

# 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](mailto:prsteveshipman@gmail.com)  
**Vicar Megan Shaffer** – Intern  
(570-764-1214) [MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com](mailto:MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com)  
**Mrs. Mary Paulhamus** – Director of Church Music  
**Mr. Michael Twigg** – Church Secretary

**VOLUME 74**

**JULY 2022**

**NUMBER 7**

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

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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup> ....

**CHURCH PICNIC and VESPER SERVICE** – August 21<sup>st</sup> ...

**PRAYER LIST CHANGE** – Review the prayer list changes that have been made...

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**HOSS'S FUNDRAISER** – The next date for Hoss's fundraiser is September 6<sup>th</sup>....

**HARVEST OF HOPE & BACKPACK BREAKFAST**– Updates on these programs.

**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....

**Red Cross Bloodmobile** – Upcoming dates: Friday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **Message from Rev. Steve Shipman**

I'm writing this on the day of the summer solstice, which means that summer officially has begun. Of course, it also means the days will slowly grow shorter, but since time seems to be speeding up for me anyhow (my grandfather warned me about that long ago), I probably won't notice. The pastors at my congregation have noted publicly that they do NOT combine services or eliminate Sunday School during these months, although they do combine some classes to ease the load on teachers. And I believe they are wise. Most of these Sundays the color of the paraments on the altar and pulpit is green, which is the color of growth. But how can we grow as disciples of Jesus if we don't gather with the saints around the Word and the Sacraments? Oh, yes, I would be a total hypocrite if I said that we should never do something else on Sunday morning. I had a lovely tour of the Everglades on a Sunday back in May, and this coming Sunday I will be with my fellow Lions in Montreal, doing activities of our International Convention. But I miss worshipping on those occasions, and I immensely enjoy visiting other congregations when I travel if that is possible. I encourage you when you travel to experience worship in other churches, and to bring a bulletin or worship folder (maybe even a newsletter) home and share it with us. We can learn from what others are doing in these "interesting" post-Covid times. But please do your best to join us on Sunday mornings here at Bethany. And for your own Christian growth, consider participating in our adult Sunday School classes. Christian growth is not just for children and youth, and it sets a marvelous example if they see us "mature" people also setting aside time to study the Word. We all can see the membership and attendance declines at Bethany. There are many factors, but simply wishing things might change won't do the trick. Let me offer a few suggestions: 1. Pray every day for God to renew our life together and raise up disciples. 2. Pray every day for God to guide the right pastoral leadership to serve Bethany. 3. Make Sunday worship and study a priority. 4. Create a loving, welcoming environment for everybody here (and if we want young families, that needs to include children). 5. Ask God how you can use the gifts He has given you to build up this congregation. I'm also going to take the liberty of adding a sixth one. As I read the treasurer's reports, I'm not sure it would be responsible for Bethany to call a full-time pastor given the current rate of income from offerings. I know many of you are very generous and are doing the best you absolutely can, and that is fine. But I would ask you to consider prayerfully your financial support of your church. It would be good to keep our endowment for the purposes it was given and not use it to pay ongoing expenses. And we aren't the government — we can't print more money if our resources run low. I believe that God has placed Bethany in a wonderful mission field, and that He has given and will give us everything we need to carry out the work to which we are called. How are you going to be a part of the good things God is doing through your church?

Steve Shipman, interim pastor  
570-916-7780  
prsteveshipman@gmail.com

## **Message from Vicar Megan**

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

As you read this, we have officially entered the hot, humid, sticky, dog days of Summer. One of my favorite childhood memories was drinking chilly 52-degree water directly from the hand pump that sat atop of our well. If you have not had the opportunity to use a hand pump, the tricky part is that one never knows when and how fast the water will pour forth. This means that when attempting to drink from a hand pump, you have a 99% chance of getting soaked as the water gushes out. Let's just say drinking from the pump was at times overwhelming and simultaneously, enjoyable.

