



The Bethel Newsletter

May 2018

Porter, Minnesota



Holy Communion:

Bethel- May 13, & 20

Hemnes May 20, & 27



**May 6th Was the Last Sunday
of Sunday School**

BUT!!!!

**See You at VBS
July 23-26**



**Day of Pentecost
May 20th
Worship at 10:00 am**



**THE
HOLY
SPIRIT
FELL ON ALL
WHO HEARD
THE WORD.**

Families, please put these dates on you summer calendar and plan to bring you preschool through 6 grade students. Children are encouraged to bring friends.

This is always a fun filled week that leaves everyone involved energized and excited about God's love.

More information will be coming soon.

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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
Dawn Gawerecki	224-2267
Roger Longhenry	296-4422
Bob Merritt Jr	296-4436
Shawn Jackson	296-4699

Board of Education

Tracy Wente, Chair	296-4623
Anna Noyes	296-4477
Carmon Mamer	223-7751
Darcy Bruns	223-7395
Megan Syltie	296-4660

Custodian

Lou Knutson	296-4489
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May Birthdays

1 st	Brent Merritt, Kelly Jeremiason, Randy Schmidt
3 rd	Aidyn Bruns
5 th	Kassidy Emery
6 th	Ray Kuester
7 th	Caullin Frank
9 th	Louaine Knutson
10 th	Alexis Bakalakos
11 th	Ryan Evjen
12 th	Randy Kamrath, Lucille Syltie, Mindy Erickson
15 th	Jessica Dybsetter
16 th	Daniel Dybsetter
18 th	Jodi Merritt
19 th	Charlie Anderson, James Kamrath, Elizabeth Kamrath
20 th	Tricia Koussis
21 st	Daniel VanDerostyne
22 nd	Sarah Hurt, Martin Evjen
24 th	Chad Moeller
25 th	Joyce Olson-Baer
27 th	Kyle DeVos
30 th	Nikki Petersen
31 st	Barb Anderson, Andrew Keating

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!



Is it just me, or is May becoming busier than December? There are Confirmations and Graduations to attend, Mother's Day and Memorial Day and all the parties that go along with them. And this month, there are three festivals on the church calendar as well—Ascension, Pentecost and Holy Trinity.

The Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord always falls on a Thursday, because it is forty days after Easter, and celebrates the return of Jesus to heaven. This may seem like an odd thing to celebrate, but it's really important. Jesus' ascension back into heaven not only makes Him available to everyone everywhere, it also brings us up to heaven with Him. "God's throne is not unmanned; it is occupied by the [One] who contains all humanity within Himself. The divine throne is crowded with humanity. The Ascension is one small sitting down for Jesus, one giant lifting up for us all." (from the Sundries Facebook page).

Of the three festivals this May, Pentecost is probably the best known. It is fifty days after Easter—Easter lasts forty-nine days (a week of weeks) and the fiftieth day is Pentecost. Pentecost is only one day, but it is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and the beginning of the Church. Often called the "Birthday of the Church" this is a big day for us because the gift of the Holy Spirit keeps the church, and us, in communion with Jesus and one another as we are guided "down right pathways for His name's sake." (Psalm 23)

The only major festival of the church that doesn't celebrate an event in the life of Christ or the Church is the Feast of the Holy Trinity. The Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is a mystery. That is, it is a fact revealed by God which in itself cannot be comprehended by human reason, but only accepted by faith. On Trinity Sunday we essentially celebrate God!

After Trinity Sunday, the everyday life of the Church resumes. The long green season after Pentecost—Ordinary Time. Ordinary time is "ordinary" because it is not festival time. It is not Advent or Christmas or Lent or Easter. But I think "ordinary" is a great word to use because of what it says. This is the time of the year when we focus on the teachings of Christ and our growth in faith. And shouldn't that be part of our everyday, ordinary life? Shouldn't it be "ordinary" that we learn more, or more deeply, about what God is doing through the teachings of Jesus? Shouldn't it be "ordinary" that we tend to our faith and grow into the love of God more and more every day? So let us celebrate with gusto these remaining major festivals of the Church, and then let us settle into the ordinary life of a disciple, following in the footsteps of our Lord.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter



The Church Council and Board reports for April 2018

Trustees:

The following discussion/decisions were made:

The Trustees discussed and approved the monthly bills.

Decided to switch the heating to LP soon.

