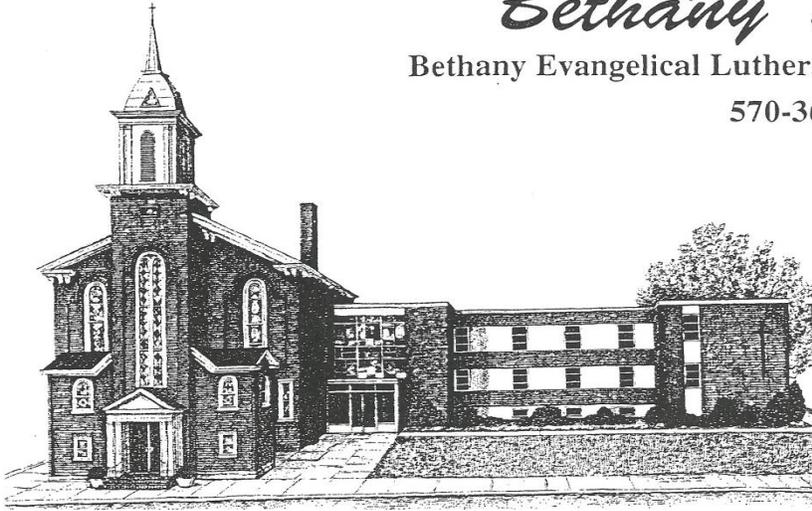


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



Rev. Steve Shipman – Interim Pastor
(570-916-7780) prsteveshipman@gmail.com
Vicar Megan Shaffer – Intern
(570-764-1214) MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com
Mrs. Mary Paulhamus – Director of Church Music
Mr. Michael Twigg – Church Secretary
Mrs. Deborah A. Harman - Sexton

VOLUME 74

JUNE 2022

NUMBER 6

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

Richard (Fred) Shultz Memorial Service - Friday June 3rd in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am

Lawn Party - Saturday June 4th at Bethany, Setup is 9:30 am, Lawn Party 10:00 am

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

Redcrossblood.org Denise Bergenstock 570-323-2984 (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm)
If you are able to assist with this event please call Denise.

Annual Mini Golf Outing – At Hoopla's June 26th, at 4pm

Church Picnic and Vesper Service - August 21st

Vicar Megan Shaffer began as Intern as of May 1st 2022

Inside the Newsletter:

Message from Rev. Steve Shipman

Message from Vicar M.A. Shaffer

VBS Information - Update on Annual Memorial Service at Old Immanuel

Annual Mini Golf Outing – Church Picnic & Vespers Service - June Calendar

Greetings from Pr. Shipman

As you read this, the Church either has or is preparing to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. You will know it because Pentecost is when we bring out our glorious red paraments, and often the church is decorated in red. In some churches members try to wear something red to worship (not sure if that is your custom at Bethany or not).

The color red can mean various things, but what come to mind first are blood and fire. There is a connection between them.

Pentecost actually was a Jewish holiday which was observed 50 days after Passover and celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. For Christians, it is the day the first apostles gathered in the Upper Room and received the Holy Spirit's empowerment for mission. From that point the church spread like fire around the world, and still is spreading especially in Asia and Africa.

It is coincidental that Pentecost is usually close to Memorial Day, but the accidental convergence of the two is also helpful. On Memorial Day we celebrate those who shed their blood (or otherwise suffered) for our freedom as a nation. And they were inspired (see the word "spirit" there?) by the vision of freedom with justice that America stands for.

Across the centuries many Christians also shed their blood as the Spirit sent them forth with the fire of the Gospel. Yet as an ancient saint wrote, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." That is still true, in places like Iran, China, and North Korea. Evil tyrants have tried to destroy Christianity and have failed miserably. A God who can raise his crucified Son is also able to overcome all challenges to His purpose and plan.

We live in a time when we are dis-spirited in many ways, as we see churches aging and shrinking and wonder about our children and grandchildren who seem uninterested in the faith. We wonder what we can do, or whether we should just "go gentle into that good night."

The answer is the fire of the Holy Spirit. We Lutherans understand that the Spirit comes through the Word and the Sacraments. Indeed, those first Christians, in total disarray after their Lord's horrific death and the utter shock of his resurrection, needed to gather for 50 days of studying the Scriptures and praying before they would be empowered for their mission on the Day of Pentecost.

