

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 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.

June 2020



In tough times, when we are conflicted and pulled in many directions it is difficult to see a clear path in life, so we often become ambivalent. And we know it; we feel compelled to do something about it, but somehow we can't because we don't see a clear path towards doing what is right.

We feel compelled to do something, but then somehow just say, "I can only do so much." However, stewardship provides a clear path; it gives us a road-map toward allocating the precious time, talent and resources that God has given us. In living the whole of our lives to glorify God we can find clear decisions that lead us down the right path.

This includes taking good care of our bodies, our brains, and our spirit, as well as how we minister to our families, how

we care for one another in God's kingdom. The conflict and ambivalence that we may feel can be conquered!

This month's issue of *Stewardship* points out that the conflict leading to ambivalence is everywhere and that all Christians can be plagued with difficult choices. Some advise: "Just say No." Others say, "Enough is enough." This doesn't sit well with many of our personal beliefs. In keeping with Christian beliefs, we need to find ways to "Just say Yes!" A former pastor once advised, "Give until it hurts." This is consistent with the belief that one is never done repaying our debt to God!

Prayer: Let us not find our rest, Lord, until we are dedicated stewards of all that we have. **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.

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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/127210584114232/).



Choir practice is held on Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary**

The special offering for June will be as follows:

***1st Sunday Confirmation,
Rest of the month will be Ruth Brewer's
Guatemala Trip 2021***



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**



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.

June 2020

Birthdays and Anniversaries



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1—Joe Shoff
- 2—Nedean Knowlton
- 3—Bryan Hatch, Trinetta Brewer
- 4—Chris Linn
- 8—Deb Wolsky
- 14—Tom Olson, Carol Parr
- 20—Lindsey Nicholas
- 21—Rick Giberson, Chris Badger
- 22—Justin Brewer, Emily Linn
- 23—Jon Wolsky
- 28—Lisa Andrus

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 4—Jon & Amy Giberson
- 9—Doug & Terri Ploetz
- 10—Dan & Kerrie Parr
- 11—Bill & Judy Graves
- 25—Chris & Mary Jane Badger
- 29—Warner & Joan Johnson



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - June 2020

Sunday, June 7 *The Holy Trinity*

Sunday, June 14 *Lectionary 11*

Sunday, June 21 *Lectionary 12*

Sunday, June 28 *Lectionary 13*

Bethel will be closed until further notice.

With great sadness I have to report that my mission trip to Guatemala has been cancelled. The covid 19 virus has hit the village of San Juan and they had to close the programs at Happy Tummies. They have been able to provide meals to the families. We were told that if we were allowed to come, we would have to be quarantined for 2 weeks in Guatemala city before we could travel to the village of San Juan. The peanut that was donated for my mission trip will be donated to the Portville food pantry. The nonperishable items I plan on taking next year as we have committed to go in July 2021. I thank you for your continued support. RUTH

Newsletter from Impacto:



The situations we are facing now days has our hearts shattered. As Christians we cry out to God for those who are ill, those who are hungry, those who are facing injustice. At times we pray for Christ to come and take His children, then we pray for more time as there are still so many who need to hear the Gospel! As Paul said, *“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”* Phil. 1:21. Seems like many of us are feeling this way. So, let’s live as Christ would, standing up for those who have no voice, caring for the sick, and loving each person around us in Christ’s love. Let us remember what the Word of God says, *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* Gal. 3:28



We continue to ask you to lift San Juan in prayer, the number of COVID-19 cases is growing. Remember, this is a town that has no oxygen, respirators, ventilators, and some may not be able to afford acetaminophen. Pray for the families of those who are ill, that God will keep them healthy and that they are able to help nurse their loved ones back to health. Impacto is asking God for wisdom and knowledge to

know where we are needed the most and trying to help as best we can. We have faith in God and know that this won't last forever. We are so grateful to all of you who have given for food bags, in total this month we gave almost 200 bags of food! We pray to do the same in June and continue to bless many families. Impacto is working hard on how to adjust some ministries so that we may continue helping and sharing about Christ as much as we can. We hope to share many new things with you soon!

