



Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA
570-368-8933

The Rev. David B. Letcher
Pastor

Mrs. Laura D. Schreckengast
Church Secretary

Mrs. Mary Paulhamus
Director of Church Music

Mrs. Deborah A. Harman
Sexton

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TO THE CONGREGATION

The church office is open 9:00 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday thru Thursday. If you have a need, we have people available who can help you. Please call (570)368-8933.

God's love and blessings,

Pastor David

CONTACTING PASTOR DAVID

email: pastorbethanyNALC@gmail.com

At church: (570)368-8933 Mon. – Thur. 10 am. - 4 pm.

At home: (570)322-3685 *Please make sure you at least leave your name when calling him at home, rather than just hanging up!*

CHURCH SERVICES CONTINUE AT BETHANY!

Worship Service has returned in our Church. There are a few changes in how we do things, including:

- Physical Distancing and mask wearing is encouraged
- One service will be held Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. throughout the summer and ending on Sunday, Sept. 6. Coffee/Fellowship time begins at 10:15, Adult Sunday School at 10:45.
- We will enter and exit from the East Door (by the elevator).
- Bulletins are on the stand at the East Door. Please pick up one for yourself.
- The Offering Plate will also be on that same East Door stand for your envelopes. Ushers are not collecting the offering during the service.
- Greeters will not yet be utilized; you will be contacted when Council decides to have you resume your duties.
- We are celebrating Communion differently as well. We will be doing continuous communion (staying six feet from person in front of you). We are using wafers – please keep your hand open as Pastor places the wafer onto your palm. Dark grape juice (in the first chalice) and light colored wine (in the second) are both offered.

It is good to be back in worship in the Sanctuary with the faithful, and we are grateful for everyone's patience as we navigate these challenging times!

2020 NALC MISSION CONFERENCE HAS BEEN MOVED!

The 2020 conference was scheduled to be held in Pittsburg in August, has been moved even closer – it is now going virtual! It is being held online on Friday Aug. 7th – Saturday Aug. 8th. Pastors, delegates, and members are all invited to attend; the cost is FREE for members and non-voting delegates. More information will be available in the weeks ahead!



RECENT CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Church Council met on Monday, June 8th and discussions included:

- Allowing meetings and activities to resume at Bethany as Lycoming County has progressed into the “green phase”.
- Modernizing some of the programs used for membership and financial records
- Preparing to put together a Call Committee.



The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Monday, August 10th at 7:15 pm.

RECONCILIATION OF BETHANY CHURCH FINANCES

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Income received through May 31, 2020 (22 Sundays) | \$92,234.30 |
| Expenses through May 30, 2020 | - <u>90,011.33</u> |
| Balance | \$ 2,222.97 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Income received through May 31, 2019 (22 Sundays) | \$79,932.03 |
| Expenses through May 31, 2019 | - <u>91,880.38</u> |
| Balance | \$ -11,948.35 |

JULY HAPPENINGS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Healing Service | - Sunday, July 5, 11:45 am. |
| Worship and Music Committee | - Monday, July 20 - 7:00 pm. |
| Mission Committee | - Monday, July 20 - 7:15 pm. |
| Finance Committee | - Tuesday, July 21 - 7:00 pm. |
| Property Committee | - Tuesday, July 21 - 7:00 pm. |
| Staff Support Committee | - Tuesday, July 21 - 8:00 pm. |
| Newsletter Team | - Monday, July 27 - 9:00 am. |
| Vacation Bible School | - TBD |
| Quilters | - Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am. |
| Prayer | - Wednesdays at 12 noon |

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION HAS BEGUN FOR SOME

Home Bound Communion is available to those shut-ins who are at home. We have just begun scheduling some home visits, so if you desire to have Pastor David stop by, please call the Church Office (570)368-8933.

Nursing homes are still restricting visitors, but we are checking weekly for updates. Please contact us if you receive the good of the openings before we do, and we will get you and your loved ones scheduled as soon as possible!



HOSPITAL VISITATION HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO RESUME

If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please notify the Church Office. Please keep in mind that due to HIPAA Laws that hospitals are not permitted to contact individual’s home churches, so families, please make sure to keep us informed.

HEALING SERVICE - SUNDAY, JULY 5

The Healing service is set to resume on Sunday July 5th at 11:45 am.

TUREEN LUNCH AND GAME DAY - WILL RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

The Mission Committee is looking forward to resuming the monthly Tureen Lunches as soon as we are able to schedule them. We will share details as soon as they become available!

LIFE LINE SCREENINGS

The screening event postponed in the spring has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2020. More information will be in next month's newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

BLOODMOBILE NEWS



A Bloodmobile was held at our church on Friday, June 19. We are pleased to announce that 33 units were donated! Donations have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus, so the generosity of those who were able to donate will help make a huge difference in saving lives.

Mark your calendars: The next blood drive at Bethany - Friday September 4 from 1 - 6 pm.

