

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
79 Brooklyn Street PO Box 606 Portville, NY 14770
(716)-933-6699

e-mail: bethelportville@gmail.com

Websites: (congregation) www.bethelportvilleny.org; (synod) www.upstatenysynod.org;
(ELCA) www.elca.org

Worship Service - Sundays at 9:00am; Sunday School at 10:15am
God's work. Our hands.

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church at: 716-933-6699 or Pastor Derek Cheek at 716-307-7963.

APRIL 2018



In the April issue of **Stewardship**, we are reminded of how God called Moses to be his servant in leading the Jews out of captivity in Egypt. Moses was quite reluctant to take on that dangerous task. But after being told that God would be with him giving him strength for the job, he consented to do what was needed.

Moses was truly a man worthy of honor. Yet, his life and obedience to God remind us that God also has a role for each of us. Yes, for you and for me.

Oh, we may think that God's plan for us is inconsequential. That is not true. While the world may take little notice of our service on God's behalf, God is aware of our stewardship and faithfulness. And, believe me, when we actually follow the Lord's plan, we know within our hearts that God is pleased with our stewardship. A certain

peace and sense of fulfillment comes. God knows and we know. The inner joy we have is enough.

St. Paul wrote the following words to the Christians at Corinth: "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and the stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (I Corinthians 4: 1-2)

Let us pray: Inspire us to be trustworthy stewards, Lord, that we may be pleasing to you. **Amen.**



The Portville Food Pantry collects these items on an on-going basis: spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, pasta, mac and cheese, pork and beans, canned vegetables, tuna, soup, rice, egg noodles, and canned tomatoes. **Cereal is also needed as well.**



PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD outside the sanctuary for a COMPLETE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Pray First!

- For all service men and women, and their families, especially *Casey McCarthy, Tyler McCarthy, Kendra Linn, Travis Dorvit and Kyle Lust*. For Christ to be made known in our companion synods – *Zimbabwe* and *Zambia*, and our partner synod – *Central/Southern Illinois Synod*. For the Franciscan community at *Mt. Irenaeus* and the *Burkhart Retreat Center for Life* – retreats in our local area. For our Bishops, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (ELCA) and John Macholz (Upstate New York Synod), Assistants to the Bishop Dave Preisinger, Mary Johnson, and Dean Daniel Rumfelt. For the mission congregations in our synod—*Organic Faith* in Amherst and *Todos los Hijos de Dios* in Amsterdam. For the pastors and congregations in our Southwestern Conference and for our congregation council leaders – President *Bill Graves*, Secretary *Linda Scott*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, Vice President *Ruth Brewer* and members *Caroline Miller, Donald Linn and Jerry Maerten*. For our sister congregation, *Peace Lutheran* and their ministry in Slidell, LA for the ministry of *ELCMA* – Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia. For area ministries: *Genesis House, Portville Community Food Pantry, and Interfaith Caregivers*.

Council Member

Assignment

Bill Graves
Ruth Brewer
Linda Scott
Doug Ploetz
Ruth Brewer

Caroline Miller

Jerry Maerten
Don Linn

Committee

Council President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Worship and Music & Christian Education
Stewardship & Fellowship
Outreach/Evangelism
Property

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church at: 716-933-6699 or Pastor Derek Cheek at 716-307-7963 cell phone or at Immanuel 716-372-0650. When you call the church phone number it will be automatically forwarded to Nannette Giberson's home phone. You will be able to talk directly to her or leave her a message and she will return your call. Thank you.

We NEED people to sign up as worship servants. We are in need of Lectors, Prayer Leaders, Ushers, Communion assistants and Altar Guild. There are sign-up sheets on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up for one or more of these positions as you feel led. Thank you.

Have you checked out Bethel's Facebook Group?

The url is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/127210584114232/>.

Prayer Chain:

If you have need of prayer, we have an e-mail prayer chain. Just call Bev Robinson – phone number 814-225-3341 or e-mail at grandmagee756@gmail.com

Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:

10% Charity of our choice

10% Benevolence

Rest in general fund



Please keep these members in your prayers and send them a card if you are able.