I feel this is a great analogy to express what my internship has been like thus far; I am drinking from the pump and I'm getting enjoyably soaked. In a very short amount of time, your beloved members, both current and prior, have shared with me all that is Bethany. Now I am quite sure I don't know all that is Bethany, but I feel I am getting a fair amount of the pieces put together as I begin to understand the history of this community.

Over the past two months I have soaked up a lot of information on the past and present ministries that you had and currently offer. I am beginning to understand the daily life and yearly traditions that speak to your community. I have learned about pastors, assistant pastors (one of whom I know well, Rev. Kerry Mower), and lay leaders who have helped shape this unique community. For someone new, I wish I had a road map, there is so much goodness to soak up!

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with my internship committee. This is a group of individuals who actively provide me with feedback that will help me to form my pastoral identity and skills. A question I asked them to consider, given all that I have soaked up in the past two months is "how can you help your next pastor transition into this community?" There is so much more to your community than your call profile indicates and that truly is a blessing!

Please don't take this as a complaint, rather, I am very thankful to all who have stepped forward to walk along side of me during this time of transition and have handed me a towel to dry off with. If anything, this proves the old adage "It takes a village to raise a child," well, I am living proof "it takes a village to raise a pastor."

I hope my letter reaches you in good health and brings with it lots of sunshine. I would love to meet more of you in person. If you are able, we would love to see you back in worship.

May Our Lord Bless You and Keep You,  
Vicar Megan



## **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](mailto:MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com) and she will send you links.**

## **HOSS'S FUNRAISER EVENT**

The next date for Hoss's fundraiser event is **September 6<sup>th</sup>** . 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.

### **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](mailto:MeganAnnShaffer@gmail.com) with Attitude of Gratitude in the Subject Line.

### **Looking for resources to Enrich Your Walk with the Lord? Here are Free Resources**

<https://thenalc.org/> - See the Devotions Tab

<https://www.bible.com/> - Has a large variety of studies and devotionals by topic, book or author. Its Free!

[https://www.moravian.org/daily\\_texts/](https://www.moravian.org/daily_texts/) - Daily Texts and Reflections for Study



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 _____	<b>REQUIRED:</b> 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
<b>Frequency of Funds Transfer (Please check only one):</b> <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: _____	<b>Church Fund Designations:</b> General/Operating \$ _____ Building \$ _____ Evangelism/Outreach \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ <b>TOTAL</b> \$ _____	<b>Amount</b> \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

### 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: • 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>	Date: _____
Envelope/Participant Number: _____	Verifier Initials: _____



## 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.

### **Red Cross Bloodmobile**

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

**Friday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm)**

**Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://Redcrossblood.org)

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

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

## **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.)	

### **\*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.



**CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE:** 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm., Monday through Thursday  
 (570)368-8933 & email: [secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com](mailto:secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com) *\*this email can reach ALL STAFF*  
**IN AN EMERGENCY:** Vicar Megan Shaffer (570)764-1214 (Call twice in a row – if no answer)  
 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)

## **UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY**

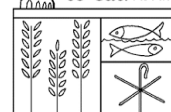
The Food Pantry currently is blessed with an abundance of food, but that will probably change as we go into the fall. They are beginning to prepare for the upcoming holidays, and are also beginning to distribute gift cards (\$5-\$10) to each client so that they are also able to purchase if they need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

### **Assistants Schedule**

***Please note all of the open spaces. We need your help! It's easy!***

#### ***Usher Schedule***

03-Jul	Michael Stover	Gail Stover		
10-Jul	Deb Harman	Fred Paulhamus	Beverly Brown	Michael Brouse
17-Jul	Philip Oechler	Gary Ochler		
24-Jul	Tracy Rhian	Thomas Gower		
31-Jul	Richard Hillegas	Michael Brouse	Gary Inch	
07-Aug	Michael Stover	Gail Stover		
14-Aug	Deb Harman	Fred Paulhamus	Beverly Brown	Michael Brouse
21-Aug	Philip Oechler	Gary Ochler		
28-Aug	Tracy Rhian	Thomas Gower		
04-Sep	Richard Hillegas	Michael Brouse	Gary Inch	
11-Sep	Michael Stover	Gail Stover		
18-Sep	Deb Harman	Fred Paulhamus	Beverly Brown	Michael Brouse
25-Sep	Philip Oechler	Gary Ochler		

