

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.

SEPTEMBER 2017



There is a moving prayer in the July issue of **Stewardship**. I think you might find it inspiring also:

"O God, our loving Creator and giver of all our good gifts, bless our church, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give of our time, talent, and money to the spread of your kingdom here in our church and throughout the world.

This we ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen."

Now I call that a moving prayer. It moves me to want to be serious about stewardship. It compels me to take inventory of my life. Do I take care of my God-given body? Do I exercise daily? Do I make sure it is groomed rightly? Do I eat wisely? And do I educate my brain so that I use it to do God's will? I could go on and on examining what kind of

steward I am of my God-given body. And to be honest some improvements could probably be made!

The prayer I read asked the Lord to: "Grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give of our time, talent, and money to spread your kingdom in our church and throughout the world." It seems to me that moving prayer is asking God to use our body, mind, and soul to spread God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Now that is a tall order. But is it not what we pray for every Sunday? Remember these words: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Prayer: Holy and loving God, please help all of us to be serious followers of Jesus Christ our Lord. May we see evidence of your Kingdom, however small it may be, "on earth as it is in Heaven." **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.



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*.

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

Council Member

Committee

Assignment

Bill Graves
Ruth Brewer
Linda Scott
Doug Ploetz
Ruth Brewer

Caroline Miller

Jerry Maerten
Don Linn

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

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.

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 church breakfasts will be starting up again on **Saturday October 7th**. 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

Bethel Lutheran Scholarship winners for 2017: **Anna Wray** and **Ariel Kile**. Each were awarded \$750.



In Memory of Bob Brewer

Rich, Lori, Kristy Heller and Gary Green
Bill & Judy Graves
Geri Wolters
Skip & Bev Robinson
Cuba Memorial Hospital Medical Care Unit
Cuba Memorial Hospital Urgent Care Center
Kimberly A. Ditz
James H. DuShaw
Kathleen M. Peace
Nancy A. Renner
Mary A. Saviola
Nicholas & Elizabeth Forth
Peter & Virginia Clark
Linda Scott
Gary & June Murray
Kurt & Caroline Miller
The Guidance Center of Bradford, PA
His loving family the Nelsons and Brewers from Colorado
Cliff and Marge Nix
Jean Morgan and Nedean Knowlton
Rick and Nannette Giberson



Bethel received a thank you from Cousin Toots:
Dear Ladies of Bethel, I wish to thank you for the nice luncheon you prepared for Ruth Brewer's husband; Bob's memorial service. Thanks for all you do for Ruthie.

September 2017

Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to:

- 2—Bev Robinson
- 7—Joan Johnson
- 12—Sydney Blicharz, Ariel Kile
- 13—Barbara MacPherson
- 14—Hunter Kile
- 15—Dawn Campbell
- 17—Deb Kolkowski
- 18—Brittany Seal
- 22—Karen Snow
- 24— Bill Clemens
- 27—Victoria Lopes
- 28—Felicia Kile
- 29—Jason Gabler, Jo Ann Kile
- 30—Candy Clemens

Worship Assistants

Acolyte—*Dakota Brewer*

Communion Assistants—.....*Bill and Judy Graves.*

Lectors:

Sept 3.....*Shirley Levernier.*
Sept 10.....*Dakota Brewer*
Sept 17.....*Connie Smith-Matteson*
Sept 24.....*Shirley Levernier*

Prayer Leaders

Sept 3*Ruth Brewer*
Sept 10.....*Doug Ploetz*
Sept 17.....*June Murray*
Sept 24... ..*Connie Smith-Matteson*

Usher:.....*Gary Murray*

Altar Guild.....*Nannette Giberson*

Mail Greeter*Caroline Miller*

Bread Bakers:.....*Ron Kile*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday, Sept. 3

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am- Worship with fellowship following

Sunday, Sept. 10

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

Sunday, Sept.17

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am - First Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

Thursday, Sept. 21

7:00 pm. - Council Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 24

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

The charity for the month of September is The Veterans Van



HYMN HISTORY

I'LL FLY AWAY

1932

Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. John 16:22 (NJKV)

I could tell you this old Southern hymn was written by a sacred soul on his knees with Psalm 90 open before him; *“The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

The truth, however, is a little plainer.

Albert E. Brumley was born on a cotton farm near Spiro, Oklahoma, in 1905. The medium of radio was gaining popularity as he grew up, and one of the most requested songs was a sad ballad called “If I Had the Wings of an Angel” which said:

*Now if I had the wings of an angel,
Over these prison walls I would fly,
I'd fly to the arms of my poor darling,
And there I'd be willing to die.*

One hot Oklahoma day, Albert was in the fields picking cotton and singing this song. The thought of flying away suddenly seemed quite appealing to him, and he began composing “I'll Fly Away” on the spot. “I was dreaming of flying away from that cotton field when I wrote “I'll Fly Away,”” he later said. The middle verse of Albert's song echoes the old prison ballad when it says:

*When the shadows of this life have grown, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.*

Of course, “I'll Fly Away” is about far more than escaping cotton fields. It expressed Brumley's personal hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. It was one of a number of gospel songs he wrote during those days, but all of them were stashed away in drawers and boxes, unpublished.

Two years later, Albert married Goldie Schell, whom he met while teaching a singing school in Powell, Missouri. With her encouragement, Albert mailed “I'll Fly Away” to the Hartford Music Company. It was published in 1932, and shortly afterward, Albert was hired by Hartford for \$12.50 a month. He spent thirty-four years writing for the Hartford and Stamps/Baxter companies before forming the Albert E. Brumley & Sons Music Company. In all, Albert wrote over eight hundred songs and became one of the most respected names in the development of twentieth-century Southern gospel music.



Dear colleagues in ministry,

Please save the date **Sunday, Sept. 10**, when congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will again have the opportunity to gather together for [“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday](#).

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The ELCA’s anniversary theme, “Freed and Renewed in Christ,” reminds us of the gospel’s promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. This is work that you do every day – serving your community in ways that share the love of Christ with all of God’s people.

Whether we fill backpacks with needed school supplies, serve meals to those who are food insecure or write letters to soldiers and veterans, we are using our hands to do God’s work to reconcile and restore communities in Jesus’ name throughout the world.

[Watch](#) how some of our congregations and communities across the country put their faith into action during the 2016 day of service.

The bright yellow “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday T-shirts are once again available through [Old Lutheran](#). The deadline for ordering your congregation’s personalized T-shirt is Aug. 15.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 10, please consider another time.

Visit ELCA.org/dayofservice for more information and [resources](#).

We look forward to working together on **“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday**.

God’s peace,
Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement



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**.



Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels and are also needed for Interfaith Caregivers. You can call (716)373-8032 or email lrswacial@cattco.org or elherner@cattco.org for more information! Information sheet in fellowship hall! Thank you for your help!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

On August 14, 2017 Bethel's Volleyball team finished up their season with a 1st place championship win. Bethel competed with 6 other teams from June 5th to August 14th playing every Monday night at Good Times in Olean. Thank you to Rick, Skip, April, Troy Giberson, Albanie Stives, Molly and Chris Scott, Emily and Joy Linn, and Clinton Brewer. We don't want to forget our mascots Grace and Corben Giberson and Clairra, Quinn and Pace Scott. We had an awesome time!! See you all next year!!!!





THE ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE HELD ON AUGUST 5, 2017

Thanks to Ariel Kile for taking these pictures for me. We miss her smiling face around church.



