

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

79 Brooklyn Street PO Box 606

Portville, NY 14770

(716)-933-6699

Websites: (congregation)www.bethelportvilleny.org;

(synod)www.upstatenysynod.org; (ELCA)www.elca.org

Email: bethellutheran@verizon.net

Worship Service - Sundays at 9:00am; Sunday School at 10:30am

God's work. Our hands.



MARCH, 2012

A Note from Pastor Dan

I am honored to serve Bethel as the **Pastoral Leader During the Transition** (or PLT for short). In fact, Bethel will have a two-pastor team during this transition period. Pastor Marie Meeks from Bethany, Olean will serve as **Pastoral Care Pastor**.

What will our respective duties be? Pastor Marie, being local, will do hospital visitation, communion for the homebound, pastoral care in emergencies, and conduct weddings and funerals should the need arise. She can be contacted directly for these needs. I will provide pastoral oversight of the congregation. This includes administrative support, arranging supply pastors, working with the council and guiding Bethel through completing its Ministry Site Profile and the process for calling a new pastor. Both my and Pastor Marie's positions are very part time, but I know we will both make sure that the needs of the congregation are met during this transition period.

What is the Ministry Site Profile? The Ministry Site Profile (or MSP for short) is a 14 page document that provides a description of Bethel as a congregation. Some of the information is simply statistical. Other parts of the document offer a written description of Bethel's vision and priorities for ministry and mission. When the MSP is completed, Bishop Jerge will use it to help match Bethel with a pastoral candidate. The process of developing the document can help Bethel reflect on what it means to be a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving the Portville area. It can also serve as a guide for Bethel as it moves into God's future. The council will be identifying a team to prepare the MSP. We will also provide opportunity for the whole congregation to be part of the process. I will work with the team to be

sure the document is completed thoughtfully but also as expeditiously as possible so we can then move on to the process of calling a new pastor.

Throughout the transition period ahead please keep Bethel and its leadership teams in your prayers. Remember that Pastor Marie and I, our Dean, the Rev. Allison Leitzel, and our Bishop, the Rev. Marie Jerge, keep Bethel in our prayers, as do all Bethel's sister congregations in the Southwestern Conference.

In Christ,
Pastor Daniel Rumfelt

Contact Information:

Pastor Marie Meeks
Cell phone: (716) 353-1610
Bethany Lutheran Church: (716) 372-1914

Pastor Daniel Rumfelt
Cell phone: (716) 450-1545
Office at Lutheran Social Services, Jamestown, NY: (716) 665-8121



Pray First!

- for all service men and women, and their families, especially *Juan Fraustro, Andrew Wright, Crystal Benson, Casey McCarthy, Mike Copponi, Lee Walden, Josh Canaan, and Zachary Russell*
- 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 Bishop *Marie Jerge* and her staff
- *Mary Johnson and Dave Preisinger, and former Assistant to the Bishop John Kroschel*
- 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 our Dean *Allie Leitzel*, LCLC and LSS
- for our congregation council leaders - President *Bryan Hatch*, Secretary *Jo Kile*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, and members *Gary Murray, Rick Giberson, Carol Miller, and Jon Wolsky*
- for our sister congregation, *Peace*

*Lutheran and their ministries 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



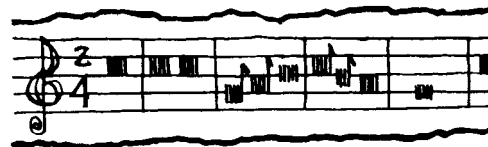
**BETHEL COUNCIL MEMBERS
And their committee responsibilities**

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>
Bryan Hatch	Council President
Jo Kile	Stewardship
Doug Ploetz	Treasurer
Jon Wolsky.....	Outreach/Evangelism
Carol Miller.....	Education
Rick Giberson	Property
Gary Murray	Fellowship

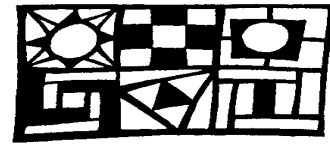


Links to LCLC..... Did you know that LCLC has winterized overnight accommodations for over 75 people all year long? With its comfortable hotel-style Retreat Center and more rustic Redeemer Lodge, LCLC provides food and lodging for over 2,500 people throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

In addition to hosting groups who do their own programming, LCLC also offers a variety of its own year-round programs such as the following: 4th-9th Grade Advent Retreat, Senior High Winter Retreat, Women's Hobby Weekend, 4th-8th Grade Winter Retreat, Adult Fall Retreat, Autumn Fest, and Men of Faith Weekend. For more information please visit the Events page at www.lclcenter.org.