We need a new Pentecost at Bethany. We need the fire of the Spirit to be poured out on us. It is not something we can accomplish, but as we gather around the Word in prayer and service, it is something God can and will do us and for us. Being filled with the Spirit never comes without cost in this world ruled by the Prince of Darkness. That is the other meaning of the red — the blood that will be shed, literally or figuratively. But again we are assured, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

I encourage you to take up your Bible in the company of other Christians to hear God's Word addressed to you. Pray with one another and for one another, and especially pray for the Spirit's fire to come upon us at Bethany.

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,
And kindle in us the fire of your love."

Steve Shipman, interim pastor
570-916-7780 (call or text)
prsteveshipman@gmail.com

Hello and Greetings from Vicar Megan!

In a blink of an eye my first month of internship is complete - marking the beginning of my fourth and final year of Seminary. This is an awesome milestone for me. A frequent question I am asked is What is Seminary like?

To answer that question, I need to first clarify the two styles of seminary that exist because it helps to explain the different experiences seminarians may have. Why are there two styles? This is due to the fact that increasingly, seminary candidates are second career (or later) and/or entering seminary with families - and seminaries have had to adapt to meet these needs.

What do I mean by style? This answer is easy. There are traditional seminaries and non-traditional. Traditional seminaries require you to attend full time, in-person and online (live), and they follow a traditional semester schedule.

The second style is non-traditional. These programs are online and allow students to attend classes both in a traditional semester (live) or in a self-guided program, where the student can complete class work at their pace (pre-recorded). I have attended both styles of seminary.

In 2017, I began my seminary journey at United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) of Gettysburg as an ELCA Seminarian. After two years, I was dismissed from the candidacy process of the ELCA (there is a longer story behind this) and I left ULS on my own. Let me be clear, my dismissal was not in part of my poor academic abilities. I maintained a GPA to be proud of as a full-time student, with a part time job and a family.

Shortly after my departure from the ELCA, I was entranced into the North American Lutheran Church. Due to the traditional style of the North American Lutheran Seminary, President Reisen and I were in agreement that his seminary would not be a good fit for me. With his guidance and blessing, I was put in contact with the staff at Luther House of Studies, a subsidiary of Sioux Falls Seminary (SFS) in South Dakota. Shortly, thereafter, I was accepted as a student. Today, SFS is a part of Kairos University, a network of Baptist Seminaries that offer affordable classes.

My experience as a NALC seminarian has been vastly different from my prior experience. Each seminarian (candidate) is given a mentor who is on the candidacy committee - mine actually knows my name and calls me from time-to-time to say hello and to check in on me.

My candidacy committee makes me feel welcome, respected, and valued not to mention they care about the students who they are forming into the future leaders

of the church. Unfortunately, I know prior ELCA candidates who left the ELCA with such trauma - they were willing to leave the church all together.

First and foremost, if you know anyone who is feeling called to ministry and is afraid to answer the call, please put them in contact with me. While my experience was at first very difficult, my NALC formation experience has been vastly different. They also have wrap around care for students who have had difficult experiences and are in need of healing.

I am incredibly thankful that God has led me here to Bethany and to the NALC. I do ask all of you to please keep seminarians in your prayers, praying the Holy Spirit will lift up more individuals to answer the call to ministry - our church and our world need your prayers.

May Our God Bless You and Keep You,

Vicar Megan

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.

☺**Annual Congregational Mini Golf Outing**☺

Our Annual Mini Golf Outing will take place on June 26th, 2022 at Hoopla's (Muncy) at 4pm.

Vicar Megan will be offering a challenge.....you'll need to attend to find out MORE! Come and enjoy an afternoon of family fun!

Cost for Adults: \$10, Kids 5-15: \$8 and Kids Under 5 are FREE!!!

Old Immanuel Annual Memorial Service

Vicar Mindelle Bartholomew, Vicar of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Shamokin Dam and Chaplain-elect of Lycoming Chapter, DAR will be preaching and leading worship at the Annual Memorial Service at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lime Bluff Road, Muncy, on Sunday, June 26, 2022, at 2:30pm. Brian Hess, organist and choir director at Messiah Lutheran Church, Clarkstown, will accompany the service.

Old Immanuel is considered to be the mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County. Founded in 1791, it lived until its doors shut permanently in 1920. The first structure built on the property was of log; the second and third (the remaining) structures were of brick. The current building was dedicated in 1869, and contains two cornerstones, one in German dated 1832, and one in English dated 1869. At least 9 Revolutionary Soldiers and 5 Civil War Soldiers are buried in the historic cemetery. The church was built on land donated by Henry and Barbara Shoemaker, of "Shoemaker Mills" at the Routes 442/405 intersection.

