

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](mailto:bethelportville@gmail.com)

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

Worship Service - Sundays at 9:00am;
Sunday School, (*Sept. thru May*) 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 2020



The masthead of *Stewardship* says “to inspire a deeper understanding of true stewardship.” Its purpose is to help Christians learn how to better manage one’s possessions, especially the family income and the use of one’s God-given talents. Each of us has physical, educational, social, and spiritual needs. None of our needs must be neglected if we are to be properly balanced people. Surely we can say that God wants us to have all of our needs fully met. Indeed it is only when our needs are fully met that God can best use us to serve God and to work for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Remember what we say when we pray the Lord’s prayer: “Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth

as it is in Heaven....” Remember also that in the sixth chapter of St. Matthew’s gospel we find Jesus telling his followers to seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness. That is what Christian stewardship is all about: Using our time and talents to serve God as best we can.

In the 1960's a theological scholar named Thomas Kepler made a vow to the Lord that was read at his funeral. The vow was something like this: “On this day I take upon myself all the saintly disciplines. I will pray regularly. I will continuously strive to serve the Lord wherever God leads me. I will strive to show love toward all whom I meet. I will do my best to be a dedicated servant of God wherever I am.” Those who knew Dr. Kepler testified that he reached his goal. He was a true saint.

Prayer: Almighty God, Help us to be the best stewards possible. We are grateful for every blessing we have from You. **Amen**



Pray First!

- For all service men and women, and their families, especially *Hillary Peterson, 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 Rumpfelt*. 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 *Trinette Brewer*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, Vice President *JoAnn Kile*, and members *Skip Giberson, Donald Linn and Ron Kile*. 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, Accounting Beyond Borders*.

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

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>
Bill Graves	Council President
JoAnn Kile	Vice President
Trinette Brewer	Secretary
Doug Ploetz	Treasurer
Skip Giberson	
Ron Kile	
Don Linn	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 cell phone. You will be able to talk directly to her or leave her a message and she will return your call. Thank you.

Prayer Chain:

If you have need of prayer, we have an email prayer chain. Just call Nannette at 716-933-8855 or e-mail rangiberson@gmail.com.

This is temporary while Bev's computer is down.

Bev Robinson – phone number 814-225-3341 or e-mail at grandmagee756@gmail.com



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

Hilda Prosser
% Cuba Memorial Hospital
Nursing Home – Room 238W
140 West Main Street
Cuba, NY 14727
(585) 968-2000 Ext. 712

Please show your support and keep in touch with our college students:

Dakota Brewer
122 Perry Lane
Highlands 2, Room 2254
Edinboro, PA 16444

**Have you checked out Bethel's
Facebook Group?**

The url is:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
127210584114232/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/127210584114232/).



Choir practice is held on Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary**

The special offering for April will be as follows:

***1st Sunday Confirmation,
Rest of the month will be Ruth Brewer's
Guatemala Trip in August.***

Donations can be monetary or jars of peanut butter. Also, she is collecting sewing thread, sewing needles, pins, scissors, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and smaller size toys to use as prizes for the kids (like McDonald toys).



The Portville Food Pantry collects these items on an on-going basis: spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, pasta, mac and cheese, pork and beans, canned vegetables and fruit, tuna, soup, rice, egg noodles, cereals and canned tomatoes.

Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:

**10% Charity of our choice
10% Benevolence
Rest in general fund**



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.

April 2020
Worship Assistants, Birthdays
and Anniversaries



Worship Assistants

Acolyte*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants:

.....*Linda Scott and ?*

Lectors:

April 19th*Pen Yunghans*

April 26th*Doug Ploetz*

Prayer Leader:

April 19th*Doug Ploetz*

April 26th*Linda Scott*

Usher/s.....?

Altar Guild.....*Trinette Brewer*

Mail Greeter.....*Nannette Giberson*

Bread Baker*Ron Kile*

Happy Birthday to:

2---Shirley Levernier

2---Chloe Dunn

3---Pamela Deibler

7---Laurie Dunn

8---Jillian Miller

14---Allison Doty

16---Hudson Miller

20---Judy Graves

22---Jimmy Baughman

24---Connor Dunn

28---Dan Parr

29---Nannette Giberson



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - April 2020

Sunday, April 5

PALM SUNDAY

Closed, No worship service or Sunday school

Sunday, April 12

EASTER

Closed, No worship service or Sunday school

Thurs. April 16

7:00pm - Church Council

Sunday, April 19

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir Practice

9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following

10:15am - Sunday school ? tentative

Sunday, April 26

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir practice

9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following

10:15am - Sunday school ? tentative

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



Our **monthly breakfast** has been **canceled**.
See you in September.