Thank you, for your giving heart, for the love you have for the people of Guatemala, for your prayers, and selfless contributions.

Time is a funny thing. There are days that seem to last a year and there are days that seem to last a second. Very rarely does anyone say, "Wow! That day felt like one day." With the uncertainty we're facing and the differing opinions we're hearing we need to rest on what is true. The only true and certain thing we can hold on to is our God "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" Hebrews 13:8. For the next few months we know many of you will have to make tough decisions about leaving the house, going back to work, traveling, finances, school, etc. These decisions are hard enough to make, but add a pandemic and suddenly, it just got harder to make every decision. This is our prayer for the days to come:

'God please give everyone wisdom and knowledge, and may the Holy Spirit convict us and give us peace in every decision needing to be made. In Jesus' name, Amen.'



What to do and not do during a crisis

In Acts 27 we hear a fascinating story about Paul's third mission trip; he was traveling to Rome. There was a huge storm that was so powerful they couldn't control the boat. And in the middle of this storm the sailors decided to do three things we should never do in the middle of a crisis. Acts 27:15b says, "we gave up trying and let it be carried along by the wind." (GNT)

1. Never, never give up. Stand firm. Paul says, a few times in the New Testament, "So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady" 1 Corinthians 15:58 (GNT).

2. Another mistake that the sailors made is found in verse 19, “and on the following day they threw part of the ship's equipment overboard” (GNT). Don't throw away your equipment -- the good things that you have. Don't throw away your marriage, your relationships, and don't throw away your principles. Here in the U.S. as well as many other countries (probably every country) we have heard that violence and abuse in the home has gone up during this time; people are letting go of their principles. Don't throw away your principles, don't throw away the good things you have. Keep the good things. Keep faith. Keep hope. Keep love.

3. Verse 20 says, “We finally gave up all hope of being saved” (GNT). Never give up hope. Please, don't ever give up hope. The Word of God talks to us a lot about hope. Paul says, ‘Jesus Christ himself is our hope of glory.’”

But there are also things we must do during this time. Verse 22 says, “And now I exhort you to be of good cheer” (KJV). Don't be discouraged.

1. Verse 24 says, “Don't be afraid.” We find these words “Don't be afraid”, so many times in the Bible. It's repeated multiple times!

2. Verse 25 says, “For I trust in God” (GNT). These are the words Paul spoke to the sailors. Let's put all our trust in God.

3. Verse 33-38 talks about how we must take care of ourselves and take care of those around us. That's why in verse 34 Paul says, “I beg you, then, eat some food” (GNT). He goes on to say that it's good for their health. Let's take care of our health. Let's eat healthy, exercise, read the Bible, and pray. Then verse 35 goes on to say, “After saying this, Paul took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, broke it, and began to eat” (GNT). Paul had a lot of faith. He said in verse 34, “Not even a hair of your heads will be lost” (GNT). Let's keep our faith alive every day.

I hope that you will take the things you should do and not do and put them into practice during this time.

FOOD BAGS & WATER



Pictured above is a "water cistern."

Wow! Wow! Wow! We are completely blown away at how many of you God is using to answer our prayers! He is so Good! We have enough funds so far to help about 400 families! Thank you for your gifts and compassion. As mentioned in our previous e-letter, you will be helping families from different parts of the country. We are getting organized and praying for the best way to deliver the food. Since the people being helped are in different areas we need to know the laws, rules, and regulations for each area so that our actions to help don't turn into a chaotic mess.

With the help you have provided we also will be able to take two, what we call "water cisterns," to areas in much need of water. In the two communities in Guatemala City there is a tremendous need for water to drink, to use for cooking, washing dishes and clothing, and bathing. The pastor there tells us that people are already coming down with many infections due to the lack of water. Personal hygiene is way down on the list when you need water to drink more than to bathe. We will include purified water in the food bags and hope that we can provide the cisterns at least twice a month until things go back to a more "normal" way of life.

As our staff comes up with a plan and works on logistics to give out bags, we ask that you please lift us in prayer. We want to make sure we are supporting our local government and the rules they have set in place to protect the people here. We need to be an example and not the cause of commotion and confusion.

