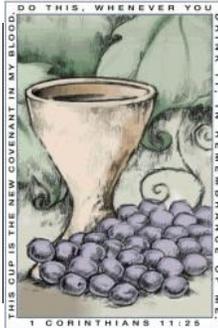




# The Bethel Newsletter

December 2018

Porter, Minnesota



## Holy Communion:

Bethel—December 2, 9, & 24  
Hemnes—December 16, 23, & 24

## New Email Address!!

Bethel's new email address is  
[bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com).  
We have closed the frontier.com  
address.



## The Bethel Sunday School Program is: "The Best Story: An Imperfect Christmas Eve Pageant"

Join the Sunday School on  
December 9th, 11:15

(following morning worship)

To hear the story of the birth of  
Jesus as only the Sunday school  
can tell it.

The Sunday School will be practicing on  
Sunday December 2nd, 11:00-12:00,  
Wednesday night December 5th, 6:00—8:00  
pm with pizza before practice and 9-10 am  
on Sunday December 9th. (during Sunday  
School hour).



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

**5:30 pm @ Bethel**

*Hear and feel the beauty of the nativity story,  
and sing the beautiful songs of Christmas.*

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Bethel Lutheran Church is affiliated with the South-  
west 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:  
 1st, 2nd & 4th Tues—9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
 3rd Wed—9:30a.m.-12:00 p.m.

E-mail address: bethellutheran@frontier.com  
 Website: bethelofporter.com

Pastor Rev. Ellen Munter  
 296-4558 (home) 507-828-1000 (cell)  
 Email: pastormunter@gmail.com

#### Your Church Officers

|                |                  |              |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| President      | Lance Moeller    | 296-4634     |
| Vice President | Mike Knutson     | 507-829-2767 |
| Treasurer      | Virginia Thomsen | 223-7918     |
| Financial Sec. | Josh Sumption    | 296-4497     |
| Secretary      | Sue Alley        | 507-530-1628 |

#### Deacons

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Anna Kamrath, Chair | 507-530-5558 |
| 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     |
| Anna Noyes         | 296-4477     |
| Carmon Mamer       | 223-7751     |
| Darcy Bruns        | 223-7395     |
| Megan Syltie       | 507-829-9931 |

#### Custodian

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Lou Knutson | 296-4489 |
|-------------|----------|



### December Birthdays

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Kelly Anderson   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Rebecca Kamrath  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Sandy Appelen, Eric Wollum, Ethan Petersen                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Pauline Anderson   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Glenda Ackerman, Colton Syltie                               |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Megan Sumption, Mason Tetrick                                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | John Stone   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Chad Blumeyer  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Cade Syltie  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Mark Syltie  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Lorraine Alleckson   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Jerry Pridal   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | David Dybsetter, Hayden Noyes                                |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Randy Anderson, Donna Stone,<br>Miranda DeBaere, Bryan Emery |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Sara Wollum, Emma Stone                                      |

If you have any corrections or additions, please contact the church office at 296-4658, or email: bethellutheran@frontier.com. If your name does not appear in the month of your birthday, it means we don't have your birth date. Thanks!



It seems to me that when Advent is swamped and washed away by the premature celebration of Christmas, we lose something—we lose the gifts of expectation and anticipation. Our society tends to be a culture of instant gratification. We are often unwilling to wait for anything (probably why free two-day shipping made Amazon Prime so popular!) and in refusing to wait we also lose some of the value of the thing desired. If we can have anything we want, whenever we want it, everything is cheapened and nothing is of much value. On the other hand, waiting patiently gives us an opportunity to reflect on the meaning and value of the things we desire. Indeed, it enhances the value of those things, for nothing is more valuable than what is out of reach, and few possessions are more prized than the ones for which we have longed and waited.

