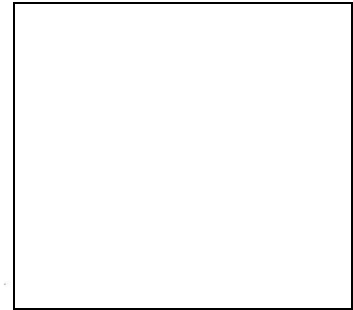
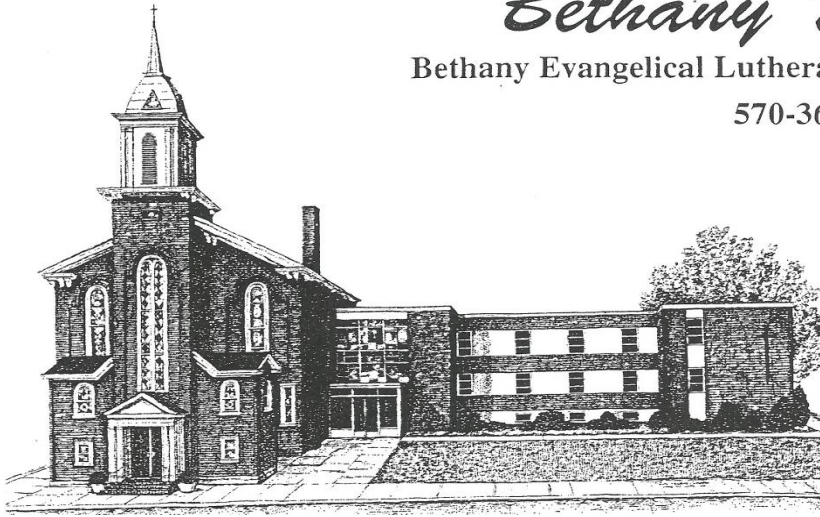


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



VOLUME 73

August 2021

NUMBER 7

GOOD BYE ☐☐☐ MUCH THANKS ☐ GOD'S BLESSINGS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Maybe you have heard the news already, but this August I will be leaving you here at Bethany as your Interim Pastor. The reasons for my leaving have to do with where I live and my wife's health. First, my wife and I live so far away in Frederick (Maryland), that I am not able to be present to you as an Interim Pastor should, and my wife's health does not allow us to continue traveling this far on a regular basis. But our Lord Jesus is so good, and Pastor Steve Shipman is able and very willing to be your Interim Pastor starting this fall.

Now, much thanks. My wife Joan and I want to thank you, God's People Bethany, for the great privilege and joy of being with you. If we were younger, we would love to serve our Lord with you. You are a wonderful people of God, and your new Pastor in the future will be most blessed to serve our Lord with you.

And yes, God's Blessings. I have a copy of your Church directory. I will pray each week for all of you until you call your new Pastor. And each week I will pray God's Word to bless you and keep you in his love and care.

In Jesus' Name,

Pastor Ray and Joan

CHURCH PICNIC & VESPERS, AUGUST 22

Bethany's Annual Church Picnic and Vespers service will be held on Sunday, August 22.



The picnic is at 4:00 pm. at Indian Park, pavilion #5.

**Please plan to bring a dish to share, table service, and beverage.
Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided.**

Vespers will then be held at 6:00 pm!

*Please make reservations for the picnic by contacting Loreen Bagwell, (570)368-3957, no later than Thursday, August 19th. ***We hope you can join us!***

OUR TUREEN DINNERS RETURN!!!

On Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm., the Women of Bethany will have a tureen dinner at the church! Broasted chicken will be served. Please bring a dish to share.

Tim Logan will have a short program.

Please make a reservation at the church office by Tue., Sept. 14th

ALL ARE WELCOME!



CARING FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WE CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH... If you are concerned about *anyone* in our church family (perhaps they haven't been answering their phone, have changed their routine, have not returned to worship, etc.) PLEASE consider giving them a call and check to see how they are doing.

WE WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO ONE FEELS ALONE or FORGOTTEN.

Taking a moment to just touch base and let someone know that you care can provide more comfort than you might ever know. We really need to be our neighbor's keeper.

