

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;
(synod)www.upstatenysynod.org; (ELCA)www.elca.org

Worship Service - Sundays at 8:30am;
Sunday School, (*Oct. thru May*) at 9:30am, zoom class
Confirmation Class at 9:45am
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.

December 2020



There once lived a lovely widow named Mrs. Hope; an appropriate name because she seemed always bursting with hope! She paid close attention to the needs and concerns of others, was nearly always cheerful and laughed easily. People loved to be in her presence. After her husband died she moved from their farmhouse into a home fairly close to her church, where she always helped where she could. She helped the secretary do her work, did some cleaning and kept the kitchen in good order. She did it all without fanfare, boasting or complaining. Whatever she did, she did to glorify God!

One day, the pastor walked through the sanctuary and saw Mrs. Hope waxing the pews. She sang as she worked: “Silver and gold have I none,” she sang, “but such as I have I give to thee.” (Acts 3:6) Those were the words that St. Peter said to a crippled beggar just before he lifted the man up to the Lord. The man was healed. Mrs. Hope was singing that she wanted to be an instrument of God just as Peter had been. Mrs. Hope was indeed a good steward of all that she had. She gave her time, her talent, her resources, her energy, her love...all for the glory of God. May God help us all to do the same! It would be the best Christmas gift we could give to the world!

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, help us to glorify you in all that we do and serve you with diligence and dedication. Through Christ our Lord.



Pray First!

- For all service men and women, and their families, especially *Gavyn Neudeck, Hillary Peterson, Casey McCarthy, Tyler McCarthy, Kendra Linn, Travis Dorvit, Kurt Michael Miller 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 Derek Cheek. 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.

Council Member

Bill Graves
JoAnn Kile

Trinette Brewer
Doug Ploetz
Skip Giberson

Ron Kile
Don Linn

Committee Assignment

Council President
Vice President,
Worship & Music,
Christian Education
Secretary
Treasurer
Fellowship,
Stewardship
Bldg./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

Have you checked out Bethel's Facebook Group?

The url is:

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



Deadline for the January newsletter is December 20th.



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

The December issue of *Christ in our Home* is available to pick up at church.



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.

December 2020

Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



Worship Assistants

No acolyte this month

Communion Assistants:

Jo Kile 6th, 13th; Ruth Brewer 20th, 27th

Lectors:

December 6th*Connie Matteson*
December 13th*Myra Sprout*
December 20th*Nannette Giberson*
December 27th*Lessons & Carols*

Prayer Leader:

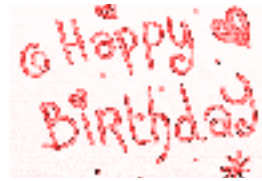
December 6th*Myra Sprout*
December 13th*Connie Matteson*
December 20th*Ruth Brewer*
December 27th*Linda Scott*

Usher/s:*Bill Graves*

Mail Greeter:*Nannette Giberson*

Bread Baker:*Ron Kile*

Altar Guild:*Nannette Giberson*



- 02---Nancy Renner
- 05---Julia Yohe
- 06---Clinton Brewer
- 07---Maria Lewis
- 09---Sharon Hepfer
Michelle Clemens
Skip Giberson
Michael Fahnestock
- 10---Pam Swanson
- 11---Heidi Giberson Doyle
- 15---Bob Warner
- 16---Kathy Shelander
- 18---Mary Jean Brooks
Courtney Sprout
- 29---Joe Swanson
- 31---Keenan Linn



26---Mike & Joelle Brewer

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - December 2020

Sunday, December 6	<i>Second Sunday Of Advent</i> 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class 9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class
Sunday, December 13	<i>Third Sunday Of Advent</i> 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class 9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class
Thursday, December 17	Council meeting at 7pm
Sunday, December 20	<i>Fourth Sunday Of Advent</i> 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class 9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class
Thursday, December 24	<i>Christmas Eve (See note below)</i> 8:00pm - Worship
Sunday, December 27	<i>First Sunday Of Christmas</i> 8:30am - Lessons and Carols Sunday No Sunday School No Confirmation Class

Vicar Gerry Zimmerman wants all to know that he can get communion to those of you that would like to have it, just let him or Nannette know.

