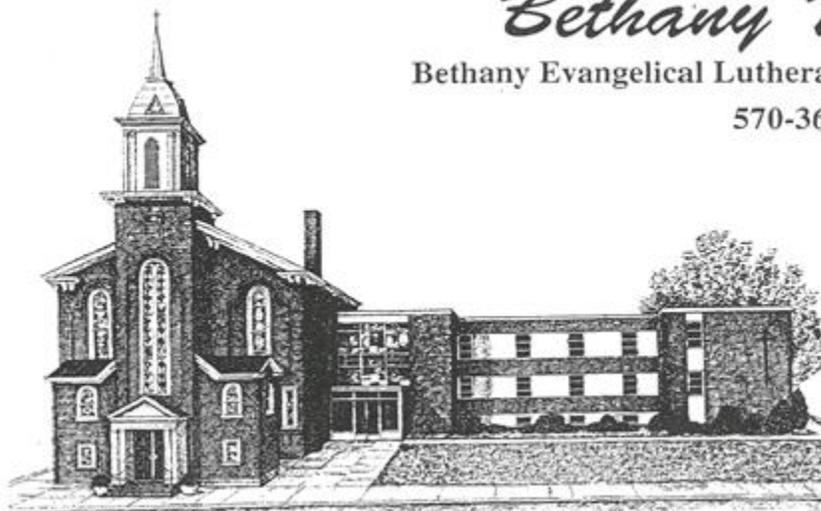


Bethany Messenger

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

VOLUME 74

November 2022

NUMBER 11

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

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Pg.1 COVER PAGE**
- Pg.2 MESSAGE FROM REV. STEVE SHIPMAN**
- Pg.3 COUNCIL UPDATE -**
- Pg.4 WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PENN STATE STUDENTS**
- Pg.5 MINISTRY UPDATE**
- Pg.5 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING / LUNCHEON**
- Pg.6 ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE / ENRICHMENT RESOURCES**
- Pg.7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
- Pg.8 SAMARITANS PURSE - Operation Christmas Child (deadline Nov. 6th)**
- Pg.9 SIMPLY GIVING**
- Pg.10 RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE / SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS**
- Pg.11 HARVEST OF HOPE**
- Pg.12 MISSION PROJECTS** – Backpack Breakfast News - Equipment available, Home Communion, Need A Coat, Take A Coat- Leave One, Project Linus, United Churches Food Pantry
- Pg.13 BIBLE STUDY** – John McArthur's Twelve Unlikely Heroes (2ND Chapter Sept. 27th Joseph: Because God Meant it for Good) Oct. 11th and 25th at 7:00pm
- Pg. 14 Nov. CALENDAR**

Message from Rev. Steve Shipman

An ancient hymn begins, “In the midst of life we are in death.” It is easy to forget that the opposite is even more true: In the midst of death we are in life. While death may seem to be the end of everything, as disciples of Jesus we know that death does not have the last word. Jesus has the last word, and his word is the victory of life over death.

All Saints’ Day has been one of the most meaningful festivals of the church year to me, going back to my early years at Zion Lutheran in Sunbury. It was a big deal to hear the names of the faithful departed announced in the liturgy, especially when they were people I knew and occasionally family members. Even that litany of “12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali; 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh” and onward moved me for some weird reason.

It is tempting to look around us and focus on the onward march of death. Values that once were important to us seem to have been abandoned, shootings of innocent people barely make the newscasts, young people take their own lives intentionally or by drug overdoses. Even churches seem to be dying as fewer people under 50 feel any need to be involved.

The message of the Gospel is that in the midst of death we are in life. Ancient Israel on numerous occasions seemed to be doomed, and yet we are still blessed with Jewish friends and neighbors. Again and again the end of Christianity has been proclaimed, and yet the Gospel still goes forth and people still believe, although as Luther once quipped, the Gospel doesn’t stay in the same place for more than a hundred years.

God’s purposes are not frustrated by the power of death. The God who raised the crucified Jesus has an eternal plan and purpose, for each one of us and for His whole creation. The end will not be the end, but a wonderful new beginning.