Vlaminck Electric presented a proposal to retrofit the lighting in the social hall, sanctuary, office, sound room, library, narthex, entry and behind the stained glass to LED.

Trustees made and seconded a motion do the retrofit with the final approval by the church council

Curt Blumeyer, Roger Longhenry, Bob Merritt, Tom Gawerecki, and Jerome Bruns

Deacons

- Deacon of the Month: Terry Dybsetter
- Food Shelf: Canby
- Communion Dates for Bethel will be May 13, and 20th with Confirmation on May 27th.
- *Members Present: Terry, & Craig*

Board of Education:

The BOE discussed the church service that the Sunday School is doing May 6th. We will have practice during Sunday School hour on the 6th and provide treats. This will be the last Sunday of Sunday School.

May 13th will be Senior Recognition Sunday.

Submitted by Carmon Mamer

Future Directions

www.elca.org/future

Propelled by a commitment to Lutheran traditions and to being a community of faith that is always forming and being renewed, the ELCA's presiding bishop, Church Council and Conference of Bishops initiated a process to engage the ELCA in conversation about future directions - to help this church journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead.



Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

- ELCA Leadership
- Vital congregations

Telling the story of the church we are becoming: *confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do.*

- **Goal 1** - A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.
- **Goal 2** - A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church.
- **Goal 3** - An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.
- **Goal 4** - A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in communities and around the world.

Goal 5 - A well-governed, connected and sustainable church.

Each goal has priority action areas, [click here to learn more.](#)

Book of the Month

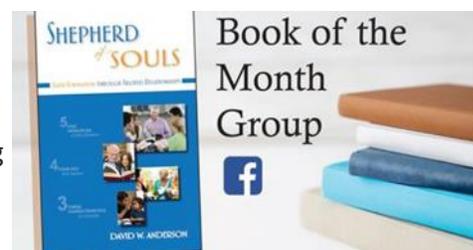
+Rev. Erik Karlson, Facebook Group Facilitator

Good afternoon, my friends. I would like to introduce to you the new book we will begin studying as a group on Monday, May 14th. We will be reading Bishop Jon Anderson's recommended **Shepherd of Souls: Faith Formation Through Trusted Relationships** by David. W. Anderson. The author offers five principles of faith formation, explores four key faith practices, and three characteristics that Christians may consider following in their everyday lives. Anderson maintains that personal and trusted relationships are vital when serving as Christ's disciples in the world, and he will explain why.

 [Click here to join the group!](#)

If you would like a free copy of this book, please call the synod office at 507-637-3904. The synod has free copies available to SW MN Synod rostered leaders and Christian educators. If you have already purchased the book, you can get the cost reimbursed by emailing your receipt to Carla Klawitter at Carla.klawitter@swmnelca.org.

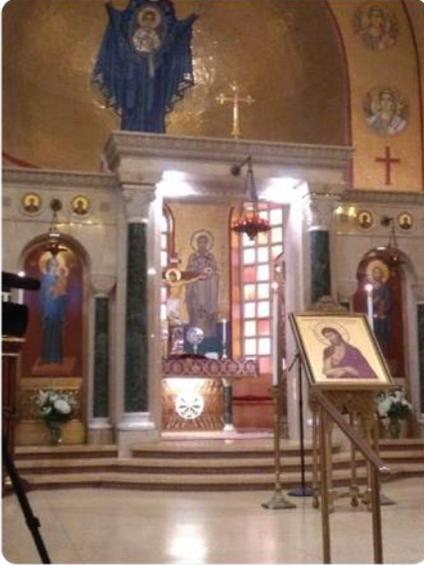
You may have also noticed that there is an evaluation up on the Facebook group site for the last books we have studied. Hopefully we can glean some 'good' data from that and see how and where we are with the current way we go about our book studies. [Click here](#) to complete the evaluation.



From our Bishop

Christ and Culture

+Bishop Jon V. Anderson



During my recent trip to see our son in Washington DC, we attended a service in the Greek Orthodox Church that preceded the beginning of the [ACT2EndRacism Rally](#). In the two-hour service that looks and sounds very different from our evening prayer service, I had many thoughts about my life, our church body and our Christian faith.

In the service it was easy to see the beauty of how Christian faith takes on flesh in Greek culture and language. The building, the icons and the liturgy were so beautiful and different. It was also easy to see how the Christian faith can be trapped in a culture. The very thing people treasure in this church body (Greek culture and language) made it difficult to hear or engage in the liturgy as well. The lengthy service was a reminder of how that also happens as our faith takes on flesh in Midwestern culture that is familiar to us.

