

# **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.bethelportvillenyny.org](http://www.bethelportvillenyny.org);  
(synod)[www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org); (ELCA)[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Worship Service - Sundays at 8:30am;  
Sunday School, (*Oct. thru May*) at 9:30am, zoom class  
Confirmation Class at 9:45am  
*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 2021**



The head of a Neighborhood Association heard a knock on his door. When he opened it he saw four children from the neighborhood holding a coffee can. They handed the can to the man and told him that they had been selling lemonade and wanted to donate the money for the recreation area, which needed maintenance.

When the children left, he opened the can and counted out \$48.88. He was dumbfounded! The neighborhood had 99 homes with a common recreational area consisting of a swimming pool, soccer field, playground, etc. Each family living in the planned community had the responsibility of paying a certain fee to keep the common area in good shape, but the cost of the upkeep had gone up and

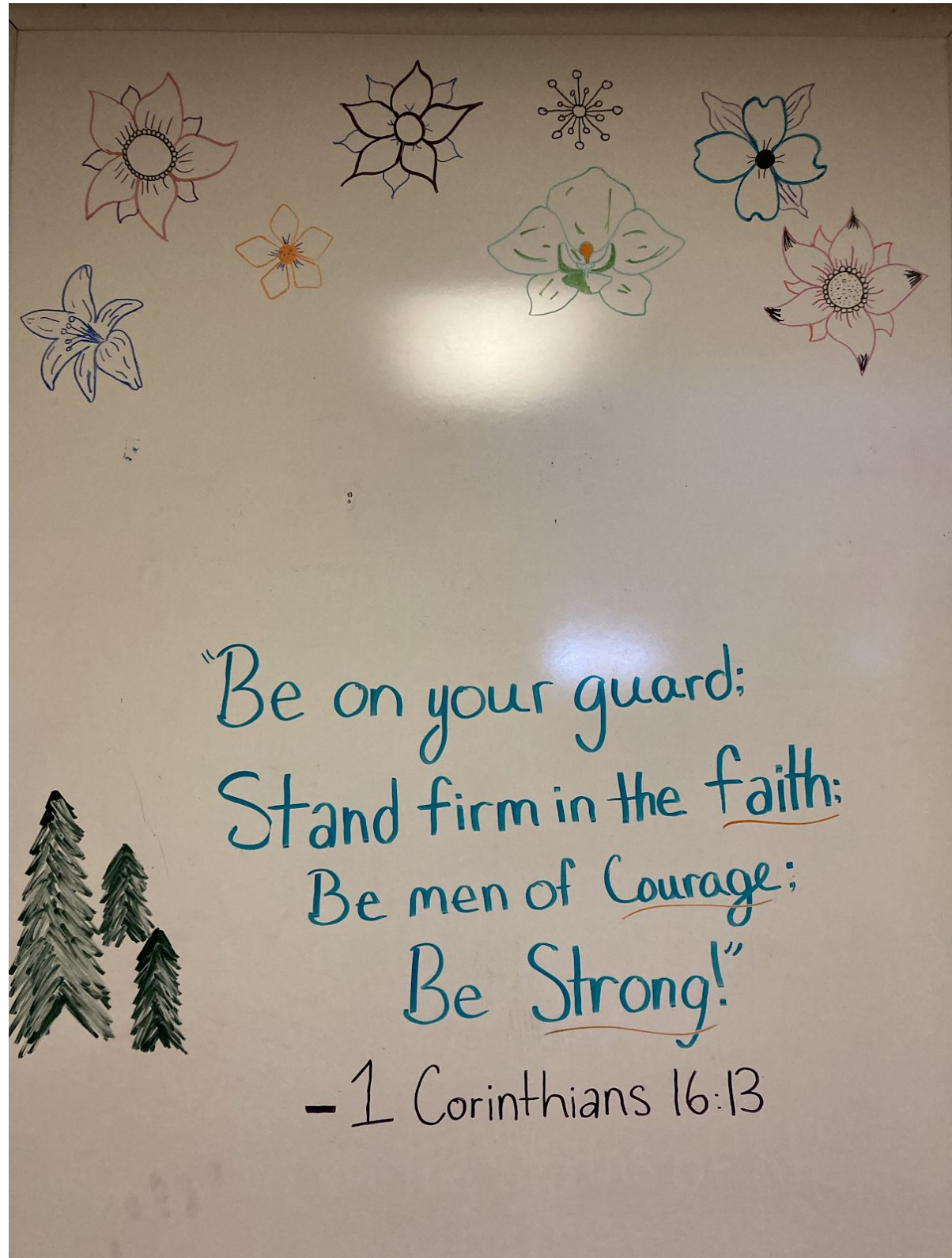
this meant each family needed to pay more or else let the area deteriorate.

