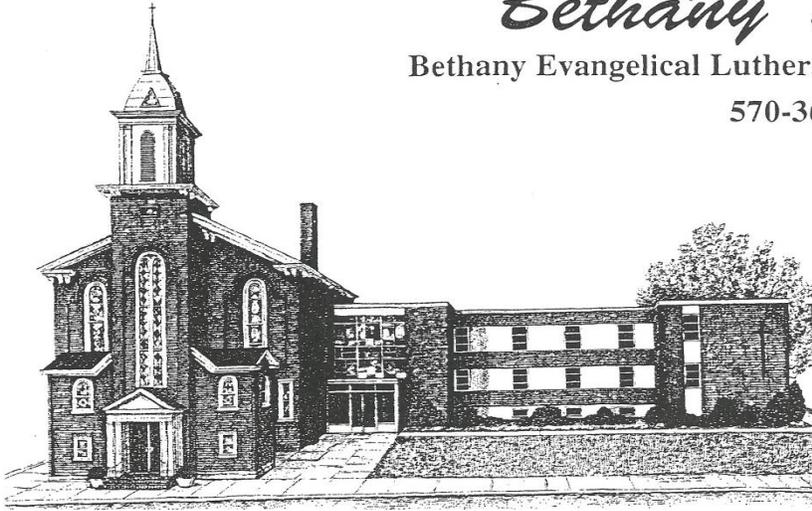


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



**Campus Location: 369 Broad Street,
Montoursville, PA**

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

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

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MISSION PROJECTS – Equipment available, Home Communion, Need A Coat, Take A Coat- Leave One, Project Linus, United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd Of The Streets,

ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE – Ushers, Lay Readers, Altar Committee, Communion Committee, Greeting Cards and Lock Up....

Message from Rev, Steve Shipman

I'm writing this as I sit in our resort room in Branson, since deadlines don't wait. And I have to admit this trip (our second here but our first with our son) has been full of surprises as I let Linda and Eric do a lot of the planning.

One thing I rediscovered is the beauty of the Ozarks. And on our foray to the town in Oklahoma (4 hours away) made famous by the TV show Pioneer Woman, I also rediscovered the wonderful beauty of the prairie. I confess I had never before heard of Pawhuska, Oklahoma. There was evidence of change there as everywhere. While Ree Drummond has been a one-person urban renewal movement in Pawhuska, there are still empty storefronts and abandoned buildings. Most small towns show evidence of former activity by closed and collapsing buildings, and empty spaces where structures were obviously removed.

Even in Branson, for all the activity, change is real. A vibrant downtown has been created to cater to the tourists; while it qualifies as "tourist trap" in many ways, it is also done well and provides a lot of jobs and prosperity. And they don't have parking meters (I have always said that if parking meters were a good idea every Wal-Mart would have them).

Even in Branson we pass closed facilities that once bustled with activity and shopping malls with empty storefronts. In ironic justice, the malls that replaced the downtowns are themselves being shuttered as folks instead patronize Amazon. The businesses and downtowns that survive have learned how to adapt to changing times

So let's talk about churches. We passed many megachurches, including one huge one whose parking lot was filled with hundreds of cars this morning. But we also passed a lot of closed church buildings, and many that are used for purposes other than worship.

Many of my Lutheran colleagues enjoy sniping at the megachurches, and I am not sure how much staying power they have. But they also are doing something right, and we need to learn from them how to minister effectively in the 21st Century. As a wise churchman used to say, it's not going to be 1955 again any time soon, and most churches (and pastors) are fully prepared to minister to the 1955 world. Very few — even the megachurches — are doing a good job of reaching the younger generations.

So what does this mean for us at Bethany?

I don't think it means that we should ditch everything those of us who are members find valuable in order to pander to those who probably won't come here anyhow. There is nothing more pathetic than a bunch of Lutherans trying to act like Baptists or Pentecostals.

I believe that renewal starts with fervent prayer. It needs to involve serious study of the Bible together. And one of the most important things is that we be kind to one another and to those outside the church. The last thing that will attract unchurched folks is a bunch of angry people thundering God's judgment at them.

New wine, our Lord teaches, requires new wineskins. I don't think that means our churches need to close, but it does mean that we need to let the Holy Spirit renew us and change us. For I do see renewed and vitalized downtowns in some places, and I do see traditional churches that reach out in exciting ways and draw in new people.