Choir practice is held Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join. **Sopranos' are needed.**

No audition necessary

Skip Robinson

1262 Indian Creek Road

Eldred, PA 16731

(814) 225-3341

Hilda Prosser

% Cuba Memorial Hospital

Nursing Home – Room 238W

140 West Main Street

Cuba, NY 14727

(585) 968-2000 Ext. 712



Southwestern Conference Women of ELCA
presents

“Renewed in God’s Creation”

Spring Assembly Gathering

Saturday, April 28, 2018

at

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

- *St. John’s Dining Hall* –

5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, New York

14712

Speaker

Kurt Schlewitt

Program Director, LC-LC

Registration: 10:00 AM

Program begins at 10:30 AM

Cost: \$6.00

Lunch and fellowship served following meeting

Reservations required! Deadline: Monday,

April 16, 2018

RSVP to Lois Rumfelt: 664-4409



Our monthly breakfasts will start up again in the fall. We will keep you updated as to the starting date. Thanks for all of your support this past year.

Notice: Coming Event !!!

Mark your calendars as we will be having the annual “Women of the Church Banquet” on Thursday, May 10th at 6:00pm. The food will be prepared and served by the men of our church!!

April 2018

Worship Assistants



Lectors:

April 1st *Ruth Brewer*
 April 8th *Haedyn Brewer*
 April 15th *Connine Smith Matteson*
 April 22nd *Doug Ploetz*
 April 29th *Myra Sprout*

Prayer Leaders

April 1st *Judy Graves*
 April 8th *Connie Smith Matteson*
 April 15th *Nannette Giberson*
 April 22nd *Linda Scott*
 April 29th *June Murray*

Assistants for entire month!

Acolyte.....*Dakota Brewer*

Communion Assistants ...*June Murray, Jo Kile, Nannette Giberson*.....

Ushers.....*Bill Graves*

Altar Guild.....*Marge Nix*

Mail Greeter.....*Nannette Giberson*

Bread Baker.....*Ron Kile*

Happy Birthday to:

- 2—Shirley Levernier
- 2—Chloe Dunn
- 3—Isaac Williams
- 3---Pamela Deibler
- 7—Laurie Dunn
- 8---Jillian Miller
- 14—Allison Doty
- 16 –Hudson Miller
- 19—Dietrich Williams
- 20—Judy Graves
- 22—Jimmy Baughman
- 24—Connor Dunn
- 28—Dan Parr
- 29—Nannette Giberson



Happy Anniversary to:

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR APRIL 2018

Sunday, April 1st

EASTER SUNDAY

7:45am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00am- Worship with **Easter Brunch** following

10:15am - **Easter Egg Hunt** - No Sunday school

Sunday, April 8th

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

Sunday, April 15th

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

Thursday, April 19th

7:00pm - Council Meeting

Sunday, April 22nd

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

Sunday, April 29th

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

HYMN HISTORY

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, And Your glory above all the earth. Psalm 108:5 (NKJV)

Occasionally a hymn drops into the furrows of history to be buried and forgotten awhile, only to later spring to life for future generations. That's what happened with Fanny Crosby's "To God Be the Glory." It first appeared in ***Brightest and Best***, a little volume of hymns published in 1875 by William Doane and Robert Lowry. This small hymnal proved to be a treasure trove, introducing such classics as "Christ Arose," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "Savior, More Than Life to Me," "I am Thine, O Lord," "Rescue the Perishing," "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," and this one---"Praise for Redemption" (as it was originally called).

As it turned out, "Praise for Redemption" wasn't much of a hit. It wasn't widely sung nor included in many hymnals; it just lay hidden for eighty years.

