

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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(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

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.

SEPTEMBER 2016



The July issue of **Stewardship** had a challenging statement regarding the temptation to be slothful in the way we give and serve and live life in general. The word "slothful" comes from the way the Sloth lives out its life. It is very slow to move, appearing as almost stuck to the branch where it attaches itself.

When a person is called slothful one might picture someone without "any get up and go"; a lazy person who shuns work or responsibility. These are they who sleep their life away, including missing worship on Sundays. Or those who, when asked to engage in some work on behalf of the

church, seem to quickly find an excuse as to why they cannot serve.

The article in **Stewardship** quotes words from our Lord spoken before his disciples shortly before he was crucified. Actually it was part of a prayer from John 17:3: "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do."

Jesus had a job to do and he did it. We are Christ's disciples today and we have a job to do and we must be faithful in doing it. Who else follows him? Who else serves him? Who else does Christ depend on to do his work, to teach his message, to serve the suffering people in our midst, to offer hope and guidance for everyone and for both here and the hereafter?

Dear friends, we have a glorious and wonderful Savior. The world needs to know him. And we must know him better, love him more sincerely, serve him gladly, and glorify him as Lord and Savior.

Prayer: Loving Lord, help us to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ now and forever. In Christ's name.

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 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 Assignment

Bill Graves
Ruth Brewer
Linda Scott
Doug Ploetz
Ruth Brewer

Caroline Miller
Fellowship
Jerry Maerten
Don Linn

Committee

Council President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Worship and Music & Christian Education
Stewardship &
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.

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 note this change in the Bethel telephone answering procedure!!

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.



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

ATTENTION

Mark and Cheryl Welles and their son Jay are going to walk for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society on Sept. 16th in Rochester. This organization has helped them with information as well as financially. If anyone would like to walk with them or donate they can let Cheryl or Mark know or go to the LLS "Light the Night" Rochester, NY 2016. It's under the "Welles Family".

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

June



Our church breakfasts will be starting up again on Saturday October 1st. 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.

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.



July 2016

Don Diebler

by Rick and Nannette Giberson

August 2016

Rita (Swanson) Lengvarsky

By Ernest and Barbara Borer

By Florence Luzier

By Robert and Carol Kordish

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

Jo An Brooks

% Manor Hills Adult Care
4192 Bolivar Road – Room 108
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



Thank you so much for the phone calls, cards, visits and prayer. Everything was so appreciated. I am on the mend and hope to be back to Bethel very soon. Thanks again
Jean Morgan

September 2016

Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



Worship Assistants

Acolyte—*Dakota Brewer*

Communion Assistants—

Sept*Linda Scott and Ariel Kile.*

Lectors:

Sept 4*June Murray*

Sept 11*Judy Graves*

Sept 18*Jo Kile*

Sept 25*Connie Smith- Matteson*

Prayer Leaders

Sept 4*June Murray*

Sept 11*Connie Smith-Matteson*

Sept 18*Trinette Brewer*

Sept 25*Linda Scott*

Usher:.....*Don Linn*

Altar Guild.....*Marge Nix.*

Mail Greeter*Caroline Miller*

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



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—Bill Brooks, Jason Gabler, Jo Ann Kile

30—Candy Clemens



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

12—Bob & Ruth Brewer



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday, Sept. 4

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following

Sunday, Sept. 11

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday School

Thurs. Sept. 15

7:00pm - Church Council

Sunday, Sept. 18

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following

10:15am - Sunday School

Sunday, Sept. 25

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am - Worship with Fellowship time following.

10:15am - Sunday School

The monthly offering for September will be going to the Lutheran Disaster Response Gulf Coast Flooding.

HYMN HISTORY

Jesus Is All the World to Me

There is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. I Corinthians 8:6

You can take the boy out of the town, but you can't take the town out of the boy. Will L. Thompson grew up in East Liverpool, Ohio, in the mid-1800's. A few hours away by horseback were the grimy steel mills of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; but East Liverpool was known for a happier trade---its pottery. Will's parents, Josiah and Sarah Thompson, were local entrepreneurs who had helped transform the area into a pottery manufacturing region.

Will showed early signs of his dad's entrepreneurial spirit; and, being from a financially comfortable family, he was also able to devote time to his other passion---music. By age sixteen, he had already published two songs, "Liverpool Schottische" and "Darling Minnie Gray."

After musical training in Boston and Germany, Will tried to sell his music to major publishers. When they didn't offer him enough money, he published them himself. He printed copies of his most popular song, "Gathering Shells by the Sea," and sent them to minstrel organizations throughout the country. Soon "Gathering Shells" was one of America's most popular songs, just behind Stephen Foster's "Old Folks at Home" in popularity.

