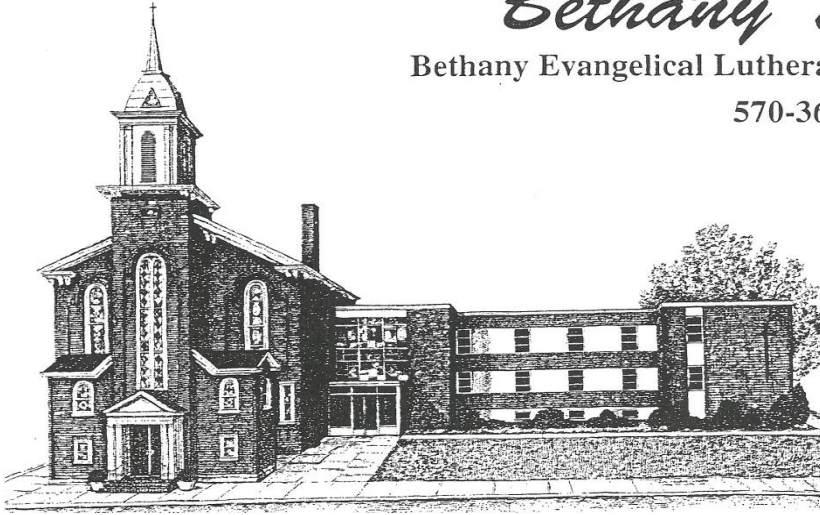


# Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



Mrs. Laura D. Schreckengast  
*Church Secretary*

Mrs. Mary Paulhamus  
*Director of Church Music*

Mrs. Deborah A. Harman  
*Sexton*

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VOLUME 73

February 2021

NUMBER 2

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## **LENT CALLS CHRISTIANS TO REPENTANCE: CHANGE OF LIFE STYLE**



“Most Christians have an unclear idea of what Lent is really all about. We may know that it lasts 40 days, sometimes we ‘fast’ or give up certain things...there will be extra church services... While many or most of these things are part of someone’s Lenten observations, it is possible to miss the true significance of this important Season in the church.

Lent is, first of all, a time of remembrance of God’s great love for His people, of God’s grief for his children, and the extent to which God would go to bring us back to His Love and care.

Secondly, Lent speaks to us about examining our own consciences and souls to see if they are in harmony, or out of it, with the mind and Spirit of our Heavenly Father. Even if we do not readily admit it, most of us suspect that some things are ‘not right with us’. It may be with ourselves, our family, our mate, friends, fellow-workers.

Thirdly, God offers us the opportunity to accept His help, guidance, and support to correct what is not ‘right’. Through prayer, Bible Study, worship, meditation, we open our souls to God’s illuminating Holy Spirit that not only points out the problem area, but shows what needs to be done to correct that situation or problem. If we would but take the time to do it, how much better life would be.

Why not make use of the Lenten Season this year to turn your life around. A Change! A New Life Style!

*\*\*Excerpted from the Bethany Messenger – February 2005\*\**

**\*\*\*Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>... there soon will be updates on the days & times when Lenten services will be held.**

**CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE:** 9:00 am. to 4:30 pm., Monday through Thursday  
(570)368-8933 email: [secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com](mailto:secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com)

**IN AN EMERGENCY:** Laura Schreckengast (570)772-4752 cell phone (call or text)  
Larry/Sharon Barnard (570)435-5408  
Gail Stover - Prayer Chain (570)971-5710 / [stover1104@gmail.com](mailto:stover1104@gmail.com)

**BETHANY’S WEB SITE:** [www.BethanyNALC.org](http://www.BethanyNALC.org)

**BETHANY’S FACEBOOK PAGE:** [www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org](http://www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org)

**CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

The Church Council met on January 11<sup>th</sup>



- Council Installation on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> by Pastor Milarch during worship. New Council members are David Grube and Glenn Kaufman.
- Interim Pastor Rev. Ray Scheck. There are also local Pastors on call if needed.
- State sales tax exemption status was renewed and received. It is good for five years.
- Call Committee: NALC will be sending someone to do the required Bible study. The head of the Call Committee was to be selected after the meeting was adjourned.
- Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 7:15 pm.

