



# The Bethel Newsletter

September 2020

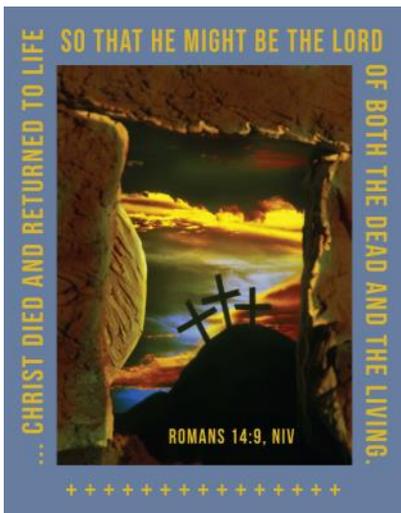
Porter, Minnesota

## Sundays in September

Worship with us via the internet

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2020

BEGINS SEPT. 13



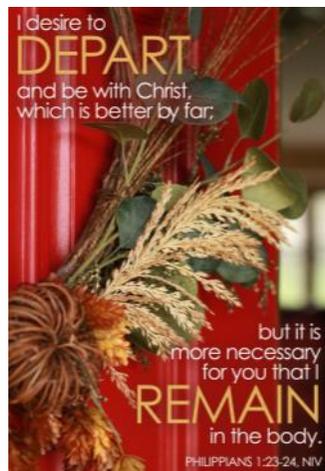
Sept. 6

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS BEEN WORKING ON A PLAN TO BEGIN SUNDAY SCHOOL IN A NEW WAY DURING THE PANDEMIC.



Parents, please watch for texts, e-mails and updates for planned activities,

Sept. 13



Sept. 20

Join us for Worship  
**Bethel has returned to in person worship!**

However, Bethel will continue with live stream worship because of Corvid-19. The worship time remains at 10:00 am on Sunday morning.

*Not able to live steam on our Facebook page? The service will be posted to our website after worship.*

Sept. 27



Bethel Lutheran Church is affiliated with the Southwest Synod of Minnesota of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

God's Work. Our Hands.

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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	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
Martha Melrose	296-4515
Craig Petersen	296-4483
Terry Dybsetter	296-4401
Sara Wollum	223-5844

#### Trustees

Jerome Bruns, Chair	296-4645
Tom Gawerecki	224-2267
Roger Longhenry	296-4422
Bob Merritt Jr	296-4436
Curt Blumeyer	223-7339

#### Board of Education

Tracy Wente, Chair	296-4623
Pat Petersen	296-4483
Nikki Petersen	507-829-0555
Rachel Wollum	223-5844
Megan Syltie	507-829-9931

#### Custodian

Lou Knutson	296-4489
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### September Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Esping  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Martha Melrose  
 6<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Horner  
 7<sup>th</sup> Reid Glasser, Chris Anderson  
 9<sup>th</sup> Daniel Pridal  
 11<sup>th</sup> David Schrunk  
 17<sup>th</sup> Justin Anderson,  
 Sean Cristian-William Goslar,  
 17<sup>th</sup> Caitlyn Anderson, Pat Petersen  
 20<sup>th</sup> Ivan Anderson, Hope DeVos Lund  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Becky Sik,  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Jeremiason, Denise Lalim  
 28<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Melrose, Tanner Sik  
 29<sup>th</sup> Hailey Noyes

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!



In so many ways, September feels more like the beginning of a new year than January. One reason may be that the season is changing, which signals something new, even if that season is actually when things die off or go into hibernation in the northern hemisphere rather than come to life. January is in the middle of the season, with weeks of the same ahead before spring. But of course, the main reason for me at least, is that school starts again. And even though I am not actually in school, I still feel that sense of new possibilities and a fresh start when September comes along.

I usually celebrate by buying a new box of crayons.