Furthermore, the truth is that, in spite of our desire for instant gratification, and in spite of the fact that we live in a time of abundance of every sort, we cannot always have what we want or, more importantly, what we need. And in such circumstances, what we need more than anything else is hope. In C.S. Lewis's Narnia, it was always winter but never Christmas before the return of Aslan. It was, in certain ways, a very unhappy time, but it was also a time in which the citizens of Narnia found that they could survive, if only they could hold on to their faith, with the hope that Aslan would return someday. Hope nurtures faith in a way that instant gratification never can.

Had it been the other way around, always Christmas, a time of unending gift-giving and continual parties, faith, as well as hope, would have been at risk. For when a time of darkness or danger returned, no one would have been prepared to deal with it, no one would have had the inner resources to face it. As Saint Paul writes, "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." (Romans 5:3-4) Advent is the Church's time of learning to live through the darkness, learning to grow in the hope that sustains faith.

The season of Advent looks back, to a time before the birth of Christ, to show us how the people of God learned hope in ancient times. And then the season of Advent looks forward, far beyond the birth of Christ, to the true object of our faith, the King Who comes to conquer the darkness, restore creation, and establish His Kingdom forever. We see in the stories of ancient Israel and in the writings of the prophets a world very much like our own, a world of people rebelling against God and finding themselves lost in darkness again and again.

The prophets also show how God has a plan, not only for His people Israel but for the whole world—a plan that extends beyond the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. The coming of the Messiah then, at a remarkable moment of peace in the ancient world, was not the completion of God's plan but a turning point, the critical sign which assures us that there is reason to hope.

And so, in Advent we recall the ancient prophecies and signs which led to the birth of the Messiah, and we look forward in hope, applying those same prophecies and signs to the world in which we live, in hope and faithful anticipation that the same Messiah, Jesus Christ, will come again as He promised.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter





## The Church Council and Board reports for November 2018

### Trustees:

The following discussion/decisions were made:

Discussed The board moved and second to pay all bills.

The board will switch the furnace to LP heating from electric.

The Board worked on the 2019 budget and will present it to the Church Council at the December meeting.

*Roger Longhenry , Curt Blumeyer, Tom Gawerecki and Jerome Bruns*

### Deacons

- Deacon of the Month: Anna Kamrath
- Food Shelf: Ivanhoe
- Communion Dates for Bethel will be 2,9,& 24th.
- The Deacons suggested decorating the social hall and narthex on December 2nd during SS practice.
- The Deacons suggested caroling around Porter on the Sunday before Christmas.

*Members Present: Terry, Anna, Sara, & Craig*

### Board of Education:

The Board of Education worked on the Christmas Program. The Luther League will be serving spaghetti after the Christmas Program.

Christmas Program Dec 9th

No SS on Dec. 23, 30th

*Submitted by Carmon Mamer*

## The Challenge of \$10 for the New Year

On Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup> the first Sunday of Epiphany, we will begin a month long challenge for members of Bethel's family – THE CHALLENGE OF \$10.

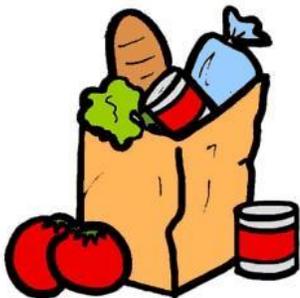
Epiphany is the time when the story of the gifts of the Kings is told. They brought gifts of wealth, but they also brought themselves. Perhaps we don't feel that we have gifts of equal grandeur to bring to worship; however each of us do have unique gifts to bring, share and use.



So what are we doing? We are challenging each of you to use your unique gift(s) plus the \$10, to bring a gift to the manager. First we will give you \$10.00, yes a ten dollar bill, to use as you choose to bring a gift to the manger, a gift as a cash offering or the offering of a story, the last Sunday in January. We hope your gift will multiply during the month as you use your unique talents. The results of our offering will be added to the Bethel's general fund.

