

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
79 Brooklyn Street PO Box 606 Portville, NY 14770
(716)-933-6699

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Websites: (congregation) www.bethelportvilleny.org; (synod) www.upstatenysynod.org;
(ELCA) www.elca.org

Worship Service - Sundays at 9:00am; Sunday School at 10:30am
God's work. Our hands.

JUNE 2015



There is a cute story in the June issue of Stewardship about a six year old boy who wanted to make a contribution to a building fund his church was holding.

His name is Brad and he greatly wanted to give something to that worthy project. But what could he do? Being a creative thinker he came up with the idea of catching a number of tadpoles at a nearby watering hole and selling them. So he found an empty pickle jar and Brad and his father went to the watering hole. Before long, they had successfully caught a number of those slimy little creatures, put them in the jar and went home.

Now he knew that his church was going to have a picnic and Brad decided to try to try to sell the tadpoles there. So he took the jar with the tadpoles in it and set up his business. Seeing the tadpoles in the jar made some of the people curious about what Brad had in mind. And, behold, a few of them bought a tadpole or two. He charged 25 cents for each tadpole and when he shut down his business that day, he had made \$1.75.

It was not a lot of money, but consider Brad's serious desire to do what he could for his church. And every penny Brad made went into the church building fund.

Brad's action was a wonderful act of stewardship. Jesus was there in spirit, enjoying Brad's loving gift to the church building fund. No doubt there was a big smile on our Lord's face!

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to always be loving and giving servants for you and to you, in the name of Jesus our Savior. **Amen**



Pray First!

- For all service men and women, and their families, especially *Casey McCarthy, Tyler McCarthy and Kendra Linn*. 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, Jerry Maerten and Bryan Hatch*. 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*.



Forbidden fruits create many jams.

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

Council Member

Bill Graves
Ruth Brewer
Linda Scott
Doug Ploetz
Ruth Brewer

Caroline Miller
Jerry Maerten
Bryan Hatch
Don Linn

Committee Assignment

Council President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Worship and Music &
Christian Education
Stewardship
Outreach/Evangelism
Fellowship
Property



We have received our clothing drop box to collect clothes for people in need. 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. Donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Notice: Deadline for newsletter articles is the third Sunday of each month. Please send them to me at my home e-mail at Junebug44@frontiernet.net or you can leave written ones in the top basket on the secretary's desk in the office. If you have questions you can call me at 814-698-2648



Choir practice is held Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary.**

June

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.



ATTENTION!!!



FOR YOUR UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:

- 10% Charity of our choice
- 10% Benevolence
- Rest in general fund

The Stewardship committee will be sponsoring our annual Yard Sale on Saturday June 6th from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

This should give you all lots of time to clean out your houses and garages and compile things that we can sell. We also need some volunteers to help. It makes it so much easier if we have lots of volunteers. Please contact Nannette Giberson, Jo Kile or June Murray if you have questions or would like to sign up to help.

Opportunity may knock one, But temptation bangs on the front door forever.



There will be a spaghetti dinner benefit for Stacy Greene who recently was diagnosed with lung cancer. The benefit will be held on Saturday, June 13th from 1pm to 6pm at the Eldred Legion. Presale tickets are \$6 each can be purchased from Amy Giberson (716-933-8725). At the door dinner tickets are \$8. A Chinese auction will also be held. If anyone is interested in donating a basket for the auction please contact Amy Giberson.



LOOKING AHEAD

Calling all Pie Bakers!!

Keep tuned for details on the Portville Heritage Days. Bethel holds a pie sale to benefit the Portville Food Pantry during this time. Please see Caroline Miller or Ruth Brewer for details.

I don't know why some people change churches; What difference does it make which one you stay home from?



A heartfelt thank you to Gary Murray and all his helpers for the Women of the Church banquet May 9th. He and the guys did a super job and it is much appreciated by all of the women. Once again the funds were donated by Shelley Scott Sassaman in honor and memory of her grandmothers; Bea Husband and Bernice Ferris as well as her Aunt Linda Giberson. It was a blessing for all who attended. Thanks again.

We have received a thank you from the Portville Food Pantry for the gift of \$835 that was sent to them from Thrivent on the behalf of Bethel. We continue to share a great partnership with the food pantry.

