

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, (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.

January 2020



There once lived a live-wire boy in New York named Jason. His actions, antics and humorous comments added much levity to peoples' lives around him. Down deep, however, Jason was struggling. His faith was dormant; his belief quite shaky.

Then something happened. Something that gave him assurance that God was real and wanted him to become a more dedicated disciple. He had an encounter with God that altered him. A friend tells how she observed Jason develop into a steadfast steward of the gifts God had planted in him. She details how he strove to grow close to God in his daily actions, in Bible study, in prayer, and in service projects, especially those sponsored by the church. In short, Jason began to increase in faith and in service to God and others. Jason, whether he realized it or not, was actually beginning to fulfill the advice that St. Peter gave to the early Christians.

Peter wrote: "As he (God) which called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15). Jason was growing in grace.

Good stewardship, is putting God first in our lives and then using all the gifts God has given us to glorify the Creator. To do that is to grow in grace and holiness in ourselves. Jason's adventure is told in "A Call to Holiness" in January's issue of Stewardship.

Prayer: Holy and loving God, help us to grow in grace and holiness that we may please you in every way. Through Christ our Lord. 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, cereals and canned tomatoes. **Especially needed is canned fruit.**



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 *Linda Scott*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, Vice President *Ruth Brewer* and members *Caroline Miller, 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*.

Prayer Chain:

If you have need of prayer, we have an email prayer chain. Just call Bev Robinson – phone number 814-225-3341 or e-mail at grandmagee756@gmail.com



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

Ron Kile
Don Linn

Committee

Council President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Worship and Music &
Christian Education
Stewardship &
Fellowship

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.



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.

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

New Address for:

Jean Morgan and Nedeane Knowlton
8146 Jordan Hill Road
Bolivar, NY 14715
Phone number is the same

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

Ariel Kile
80 Eaton Street
Onondaga Hall Room 333
Morrisville, NY 13408

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/>.

STROEHMANN'S DONATION PROJECT



Alice Frost and Mark Frost sent a great big thank you for helping them with the donation of books to help needy families have a better Christmas! Thank you!



The special offering for January will be as follows:

1st Sunday Confirmation

Rest of the month will be Veteran's Van

JANUARY 2020

Worship Assistants, Birthdays and Anniversaries



Worship Assistants

Acolyte*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants..... *Linda Scott*
.....*and Cheryl Welles*

Lectors:

January 5th*Mark Welles*
January 12th*Mark Welles*
January 19th*Mark Welles*
January 26th*Mark Welles*

Prayer Leader:

January 5th*Mark Welles*
January 12th*Mark Welles*
January 19th*Mark Welles*
January 26th*Mark Welles*

Usher/s.....

Altar Guild.....*Trinette Brewer*

Mail Greeter.....*Caroline Miller*

Bread Baker*Ron Kile*

Happy Birthday to:

4---J.J. Williams Jr.
4---Robert Wolsky
4---Scott Wolsky
6---Katie Bush
9---Melissa Fahnestock
11---David Robinson
16---Jena Linn
17---Rae Fitzsimmons
19---Richard Chapman Jr.
19---Jeff Scott
24---Janet Vanderworker
27---Alec Smith
28---April Giberson & Gertrude Yohe
30---Chris Miller



Happy Anniversary to:

8—Ron & Trinette Brewer

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - January 2020

Saturday, January 4

8:00am-11:00am - Monthly Breakfast

Sunday, January 5

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

7:45am - Choir practice

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship time following

No Sunday School

Sunday, January 12

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

7:45am - Choir practice

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship time following

10:15am - Sunday School

Thursday, January 16

7pm - Council meeting

Sunday, January 19

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

7:45am - Choir practice

9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following

10:15am - Sunday School

Sunday, January 26

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

7:45am - Choir practice

9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following

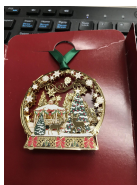
10:15am - Sunday School

Ruth Brewer is selling these 2 ornaments for a fundraiser for the mission trip to Guatemala. They are \$24 each. Ruth will bring them to church to display and sell.

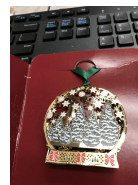
One ornament



Front of second ornament



Back of second ornament



WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



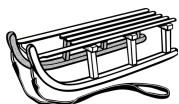
Our next monthly breakfast will be on Saturday, January 4th, 8:00 till 11:00. Please come and join the fellowship and bring your family and friends.



No Sunday School January 5th. Will resume January 12th.

Jan 11th at Immanuel is a Boar's roast at 5:30pm. Contact Pastor Derek for info and tickets.

God's Huggers will meet on Monday, January 20th at 6:30pm!