We hope to soon be able to share pictures of what your thoughtful and generous gifts have done for the people in Guatemala. Our staff is working hard and as we brainstorm and plan for the future, we want to be sure to help those around us to learn to fish for a lifetime.

Pictured below is one family who will receive food bags and water.



When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

Since I was 18 years old I knew God was calling me to ministry. When I was 20 I had the privilege of being the president for all the Christian youth in Guatemala. Then God provided so that I could study in Seminary. That's when Impacto started. It began with a friend from Argentina when he invited me to join his ministry efforts which was preaching on the radio. So, for a long time I preached on the radio. At first, there were 25 stations that played our sermons. Eventually we were being heard on 700 radio stations in Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

My friend had a group of pastors who dedicated themselves to preach at evangelistic crusades. I was always a huge believer in evangelistic groups. I have never liked to work alone and have always felt that when you work in a group you have accountability. After ministering alongside him for quite some time God called me to focus on the ministry effort in Guatemala. God surrounded me with amazing people, not only in Guatemala but in the U.S.A., too. I don't want to make this too long so I can't tell you every single name nor every blessing God sent through each of them. It's a fact that to be a good leader you need good people surrounding and working alongside you. Moses had a work group, Joshua had one, and, of course, Jesus had a group He worked. To this day, I'm a firm believer in group work and God has given me a great group to work with. A group that, during this pandemic, I have seen their walk in God stand firm as well as their desire to continue sharing about Christ with others.

In the 1990's Dinora and I moved our family to the U.S.A. We planted over 7 churches and I started traveling to Guatemala with mission teams. We didn't know the magnitude short-term mission teams would play in Impacto Ministry. Back then Impacto was a small part of our ministry and we didn't know we would establish such long-term ministries and projects. I know God has many who are willing to share the Gospel full time and I am humbled and honored that He called me to do it in the beautiful country of Guatemala.



WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



Our **monthly breakfasts** will resume in October



No Sunday School until fall.

August 1st - Chicken BBQ, Carol Miller chairperson.

Aug 4th - Community Night at Bethel, Linda Scott chairperson.

October 10th - World Food Rally Day, JoAnn Kile chairperson.

**October 15th, 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://bethelportvillenyny.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. THANK YOU!!

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/>





Bethany Lutheran Church

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Ph: 716-372-1914
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10 May 2020

Council of Bethel Lutheran Church
Bill Graves, President
79 Brooklyn Street
PO Box 606
Portville, NY 14770

Dear Council and members of Bethel Lutheran Church,

Several years ago we embarked on a journey together to provide pastoral leadership to our two congregations. Through the end of Pastor Marie Meeks call and through the vacancy process, primarily under Pastors Lee Magnuson and Derek Chee the vital ministry of Word and Sacrament continued in our respective parishes.

Now with Pastor Lee's retirement and no suitable candidates through the call process we find ourselves exploring new directions for ministry.

On behalf of the entire congregation at Bethany, we the council extend our sincere thanks for our partnership together these past several years. Though we no longer share a pastor, we hold you close in prayer as siblings in Christ and wish you God's blessing as we move forward on different paths.

In Christian love,

Letter from Bishop Macholz:

May 31, 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

To be honest with you I don't know where to start. The killing of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis continues to play itself out across my television screen as I watch it over and over again, not out of a sense of the macabre but out of a place of deep sorrow and disbelief that this has happened again. Only a few days ago we watched videos regarding the killing of Ahmaud Arbery that took place in February and was recently being brought to light. And after Ahmaud Arbery there was Breonna Taylor and last October there was Atatiana Jefferson and before her was... a long, long list of black and brown people whose lives were needlessly taken by violence in a society that continues to not only remain broken but break even further.

