



# The Bethel Newsletter

January  
2023

Porter, Minnesota

## January

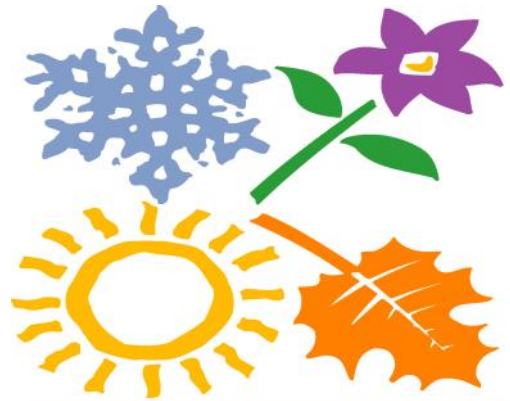


January 15



January 22

## Annual Meeting



## ANNUAL MEETING

January 22,

approximately 12:00 noon

following congregational potluck



January 29

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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	Randy Kamrath	507 530-4417
Vice President	Mike Knutson	507-829-2767
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
Shelly Schrunk	507 530-3714
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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## January Birthdays

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

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!



Christmas is officially over. It only lasts twelve days after all – from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. It is, by far, the shortest season of the church year. Advent is four weeks, Lent is forty days (not counting Sundays), Easter is seven weeks. Christmas? Only twelve measly days to rejoice in the incredible news that our God sent His Son to earth to be born as a human child – to be one of us! But for all that Christmas is important, more important is what Jesus came to earth to do.

The central event of Jesus' incarnation for us is His death on the cross and resurrection. Our salvation is not in His birth, but in His death. So the central festivals for the Christian Church are Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Jesus moving toward the cross, Jesus dying for us, Jesus rising from the dead. This is what we are all about as people of God. Our main festivals celebrate the wonderful gift of salvation given to us by God.

Epiphany tends to get lost between Christmas and Lent, which is unfortunate. Epiphany comes from the Greek and means “manifestation” or “revelation”. On the surface, it's a celebration of the Magi from the East who came to bring gifts to the baby Jesus. But it goes deeper than that. The Wise Men who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as King and so were the first to “show” or “reveal” Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few. In Isaiah we read, “Nations shall come to Your (*that is God's*) light, and kings to the brightness of Your dawn.” Jesus fulfills this ancient promise – He is not just a child in Judea, but a treasure for the whole human race

The light of Epiphany is directly on Jesus this season. We will hear of His baptism and revelation as God's own Son. We will watch as word begins to spread, as His disciples begin to invite others to “come and see” and as Jesus calls His first four. We hear Him radically redefining who are the blessed – not the wealthy or spiritually powerful, but the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek – and teaching the people to follow not just the letter but the spirit of the Law. “You have heard it said, ‘You shall not murder’ ... but I say that if you insult a brother or sister ... you will be liable to the hell of fire.” (Matt. 5:21-22) Finally, we will see Jesus not only in the spotlight but shining “like the sun, and His clothes became dazzling white” in the transfiguration.

All through this season our texts will point us back to the One the Wise Men came to worship. Jesus and His mission is the center of attention. All of these events are leading us to the most important part of the drama: Jesus' death and resurrection. Week in and week out, it is Christ who is the center of our focus. He is our gift, our leader, and our teacher.

Be on the lookout for God around you this Epiphany season. You might be surprised where He turns up. Come, and see what He provides. See where His light leads you to serve and invite others to join you as you gather around the light. And finally, in the post-Christmas quiet, spend some time renewing your relationship with the Child in the manger. Wise men, and women, seek Him still.

In Christ,

*Pastor Munter*

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## The Church Council and Board reports for December 2022

Each Board meet independently due to a scheduling problems.

### Trustees

### Deacons

- Deacon for December: Dawn Gawerecki

### Board of Education

## Calling all Bethel Members:

The nominating committee is currently looking for members who are interested in becoming involved in the action, (some work, some fun), that makes Bethel run day to day, week to week and year to year. If you are interested in being involved in Bethel's Church Council, please contact one of the individuals listed below to discuss open positions.



