

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.

FEBRUARY 2018



Do It and Be Blessed

Two hundred years ago an Irish philosopher named Edmund Burke made a very wise statement. He said: "No one made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

He meant, of course, that when we do nothing, in terms of serving or giving or sharing, we are making a big mistake. Think of a pond with no outlet. It is likely to become stagnant. Reeds begin to grow along the edges. It becomes muddy. Often the oxygen content dissipates and the fish begin to die. A good clear vital pond has both a source of fresh water and an outlet also.

For good spiritual health we need to take in the love and nourishment of the Holy Spirit and we need to allow that love to flow out to others. The church can help us in that regard. It has ministry to more causes than we have time to mention: the mission field, the homeless, the mentally and physically ill, the unemployed, families in trouble,

plus all the needs of the church building and the like. The list of good works goes on and on.

The point is this: Never think that because one can only do a little at times, one should do nothing. Do as much as you can for God and be blessed.

Prayer: Blessed Lord, you shower us with grace and the gifts of the Spirit; give us the courage to be your servants and good stewards of what we have.

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.

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 grandmagee7@verizon.net.

Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:

10% Charity of our choice

10% Benevolence

Rest in general fund



Our next church breakfasts will be on **Saturday March 3rd**. Breakfast will be held from 8:00am until 11:00am. We need volunteers to help cook and serve. Please help if you are able as this is a great fundraiser and a wonderful time of fellowship. Thanks.

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

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



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

No audition necessary



**In Memory of
Ryan Aderman**

By

The Rick Giberson Family
June Murray
Bill and Karen Snow

In Memory of Ted Scott

By

David and Mary Scott

February 2018



Worship Assistants

Acolyte *Dakota Brewer*

Communion Assistants ..*June Murray and Linda Scott*.....

Lectors:

Feb. 4th*Don Linn*

Feb. 11th *Dakota Brewer*

Feb 18th*Doug Ploetz*

Feb.25th *Connie Smith-Matteson*

Prayer Leaders:

Feb 4th*Ruth Brewer*

Feb 11th*Doug Ploetz*

Feb.18th *June Murray*

Feb.25th *Connie Smith-Matteson*

Ushers*Don Linn*

Altar Guild.....*Ruth Brewer*

Bread Bakers*Ron Kile*

Mail Greeter..... *Nannette Giberson*

2—Marilyn (Ploetz) Perkins
—Troy Giberson

3—Annie Blicharz

4--- Pace Scott

5—Robert Baughman

7---Quinn Scott

9—Mitch Smith

12—Robert MacPherson

14—Kay Anderson

19—Irelynn MacPherson

20—Kevin Hepfer

20—Warner Johnson

21—Skip Robinson

26—Linda Scott



20—Bill & Karen Snow

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2018

- Sat, Feb. 3rd Monthly breakfast from 8:00am - 11:00am
- Sunday, Feb. 4th **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
7:45am - Choir Rehearsal
9:00am- Worship with fellowship following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Feb 11th **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**
7:45 - Choir Rehearsal
9:00 - Worship with baptism and fellowship following
10:15 am - Sunday school
1:00pm-? - Sled riding party at June Murray's
- Wednesday, Feb.14th **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**
7:00 - Immanuel Lutheran Church in Olean w/spaghetti dinner prior to service. Serving starts 5:00 pm.
7:00pm - Rivers Edge United Methodist Church of Portville
7:00pm- First Presbyterian Church
- AVAILABLE SERVICES THROUGH LENT**
First Presbyterian Church
- Monday, Feb. 19th 5:30pm - Soup and Study
Monday, Feb. 26 5:30pm - Soup and Study
Monday, March. 5th 5:30pm - Soup and Study
Monday, March 12th 5:30pm - Soup and Study
Monday, March 19th 5:30pm - Soup and Study
- Thursday, Feb. 15th 7:00pm - Council Meeting
- Sunday, Feb. 18th **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir rehearsal
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Feb.25th **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir Rehearsal
9:00am - Worship with Annual Congregational meeting following.
10:15am - Sunday school

The charity for the month of February is Accounting Beyond Borders



Dear Christians

Thank you for the donation of ~~\$202,000~~.
Your donation will go directly to support
our wounded and injured veterans. As a

*Thank you for supporting
America's wounded veterans.*

all volunteer run organization every donation
matters. All of your members have a standing
invitation to visit during any of our seven
programs God Bless v/r
G & Disher Colonel (ret) U.S Army

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE TWO MORE OF OUR CHILDREN BE BAPTISED. OLIVIA AND DANNY SILVIS WERE BAPTISED ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST. WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY. OLIVIA AND DANNY ARE THE CHILDREN OF SCOTT AND SUSAN SILVIS





We had so many children in church that Pastor Lee decided to do a children's sermon.