Choir meets every Sunday at 7:45 for rehearsal. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary!**



Prayer Shawl Ministry..... will meet on Mondays March 5 and 19 at 6:30pm at JUDY Anderson's home. The group is also meeting every Thursday afternoon at 1:00 at JUDY Anderson's Home during the winter months. All are welcome to join us for either time or come to both!

Our prayer shawl group was born about two and a half years ago when Pricilla Griffith and Kay Anderson started talking about the possibilities wanted to be with a group of 'shawlers.'

Our group gathers to knit and crochet, to share concerns, to show our faith and beliefs and to sustain each other with our 'food creations.'

We have gathered to knit and/or crochet and given away 120 shawls and/or lap robes. We see our task as one of showing comfort, hope and love to others through our gifts.



Easter service..... will be held on Sunday morning, April 8, at **8:30 am**. Please note time change.



Easter Lilies..... can be ordered to help decorate the nave and chancel for Easter

morning service. Lilies can be taken home after our Easter morning service.

Bethel Lutheran Church Calendar - MARCH, 2012

***If you have a pastoral emergency, please call *The Rev. Marie Meeks* at Bethany Lutheran (church: 716-372-1914; home: 716-353-1610) ***

Sunday, **MARCH 4**

LENT 2

The Rev Marie Meeks - guest preacher and presider

Ray Sprout - guest organist

9am - Worship with fellowship following

10:30am - Live B.I.G. Sunday School and Confirmation

Monday, **MARCH 5**

6:30pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ *JUDY Anderson's* home

Tuesday, **MARCH 6**

6pm - Book of Faith Bible Study

Sunday, **MARCH 11**

LENT 3

The Rev Rob Allport-Cohoon - guest preacher and presider (no Communion)

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9am - Worship with fellowship following

10:30am - Live B.I.G. Sunday School and Confirmation

Daylight Savings starts - Set your clock ahead

Tuesday, **MARCH 13**

6pm - Book of Faith Bible Study

Thursday, **MARCH 15**

7:30pm - Council Mtg. Note DATE and TIME CHANGE!

Sunday, **MARCH 18**

LENT 4

The Rev Dan Rumfelt - guest preacher and presider

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9am - Worship with fellowship following

10:30am - Live B.I.G. Sunday School and Confirmation

Monday, **MARCH 19**

6:30pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ *JUDY Anderson's* home

Tuesday, **MARCH 20**

6pm - Book of Faith Bible Study

Sunday, **MARCH 25**

LENT 5

The Rev Marie Meeks - guest preacher and presider

9am - Worship with fellowship following

10:30am - Live B.I.G. Sunday School and Confirmation

First day of Spring

Tuesday, **MARCH 27**

6pm - Book of Faith Bible Study

Bethel Lutheran Church Calendar - APRIL, 2012

Sunday, **APRIL 1**

PALM SUNDAY

The Rev Marie Meeks - guest preacher and presider

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

9am - Worship with fellowship following

10:30am - Live B.I.G. Sunday School and Confirmation

Thursday, APRIL 5

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Time and location to be announced

Friday, APRIL 6

GOOD FRIDAY - Time and location to be announced

Sunday, APRIL 8

EASTER SUNDAY - The RESURRECTION of OUR LORD

The Rev Marie Meeks - guest preacher and president

7:45am - Choir rehearsal

8:30am - Worship with fellowship following

Special Offerings: 1st Sunday—ELCA World Hunger; 3rd Sunday—Portville Community Food Pantry; 5th Sunday—Interfaith Caregivers

March 2012



- 03—Crystal Benson
- 05—Kristen Keenan
- 05—Jo an Brooks
- 06—Ruth Brewer
- 09—Ted Scott
- 09—Val Stedman
- 14—Amy Giberson
- 18—Marge Nix
- 22—Kyle Dunn
- 22—Madison Clark
- 22—Alyssa Shelander
- 24—Chris Franquet
- 25—Chris Scott
- 26—Jennifer Baughman
- 26—Tayler Clark
- 27—Jen Talmadge

- 19—Joe & Kay Reynolds
- 20—Ben & Karen Reynolds
- 20—Ron & Jo Ann Kile



Worship Assistants

Lectors

- March 4th *June Murray*
- March 11th *Ellen Ward*
- March 18th *June Murray*
- March 25th *Ellen Ward*

Prayer Leaders

- March 4th *Troy Giberson*
- March 11th *Jo Ann Kile*

March 18th.....*Nannette Giberson*

Emma Doty

March 25th.....*Linda Giberson*

Altar Guild..... *Ellen Ward*

Assistants for March

Mail Greeter *Carol Miller*

Communion Assistants.....*Ellen Ward*
Dave Chomitzky

Bread Bakers *Ron Kile/Ellen Ward*

Usher/s.....*Gary Murray*

School News

BETHEL SCHOLARSHIP

Once again we will be offering college scholarships to local students for the 2012-2013 academic year. The applications will be available at church and at area schools. Applicants will need to submit the completed application along with a recommendation from a member of Bethel by June 4th.