The challenge can be done by a family, an individual, a group, child or adult – anyone up for a challenge. Take the \$10 and your imagination to plan how you can use the money and your unique talents to multiply the money. *Idea\*\* buy cleaning supplies and offer your services to clean for someone and ask for a donation for your time, fix someone's computer etc. The sky is the limit to your ideas.*

Pray about your challenge and the individuals involved. The profit is not the gift. It is possible that you use your \$10 and not have it multiply monetarily. That is okay also. It is the gift of ourselves that we offer and how each of us is needed as a part of the church body.



### **Prairie Five and the Yellow Medicine Food Shelf needs.**

As the holiday season is approaching, perhaps you and your family can include the needs of local families (some also may be friends) in your holiday thankfulness. Consider a gift to your local food shelf. They are asking for food and cash. They currently have a goal of \$7,500.00 before December 31, 2018.

This is a very local way to help our community

### **Poinsettias**

Advent/Christmas season is here! If you would like to donate a poinsettia(s) for Christmas Eve worship, please leave the information on the church answering machine or with Pastor Ellen to be included in the bulletin. *Thanks, Terry*



## Holiday Gift Giving—a new twist



The average American plans to spend over \$600 on Christmas gifts this year. Yet many of us admit that the tradition of gift-giving leaves us with too much stuff and too few meaningful memories. With ELCA Good Gifts, you can find more than 50 life-changing, charitable gifts – such as a pair of goats, school fees or a water well – and give a gift the world truly needs. Each gift can be given in honor of a friend or loved one, and you can send or download a personalized card to let them know about it. Shop now: [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)



Don't forget that you can donate to Bethel just by shopping at Amazon. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose "Bethel" as your charity. There are many, so go to about the fourth page and you will find a "Bethel" in Porter, MN. That's us! You can to 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!

## Caroling

We will join our voices and carol around Porter on Sunday December 23rd , following worship (11-12:00 pm)

Dress warm, tune your vocal chords, and be ready to sing your favorite carols to celebrate the season with your friends and neighbors.

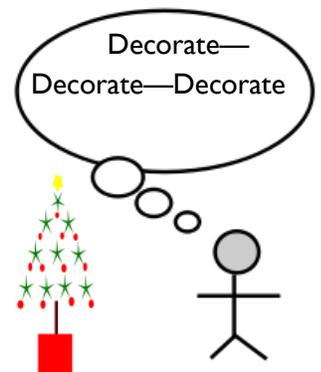


*Perhaps an elf will prepare hot chocolate for us to warm-up with on our return.*

*Waiting for Sunday School Practice to finish?????????*

*Do you need something to do?????????*

*Help decorate the social hall and narthex for the holiday. There are decorations in the "attic", imagination and many hands can do great things!*



## Advent Traditions

### Jesse Tree



This Advent tradition introduces Jesus' ancestors and shows how Jesus is descended from King David, uniting the Old Testament with the New Testament. The name comes from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. In Church art a design developed showing the relationship of Jesus with Jesse and other biblical personages. This design showed a branched tree growing from a reclining figure of Jesse. The various branches had pictures of other Old and New Testament figures who were ancestors of Jesus. At the top of the tree were figures of Mary and Jesus. This design was used mostly in stained glass windows in some of the great medieval cathedrals of Europe. The Cathedral of Chartres (which was dedicated in 1260) has a particularly beautiful Jesse Tree window. Ornaments that illustrate the events leading up to Christ's birth adorn the Jesse Tree, connecting this Advent custom with decorating a Christmas tree.

[Free printable ornaments](#)

### St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. He is known for his generosity to the poor. His feast day is celebrated on Dec. 6.

There are many traditions to celebrate this saint's feast day but the most common for families is the custom of the shoes. Family members leave their shoes outside their bedroom doors or on the fireplace hearth leaving a carrot for St. Nicholas' horse to eat on St. Nicholas Eve.

Sometime during the night, St. Nicholas visits and leaves gifts in the shoes. Any gift can be given, but traditional gifts include gold coins or a candy cane to represent St. Nicholas' crozier (staff carried by bishops to represent their role as shepherd).