With his earning, Will established his own music publishing business in Chicago, "Will L Thompson & Co." Having arrived at financial success, Will decided to devote himself exclusively to Christian music. He wrote the great invitational hymn, "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling," the rousing gospel song "There's a Great Day Coming," and this beautiful hymn "Jesus Is All the World to Me."

Despite being wealthy, famous, widely traveled, and in great demand, Will never wanted to leave his hometown. He opened a music business in East Liverpool.* He became a prominent land developer and owned property throughout the town. He was a generous philanthropist, supporting heavily the local YMCA and the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. He served as the first president of the local library. He also donated acreage for a park that bears his name to this day, stipulating that no alcoholic beverages be allowed in the park and no sports permitted there on Sundays.

He regularly hitched up his two-horse wagon on which he placed a portable piano, and he traveled throughout the area singing his hymns in churches and public squares.

Will Thompson died in 1909; but in 2002, the grateful citizens of East Liverpool inducted him into the Lou Holtz/Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame.

**The store Thompson built still stands at the corner of Fourth and Washington Streets and now houses the Pottery City Galleries Antique Mall.*

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



Following God's Directions

Like a spiritual GPS, His guidance will never steer us off course.

by [Michelle Cox](#) | Jul 25, 2016

Sometimes I think our SUV's GPS has a mind of its own—and not a very good mind in my opinion. That thing has taken us on some crazy trips! On one occasion, it was for an extra three-hour journey of all the back roads in South Carolina. I suspect we repeated some of them at least two or three times. Maybe four.

In other instances when we've been near our home, our GPS has suggested a route that we know isn't the best way. And once when I was in a big city, the skyscrapers blocked out the signal and this country girl spent some frantic moments making turns and praying that I wouldn't end up in scary areas.

Hear the Hush of Jesus' Spirit

Sometimes our GPS doesn't give us any warning that we have a turn until it's too late to make it. And on other occasions, it's quit giving directions just when we were at a critical point for our destination, leaving us floundering about how to get there.

There have been times when I've been tempted to throw it out the window. That might be hard to do since it's built into the console. But it did make me think about something: We never have to worry that God's Positioning System will give us bad directions.

G – We have to get in His Word.

It's impossible to know the right directions unless we read or hear them. Everything we need is already there in God's road map for life—and it all works perfectly as long as we follow His directions.

P – We need to pray and ask God for direction.

The Bible says that if we search for God we'll find Him. Just as I told my sons exactly what I wanted them to do when they were little boys, God doesn't hold back on letting us know His desires and plans for us.

Read More: One More Gift from God

S – We need to stay close to Him.

We should listen when He tells us what He wants us to do. When we stay close to God, we can hear His whispers, and we can feel His presence.

And unlike my frustration with the GSP in our vehicle, we'll never get wrong directions or be frustrated when we follow His directions for us.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. (Psalm 32:8)

COME JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will be starting up again of Sunday, September 11th at 10:15 am.

The study series is Faith Weaver Friends.

The time is broken up as follows:

Story Time – Puppets

Make it- Craft time

Play it – An activity

Learn it - The Lesson

Our Sunday School Kids



Our special teachers – Nannette and April



Teachers Little Helper – Ariel



BETHEL FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

On August 15, 2016 Bethel's volleyball team finished up their season with a 1st place championship win. Bethel competed with 5 other teams from June 6th thru August 15th playing every Monday night at Good Times in Olean. Thank you to Rick, Skip, Troy, and April Giberson along with Clinton Brewer, Emily Sullivan, and Albanie Stives. We don't want to forget our mascot Grace Giberson!! We had a great time!! See you all next year!





ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHICKEN BARBEQUE

The annual Chicken BBQ was very successful! This was due to all the wonderful people of Bethel that helped so much to make it happen. We made around \$1300.00 for the event. A portion of this will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

I want to thank everyone that worked to help make this event so profitable. There are just too many to list all of the names, but you know who you are.

Thanks to those who baked, and made baskets; thanks to those who put up and took down tents, tables and chairs; thanks to those who worked to serve the meal; thanks to those who sold raffle tickets; thanks to those who worked the bake sale; thanks to those who helped prepare the food; thanks to those who sold meal tickets; thanks to the people who did advertising; thanks to the “runners” that kept us in food and drink; and a big thanks to those who helped clean up.

It takes the help of everyone in the church to make the Chicken BBQ successful! Bethel sure has a lot of wonderful, helpful and caring people.

A special thank you to Ruth Brewer for getting our \$250.00 start-up money from Thrivent! What a great gift this was to help purchase the necessary items needed for the day. We also need to thank Keith Miller for donating the corn, and thank Kurt Miller for cooking the chickens!

Most of all, we need to thank the Lord for the beautiful day, the fellowship of all, and for our church and church family at Bethel!