TALE OF TWO WOLVES

ONE EVENING, AN ELDERLY
CHEROKEE BRAVE TOLD HIS
GRANDSON ABOUT A BATTLE THAT
GOES ON INSIDE PEOPLE.

HE SAID "MY SON, THE BATTLE IS
BETWEEN TWO 'WOLVES' INSIDE US ALL.
ONE IS EVIL. IT IS ANGER,
ENVY, JEALOUSY, SORROW,
REGRET, GREED, ARROGANCE,
SELF-PITY, GUILT, RESENTMENT,
INFERIORITY, LIES, FALSE PRIDE,
SUPERIORITY, AND EGO.

THE OTHER IS GOOD.
IT IS JOY, PEACE LOVE, HOPE SERENITY,
HUMILITY, KINDNESS, BENEVOLENCE,
EMPATHY, GENEROSITY,
TRUTH, COMPASSION AND FAITH."

THE GRANDSON THOUGH ABOUT
IT FOR A MINUTE AND THEN ASKED
HIS GRANDFATHER:

"WHICH WOLF WINS?..."

THE OLD CHEROKEE SIMPLY REPLIED,
"THE ONE THAT YOU FEED"

June 2015

Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to:

- 1—Joe Shoff
- 2— Nedeane Knowlton
- 3—Bryan Hatch, Trinetta Brewer
- 4—Bob Brewer, Chris Linn
- 8—Deb Wolsky
- 14—Tom Olson, Carol Parr
- 17—Jacob Deneka
- 20—Lindsey Nicholas
- 21—Rick Giberson
- 22—Justin Brewer, Emily Linn
- 23—Jon Wolsky
- 28—Lisa Andrus
- 29—Liam Deneka

Worship Assistants

Acolyte.....*Scott Wolsky*

Communion Assistants... ..*Marie Franquet*
.....*Ruth Brewer*

Lectors:

June 7th*Bev. Robinson*
June 14th*Connie Smith-Matteson*
June 21st*Pen Yunghans*
June 28th*Bev. Robinson*

Prayer Leader:

June 7th*Jean Morgan*
June 14th*Bev. Robinson*
June 21st*Linda Scott*
June 28th*Judy Graves*

Usher/s*Caroline Miller*

Mail Greeter*Caroline Miller*

Altar Guild.....*Marge Nix*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 4—Jon & Amy Giberson
- 9—Doug & Terri Ploetz
- 10—Dan & Kerrie Parr
- 11—Bill & Judy Graves
- 23—Skip & Bev Robinson
- 29—Warner & Joan Johnson

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - JUNE 2015

Saturday, June 6

9:00am-4:00pm - Yard Sale at church

Sunday, June 7

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am-Choir rehearsal

9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following

Saturday, June 13

1:00pm -6:00pm - Benefit at Eldred Legion for Stacy Greene

Sunday, June 14

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am- Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

11:00am - Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

Thursday, June 18

7:00pm - Council Meeting

Sunday, June 21

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am-Choir rehearsal

9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following

11:00am- Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

Sunday, June 28

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship and with Fellowship time following.

11:00 am- Adult Bible study and Sunday School

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday Sept. 13, 2015



Dear colleague in ministry,

It's not too early to begin exploring opportunities for how your congregation will participate in “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. The date for this year’s dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 13, when congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will once again have the opportunity to gather together and celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Mark your congregation’s calendar today. If it’s not possible for your congregation to participate on Sept. 13, please consider another day.

Since 2013, thousands of ELCA members have participated in the dedicated day of service. [View this video](#) from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and see examples of how ELCA congregations share God’s love.

To guide your planning for 2015, visit www.ELCA.org/dayofservice. There are new resources to consider, such as a study guide designed for congregations to discuss what it means to serve with a joyful heart. You’ll also find the 2015 version of the toolkit and more. A new worship resource will be available later this spring.

Also, we ask that you register your congregation. This will help us share and tell stories about the good work that we do together. [Click here to register](#).

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday celebrates the work you do every day, serving communities in ways that share the love of God with all people. We look forward to doing this work together again this year.