This scholarship fund honors Gretchen Shavalier, a former teacher and member of Bethel, and is awarded to students who exemplify Gretchen's love of God, education and service to others. Please encourage the high school seniors and continuing college students you know to request an application.

Skip Giberson is in his 4th semester at Alfred State for mechanical engineering technology with the goal of receiving his associates degree this May.

Troy Giberson was inducted into the National Honor Society this January 9th and is on the High Honor Roll at Portville Central.

Felicia Kile, Wellsville HS, 12 grade Honor Rol

Ariel Kile, Wellsville, High Honor Roll

Chloe Dunn, Portville HS, Honor Roll

Gabe Stedman, ICS Wellsville, High Honor Roll

Bella Stedman, ICS Wellsville, High Honor Roll

Sarah Linn was voted Queen of Portville HS Winter Weekend. Sarah is the daughter of Chris & Joy Linn and the granddaughter of Don Linn.

Chloe Dunn and **Tess Wolsky** will be in the Portville HS Drama Club Play. *Mullan, Jr.* will be presented at the school on Friday, March 23 at 7:30 pm

and on Sat., March 24, 2012 also at 7:30 pm.

Robert Wolsky will be part of the 6th grade band concert at Portville Central Music in Our Schools Concert featuring the JH & HS Band on March 15, 2012.

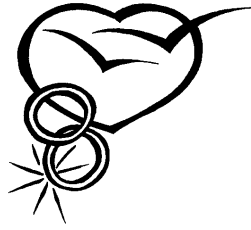
Chloe Dunn will be part of the JH & HS All-County Music Festival at Cattaragus-Little Valley on March 9 & 10, 2012. She will be in the Solofest for both voice and oboe.

Bethel News

Bethel Council has decided to create a paid, part-time position of cleaning person.

Kathleen Keller has agreed to accept this position. Kathleen is one of the new attendees at Bethel.

Missey & Sam Maley are expecting twins in April, a boy and a girl. *Missey is the daughter of Sharon & Kevin Hepfer and the granddaughter of Skip & Bev Robinson.*



Brittany Hepfer and **Terry Seal** are planning a Sept. 8, 2012 wedding. Brittany is a nursing student at JCC, Olean Campus, and Terry graduated from the PA State Police Academy in Hershey, PA on Jan. 6, 2012. *Brittany is the daughter of Sharon & Kevin Hepfer and the granddaughter of Skip & Bev Robinson.*



Dear Bethel Lutheran Church members,
Thank you for all you did for my family during this difficult time. We appreciate how quickly everyone acted to host a beautiful service and luncheon. My grandmother loved the church and I know how pleased she would have been.

Dianna Poisant
The family of Dorothy Burrell

Dear Bethel Lutheran Church members,
Please accept our thanks, with our true appreciation for your warmth and thoughtfulness.

Thank you from
The family of Dick Johnson



Dear Bethel Lutheran Church members,
The members of the congregation at Bethel Lutheran have been so supportive and generous to the Portville Community Food Pantry...Now with a gift of \$200 from an anonymous donor!

We are truly blessed by the gift and grateful to the person who gave it.
Stephanie Hill

Program Coordinator
Portville Community Food Pantry
Peace!

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.
Hebrews 11:2
Though it's hard to know why things happen, it helps to know that
He has a plan for everything. Have faith in the LORD, and He will see you through.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Bethel-
We know it's not easy to be in "The Wilderness" of where God will be leading you next, but know He is with you now – even in times of trial. Know that we are lifting you all in prayer weekly.
With Loving Thoughts
Pastor Barb and the congregation of
Peace Lutheran Church
Slidell, LA

Area News

Trinity Lutheran Church in Wellsville, NY, will host their second annual **Health & Safety Fair**. The event will be on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Organizations from Allegany County will provide information to the community as to the services they offer.

A luncheon will be served and the profits will benefit *Southern Tier Youth for Christ*, with supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial, Chautauqua/Cattaraugus Chapter #30714.



**Daylight Savings starts
Sunday, March 11, 2012**