



The Bethel Newsletter

March 2018

Porter, Minnesota



**"Do this
in remembrance
of me."**

Holy Communion:

Bethel—March 4, 11, 25 & 29
Hemnes—March, 18, 25 & 29

Passion Sunday

March 25th

10:00 am
Worship



THY WILL BE DONE

A SERIES OF SERVICES
for the SEASON OF LENT

Wednesday Evenings

March 7, 14 & 21.

Bethel Worship at 7:00 pm
supper served by League 6:00 pm

Hemnes Worship at 5:30 pm

Join the worship that best meets your schedule.



Maundy Thursday

March 29th

7:00 pm

Worship/Holy
Communion

Good Friday

March 30th

7:00 pm Worship



April 1st

Easter Worship

Celebrating the

Resurrection of Our Lord

7:00 am

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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
Nicole Petersen	507 829-0555
Megan Syltie	296-4660

Custodian

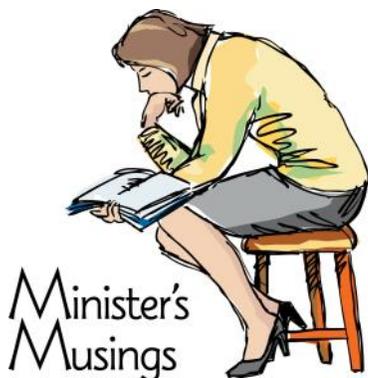
Lou Knutson	296-4489
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March Birthdays

2nd Heidi Christianson
3rd Tim Bakalakos
7th Stephen Pridal
11th Joy Schmidt
12th Jennifer Anderson, Barb Hurt
16th Jon Anderson, Jacob Crowser
18th Joni Fredricks, Marney Negen
21st Marilyn Petersen
23rd Kayla VanDerostyne, Lorelei Dybsetter
24th Ethan Evjen
29th Virginia Thomsen, Chris Syltie
31st Dylan Bruns, Laura Appelen,
Kevin Petersen, Dawn Hansen

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!



The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³**but we proclaim Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. *1 Corinthians 1:18, 21-25 (Emphasis added)*

I've been thinking about this text a lot in the last few days. It's the second reading for Sunday, March 4th. And I've been thinking about Easter Sunday, which this year is on April 1st. There seems to be quite a bit of foolishness in the air! I really like this Corinthians text and I think it is one of the more profound statements about how God is working to bring about salvation and what that means for us.

Paul was writing to the churches in Corinth, which is in Greece. And one thing the Greeks loved more than most was knowledge. They prided themselves on their ability to use reason and logic to understand the world. Not every Greek person, but it was a characteristic of the society in general. Paul knows that they are expecting an intellectual argument from him about Jesus. That he would maybe show off his own knowledge and ability to argue a point reasonably and logically. But Paul won't. Because that's not what God is about.

I cut out part of that text above for space, but Paul makes reference to the prophets through whom God said that he would "destroy the wisdom of the wise." God has never been about knowledge and wisdom and reason when it comes to saving His people. Why would the blood of a lamb on your doorpost ward off the angel of death? God is about faith and trust. This is not to say that knowledge and wisdom are not important and necessary. Of course they are. But when it comes to the cross, when it comes to salvation and God's intense passion for His people, human wisdom and human knowledge go out the window.

Paul understands the "problem" of the cross—it makes no sense. Why would God do such a thing? To come down from Heaven in the first place, become a human being and then die in such a horrifying manner—there is no wisdom in that. No reason or logic. And let me tell you, there have been oceans of ink spilled and mountains of books written by knowledgeable, and presumably reasonable, people who have tried. Theories about why and how and what it means abound. But while they may be interesting, they are not the way to salvation.

We want it to be, though. We want to know, to understand. Maybe some believe that if they know more, their faith will be more solid. Some might want to know more in order to feel important or worthy. But I feel pretty certain that we will never know. Not really. Which is part of the plan. God *doesn't* want His plan of salvation to be something we can grasp by knowledge, wisdom, reason or logic. God wants us, when it comes to the cross and resurrection, to just believe. To have faith. To simply trust that through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have life and salvation. No "why," no "how."

This is one of the reasons Christianity done correctly is difficult. Eventually we have to acknowledge that we are not in control, that we do not and will not know everything, that we really and truly can do *nothing* to save ourselves. And then we have to decide if we are willing to let go of the fear and need for control that insistence on knowledge represents and just believe.

*The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

In Christ,

Pastor Munter





The Church Council and Board reports for February 19, 2018

Trustees

The following discussion/decisions were made;

The Trustees discussed and approved the bills for February.

Discussed LED lighting for church, and are waiting for Vlaminck Electric for a bid.