Be ready for next year, we are going to have a new menu! I’m very excited about it. So be thinking about your raffle baskets, baked goods, and how you can help to make another successful Chicken BBQ!

Your sister in Christ
Carolyn Miller





REPORT ON TRIP TO GUATEMALA

Thank you for your support and prayers for my mission trip to Guatemala, This trip was very humble and rewarding for me and felt the presence of our Lord and Savior.

The program is called Impacto - meaning that impacting the lives in Guatemala. It is a Christian organization that works primarily in Guatemala with the headquarters in LA Plqto, Maryland.

Located in the city of San Pedro , a village up in the mountains pf Guatemala. The only airport is in Guatemala City which looks very American - with familiar stores and fast food restaurants such as Burger King, McDonalds , Pizza hut. From there it is a 4 hour bus ride to San Pedro.

At the airport in Atlanta we met up with a team from North Carolina Baptist church going to the same place as the Cuba/Avon Wesleyan church. During our bus ride to the Promised Land (where we were staying) we were delayed in a village enroute because of a tragic accident of a young child being hit and killed by a hit and run driver. The village people were angry and stopping every vehicle to check for the driver reportedly to be hiding.

Sunday morning we had worship service with the Baptist group providing music with trumpet and guitars and keyboard. Singing all familiar hymns. Every morning before breakfast and at night, random people were called upon to read a favorite bible verse and give what it meant to that person. I gave Deuteronomy 31;8 -The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave or forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged. My reflection on that verse is that no matter what problems I may face, I know that Jesus is always beside me, I am never alone. I must admit I was moved by this young man in our group - he is 10 years old and he reflected on the famous bible verse John 3:16, he said his best friend would never lay down his life for him but he knows that Jesus did, and will always be with him.

Monday we went into town of San Juan to a place called Happy Tummies- This a building where they have morning program for the Abuelitos. Abuelitos mean little grandparents in English and is a term of endearment

. The majority of the elderly are living in dire conditions and have no more to eat than a piece of bread and a cup of coffee each day. Monday thru Friday in the am they meet and receive a nutritious breakfast, have a time of Bible study, worship, age appropriate exercises, work on different crafts and gardening and tending chickens. These people are very affectionate with the missionary teams. Although there is a language barrier, there are workers there to translate in Spanish or Mayan. The Abuelitos enjoyed making potholders and coloring.

Also during the morning there is also a sewing ministry in which the women were taught how to make tote bags.

In the afternoon the after school ministry for malnourished elementary school children. Each child is given a daily vitamin and a hearty meal. Most of the children do not get anything at home to eat especially over the weekend. They are taught hand hygiene, toothpaste and toothbrushes are provided for them. They learn bible stories and sing

for us bible songs

On Tuesday after the morning program, we went to twenty families to do home visits in which we brought them bags of food. The housing is very simple with very little furniture and sometimes just has dirt floors. One house had no windows for security purposes. In the village there are many ferrel dogs that run in packs. Men work in quarry's chipping boulders by hand to small stones to further break down to gravel in order to make concrete blocks.

On Wednesday, the children and the Abuelitos and us missionaries went on a parade through town, advertising the school and programs. The Abuelitos were dressed in costume as disciples and the children enacted out a play of the Good Samaritan. Candy was given out to the village children and bibles to the people standing watching the parade. At the end of the day, one elderly man approached and signed up to come to the happy tummies program.

Thirteen cooking stoves were given out to the poorest of families. Construction work also was done at the Happy Tummies facility where a library building is being built. This mission team brought five lap top computers and two printers for the library. Also books were donated and clothing and shoes. I was able to purchase 250 reading glasses through an organization called restoring vision for at cost 50 cents a pair. I was able to screen about 100 people that needed reading glasses. One person also need a little medical care for a sinus condition.

On Thursday, the day was spent visiting with the Abuelitos and the children - extending our goodbyes with lots of hugging and kissing. On Friday we left for Antiqua by boat ride across the Atitlan Lake. There in the lake, we saw many houses that were under water by the lake, The lake has no outlet and is surrounded by volcanos'. We arrived in Panachol, a small village bordering the lake. There we got our bus ride to Antiqua. We stopped at a corn field up on the mountain, walked thru the corn field to the edge to view the lake below. Interesting is that in that corn field, they had beans growing up the stalks of the corn. The corn stalks were over 6 feet tall.

Friday evening we spent the night in Antiqua which has buildings from the 1600's, many beautiful cathedrals and many street vendors. Even toured a Jade factory.

This trip was very humble and enlightening for me. It is so amazing that a small Christian organization can try to help the extremely poor people in a corrupt government. I certainly felt blessed to be able to participate.

Ruth Brewer