As you are all well aware, this school year will be different. We are all praying that the year begins and continues without a problem, but I suspect many are quite anxious about how it will, in fact, play out. There are many things to adjust to and many losses to grieve. While for some, the lack of fall sports is no big deal, for others it is a deeply felt loss. Teachers will be feeling the loss of closeness with their students – no more hugs at the end of the day for the elementary kids! – and are worrying about how to teach and encourage growth given the new restrictions. Not to mention worry about their own health. College students have been getting sort of a bad rap due to the escalating infections on campuses around the country – and maybe they have not always made the best decisions – but they are also adjusting and grieving the loss of “normal college life,” and they are young. Making bad or questionable decisions is part of being young, is it not?

So where does all this anxiety and worry and loss leave us? If I say, “Back in the arms of Jesus” will you just roll your eyes? I’ll have to chance it, because I don’t know a better place to be. We are in the gospel of Matthew this year and Matthew begins and ends with a deep and profound promise: “They shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” Matt. 1:23 and: “Remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:20 At the beginning and the end we are reminded that we are not alone. That God Himself is with us, the arms of Jesus are around us. This does not mean that the virus will miraculously disappear, or that the deep divisions among us will be miraculously healed. What it means is that we don’t suffer alone. Nor do we struggle in vain. God is with us in our suffering and blesses our struggles, giving us strength to go on.

And as profound as these promises are, the promise of the resurrection is deeper and wider and even more all-encompassing. In the resurrection we have the promise of not only God with us, but of all of us and the whole creation redeemed and renewed. This promise is the foundation of the hope we live in, the hope that sees us through these days and weeks and months ahead.

In Christ,

*Pastor Munter*

*I am  
with you  
always*



## The Church Council and Board reports for August, 2020

**Please note: church lawn council meeting was held on  
August 17th to discuss the business of Bethel.**

### Trustees

Trustee action taken:

- Motion was made and second to pay bills.
- Josh reviewed our video equipment. He has ordered in some new equipment as our church continues video services to our online congregation.
- The parsonage side garage door is sticking
- The trustees have scheduled Aug 30 to stain the play structure.

Bob, Curt and Jerome

### Deacons

- Deacon for September: Sara Wollum
- Food Shelf: Canby
- Communion Dates for September 6, 13 with 1st communion on Sunday, September 13 if all works out.

### Board of Education

The board discussed options for beginning an updated form of Sunday School safely. They will be surveying SS families to create this plan. They are planning a Fun night on September 13 for a kick-off considering social distancing.

The September 21st meeting will be held in the parking lot with social distancing. Bring your own chair.

## Write a Letter

### Dear Friends in Christ Project

### From the Women of the ELCW

Even in the best of times, we humans crave community. For Lutheran Christians, it is part of our spiritual DNA. We want to be with and care for others. Living within the new realities wrought by a global pandemic, many of us now crave community more than ever. So, along the lines of everything-old-is new-again, how about a letter-writing project to sustain community?

Receiving a handwritten letter is so special, like receiving a gift.

Dear Friend in Christ is a simple project. You start by writing a letter using the salutation, "Dear Friend in Christ." Fill a page or two, however you are inspired. Among other things, we invite you to share your thoughts about two questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?

When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter.

*We began this letter-writing project back in May, but there's still plenty of time for you to participate. Learn how at [welca.org/dearfriend](https://welca.org/dearfriend) (<https://womenoftheelca.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=38d837d7f50973ead605ee94e&id=3cc221bf29&e=f432bef241>).*

*This message is an excerpt from "Grace notes: Dear Friend in Christ" by Linda Post Bushkofsky in the September 2020 issue of Gather ([https://womenoftheelca.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?](https://womenoftheelca.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=38d837d7f50973ead605ee94e&id=3cc221bf29&e=f432bef241)*

— STAYING —  
CONNECTED



# 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.

\* \$3,000 from the Federal COVID Response Grant as it was deposited directly into General from the US Treasury, it was later moved into Bethel's Reserve Fund in the savings account. This amount is not reflected in the May or Year to Date revenues.