At one time, there was a school associated with Old Immanuel, and the church contained a gallery, a wine-glass pulpit, and enough straight-backed pews to seat 600 people.

Old Immanuel closed its doors for regular services in 1920, after giving rise to 19 other Lutheran congregations. Some of these have also closed their doors, such as Moreland Lutheran, Trinity (Huntersville), St. Paul's (Millville), Germany Church, Katy's Church, St. Mark's (Lairdsville), Christ Lutheran (Montgomery), Messiah (Alvira), the Stone Church in Elimspport, and Zion's, also in Elimspport. Some of these churches have taken on new identities as they have become home to other congregations.

Churches that have sprung up from Old Immanuel that continue with the Lutheran tradition include Trinity and Mount Zion, Hughesville; St. Andrew's, Muncy; St. James, Muncy; Messiah, Clarkstown; St. John's, Gordner's Grove; St. John's (Brick), Montgomery; and Bethany, Montoursville.

The public is invited to attend this service as well as to tour the historic church. Light refreshments will be served after the service. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, "Like" us on FaceBook!!!



VBS at Bethany!

When: July 25th-29th

Time: 6pm-8pm

Where: Memorial Hall

Details: All Children are welcome. Come hear stories, play fun games and make awesome crafts and enjoy snacks....you never know a food truck may just roll up!

Pre-registrations are welcome. Registration will also be available at time of event.

Attention Adult Volunteers - Vicar Megan has all of the Background Clearance Information - These are required for all volunteers and VBS staff - They are FREE! You can email her at: MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com and she will send you links.



A simple choice; a generous response

The *Simply Giving*® Program

Through the *Simply Giving*® program, your gifts or tuition payments are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift—weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly—the option is yours. **Note: The date the monthly tuition payment is transferred from your account to the school account is predetermined by the school.** Your gift or payment is deposited into the recipient's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

Benefits to you and to...

Your congregation

The *Simply Giving*® program is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your gifts through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. But you're not the only one that benefits. Your congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping, and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.

Your school

This program is also a convenient way to pay tuition at a Lutheran school. The *Simply Giving*® program provides an easy, no-cost way for the school to collect tuition, and allows the school to benefit from consistent cash flow. Your tuition payments are made to the school through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account and deposited on the same day into the school's bank account.

Your favorite Lutheran institution

You can also make convenient contributions to other Lutheran institutions through the *Simply Giving*® program. Because of your planned giving and ongoing stewardship, the institution you support benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year. This helps the institution to better meet its financial goals and development objectives.

Why does Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offer the *Simply Giving*® program?

Thrivent Financial offers the *Simply Giving*® program to further its mission of serving Lutheran congregations and institutions.

Whom do I call if I have more questions about the *Simply Giving*® program?

Thrivent Financial has contracted with Vanco Services, LLC to provide administrative services for the program. For questions about the overall operation of the *Simply Giving*® program, call Vanco Services at 800-675-7430 or contact the institution benefiting from your giving. Your Thrivent Financial representative also may be able to answer your questions.

How do I participate?

First make sure the institution you wish to benefit is enrolled in the *Simply Giving*® program. Then complete the form on the reverse side and return it to the congregation or institution that will benefit from your giving.

ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Using black ink, complete the personal information section, including name, address and telephone numbers.
2. Indicate whether this is a new enrollment/authorization, a change in amount, or change in account.
3. Indicate the account type, routing number and account number. Attach a voided check or a savings deposit slip to the enrollment form.
4. **Sign on the Account Holder Signature line.**
5. Complete the appropriate section for the institution that will benefit from your giving:

For your congregation:

- Provide the congregation name and address.
- Select the frequency of your contribution.
- Designate where you'd like your contribution to go and the amount.

For your Lutheran school tuition:

- Provide the name and address of the school receiving the tuition.
- Calculate the amount of each monthly tuition payment.
- Determine the date of your first and last payment.

For your Lutheran institution donation:

- Provide the name and address of the institution receiving the gift.
- Select the date of the monthly gift transfer and the amount of each monthly gift.
- Determine the date of your first and last payment.

6. Return the completed enrollment form to the Lutheran congregation, school or institution benefiting from your giving.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY: The Authorization Form on the reverse side is seen by the nonprofit Lutheran organization enrolled in the *Simply Giving*® program as well as by the Vanco Services employees who process it. In addition, participant name and address information may be provided to Thrivent Financial. Participant information will not be shared with any other organizations.

See reverse side for Authorization Form.

