

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.

MAY 2018



The masthead of **Stewardship** says “to inspire a deeper understanding of true stewardship.” Its purpose is to help Christians learn how to better manage one’s possessions, especially the family income and the use of one’s God-given talents. Each of us has physical, educational, social, and spiritual needs. None of our needs must be neglected if we are to be properly balanced people. Surely we can say that God wants us to have all of our needs fully met. Indeed it is only when our needs are fully met that God can best use us to serve God and to work for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Remember what we say when we pray the Lord’s prayer: “Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven....” Remember also that in the sixth chapter of St. Matthew’s gospel we find Jesus telling his followers to seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness. That is what Christian stewardship is all about: Using our time and talents to serve God as best we can.

In the 1960's a theological scholar named Thomas Kepler made a vow to the Lord that was read at his funeral. The vow was something like this: “On this day I take upon myself all the saintly disciplines. I will pray regularly. I will continuously \

strive to serve the Lord wherever God leads me. I will strive to show love toward all whom I meet. I will do my best to be a dedicated servant of God wherever I am.” Those who knew Dr. Kepler testified that he reached his goal. He was a true saint.

Prayer: Almighty God, Help us to be the best stewards possible. We are grateful for every blessing we have from You. **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 grandmagee756@gmail.com

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.

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 Matthew Cole

by

Linda Scott

The Rick Giberson Family

Kurt and Caroline Miller

Notice: Coming Event !!!

Mark your calendars as we will be having the annual "Women of the Church Banquet" on Thursday, May 10th at 6:00pm. The food will be prepared and served by the men of our church!!



Our Monthly breakfasts will start up again in October.

In Memory of Wilma Sanford

By

Cliff and Marge Nix

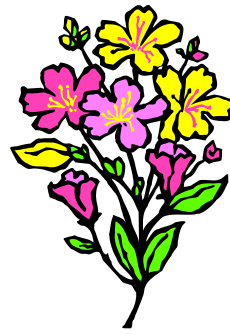
The Rick Giberson Family



I would like to express my appreciation to all the ladies of the church who were involved in making the dinner following the memorial service for Matt such a success. It was a blessing and enjoyed by all our family and friends. Thanks so much.

Connie Matteson & family

May 2018



Acolyte.....*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants:.....*Jerry Maerten*

Lectors:

(6th)*Pen Yunghans*

(13th).....*Nannette Giberson*

(20th) *Connie Smith-Matteson*

(27th).....*Don Linn*

Prayer Leaders:

(6th) *Connie Smith-Matteson*

(13th)*Caroline Miller*

(20th)..... *Nannette Giberson*

(27th).....*Linda Scott*

Ushers*Caroline Miller*

Altar Guild.....*Trinette Brewer*
Except for May 27th

Mail Greeter.....*Caroline Miller*

Bread Bakers*Ron Kile*

Happy Birthday to:

2---Tristen Lewis

3—Bill Graves

5—Jessianne (*Doty*) Hosmer

10—Abigail Benson

12—Nathan Gabler

15—Mariah Shepard

16—Casey Baughman

17—Sarah Linn, Rick Chapman

18—Don Linn

19—Erin Ploetz Hall

23—Tom Ploetz

24—Dakota Brewer

25—Kellie Swanson

27—Parker Keenan

30—Jon Giberson



Happy Anniversary to:

5—Robert & Barbara MacPherson

13 --- Marc & Marilyn (Ploetz) Perkins

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR MAY 2018

Sunday, May 6th

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00am- Worship with fellowship following

10:15am -**No Sunday School today**

Sunday, May 13th

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:45am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with fellowship following

10:15am - **Last day of Sunday school**

Sunday, May 20th

DAY OF PENTECOST (Wear Red)

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Children's program during Worship Service with Fellowship following - No Sunday school.

Thursday, May 17th

7:00pm - Council Meeting

Sunday, May 27th

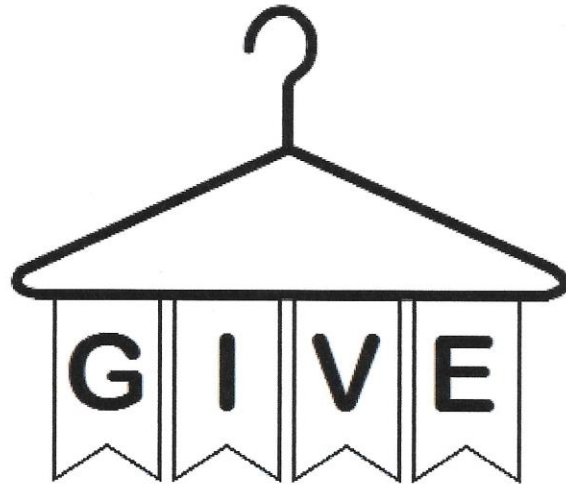
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

