



The Bethel Newsletter

March 2021

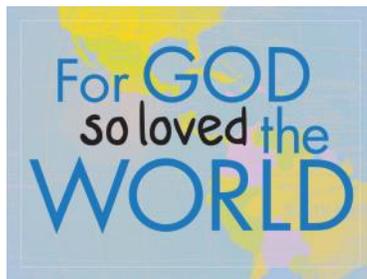
Porter, Minnesota

Sundays in March

Check out Food Share Month info on page 5



Jesus Cleanses the Temple
March 7



March 14



March 21

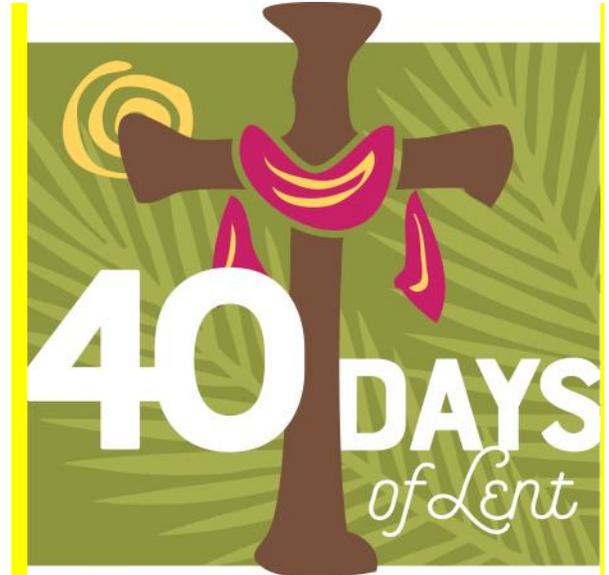


March 28
Palm Sunday

April 1
Maundy Thursday



April 2
Good Friday



All Lenten worship services on Wednesday evening are at 7:00 pm and will be broadcast live via Facebook and the video will be posted on Bethel's website.

There is no in-person Wednesday night worship.

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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

Custodian

Lou Knutson	296-4489
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March Birthdays

2nd Heidi Christianson

3rd Tim Bakalakos

7th Stephen Pridal

11th Joy Schmidt

12th Barb Hurt

16th Jon Anderson, Jacob Crowser

18th Joni Fredricks, Marney Negen

21st Marilyn Petersen

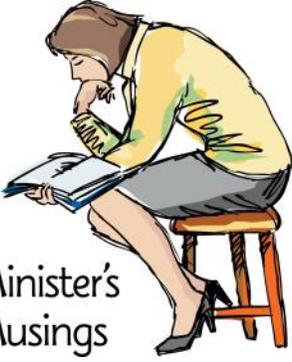
23rd Kayla VanDerostyne, Lorelei Dybsetter

24th Ethan Evjen

29th Virginia Thomsen, Chris Syltie

31st Kevin Petersen, Dawn Hansen, Dylan Bruns,
 Laura Appelen

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!

A stylized illustration of a woman with brown hair, wearing a yellow long-sleeved top and a grey skirt, sitting on a wooden stool. She is leaning forward, reading a book. To the left of the illustration is the text 'Minister's Musings' in a stylized font.

Minister's
Musings

It's been a year. It's been a year since the first lock-down order and the pandemic started to become more real for all of us. I remember all the scrambling we, and everyone else, were doing to figure out what was next. How to do worship, how to do work, how to adjust our lives. And I remember when people said, "Oh, three to six months, and we'll be good." On the one hand, that sounded like such a long time and on the other—not long enough. I'm sad that it's been a year, but not really that surprised.

It's been an interesting year for the Church, Bethel and Hemnes included. We probably would have taken a lot longer to begin live-streaming worship, if ever. And that has been a real blessing, I think. We have been able to reach many people we might not have been able to otherwise. And I hope we all have a renewed understanding of why it is so important to meet together as a community to worship. You can certainly worship separately while watching the live-stream (in your jammies with a cup of coffee!), but there is something missing. That feeling of unity, of being one body in Christ is lessened when we are always apart.

That sense of disconnectedness, of not being sure what is going on now, much less in the future, makes me think about the disciples with Jesus those last few days before the crucifixion. It must have felt like whiplash, going from a triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the people shouting, "Hosanna!" to Jesus washing their feet and talking about going away, to the arrest at the garden of Gethsemane, the trial, and then the crucifixion. So much happening so quickly, none of it expected or even imagined. And none of it good.

The two and a half days the disciples spent between Jesus' death and His resurrection must have been not just sad, but disorienting. What to do now? Where to go? How to imagine life after all this. These are things many of us have thought about this last year. And now, as the end seems like it is near, we begin to wonder what it will be like to get back to "normal." Or what "normal" even means.

