

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.

MARCH 2017

The March issue of **Stewardship** reminds us that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when ashes are put on foreheads reminding Christians of our sins and that Christ died on the cross to forgive those sins. St. Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Rome these words: "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Again and again, the New Testament writers tell us that we become reconciled with God as we gratefully accept Christ as Lord and Savior. But it also reminds us that our salvation should make us so grateful that we would want to serve Christ eagerly and faithfully as long as we live.

Servants of God are called stewards in the Bible. Being a worthy steward involves sincerity in following Christ. A reliable steward is active in using his or her talents to be a responsible and continuous servant of the Lord.

St. Paul's brief letter to Titus says, "God's steward must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout and self-controlled." Paul believed strongly that the Holy Spirit could make anyone change "when the goodness and loving kindness of God appeared." He believed that because he himself

had been touched by the Holy Spirit, he was therefore "justified by his grace."

Once a person is transformed by the Holy Spirit, he or she is compelled to become a true steward. Stewardship involves working and witnessing of behalf of God and the betterment of humankind. Who knows how many true stewards are right here among us. Maybe you are one yourself?

Prayer: Thank you, dear Lord, for our Savior Jesus Christ and his saving grace. **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 Rumpf. 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



Choir practice is held Sunday mornings at 8:00 am. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary**

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

Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:

10% Charity of our choice

10% Benevolence

Rest in general fund



Our next church breakfast will be on Saturday March 4th. Breakfast will be held from 8:00am until 11:00am. Please help if you can but make sure you come to eat and bring your family and friends with you.

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. Donations are greatly appreciated. Let's make this an even better year than last year. Thank you.



We received a thank you from:

St. Pauly Textile – In 2016 roughly 11,112 garments of clothing were donated to our shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,347 people. This clothing is being used right now by people in one or more of 44 different countries including the US. Our congregation raised \$673 in 2016 through hosting this shed. Thank you for your support! PRAISE THE LORD!!!

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



Pastor Marie's office hours are:
Tuesday at Bethany from 9 to 3
Wednesday at Bethel from 9 to 3



Please keep these members in your prayers and send them a card if you are able.

Jo An Brooks

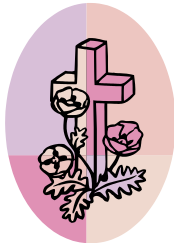
% Manor Hills Adult Care
Skilled Nursing Care Wing – Room 328
4192 Bolivar Road Wellsville, NY 14895

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



In Memory of Joan Gardner

By:
Marion McClarin
Ron and Nancy Wilcox

How can waiting renew our strength?

"... but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."
Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

Ever feel like God signed you up for an intense "wait training" class?

You pray. You ask. You anticipate God's answer, but like an Internet page taking a long time to load, you must wait.

And wait.

And wait some more.

I had to wait years before I became pregnant. During that time I attended baby showers while choking back tears.

I had to wait nearly three years for our too-expensive-for-our-new-financial-situation home to sell. During that time, I pinched pennies and lost sleep.

And I'm still waiting on many prayer requests: for a spiritually lost loved one, a family friend in ICU, a plan for my high school son's future. Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

But just as physical weight training builds strength, so does spiritual "wait training." We are promised this in Isaiah 40:31:

"... but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

How can waiting renew our strength? After all, doesn't waiting seem to sap our strength as we worry and fret and drum our fingers impatiently? It's exhausting playing the "What if?" game in our minds:

What if this doesn't work out?

What if God's answer is "No"?

What if the thing I fear the most actually happens ... what then?

All of this worry-laden waiting drains rather than strengthens. How can we turn this around and actually find ourselves renewed?

I have found that to shift my perspective in the waiting times replenishes my strength. I try not to think of those times of seemingly silence from God as waiting in the sense of sitting and anxiously anticipating a response. But as in waiting like a butler, maid or restaurant server.

Those who "wait on the Lord"—as in serve Him, cater to Him, help Him accomplish His work; those who take His order and bring Him what He wants—they are the ones who renew their strength.

They mount up with wings as eagles.

They walk and do not faint.

As we serve, we become more aware of what the One we are waiting on desires. We become alert, attentive, and in tune with His wishes. We begin to take our eyes off of our problems and fix them on the Lord instead. As we do, we get a glimpse into His heart.

Then, instead of the wait sapping our spiritual strength, it is renewed as we seek to do the Lord's will ... to make Him famous ... to give Him glory. Even in those long, hard times of waiting for an answer, we continue to serve Him.

Will you sign up with me for Wait Training 101?

You'll grow stronger spiritual muscles if you do. But we must commit to this perspective: we won't just "wait on the Lord," we'll *wait* on Him. Trust me, the tips He leaves are out of this world!

Dear Lord, teach me to shift my perspective during those times of waiting and doubt. May I stop fretting and worrying, and busy myself serving You instead. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Children's comments on the Bible.

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but Go, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,'

But I think he must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and some did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

The Senior Version of

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..

YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.
(CHORUS)

March 2017



to:

3—Crystal Benson
5—Kristen Keenan
5—Jo An Brooks
6—Ruth Brewer
14—Amy Giberson
17—Keith Fahnestock
18—Marge Nix
22—Kyle Dunn
22—Alyssa Shelander
24—Chris Franquet
25—Chris Scott
26—Jennifer Baughman
27—Jen Talmadge



to:

20—Ron & Jo Kile



Worship Assistants

Lectors

Mar 5th *Pen Yunghans*
Mar 12th *Connie Smith-Matteson*
Mar 19th *Doug Ploetz*
Mar 26th *Judy Graves*

Prayer Leaders

Mar 5th *Ruth Brewer*
Mar 12th *Judy Graves*
Mar 19th *June Murray*
Mar 26th *Connie Smith-Matteson*

Assistants for March

Acolyte.....*Dakota Brewer*

Communion Assistants*Don Linn*
.....*and Linda Scott*

Usher/s *Gary Murray*

Altar Guild.....*Marge Nix*

Bread Bakers.....*Ron Kile*

Mail Greeter.....*Nannette Giberson*

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - MARCH 2016

Wednesday, March 1

AVAILABLE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Bethany Lutheran

12:10pm - worship followed by soup and bread

6:30pm - soup and bread followed by worship at 7pm

River's Edge United Methodist Church

7:00pm - Imposition of Ashes Service

Saturday, March 4

8:00am - 11:00am - Monthly breakfast

Sunday, March 5

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00am-Choir rehearsal

9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

AVAILABLE LENTEN STUDIES

Bethany Lutheran Church - Wednesday's

12:10pm - worship followed by soup and bread

6:30pm - soup and bread followed by worship at 7pm

Portville Presbyterian Church

5:30pm - Mondays - Soup and Study - "The Creed"

River's Edge United Methodist Church

7:00pm - Wednesdays - Study - "The Creed" "

Sunday, March 12

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00am- Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

Thursday, March 15

7:00pm - Council Meeting

Sunday, March 19

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00am- Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

Sunday, March 26

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00am- Choir rehearsal

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday school

The Special offering for the month of March is L.E.E.K



SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE

2017 Spring Assembly

Reimagining

'When God Directs Your Life in Unexpected Ways

Guest Speaker:

**Carrie Wolfgang, Owner
Novel Destination, Used Book Emporium**

Saturday, April 29, 2017

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
20 N. Phetteplace Street, Falconer**

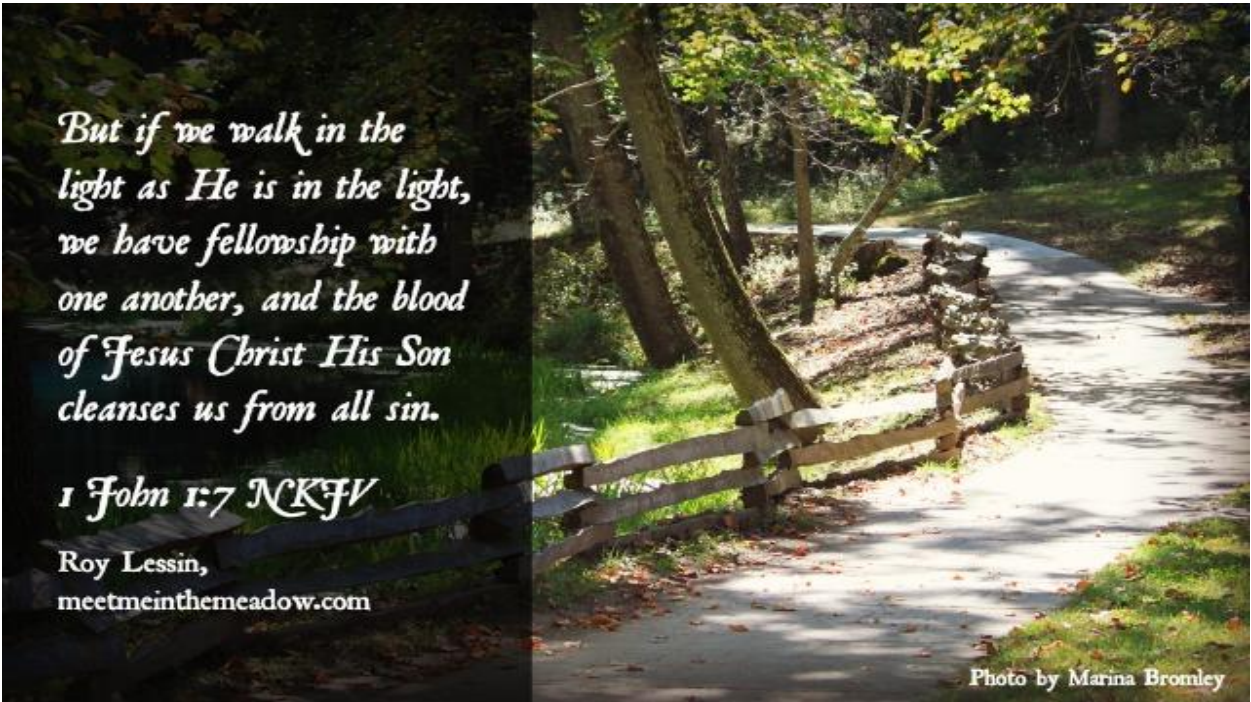
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Registration (83), Breakfast, Business Meeting, Program

All women are invited to attend; feel free to invite a guest.

Please RSVP with Conference Coordinator Stephanie Buccola at 665-4221.





*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).

MORE SLED RIDING PARTY PICTURES - 2017





Pictures from the 10th Annual Fun Fleece Festival held on Monday, February 20th at the Presbyterian Church.

We had a good turn out and lots of fun.