God’s peace,

Christina

Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lift UP Your Heart

Time and time again, I hear this phrase, love it. If you were just to read this out loud, it would sound like this. Lift up your heart, If you change the way you say this, it will change the meaning of the entire phrase. Lift ! Up! Your Heart! Looking at the four words, they are simple and straight forward. Nothing complicated about the words. When you think of the phrase that is spoken every Sunday in Church, it seems to go by so fast. Not sure why but it seems to be a turn during the service like a musician going from a hook to a refrain in a song. It's one of the most important things that is said, and we all have just cruise through it like the rest of the amends and prayers since we were a child. Meanwhile we are thinking about last week's insults gave or received, next week's pressures of home, school, Tired of the family needs, paying bills or shut off notices, even the same friend saying the complaint as the week before, with patients you listen again, or they are listening to your problems just as you told them before. Using listening skills as much as you listen to this service today. We all have problems, we all get beat down. Lift Up Your Heart, Think of the word Lift, could say pick, grab, boost, revitalize, raise with effort. If the word **Lift** was changed to **pick** makes it sound like I'm picking up some trash. Each one of those words, grab, raise a different respect of the word doing the same thing. Lift is perfect, requiring self to lift, as a body builder will lift a weight, to strengthen self. Requiring self to act on your own to get the job done. Asking for help and respecting others for helping but not to expect others to always do the lifting for you. This would be taking advantage of a kind heart. Others can help, but you also need to help or lift yourself. Practice with your own heart of trying to lift it. It can be so heavy, not today I say. Where does this strength come from that makes me want to continue? Up, the word could be changed too, out, pull, push, high, but the word is a direction these other don't have a direction. Going up town, it's a space or an area with a direction. Not South, East, West or North but UP. Specific direction, Heaven has been referred to as up and Hell is down. Football phrase is "and the kick is up" this word shows hope. Even The UPS man is exciting when he arrives at your house. What's coming now? So the word UP is of hope or optimism, What's Up? A greeting that's friendly. Or even a thumbs up. Try to talk with somebody in a discussion without using the word you. Such blame in that word when it's used in this ways. An argument is usually a blame game between people, couples, siblings, council, government

or even nations using this offensive move after somebody else. Only seeing two sides to a subject, when there are three sides, mine and yours and the truth. When the word **YOU** is used, this gives direct ownership, putting blame towards someone specifically to point out the blame of what **you** did. What **you** didn't do, you is used as an ownership of self, **You** is specific. Only one **You**. Very strong word when **you** is used. The word **you** is so strong, You should have used their first name when you place the blamed. **You**, self, me, I. When others talk to **you** telling **you** need to do this. Nobody else is mentioned just **your** to get the job done. **Your** needing to put forth the effort to accomplish the job at hand. It doesn't say them, some or me. It says **YOUr**.

The one thing that is the center of self or our emotions, is heart. Example, That person has heart or you wear your heart on your sleeve (I have). How do you feel right now, when somebody says mean things this is directed towards hurting your heart, emotions and feelings? People can act as primitive as Chickens. A pen of Chickens will attack the weaker hen as a group maiming or kill. People from early ages learn how to do this by watching the parents or mentors and become masters of this skill. I can recall a classmate that was this person, picked on. He was killed shortly in a car accident. Tough loss....

People can become proficient and effective like gladiators with swords, using sentences critically, aggressively with vengeance humiliating the weakest in front of others. While the rest of us watch, but will have an opinion on Monday Morning Football Coach special. Knowing that they have hurt someone the words "I'm sorry" never crosses the lips or gives a milli-thought of what has been done. With guilt the Victorious Gladiator seems sarcastic, this pattern eventually will turn into a personality trait. So nobody will find their vulnerability, despair or sadness, people will attack the hearts and emotions of others.

The person that is ridiculed often can become submissive, fearful, Expect they deserve this treatment, this is misery. The ridiculed will seek others that are in misery and will even brag or complain about misery with other people that are stuck in misery. A life time can be spent in self wallowing just to except this state of mind. Why or how could anyone live this way for the rest of their life?

The heart is the most center of our emotion fuel tank, how do you feel? It can motivated, feeling high on life or make us believe we are dirt. Nobody can make us feel anything we do this all on our own. Feelings from our heart is with us every day. When we go to bed

waking up the next morning and do the same. Sense of hopelessness, depression turning to vises or to attack others to remember where we are on the food chain of life. Eat or be eaten, remain sane in society or to keep a social status. YEP! That's why I do this.

