



The Bethel Newsletter

**April
2023**

Porter, Minnesota



April 9

April



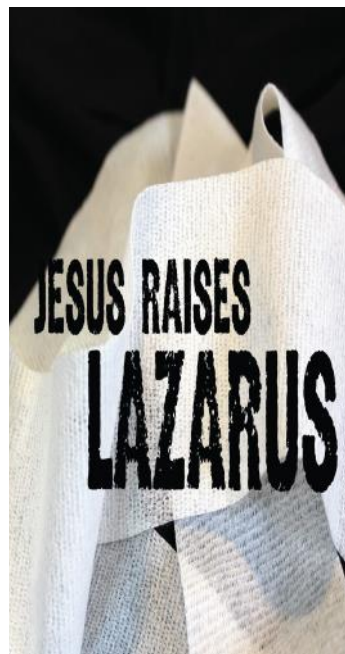
April 16



**April 16, 2023
following
Bethel's worship**



April 23



April 30

There will be a Coffee Fellowship following worship to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Pastor Ellen's ordination and the 20th anniversary of her installation at Bethel.

Please join together to celebrate this milestone with Pastor Ellen.

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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	Brenda Knutson	507 829-2767
Vice President	Bonnie Merritt	507 296-4436
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
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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April Birthdays

2nd Thomas Stone
 5th Kris Wilke
 8th Justin Hurt,
 9th Denise Crowser
 10th Steve Anderson, Trent Blumeyer, Ann Petersen
 11th Tyler Heideman, Ryan Heideman
 13th Darcy Bruns
 15th Christine Stone
 17th Nancy Bakalakos
 18th Erin Cornell, Tracy Wente
 19th Karen Potz,
 22nd Paul Bruns
 25th Denise Anderson, Kyle Mamer
 26th Maya Lundin

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!



The Gospel readings for Year A (which is this year) are ones that have been used since the early church to teach those preparing for baptism. The forty days of Lent (Sundays don't count!) developed as a time for the catechumens (the ones preparing for baptism) to pray and fast and learn the faith before their baptism at the Easter Vigil. And these readings out of the Gospel according to St. John were primary. Until the Church adopted the three year schedule of readings, these were the texts heard every year during Lent.

After we contemplate Jesus in the wilderness for forty days we hear about Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night. He had what he probably thought was a very strange conversation about being born again and the power of the Spirit and finally the amazing declaration that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."

Next we sit with Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and listen to their conversation about worship and her life and the astonishing declaration of Jesus that, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Jesus restores sight to a man born blind next, but he hardly speaks. Instead, we find ourselves as bystanders in a dispute between the man who was blind and the Pharisees. It's a fascinating conversation/argument—they even bring his parents in at one point—and includes a wonderful witness to Jesus, "...though I was blind, now I see. ... We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

And then, finally, we get the extraordinary story of Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. This text is remarkable in so many ways, it's hard to find just one to zero in on. Jesus delaying His travel until He knows Lazarus has died, the conversation with Martha and then with Mary, Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb and, finally, His command, "Lazarus, come out!" A command Lazarus obeys. This one story brings together all of the others—demonstrating not only Jesus' power but also the love and salvation of God, summed up in Jesus great proclamation: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." It also launches us into Holy Week, for at the end we overhear the chief priests and Pharisees talking together and openly planning to put Jesus to death.

These stories out of the Gospel of John have formed and shaped the Christian life for centuries. As we hear again about our God, Who gave us His only begotten Son Who quenches our thirst, heals our infirmities and gives us life, we give thanks for our own baptisms. And as we contemplate the great love of our God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of His Son, we are, I hope, moved not only to deeper faith, but are filled with hope and joy for the future. A hope and joy that then leads us out into the world God so loves to continue to work in His name.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for March 2023

Trustees

Bob, Roger, Brian and Jerome attending

Brian Mamer was elected as chairman.

Voted to approve the monthly bills.

Parsonage microwave not working as it is old. Brian will check it out and may look for a new one.

Church bell is in need of some repair.. We will connect with SMI.

Furnace—we are using LP now. Electric boiler is in need of parts– relay and contacts—Vlaminck Electric will repair.

Lorraine (Toov) Miller estate gifted Bethel \$8689.46. This will be invested in the Manna Fund.

