

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

## OCTOBER 2017



Remember Elizabeth Barrett Browning's words about God's action in nature? She wrote:

*Earth is crammed  
with heaven  
And every common  
bush aflame with  
God;  
And only those who  
see take off their  
shoes;*

*The rest sit round and pluck blackberries*

October is surely one month when God's Nature colors the trees and the last flowers of summer with breath-taking beauty. Our amazing planet reminds us of the goodness and glory of God.

How true are the Psalmist's words: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1 RSV)

The question for us is: "How are we caring for this glorious earth?" As Christian stewards we must

treat Mother Earth with great appreciation. God intends for us to be good caretakers of it. Furthermore, as stewards we will want to give of our time, talents and resources to keep it in the best condition possible for the coming generations. Christian stewardship requires nothing less. There is more about this in the October issue of **Stewardship**.

**Prayer:** O Lord of heaven and earth forgive us for treating this world as belonging only to ourselves. Enable us never to forget that it belongs entirely to you, yet we are your servants to maintain it well. 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. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.



PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD outside the sanctuary for a COMPLETE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

**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 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 *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*.

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

**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](mailto:grandmagee7@verizon.net).



Our next church breakfasts will be on **Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup>** 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**

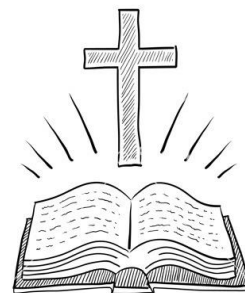


**In Memory of Bob Brewer**

Mark and Cheryl Welles



A thank you was received from Anna Wray for the Gretchen Kautz Shavalier Memorial Scholarship that was awarded to her.



If you would like your Loved ones remembered during the All Saints Sunday Service on November 5<sup>th</sup>; please sign up in the fellowship hall with their name who have passed away in the last year. Also please bring in a photo to be shared.

# OCTOBER 2017

## Worship Assistants, Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Worship Assistants

Acolyte .....*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants...

1<sup>st</sup> *Linda Scott & Nannette Giberson*

8<sup>th</sup> *Jo Kile & Nannette Giberson*

15<sup>th</sup> *Ruth & Dakota Brewer*

22<sup>nd</sup> *Jo Kile & Nannette Giberson*

### Lectors:

October 1<sup>st</sup> .....*Pen Yunghans*

October 8<sup>th</sup> .....*Nannette Giberson*

October 15<sup>th</sup> .....*Doug Ploetz*

October 22<sup>nd</sup> .....*Nannette Giberson*

October 29<sup>th</sup> .....*Service at Immanuel*

### Prayer Leader:

October 1<sup>st</sup> .....*Linda Scott*

October 8<sup>th</sup> .....*Nannette Giberson*

October 15<sup>th</sup> .....*Caroline Miller*

October 22<sup>nd</sup> .....*Connie Smith Matteson*

October 29<sup>th</sup> .....*Service at Immanuel*

Usher/s.....1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> *Caroline Miller*  
8<sup>th</sup> *Rick Giberson*