The nominating committee is:

- › John Appelen 303-828-6300
- › Paula Syltie. 507-828-3587
- › Bonnie Merritt 507-530-7539
- › Anna Kamrath 507-530-5558
- › Shawn Jackson 507-296-4699

Please give prayerful consideration to serving your Bethel congregation



We made our year-end giving challenge and successfully earned the \$2500. Great!!!!!!!!!!



### **Bethel is looking for Sunday Drivers.**

Right now, we have two members who are unable to drive and so cannot attend worship here at Bethel. If you are interested in providing rides from Canby, please contact the church office or Pastor Munter,

## Spare Coins for Community

During the whole year, we have committed to support, in a small way, local needs and interests. Our most recent effort was with our annual ThanksGiving Tree and support of the Canby Food Shelf.

Thank you to everyone who provided gifts for area children through the ThanksGiving Tree. We provided 25 gifts with the additional help of two Thrivent \$250.00 Action Projects that focused on gifts of bedding, winter wear, clothing and socks for the special children in this project.

## Thanks Again!!!

# ANNUAL REPORT

We are working on the Annual Report. Please submit the board reports to the church office by January 18<sup>th</sup> or earlier.



We are updating our directory. If you have address or phone numbers to update, please leave the information in the office.

Thank you

# 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. 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:	2022
Total Budgeted Expenses:		\$	126,671.81 *Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses
Monthly revenue required to meet budget:		\$	10,555.98

### 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	\$8,039.85	\$8,039.85	\$10,555.98	-\$2,516.13			
February	\$9,784.73	\$17,824.58	\$21,111.97	-\$3,287.39			
March	\$8,770.48	\$24,674.56	\$31,667.95	-\$6,993.39			
April	\$10,459.73	\$35,009.29	\$42,223.94	-\$7,214.65			
May	\$8,622.45	\$43,631.74	\$52,779.92	-\$9,148.18	-\$5,000.00		
June	\$6,040.58	\$49,672.32	\$63,335.91	-\$13,663.59	-\$2,000.00		
July	\$10,236.24	\$58,805.81	\$73,891.89	-\$15,086.08			
August	\$12,074.48	\$71,983.04	\$84,447.87	-\$12,464.83			
September	\$5,044.22	\$77,027.26	\$95,003.86	-\$17,976.60			
October	\$5,774.03	\$82,801.29	\$105,559.84	-\$22,758.55	-\$4,000.00		
November	\$8,342.06	\$91,143.35	\$116,115.83	-\$24,972.48	-\$2,000.00		
December	\$19,307.23	\$110,450.58	\$126,671.81	-\$16,221.23			

# Bethel Workgroup Schedule

## Altar Workers for Sundays in February

Dan and Terry Dybsetter  
Nancy and Roger Longhenry

## Altar Workers for Sundays in January

Linda & Jerome Bruns  
Ken & Carol Jeremiason

### Group #4

Terry and Dan Dybsetter	296-4401
Anna Noyes	507 828-7366
Phyllis and Harvey Melrose	223-5512
Dawn and Tom Gawerecki	507-828-6087 or 507-828-6099
Deanna and Lance Moeller	507 530-5814 or 507 530-5816
Gail and Marlo Sumption	507 828-2860
Ralph Dovre	223-7771
Joy and Randy Schmidt	224-2286
Hattie and Jim VanDerostyne	296-4563
David Dybsetter	296-4648, 507 828-1397
Chad Moeller	507-828-3536
Danny VanDerostyne	507-829-0070
Kayla and Brady Watson	507-829-6745
Barb Pronk	507 401-3263, or 507 828-1404



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



I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Walk in  
love

Ephesians 5:2

### 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)

## Bethel Lutheran Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**Sunday School, 9:00 am**

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Congregation Potluck 11:15 am**

**Annual Meeting 12:00 noon**

### Coming Events

## Worship with Communion January 1st , and 8th

Sundays, Worship

10:00 am at Bethel

Sundays 8:30 am Hemnes

Sunday School 9:00 am

Confirmation 6:30 pm Wednesday's

Church Council/Boards:

Monday, January 16th, 7:30 pm

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

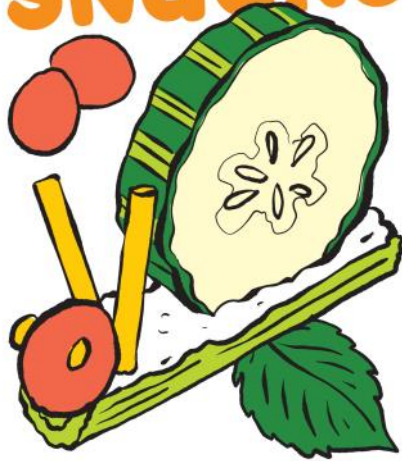


## Readings for the month of January

January 8 Baptism of Our Lord	January 15 Epiphany 2	January 22 Epiphany 3	January 29 Epiphany 4
Isaiah 42:1-9	Isaiah 49:1-7	Isaiah 9:1-4	Micah 6:1-8
Psalms 29	Psalms 40:1-11	Psalms 29:1-9	Psalms 15
Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 3:13-17	John 1:29-42	Matthew 4:12-23	Matthew 5:1-12



# SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

### What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

# Kids Page

# Puzzle!

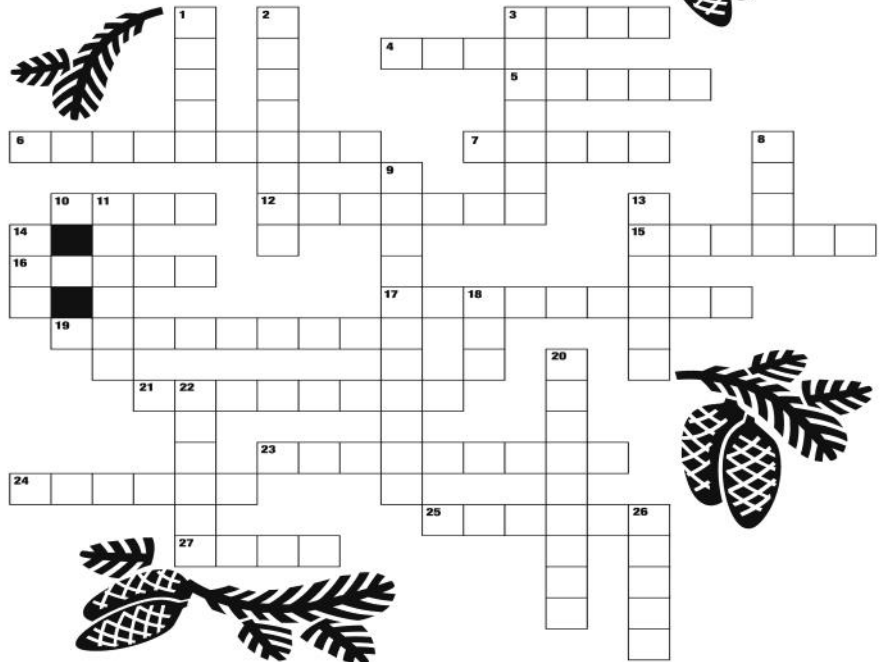
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

### DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

### ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



ANSWER DOWN 1. CAROL, 2. SHEPHERD, 3. MESSIAH, 4. GOLD, 5. SANTA, 6. BERTHELEM, 7. GIFTS, 10. MARY, 12. RUDOLPH, 15. HANDEL, 16. ELVES, 17. SAINT NICK, 19. INCARNATE, 21. NAZARETH, 23. ORNAMENTS, 24. MANGER, 25. JOSEPH, 27. STAR



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 2023

*Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am*

*Sunday School 9:00 am*

*Bible Seeds – Adult Devotional, 9:30 am*

*Live streamed on the Facebook*

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

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

# ANNUAL MEETING

**January 22, 2023 , 12:00,  
noon**