This caused controversy in that community. Some approved a fee increase and others fought it. It was not a happy time for any family there. The kids had heard about the need and wanted to do their bit to keep the recreational plot in good shape. So they sold lemonade and gave their profit to the project.

The children had contributed their time, talent, and money to the needed project and thus had been good stewards. Ultimately, their parents followed their example and the park was preserved!

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us to understand that the world becomes a better place when we each use our God-given gifts in service and love for the good of mankind. **Amen**

Bible verse written at Bethel by Myra Sprout



“Be on your guard;  
Stand firm in the faith;  
Be men of Courage;  
Be Strong!”

- 1 Corinthians 16:13



**Pray First!**

- For all service men and women, and their families, especially *Gavyn Neudeck, Hillary Peterson, Casey McCarthy, Tyler McCarthy, Kendra Linn, Travis Dorvit, Kurt Michael Miller 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 Derek Cheek. 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 *Ruth Brewer*, Secretary *Trinette Brewer*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, Vice President *JoAnn Kile*, and members *Skip Giberson, Rick Giberson 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

Ruth Brewer  
JoAnn Kile

Trinette Brewer  
Doug Ploetz  
Skip Giberson

Ron Kile  
Rick Giberson

Committee Assignment

Council President  
Vice President,  
Worship & Music,  
Christian Education  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Fellowship,  
Stewardship  
Bldg./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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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.

**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**



**Deadline for the April newsletter is March 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**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 2021

## Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



### Worship Assistants

*No acolyte this month*

#### Communion Assistant:

*Trinette Brewer*

#### Lectors:

March 7<sup>th</sup> .....*Don Linn*  
March 14<sup>th</sup> .....*Myra Sprout*  
March 21<sup>st</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*  
March 28<sup>th</sup> .....*Don Linn*

#### Prayer Leader:

March 7<sup>th</sup> .....*Myra Sprout*  
March 14<sup>th</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*  
March 21<sup>st</sup> .....*Connie Matteson*  
March 28<sup>th</sup> .....*Carol Miller*

Usher: .....*Don Linn*

Mail Greeter: .....*Nannette Giberson*

Bread Baker: .....*Ron Kile*

Altar Guild: .....*Trinette Brewer*



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*

20....Ron & Jo Kile

## ***BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - March 2021***

Sunday, Mar 7

### ***THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT***

8:30am - Worship

9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class

9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class

Sunday, Mar 14

### ***FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT***

8:30am - Worship

9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class

9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class

Thursday, Mar 18

Council meeting at 7pm

Sunday, Mar 21

### ***FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT***

8:30am - Worship

9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class

9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class

Sunday, Mar 28

### ***PALM SUNDAY***

8:30am - Worship

9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class

9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class

Vicar Gerry Zimmerman wants all to know that he can get communion to those of you that would like to have it, just let him or Nannette Giberson know.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



Zoom **Sunday School** class will be held **Sunday mornings from 9:30am – 10:00am.**

**Confirmation** class will be held **Sunday mornings from 9:45am – 10:45am**, also on Zoom. **Jo Kile and Ruth Brewer** are the confirmation class teachers.

