

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, (Oct. 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.

DECEMBER 2018



*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet
What I can I give him: give my heart.*

There is a moving story about a child who wanted to give a Christmas gift to Christ. The young boy had waited until the Christmas Eve service was over and then handed the gift to an usher explaining that it was a gift for Jesus. When the usher saw the pastor passing by, he handed the bulging envelope to him explaining that it was a gift for the Lord offered by a little boy.

Opening the envelope, the clergyman found a small toy car. Instantly, he surmised that the child had given a gift that was very important to him; a present from his mind, his heart, and his hand. This is what true giving is all about; offering to God what matters to us most: our hearts, our minds, our talents, our time, and our talents.

Christmas is a joyous time. But it should also be a challenging time when we consider how we should respond to God's precious gift of Christ to us. The hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter," written in the 19th century by a woman named Christina Rossetti, sums up what we should give Christ at Christmas in the fourth stanza:

Prayer: God, you are the greatest giver we can imagine. You gave us your dear Son, our Lord and Savior. Help us, loving God, to willingly give you our hearts in totality. **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.**



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*.

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

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.

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

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

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



Our next monthly breakfast will be on Saturday, December 1st, 8:00 till 11:00. Please come and join the fellowship and bring your family and friends. .



Choir practice is held on Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join.

No audition necessary

New address for Ariel Kile

Ariel Kile
80 Eaton St- South Hall Room 212A
Morrisville, NY 13408

STROEHMANN'S DONATION PROJECT

Stroehmann's employees collect new books and knitted or crocheted mittens. A long time resident of Portville, Alice Frost helps her son Mark Frost (who works at Stroehmann's) to collect these items and then donates them to need families. **Items need to be at Bethel by December 9th**



Sunday, December 16th will be the Sunday School Christmas program during the worship service. Please plan to attend as the kids do such a great job with this program and they (and the teachers) need our support

Immanuel is holding at least 2 groups (and maybe a third-though they may join the other 2)

Tues evening from 5:30 to 7 PM at Immanuel, discussion of my book "Onward Christian Soldiers?"

Wed morning 10:00 to 11:30 AM at Immanuel, same.

EVERYONE is welcome to attend these groups!

Pastor Derek

Wednesday evening Advent services:
all at St John's Allegany on

12/5 a special combined service- 7pm

12/12 -7pm (soup 6pm)

12/19- 7pm (soup 6pm)



**In memory of Terry Danielson (former
Bethel member and Council Member)**

Mary Kay Danielson
Ronald & Nancy Wilcox
Beverly Robinson
Bill & Judy Graves



Dear Friends,

You are such faithful and generous friends to the Portville Community Food Pantry! The World Food Day Rally held on October 13th was a lot of hard work (special thanks to Jo) and a huge success. The collection of non-perishable food items is always appreciated and gives us a variety of items to put on our client choice table.

But it was the enthusiasm that each team brought back to the church that got me excited! I hope this will be the “1st Annual” because I am looking forward to the “2nd” and hoping we can involve other churches/groups within our community...because it was SO MUCH FUN!

I am always thankful for our shared ministry in the Portville Community Food Pantry.

Sincerely,
Stephanie W. Hill
Program Coordinator
PORTVILLE COMMUNITY FOOD
PANTRY

December 2018



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



Worship Assistants

Lectors

- Dec. 2nd *Pen Yunghans*
- Dec 9th *Connie Smith-Matteson*
- Dec. 16th *Nannette Giberson*
- Dec. 23rd *June Murray*
- Dec. 30th *Various*

Prayer Leaders.

- Dec. 2nd *Caroline Miller*
- Dec 9th *Nannette Giberson*
- Dec. 16th *Caroline Miller*
- Dec. 23rd *Linda Scott*

Assistants for December

Acolyte.....*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants.....*Nannette Giberson and June Murray*

Usher*Rick Giberson*
Dec 23rd*Don Linn*

Altar Guild*Nedean Knowlton*

Mail Greeter.....*Caroline Miller*

Bread Bakers.....*Ron Kile*



26—Mike & Joelle Brewer

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2018

- Saturday, Dec. 1 8:00am-11:00am - Monthly Breakfast
- Sunday, Dec. 2 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am- Worship with **Advent dinner following**
10:15am- Sunday school
- Sunday, Dec. 9 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am - Worship with fellowship time *following.*
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Dec. 16 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am - Sunday school Christmas program during worship service
2:00pm-4:00pm - Christmas caroling
- Thurs. Dec. 20 7:00pm - Church Council
- Sunday, Dec. 23 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
7:45am - Choir practice
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship time following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Monday, Dec. 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
5:00pm - Combined candlelight communion service at Immanuel Lutheran.
- Sunday, Dec. 30 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
7:45am - Choir practice
9:00am - Lessons and Carols Sunday
10:15am - Sunday school

The monthly offering for December will be going to the Lutheran Disaster Fund

Christmas card exchange - the first of December we will have our little red sleigh ready to take your Christmas cards to share with each other. Stewardship will deliver the cards to members regularly attending church. Have fun!

