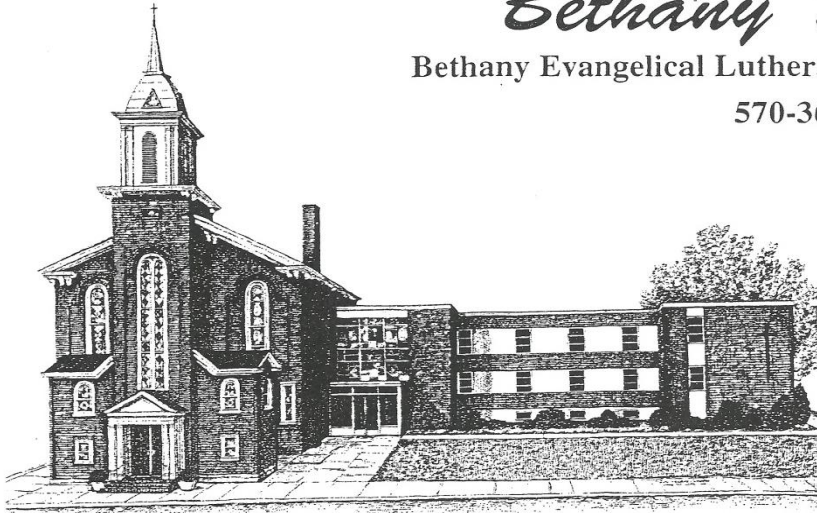


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



VOLUME 74

May 2022

NUMBER 5

At A GLANCE, THIS IS WHAT'S GOING ON:

Mark your calendar for the **Church Picnic and Vesper Service August 21st**.

Red Cross Bloodmobile – At Bethany **Friday June 17th** , **Friday Sept 9th**, **Friday November 11th, 2022**

Redcrossblood.org

Denise Bergenstock 570-323-2984

(1:00pm to 6:00pm each visit)

If you are able to assist with this event

Vicar Megan Shaffer begins as Intern May 1, 2022.

Inside the Newsletter:

Message from Rev. Steve Shipman

Message from Worship and Music Comm.

Council Meeting update

May Calendar



**CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS: THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S MEETING ON
MONDAY MARCH 21ST**

Reports are posted outside the church office

Worship and Music Committee

Treasurers Report

2022 Congregation Officers:

Dave Grube – President Mike Stover – Vice President Nicole Carey – Secretary

Council Members:

*Larry Barnard,, Jamie Brouse, Michael Brouse, Richard Hillegas,
Glenn Kaufman, Ruth Lundy, Weston Miller, David Neidig, Philip Oechler, Kathie Snauffer,
Gail Stover, Michael Stover*

Megan Shaffer will begin Internship May 1, 2022

Intern Committee will consist of Mike Stover, Nicole Carey, Karen Paulhamus, Glenn Kaufman

Annual Audit report was completed and accepted by council.

Council will hold its next meeting Monday May 16th at 7:15pm

Notice:

2022 Income	\$ 36,937.11
2022 January Expenses	<u>46,978.95</u>
Expenses Over Income	\$-10,041.84

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE / PARTICIPATION INVITED

"To prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up"
Ephesians 4:12 NIV

We are always looking for volunteers to serve as Lay readers, Communion assistants, Ushers, Recording engineers, and in many other ways. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Deb Harmon or Larry Barnard, or Mike Twigg in the church office. We will be happy to train you. The schedules and frequency of participation are flexible.

Communion Returning to Communion Rail

We are returning to using the Communion rail May 1 st

There are two key changes:

1. At the direction of the usher, you will fill out a “table” at the communion rail with approximately 9 other worshipers from your side of the church.
2. The usher will alternate sides of the church for each table rather than commune everyone on the lectern side before communing the Pulpit side.

Ushers will direct a group of 10 or less people to the Communion rail, alternating each side of the Sanctuary. It is your choice to kneel or stand.

The presiding minister will distribute the bread or wafer. The first communion assistant will have grape juice, and the second assistant will have the wine.

Please hold out your cup to the assistant with your choice for fruit of the vine.

Once all in the table have communed, the second assistant may dismiss the table. The central usher will then guide the next table while the minister and communion assistants commune the table on the other side of the nave.

THANK YOU

Larry Barnard

Worship and Music Committee

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

So what do we do now?

Bethany has chosen as its mission statement our Lord’s Great Commission from Matthew 28 — “Go therefore into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” That is our Lord’s answer to the question of what we do next, since it is what he told his disciples as

he gathered them after Easter and before he ascended to the Father. I like to point out that it is not accidental that the words “disciple” and “discipline” have the same linguistic root. A disciple is not a fan or follower (in the social media sense) of Jesus, but one who is serious about “observing all that I have commanded you.” A disciple of Jesus is one engaged in the discipline of growing every day to discover exactly what it is that God has done for them when they were baptized into the Triune Name of God. Since the Great Commandment is to “love one another,” discipleship never happens in isolation from the Body of Christ. One who deliberately abandons the fellowship of other Christians simply is not acting in love toward those others, and is not obeying “all that I have commanded you.” We need one another to grow as disciples, just as a coal removed from a fire will quickly be extinguished.

