

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.

March 2020



What God Has Invested In You

Paul prayed for the believers at Ephesus that they might know what God called them to do, and understand the "riches" He had invested in them. Think about this: (1) *God knows what He's invested in you.* He doesn't redeem you one day and take you to heaven the next. He calls and equips you to fulfill a certain purpose in this world. Christ taught that some of us are five-talent people, some are two-talent people, and some are one talent people (See MT 25:15). That's why it's a mistake to draw comparisons. It's not what you have that determines your reward, but what you do with what you have. It's when you bury your talent because you're

afraid to risk and fail, that you get into trouble with God. (2) *God protects what He's invested in you.* Do we sometimes disobey God? Yes. Does He discipline us? Yes. And your response to Him can either lengthen or shorten your season of discipline. But does God abandon us? Never! "God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn" (Ro 11:29). (3) *God expects a return on what He's invested in you.* When you get to the end of your life, what will you have to show for it? God gave you time, talent, and treasure. Are you using them selfishly, or are you using them to serve Him and bless others? "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may received....according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2Co 5:10). The songwriter put it this way. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."



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 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 *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

Committee Assignment

Bill Graves	Council President
JoAnn Kile	Vice President
Trinette Brewer	Secretary
Doug Ploetz	Treasurer
JoAnn Kile	
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

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

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/>.



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

The special offering for March will be as follows:

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

Donations can be monetary or jars of peanut butter. Also, she is collecting sewing thread, sewing needles, pins, scissors, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and smaller size toys to use as prizes for the kids (like McDonald toys).



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. **Epecially canned fruit.**

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.

MARCH 2020

Worship Assistants, Birthdays and Anniversaries



Worship Assistants

Acolyte*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants...*Ruth Brewer*
.....*and Cheryl Welles*

Lectors:

March 1st*Pen Yunghans*
March 8th*Ruth Brewer*
March 15th*Jo Kile*
March 22nd?
March 29th?

Prayer Leader:

March 1st*Nannette Giberson*
March 8th*Linda Scott*
March 15th*Ruth Brewer*
March 22nd?
March 29th?

Usher/s.....*Rick Giberson*

Altar Guild.....*Trinette Brewer*

Mail Greeter.....*Nannette Giberson*

Bread Baker*Ron Kile*

Happy Birthday to:

- 3....Crystal Benson
- 5...Kristen Keenan
- 6...Ruth Brewer
- 11...Corben Giberson
- 14...Amy Giberson
- 17...Keith Fahnestock
- 17...Dorothy Lewis
- 18...Marge Nix
- 22...Kyle Dunn
- 22...Alyssa Shelander
- 25...Chris Scott
- 26...Jennifer Baughman
- 27...Jen Talmadge



Happy Anniversary to:

- 20...Ron & Jo Kile

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - MARCH 2020

- Sunday, Mar 1 **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am- Worship with fellowship time following
10:15am- Sunday school
- Saturday, Mar 7 8:00am-11:00am - Monthly Breakfast
- Sunday, Mar 8 **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Mar 15 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Thurs. Mar 19 7:00pm - Church Council
- Sunday, Mar 22 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir practice
9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Mar 29 **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
7:45am - Choir Practice
9:00am - Worship with fellowship time following
10:15am - Sunday school with Stewardship Easter
Egg Hunt at the end

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



Our next **monthly breakfast** will be on **Saturday, March 7th, 8:00 till 11:00**. Please come and join the fellowship and bring your family and friends.



God's Huggers will meet on **Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm!** All are welcome.

St John's Allegany will host regular Lenten services at 7pm on Wednesday nights during March and April 1st.

A soup and sandwich supper will be at 6pm.

Maundy Thursday hosted by **Bethany**

Good Friday hosted by **Immanuel** at 7:30



Stewardship Easter Egg Hunt **March 29th**
at the end of **Sunday School**



Thank You

Dear Friends,

01/20/2020

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,890.¹⁰ to the Portville Community Food Pantry. The money is held at Jim's Park and Shop and allows us to buy food as needed throughout the year - usually when we can get a good sale!

Your commitment and on-going support for this shared ministry is very much appreciated!

Stephanie



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE JOINT VETERANS VAN SERVICE. IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO SERVE OUR VETERANS.

Bill Moore
Finance Officer

Dear Bethel Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee,

1/1/2020

Thank you for selecting me for the Brethren Kautz Abraham Memorial Scholarship. I have enclosed my bill for the spring semester as well as my grades from the fall semester. My first semester went very well and I think that Conisna is the right fit for me. I am double majoring in Digital Media Arts and Integrated Marketing Communication. The Campus Ministry here is absolutely amazing; in fact, I am going on a service trip with them to Erie, PA for a week before the spring semester. Thank you again for choosing me. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to continue my educational and spiritual growth.



Thanks again,
Loren A Schiller



The Meaning of the Snowman

The white snow represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The circular snowballs show the everlasting life God promises us.

The carrot nose shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.