Lift up your heart, When this is spoken I take this as a command from God. "JON ,You have to do the work of lifting up your own heart, nobody will do it for you." You are in control to gain the strength to lift up your heart, you're in charge of changing your pattern. With effort is the only way to change your pattern. Lift up your heart, is a statement from God. Jesus only son died for our sins, yeah but shouldn't I ask for more when I don't lift up my own heart. Somehow I have understood that God is supposed to fix or help me when I want him to regardless. We all have said "GOD What are you going to do to make it better because I keep doing the same things and continue with the same poor results" When will you fix my life God? Gees why doesn't he every listen all these bad things keep happening to me and then become emotional with a broken heart.

Perhaps the church should teach us more on how fix ourselves vs. God will take care of everything and I keep living life as my own ego desires vs. living like a disciple of Gods way. The Phrase "LIFT UP YOUR HEART" says this. What a strong Phrase.

I sent an email to my brother shortly after I fell ill. He saved it and sent it back a few years later when I was whining, he sent a letter I sent him, I don't recall sending or writing with my health problems but my name was on it. I needed to reread my own thoughts. **Gods Goal is not to make sure you (me) are happy.** No matter how hard it is for you to understand or believe this, it's time to do so. Life is not about your comfort and happiness, successfulness or even pain free. It's about the person that God meant for you to be. Unfortunately, we will rarely ever hear this message. With saying it again " LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, IT'S ABOUT GOD" Gods goal is not to make me happy. Pauls response Most gladly, Therefore, I will boast about my weakness so the power of Christ may dwell in me, I am well content with weakness, insults, and distress, with persecutions with difficulties, For Christ sakes; for when I am weak, then I am strong vv 9-10. Paul went with it for the rest of his days. When you and I boast of our strengths we get credit, we keep going following our own ego voice \ When we boast in what he is doing in the midst of our brokenness, inability and inadequacy, Christ comes to the front , His strength comes to the rescue. He is honored.

The things we fear or run from in our lives are exactly what brought Paul to a list.

I am content when I LOSE.

I am content when I am weak.

I am content when I am slandered.

I am content with persecutions.

I am content with difficulties and pressure that are so unbelievable, I want to lose my mind and I have.

When I am weak, I'm strong.

Content in everything, this is where Divine strength comes when a human weakness is evident.

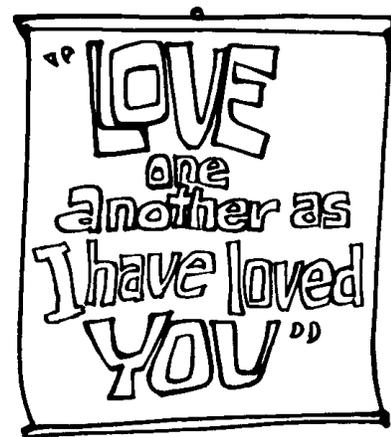
That's what gave the man of grace true grit. My daughter once told me that I have grit. Looking for happiness it's about being content with what I am given. I shouldn't be angry with God, I should be content with anything that comes my way.

"lift up your heart"

I have time and time again forgotten this and had to remind and repeat with effort. So as I would write my story, I am still a human and not to give advice, only to pull thoughts out and share them with people close to my heart.

Much Love

Jon Wolsky





Prayer of Trust

Lord, I trust in You. My soul rests in You; my faith responds to You; my heart rejoices in You.

You are the true God who cannot lie and will not fail. You are my Keeper, and I am secure; You are my Father, and I am cared for; You are my Counselor, and I am guided; You are my shelter, and I am safe.

Lord, from the depths of my being, I trust in You—

I trust You for all things.

I trust You with all things.

I trust You in all things.

I trust You through all things.

I trust You above all things.

I entrust my future into Your hands, for You know the end from the beginning; I entrust my hopes into Your hands, for You never lie; I entrust my life into Your hands, for You are the one who does all things well.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. [Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT](#)

HYMN HISTORY

....the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1855

Joseph Scriven watched in shock as the body of his fiancée was pulled from the lake. Their wedding day had been planned for the next day. Reeling from the tragedy, he made up his mind to immigrate to America. Packing up his belongings in Dublin, Ireland, he sailed for Canada, leaving his mother behind. He was about 25 years old.

