

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 Marie Meeks at 716-353-1610.

NOVEMBER 2017



Tithing is part of the larger principle that followers of Jesus know as Christian stewardship. Tithing is important, but is only one part of that broader concept. The idea of Christian stewardship, in contrast to the tithe, includes three basic principles: *God is the owner of all of life; each individual is a steward of all that God has entrusted to us; and, each person must give an accounting of their stewardship.*

It is important for those who tithe to clearly perceive the relationship of their regular giving to the rest of the dedication that they make to God. It has nevertheless been true that others, as they have practiced the stewardship of their money, have felt the urgent need to dedicate their talents and their lives to God, as well.

They are also concerned about how they use their time. The days and years at their disposal is a sacred trust. They are stewards of time as long as they live. People in the 21st century are aware of the significance of time as never before in human history. The idea that this is a leisurely and unhurried existence has been replaced by a rush to accomplish everything immediately, as if there might not be a tomorrow in which to do it.

As part of their stewardship, tithers will also be concerned with the total impact of their lives upon others. They will recognize that their influence should be extended to help make a more Christian world!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me the strength to be a good steward of your grace, dedicating my time, talents and treasure to your work. **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.** Any donations would be greatly appreciated. April 2017 through Sept. 2017 an average of 52 families received food. That would make for a total of 6,192 meals in this six month period.



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*.

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 grandmagee7@verizon.net.



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

Notice: When you call the church phone number it will be automatically forwarded to Pastor Marie'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.

FOR YOUR UPDATE AND INFORMATION

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



Our next church breakfasts will be on **Saturday December 2nd** Breakfast will be held from 8:00am until 11:00am. We need volunteers to help cook and serve. Please help if you are able as this is a great fundraiser and a wonderful time of fellowship. Thanks.

November 12th will be our **church budget meeting.**

Please try and plan to attend.

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

Pastor Marie's office hours are:

Tuesday at Bethany from 9:30 to 2:30

Wednesday at Bethel from 10:30 to 3:30

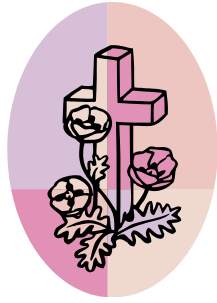


Choir practice is held Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join. **Sopranos' are needed.**

No audition necessary



Sunday, December 17th will be the Sunday School Christmas program during the worship service. Please plan to attend as the kids do such a great job with this program and they (and the teachers) need our support.



In Memory of Bob Brewer

Betty Finnessy

In Memory of Gary Murray

Ruth Brewer

The Livecchi's

Kurt and Caroline Miller

Mark and Cheryl Welles

Bill and Judy Graves

Cliff and Marge Nix

Jean Morgan and Nedeane Knowlton

Skip and Bev Robinson

Eddie and Linda Armacost

Linda Scott

Patricia Bewley

Gerald and Paula Weber

Daniel James Meldrom, Jr.

Rick and Nannette Giberson

Don and Pat Hyde

Richard and Wanda Fanton



We received a note from Ariel Kyle thanking Bethel for giving her the Gretchen Shavalier Scholarship this year. Ariel is attending Morrisville State College for criminal justice. She plans to use the money toward books for upcoming semesters.

I would like to thank the ladies of the church for the delicious refreshments they served following the memorial service for Gary. It was just the perfect way to end the evening of celebration of Gary's life. Thank you to the Gibersons for all they did to help me set things up. My church family is made up of incredibly wonderful Christian people and Gary and I have always been so proud to be a part of this small but powerful church.

Thanks again, June

Many thanks to Trinetta Brewer for all the pictures she took for the newsletter this month. I certainly appreciate your help.

June

NOVEMBER 2017



Worship Servants

Lectors:

Nov. 5.....*Pen Yunghans*
 Nov. 12.....*Doug Ploetz*
 Nov. 19.....*Connie Smith-Matteson.*
 Nov. 26.....*Nannette Giberson*

Prayer Leaders:

Nov. 5.....*Caroline Miller*
 Nov. 12.....*Connie Smith-Matteson*
 Nov. 19.....*Doug Ploetz*
 Nov. 26.....*Linda Scott*

1---Matt Smith
 3—Cheryl Warner
 14—Joan Rosell, Kurt Miller
 17---Lorena De Asis
 19— Victoria Rice
 20---Grace Jane Giberson
 21—Joey Blicharz
 24—Kendra Linn
 25—Eric MacPherson
 28—Leah Doty
 29—Carly Keenan, Terri Ploetz
 Connie Smith-Matteson

