

# **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.bethelportvilleny.org](http://www.bethelportvilleny.org);  
(synod)[www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org); (ELCA)[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Worship Service - Sundays at 8:30am;  
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.*

## **August 2020**



An article in a previous issue of *Stewardship* focuses on the importance of faith and the wonderful results we discover when we take faith seriously. The author confesses that for some years faith was not always a serious matter for her. But the time came when faith became her top priority and life took on a whole new perspective. Instead of worrying and finding daily life a burden, the writer discovered that living by faith brought meaning and joy; that to have a partnership with God throughout life brought guidance, hope and strength to handle the many decisions, worries, and woes which came her way.

Think about the following: However intelligent we are, we need the wisdom and guidance of God in our lives. To live life solely on our own, going our own way, doing as we please without the guidance of God available to us surely would not be wise, would it?

Especially, when one considers the indescribable intelligence and wisdom of our Creator, which is available for us when we humbly ask and faithfully follow it.

And what should be our response to the amazing grace and goodness of God? It is to be a responsible steward of all that our loving God has given and will give to us throughout life. That means to offer our all to be used by God; our hearts, minds, bodies and souls ... our resources of whatever sort. For what do we have that God has not given to us to use as God's stewards and the fulfillment of our lives?

Prayer: Dear God, you but open your loving hands toward us and shower us with all that we truly need in life. We humbly thank you. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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.

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

The url is:

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

**Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:**

**10% Charity of our choice**

**10% Benevolence**

**Rest in general fund**



All are welcome to join the choir.

**No audition necessary.**

Choir will resume in the fall.

***Deadline for the September newsletter is August 16<sup>th</sup>.***



**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.***

# August 2020

## Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



### Worship Assistants

*No acolyte this month*

#### Communion Assistants:

*Caroline Miller*

#### Lectors:

August 2<sup>nd</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*  
August 9<sup>th</sup> .....*Myra Sprout*  
August 16<sup>th</sup> .....?  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> .....?  
August 30<sup>th</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*

#### Prayer Leader:

August 2<sup>nd</sup> .....*Linda Scott*  
August 9<sup>th</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*  
August 16<sup>th</sup> .....*Caroline Miller*  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> .....*Linda Scott*  
August 30<sup>th</sup> .....*Caroline Miller*

Usher/s: .....

Mail Greeter: .....*Caroline Miller*

Bread Baker:.....*Ron Kile*

Altar Guild:.....*Ruth Brewer*

- 1—June Murray
- 4—Tess Wolsky
- 8—Carol Miller, Kassondra Lopes  
Haedyn Brewer, Daniel Lewis
- 11—Matthew Fahnestock
- 14—Renee MacPherson
- 15—Sherrill Ehlers
- 24—Laura Giberson Schindler
- 28—Jean Morgan, Kathy Baughman
- 30—Pastor Lee Magneson
- 31—Jennifer Snow-Smith  
Brenndon Wolsky



- 2—Mark & Cheryl Welles
- 4—Rick & Nannette Giberson,  
Kevin & Sharon Hepfer
- 12—Bill & Candy Clemens
- 17— Pat & Laurie Dunn

## **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - AUGUST 2020**

Sunday, August 2

***The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***  
8:30am - Worship

Sunday, August 9

***The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost***  
8:30am - Worship

Sunday, August 16

***The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost***  
8:30am - Worship

Thursday, August 20

Council meeting at 7pm

Sunday, August 23

***The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost***  
8:30am - Worship

Sunday, August 30

***The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost***  
8:30am - Worship

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



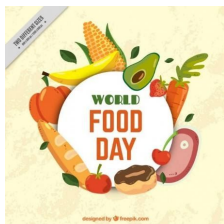
Our **monthly breakfasts** will resume in October.

No Sunday School until fall.



**October 6<sup>th</sup> - Community Night at Bethel**, An evening of fun with games and a chance to get to know your neighbors!

Linda Scott chairperson.