**To those of you who continue keeping in touch with some of our church family that may feel isolated, your kindness is a light shining in what may seem a dark time to others ... BLESS YOU*

We also want to reiterate that if anyone needs assistance, please let the office or one of the committees know. There are a number of members who have specifically expressed their willingness to help others in the congregation, but if we are not aware of a need, we cannot fill that need.
PLEASE HELP US BY COMMUNICATING THESE NEEDS!



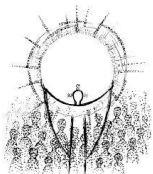
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THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Members of our congregation recently entered the Church Triumphant (Eternal Life).

- ❖ Joan Heckrote passed on July 1st, 2021
- ❖ Francis Poeth passed on July 10th, 2021

We pray for comfort and consolation for both of their families.



WARM WELCOME!

If you've had an opportunity to call or visit our church office lately, you may have been greeted by another cheerful voice...we are so happy that Mike Brouse has joined the Church Secretary "crew"! Do not ever hesitate to contact the office with any questions, concerns, or even good news (our secretaries Mike and Laura especially LOVE good news!!!) Please remember that the staff, committees, and other caring people in the church are willing and able to serve...

...when we care for our neighbor, we are sharing the Love of Christ with the World!

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS:



Here are some the highlights from the May and June meetings (there was no regular meeting in July):

- Received and accepted reports from these committees:
Christian Ed, Finance, Staff Support, Call, Worship & Music.
- A new 5 year contract with and electrical supplier has been made.
- Discussion regarding return to two services; must increase worship attendance before a return to two services is workable.
- Masking/updates - there will be no longer a mention of masking in bulletins.
- Pastor Scheck is accepting an Interim position closer to home, and will be leaving before the end of August. Pastor Shipman will be assisting with the transition.
- Possibility of a Seminary student doing an internship at Bethany later in the year.

Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, August 9th at 7:15 pm.

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RECONCILIATION OF BETHANY CHURCH FINANCES

Income: Received through May 31, 2021	(22 Sundays)	\$ 67,351.14
Expenses: " "		\$ 66,686.13
	Income over Expenses	\$ 665.01
<i>Income Received through May 31, 2020</i>	<i>(22 Sundays)</i>	<i>\$ 92,234.30</i>
<i>Expenses: " "</i>		<i>\$ 90,011.33</i>
	2020 Balance	\$ 2,222.97

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AUGUST and SEPTEMBER Happenings

- Worship and Music Committee** - Monday, August 2, 7:00 pm. (*rescheduled from July*)
- Church Council** - Monday, August 9, 7:15 pm.
- Finance Committee** (*w/Comm.Chairs*) - Tuesday, August 17, beginning at 7:00 pm.
- Church Picnic Reservations due** - Thursday, August 19 (*to Loreen Bagwell, (570)368-3957*)
- Church Picnic** - Sunday, August 22, 4:00 picnic
- Vespers** " " **6:00 pm.**
- Christian Ed Committee** - Monday, August 23, 7:00 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Tuesday, August 24, 4:00 pm.
- Newsletter Team** - Monday, August 30, 9:00 am.
-
- Labor Day** (*Office Closed*) - Monday, September 6
- Church Council** - Monday, September 13th, 7:15 pm.
- Tureen Dinner** (*reservations due*) - Tuesday, September 14, 4:30 pm.
- Bloodmobile** - Friday, September 10, 1:00-6:00 pm.
- Tureen Dinner (All Invited!)** - Monday, September 20, 5:30 pm.
- Mission Committee** - Monday, September 20, 7:15 pm.
- Property Committee** - Tuesday, September 21, 7:00 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Tuesday, September 21, 4:00 pm.
- Newsletter Team** - Monday, September 27, 9:00 am.

 *Weekly: **Quilters** - Tuesdays at 9 am. (possible addition of Thursdays in September)
 *Bi-Weekly+: **Bible Study** - 2nd, 4th (& 5th) Tuesdays at 7 pm. *starting September 14th

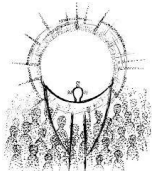
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SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for ALL CLASSES will continue through the rest of the summer months at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. The combined Adult Class will continue their study of the Gospel of John in the Seekers room.
PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO JOIN US!

