kamrath: 507 530-5558,

Bonnie Merritt: 507 530-7539,

Shawn Jackson: 296-4699

as soon as possible.

Please prayerfully consider serving your Bethel family.



Invite a friend or relative to worship at Bethel either in person or on line and pray always.



We have started to work on the Annual Report.

Please submit board reports to the church office by

January 19th or earlier.

Please note: any phone, e-mail or address changes should be given to the office by January 19 so the member directory is corrected prior to the annual meeting.

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 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 Lutheran 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	\$7,243.51	\$7,243.51	\$10,456.24	-\$3,212.73			
February	\$8,528.56	\$15,772.07	\$20,912.47	-\$5,140.40	-\$2,000.00		
March	\$32,776.71	\$32,776.71	\$31,368.71	\$1,408.00			
April	\$8,253.97	\$41,030.68	\$41,824.95	-\$794.27			
May	\$11,379.61	\$52,410.29	\$52,281.18	\$129.11			
June	\$5,763.70	\$58,173.99	\$62,737.42	-\$4,563.43			
July	\$5,998.50	\$64,172.49	\$73,193.66	-\$9,021.17			
August	\$5,779.50	\$69,572.49	\$83,649.89	-\$14,077.40	-\$5,000.00		
September	\$9,423.85	\$78,996.34	\$94,106.13	-\$15,109.79			
October	\$9,426.36	\$88,422.70	\$104,562.37	-\$16,139.67			
November	\$7,122.16	\$95,544.86	\$115,018.60	-\$19,473.74			

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!

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in January

Linda and Jerome Bruns

Carol and Ken Jeremiason

Altar Workers for Sundays in February

Dan and Terry Dybsetter

Roger and Nancy Longhenry

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.*

Pastor's Column continued:

Fifteen minutes of reading in the morning and fifteen minutes at night is all it takes. And if you can involve the entire family, all the better! Attending worship and Sunday School is great, but it cannot take the place of living our faith each and every day of the week. Sunday worship is like a way station in the desert—we are equipped, absolved, taught, and strengthened in Word and Sacrament so that we can go out and do the work of Christ, made one in the Body of Christ and enlivened by the Spirit.

Part of the point of Christmas is that we bring the holy into our homes as we welcome the Christ child. Don't we want that to be the norm for the rest of the year as well? Don't we want to welcome Christ each morning, noon, and night? Don't we want the spirit of Christmas to last the whole year 'round? I dare you to take up this challenge! Read your Bible!

And I'll know if you don't, because if you do, you'll have questions for me and one another. Maybe even challenges to me about what you hear preached! And we will explore those questions together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter

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 January 2, 9

Confirmation on Wednesdays from 6:30—7:45 pm

Annual meeting Sunday, January 23 following worship



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



Readings for the month of January

<p>January 2 Christmas 2</p> <p>Sirach 24:1-12 Psalm 147 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18</p>	<p>January 9 The Baptism of Our Lord</p> <p>Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 18:14-17 Luke 3:15-22</p>	<p>January 16 Epiphany 2</p> <p>Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corint. 12:1-11 John 2:1-11</p>	<p>January 23 Epiphany 3</p> <p>Nehemiah 8:1-10 Psalm 19 1 Corint. 12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21</p>	<p>January 30 Epiphany 4</p> <p>Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corint 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30</p>
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Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.

Kids Page



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but **love** your **neig**_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

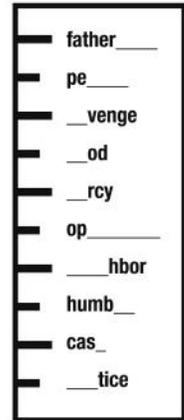
Learn to do right; seek jus_____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me_____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV



So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them d_____ to you, for this s_____ms up the _____w and the Proph_____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets



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

January 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