Attending were: *Bob Merritt, Roger Longhenry & Jerome Bruns*

Deacons

- Deacon of the Month: Martha Melrose
- Food Shelf: Canby
- Communion Dates for Bethel will be March 4, 11, 25 and 29, 2018. March 25 is Passion Sunday, March 29th is Maundy Thursday & March 30 is Good Friday. March 25th is the beginning of Holy Week with Easter on March 1st.
- Food Share Month was discussed. The theme of "40 days of fighting hunger" was chosen and the collection will go to Canby as they participate in the effort. Food share month will be celebrated each week with a special theme designation. There will be a cash offering on Sunday March 25th (Passion Sunday) to conclude our effort.
- *Members Present: Terry, Anna, Martha & Sara.*

Board of Education

The Board of Education discussed the possibility of the S. S. kids doing the service on May 6th.

Researched VBS material. Pastor is ordering a kit. We have not determined dates yet.

Need to do background checks on several individuals who are now helping with youth.

1st Communion classes are scheduled for March 11, & 18. Palm (Passion) Sunday is 1st Communion. Dates for Confirmation during Lent are February 25 and March 4.

Submitted by: Carmon Mamer

Bethel Luther League**Lenten Suppers**

Wednesday's menu

March 7th,

Taco in a Bag, Bars

March 14th,

Soup, Bread, cookies

March 21st

BBQ, chips, Bars

March 29, Maundy Thursday

Lasagna, garlic bread, salad

**40 days of fighting hunger**

The March Food Drive Campaign is here.

Bethel would like to emphasize the need to address hunger here and around the world during Lent. We want to encourage everyone to pray for those suffering from hunger as well as to bring supplies and cash to Bethel to help relieve hunger in our community.



Each week Bethel will emphasize special food shelf needs.

March 4th

Breakfast Items

March 11th

Canned or pasta Items

March 18 th

Household cleaning and laundry products

March 25th

Cash offering for Canby food shelf

Any time

Personal Care or Paper Products

\$20 to the YMC food shelf, helps a family of 4 receive an emergency 3-day supply of food.

The Global Water Crisis



We hear so much about the problem of hunger in America and around the world, that we might not realize there is another, related, problem. Lack of clean drinking water. And while we may think of this as only a problem in Third World countries, it's a serious problem in ours as well. Millions of people in the United States are living with either contaminated water or, especially in the central valley of California, no water at all. And most of these people are in rural areas where resources can be scarce.

It is, of course, also a world-wide problem. More than 780 million people lack clean water. ELCA World Hunger supports a lot of projects around the world that help communities get access to clean, safe water.

What does water have to do with hunger? It might seem odd, but not having enough water and not having enough food are connected. If people don't have clean water, they can't grow food or give water to livestock. Without clean water, they can get sick, which means they can't work to provide for themselves and their families. And without easy access to clean water, children have to spend so much time walking to collect water for their families that they can't go to school. Here are some of these numbers:

- 768 million people do not have access to improved drinking water sources.
- Around 2.4 billion people live without adequate sanitation. That's 35% of the global population.
- 40 billion hours are spent every year walking to collect water in Africa alone.
- 842,000 people die every year worldwide due to diarrhea caused by inadequate drinking water, sanitation and hand hygiene. That's about 2,300 people every day.
- Most of the world cannot take a hot shower, get clean water from a faucet or flush a toilet in their home.

ELCA World Hunger works with churches around the world to build wells, train local people to care for wells, install irrigation systems or dig irrigation canals, construct toilets, improve sanitation in villages and towns, and teach people how to purify their water so they can cook and drink with it. In the last 30 years, the rate of hunger worldwide has been cut in half. But ending hunger means walking with our neighbors down roads with a lot of other challenges, including access to clean water. Without water, we cannot live.

If you would like to get involved, you can give to ELCA World Hunger or purchase water-related gifts from the Good Gifts catalog or the Lutheran World Relief catalog.

Sources: ELCA Walk-for-water resource; USA Today, August, 2017; Earther.com, 2017; The New Republic, February 2018; watermission.org

HELP BEAUTIFY BETHEL'S ALTER FOR EASTER.

If you would like to share an Easter Lily or other flowering plant for our Easter morning worship on April 1, please leave the plant in the work sacristy by Holy Saturday, March 31.

If you wish to honor someone with your plant, please leave a message at the church, on the answering machine or on Pastor Ellen's cell phone so the information can be included in the Easter worship bulletin.



THY WILL BE DONE

A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

*Series Continues through March
21st.*

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm as we think about what it means to follow God's will.

Mary tells us about how her Son accepted the role God gave him and faithfully followed the path His Father laid out.