The sled riding party is scheduled for January 26th at Linda Scott's house as long as we have snow otherwise we will reschedule it. Chili and hotdogs will be provided and for those attending. Please bring a dish to share. Welcome to all! Come visit or slide down hill or both!

Audit deadline is January 26, 2020 - All books need to be in by then.

Our **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held following our worship service on **February 23rd**. Please do your best to attend. Thank you.



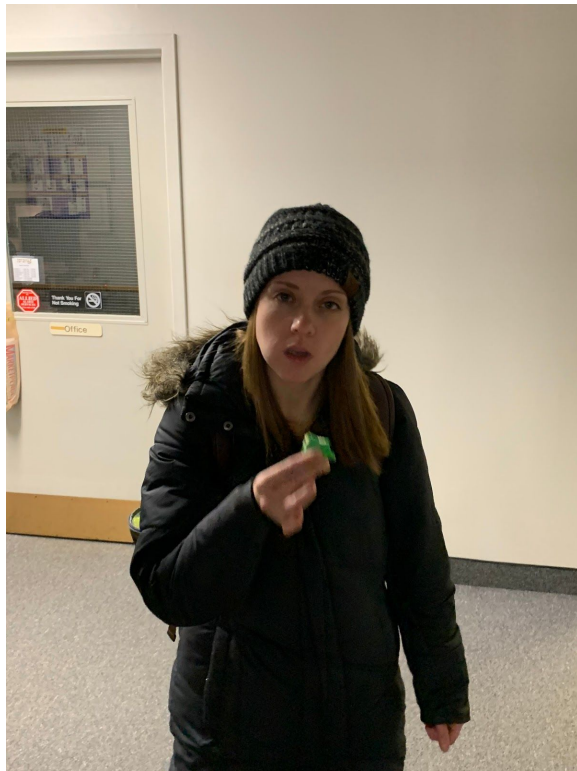
Thank you to Rick Giberson for cleaning the gutters, mowing, raking and getting us ready for winter. **Thank you!**

Thanks to everyone who sends in photos and info for the newsletter!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We went Christmas caroling, Sunday December 8th. June, Livy, Jo, Ron, Nedean, Skip, April, Grace, Corben, Rick and Nannette went to Aspen Tower, Aspen Manor, Home on Prospect, Portville Manor and Portville Square. The weather was great and we had a good time singing to all. I believe the listeners enjoyed joining in with us!!! We handed out sugar cookies for a treat. Thank you Gang on a job well done!!





Someone got caught in the cookie jar!



Corben organizing the music for us.





Breakfast with Santa

On December 7, Bethel had their monthly breakfast. The breakfast included French toast, pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Ron Kile is the head chef and he had many helpers, Jo Kile, Linda Scott, Caroline Miller and Marge Nix.



Chef Extraordinaire Ron



A few of Bethel's monthly breakfast supporters. Thank You!



At 10:30 Santa Claus made a grand entrance and spent time with the young and old kids at the breakfast! Santa had the children sit on his lap and talk about what they wanted for Christmas and asked if they had been good. Of course everyone answered yes! He handed out special Santa coins to everyone in attendance, and of course there were treats and trinkets for everyone. After every child had a turn to be with Santa, he had them sit on the floor around him and he read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. Thank you to Santa and all the breakfast helpers!

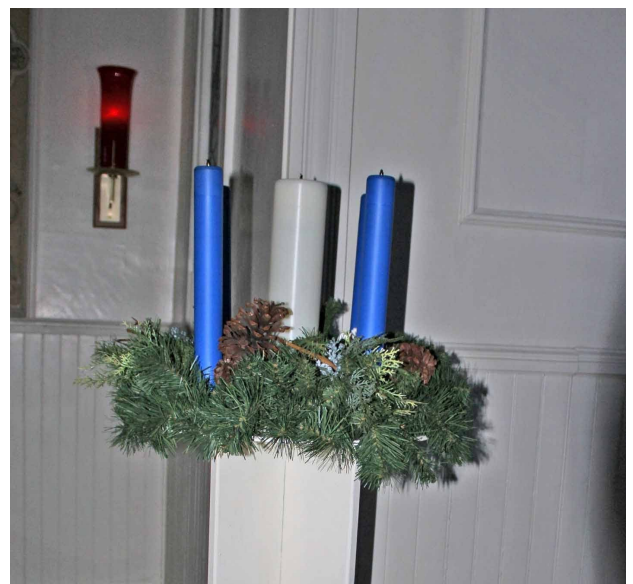






Thanks to all who decorated Bethel's Sanctuary so beautifully.

Happy Holidays!







Pastor Lee's last day at Bethel will be December 29th.

Thank you Pastor Lee for your time, leadership,
faithful service, friendship
and the difference you have made in our lives.
We will miss you and Kay. We wish you all the best.



Picture sent by Ruth. Thanks!

**Merry Christmas and
a Blessed New Year!**