The charity for the month of May is The Portville Food Pantry

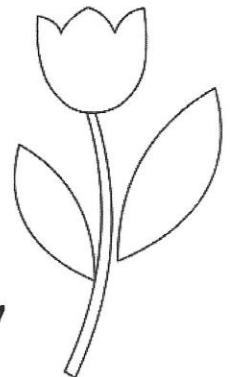
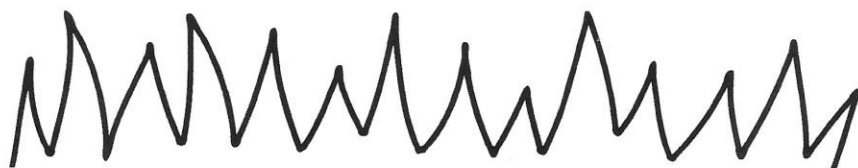
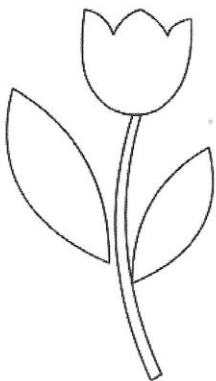
Spring Cleaning?



Bring your old clothes, shoes,
towels, and stuffed animals to;

Bethel Lutheran Church

79 Brooklyn Street
Portville, NY 14770



Headline: Bethel Lutheran Church Continues to Collect Donations!

Cleaning out your closets? We have a place for you to drop them off!! Bethel Lutheran Church is seeking clothing donations from community members. They have been partnering with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to collect used clothing for the past 3+ years. St. Pauly Textile Inc. works with non-profit organizations, like Bethel Lutheran Church, to set up used clothing drop off sheds designed to give community members a clean, attractive, and well-monitored place to donate gently used textile items, which are then distributed both here in the U.S. and worldwide to people who need them.

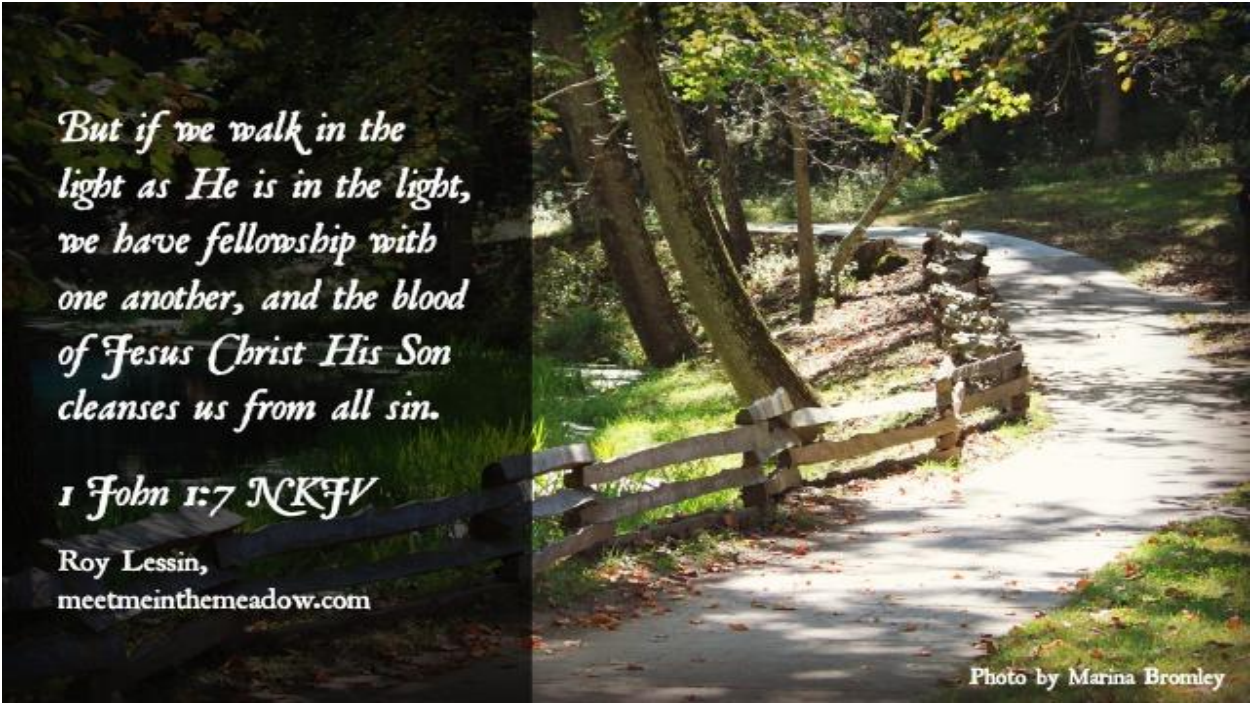
The Church receives funding for all the used clothing collected and is able to use the funds towards special projects and missions. Additionally has the option to use any of this clothing to serve community needs.

St. Pauly Textile, Inc. collects over 120,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the United States) yearly. In 2017, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills. The company was founded 22 years ago in Rochester, NY and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items include clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, linens, pillowcases and stuffed animals. Donors are asked to donate items in a plastic bag to protect against dirt and the elements. There is a small box on the shed that contains receipts to help donors take a tax deduction.