Sunday, December 9th - Poinsettia orders are due. Order forms are in the fellowship hall. The price is \$7.49 each. Checks made payable to Bethel.

Tuesday, December 11th - 6:30pm - God's Huggers at Bethel

Sunday, December 16th - Sunday School Christmas Program during worship!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 16th from 2pm - 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. You don't need to be choir member or even good singers to have a great time.

It is so rewarding to see how much we are appreciated by the people we sing to. Please make time in your schedule to come and join us.

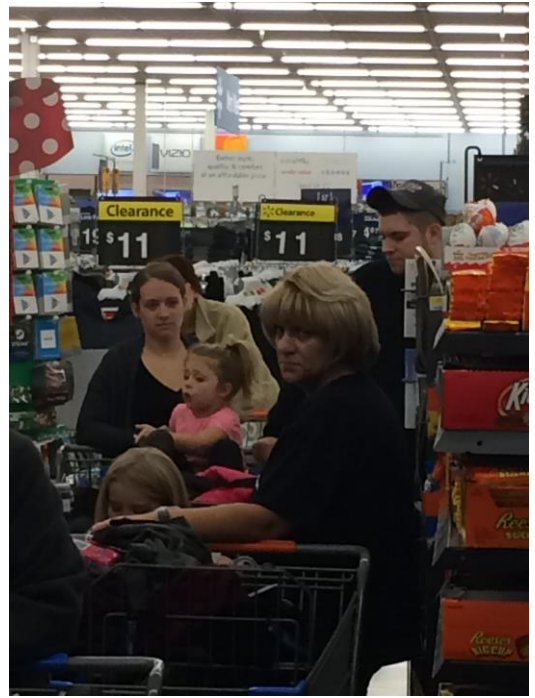
Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve service - combined service with Immanuel at 5:00 pm. It will be a candlelight service with communion.

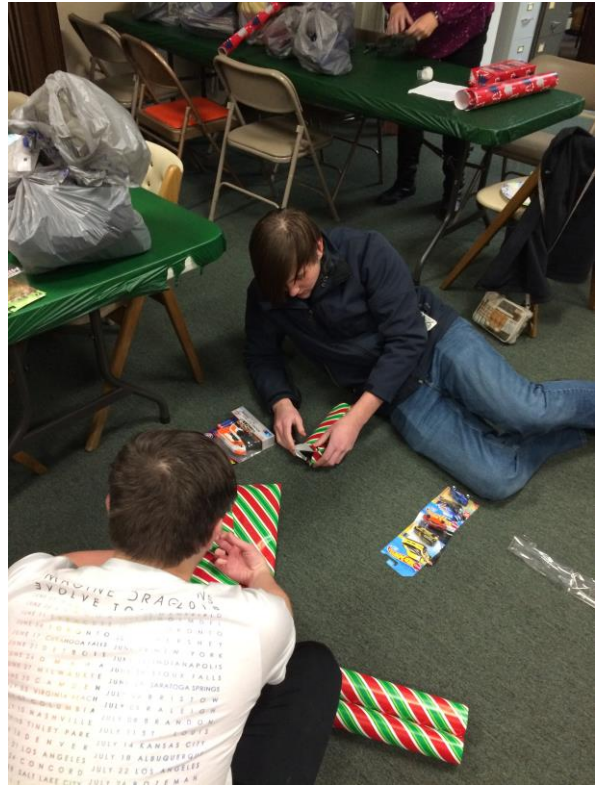
Sunday, December 30th is Lessons and Carols Sunday. Please let Ruth Brewer, Terri Ploetz, or Pen Yunghans know your favorite Christmas hymns to be included in the service.

January 20th 2019 - all reports and books are due for audit.

On November 9th, 2018 - A group of 17 people including Ruth, Dakota, Haedyn, Scott, Sue, Danny, Olivia, Skip, April, Grace, Corben, Courtney, June, Jo, Ron, Rick and Nannette met at Walmart at 6pm to shop till we dropped!!! We shopped for 3 families with 13 children spending \$1040. We brought all the gifts back to Bethel but only after we stopped at Tasta to pick up pizza for our supper. We wrapped all the gifts and had a pizza party! It was an awesome evening! Thank you to all who made a donation for this worthwhile outreach! Thank you to the gang for a successful shopping evening!!!







Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Southwestern Conference

presents



Advent -
a season
for all generations

Saturday, December 8, 2018

at

Christ Chapel

Lutheran, Jamestown

715 Falconer Street

Jamestown, New York 14701

No Cost

Registration & Fellowship: 9:15 AM

Catered Continental Breakfast: 9:30 AM

** Compliments of Lutheran's own Chef Dave **

RSVP Deadline: November 30, 2018

Call Lois Rumfelt: 664-4409

Free-will Offering to benefit Chaplain's Discretionary Fund at Lutheran



CONGRATULATION TO THE PORTVILLE GIRLS VOLLEY BALL TEAM!!!