Sec. Jerome Bruns

Deacons

- Deacon for March : Tracy Wentz
- Easter Sunday is April 9th
- Communion in April 2,6,9
- June 4th is confirmation
- 1st Communion will be April 2, 2023
- “Coins for Community” Wergeland Willing Workers

Board of Education

The Board of Education met on Wednesday, March 29 with 5 members present. Cards were signed for the three first communion and four confirmands. Flowers were ordered for the first communion recipients. Paula will order the robes and flowers for the confirmands. Confirmation Sunday will be June 4th. It was decided to have the last day of Sunday School be May 14th with an introduction to Vacation Bible School. A starter kit for the VBS theme Rainforest Explorer will be ordered. The dates for VBS will be July 10th to July 13th. Submitted by Paula Syltie.

I REMEMBER.....

There is a box in the Narthex that says - "I REMEMBER". Please take this opportunity to write a special memory of yours related to Bethel. The 150 anniversary committee would like to gather memories of present and former members and extended Bethel family. Please write your memory on the sheets on the table or any paper will do, and drop it in the box. If you would rather spend more time, please submit your memory by e-mail to bethel@bethelofporter.com. We are also looking for photos, clippings, or other items. Please add your memory to our celebration.

Please encourage others with a past connection to the Bethel family to add their memories and send them to Bethel.

The committee is: Terry Dybsetter, Pastor Ellen, Bonnie Merritt, Sara Wollum, Carmon Mamer, Paula Syltie and Lou Knutson.

SNIP IT

Snip its (little pieces of) of memories from the past:- Ladies Aid Members

Mrs. Inga Arneson Olson: (b. 1894– d.1975) joined "Aid" in 1920 when she married Olaf Olson and joined Porter Lutheran Church.



..... Inga seldom missed Aid, (Ladies Aid was an important part of the faith life of women in the Porter Lutheran Church) but it was often a problem for her to get there. She often walked. She said "The road was wide and no excuse to stay at home". When there is a will, there is a way" says Inga and also "Vilja drag halle lasse."

She has come to town in a lumber wagon, has taken her food to the road in a little wagon and caught a ride with some of her neighbors. She says, "with the help of others it can be done".

"Inga was always willing and ready to help anyone in need of help both in the church and in one's home.

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!

This report is published in the Newsletter on a monthly basis. Each month include all previous months to give the full picture of the annual running total

	Year:	2023	
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$	130,844.06	*Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses
Monthly revenue required to sustain budget:	\$	10,903.67	

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	\$15,800.06	\$15,800.06	\$10,903.67	\$4,896.39			
February	\$8,615.85	\$24,415.91	\$21,807.34	\$2,608.57			
March	\$8,508.61	\$32,924.52	\$32,711.02	\$213.50			

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in

May

Paula Syltie
Rose Anderson
Megan Syltie

Altar Workers for Sundays in

April

Martha Melrose
Deana Moeller

Group #5

Barb and Doug Anderson	296-4503
Carmon and Brian Mamer	507 828-8471, 507 829-8708
Bonnie and Bob Merritt	296-4436
Carol and Ken Jeremiason	296-4512
Louaine Knutson	296-4489
Zelda Goslar	223-7450
Merv Anderson	223-7981
Paige Fliss	507-828-3896
John and Barb Hurt	296-4467
Jodi and Kory Boulton	507-530-4814
Monica and Butch Wilke	296-4470
Nancy and Tim Bakalakos	507 828-0693
Charlotte and Kris Wilke	507 829-7962
Charlie and Amy Anderson	605 695-6240, 605 695-0499



Bethel's Bell

OUR bell originally hung in the 1896 church across the street. The recorded date on the bell is 1902, so it appears that the church did not have a bell in the bell tower when it opened, but was hung later. OUR bell was installed in the "new" church bell tower in 1964.

OUR bell was cast by the Stuckstede foundry in St. Louis, Missouri. Recorded and cast on the bell are the foundry name, Stuckstede and Bros, the year 1902, the church name, Poter (misspelled Porter), Norwegian Lutheran Church, and Pastor A.N. Kleven



Our bell had two ring tones or peals, each with a separate clapper. The ushers call the two tones, the "happy" and the "sad" bell. The "happy" bell rings before worship and the "sad" bell rings at the end of worship. The "sad" bell is also rung at funerals.

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

**Porter Lutheran Church
building
1895 –1964**



Coming Events

Worship with Communion April 2,6,9

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, April 17, 7:30 pm

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



Readings for the month of April

April 9 Easter	April 16 Easter 2	April 23 Easter 3	April 30 Easter 4
Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14-32	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 118:14-24	Psalm 16	Psalm 116:1-19	Psalm 23
Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
Matthew 28:1-10	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.

PUZZLE

A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



The _____ is _____, and
 _____, the
 _____, and _____
 _____ 24:1, NIV

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV



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

April 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

www.bethelofporter.com



Lenten Worship

Wednesday's in March

7:00 pm

Dinner starts 6:00 pm