Another way to celebrate this feast day is to follow St. Nicholas' example and give to the poor anonymously.

[St. Nicholas Center](#)



### Nativity Scene



St. Francis of Assisi set up the first Nativity Scene on Christmas Eve in 1223. He invited villagers and friars from Greccio, Italy, to gather for Mass at his manger. He set it up in a cave with live animals and feeding trough converted into a crib. He said, "I want to do something that will recall the memory of that child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

The tradition grew and people began constructing nativity scenes in their homes. A nativity scene or crèche may be made from various materials. Many set up their entire scene at the beginning of Advent, leaving the crib empty for the Christ child to arrive on Christmas Eve. Others set it up slowly, day by day. Mary and Joseph can also "travel" to Bethlehem, as they move slowly across the room each day until they reach the manger.

# 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. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose "Bethel" as your charity. There are many, so go to about the fourth page and you will find a "Bethel" in Porter, MN. That's us!

### 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. The actual expenses each month may be more or less than was budgeted. 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 or expenses regarding the Hemnes Lutheran Church portion of the joint parish budget.

|           | Year to Date Revenue | Year to Date Budgeted Expense | Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers | Cash Reserves Expended | Cash Reserves Repaid |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| January   | \$5,110.85           | \$8,448.13                    | -\$3,337.28   |                        |                      |
| February  | \$10,165.70          | \$16,896.25                   | -\$6,730.55   |                        |                      |
| March     | \$18,825.49          | \$25,344.38                   | -\$6,518.89   |                        |                      |
| April     | \$25,332.32          | \$33,792.50                   | -\$8,460.18   | -\$3,000.00            |                      |
| May       | \$31,615.49          | \$42,240.63                   | -\$10,625.14  | -\$2,000.00            |                      |
| June      | \$40,025.51          | \$50,688.75                   | -\$10,663.24  |                        |                      |
| July      | \$44,241.56          | \$59,136.88                   | -\$14,895.32  |                        |                      |
| August    | \$51,030.71          | \$67,585.00                   | -\$16,554.29  |                        |                      |
| September | \$58,445.88          | \$76,033.13                   | -\$17,587.25  | -\$3,000.00            |                      |
| October   | \$63,530.88          | \$84,481.25                   | -\$20,950.37  |                        |                      |

# Bethel Workgroup Schedule

## Altar Workers for Sundays in November

Darcy Bruns  
Bonnie Merritt

## Altar Workers for Sundays in December

Carmon Mamer  
Lou Knutson



### Group #3



|                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sara and Nick Wollum         | 223-5844                 |
| Sandy and John Appelen       | 605-272-7571 Or 223-7571 |
| Christy Hulzebos             | 223-7913                 |
| Denise and Greg Crowser      | 223-5734                 |
| Marlys and Kevin Petersen    | 296-4564                 |
| Darlene and Jim Moeller      | 296-4472                 |
| Pat and Craig Petersen       | 296-4483                 |
| Martha and Jim Melrose       | 320-333-2870             |
| Shawn Jackson                | 296-4699                 |
| Karen and Mike Evjen         | 296-4474                 |
| Nancy and Mark Syltie        | 296-4404                 |
| Jessica Dybsetter            | 296-4448                 |
| Lawrence and Nicole Petersen | 507-829-0555             |
| Art Berghorst                | 507-829-9559             |

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



## Advent / Christmas/ Epiphany

### Activities at Bethel

*Join with your friends and:*

- December 2: Decorate the Social Hall and Narthex  
SS Practice
- December 9: Attend the Sunday School Program
- December 23: Go Christmas Caroling**
- December 24: Worship at the Candlelight Worship**
- December 30: Sing & Worship with Christmas Songs
- January 6: Attend Epiphany—Gift of the Kings  
Challenge of \$10