The black coal mouth reminds us to give God praise.

The scarf keeps us warm, just as God's love does.

The top hat reminds us to honor God above all things.

The twig arms are open to hold us the way God does when we need him.

Seventeenth Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint-some of them are so hard to live with-but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

Anonymous



God's Huggers meet one night each month to make blankets for kids in need. We donate the blankets locally. The last few months they have been donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. Everyone is welcome. We have extra no-sew blanket kits. If anyone knows a child in need please let us know.

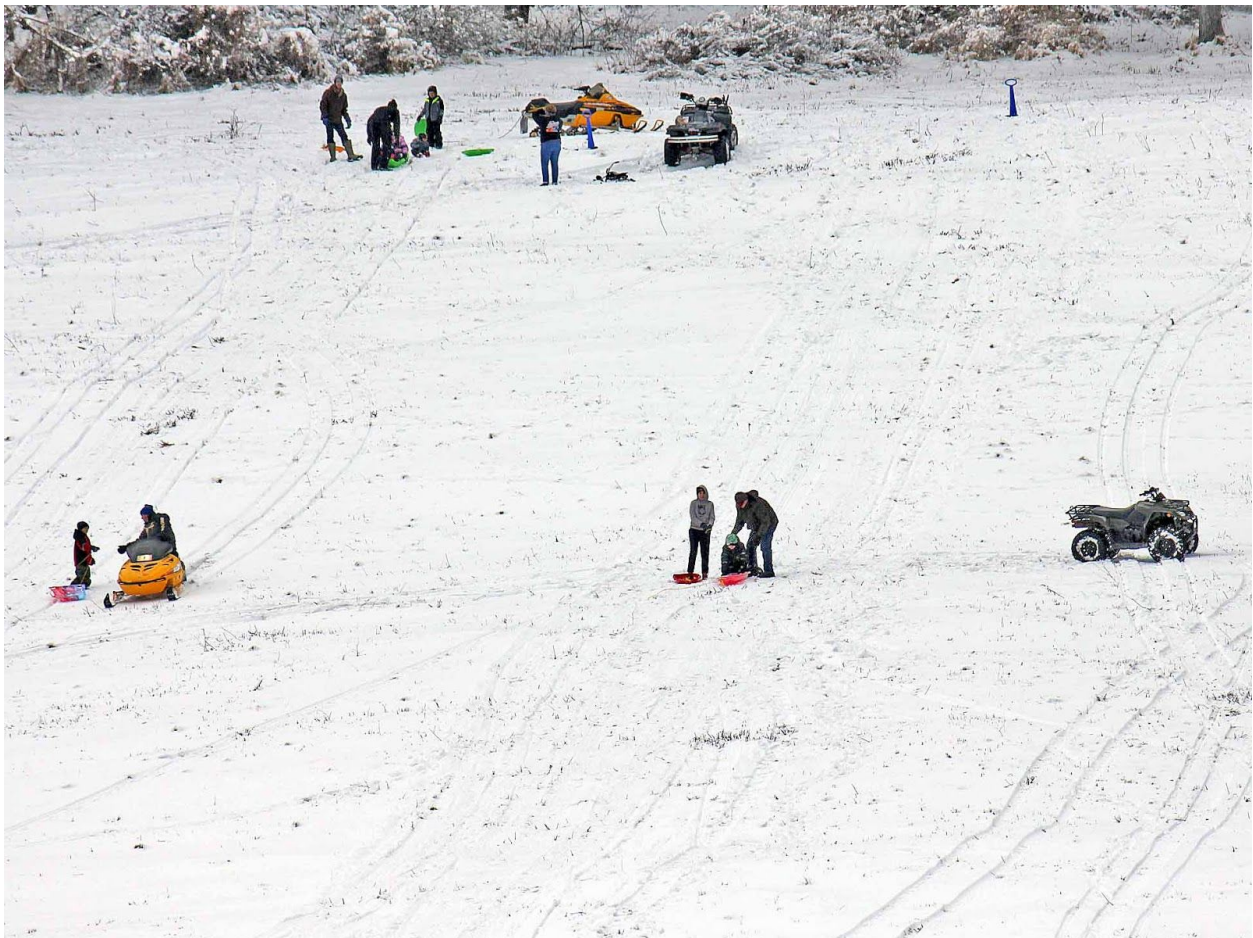




Annual Sledding Party

Before the February 9th date for the annual sledding party, there was much concern about whether to cancel or just hope for the best. After discussing it with several people, it was decided that snow or no snow, we would have a party and if we couldn't sled, we would play games, listen to music, and just visit and have fun. Well, the snow started falling on Wednesday, and it kept up on and off so that by Sunday, we had all kinds of beautiful white stuff and the hill was ready for fun.

Over forty people came to the Scott house (garage actually) and there was a lot of sledding, eating, laughing, music, and fun, with everyone having a great time! Age didn't matter, and the sunshine made it even better! It truly was a great party! Here's hoping for the same great time next year!!





Best smiles ever!