			Year:	2020			
	Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$		103,919.70	*Does not include the Hemnes share of the Parish Budget.		
	Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$		8,659.98			
Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison-							
This report is based on budgeted expenses only, divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. Actual expenses per month vary greatly. This analysis is to be used as a guideline only and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.							
This report does not include revenues assigned to the Hemnes Lutheran Church portion of the joint parish budget or transfers from savings accounts that cover special, non-budgeted expenses.							
	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	\$7,965.95	\$7,965.95	\$8,659.98	-\$694.03			
February	\$4,163.24	\$12,129.19	\$17,319.95	-\$5,190.76			
March	\$8,867.00	\$20,996.19	\$25,979.93	-\$4,983.74			
April	\$8,572.27	\$29,568.46	\$34,639.90	-\$5,071.44			
May	\$16,334.85	\$45,904.12	\$43,299.88	\$2,604.25		\$3,000.00	Federal COVID Response Grant*
June	\$7,028.50	\$52,932.62	\$51,959.85	\$972.77			
July	\$3,832.84	\$56,765.46	\$60,619.83	-\$3,854.37			
August	\$6,589.75	\$63,355.21	\$69,279.80	-\$5,924.59			

\* \$3,000 from the Federal COVID Response Grant as it was deposited directly into General from the US Treasury, it was later moved into Bethel's Reserve Fund in the savings account. This amount is not reflected in the May or Year to Date revenues.

# Bethel Workgroup Schedule

## Altar Workers for Sundays in September

Dawn Gawerecki

Sara Wollum

## Altar Workers for Sundays in October

Tracy Wente

Virginia Thomsen

### 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
Matt & Victoria Bliss	605-941-4062 and 320-287-1050



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

## Optimism grounded in hope

“I am fundamentally an optimist,” said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. “Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair..”

Some say optimism is naive, “a generic good idea about the future” (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela’s 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

Our hope is grounded in God’s power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus’ resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can’t fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa’s first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.



## Worship Schedule

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page. Bulletins and Sunday School resources 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.

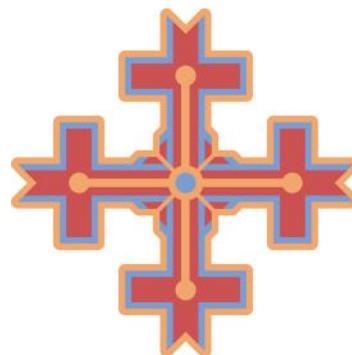
## Coming Events

**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 September 6, & 13.**

*Please stay safe, wash your hands, wear a*



## Readings for the month of September

September 6 14 Pentecost	September 13 15 Pentecost	September 20 16 Pentecost	September 27 17 Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:7-11	Genesis 50:15-21	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Ezekiel 18:1-32
Psalms 119:33-40	Psalms 103:1-13	Psalms 145:1-8	Psalms 25:1-8
Romans 13:8-14	Romans 14:1-12	Philippians 1:21-30	Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 18:15-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 20:1-16	Matthew 21:23-32

# A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

### What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



### What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!

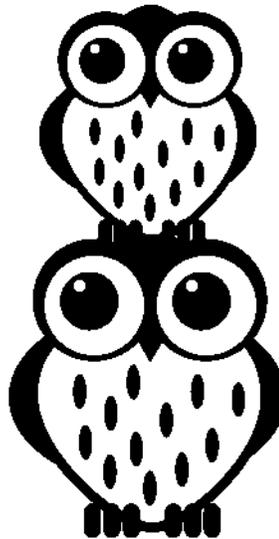
# Kids Page



## WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*



- |         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| school  | — ○ — — —     |
| paper   | — ○ —         |
| wisdom  | — — ○ —       |
| read    | — — — ○       |
| play    | — — — — —     |
| learn   | ○ — — — —     |
| grow    | — ○ — — — —   |
| pencils | — — — — —     |
| pray    | — ○ — —       |
| art     | — — — — —     |
| student | — — — ○ — —   |
| kids    | — — ○ — — — — |
| apple   | — — ○ — — —   |

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous



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

September 2020

*Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am*

*Live streamed on the Facebook page  
and later on the Bethel website*