Worship Servants (For the entire month)

Acolyte.....*Dakota Brewer*
 Communion Assistants.....
Cheryl Welles and Linda Scott
 .
 Usher/s.....
 Altar Guild.....*Nedean Knowlton*
 Mail Greeter*Caroline Miller*
 Bread Bakers.....*Ron Kile*



10th—Bob & Cheryl Warner
 15th ---Keith and Rain Fahnestock
 26th —Cliff & Marge Nix

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2017

- Sat. Nov. 4th Monthly breakfast from 8:00am - 11:00am
- Sunday, Nov 5th **ALL SAINTS DAY**
7:45am - Choir Rehearsal
9:00am- Worship with fellowship following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Friday, Nov. 10th **Gift Tree Shopping**
6:00pm - Meet at Walmart in Olean to shop.
- Sunday, Nov. 12th **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
7:45am - choir Rehearsal
9:00am - Worship with Budget meeting & Fellowship time following
10:15am - Sunday school
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- Thursday, Nov.16th 7:00 pm. - Council Meeting
- Sunday, Nov. 19th **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
7:45am - Choir rehearsal
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Nov. 26th **CHRIST THE KING**
7:45am - Choir Rehearsal
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following
10:15am - Sunday school
This will be Pastor Marie's final Sunday with us.

The charity for the month of November will be the Portville Food Pantry

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

It may seem a little early to be planning this, but Christmas time is creeping up on us. We are scheduling our Christmas Caroling time for Sunday afternoon on December 10th from 2pm - 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. You don't need to be choir member or even good singers to have a great time.

It is so rewarding to see how much we are appreciated by the people we sing to. Please make time in your schedule to come and join us.

Christmas card exchange - the first of December we will have our little red sleigh ready to take your Christmas cards to share with each other. Stewardship will deliver the cards to members. Have fun!



Please remember our clothing drop box used to collect clothes for people in need. The box is located in the parking lot of the church next to the utility shed. If you have clothing you wish to drop off, please place them in **plastic bags and tie them up**.

This is a reprint of a hymn but it was one of Gary's favorite hymns and I wanted to honor him by putting it in the newsletter this month.



HYMN HISTORY

HOW GREAT THOU ART (1885)

For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in van, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other," Isaiah 45: 18

Carl Boberg, a 26-year-old Swedish minister, wrote a poem in 1885 which he called "O Store Gud" --- "O Mighty God." The words, literally translated to English, said:

When I the world consider / Which Thou has made by Thine almighty Word
And how the webb of life Thous wisdom guideth / And all creaion feedeth at Thy board.
Then doth my soul burst forth in song of praise / Oh, great God, Oh, great God!

His poem was published and "forgotten"---or so he thought. Several years later, Carl was surprised to hear it being sung to the tune of an old Swedish melody; but the poem and hymn did not achieve widespread fame. Hearing this hymn in Russia, English missionary, Stuart Hine, was so moved he modified and expanded the words and made his own arrangement of the Swedish melody. He later said his first three verses were inspired, line upon line, by Russia's rugged Carpathian Mountains. The first verse was composed when he was caught in a thunderstorm in a Carpathian village, the second as he heard the birds sing near the Romanian border, and the third as he witnessed many of the Carpathian mountain-dwellers coming to Christ. The final verse was written after Dr. Hine returned to Great Britain. Sometime later, Dr. J. Edwin Orr heard "How Great Thou Art" being sung by Naga Tribespeople in Assam, in India, and decided to bring it back to America for use in his own meetings. When he introduced it at a conference in California, it came to the attention of music publisher, Tim Spencer, who contacted Mr. Hine and had the song copyrighted. It was published and recorded. During the 1954 Bill Graham Crusade in Harringay Arena, George Beverly Shea was given a leaflet containing the hymn. He sang it to himself and shared it with other members of the Graham team. Though not used in London, it was introduced the following year to audiences in Toronto. In the New York Crusade of 1957, it was sung by Bev Shea ninety-nine times, with the choir joining the majestic refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Many activities have been going on at Bethel over the last month or so. I am adding several pictures to show you all of the things going on. What an active little church!!!!

Putting in cement for pavilion in memory of Ted Scott.







Replacing the Basement/Bilco Doors



New Entrance Sign to Church



Repainting the cross on the steeple with funds supplied by Cliff and Marge Nix.





The completed Pavilion



Completed Chimney



The Beauty of Bethel