Altar Guild.....*Trinette Brewer*

Mail Greeter.....*Caroline Miller*

Bread Baker .....*Ron Kile*

### **Happy Birthday to:**

2<sup>nd</sup> ---Ron Brewer

6<sup>th</sup>---Jake Parr

8<sup>th</sup> ---Jianna Nix

9<sup>th</sup>----Rain Fahnestock

15<sup>th</sup> ---Jean Benson

17<sup>th</sup>---Joy Linn

23<sup>rd</sup>---Kyle Keenan

24<sup>th</sup> ---Delores Chapman, Tamera Linn

31<sup>st</sup>--- Kerrie Parr



### Happy Anniversary to:

4<sup>th</sup>---Robert & Kathy Baughman

21<sup>st</sup> -Chris and Molly Scott

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2017**

- Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>                      **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
7:45am - Choir Rehearsal  
9:00am- Worship with fellowship following  
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sat. Oct 7<sup>th</sup>                              First Breakfast of the year 8:00am - 11:00am
- Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>                      **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
7:45am - choir Rehearsal  
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following  
10:15am - Sunday school  
Blessing of the animals around noon at Bethany in the pavilion.
- Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>                      **NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
7:45am - First Choir rehearsal  
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following  
10:15am - Sunday school
- Thursday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>                      7:00 pm. - Council Meeting
- Sunday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>                      **TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
7:45am - Choir Rehearsal  
9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following  
10:15am - Sunday school
- Sunday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup>                      **REFORMATION SUNDAY**  
**COMBINED SERVICE WITH BETHANY AT IMMANUEL**  
Prelude music at 10am with service beginning at 10:30am.

The charity for the month of October is Lutheran Disaster Response – Hurricane Relief.

**Portville's Art, Antique and Craft show** will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm at Portville Central School.

### **THE GIFT TREE**

The Stewardship committee is once again sponsoring the "Gift Tree through Interfaith Caregivers. Please let Nannette know how much you would like to donate. We will take donations through the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. We have set the date of Friday evening, November 10<sup>th</sup> as our shopping trip and wrapping time. We will meet at the Wal-Mart in Olean at 6:00pm and begin the Christmas shopping evening. We invite you all to participate in the venture.

It's a lot of fun!!

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

***Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School Christmas Program during worship!***



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.**

Again I had the privilege to go on another mission trip for the Impacto Ministry. This ministry serves and ministers to the people of Guatemala, The ministry is located in a small village San Juan. The ministry's efforts include training, providing resources for pastors and church leaders, feeding and helping the malnourished children (HappyTummies) and the elderly (Abuelitos). Healing hands, stitches of blessing, improving life styles and lives through compassion and spiritual ministry

Our team of 10 women were able to spend time with a single mother and her three children. She was a former prostitute and was living with her sister and her family, She had become so desperate that she was considering taking her 3 children and put them in orphanages and was going to return to her old habits. The Impacto ministry worked with her, built her a house and our team donated money to buy her two beds and mattress. Currently all 4 were sharing one mattress. She was given the opportunity to work at the Happy Tummies as a cook for the children in the program. Each child is given a nutritious meal, a vitamin, taught personal hygiene and its importance. We had bible lessons with the kids and incorporated balloon ministry by telling them the story of creation, then making balloon animals and letting the kids make their own animals.

The stitches of blessing is a program in which about 20 women attend a year and then are graduated with a sewing machine of their own by the Impact ministry. We brought material for 2 large tote bags to be made so the women can use them or sell. The same women were also given yarn and taught to crochet. The Abuelitos were also given a nutritious meal daily, We attempted to teach them crocheting which some of them tried but didn't succeed. The Abuelitos enjoyed just sitting with us and coloring pictures which they gave us.

We attended a church service on Sunday evening at a Baptist church that lasted over 2 hours. Even though everything was in Spanish, you could still make out the story they were portraying. For example the story of the prodigal son. They also had a choir of 20 men. After the service they all gather for fellowship with a light meal.

We had the opportunity to make some home visits in the rural places outside of the village. There we saw how the homes are constructed of concrete, dirt floors, a kitchen with a wood burning stove, a table and another room with mattresses on the floor.

Connected to the house was another room which contained the toilet and sink. No running water in the house. If the house had windows, they were covered with bars for protection. The family I visited consisted of the grandmother, her two daughters and the grandchildren. The men in that family were out working the coffee fields. We brought them food consisting of peanut butter, beans, rice, powdered milk, oatmeal.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and grateful for the support the Bethel church family given me and the gift of peanut butter to be given to each of the families participating in the Happy Tummies program. We also visited a school of about 70 kids and give them the jars of peanut butter.

I hope to be able to return again next year and anyone is welcome to join in this ministry. Ruth Brewer



Visited a school and presented a bible story.



Children in the Happy Tummies program



sewing ladies working on the tote bags



balloon animal ministry with the kids. They were read the story of creation and then they got to make their own animals