Learning to Live with a "Yes" Heart

[LYSA TERKEURST](#)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) (NIV)

It all started the day God told me to give away my [Bible](#).

I was exhausted from traveling and speaking. All I wanted was to get to my assigned seat on the plane and settle in for a long winter's nap. I was just about to close my eyes when two last-minute passengers made their way to my row and took their seats.

I reluctantly decided to forgo my nap, opting instead to pull a manuscript out of my bag and read. I didn't want to chance the embarrassment of falling asleep on anyone's shoulder.

When the guy sitting beside me asked what I was working on, I told him I was a writer and I was working on a book about leading women to the heart of God. He smiled and said he thought God was a very interesting topic. I agreed and asked him a few questions about his beliefs. Before long, I found myself reaching into my bag and pulling out my Bible, walking him through some key verses that dealt with the issues he was facing. He kept asking questions, and I kept praying God would give me answers.

All of a sudden, I felt God tugging at my heart to give this man my Bible. Now, this was not just any Bible. This was my everyday, highlighted, underlined, written-in, tear-stained Bible. My kids had even drawn pictures in this Bible. I started to argue with God in my head, but His message was clear. I was to give away my Bible.

I emptied it, took a deep breath, and placed it in the man's hands. "I'd like for you to have my Bible," I said. Astonished, he started to hand it back to me, saying he couldn't possibly accept such a gift. "God told me to give it to you," I insisted. "Sometimes, the God of the universe pauses in the midst of all His creation to touch the heart of one person. Today, He paused for you."

The man took my Bible and made two promises. First, he said he would read it, and second, someday he would pass it on, doing for someone else what I'd done for him.

As I got off the plane that day, my heart felt conflicting emotions. While on one hand I was overjoyed at what God had done, I was also brokenhearted by the flood of thoughts that came to mind recounting times I'd told God no.

I just kept wondering, *How many times have I told You "no," God? How many times because I was too tired, too insecure, too uncertain, too busy, or too selfish have I walked right past Your divine appointment for me and missed experiencing You?*

About a month later, the businessman I had given my Bible to called. We had exchanged business cards, and he wanted to tell me how his life had totally changed. He had taken a week off from work to read the Bible, and he'd already shared his testimony with numerous people. He also told me that after reading the Scriptures he knew he needed to get involved in a church. God was definitely pursuing him in a serious way. And I was blessed and amazed by the way this man was responding.

When I asked him what his favorite verse was, he said it was [Proverbs 3:5-6](#): *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

What a perfect verse to represent what God had asked of me.

When God impressed on my heart to give this man my Bible, I didn't know what would happen. He could have thrown my Bible into the nearest airport trash can, for all I knew. Normally, I would have come up with a hundred reasons *not* to give my Bible away, but that day something changed in me. For the first time, I chose to be a woman who'd do whatever the Lord asked of me. A woman who wants to continue seeing God work miracles through small acts of obedience.

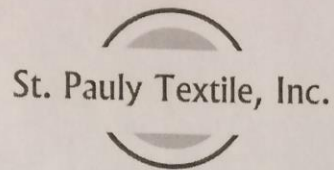
Lord, please forgive me for all of the times I have told You no. Right now, I say "yes," Lord. Even before I know what You might ask me to do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



On Sunday, February 11th from 1:00 pm until ??? we will be having our annual sled riding party at the home June Murray (providing we have enough snow). Chili, hot dogs, coffee, hot chocolate will be provided. Bring your sleds and enjoy the fun. If you are not a sled rider then just come and enjoy the fellowship. Any questions' please contact June.



Thanks to all of you who have helped make our clothing bin a success over the last few years. Here is a letter from St. Pauly's that we received.



Bethel Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

We are focusing this year on diverting more clothing items and textiles away from landfills and sending them to people who can use them around the US and World!

If possible, we ask that you read the following note to your congregation on our behalf.

—
Thank you for continuing to collaborate with us on the St. Pauly Textile clothing drop off shed project! In 2017 roughly 11,149 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,352 people. This clothing is being used right now by people in one or more of 44 different countries (including the US) to which our clothing is likely to have been distributed this past year.

Your congregation raised \$ 673.63 in 2017 through hosting this shed.

We ask that you continue to spread the word about the clothing shed to other community members. Thank you for all your support, and please feel free to reach out to us at any time!

Sincerely,

The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

1067 Gateway Drive · Farmington, NY 14425 · 585-924-7941 · www.StPaulyTextile.com