### Worship Schedule

**Hemnes:**

8:30 am Sunday Worship

**Bethel:**

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Sunday Worship

11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

**Communion Worship:**

**Bethel** – December 2, 9 & 24

**Hemnes** – December 16, 23 & 24

**Pastor’s Office Hours:**

9:30 am—12:00 pm 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tuesdays, 3rd Wednesday



### Coming Events

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| December 5                               | 6-8 pm.  | Christmas Program Practice<br>No Confirmation |
| December 9                               | 11:15 am | Christmas Program                             |
| December 16                              | 6:00 pm  | Council Christmas Party                       |
| December 17                              | 7:30 pm  | Council/Boards                                |
| December 18                              | 9-12 pm  | Prairie Conference                            |
| December 26                              |          | No Confirmation                               |
| December 27                              | 2:30 pm  | Minneota Manor                                |
| No Sunday School December 23rd and 30th. |          |   |



Carol following worship on **December 23th**

Share the sounds of the season with others in our community. Have hot chocolate in the social hall following caroling.

“The more we pray, the more we come to the heartbeat of God.”  
—Richard J. Foster



| December 2<br>Advent 1 | December 9<br>Advent 2 | December 16<br>Advent 3 | December 23<br>Advent 4 | December 24<br>Christmas Eve | December 30<br>Christmas 1 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jere. 33:14-16         | Malachi 3:1-4          | Zeph. 3:14-20           | Micah 5:2-5             | Isaiah 9:2-7                 | 1 Sam 2:18-20              |
| Psalms 25:1-10         | Luke 1:68-79           | Isaiah 12:2-6           | Psalms 80:1-7           | Psalms 96                    | Psalms 148                 |
| 1 Tess 3:9-13          | Phillip. 1:3-11        | Phillip. 4:4-7          | Hebrews 10:5-10         | Titus 2:11-14                | Col.3:12-17                |
| Luke 21:25-36          | Luke 3:1-6             | Luke 3:7-18             | Luke 1:39-55            | Luke 2:1-20                  | Luke 2:41-52               |



# CHRISTMAS



Make this fun decoration as a reminder of the joy Jesus brings.



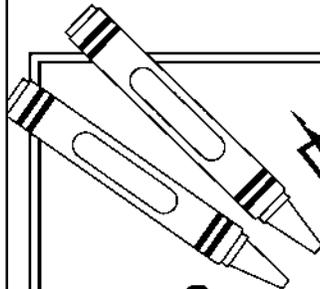
**What you need:**

- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pompoms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

**What you do:**

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pompoms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.

## KIDS PAGE

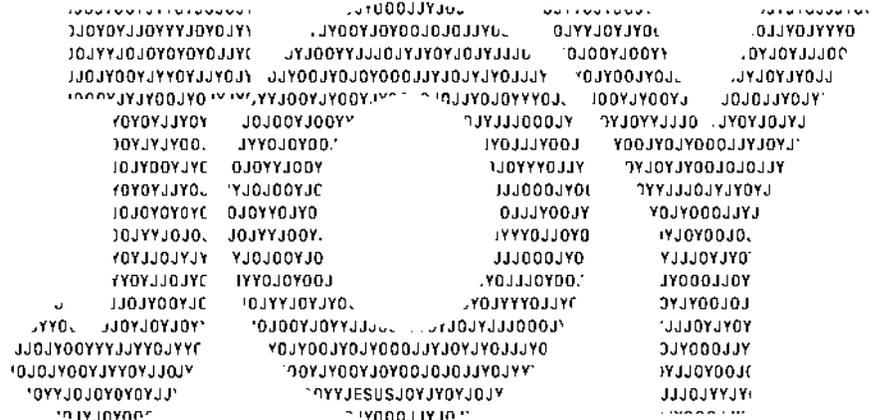


# PUZZLE

Joy to the  
WORLD

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

*Directions: Circle all the complete small "joy" words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find "Jesus" amid all the joy!*



TOTAL JOY= \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O



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

## December 2018

*Fall/Winter Sunday Worship 10:00 am*

*Sunday School 9:00 am*