The purpose of a Christian funeral is not to “celebrate life,” unless by that phrase you mean celebrating the eternal life Jesus gives to those who die in faith. It is not to look backwards on a life now ended but forward to the glorious new life which is ours in the Lord who promised, “Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” A funeral service witnesses to the faith of the deceased and invites others to share that faith and live by the promises of Christ.

Just so All Saints is not a sad time to focus on those who are no longer with us in this earthly existence, but a joyous time to celebrate the glories the Lord has prepared for them and for us. We live in the midst of death knowing that the reality of life has the last word. Because Jesus is risen, we live by hope and are set free to love God and to love one another.

In the midst of death we are in life. Thanks be to God for His great victory.

Steve Shipman

Interim Pastor

prsteveshipman@gmail.com or 570-916-7780



CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS: THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S LAST MEETING ON MONDAY OCTOBER 17TH ,2022

October Reports are posted outside the church office

*Christian Education
Mission Committee
Worship and Music
Staff Support*

Treasurers Report

2022 Congregation Officers:

Dave Grube – President Mike Stover – Vice President Nicole Carey – Secretary

Council Members:, Jamie Brouse, Michael Brouse, Richard Hillegas, Glenn Kaufman, Weston Miller, David Neidig, Philip Oechler, Kathie Snauffer, Gail Stover, Michael Stover

Council will hold its next meeting Monday November 21th at 7:15pm

Income & Expenses through September 2022

<i>2022 Income</i>	<i>\$96,364.45</i>
<i>2022 Expenses</i>	<i><u>133,976.45</u></i>
<i>Expenses Over Income</i>	<i>-\$37,612.00</i>

CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE: 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm., Monday through Thursday
(570)368-8933 & email: 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

BETHANY'S WEB SITE: www.BethanyNALC.org

BETHANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org

**Worship Opportunities for Penn State Students -
Spread the word! Greetings from Emmanuel
Lutheran Church of State College,**

Penn State has begun a new school year. We're writing to ask you to let your Penn State University-bound students and families know that there is an NALC congregation located just 2 blocks from campus! Emmanuel would be delighted to welcome them to Happy Valley and to support your students over the course of their studies here.

If your students happen to have move-in or transportation needs, or would simply like to meet a few more friendly faces as they move to a new town, we'd like to help. We know how important local connections are, and we hope we can play a role in making your students' college experience positive and faith affirming.

We'd also like to start building relationships with students' families now, so they can rest assured there's a place of worship available to them when visiting for Parents' Weekends, football games, stops at Berkey Creamery, or anything else that may bring them our way.

To that end, please share our contact information with any incoming students and families you may have in your congregation. They can reach us at our website, www.emmanuelnalc.org, by email at info@emmanuelnalc.org, or by phone at **814-826-1352**. We hope to welcome them soon!

In Christ, Pr. Logan Wilmoth

Emmanuel Lutheran Church State College, PA *God With Us!*

www.emmanuelNALC.org

MINISTRY UPDATES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendars: The Annual Congregational Meeting for Bethany will be held **December 11, 2022** at 1PM. following a fellowship meal of "Soup and Sandwiches" at noon. The church will provide the soup, sandwiches, drink, and table service. A salad or desert from anyone wishing to bring one would be appreciated. A family friendly movie will be shown after the meeting for all who wish to stay. We hope you will plan to attend for a time of fellowship with each other and to help determine the future of Bethany. Please sign up on the sheet in the main entrance by **December 4** so we know how to plan.

HARVEST HOME: *It is time to give thanks for the many blessings God has provided! You may bring cash or non-perishable items (if in cans, please have regular size only). Cash will be sent to Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, and canned goods will be given to the Food Pantry.*

Take a Coat Leave a Coat:

Just a reminder that the cold temperatures of the winter are not that far away and our 'Take a Coat, Leave a Coat' ministry is quite sparse. Please keep this ministry in mind as you clean out your closets.

NEW Books in the Library:

With the cooler months ahead, many of us will find ourselves stuck in doors with little to do. If you enjoy reading, please stop by the Bethany Library and check out many of the new books recently donated by Pastor Forsythe and his wife. We are thankful for their donation!

We are contacting the saints of Bethany!

