



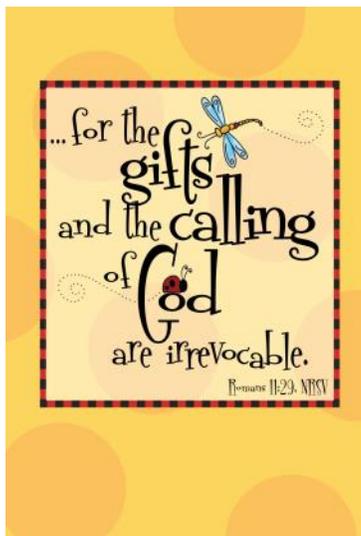
The Bethel Newsletter

August 2020

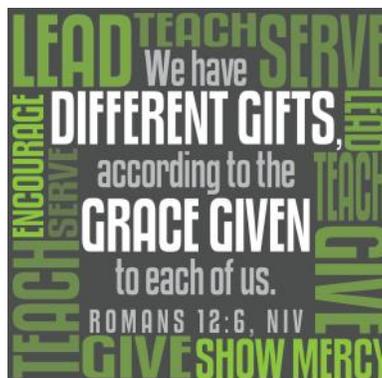
Porter, Minnesota

Sundays in August

Worship with us via the internet



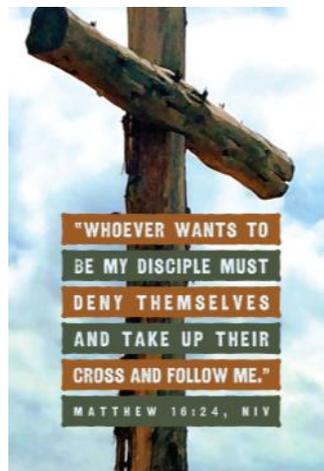
August 16



August 30



August 9



August 23

Many Hands



A special thanks to all the hands that have completed many jobs around Bethel during the pandemic. The trees have been trimmed, playset pressure washed, annual cleaning including windows completed and the parking lot repainted. *Thank you to so many*

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.

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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
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

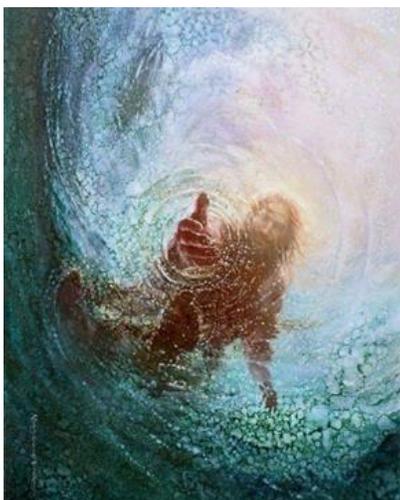
2nd Joseph Esping
 3rd Martha Melrose
 6th Charlotte Horner
 7th Reid Glasser, Chris Anderson
 9th Daniel Pridal
 11th David Schrunk
 17th Justin Anderson,
 Sean Cristian-William Goslar,
 17th Caitlyn Anderson, Pat Petersen
 20th Ivan Anderson, Hope DeVos Lund
 22nd Becky Sik,
 23rd Carol Jeremiason,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

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!



So, raise your hands if you thought we'd be more over this pandemic by now. I don't know if I thought we would be or if I just hoped we would be in a better place by this time. As I write this, we don't know what school will look like in September. There is a real fear of the virus escalating when cold weather returns and we are all indoors most of the time. The number of homeless is likely to rise and many people are struggling to stay afloat financially. And this constant sense of being under siege has taken its toll on all of our mental health, mine included.

Given all of that, there are some bright notes to be found. We have returned to in-person worship. It is not the same. But we are able to gather together to worship, hear God's word and encourage one another. I really encourage you to attend, even if its only a couple times a month. Being in the same space, seeing one another, is very meaningful. I'm planning for Confirmation in person in the Fall. We have a large class, but thankfully there is quite a bit of space in the Fellowship Hall and we should be able to spread out enough to be safe. I am really looking forward to seeing my students! And while nothing is quite the same as it was, I feel like many people are settling into this new normal. We are may not like it, exactly, but having some routine back in our lives is helpful.