MEMORIAL GIFT

A Memorial Gift was given in Memory of the Life of Joan Heckrote
By Eugene & Marian Harris



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EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

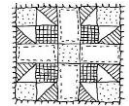


Equipment is always available to borrow during recovering from surgery and for those who may be experiencing difficulties. We have walkers, canes, equipment for the bathtub and commode are all available. Please let us know if you have any needs.

QUILTING NEWS:

They also want to extend their invitation for *YOU* to consider joining them...

"Please feel free to join us even if you don't feel you can "quilt" as there are other things to do, such as tying them or laying out squares. Also, if you knit, crochet, or anything else and would like to have a place to do your craft with the fellowship of others and space to safely spread out, consider joining us when you feel comfortable doing so.



***We are currently meeting on Tuesdays at 9:00 am., you may contact Barb Winchester or Jean Wentz for more information. Thank you for your support!"

BLOODMOBILE NEWS

The next Bloodmobile scheduled at Bethany on Friday, September 10th, 2021 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm.



Thank You to ALL who participated in the collection on June 18th. We had 35 donors visiting, and they were able to collect 32 lifesaving UNITS!!!!

--Special thanks to Denise Bergenstock for coordinating the efforts here at Bethany, and to Bev, Deb, Fred, and Jonah for volunteering their time to assist.

Great things happen when we work together!

Please contact Denise Bergenstock at (570) 323-2984 if you are able to assist with our next event.

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HOME COMMUNION AVAILABLE!

Home Communion is now 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

We are always grateful for additions to our supply. We accept children's and adult's sizes, and have a bin for hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves. 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.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

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 still collecting winter hats, gloves, and scarves to share with the Shepherd of the streets.





UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY - UPDATE:

From the newest United Churches' News, the Food Pantry coordinator, Mona Rudio shares this:

"The following is a list of the items of which we are most in need:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| soups | Juices and drinks | Pasta & Sauce |
| Peanut butter/jelly | Ketchup/mustard/mayo | Fruit Cups |
| Cake mixes & icings | Healthy snacks | Side dishes |

You may drop off items at the 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 in the May United Churches' News:

"Many clients visit us each month to receive a hygiene kit. We believe that our kits help to free up limited financial resources so that they can be used to care for other needs."

Their current, immediate hygiene needs are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| --Laundry pods | --Dish detergent |
| --Shampoo and conditioner | |

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 will be continuing - the school year will be starting up soon!

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); Multigrain Bars; Breakfast Bars; Pop Tarts; Belvita Breakfast Biscuits (1.76 oz.); Cereal Bars (individually packaged). *Thank You for your blessings of these donations for our local families!*



MISSIONS EXPO 2021!

There will be a collaborative, multi-ministry event to pack a variety of humanitarian and ministry aid through October 18-23, 2021 at the First United Methodist Church in Muncy...exact dates/times/sessions throughout that week will be announced in the coming weeks – Stay Tuned!



Bethany is again a collection site for Christian literature and MORE...our congregation responded in such a positive way last year that we were asked again to participate by donating items and by serving as one of the collection sites around the community!

Look for the donation box outside of the office, or call the church office if you would like someone to pick up items at your home!

DIAL A DEVOTION - (570)322-5762

Devotions are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, are three minutes or less, change daily, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk With God" even when many of us are practicing social distancing!

<u>CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE:</u>	9:00 am. to 4:30 pm., Monday through Thursday
(570)368-8933	email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com <i>*this email can reach ALL STAFF</i>
<u>IN AN EMERGENCY:</u>	Larry/Sharon Barnard (570)435-5408
	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



♥♥♥♥♥ *During this time, still many of our members and friends may feel isolated and lonely. PLEASE consider making a phone call or writing quick note or card someone you've had on your heart... It WILL MAKE AN IMMENSE DIFFERENCE ♥♥♥♥♥*