Paul had his worldview turned upside down on the road to Damascus and will encourage us to follow God's will by putting Christ at the center of our worldview.

And Lydia will remind us that we follow God's will when we respond in love to those in need.



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.

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		

Bethel's February financials will be published in the bulletin. Thanks. T

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



Bethel Workgroup Schedule



Altar Workers for Sundays in March
 Brenda Knutson & Anna and Randy Kamrath & family
Altar Workers for Sundays in April
 Martha Melrose & Deanna Moeller

Group #4

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Deanna and Lance Moeller | 296-4634 |
| Gail and Marlo Sumption | 296-4609 |
| Barb Pronk | 296-4549 |
| Norma and Ralph Dovre | 223-7771 |
| Terry and Dan Dybsetter | 296-4401 |
| Anna and Brad Noyes | 296-4477 |
| Phyllis and Harvey Melrose | 223-5512 |
| Dawn and Tom Gawarecki | 224-2267 Or 507-828-6087
Or 507-828-6099 |
| Joy and Randy Schmidt | 224-2286 |
| Hattie and Jim VanDerostyne | 296-4563 |
| David Dybsetter | 296-4648 |
| Chad Moeller | 507-828-3536 |
| Danny VanDerostyne | |



EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 1st

Bethel Worship/Communion

7:00 am

Breakfast following worship

Update



Bethel Youth to attend ELCA Youth Convention.

Dylan Bruns, Carter Wentz, and Jacob Crowser and chaperone

Paul Bruns are gearing up to attend the Tri-annual ELCA Youth Convention in Houston this summer.

Watch the thermometer in the Narthex move up toward the goal. (it has moved significantly since the pancake supper. Thanks.)

Worship Schedule

Hemnes:

8:30 am Sunday Morning

Bethel:

10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

Communion Worship:

Bethel– March 4,11,25,& 29

Hemnes – March 18, 25 and 29

Pastor’s Office Hours:

9:30 am—12:00 pm Tues.

9:30 am—12:00 pm Wed. March 21st

Confirmation:

11:30—3:00 pm Sunday March 11



March 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

- March 1 Hendricks Worship
- March 4 Prairie Conference Assembly
- March 7 Lenten Worship
- March 8 10:15 am Sylvan Worship
- March 11 11:30-3 pm Confirmation
- March 14 Lenten Worship
- March 18 1st Communion
- March 19 7:30 pm Boards/Council
- March 21 Lenten Worship
- March 22 2:30 pm Minneota Manor
- March 25 Passion Sunday/ 1st Communion
- March 28 Seder Meal
- March 29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- March 30 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship

March 4 Lent 3	March 11 Lent 4	March 18 Lent 5	March 25 Passion Sunday	March 29 Maundy Thurs.
Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinth. 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Isaiah 50 ;4-9 Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1— 15:1-47	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116: 12-19 1 Corinth.11:23..26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and “spots” on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry “head” by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



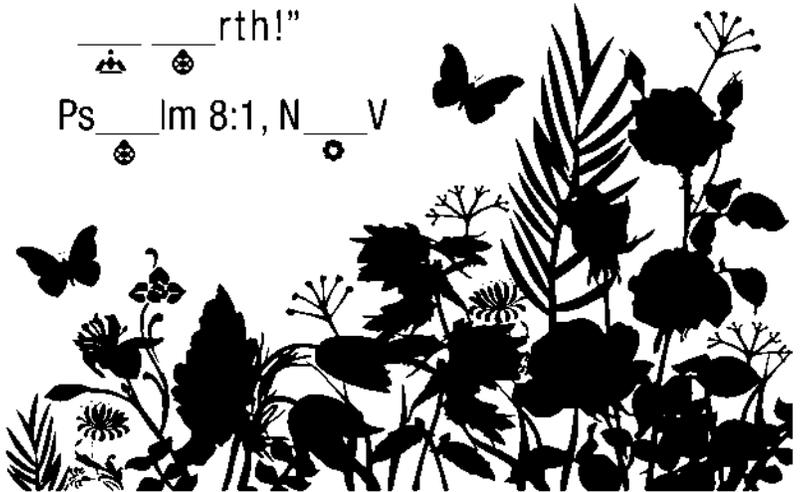
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A= E= I= O= U=

“L__RD, __ r L__rd, h__w
 m__ j__ st__ c __ s y__ r
 n__ m__ n__ ll th__
 __rth!”
 Ps__lm 8:1, N__V



Answer: “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”
 Psalm 8:1, 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
March, 2018



Sunday School: 9:00 am
Worship: 10:00 am
Lent Worship 7:00 pm