Mail completed form to:
 Vanco Services, LLC
 12600 Whitewater Dr. Suite 200
 Minnetonka, MN 55343



Fax completed form to:
 952-983-8665

Member Enrollment and Authorization Form

Complete This Section for ALL Enrollments (Please Print)			
Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Home Telephone Number	Work Telephone Number		
Check the appropriate box: <input type="checkbox"/> New enrollment/authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change in authorized amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change in account			
Gifts/payments should be taken from: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking (attach a voided check) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings (attach a savings deposit slip) Routing Number _____ Valid routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number _____	REQUIRED: I authorize Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Vanco Services, LLC to automatically withdraw contributions/tuition payments/donations from my account. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Account Holder Signature _____		
*** ATTACH EITHER A VOIDED CHECK OR A SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP ***			

Complete This Section for Lutheran Congregation Donations			
Congregation Name	Street Address		
City	State	ZIP Code	
Frequency of Funds Transfer (Please check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly on Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly on Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly (transferred on 1st and 15th of each month) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th START DATE: _____ Church Envelope Number: _____	Church Fund Designations: General/Operating \$ _____ Building \$ _____ Evangelism/Outreach \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;">TOTAL \$ _____</div>	Amount \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	

Complete This Section for Lutheran School Tuition Payments			
School Name	Street Address		
City	State	ZIP Code	
Total annual tuition for all family members \$ _____ Divided by number of monthly payments (see below) _____ Amount of each monthly payment \$ _____ Please contact your school for information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment duration options (e.g., 10 months or 12 months) • Date the first and last payments are due • Date during each month that the transaction will occur • Student's school tuition number 	Date of first payment: _____ Date of last payment: _____ Student's Tuition Number: _____		

Complete This Section for Lutheran Institution Donations			
Institution Name	Street Address		
City	State	ZIP Code	
Date of Monthly Gift Transfer (Please check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th Amount of each monthly gift (minimum \$5) \$ _____	Date of first payment: _____ Date of last payment*: _____ * Note: If you want your gift to be given continuously until you notify us to change the amount or stop the gift, please write "CONT." as the date of the last payment.		

FOR CONGREGATION/INSTITUTION OFFICE USE ONLY	
Congregation/Institution Code: <u>0021235254</u> Envelope/Participant Number: _____	Date: _____ Verifier Initials: _____



And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

May 17, 2022

Dear Bethany Ev Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), thank you for your partnership in the Gospel, for your continuing prayers, and for your financial support in the work we share in the name of our Lord Jesus. It is a joy for us to share with you in a work that carries far beyond the years we have in this life.

This letter comes as a statement of the financial gifts (listed below) you have given to our shared work through the first four months of the year, as well as an encouragement to continue your support in the months ahead. Your gifts support a church body that is passionate about proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ, committed to the authority of the Scriptures, and driven by a mission to go into the world and make disciples.

Now in our twelfth year as a denomination, the NALC is fully aware of the ways in which God has blessed our efforts through the generous gifts of its donors. Our shared ministry is touching the lives of millions of people throughout North America and around the world. We are now a church body of more than 470 congregations. We have nearly 40 seminarians studying in our North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) Network. We have missionaries serving in more than a dozen countries throughout the world and are actively working to building disciple-making cultures in all of our churches. These and many other tangible blessings would not be possible without the grace of God and your generosity.

As you consider future gifts to the NALC, we hope you will also consider supporting the Great Commission Fund, the Disaster Response Fund and our North American Lutheran Seminary Network. All gifts go directly to the ministries you designate and are used to further their work and witness in the world.

Once again, thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and in the work entrusted to us by our Lord. We consider it an honor and a privilege to share with you in a ministry that is drawing people to Jesus and changing lives for eternity.

May God continue to bless you in ways that will enable you to bless others.

In Christ Jesus,

Bishop Dan Selbo



Annual Church Picnic and Vespers

When: August 21st

Time: 4pm - ?

Where: Indian Park

****Please remember to bring your own utensils, plates and napkins and beverage.****

Come join in on the FUN! Setup starts at 4pm. Followed by a fun group game. Our meal will begin shortly after and we will close out our evening with Vespers. Corn hole will be available after Vespers, for those who are interested in playing. Contact the Office or Jamie Brouse 570-433-3577 for more information.