We are in the gospel of Mark this year, and the Easter story is a bit different in Mark. Jesus doesn't actually appear. The women go to the tomb, but they only find it empty and a young man there with a message: "Jesus is not here. He has been raised. Tell the disciples that He is going ahead of them to Galilee and they will see Him there, just as He told them." That message is for us, too. Jesus goes ahead of us and will be there to meet us when we arrive. No matter where or when that is. We go into the future confidently, because we know that Jesus will be there with us.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for February 2021

Trustees

Trustee action taken:

- Motion was made and second to pay bills.
 - Jerome Bruns will be the chair and Roger Longhenry will be the secretary.
 - Moved to transfer \$2000. to the checking account to cover bills.
 - Heard a sound system update.
 - Evaluate changes to the sound room, (glass window)
 - Add 2 new speakers down near the front
 - Replace Pastor's microphone
 - Add acoustical tile under balcony
- Bob, Brian, Lance and Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for March: Tracy Wente
- Food Shelf: Canby—Food Share Month
- Communion Dates: March 7, 14
- *Reported absentee*

Board of Education

Discussion of "Kid's Time" program in the future.

Monthly Packets of activities and information will be distributed to the children and families that will support the Sunday morning "Kids Time".

Can You Help

The MN Food Share Month Campaign just began. We at Bethel want to support this effort as this is one way we are able to help keep the shelves full to help local families in need. Some people have found during this past year that the “someone else” in need may be themselves.



We encourage everyone, as you are able, to contribute to help relieve hunger and to pray for those suffering from hunger in our community.

Each week Bethel will emphasize special food shelf needs.

March 7th

Breakfast and pasta

March 14th

Healthy snacks, canned fruits, and vegetables

March 21st

Proteins- canned tuna, beans and meat

March 28th

Personal Care, cleaning or paper products &

A cash offering during worship for Canby food shelf will be on March 28th.

If you attend our worship remotely, you can still give by mail or in the box in the church narthex. Please label your offering “FOOD SHELF”.

All donations remain in Yellow Medicine County and during March are matched by Minnesota Food Share.

An added note: A donation of \$300 (tax deductible). will supply a family of four with a 3 day emergency supply of food once a month for a year. The goal of the Prairie Five Yellow Medicine County food shelf is \$10,000 to help end hunger in our local communities this year.

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:	2021	
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$	125,474.84	*Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses
Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$	10,456.24	

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	\$6,243.51	\$6,243.51	\$10,456.24	-\$4,212.73			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in March

Brenda Knutson

Randy Kamrath family

Altar Workers for Sundays in April

Martha Melrose

Deana Moeller

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
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



For Your information :

As we continue with the changes within our parish community due to COVID 19 , we felt a need to add to our COVID plan. The following is an appendix to the document that the council passed earlier in the year. This portion addresses the use other Social Hall, Kitchen and Sunday School wing of Bethel Lutheran.

Appendix I to COVID plan for Bethel Lutheran Church, Porter, MN

Guidance regarding use of the social hall and kitchen area during the COVID mandate.

There will be no activities held in the social hall, kitchen or other rooms in the social hall wing of Bethel Lutheran other than church designated functions until COVID mandates are lifted.

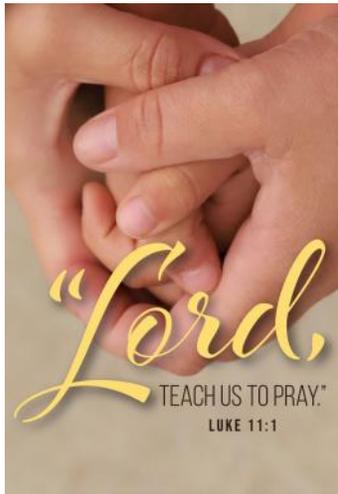
Approved by the Bethel Council September 14, 2020

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 has resumed with adaptations to provide a safe worship experience for all—masks required.

Our worship service is still available live streamed, video or audio recording. Please worship with us as you are able.

Worship with communion will be held on March 7, 14

Wednesday night Lenten Worship live-streamed only at 7:00 pm

Please stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance and pray for those in our country and around the world who are sick and who are grieving.

Readings for the month of March

March 7 Lent 3	March 14 Lent 4	March 21 Lent 5	March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday
Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 19	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalm 51:1-12	Isaiah 50:4-9a
1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	Psalm 31:9-16
John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	Philippians 2:5-11
			Mark 14:1—15:47

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



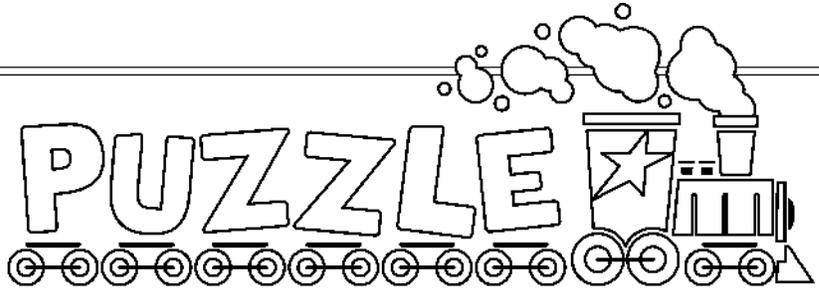
What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

Kids Page



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VDEO

_____ (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

_____ (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

_____ (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

_____ (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

“Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many _____.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows



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

March 2021

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

"KIDS TIME" following

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

www.facebook.com/bethelofporter