REMEMBERING OUR SENIORS AT HOME

Jean Fox

2123 Robinson Rd.
Apt. 141
Jackson MI, 49203



Eleanor Shaheen

515 Rt. 405
Hughesville, PA 17737

Marjorie Gower

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

Sandra Long

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

Richard (Fred) Shultz

1275 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Julie Griffiths

Thornwald Home
442 Walnut Bottom Rd
Carlisle, PA, 17013-3799

Thomas Long

163 Charles Dr.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Darla Starr

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

Joan Hanner

350 Jordan Ave.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Eleanor Mellish

1246 Deerfield Dr.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Joan Swartz

500 Pelham Dr.
Waynesboro VA, 22980

Joan Hiller

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

Betty Rosencrans

885 King St.
Northumberland, PA 17857

Cella Taylor

Embassy of Loyalsock
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Virginia Laudig

1119 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

*****Margaret Ryan**

305 East Tressler Blvd.
Room 308
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Paul Wertman

275 West Lincoln St.,
Muncy, PA 17756

***** NEW ADDITION ♥**

NEW ADDRESS to SHARE

For anyone wishing to send a note of care, Marie Franquet has shared her new address with us! She can be reached at:

☞ Marie Franquet
3 Laurie Dr.
Shippensburg, PA 17257

PLEASE contact the office if we need to add anyone to this list AND if you know of ANY address changes

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Our Newsletter "Team" will meet on Monday, August 30th at 9:00 am. If you would like to submit an item to be included, please call (570)368-8933, drop off submission at the

Service Assistants

August - September 2021

9:00 am. Service



Please help us by trading with someone and calling the church office if for any reason you are unable to serve at (570)368-8933. **If you are unable to find a substitute, please also call the office so we can assist.** Thank You.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

August: Gail Stover & **ANOTHER VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

September: Jean Beard; Margaret Shultz

October: Jamie Brouse; Ruth Kissell

COMMUNION COMMITTEE

August: Marian Harris & **ANOTHER VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

September: Andrea Ryan; Tim and Brenda Logan

October: Loreen Bagwell & **ANOTHER VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

GREETING CARDS August: Marian Harris

September: Yvonne Sechler

October: Jane Leiter

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Aug. 1 : Karen Paulhamus	Yvonne Sechler
Aug. 8: Michael Brouse	Barbara Winchester
Aug. 15: Dave Neidig	Karen Paulhamus
Aug. 22: Tim Logan	Wes Miller
Aug. 29: Kim Fremberg	Tracy Rhian
Sept. 5: Mike Stover	Gail Stover
Sept. 12: Michael Brouse	Karen Paulhamus
Sept. 19: Larry Barnard	Barbara Winchester
Sept. 26: Gary Inch	Yvonne Sechler
Oct. 3: David Neidig	Tim Logan

LAY READERS

Aug. 1: Ruth Lundy
 Aug. 8: Michael Brouse
 Aug. 15: Dave Neidig
 Aug. 22: Ruth Lundy
 Aug. 29: Kim Fremberg
 Sept. 5: Mike Stover
 Sept. 12: Michael Brouse
 Sept. 19: Larry Barnard
 Sept. 26: Gary Inch
 Oct. 3: David Neidig

LOCK-UP

Aug.1: Charles Lichter
 Aug. 8: Philip Oechler
 Aug.15: Denice Palmeter
 Aug.22: Thomas Gower
 Aug. 29: David Grube
 Sept. 5: Charles Lichter
 Sept. 12: Philip Oechler
 Sept. 19: Denice Palmeter
 Sept. 26: Thomas Gower
 Oct. 3: David Grube

USHERS

August 1: Deb Harman; Fred Paulhamus; Beverly Brown; Michael Brouse
 August 8: Philip Oechler; Gary Oechler; Jay Stably
 August 15: Jay Stably; Tracy Rhian; Thomas Gower
 August 22: Richard Hillegas; Michael Brouse; Gary Inch
 August 29: Michael & Gail Stover; Glenn Kaufman
 September 5: Deb Harman; Fred Paulhamus; Beverly Brown; Michael Brouse
 September 12: Philip Oechler; Gary Oechler; Jay Stably
 September 19: Jay Stably; Tracy Rhian; Thomas Gower
 September 26: Richard Hillegas; Michael Brouse; Gary Inch
 October 3: Michael & Gail Stover; Glenn Kaufman

****FYI - some teams have changed***

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PLEASE: Contact the office if your status regarding attending services changes.

Your Help is Greatly Needed. Thank You.