On CNN last evening one of the persons being interviewed said, "I think this country has reached a tipping point." I pray that is so. I pray that the balance tips us into a space where we can no longer ignore the cries of injustice of our black and brown sisters and brothers, no longer stand silent while racist and bigoted remarks are so easily tossed around by leadership, no longer stand speechless as we watch another person, created in the image of God and deeply loved by God, be killed or demeaned or slighted or discriminated against or denied or marginalized because of the color of their skin or ethnic background or family history. We must begin to speak and speak loudly against this ongoing nightmare in which our sisters and brothers live and in which we participate.

And we must begin that conversation admitting our own realities. I confess to you, as I did to two of my colleagues yesterday during two separate phone calls, that I am not free of racism and that I struggle to fully comprehend my white privilege. I confess to you that I was once more complicit in this in my past than I care to realize. And, I confess to you that I have much work to do before I get to where I need to be in this dialogue to change the balance of inequality that exists in this country as we move forward to face these realities and find resolution for the pandemic of racism that runs silently through systems and lives with little recognition or knowledge on our part. It is time to talk, to talk honestly and from our places of great vulnerability, giving voice to our own shortcomings and failures, our own racism and white privilege.

It is also time, in that space of vulnerability to listen. To listen deeply to the realities and stories of our sisters and brothers in the black and brown communities. To listen deeply to the hurt and pain and righteous anger for what is not only occurring now but for what has taken place for centuries. To listen deeply to our own hearts and minds and confess our sins and failures and silence. Then, and only then, will we be able to move forward in a conversation that is honest yet painful and, at best, challenging for us to be involved with in our relationship with others.

In these days I pray for the family of George Floyd, a father, a brother, a friend, a co-worker, a companion on the way, a bright and shining light. I pray they may find comfort in the promise of the resurrection. And I pray that they may know that his death will lead us to new learnings and new life and hope for change and a new direction in this country.

I invite you to join me in this prayer, in vulnerability, in honesty, in perseverance, in hope, in faith, in conversation and in the hard, hard work we have before us.

May the One who is faithful prod us and motivate us and, if need be, shove us forward into the hopeful future held out by our Lord Jesus Christ ‘that all may be one.’

In Christ’s Peace and Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John S. Macholz', with a stylized, cursive script.

John S. Macholz, Bishop

Submitted by Nannette:

The Breath Prayer

Written by Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your love & release my insecurity

I receive your joy & release my unhappiness

I receive your peace & release my anxiety

I receive your patience & release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness & release my indifference

I receive your goodness & release my ungodliness

I receive your faithfulness & release my disloyalty

I receive your gentleness & release my severity

I receive your self-control & release my self-indulgence

Artwork by @jodie_w888

Article about Bill and Judy's daughter Kathy Shelander.

Vector Marketing, Cutco employees recognized for service

OLEAN — Several employees of Vector Marketing Corp. and Cutco Cutlery Corp., both wholly owned subsidiaries of Cutco Corp., were recognized for their years of service, including:

■ Jeanette Seawright, an administrative services group leader for Vector Marketing Corp., celebrated 30 years of service on

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They have one son, Brian
■ Kathy Shelander, chief financial officer for Cutco Cutlery Corporation, celebrated 30 years of service with Cutco Cutlery on May 15, 2020. Shelander joined Cutco Cutlery on May 15, 1990 as an accounting intern for Vector Marketing Corp. After being hired full-time in May 1991 as a staff accountant, she was also a cost accountant; accounting supervisor; accounting manager; and controller before being promoted to her current position on June 1, 2011. A graduate of St. Bonaventure University with bachelor's and master's degrees, Shelander resides in Eldred, Pa. with her husband, Mark. They have two daughters, Chelsea and Alyssa.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!



facebook



Jo Ann Kile is with Ariel Kile.



11 mins · 👤

Congratulations to **Ariel** for graduating from SUNY Morrisville with a Bachelors of Technology degree in Criminal Justice. Her last semester was an internship and received a 4.0. The internship was a full time job at Hillside Family of Agencies. We're very proud of you. Not only earning your Bachelors in 3 years but also having a job after graduating! The college is hopefully planning a ceremony in the Fall due to COVID19.



Ariel has a job at Hillside Family of Agencies.



Troy Giberson received a Masters Degree in Business Administration at Saint Bonaventure along with these two awards.