In 1954, Billy Graham was planning an evangelistic crusade at London's Harringay Arena. As Cliff Barrows, music director for the Graham team, was compiling hymns for the Greater London Crusade Song Book, Rev. Frank Colquhoun, a prolific British preacher at Norwich Cathedral and a great lover of hymns, approached him. Colquhoun gave Barrows a copy of "Praise for Redemption," with its exuberant chorus; "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!" Though unfamiliar with the hymn, Barrows decided to use it anyway.

Meanwhile problems were mounting for Graham. The British Press was critical of the young evangelist and an Anglican bishop predicted he would return to America with "his tail between his legs." Funds were short, forcing the Graham team to take pay cuts. A Member of Parliament threatened a challenge in the House of Commons, accusing Graham of interfering in British politics under the guise of religion. Friends in high places were advising Graham to cancel or postpone the meetings. Graham, shaken, dropped to his knees repeatedly, beseeching help from heaven.

As it turned out, Harringay Arena was packed for three months, and the crusade sparked a sense of revival across Great Britain. "To God Be the Glory" seemed a fitting theme. Fanny Crosby's old hymn was sung almost every night in Harringay, launching it into worldwide popularity as one of Christianity's favorite hymns.

Just too good not to share!!

Heaven-Sent Sweets

In a moment of hunger, I prayed to God for just one thing...

By Esther Hylden, Park River, North Dakota

“You’re not you when you’re hungry,” that’s the way the Snickers commercial goes. I was thinking about how true that was while sitting at my desk the week after New Year’s, trying to make a dent in the towering stack of patient records.

Normally I was pretty focused in my job as a nurse. I could handle something like half my patients at the nursing home coming down with the flu overnight. But today, hunger distracted me. I could use a candy bar.

All day I’d rushed from one appointment to the next. I hadn’t had a chance to eat anything and it was freezing outside—20 degrees below zero. Too cold to drive to the nearest store. My stomach growled. Most days, I was a health nut. I even ran a flaxseed business, Golden Valley Flax, with my husband, Mark, on the side. But when the weather got like this, I got a craving for sweets.

I sifted through my desk drawers. I ransacked the office kitchen. Not much there. Even the vending machine had nothing that looked satisfying. *Please, God, even a snack-size Snickers will do!*

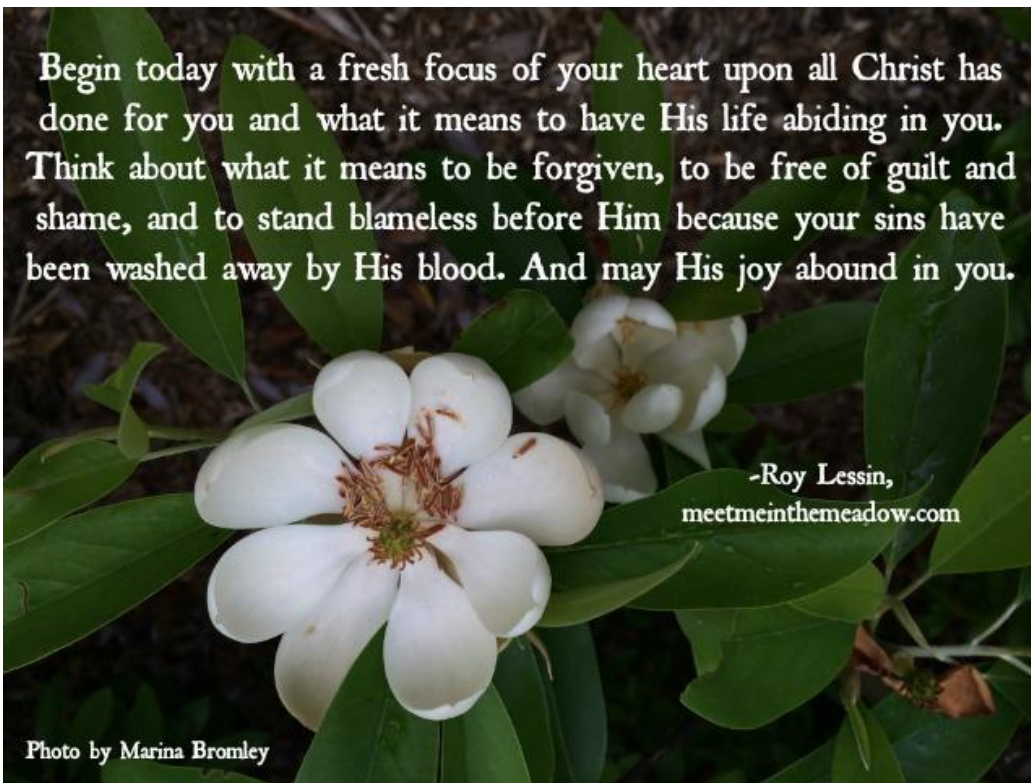
By the time I got home at 7 p.m., I was even crankier. Mark hadn’t started supper. I felt myself transforming into someone whiny and shrill, like that Fran Drescher character from that TV show, *The Nanny*. Mark kept his distance.