As I listened for two hours to beautiful and haunting chants of the liturgy and scripture readings in a language I only occasionally could understand, I was reminded of our Lutheran movement's principle to translate scripture, traditions and our faith into the language of our people, culture and time. I am glad we

work on the translation, but at the same time, we have to be careful to not let our culture trap the Good News that is for all people in all places at all times. We are part of God's ongoing reformation proclaiming by what we say and do the Good News that Christ is risen. Alleluia.

And Speaking of Icons...

Many of you may have noticed that Pastor Munter has been using/talking about icons a lot in recent months. Here is what she says about that:

For many years, I thought icons were interesting, but kinda weird. The people in them looked strange and stiff and the symbolism escaped me. But as I learned more, I have come to really love them. The Orthodox understand them as reminders of God's presence, so much that they are often called "Windows to Heaven." The slightly abstract aspect of the figures serves to remind us that these are not literal pictures of Jesus or the saints or angels. It would be easy for these images to become idols—something with magical properties—but the stylized nature of the pictures helps keep that from happening. "The creation of a icon is a stylized art based upon Holy Tradition. St. Luke is credited with painting the first icons of Christ and the Virgin Mary. Each subsequent iconographer has used the original icon as a guide. Therefore, even today an iconographer may not change the shape of Christ's face." (George Patsourakos, OrthodoxyToday.org) Orthodox Christians do not pray *to* icons, they pray *with* the icon—as a reminder of God's presence and that the saints pray with us. Icons in worship also help to keep minds focused on God in Christ Jesus rather than what's for dinner!

Icons are usually written (not painted) by a monk or devout Christian who seeks to serve the Lord and not him/herself. Iconographers speak of how they have been inspired by the Holy Spirit as they work and often spend time in prayer and fasting while they are writing and icon.

Continued on page 7.

Orthodox Icons continued....

The standardization of the forms of holy persons is such that we can immediately recognize Christ or Saint Paul or Mary Magdalene or whomever is written in the icon. The people are shown as they are in eternity, not as they were in life. The faces are of human nature transformed into the divine. The hands are often thin and expressive, usually shown in a gesture of blessing. And the halos are painted as a clearly delineated circle, which signifies their holiness and draws attention to their faces. Even the clothing—depicted by means of geometric forms (ovals, rectangles, triangles) demonstrates a heavenly order.

Icons are full of symbolism. If you know how to read them, an entire story can be captured in one image. Saints are usually shown with the instrument of his or her salvation, bishops wear monastic or liturgical garments and hold the gospel while giving a blessing. The evangelists hold the gospels, St. Paul the epistles and great spiritual writers a scroll. Martyrs hold the crown of martyrdom, the cross or the instrument of their martyrdom. The light of the icon is interior, because the subject is transfigured by the love of Christ. The forehead is often high and convex to express the power of the spirit and wisdom.

Color is also important and generally used to depict certain ideas in icons and specific meanings are commonly associated with specific colors. Gold is used to show divinity—when light strikes gold it gives a radiance which closely reflects uncreated light. White is also used to show uncreated light as well as purity, physical and/or spiritual. Blue can mean transcendence, truth or humility. It most often represents things that pertain to Heaven. Red, being the color of blood, represents the living or humanity. Red is also the color of martyrs. Saints who died a natural death and not as martyrs are often in white. So Christ is usually written with outer blue garments and inner red ones to show He is both divine and human. The Virgin Mary is the opposite, to show that she who is human held the divine within her. Green is used to denote spring time and revival and black is the color of death and renunciation of earthly values. In older icons, it is red that symbolizes divinity and blue humanity.

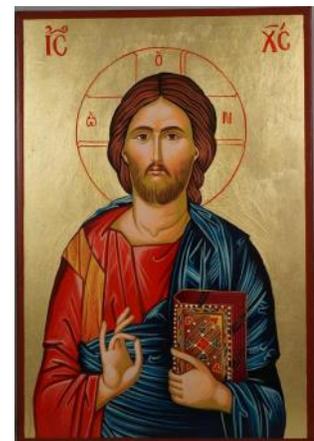
Christ always has a cross depicted in his halo with the three Greek letters meaning “I AM” written in. He is also often shown giving a blessing, with His thumb touching His third finger, symbolizing the Trinity and holding a scroll, embodying the wisdom of the true God. Mary always has three stars on her veil, representing her virginity “before, during and forever after her pregnancy.”