If Bethany is to thrive and grow, it won't look or act the same as it did in 1955. But God delights in doing new things, and if we are open and prayerful, God may just do a new thing among us too!

Steve Shipman, Interim Pastor

Message from Vicar Megan

Hello Beloved Bethany and Greetings to the Flock Beyond these Walls,

As you hold my letter in your hand the sweltering days of summer are upon us. Soon, school age children will be returning to the classroom for yet another school year. Fall is quickly approaching! For now, I say let's slow down and enjoy the warmth of these summer days while we have them! The warmth of summer also brings with it vacation bible school.

During the toasty summers of my childhood, I attended church with my best friend Val and her grandparents Sam and Joyce in a non-air conditioned church (yes, I grew up in a time where air-conditioning was uncommon). No matter how hot it was, we attended services on Sunday mornings and VBS that ran all day for an entire week!

Joyce was a VBS teacher and she was incredible. We spent many hot summer days in the church basement learning to memorize the names of the books of the Bible in order. We learned about Jonah, Moses, King David and to memorize the 23rd Psalm.

Joyce's deep faith in our Lord and her willingness as a grandmother to teach both Val and I about Jesus was foundational in my faith formation and in my call to the ministry. In this godly woman, I knew both the love of a grandmother and what wholehearted servanthood looked like. She lived her calling out by taking the time to share the love of Christ with her own family and all of those in her adopted family (mine).

Sadly, we lost Joyce to stomach cancer a few years ago. Even on her worst days, while wracked with severe pain, Joyce found time to pray and to patiently bear out her pain knowing that she had the hope of heaven ahead of her. While we rejoice that she is no longer in pain and now rests with the Lord, her spirit is deeply missed by many. Joyce's funeral was a testament to her call as a woman who was deeply devoted to sharing the promise found in the Gospel message with others, so they may share in the certainty she knew.

Because of this one grandparent, this little lamb came to know she was loved by God and had salvation because of Christ, in a world where she at times felt unwanted and seldom loved. I knew from that time on that I never walked alone and I was deeply loved by my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I share this, beloved Bethany, urging you that, if you are a parent, grandparent, a uncle or an aunt, sister or a brother and even a friend, that you take the opportunity, when presented to bring or invite your children, grandchildren, friends and even friends of grandchildren, neighbors, nieces and nephews to divine worship, VBS and Sunday school. For who knows, beloved flock, the person you bring may be a future pastor?

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday, May Our Lord Bless You and Keep You,
Vicar Megan



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.

Prayer List Changes

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

- ***New*** 6 Week Rotation the list will be updated to remove/add/keep persons on it. The Worship and Music Committee would like all homebound members and members in care facilities to permanently be on our prayer list.

- When requesting someone be added to the list we kindly ask for the following to be provided in writing (there are prayer slips in the office). If you cannot make it to the office, you are welcome to call and we can fill out the slip for you.

- 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

HOSS'S FUNRAISER EVENT

The next date for Hoss's fundraiser event is **September 6th** . Coupons will be mailed with August's Newsletter. Additional coupons will be available in the office as needed.

You can use a coupon any time throughout the day or multiple times if you like.

You would need a different coupon for each visit.

-RALLY DAY WILL BE SEPTEMBER 11TH! PLEASE JOIN US AS WE KICK OFF THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR. DON'T FORGET, WE ALSO WILL HAVE BELL RINGING FOR THE 9-11 MOTORCYCLE RIDE!-

Simply Giving

What is it? Simply Giving is an auto enrollment that replaces your weekly offering envelopes. Just fill out the form once and never have to worry about bringing the offering envelopes to Sunday service. You can mail or fax in the completed form on the following page and Vanco will take care of the rest!

Attitude of Gratitude

Want to thank someone who showed you kindness? This is a great way to show our appreciation for our brothers and sisters in Christ who take time to up lift others! Feel free to submit your 'gratitude' for our next issue.

Email Vicar Megan: MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com with Attitude of Gratitude in the Subject Line.

