



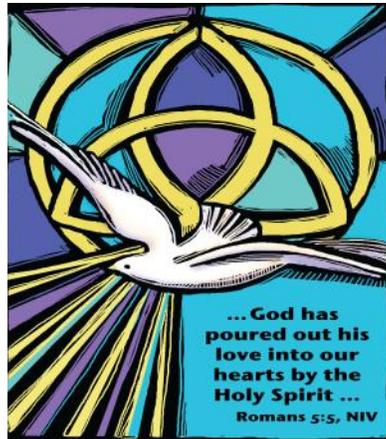
The Bethel Newsletter

June 2022

Porter, Minnesota



June



9:30 AM

Bethel's summer worship time on Sunday morning.

Hemnes' summer worship time is 8:00 am Sunday mornings.

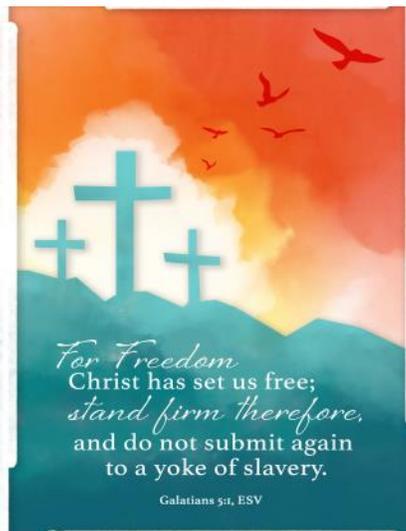
Chose the worship that best fits your Sunday Schedule.

Pentecost June 5

**Holy Trinity
June 12**



June 19



June 26

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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	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-youth	
Lillie Wollum-youth	

Custodian

Tom Gawerecki	507-828-6099
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June Birthdays

2nd Kaden Petersen, Joshua Wollum
 5th Craig Petersen
 14th Megan Evjen, Nathan Hulzebos
 15th Braden Knutson, Greg Crowser
 19th Ralph Dovre, Karla Farrell,
 Keith Petersen
 20th Roger Petersen
 22nd Butch Wilke
 24th Zelda Goslar, Monica Wilke
 27th Sharon Hunt
 28th David Petersen
 29th Bob Merritt

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!



I've been thinking about prayer recently. Probably because the gospel reading for the last Sunday of Easter is always from John 17. In John's gospel, Jesus spends chapters 13-16 preparing His disciples for what's coming—His death, resurrection and ascension. Chapter 17 is a prayer. It's called the "High Priestly Prayer" which is a fancy way of saying that it is a prayer that Jesus prays on our behalf. Jesus prays for us! Which got me thinking about prayer.

Prayer is one of the basics of Christian life. And yet, it is one that people tend to struggle with a lot. We think our prayers need to be more eloquent or more persuasive or somehow more "spiritual." Or we don't know what to say or ask for. I know that I am often kind of envious when I hear pastors that can spontaneously give long, lovely prayers. I'm not great at that. And when it seems that we are not getting any response from God, we tend to give up.

But here's the thing. Prayer is supposed to be simple, direct and ongoing. Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew chapters 6 and 7 (from *The Message*):

⁵ "When you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?"

⁶ "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.

⁷⁻¹³ "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and He knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.

Matt 7

⁷⁻¹¹ "Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?"

I love the way this translation put it! Especially in Matthew 6:7-13, because there are tons of books out there essentially teaching people that if they pray *just right* God will give them what they want. We can't manipulate God that way, and prayer isn't supposed to be some sort of formula.

And when we are encouraged to pray more, many of us hear that as a command or that we need to somehow pray better. That whatever we are doing isn't enough. But this isn't a contest. God is not judging us on our ability to put words together or how much effort we put into our prayers. To paraphrase the *Message*, God doesn't sit in a box seat waiting for you to perform for Him.

Prayer is about being in relationship with God. In the Matthew 7 text Jesus makes that clear. If you, as a parent, know how to give good things to your children, how much more so does God, Who is your heavenly parent. And so we are to pray to God (talk to God) as we would to a loving parent, because that Who He is. We can pour out our hearts to God, tell Him our joys and sorrows, our happiness and fears, our excitement and our worries because He wants to hear us. It doesn't matter how well we say it, as long as we are saying it to Him.

(continued on page 7)

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council and Board reports for May 2022

Trustees

Trustee action taken:

- Motion was made and second to pay bills.
- Door locks have been installed. Paid for from Manna fund
- Repairs were made to the parsonage roof.
- The bell is being repaired at SMI.

Brian, Bob, Lance, Roger and Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for June: Terry
- Coins for community: "Coins" will be donated to Green Lake Bible Camp.
- Communion Dates June: 5 (Pentecost), 12 (Holy Trinity)
- Lorraine Alleckson has died but no funeral is currently planned.

Terry, Sara, Tracy, Dawn and Linda

Board of Education

There was no Board of Education Report
Paula Syltie reporting



**Synod Council voted on May 21st to cancel the
2022 Synod Assembly.**

This was a very difficult decision and a disappointment. The Synod Assembly Planning Committee, your Synod Staff, and many others have done a tremendous amount of work getting us to this point. Reflecting on the Synod Assembly's theme verse, "For we are God's servants, working together, you are God's field, God's building" the work and our ministry together continue because it is God in Jesus Christ who has walked beside us. We serve a mission that is greater and more life-changing than any of the obstacles that have come our way.



Porter American Legion and
Canby VFW will hold a joint
Memorial Day Ceremony in Can-
by on Monday,
May 30th at 10:00 am in Central
Park.

Spare Coins for Community

In June we are supporting the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries with our "COINS" offering. This will help the Green Lake Bible Camp/Shores of St Andrew with their continuing ministry to children and adults in our area.



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 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!

Just a note, during the week of May 22 it was necessary transfer \$5000.00 into the regular checking account to cover regular monthly bills—operating expenses.

	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 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	\$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		

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in July

Marlys Petersen
Barb Anderson

Altar Workers for Sundays in June

Denise Crowser
Shelly Schrunk

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.*

(Pastor's message continued from page 3)

Simple. Direct. Ongoing. That's the motto for prayer. If anyone asks you about your prayer life, you can say, "It's simple, direct and ongoing." Easey peasey. ☺ And then do that. God loves you. You are His child, His beloved one. Just talk to Him. Tell Him what you need. Tell Him what you're worried about. Thank Him for His grace and blessings. Over and over. Day in and day out. And pay attention, because God does answer prayer. It may not always be obvious, it may not be in a way you expect, and it may take a while—but God has promised to hear you when you pray, and God does not break His promises.

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 June 5 & 12

Worship is Sunday at 9:30 am at Bethel and 8:00 am at Hemnes during the summer.

VBS planning has begun!

VBS will be held on July 25-28 here at Bethel.

The theme is "HAYDAY"

Planning meeting: June 22, 6:00 pm



June 19th

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



Readings for the month of June

June 5 Pentecost	June 12 Holy Trinity	June 19 Pentecost +2	June 26 Pentecost +3
Acts 2:1-21	Proverbs 8:1-31	Isaiah 65:1-9	1 Kings 19:15-21
Psalms 104:24-35	Psalms 8	Psalms 22:19-28	Psalms 16
Romans 8:14-17	Romans 5:1-5	Galatians 3:23-29	Galatians 5:1-25
John 14:8-17	John 16:12-15	Luke 8:26-39	Luke 9:51-62

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 2022

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School, 9:00 am

*Live streamed on the Facebook page
and later at bethel@bethelofporter.com*



Wear Red for Pentecost