This is one of my favorite paintings. It's called "The Hand of God" by Yongsung Kim. I like it for many reasons, but mostly because of how it so perfectly shows what God does for us in Jesus Christ. Comes to us, reaches out His hand and saves us. Even when, maybe especially when, we are unable to do anything to help ourselves. In the Gospel this week, Jesus says to the frightened disciples, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27) That's the translation we use. But almost every other translation has a variation of, "Take courage! It is I; don't be afraid." That "it is I" part is actually "I AM" in the Greek. Jesus is telling the disciples that God is with them. In the midst of storm and fear and uncertainty, the very God who created the universe is with them.

And He is with us, too. In the face of fear and death — take courage, God is with you, do not be afraid. In the midst of economic uncertainty and political gridlock — take courage, God is with you, do not be afraid. When the future seems grim and the present unbearable — take courage, God is with you, do not be afraid. No matter where you are, no matter what you are doing, no matter what is happening to you or around you — take courage, God is with you, do not be afraid. We have this assurance, that God is with us no matter what, because we are His children. This is what it means to be a child of God. And it may not make the circumstances better, or easier to navigate, but it does make them bearable. Because you are not alone. You are not left floundering and going under. God in Jesus Christ is with you, reaching out His hand to you, pulling you out of the deep and setting you back on solid ground. Every. Single. Time. So take heart, God is with you, do not be afraid.

In Christ,

Pastor Munter





The Church Council and Board reports for May, 2020

**Please note: church lawn council meeting was held on
July 13 to discuss the business of Bethel.**

Trustees

Trustee action taken:

- Motion was made and second to pay bills.
- Contact volunteers to help restripe the parking lot. Parking lot paint has been donated.
- Contact volunteers to help redo the northwest window well of the parsonage. Also redo the landscape soil and rocks.
- **Thank you!** A special thanks to Brian Mamer, Roger Longhenry, Tom Gawerecki, Bill Ningen, Randy Kamrath, and Jerome Bruns for helping with stripping the parking lot.
Roger, Bob, Curt and Jerome

Deacons

- Deacon for August: Linda Bruns
- Food Shelf: Ivanhoe
- Deacons discussed the resuming parish worship plan.
- Communion Dates for Bethel are to be determined by Pastor Ellen regular worship resumes.

Board of Education

No report

Join the 75,000 More! Face Mask Challenge

Not all heroes wear capes. Some make face masks.

Lutheran World Relief <https://lwr.org/masks> is looking for help as many people in developing countries don't have the option of social distancing or frequent handwashing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now says cloth face masks, along with hand washing and social distancing may help reduce transmission.

LWR needs your help to sew cloth face masks to help us reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities. Their goal is 75,000 face masks by October 1, 2020. Specifics and a pattern are at the above website. The pattern is also copied on Pastor's page.

They ask you to:

Make a pledge at LWR

Make your masks

Make your bundles

Please bundle your masks in groups of 25, put your bundles in a box and write "MASKS" on the package. We hope to have all masks before October 1, 2020, though we plan to continue to accept masks after the

How do I get my masks to Lutheran World Relief?

They can be mailed in bundles of 25 to:

Lutheran World Relief
398 East Richmond Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075
651-457-9009

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	\$7,144.50	\$53,048.62	\$51,959.85	\$1,088.77			

* \$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 Re-

Bethel Workgroup Schedule

Altar Workers for Sundays in August

Sandy Appelen

Christy Hulzebos

Altar Workers for Sundays in September

Dawn Gawerecki

Sara Wollum

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.*

God Amid Pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

—Sandy Hyland

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

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.

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 August

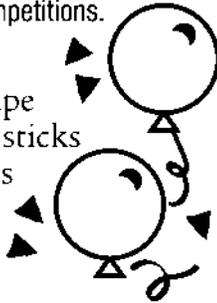
August 9 10 Pentecost	August 16 11 Pentecost	August 23 12 Pentecost	August 30 13 Pentecost
Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26: 1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matt. 16:21-28	Isaiah 56:1-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-32 Matthew 15:10-28	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue



What you do:

Balloon Badminton: Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

Rhythmic Routines: Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

Champion Crown: Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!

Kids Page



Compete for the crown

The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.

Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztaejargiusonycce
 iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubtnyehapidmrfo
 tegrbuanpicdnofihmneygjocsxrdpoetwkin

FINISH

"Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run, but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in the _____ goes into strict _____. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a _____ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown



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

August 2020

Bethel Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

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

