

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

The Rev Marie Meeks, Pastor
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 2016



STEWARDSHIP

Tithing is part of the larger principle that followers of Jesus know as Christian stewardship. Tithing is important, but is only one part of that broader concept. The idea of Christian stewardship, in contrast to the tithe, includes three basic principles: *God is the owner of all of life; each individual is a steward of all that God has entrusted to us; and, each person must give an accounting of their stewardship.*

It is important for those who tithe to clearly perceive the relationship of their regular giving to the rest of the dedication that they make to God. It has nevertheless been true that others, as they have practiced the stewardship of their money, have felt the urgent need to dedicate their talents and their lives to God, as well.

They are also concerned about how they use their time. The days and years at their disposal is a sacred trust. They are stewards of time as long as they live. People in the 21st century are aware of the significance of time as never before in human

history. The idea that this is a leisurely and unhurried existence has been replaced by a rush to accomplish everything immediately, as if there might not be a tomorrow in which to do it.

As part of their stewardship, tithers will also be concerned with the total impact of their lives upon others. They will recognize that their influence should be extended to help make a more Christian world!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me the strength to be a good steward of your grace, dedicating my time, talents and treasure to your work. **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 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 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*.

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.



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 will be starting up again on *Sunday*, October 2nd at **7:45am**. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary.**

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.



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

The Reformation service this year will be on Sunday October 30 and will be a combined service held at Immanuel Lutheran. Prelude music will begin at 10:00am and the service will begin at 10:30. **Choir members are needed.**

Saturday, October 1st there will be a work session in the morning at the parsonage in Olean beginning at 9am. Most of the work needed is outside.

October 9th Bethel will be blessed with a triple Baptism as Michael, Matthew and Melissa Fahnstock join Christ's family!

Report from Mark and Cheryl,

On Friday night seven of our friends & family joined Cheryl & I in the Light the Night walk in Rochester NY to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The walk collected over \$100,129.00 to help fight blood cancers. The Welles family collected \$1200. Cheryl & I would like to thank all the members of Bethel who have supported us in so many ways over the last 5 years. God bless!



Our next church breakfast will be on Saturday November 5th. Breakfast will be served from 8:00am until 11:00am. We need volunteers to help cook and serve. Please come and help if you can but if you can't help, be sure and come to eat and bring your family and friends.

2016 Bethel Lutheran Church Scholarship recipients are:

Kirstin Reynolds \$500.00
Marissa Seib \$500.00

Congratulations and God Bless your future plans.

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



The Bethel Lutheran Church

Thank you for honoring me with your scholarship! It is very much appreciated, and will help me a lot when I attend Alfred State this fall.
Kirstin Reynolds.

Thanks to Ron and Jo Kile for installing the handrail leading up to the pulpit.



Please keep Linda Scott and her family in your prayers as they so recently lost Ted and so very unexpectedly. Thank you.

OCTOBER 2016

Worship Assistants, Birthdays and Anniversaries



Worship Assistants

Acolyte*Haedyn Brewer*

Communion Assistants.....*Linda Scott,
Cheryl Welles and Caroline Miller..*

Lectors:

October 2nd *Dakota Brewer*
October 9th*Judy Graves*
October 16th*Haedyn Brewer*
October 23rd*Connie Smith Matteson*
October 30th*June Murray*
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Prayer Leader:

October 2nd*Judy Graves*
October 9th*Ruth Brewer*
October 16th*Connie Smith-Matteson*
October 23rd*Doug Ploetz*
October 30th*Mark Welles*

Usher/s.....*Rick Giberson*
October 16th.....*Gary Murray*

Altar Guild.....*June Murray*

Mail Greeter.....*Caroline Miller*

Bread Baker*Ron Kile*



Happy Birthday to:

2nd ---Ron Brewer
6th---Jake Parr
8th ---Jianna Nix
15th ---Jean Benson
17th---Joy Linn
23rd---Kyle Keenan
24th ---Delores Chapman, Tamera Linn
31st--- Kerrie Parr



Happy Anniversary to:

4th---Robert & Kathy Baughman
7th---Chris & Marie Franquet

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2016

- Saturday, Oct.1 8:00am-11:00 - Our first Church Breakfast of the year.
9:00am- Work Session at parsonage in Olean.
- Sunday, Oct. 2 **TWENTYTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following
10:15am- Sunday School
- Sunday, Oct. 9 **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:00am - Worship with Baptism service for Michael,
Matthew and Melissa Fahnestock.
Fellowship time will follow morning worship
10:15am - Sunday School
- Sunday, Oct.16 **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY
- Thursday Oct. 20 7:00pm Church Council Meeting
- Sunday, Oct. 23 **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following
10:15am - Sunday School
- Thursday, Oct. 27 4:00pm-7:00pm - Chili Supper Fundraiser (for The Gift Tree)
- Sunday, Oct. 30 **REFORMATION SUNDAY**
Combined service at Immanuel Lutheran with Bethany and
Bethel. Dean Dan Rumfelt will be speaking.
10:00- Prelude
10:30- Service

The monthly offering for October will be going to The Veterans Van

HYMN HISTORY

God Will Take Care of You

1904

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.
Psalm 103: 2-3*

J. C. Penney, who descended from a long line of Baptist preachers, was well on his way to establishing a successful career when the 1929 Great Depression threw him into crisis. His business deals turned sour, and Penney became overwhelmed with anxiety and insomnia. He developed a painful case of shingles and was hospitalized, but tranquilizers and drugs only made things worse. His mental state deteriorated until, as he later said, "I was broken nervously and physically, filled with despair, unable to see even a ray of hope. I had nothing to live for. I felt I hadn't a friend left in the world, that even my family turned against me."

But one morning he heard singing coming from the little hospital chapel. The words of the song said, "Be not dismayed whate'er betide/ God will take care of you."

Entering the chapel, he listened to the song, to the Scripture reading, and to the prayer. "Suddenly--- something happened. I can't explain it. I can only call it a miracle. I felt as if I had been instantly lifted out of the darkness of a dungeon into warm, brilliant sunlight." All worry left him as he realized more fully than he had ever imagined just how much the Lord Jesus Christ cared for him. From that day J. C. Penney was never plagued with worry, and he later recalled those moments in the chapel as, "the most dramatic and glorious twenty minutes of my life." He later became one of America's greatest retail merchants.

On a Sunday in 1904, Civilla Martin was in Lestershire, New York, where her husband, Walter, was compiling a collection of hymns for the Practical Bible Training School. They were planning to travel to another town that day, for Martin had a preaching assignment. Civilla woke up sick, and Martin was about to cancel his plans, when their young child piped up and said: "Oh, Daddy, you don't have to stay home because of mother---God will take care of us."

Martin proceeded to the train station and fulfilled his appointment. When he returned Civilla handed him the words of "God Will Take Care of You," which she had written in his absence. Going to his little organ, Martin composed the music, and it was first published in the songbook he was compiling for the school.

Taken from Robert J. Morgan's book "Then Sings My Soul". Copyright 2003



FAMILY NEWS

It's Soccer Time in Kentucky !



The Linn Family at Soccer Game



Grandpa Don and JJ

THE CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

The church family picnic was held on Sunday, August 28th. We had a good attendance and wonderful food. The Stewardship committee held their annual ice cream social at the same time, using the ice cream and brownies as dessert for the picnic. Everyone had a great time and I assure you they did not go home hungry unless they chose to. Here below are pictured some of the special people who attended.



Pace, Clair, Quinn Scott with Grace Giberson



Grace and Pace

Someone sent this to me several years ago. I have no idea who wrote it, but it's well worth the read.
June

OBITUARY

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such value lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge).

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student; but, could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by two stepbrothers; My Rights and Ima Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still know him pass this on, if not join the majority and do nothing



Thanks to everyone who has made our clothing drop box such a success this year. We took in \$76.32 during the month of August and that I believe has been one of our highest amounts yet.

Many, many thanks go out to Jonah's Attic here in town who has been donating all their extra clothing to us. It is so great when we can unite and share in completing the work God has sent us to do.

This is a worthwhile charity that takes these clothes and distributes them to people in need here in the United States and developing countries all over the world. This project doesn't cause us much work. We have had to repack and rearrange several times over the last couple of months because the box got full before they came to pick it up, but that is really not a bad problem to have.

Once again thank you so much for your support and keep cleaning out those closets, attics etc. and helping us to be able to help people in need.

God Bless you!!

FUTURE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

SCHEDULED

BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 13th

Following the worship service we will be having our Budget meeting. Please try and make plans to attend this important meeting. Thank you.

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 November 6th. Ruth Brewer is going to sponsor a Chili Supper fundraiser to help support this. The date of the supper will be October 27th from 4:00pm-7:00pm. The cost is \$7.00 per person.

We have set the date of Friday evening, November 18th as our shopping trip and wrapping time. We will meet at the K-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 11th. 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. We are giving you plenty of notice to get your voices ready!!