Attitude of Gratitude

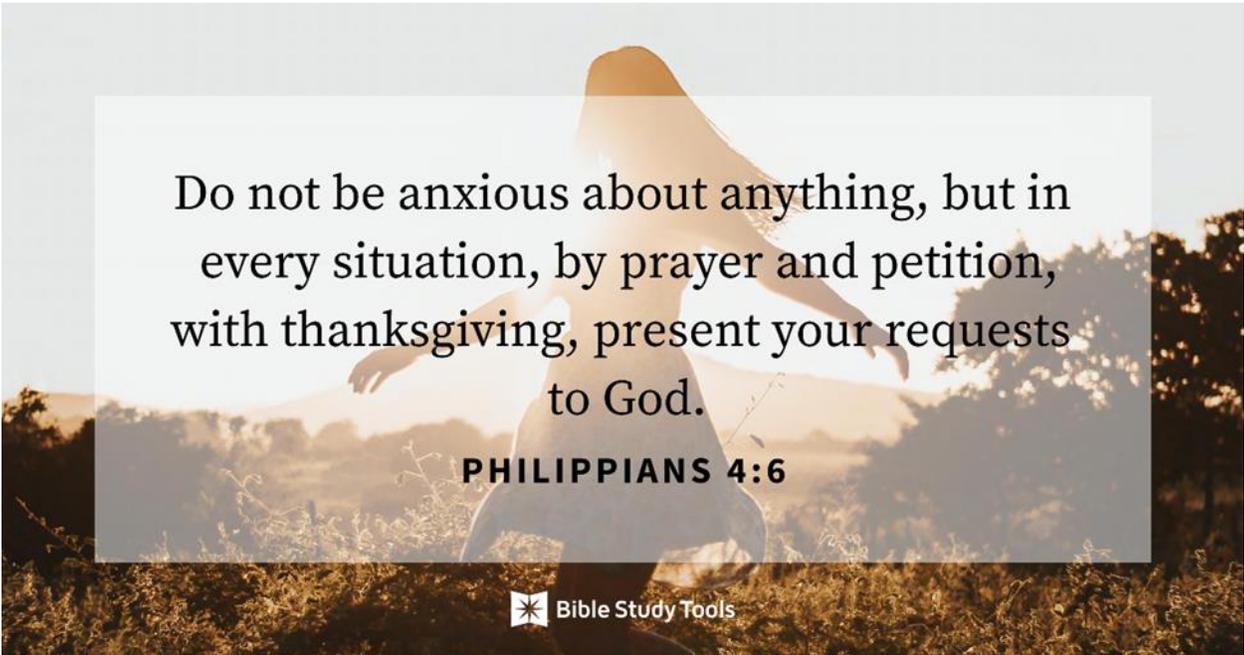
I wanted to say thank you to all who expressed sympathies on the passing of my mother Jean.

Mike, Marjorie, Michael & Miranda Twigg

I wanted to extend a personal note of thanks to all who reached out through conversation and cards on the passing of both my mother and my aunt. Your prayers and condolences were greatly appreciated.

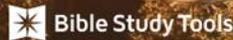
With Love, Vicar Megan & Family

- Want to thank someone who showed you kindness, feel free to submit your 'gratitude' for our next issue. Email Vicar Megan, MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com with Attitude of Gratitude in the Subject Line.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6



***Prayer List Changes ***

We Are Updating And Refining How We Monitor The Prayer List.
Some Changes You Need To Be Aware Of:

- *New* 90 Day Cycle - Every 90 days the list will be updated to remove/add/keep persons on it.

- When requesting someone be added to the list we kindly ask for the following to be provided:

- Individual's First & Last Name
- How Name is to Appear in the Bulletin (Full or First)
- If Name is Only to be Mentioned During Service (Not in Written Communications).
- Connection to Congregation (If a Non-Member)
- If the Person Would like Pastoral contact (Include Phone Number)
- Any Specific Intentions (If Possible).
- Long Term or Short Term

Thank you in advance for your understanding. It is an honor to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ and it is something we take very seriously.

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, and we will assist you.



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.



<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>
<u>IN AN EMERGENCY:</u>	Vicar Megan Shaffer (570)764-1214 (Call twice in a row – if no answer) Gail Stover - Prayer Chain (570)971-5710 / stover1104@gmail.com
<u>BETHANY'S WEB SITE:</u>	www.BethanyNALC.org
<u>BETHANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE:</u>	www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

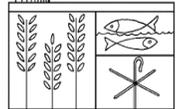
The Food Pantry currently is blessed with an abundance of food, but that will probably change as we go into the fall. They are beginning to prepare for the upcoming holidays, and are also beginning to distribute gift cards (\$5-\$10) to each client so that they are also able to purchase if they need 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.) | |