Megan is starting her internship with us this month, and she brings many gifts. One is that she comes out of a solid disciple-making congregation. She has been mentored and taught by pastors and others who have track records of effective disciple-making in congregations they have served. If you sense God calling you to grow into a deeper walk with him, I suggest you sit down with Megan and ask for her advice of how to begin. Hers will not be a “normal” internship (what in the church is “normal” anyhow, especially post-Covid?). I plan to offer her an internship much as the one I experienced, in which I was given primary pastoral responsibility for two congregations in Sugar Valley, while my supervisor served elsewhere most of the time. Since I live 2 hours away, I would suggest that you make Megan the first person you call for pastoral care. She will carry the full authority of the pastoral office at Bethany as she will represent me as interim pastor in whatever she does. The only things she cannot do are officiate at weddings (by state law) and (at least at this time) consecrate elements for Holy Communion. I plan to be at Bethany regularly to lead worship, conduct visitations (often along with Megan), and participate in most Church Council meetings. And you are certainly welcome to call or contact me for anything you might want or need from me. I hope you are as excited as I am about this new chapter at Bethany, as Megan will be sharing her gifts and experience with us for a year and we will be helping her hone those gifts for future ministry. Please keep Bethany, Megan, and me in your prayers, and continue to pray for whoever it is that God plans to call to be the next “permanent” pastor at Bethany.

Steve Shipman 570-916-7780

prsteveshipman@gmail.com



**CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS: THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S MEETING ON
MONDAY MARCH 21ST**

Reports are posted outside the church office

Worship and Music Committee

Treasurers Report

2022 Congregation Officers:

Dave Grube – President Mike Stover – Vice President Nicole Carey – Secretary

Council Members:

*Larry Barnard,, Jamie Brouse, Michael Brouse, Richard Hillegas,
Glenn Kaufman, Ruth Lundy, Weston Miller, David Neidig, Philip Oechler, Kathie Snauffer,
Gail Stover, Michael Stover*

Megan Shaffer will begin Internship May 1, 2022

Intern Committee will consist of Mike Stover, Nicole Carey, Karen Paulhamus, Glenn Kaufman

Annual Audit report was completed and accepted by council.

Council will hold its next meeting Monday May 16th at 7:15pm

Notice:

2022 Income	\$ 36,937.11
2022 January Expenses	<u>46,978.95</u>
Expenses Over Income	\$-10,041.84

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 commodes are all available. Please let us know if you have any needs, we will assist you.



and

HOME COMMUNION AVAILABLE

Home Communion is again available to our shut-ins! If you wish to have a pastor come and visit and administer the Sacrament, please contact Flip Oechler or the church office to schedule a visit.



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

Winter is coming, and we *know* that cold days are ahead! If you are considering some closet cleaning, we certainly can use more coats, especially as we know that there are some local families who are going through difficult times. We accept children's and adult's sizes, and have a bin for hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves.

Also, if you know **anyone** in need of a coat or jacket, please remind them of our supply.

When someone receives a gift of warmth, it helps show others that people who Love Our Lord also care about them!

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.



<p><u>CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE:</u> 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm., Monday through Thursday (570)368-8933 & email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com <i>*this email can reach ALL STAFF</i></p> <p><u>IN AN EMERGENCY:</u> Larry/Sharon Barnard (570)435-5408 Gail Stover - Prayer Chain (570)971-5710 / stover1104@gmail.com</p> <p><u>BETHANY'S WEB SITE:</u> www.BethanyNALC.org</p> <p><u>BETHANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE:</u> www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org</p>

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

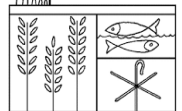
The Food Pantry currently is blessed with an abundance of food, but that will probably change as we go into the fall. They are beginning to prepare for the upcoming holidays, and are also beginning to distribute gift cards (\$5-\$10) to each client so that they are also able to purchase if they need something that is not available at the pantry (so monetary donations are also very appreciated).

The following is a list of pantry items for which they are currently requesting:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| -Coffee | -Pop Tarts | -Jello & Pudding mixes |
| -Rice | -Hamburger Helper | -Pie Filling |
| -Condiments | -Potatoes | |

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

YOU give them
something
to eat. Mt 14:16



SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS



Rev. Mark Brumbach, [(570)322-6538] the leader of this ministry, shared these thoughts.

"We are constantly helping people with monthly hygiene kits and we rely on your donations of specific items for the kits.

Listed below are a few items that we currently need:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| -Kleenex | -Paper towels | -Conditioner | -Band aids |
| -Shaving Cream | -Feminine Hygiene items | -Women's Deodorant | |

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 memo "Shepherd" or "Shepherd of the Streets"

BACKPACK BREAKFAST NEWS:

The Backpack Program is continuing into this new school year. Families are grateful for the items that we are able to contribute!

They continue to appreciate our donations of:

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