#### ***Altar Committee***

22-Jul	Jane Leiter 570368-8578	Linda Wurster 570-323-1663
22-Aug	Gail Stover 570-368-2282	<b>Open</b>
22-Sep	Jean Beard 570-368-1277	Denise Burgenstock
22-Oct	Jamie Brouse 570-433-3577	<b>Open</b>
22-Nov	<b>Open</b>	Yvonne Sechler 570-435-8065
22-Dec	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>

#### ***Communion Committee***

22-Jul	Earla Gower 570-368-1892	Barb Winchester 570-546-7772
22-Aug	Marian Harris 570-368-8524	<b>Open</b>
22-Sep	<b>Open</b>	Tim and Brenda Logan 570-337-7672
22-Oct	Loreen Bagwell 570-368-3957	<b>Open</b>
22-Nov	Gail Stover 570-368-2282	Deb Harman 570-220-4838
22-Dec	Gail Stover 570-368-2282	Deb Harman 570-220-4838

#### ***Greeting Cards***

22-Jul	Marian Harris	570-368-8524
22-Aug	Marian Harris	570-368-8524
22-Sep	Yvonne Sechler	570-435-8065
22-Oct	Jane Leiter	570-368-8578
22-Nov	Yvonne Sechler	570-435-8065
22-Dec	Ann Long	570-368-2110

### *Communion Assistants*

03-Jul	Mike Stover	Gail Stover
10-Jul	<b>OPEN</b>	Wes Miller
17-Jul	Gary Inch	Tim Logan
24-Jul	David Neidig	Karen Paulhamus
31-Jul	Tracy Rhian	Barbara Winchester
07-Aug	Mike Brouse	<b>OPEN</b>
14-Aug	Mike Stover	<b>OPEN</b>
21-Aug	Mike Stover	Gail Stover
28-Aug	<b>OPEN</b>	Wes Miller
04-Sep	Gary Inch	Tim Logan
11-Sep	David Neidig	Karen Paulhamus
18-Sep	Tracy Rhian	Barbara Winchester
25-Sep	Mike Brouse	Yvonne Schler
02-Oct	Mike Stover	Yvonne Schler
09-Oct	Mike Stover	Gail Stover
16-Oct	<b>OPEN</b>	Wes Miller
23-Oct	Gary Inch	Tim Logan
30-Oct	David Neidig	Karen Paulhamus

### *Lay Readers*

26-Jun	Mike Stover
03-Jul	Mike Stover
10-Jul	<b>OPEN</b>
17-Jul	Gary Inch
24-Jul	David Neidig
31-Jul	Gary Inch
07-Aug	Michael Brouse
14-Aug	Mike Stover
21-Aug	Mike Stover
28-Aug	<b>OPEN</b>
04-Sep	Gary Inch
11-Sep	Dave Neidig
18-Sep	Gary Inch
25-Sep	Michael Brouse

### *Lock Up*

03-Jul	Thomas Gower 570-368-1892
10-Jul	David Grube 570-368-1424
17-Jul	Charles Lichter 570-368-1434
24-Jul	Philip Oechler 570-368-2876
31-Jul	Denise Palmeter 570-368-2137
07-Aug	Thomas Gower 570-368-1892
14-Aug	David Grube 570-368-1424
21-Aug	Charles Lichter 570-368-1434
28-Aug	Philip Oechler 570-368-2876
04-Sep	Denise Palmeter 570-368-2137
11-Sep	Thomas Gower 570-368-1892
18-Sep	David Grube 570-368-1424
25-Sep	Charles Lichter 570-368-1434
02-Oct	Philip Oechler 570-368-2876
09-Oct	Denise Palmeter 570-368-2137
16-Oct	Thomas Gower 570-368-1892
23-Oct	David Grube 570-368-1424
30-Oct	Charles Lichter 570-368-1434