Our Lady of Vladimir—
attributed to St. Luke.



Old Testament Trinity
by St. Rublev



Christ Pantokrator—
Ruler of the world.

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.

To meet budgeted expenses in 2018, Bethel requires a average of \$8,448.13 per month in revenue. As of March 31, Bethel is currently \$6,519.43 short of meeting the average budgeted expenses so far this year.

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	\$5,109.50	\$8,448.13	-\$3,338.63		
February	\$12,832.20	\$16,896.25	-\$4,064.05		
March	\$18,824.95	\$25,344.38	-\$6,519.43		



Don't forget that you can donate to Bethel just by shopping at Amazon. Go to 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!

Bethel Workgroup Schedule



Altar Workers for Sundays in May

Paula and Harvey Syltie

Rose Anderson

Altar Workers for Sundays in June

Amy Drietz

Denise Crowser

Group #5



Funeral Luncheons

Carol and Ken Jeremiason	296-4512
Louaine Knutson	296-4489
Barb and Doug Anderson	296-4503
Carmon and Brian Mamer	223-7751
Bonnie and Bob Merritt	296-4436
Zelda Goslar	223-7450
Merv Anderson	223-7981
Paige Fliss	507-828-3896
John and Barb Hurt	296-4467
Jodi Merritt	507-530-4814
Monica and Butch Wilke	296-4470
Nancy and Tim Bakalagos	223-7853
Charlotte and Kris Wilke	296-4567
Jeff & Jessica Horner	507-829-2799
Charlie and Amy Anderson	296-4431

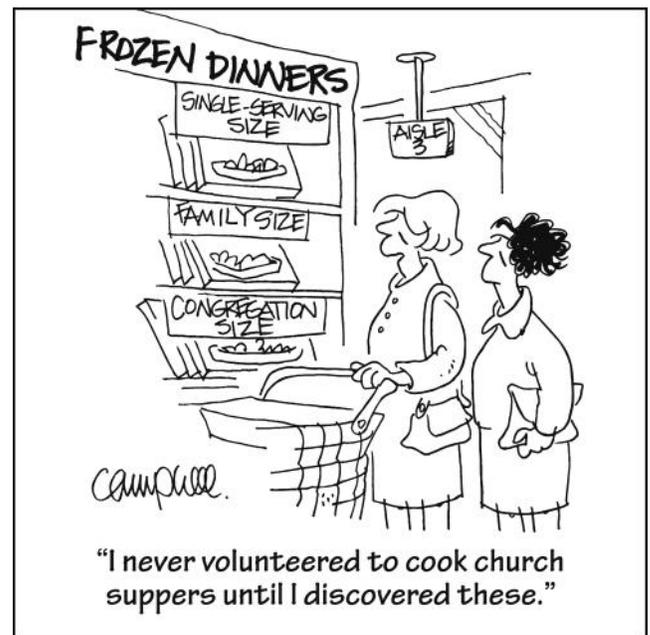
Senior Recognition Sunday

May 13th

Brandon Moeller Nicole Kamrath

Jacob Crowser Riley Carstens

Anthony Wollum Matthew Petersen



"I never volunteered to cook church suppers until I discovered these."

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 – May 13, & 20

Hemnes – May 20, & 27

Pastor’s Office Hours:

9:30 am—12:00 pm 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
& 9:30 am—12:00 pm 3rd Wednesday

May 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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
27	28	29	30	31		

Coming Events

- May 6 10:00 am Kids Worship
- May 10 **Ascension Day**
9:30 am Ascension Brunch @ Hope
- May 13 **Mothers Day**
10:00 am Senior Recognition
- May 15 9:30 am Prairie Conference
- May 20 **Day of Pentecost**
- May 21 7:30 pm Boards/Council
- May 24 2:30 pm Minneota Manor
- May 27 **The Holy Trinity**
10:00 am Confirmation
- May 28 **Memorial Day**
10:15 am Spiritual Reflections



May 6 Easter 6	May 13 Easter 7	May 20 Pentecost	May 27 The Holy Trinity
Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9—13 John 17:6-19	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34 Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____
 _____ and your _____,
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____."
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, 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
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