Vicar Megan has been making phone calls to members of Bethany who we have not seen or heard from in a while to check in on them and to update records. If there are individuals and families whose absence you have noted, please let Vicar Megan know. She would like to make sure any lambs who need care are being cared for! She is finding that many of the phone numbers we have had for members are no longer in service. If you have time to share any updated information you have, that would be very appreciated!

- Deadline for returning Christmas Child Shoeboxes is November 6th 2022.

**- Donation Drop Off Box is located in the hall outside of the church office.
Thank you for your support of these great missions!**

- Tureen lunches have returned Nov. 20th, Dec. 18th .

Attitude of Gratitude

Thank You to everyone helping with moving the organ to the chapel! Bill Clees, Flip Oechler, Ray Bomboy, Rev.Dennis Smith, Gifford Tebbs.

D

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.

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/ - Daily Texts and Reflections for Study.

*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.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6TH IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On this day, we thank God for the lives and witness of all Christians, both living and dead. We pray God's continued blessing upon His Saints Militant (those living) as well as those Saints Triumphant (those who have died) since last All Saint's Day. We will commend their souls to the Lord's love at our service this day. These members of Bethany have entered life during the past year. We thank God for their lives among us. May God bless their memory to us.

Jay Stabley 11/24/21

Virginia Laudig 12/31/ 21

Jean Twigg (former Bethany member) 4/11/22

Fred Shultz 4/28/22

Sandy Long 5/23/22

Brian Reeder 9/8/22

Barbara Clark 9/8/22

Susan McGrew 10/7/22

Carmen Kremser 10/27/22

Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The Mission Committee is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child again this year. This Samaritan's Purse project collects shoebox gifts - filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items - and delivers them to children in need around the world. We feel it's a beautiful opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and make some little boy or girl - who in many cases never before received a gift of any kind - very happy!

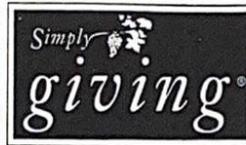
If you'd be willing to help by filling one or more shoeboxes, they are available in the church office along with a brochure listing ideas of what is or is not appropriate to pack. Items should be new (or look new) but may be removed from their packages to facilitate packing. Handmade items are also welcome. If shopping is not your thing or you are not able to shop but could contribute funds, just leave your donation in the church office and the committee will be happy to do the shopping for you.

Deadline for returning boxes to the church office is Sunday, Nov 7. If possible, include \$10.00 per box for postage. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse with a note on the memo line that it's for Operation Christmas Child. Donations to fill boxes can be made out to Bethany Lutheran Church, memo- items for shoeboxes.

We filled 25 boxes last year. Wouldn't it be great if we could do even better this year!

Thank You

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: _____

Red Cross Bloodmobile

Upcoming Dates:

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.

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"

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)
- Boxed Cereal (Individual, 1.5-2 oz)
- Multigrain Bars; Breakfast Bars; Pop Tarts; Belvita Breakfast Biscuits (1.76 oz.)
- Cream of Wheat (1-2 oz. packets)
- Cereal Bars (individually packaged)

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.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

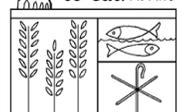
The Food Pantry currently is blessed with an abundance of food, but that will probably change as we go into the fall. They are beginning to prepare for the upcoming holidays, and are also beginning to distribute gift cards (\$5-\$10) to each client so that they are also able to purchase if they need 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
- Rice
- Condiments
- Pop Tarts
- Hamburger Helper
- Potatoes
- Jello & Pudding mixes
- Pie Filling

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



Tuesday Night Bible Study Resumes

You are invited

Tuesday night Bible Study begins September 13th in the Social Hall.

We gather at 7:00 for a snack and fellowship, study the lesson from 7:30 to 8:30 and close with prayer.

We meet the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays of each month except we do break for the summer.

This year, the text is John MacArthur's Twelve Unlikely Heroes.

Each session looks at an individual such as Enoch, Esther, or John Mark. We examine what was special about them, how God used them, and what God's Word about them says to us, today.

If you are interested, and have not already signed up, books may be purchased by calling Sharon Fox Barnard at 570-435-5408.