**October 10<sup>th</sup> - World Food Rally Day**,  
JoAnn Kile chairperson.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm - Pulled Pork Dinner**, Ruth Brewer chairperson.



Trinette sent this link out to help us stay in prayer during this pandemic.

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/DailyBible>

Trinette also sent this if you are interested in staying up with your tithing - Online Giving for Bethel can be done at this link:

<https://bethelportvilleny.breezechms.com/give/online>

Link for the weekly message from Pastor Cheek (with a message from the Bishop).

<https://www.screencast.com/t/wH4qm13EEA>

Nannette has been letting us know when Gerry Zimmerman is scheduling a Zoom church service and sending the bulletin.

Link to join Zoom Meeting. (You need the meeting number and the password):

<https://zoom.us/j/93191647520?pwd=bmRRRFdZTE5OdmsrTjFRMExpT2dTUT09>

Website to listen to Immanuel's Sunday Service. Each week the service will be posted on their church website. Usually it will be available beginning Saturday evening. Previous Sunday services are also available.

<http://www.lutheranolean.org/>

Hilda celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 26<sup>th</sup>. She said thank you for the birthday cards. She also said she is pleased that the church remembers her.



Sent by Ruth





Helping out Sunday at the Hinsdale American Legion during a chicken barbecue are (from left) **Jerry Martin**, Lisa Snyder and Toni Gleason. Joe Kelly/Olean Times Herald Sent by Nannette



Sent by Tinette

**Cleaning out your closets?** We have a place for you to drop them off!! Bethel Lutheran Church is seeking clothing donations from community members. We have been partnering with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to collect used clothing for the past 5+ 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. The company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills. The company was founded 23 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.





## Impacto Ministries Newsletter

Can you believe we are half-way through July? Our staff is still having a hard time accepting our first summer with no teams. It sure gets busy, but the blessings each team leaves behind are astonishing. Last week we would have held our annual Bible Conference, and we are so sad to have missed that this year. Many of those who attend the Conference called to let us know they were thinking of us and so sad we would not be able to see each other during this time. As we continue to trust in God during this pandemic we would like to share more about what quarantine has been like in Guatemala.

For the past 4 months we were not allowed to travel from department to department (state to state); this has recently been lifted but we do have some towns that have closed their own borders. Even traveling between San Pedro (where the Promised Land is) to San Juan (where Happy Tummies is) has been hard. We needed a special permit from City Hall stating we had work/business in both towns to travel back and forth, and even with that not everyone from our staff acquired a permit. There are special operating hours for the stores and markets which vary weekly but usually they are open from 7:00 a.m.-noon. We have a set curfew from 6:00 p.m.-5:00 a.m. and our President just announced a weekend curfew from 2:00 p.m. Saturday until 5:00 a.m. Sunday. The government is asking for children and elderly to stay home and we have a mandatory mask law for the entire country. As many of you know Pastor Luis, Dinora, and Sarah are all in the United States. This was not the original plan, on March 16, 2020, our President closed the airport and all our land borders for what we thought was going to be 2 weeks, 3 weeks tops. Well, here we are 4 months later and our airport is still closed. They have had a few humanitarian flights out of the country but none have been allowed to fly in. The border between Mexico and Guatemala is accessible to Guatemalan citizens, which means Pastor Luis and Dinora, who have dual citizenship, could come in that way. However, due to their age and health matters none of us feel at peace having them travel through Mexico in what would be an almost 2-day journey. This would also mean they would have to enter Guatemala through one of the COVID-19 hot zones. Nonetheless, all three of them are ready to jump on the first flight here! Their flights continue to be postponed and rescheduled, yet we are trusting God and His timing. We're not sure why He's allowed for this to happen this way, and for us to be separated during this time, but we will all grow closer to Him for comfort and understanding.

Please join us in prayer of petition and rejoicing as we share a few Praises and Requests below.