**RECONCILIATION OF BETHANY CHURCH FINANCES**

Income: Received through December 31, 2020	(52 Sundays)	\$ 194,662.32
Expenses:	“ “ “	<u>\$ 190,050.52</u>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,611.80</b>
Income Received through December 31, 2019	(52 Sundays)	\$ 202,258.29
Expenses:	“ “ “	<u>\$ 214,386.27</u>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ - 12,127.98</b>
<i>*2020 Income is \$7,595.97 less than 2019</i>		

**FEBRUARY & MARCH HAPPENINGS**

- Women of Bethany** - Monday, Feb. 1, 1:00 pm.
- Groundhog Day** - Tuesday, Feb. 2
- Healing Service** - Sunday, Feb. 7, 11:45 am.
- “Souper Bowl”** - Sunday, Feb. 7
- Church Council** - Monday, Feb. 8, 7:15 pm.
- Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday** - Friday, Feb. 12
- Valentine’s Day** - Sunday Feb. 14
- President’s Day & George Washington’s Birthday** - Monday, Feb. 15
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4:00 pm.
- Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, Feb. 17 (Service/Communion – TBD)
- Newsletter Team** - Monday, Feb. 22, 9:00 am.
- Christian Ed. Committee** - Monday, Feb. 22, 7:00 pm.
- \*\*Lenten Services/Communion\*\***- TBD
- Healing Service** - Sunday, March. 7, 11:45 am.
- Church Council** - Monday, March 8, 7:15 pm.
- Daylight Savings Time** - Sunday, March. 14, 2:00 am. spring ahead
- Mission Committee** - Monday, March 15, 7:15 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Tuesday, March 16, 4:00 pm.
- Property Committee** - Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 pm.
- St. Patrick’s Day** - Wednesday, March 17
- Newsletter Team** - Monday, March 22, 9:00 am.
- Worship and Music** - Monday March 22, 7:00 pm.
- Holy Wednesday** - Wednesday, March 31 – TBD
- \*Weekly: Quilters** - Tuesdays and at Thursdays 9 am.
- \*Bi-Weekly+: Bible Study** – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (& 5<sup>th</sup>) Tuesdays at 7 pm.



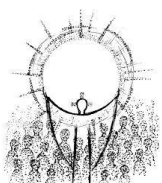
**THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**

Two members of our congregation have recently entered the Church Triumphant (Eternal Life):

Ronald Thomas passed on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Tessie Moss passed on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*We pray for comfort and consolation for both families.*



**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP**



For those who are unable to attend Sunday worship and do not have access to a computer or the internet, there are MP3 players (the modern equivalent of the tape recorder!) available to borrow. Each week the audio of the Sunday service is recorded onto them, then the devices can be picked up at the church...

**OR we can deliver them to you - contact the office if you are interested!**

**HOSPITAL VISITATION**

If you or someone you know is hospitalized (or will be), PLEASE notify the Church Office. Depending on the pandemic situation, we may be able to have some clergy coverage for our members' needs, so please make sure to get information to our church office.



**WOMEN OF BETHANY – UPCOMING MEETING**

The Women of Bethany will be holding their next meeting on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm.

We will be packing commercially wrapped candy for college students and shut ins - nothing homemade. Ruthie Kissell will have devotions, and Gail Stover will do refreshments.



*We hope that many of our ladies will be able to join us!*

**HELP FOR OUR HOSPITALS**

Many of our local, front line hospital staff are so overwhelmed that they are often not even getting a moment for a quick meal nor a bathroom break. Please keep them in your prayers.

\*They are also desperately looking for pre-packaged snack items (required by hospital rules!) such as microwave popcorn, ramen noodles, cookies, pretzels, dried fruit, trail mix, etc. They also would be uplifted and encouraged by notes, cards, children's drawings, or any other heartfelt messages.



*If you bring these items to the church, Laura will make sure they get delivered to the collection point, or you may take them directly to the Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Williamsport.*

**NEED A COAT, TAKE ONE; HAVE A COAT, LEAVE ONE**

As winter is in full swing, our special donation coat rack needs some help! If you have a coat (or many!) for which you no longer need, please consider adding to our supply. We are accepting children's and adult's sizes; we also have a bin for hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves. If you know anyone in need of a coat or jacket, please remind them of our supply. It is a beautiful way of sharing care, by keeping others warm and dry!



**EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**



Equipment is always available to borrow during recovering from surgery and for those who may be experiencing difficulties. We have walkers, canes, equipment for the bathtub and commode are all available. Please tell a staff member if you have a need!

**PROJECT LINUS & SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS**

We are still sharing our knitting, crocheting, and quilting gifts with others by making blankets of all sizes (baby, children, adult) for those with cancer or going through traumatic experiences at hospitals. You may bring these items to the Church Office. We are also collecting winter hats, gloves, and scarves to share with the Shepherd of the streets.

A huge *Thank You* goes out to those who have been filling up the box in the office with wonderfully warm, knitted hats in all sizes that will go to keeping many people warm this winter!

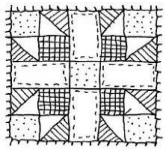


**BLOODMOBILE NEWS**

The next Bloodmobile scheduled at Bethany is Friday, June 18, 2021. Please mark your calendars for important event; also check the redcrossblood.org for other drives that will be held locally through the winter and spring. **Save Life – Give Blood**



### QUILTING NEWS:



As many know the group of quilters and crafters was a much bigger group in years past. There are 3 of us now.