If you are able, please spend a moment speaking with Betty Letscher regarding how you might help with the blood drive in the future. She has been spearheading these important efforts at Bethany, and it would be a wonderful relief for her to know that these events will be in good hands in the future!

BACKPACK BREAKFAST NEWS:

We will share the news when this program resumes again; the Montoursville School District is hoping this will occur when school opens again in the fall.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS - PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING:

Soups, canned stews, tomato sauce; cereal, oatmeal, Pop Tarts; peanut butter, jellies/jams;
canned fruits, vegetables, meats; pastas (all varieties), ramen; pickles, olives, dressings;
mac-n-cheese, microwave dishes; juices, healthy snacks; ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise.

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

The Food Pantry folks are so thankful for all of your contributions of food and financial assistance, especially during this time which has been especially difficult for many families!

SEWING MACHINES AVAILABLE

The Quilting Room has several old sewing machines, some in cabinets, looking for good homes. They haven't been used in a long time, so will need some servicing. If interested, contact Barb Winchester (570)244-6681.

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE



Equipment is available to borrow during recovering from surgery and for those who may have be experiencing difficulties. We have walkers, canes, equipment for the bathtub and commode are all available. If you have a need, please do not hesitate to talk with one of our staff!

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donations to replenish Pastor's Discretionary would be especially appreciated, as there have continued to be greater needs and requests over the last few months. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Bethany Lutheran Church, and mark the memo line: "Pastor's Fund." Thank you for your continued generosity!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS NEWS

J. Morris Smith, long-time Shepherd of the Streets, will be retiring at the end of the summer. He became the fourth Shepherd to serve this ministry in January 2000, and has served those in crisis in the area with tremendous dedication over two decades. Dr. Smith will be enjoying retirement in Missouri with his family close by and his wife, Barby, of 62 years. The United Churches greatly acknowledge his service and commitment to those whose lives have been affected by hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and with health issues. The United Churches ask for us to "join in sincere prayer and cooperation that this special ministry will continue".



Also, please consider giving financial support or donating any of the following, full sized items:

Toothpaste and toothbrushes, shaving cream and razors, shampoo and conditioner
towels and wash cloths, soap, deodorant, and combs bedding and blankets
baby items: diapers, baby shampoo, baby oil, baby Q-tips, baby wipes, baby powder
tissues, toilet paper, paper towels and women's hygiene products

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY

Yokefellow Prison Ministry is in need of volunteers. As more establishments are reopening, please consider how you could be a part of this ministry along with others? Contact the Yokefellow Office (570)326-6868 if you would like more information.

BIBLES FOR PRISON

Bibles for Prison are always needed. The Lycoming County Prison Chaplain reports that the number of inmates attending Bible study continues to grow, and requests for Bibles has increased. Donations to help buy Bibles would also be appreciated. Please mark your check "Bibles." Thank you.

PROJECT LINUS – STILL MAKING BLANKETS

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. Please bring to the Church Office.

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

We still have our special donation coat rack in the foyer area by the Broad Street glass doors. If you have a coat (or many!) for which you no longer have a need, please consider adding to our supply. We are accepting children's and adult's sizes, for all seasons, and we also have a bin for hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves. We appreciate every donation, as there continues to be a great deal of turnover. 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!

UPDATED DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE

Updated address and phone directories (purple covers) were printed in the spring and are still available at the church. If you would like one, you may pick one up at the church if you are able, or give the office a call and one can be mailed to you!

REMEMBERING OUR SENIORS AT HOME

Herbert Bright

628 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Jean Fox

2123 Robinson Rd.
Apt. 141
Jackson MI, 49203

Marjorie Gower

Elmcroft of Loyalsock
2985 Four Mile Dr.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Joan Hanner

350 Jordan Ave.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Joan Hiller

The Meadows, Room 312
2160 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Virginia Laudig

1119 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Sandra Long

Muncy Skilled Nursing
215 E Water St.
Muncy, PA 17756



Thomas Long

163 Charles Dr.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Roxie Lundy

410 Arch St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Eleanor Mellish

1246 Deerfield Dr.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Tessie Moss

12 Lutheran Home Dr.
Personal Care 220
Telford PA, PA 18969

Francis Poeth

1200 Ravine Rd.
The Ridge
Williamsport, PA 17701

Betty Rosencrans

The Meadows - Room 404
2160 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Hilary Schmouder

The Meadows - Room 111
2160 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Eleanor Shaheen

515 Rt. 405
Hughesville, PA 17737

Richard (Fred) Shultz

1275 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Darla Starr

Valley View Nursing Center
2140 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Joan Swartz

500 Pelham Dr.
Waynesboro VA, 22980

Cella Taylor

Arista Care
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754



“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.” -- George Washington

“It will be celebrated...with pomp and parade...bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other” -- John Adams

“There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself in acts of bravery and heroism.” -- Alexander Hamilton

“How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!” -- Thomas Jefferson

“Posterity – you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.” -- John Quincy Adams

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.” – Abraham Lincoln

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same...” -- Ronald Reagan