Christmas Eve Service at Bethel at 8pm. Please call Bethel 716-933-6699 to make your reservations (so seating setup can be arranged to allow for social distancing) with the number of people in your group. Deadline by December 20th. Masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



Zoom **Sunday School** class will be held **Sunday mornings from 9:30am – 10:00am.**

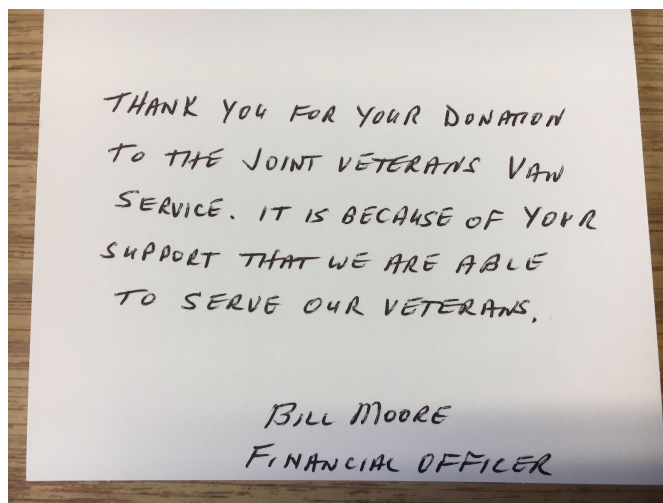
Confirmation class will be held **Sunday mornings from 9:45am – 10:45am**, also on Zoom. **Jo Kile and Ruth Brewer** are the confirmation class teachers.

No Confirmation Class or Sunday School December 27th.



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





Bethel now has Zoom services! Nannette has set up Zoom meetings for Bethel's Sunday services. She is also sending out Zoom info for Shepard of the Valley's service. Thank you Nannette!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88305027386?pwd=L0pxbU9UK1lxcmlNEWdVpBbXFiVjBVUT09>

You need the meeting number and the password.

Bethel Zoom Service: 8am, Sundays in December.

Meeting ID: 883 0502 7386

Passcode: H9i7j9

Shepherd Zoom Service: 10:30am Sundays. Shepherd of the Valley's meeting ID and passcode change weekly.

We received a thank you from Portville Community Food Pantry for our donation for the World Food Road Rally and for \$108 collected. See information wall for full thank you.
THANK YOU JO KILE FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

THANKS TO NANNETTE for heading up the Gift Tree. It was a huge success because of her time and effort!

Impacto Ministries Newsletter



Goodbye October, hello November! We are so excited to begin a new month! We know we must be thankful every single day, but having all of November to focus on thanksgiving is so enjoyable! We have so many things to be thankful for this year, God has truly done so much through this pandemic! At the very top of our list is you! Although we have had to make some changes and a few adjustments during this

time we have and will continue to work towards helping the community and in doing so furthering the Kingdom.



You may have noticed some of our changes, one of them being the way funds are distributed. This year we have been working closely with an accountant and the IRS to make sure we are doing things right to protect our 501c3 status. One highly suggested change was the method in which we set up our donations. We have grouped together our different ministries to create 5 different 'buckets'. Today we would like to share with you about our Compassion Ministries.

When you give to Compassion Ministries you help with Happy Tummies (all locations)/Abuelitos, Stitches of Blessings, Library, Emergency Relief (Food Bags, Church on Wheels, Natural Disaster Assistance, etc.), Healing Hands, and Christmas Festival.

There is so much Impacto does through each of these ministries listed above, and as always, our main aim is to share the Gospel. So many are reached and cared for through each ministry and although the way our finances are organized has changed, everything else is the same. We are caring for each ministry as we always have, and that will never change.



As the end of the year is drawing near we would ask that you would prayerfully consider giving to our Compassion Ministries. Your gift will be used towards the ministries listed above and will be a blessing to so many people. One of the big things you'll be seeing at the end of this year is our Christmas Festival. It will look totally different than previous years but we hope to make it special for about 150 families that we minister to.

Again, we are so thankful for you and we hope you have a wonderful start to the Holiday Season!



**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.**

Ephesians 2:8 [NIV]

THE FIVE SOLAS

Five hundred and three years ago today, Martin Luther, a German theologian and student of the Catholic seminary, after reading the whole Bible, discovered the great truth of the Word of God. He wanted to protest against the Catholic Church and did so by writing ninety-five theses based completely on the Bible; the Word of God. I want to invite and challenge you to read these five Solas which sum up the ninety-five theses. Meditate on them and you will find great theological content.

- 1. *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) – *2 Timothy 3:16***
- 2. *Sola Fide* (Faith alone) -- *Ephesians 2:8***
- 3. *Sola Gratia* (Grace alone) -- *Titus 2:11***
- 4. *Solus Christus* (Christ alone) -- *Acts 4:11-12***
- 5. *Soli Deo Gloria* (To the Glory of God alone) -- *Isaiah 42:12 and Habakkuk 2:14.***

I hope that this helps us to understand much more about our evangelical faith.