God's Huggers has been **canceled**.

*St John's Allegany will host regular Lenten service at
7pm on Wednesday April 1st.
A soup and sandwich supper will be at 6pm.*

Palm Sunday, hosted by St John's, April 5th at 11am

*The Maundy Thursday service, April 9th at 7:30pm, hosted by Bethany
is tentatively scheduled. Will update when we know.*

Good Friday, hosted by Immanuel, April 10th at 7:30pm

Easter, hosted by St John's, April 12th at 11am

No Sunday School April 5th and April 12th

The **Women of the ELCA Southwestern Conference meeting** is being rescheduled.



Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A pastor said: "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."



Dedicated Sunday March 15th:

Table and chair rack in memory of Gary Murray with memorial monies.

Microphone and stand in memory of Bea Husband, Linda Giberson and Ted Scott from Greg and Denise Scott and family.

Kitchen island in memory of Mary Hatch from Bryan Hatch with workmanship done by Ron Kile.



Sunday March 15th, newly elected council members JoAnn Kile, Trinette Brewer and Skip Giberson were installed by Deacon Ian Eastman. Thanks for serving!



Corben and Grace Giberson helping at church. We appreciate their ushering skills, especially helping with the collection. Thanks Grace and Corben!!



PROVERBS 22:6 START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.



Was the sun shining in
Western New York?



Justin Brewer managed to catch this impressive 32-inch, 12.4-pound Walleye in the Allegheny River, McKean County. The massive fish was caught on a 1/8-ounce jig rigged with a white Mister Twister. The fish was safely released soon after photos were taken. (Photo provided by Justin Brewer, Portville NY).

WOW! Justin Brewer's picture is on the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission website. You can read more at: <https://www.fishandboat.com/Zone1/Pages/NCRegionReports.aspx>

Prayer from Cheryl's sister's church: Pastor M Resner, Zion Lutheran Church, Moberly, MO.

O Lord, we cry to You in the darkness of sin and its death. Open our ears by Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit, and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know and be thankful for all the blessings You have given to us in Christ, our Lord, especially the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Strengthen us in faith, that we may serve You with all our body, mind, soul and strength. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bidden by Your Word, we pray to You, O Lord, on behalf of Your Church and all Your people scattered and isolated. Give to us good pastors and servants of Your Word who will serve us faithfully and boldly even in chaotic times. Keep them safe, comfort them and their families, and raise up many more servants for full-time church work. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Defended by Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to provide us with good and faithful leaders who will preserve the precious gift of liberty and protect the lives of our citizens. Give them special wisdom, and help them to work in harmony in the midst of this pandemic. Bless the members of our armed forces, and protect them as they defend us. Grant Your blessing to all emergency and medical workers who continue to come to our aid in times of great need. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Enjoying the riches of Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to give us generous hearts, that we may share what You have provided with those in need and work for the common good of all. Give us patience in our seclusion, and comfort the lonely. Grant relief to the unemployed, the underemployed, the homeless and all their families. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Knowing Your healing will and gifts, we pray You, O Lord, to spare us from all calamity by pestilence, scarcity and fear. Remember the sick in their afflictions, calm those troubled in mind and keep steadfast the dying. [Hear us especially for _____.] Show us Your gracious will, O Lord, and sustain those who are afflicted in body or mind until that day when You will bestow upon us new bodies fit for the eternal life You have prepared for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mindful of Your promise, we ask You, O Lord, to comfort those who grieve and to build up those who mourn with hope for the resurrection. Remembering the faithful who have died in Christ, we pray You to bring us at last to be with them in Your nearer presence, looking forward to that day when we shall join in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

All these things, O Lord, we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for the sake of Him alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer us with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. So do we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ by answering with one voice. Amen.

The earth shook with the news.
HE IS NOT HERE;
HE IS RISEN!

And in that moment,
joy REPLACED DESPAIR
hope PUSHED PAST FEAR
life CONQUERED DEATH

not just that day, but for eternity.

We celebrate the *resurrection* of Christ

for what it meant then and
what it means for us every day;

a sacrifice
that brings

FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL, AND PEACE

to any of us
who put our *faith* in **Jesus.**

alleluia!
Christ has Risen!