Bethel now has Zoom services! Nannette has set up Zoom meetings for Bethel's Sunday services. She is also sending out Zoom info for Shepard of the Valley's service. Thank you Nannette!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88305027386?pwd=L0pxbU9UK1lxcmNEWdVPbXFivjBVUT09>

**Bethel Zoom Service:** 8am Sundays. The **meeting ID: 883 0502 7386** and **passcode: H9i7j9** are the same each time.

**Shepherd Zoom Service:** 10:30am Sundays. Shepherd of the Valley's meeting ID and passcode change weekly.

The **Spring Conference Assembly, April 25th**, at **St Paul's in Ellicottville** which is going to be in person and zoomed. Our delegates are Terri Ploetz and Ruth Brewer.

**Synod Assembly, June 3-5**, held virtually. Our delegates are Terri Ploetz and Ruth Brewer.



A great big  
thank you to  
Ron Brewer  
for keeping  
Bethel all  
plowed out!



Submitted by Trinette Brewer





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**: <https://bethelportvillenyny.breezechms.com/give/online>

You can also **give through texting**. The number is 716-477-3131. The first time it takes you to the giving page and then after that you text "give \$50".





Vicar Gerry leading worship at Bethel and also zooming service.

Submitted by Trinette Brewer

The Confirmation class is doing a project of making health care kits to give to Genesis House. Sunday school donated some of the items.



Danny Silvis donated the Q-tips.



Grace and Corben donated the ziploc bags.



Submitted by Nannette Giberson

Is it just us, or is February flying by? This month has been very busy for our staff but we are all delighting in everything that has happened! Below we would like to share some praises and requests so that you may join us in bringing them before our Lord in prayer.



- Praise God we have set up 10 computers in 10 different congregations so that pastors and students can virtually attend the weekly Bible Institute classes. We did not think we would be this far along in the process by now; God is so good! As we have visited the churches, we have been able to spend time with the pastors, encourage them, and feel encouraged by them.
- Through these 10 computers we have seen the number of students grow at a steady rate and we are thrilled! We pray that each student will learn more about the Bible and be able to become Pastors and leaders in the near future.



- Stitches of Blessings has officially begun! We called the women who were in the class last year as they were only able to attend 3 classes. We have split the class into two sessions so that we are able to social distance. It has been so nice to see the women again, and they are so excited to continue and hope to receive their machines this year.
- We have started a new Happy Tummies in Guatemala City. It is in a very poor area of the city in one of our churches. This will make follow-up and discipleship much easier and effective. There are many people in need, not only physically but spiritually as well. We pray that we will be a light in the darkness and many families will come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Happy Tummies and Abuelitos has officially started again with in-person ministry! We need to follow the protocol put in place by the government and for this reason, we have no more than 2 grades per day in the building. We will continue to do Happy Tummies To Go simultaneously to feed the kids who: (1) it is not their turn to be in-person; and (2) those who still do not feel comfortable being there in-person. We will not force anyone who does not feel comfortable being there but we will continue to feed them daily





"And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Colossians 3:14



- Please pray that our staff will be filled with wisdom and discernment as we make decisions to move forward with ministry in the midst of this COVID pandemic.
- Public schools will be beginning their school year in 1 week here in Guatemala. Please pray for the children to stay safe and healthy.

- Pray alongside us for God to continue to give us opportunities to share the Gospel with many more. During these times especially, many need Jesus and are eager to hear! Our prayer is that God we will cross paths of as many of these people as possible so that we can lovingly share the Gospel with them.
- As we make decisions to move forward in ministries there are a few changes and add-ons we need, especially at the Happy Tummies' at the lake. If you would like to partner with us as we work on these changes please donate to our Compassion Ministries. We will be giving more information on these changes on our Social Media. Make sure you click the links down below to follow us and get weekly updates.







Impacto Ministry Inc. 9690 Shepherds Creek Place, La Plata, MD 20646

[visit our website](#)



*whatever is*

TRUE

**HONORABLE**

LOVELY

GOOD REPUTE

RIGHT

PURE

Excellent

Worthy of Praise

*dwell on  
these things.*

*Priority Ministries*

*Philippians 4:8*





*Hosanna!*