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- We praise God for the opportunity to be able to serve meals through Happy Tummies To Go. We are currently serving over 100 meals daily! Each plate is served with a bigger portion so that the kids can share at home. We believe for some of the children that this is their only meal each day. We're also making the nutrition drink with a thicker and sweeter consistency so once they are home they can add water or milk and make 3-4 extra portions.
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- We rejoice in the fact that you rallied around Impacto and we have been able to continue paying our workers, as most of them were home for about 3 months due to COVID-19. A lot of people were laid off or had their salary cut down, Impacto, however, was able to continue paying our workers through quarantine.
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- Praise God for so many of you who have supported our Healing Hands ministry. Through this ministry we are able to provide many with doctor visits, medicine, labs, and even transportation for those who have to seek further medical help outside the villages. During such hard times we have been able to assist many with medicines - sometimes as simple as ibuprofen - and many other medical needs.
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- It is not always easy, but today we are choosing to praise God for this pandemic. We have learned so much during this time, as individuals and as a staff. We know God has great things planned, and though we are so ready for Jesus to take us home, we also know there are many who still need to hear about the Gospel and that is our number one goal as we move forward.
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**“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”**

**2 Chronicles 7:13-14**



- Let us come together and pray for our world. So many things are happening during this pandemic, many issues are coming to light. Let us unite so that in everything we do, say, act, and think we may glorify God.
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- We are praying that whether in Guatemala or North America, God will open doors and give us many opportunities to share the Gospel and lead many to the feet of Jesus.
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- Join us in praying for provision. We are still feeding people, still paying for utilities, our workers, and, as we mentioned, Healing Hands has become a much-needed ministry during this time. We've even had to mail medicines to Zacapa (other side of the country) and Guatemala City.
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- Please pray for our staff. During this season we have to make many decisions, some harder than others. Pray that every one of these decisions is made with wisdom and discernment from God.



Dilma Cordero

## MISSIONARY MINUTE



I have known about Impacto for many, many years. My daughter always dreamed and waited anxiously for summer vacation so she could go to the lake to help. I had not had the opportunity to get to know the different ministries of Impacto.

I retired from my job and immediately got another part-time job. My earnings were less, but this would allow me to spend more time with my daughter. When she started college, the reality was that I did not have enough to cover the college budget so I started to do other things to increase my income.

A short time after this, Pastor Luis invited me to be part of the team to concentrate my work with Happy Tummies, which back then, was located at the old site. Being almost pushed by my daughter's inspiration and excitement, I decided to take the job. I quickly fell in love when I had the opportunity to serve, look after, and watch for the care of our children and show love and respect for the Abuelitos.

However, God had a new project for me. Actually an enormous challenge to be exact; the administration of all the ministries and coordinator of all workers at Impacto. Do you know something? In this job, no day is the same. There is no monotony, there always is something different and that's what I love about it. Sometimes I don't know where to begin, there can be pressure, but at the end of the day, it is enough for me to see the smiles of the children, Abuelitos, youth, women, pastors, etc. This is what makes my job worth it.

God brought me to Impacto thru a job that would bring a blessing of provision. Little by little I have seen that He brought me here because He wanted to show me how valuable I am for Him. He has allowed me to grow in His Word, to be shaped and molded. I know there is a lot more to do here and I am certain that He has a lot of surprises for my life.

*You can support this ministry through Amazon Smiles*

# *Bethel's 2020 Chicken Barbecue*

The BBQ sold out in 22 minutes! We had 90 dinners and took in \$1011.50.

**THANKS to Caroline and Kurt Miller, Ron and Trinette Brewer, Jean Morgan, Jerry Maerten and Betty, Bill Graves, Marge Nix, and Ruth Brewer who helped make it such a huge success!**

We are grateful for the pavilion with running water, cook stove top and plenty of counter space. We were able to cook in the pavilion and cleanup without having to run into the church.







Sent by Ruth



See Miracles  
In Life Everyday!  
S.M.I.L.E