Prayer Services and Healing Services

Vicar Megan would like to hold a monthly healing service starting in the fall. We would like your feedback as to when would be a good time to hold the service(s)? Would a noon service on a Wednesday and or an evening service in the Prayer Chapel be a good option? We don't want to take away from Sunday School by having an additional Sunday Service, UNLESS there is great interest? Pastor Dennis and Vicar Megan are also offering short Prayer Services before Worship on Sundays in the Prayer Chapel beginning at 8:15 am until 8:30 am. Everyone is welcome.

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 _____ _____ TOTAL	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: _____

Hand Bell and Choir Practice is now on the same night!

Starting in September, Hand bell and Choir practice will be combined into one evening for your convenience! Practices will now be held on Wednesdays! Dinner (optional) at Pudgies starts at 5:30 pm. Handbell practice will be from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and Choir practice will be from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. ****During Lent practices and times may change** WE NEED NEW SINGERS AND BELL RINGERS! With out some new faces these historical ministries of Bethany cannot survive!**

Red Cross Bloodmobile

Upcoming Dates:

Friday Sept 9th - (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm)

Friday November 11th, 2022 - (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm)

Did you know that 90% of the Red Cross Blood Mobile Staff are Volunteers? Our Nation is experiencing a national blood shortage, please consider donating if you are able, lives depend upon it!

For more information, please visit: Redcrossblood.org

Bethany Lutheran Church Contact: Denise Bergenstock 570-323-2984

If you are able to assist with this event, please call Denise.

ADDITIONAL LAY READERS ARE NEEDED!

Incase you have not noticed, we only have four, yes, four rotating lay readers. We are urging people to please setup to take a Sunday and to be a lay reader. If you are nervous about pronouncing the words of the text, please talk to Vicar Megan. She can help you. We want more people to feel comfortable reading God's word and who would be willing to step up to help with this important part of Divine Worship. If there is anything the Vicar can do to help anyone feel more comfortable, please let her know! Don't like leading the sung Psalms on festival days? We have a solution for that (please don't let this stop you)! We are incredibly thankful for our current readers; HOWEVER, we do not wish for them to be burnt out. The Worship & Music Committee may have to directly ask people to set up and take a Sunday. PLEASE SEE DEB HARMAN TO SIGN UP.

Harvest of Hope – Volunteer Opportunities & Fresh Free Veggies and Fruit

We are currently following the COVID-19 requirements. The Fresh Express program continues the second Thursday of every month; however, we distribute the food as cars drive by. We are currently supplying the schools with backpack food items to supplement weekend food.

Fresh Express is open every 2nd Thursday of the month from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

Volunteers assist with this program every 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM utilizing 2 hour shifts for set up, sorting, distribution and clean up. The **Backpack program packs food every 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM** during the school year. The backpack supply team meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. The backpack set up team meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

Harvest of Hope is now celebrating our fourth year! Although the dream and seed of this project began about 5 years ago, we could not have imagined the rate of its growth. The community involvement from the schools, organizations, businesses and churches has been a blessing. The stories that we have been privileged to hear warm our hearts! With that being said, we have a long way to go to meet the needs of the community. We are currently serving 120 students in the Montoursville School District with weekend supplemental food. We have approximately 550 students that qualify for this food. We are working on a financial plan to increase the number of students to meet this need. We serve approximately 75 families with our Fresh Express program. If you are interested in being part of helping financially, please see "How to Help".

Our Backpack program is organized so that a child in need will receive one bag of food every Friday during the school year. In that bag they receive 2 entrees, 2 breakfast items, 1 vegetable, 1 fruit and 2 snacks along with a special item on holidays.

We have 12 churches committed to help us with food donations for the backpack program as it functions purely from donations. We are so blessed to have this community group effort. We have received food donations from school events and personal food donations. If you would like to donate please see "How to Help".

Our Fresh Express program receives a delivery of fresh and nutritious items in the morning from the Central PA Food Bank. We open our doors later that day for families to shop for their groceries. A hospitality team welcomes the families and provides them with snacks. The initial paperwork is completed as required by the State for statistics.

Thank you for your interest in the Harvest of Hope and we look forward to meeting you in some way in the future.

Sharon Atherholt Jane Zimmerer

Co-Chair's of Harvest of Hope

Located within Faith Church: 700 Fairview Drive, Montoursville, PA

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.)	

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.



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"