Ten years later, in 1855, he received word that his mother was facing a crisis. Joseph wrote this poem and sent it to her. Mrs. Scriven evidently gave a copy to a friend who had it published anonymously, and it quickly became a popular hymn, though no one knew who had written it.

Meanwhile, Joseph fell in love again. But tragedy struck a second time when his bride, Eliza Catherine Roche, contracted tuberculosis and died in 1860 before their wedding could take place.

To escape his sorrow, Joseph poured himself into ministry, doing charity work for the Plymouth Brethren and preaching among the Baptists. He lived a simple, obscure life in Port Hope, Canada, cutting firewood for widows, giving away his clothes and money to those in need. He was described as “a man of short stature, with iron-gray hair, close-cropped beard, and light blue eyes that sparkled when he talked.” Ira Sankey later wrote:

Until a short time before his death it was not known that he had a poetic gift. A neighbor, sitting up with him in his illness, happened upon a manuscript copy of “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” Reading it with great delight and questioning Mr. Scriven about it, he said that he had composed it for his mother, to comfort her in a time of special sorrow, not intending that anyone else should see it. Some time later, when another Port Hope neighbor asked him if it was true he composed hymns, his reply was, “The Lord and I did it between us.”

On October 10, 1896, Joseph became critically ill. In his delirium, he rose from his bed and staggered outdoors where he fell into a small creek and drowned at age 66. His grave was arranged so that his feet were opposite those of his lost love, Eliza Catherine Roche, that at the resurrection they might arise facing each other.

Robert J. Morgan book “Then Sings my Soul” copyrighted 2003

This hymn was the favorite hymn of Violet Christine Chelgren Alexis (mother of Bev Robinson and Judy Graves). Their family sang this hymn together many times the last week prior to her death. This is being reprinted in her honor and memory.



The Best Investment

by
Tom Petruzelli

I drove along the Jacksonville beachfront on my way to work, getting madder at myself with each shiny new building I passed. All of them nicer and closer to my new office than the apartment I'd just leased. I should have explored the area, done my homework. Instead I'd jumped at the first place I saw. Could I get out of it? I called the leasing agent after work.

"Sure," she said, "But you'll be forfeiting your \$500 deposit."

That wasn't money I could afford to throw away. I was 25 years old and had just spent a good chunk of my savings relocating from Los Angeles. My company had put me up in a hotel while I waited for my move-in date, and I'd been my usual frugal self. I didn't splurge on fancy dinners, I shopped at the clearance rack at the discount store. You know that guy at the bank with a bag full of coins? That's me. I absolutely hate wasting anything, especially money.

I was prepared to put up a fight or negotiate for a shorter lease. Instead, a strange sense of peace came over me. A powerful calm that kept my simmering frustration from boiling over. I heard myself saying the words I never thought I'd say: "That's okay. I'll forfeit the deposit."

I hung up the phone. Now I was really mad at myself. I was out of \$500 *and* a place to live! That money could've covered my entire wardrobe for the year! What in the world had gotten into me?

The following morning, I drove to an apartment complex not far from work. Standing in front of the building I was set to tour was a tall, red-headed girl. "I'm Amy," she said, waving. "Are you moving here?" She had a southern accent and a smile so dazzling that I almost forgot why I was there.

I signed a lease that same day. When I settled into my new home later that month, I discovered I'd already met my next-door neighbor.

One year later, I moved again—to a bigger unit with Amy, my new bride. That \$500? The best investment I ever made.

Tell Me Your Story:



Experiencing Peer Ministry

Saturday, September 19, 2015

at

First House

Corner of Center & Chandler Streets

Guest Speaker

Tara Eastman

Pastoral Assistant/Director of Youth and Family Ministry

REGISTRATION: 9:30 AM

COST: \$5.00

BRUNCH: 10:00 AM

~ Ingathering for GA Family Services: Arts & Crafts Items ~

(oil & watercolor paints, markers, painting canvas, crayons)

RSVP DEADLINE: Monday, September 14, 2015

Call Stephanie Buccola: 665-4221

** A Thankoffering will be received **