“There’s a box for you on the kitchen table,” he said. “Maybe that will... cheer you up.”

I tore the box open. Inside were two, shiny red and gold tins of cookies, a gift from Mildred, a regular Golden Valley Flax customer. It wasn’t exactly what I wanted, but I was too hungry to be picky. Then I removed the rest of the tissue paper from the box. There was something else, tucked underneath.

Eleven king-size candy bars. Even before I unwrapped one and took a bite, I was feeling more myself again.

“The box looked a little empty,” Mildred explained when I called to thank her. “And I had all these leftover stocking stuffers. Hopefully, you’re a fan of Snickers?”



We have every spiritual reason to live each day in the joy of the Lord. Since our joy is found in the Lord, nothing outside of the Lord can take our joy from us. And, nothing outside of the Lord can add to our joy. We don't earn our way into joy, we don't "circumstance" our way into joy, and we don't feel our way into joy. We abide our way into joy. As we abide (remain) in Him we are abiding in His life, and in His life is joy. His joy is our joy, and in Him we find joy in its fullness.

Fullness of joy means we are "filled up" with His joy. There is no deficiency of joy. We do not have to seek other sources to find joy, for He is the only source of joy, and His joy is more than enough to fill every empty place in our hearts.

William Gurnall reminds us of two powerful truths that open our hearts to true joy—*"First, the guilt of our sins are gone. Guilt is the pin that constantly pricks our joy. When Christ takes away our sins, He also takes the guilt. Second, our natures are renewed and sanctified—holiness is simply our being restored to the state of health which God intended when He created us."*

Begin today with a fresh focus of your heart upon all Christ has done for you and what it means to have His life abiding in you. Think about what it means to be forgiven, to be free of guilt and shame, and to stand blameless before Him because your sins have been washed away by His blood. And may His joy abound in you.

Headline: Bethel Lutheran Church Continues to Collect Donations!

Cleaning out your closets? We have a place for you to drop them off!! Bethel Lutheran Church is seeking clothing donations from community members. They have been partnering with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to collect used clothing for the past 3+ years. St. Pauly Textile Inc. works with non-profit organizations, like Bethel Lutheran Church, to set up used clothing drop off sheds designed to give community members a clean, attractive, and well-monitored place to donate gently used textile items, which are then distributed both here in the U.S. and worldwide to people who need them.

The Church receives funding for all the used clothing collected and is able to use the funds towards special projects and missions. Additionally has the option to use any of this clothing to serve community needs.

St. Pauly Textile, Inc. collects over 120,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the United States) yearly. In 2017, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills. The company was founded 22 years ago in Rochester, NY and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items include clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, linens, pillowcases and stuffed animals. Donors are asked to donate items in a plastic bag to protect against dirt and the elements. There is a small box on the shed that contains receipts to help donors take a tax deduction.

Consider donating your used clothing items today at 79 Brooklyn Street in Portville, NY.



Welcome Marcus, Clair, Matthew, Olivia, Michael, Quinn and Mitch to Jesus Table
Congratulations to our First Communicants!!!!







He is
Risen