Consider donating your used clothing items today at 79 Brooklyn Street in Portville, NY.





*But if we walk in the
light as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with
one another, and the blood
of Jesus Christ His Son
cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 1:7 NKJV

Roy Lessin,
meetmeinthemeadow.com

Photo by Marina Bromley

When you walk with God, you walk—

The highway of holiness. [Isaiah 35:8](#)

The pathway of His footsteps. [Psalms 85:13](#)

The path of the just. [Proverbs 4:18](#)

The path that's right. [Proverbs 4:11](#)

The path of truth. [Psalms 119:35](#)

The path of light. [Psalms 119:105](#)

The path of life. [Psalms 16:11](#)

The path that's good. [Proverbs 2:9](#)

The path of preservation. [Proverbs 2:8](#)

The path through apparent impossibilities
(like the Red Sea).

[Isaiah 43:16](#)

God will direct your steps along—

The narrow way. [Matthew 7:14](#)

The known way. [Psalms 1:6](#)

The perfect way. [Psalms 18:30](#)

The ordered way. [Psalms 37:23](#)

The taught way. [Psalms 32:8](#)

The guided way. [Psalms 25:8-9](#)

The wise way. [Proverbs 4:11](#)

The celebrated way. [Psalms 119:14](#)

The peaceful way. [Luke 1:79](#)

The Jesus way. [John 14:6](#)

When You Feel You're Not Enough

SHARON JAYNES

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)(NIV)

As soon as my first-grade teacher held up that initial spelling flashcard, I knew I was in trouble.

Just 6 years old, I'd skipped off to school with a new box of crayons, a Swiss polka-dotted dress, and [fresh](#) hope that I would be smart. But first grade only confirmed my greatest fear: I was "not enough."

We lined up our miniature wooden chairs in a row like a choo-choo train. The teacher held up a spelling flashcard for us to identify the word. If we missed the word, we had to go to the caboose. I spent most of the first grade in the caboose. I just couldn't spell. For some reason, I especially had trouble with the word *the*.

I'll help her, my teacher must have thought. She made me a nametag that read *t-h-e*, and I had to wear it for two weeks. Students came up to me and asked,

"Why are you wearing that tag?"

"Is your name 'The'?"

"What's wrong with you?"

Eventually, I learned how to spell *the*, but that's not all I learned. I learned I wasn't as smart as everybody else, and once again, *not enough*.

Although I ended up doing well in school, many times I've still felt like that little girl in the caboose.

Moses was also someone who felt he wasn't good enough. When God spoke through a burning bush and called Moses to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage, he had a big case of the "not-good-enoughs."

That's when he had a one-sided argument with God. Moses told God he was the wrong man for the [job](#). He wasn't brave enough, strong enough, smart enough, eloquent enough, charismatic enough or confident enough.

At one point, Moses asked God, "*Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your*

fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

And God replied to Moses, "*I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'" ([Exodus 3:13-14](#), NIV).*

Moses was 80 years old when he argued with God. But even the weakest knees in the hands of I AM can become a mighty force to be reckoned with.

I'll go out on a limb and say that you, too, have likely struggled with feelings of inferiority, insecurity and inadequacy. And the underlying statement feeding the sense of worthlessness is "I'm not _____ enough." You can fill in the blank with a number of qualities. False beliefs such as ...

I'm not strong enough.

I'm not experienced enough.

I'm not talented enough.

I'm not brave enough.

I'm not pretty enough.

But here's what we need to remember: Whatever positive characteristic we feel we are not, God *is*. Whatever we need, God *is*. He is the God who fills in our gaps; He is I AM who fills in our blanks.

When we say, "I'm not strong enough," God says, "*I AM.*"

When we say, "I'm not smart enough," God says, "*I AM.*"

When we say, "I'm not good enough," God says, "*I AM.*"

Once we let go of the lies that we're not enough ... and take hold of the truth that we're more than enough because of Jesus' presence and power in us ... then we'll be set free from paralyzing insecurity and on our way to experiencing courageous confidence to do everything He calls us to do. We'll get out of the caboose and sit up front with the Engineer.

Want to know something amazing? One of my greatest weaknesses as a child was spelling words. And now that is what God has called me to do today ... write with words. I stand with Paul who lamented about his weakness: "*But he [God] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'* Therefore I will boast all the

more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).

That's what happens when we allow God to fill in our blanks. He turns what we perceive as our greatest weakness into our greatest strength.

What is God calling you to do today? Where do you feel you're not enough? Oh friend, because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, and His power in you, you are more than enough! Don't forget it.

Heavenly Father, so many times I feel like I'm just not good enough, smart enough, wise enough ... just not enough, period. Help me stop focusing on my self-perceived inadequacies and [start](#) focusing on Your all-sufficient supply. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TRUTH FOR TODAY:

[Philippians 4:13](#), "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (ESV)