Please feel free to join us even if you don't feel you can "quilt" as there are other things to do, such as tying them or laying out squares. Also, if you knit, crochet, or anything else and would like to have a place to do your craft with the fellowship of others and space to safely spread out, consider joining us when you feel comfortable doing so. We are back meeting at least once weekly, so you may contact Barb Winchester or Jean Wentz for more information!  
*A big thank you for your support!*

### UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY:

The Food Pantry clients are fewer these days, as many are very reluctant to leave their homes during the health crisis. The staff is praying that their clients will realize that they follow the same guidelines as do grocery stores, in order to keep them and the staff and volunteers safe.

They are still accepting donations, and would also be especially grateful for monetary donations as their in-person client load is lower than usual.

*You may drop off items at the church and they will be delivered to the pantry.*



### SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS NEWS



As they are constantly assisting people with hygiene kits, they rely on donations of specific items for these kits.

Their current needs for these specific items are as follows:

- Men's and women's antiperspirant/deodorant
- Men's and women's body wash
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shaving cream and disposable razors
- Women's personal hygiene products
- Laundry soap and pods

*(they are currently well supplied with tooth brushes & toothpaste)*

*They also are grateful for any financial support.*

*Donated items can be brought to the church; financial donations can be put in the collection plate – please designate “Shepherd” or “Shepherd of the Streets”*

### BACKPACK BREAKFAST NEWS:



The Backpack Program continues! Please consider donating:

Oatmeal (1-2 oz. packets); Cream of Wheat (1-2 oz. packets); Boxed Cereal (Individual, 1.5-2 oz); Multigrain Bars; Breakfast Bars; Pop Tarts; Belvita Breakfast Biscuits (1.76 oz.); Cereal Bars (individually packaged). *Thank You.*

### NOTES of GRATITUDE

☞ *A special Thank You to the Oechler family for the beautiful altar flowers. They certainly brightened my day during this dark time and were very much appreciated.* - Jennie Brouse

☞ *Thank You to the Women of Bethany for the card and to all who offered prayers and condolences for the loss of our sister-in-law.* - Glenn & Cheryl Kaufman

☞ *Thank You for the delicious Christmas cookies and for thinking of me at this busy time of the year.* - Virginia Laudig

☞ *Thank You to the congregation for the beautiful flowers celebrating our anniversary. And thanks to Arlene Klepper for delivering them.* - Sincerely, Phil & Theresa Spittler

**Service Assistants - February - March 2021 - 9:00 am. Service**

Please help us by trading with someone and calling the church office if for any reason you are unable to serve (570)368-8933. If you are unable to find a substitute, please also call the office so we can assist. **Thank You!**



**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

February: Katherine Hinton & Jean Wentz      March: Katherine Hinton & Jean Wentz

**COMMUNION COMMITTEE**

February: Becky Place & Tracy Rhian      March: Katherine Hinton & Yvonne Sechler

**GREETING CARDS**      February: Vonnie Hawley      March: Arlene Klepper

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Feb. 7: Michael & Gail Stover.  
Feb. 14: Gary Inch      Yvonne Sechler  
Feb. 21: Larry Barnard      Tracy Rhian  
Feb. 28: Barbara Winchester      Karen Paulhamus  
March 7: Ruth Lundy      Tim Logan  
March 14: Kim Fremberg      Weston Miller  
March 21: Michael Brouse      Yvonne Sechler  
March 28: Michael & Gail Stover

**LAY READERS**

Feb. 7: Michael Stover  
Feb. 14: Gary Inch  
Feb. 21: Larry Barnard  
Feb. 28: David Neidig  
March 7: Ruth Lundy  
March 14: Kim Fremberg  
March 21: Michael Brouse  
March 28: Michael Stover

**LOCK-UP**

Feb. 7: Charles Lichter  
Feb. 14: Philip Oechler  
Feb. 21: Denice Palmeter  
Feb. 28: Thomas Gower  
March 7: David Grube  
March 14: Charles Lichter  
March 21: Philip Oechler  
March 28: Denice Palmeter

**USHERS**

Feb. 7: Philip Oechler ; Gary Oechler; Jesse Cooper; Jay Stabley  
Feb. 14: James Sechler; Gary Inch; Ray Bomboy  
Feb. 21: Michael & Gail Stover; Glenn Kaufman; Ray Bomboy  
Feb. 28: Louis Bassler; James Foose; Ryan Kane; Ray Bomboy  
March 7: Deb Harman; Fred Paulhamus; Beverly Brown; Michael Brouse  
March 14: Jay Stabley; Tracy Rhian; Joshua Rhian; Thomas Gower  
March 21: Richard Hillegas; Michael Brouse; Eugene Harris  
March 28: Philip Oechler ; Gary Oechler; Jesse Cooper; Jay Stabley

ACOLYTES and GREETERS - not being utilized due to the health situation; you will be contacted when that changes.

**PLEASE: so that schedules can be made for the months ahead, please contact the office to let us know if you are comfortable attending services, especially if you've been taking a break. Your assistance and understanding is always appreciated.**

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