Impacto - Coban update

We are humbled by the quick and abundant response we have received after asking for help for Coban. We are waiting for the waters to recede and some roads to open again so that we can travel there. We are asking that you please join us in prayer as a new storm is forming and appears to be taking the same path as Eta. Our staff is praying for wisdom and discernment; we want to help while also keeping our staff and workers safe. We were hoping to get there before the new storm hits, yet the number of flooded roads and mudslides have prevented that from happening. We are helping as much as we can right now from afar while hoping and praying to make it to Coban as soon as possible. Because of your financial donation we have been able to transfer funds to Pastor Manuel so he has started helping his community. It's hard for them to get pictures and send them to us, but we have been in constant communication with him.

Although times are hard and it just seems like 2020 is filled with disarray, we still want to share with you a few Praises & Requests below showing that our awesome God is still at work!



- We praise God for 2020. Yes, it has been a hard year, and yes, it has had its challenges. However, we have been able to grow so much, we learned, we were intentional, we saw God provide in ways that we could not have imagined!
- Thanks be to God for all our supporters! We have had to call on you for different emergency relief ministries and you have shown up! Thank you for believing in Impacto and the ministry God has called us to in Guatemala.
- This month we inaugurated a new church! It is a testimony of God and His provision to have been able to complete this project during a pandemic! All glory and praise to Him!





Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9



We are gathering funds for Christmas Baskets! We are praying and hoping to make huge, joy-filled baskets this year, along with a chicken for everyone! We are so excited to be able to bring some Christmas cheer to many families who have had a hard year. We need US\$35 per basket and we are looking to give 150 baskets, more if possible. Remember, donations for Christmas Baskets should go under Compassion Ministries. You can check out this video <https://youtu.be/oRgzykT8KvM> to see what our normal Christmas Festival is like and to have an idea of who we will be blessing with Christmas Baskets this year! Please share it with your churches and friends that you think may be willing and able to help with financial gifts! Thank you.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

Impacto Ministry Inc. 9690 Shepherds Creek Place, La Plata,
MD 20646

visit our website

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

You're Invited!

Stars and Promises Christmas Concert feat. Peter Mayer, lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett

Dec. 9, 2020 | 7 p.m. Central time
Benefiting ELCA World Hunger

Facebook Premiere
(Accessible without a Facebook account)



 **ELCA World Hunger**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Thanks to Trinette for sending this info from ELCA World Hunger for a free Christmas benefit concert.



In the first-ever event of its kind, [ELCA World Hunger](#) presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring [Peter Mayer](#), a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett.

Although we are in the midst of a difficult winter due to COVID-19, we know that, through God's abundance, you have shown incredible generosity by supporting the necessary work of the church. This concert is a gift to you this Advent season. It is a way for us to say thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

The concert is free and will premiere on the [ELCA Facebook page](#), with a live chat so you can engage with the audience, ELCA staff and Peter Mayer himself. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world.

Register now to receive a free, exclusive Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!

Get the latest information through the [Facebook event](#) and share with your friends! Join the fun on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtags [#ELCACHurchTogether](#) and [#StarsAndPromises](#), and we'll be resharing your posts. We hope to see you there!

[Click here to get my free album](#)

Bethel celebrated Sloane Miller receiving her First Communion on Sunday, November 15th.





Congratulations Sloane!



Gift Tree

Jo, Ron, Ariel, Rick, Nannette, Nedean, Ruth, and Dakota met at Walmart at 11am on Sunday, November 15th to shop. We then went back to Bethel and wrapped all the presents and had a pizza lunch. Rick and Nannette donated the pizza and pop. We received donations of \$1210. This included \$250 that Ruth was able to apply for thru Thrivent. Thank you Ruth! We adopted 3 families that included 13 children. We were also able to donate to Ruth \$204 that will be used for her mission trip next year that was not needed for our Gift Tree shopping.







I noticed two things with this picture. First, Ron is advertising my favorite candy bar. Thanks Ron, now I want one! And second, Ariel is wearing the latest version of face mask. It not only matches your coat, but you can't lose it, because it's attached to your coat. Great idea! I also had to include last year's picture.





"There's one Christmas carol that's suitable for my voice. The one where the dogs bark Jingle Bells."

Thanks Trinetta for sending in this great idea

NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

**Beginning December 1st,
Read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.**

**There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus's Life
and wake up Christmas Morning
Knowing WHO and WHY
We Celebrate!!**

Happy Birthday Jesus

