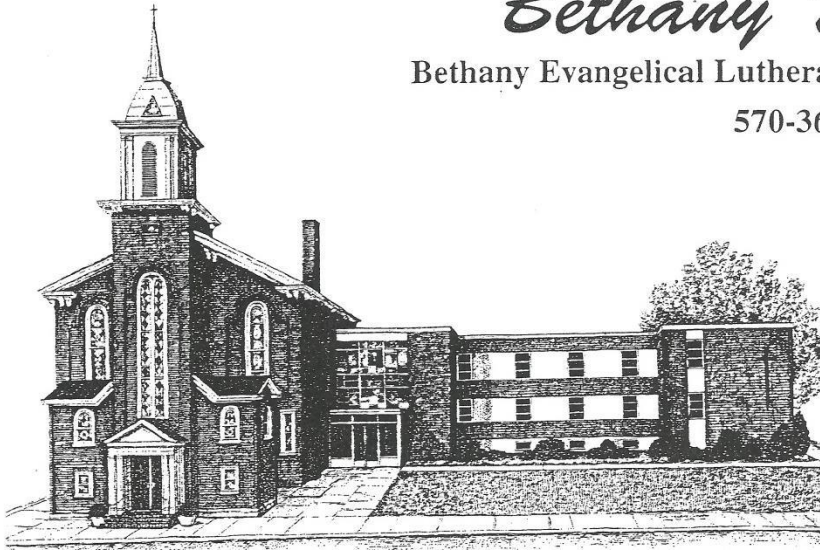


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



Mrs. Laura D. Schreckengast
Church Secretary

Mrs. Mary Paulhamus
Director of Church Music

Mrs. Deborah A. Harman
Sexton

VOLUME 72

November 2020

NUMBER 11



I Do Not Treasure Man-Made Things

I do not treasure man-made things
Like objects owned by wealthy kings,

Nor do I seek a life of fame,
Forgetting friends in fortune's name

The earthly gifts which money buys
Are made for fools and not the wise,

But give me mountains, lakes, and streams
Great worlds of Gods to fill my dreams.

The grass of green and trees galore
Where flowers bloom forevermore;

A sky of blue and shining sun –
There let me dwell 'til life is done,

And someday when life's book shall close,
I'll be content with what I chose.

- Anton J. Stoffle

CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE: 9:00 am. to 4:30 pm., Monday through Thursday
 (570)368-8933 email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com

IN AN EMERGENCY: Laura Schreckengast (570)772-4752 cell phone (call or text)
 Larry/Sharon Barnard (570)435-5408
 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

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Church Council met on October 12th



- Rev. Shipman and Rev. McGettigan were unable to attend as planned, but are hoping to meet with Council virtually before the November Council meeting. --
- Received and accepted reports from these committees:
 Staff Support, Worship and Music, and the Pastor's Report.
- Revised the list of names for a Call Committee - to be voted on at the Congregational Meeting.
- Completed the second reading of the 2021 Mission Plan.
- Decided on Nominating Committee for 2021 Council – to be voted on at Cong. Meeting.
- Decided on the date for Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, December 6 at approximately 10:15 am. (immediately following the worship service)
The Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, November 9 at 7:15 pm.

RECONCILIATION OF BETHANY CHURCH FINANCES

Income Received through September 30, 2020 (39 Sundays)	\$ 148,826.64
Expenses through September 30, 2020	<u>\$ 162,373.83</u>
Balance	\$ -13,547.19
Income Received through September 3, 2019 (39 Sundays)	\$ 149,574.17
Expenses through September 30, 2019	<u>\$ 158,657.30</u>
Balance	\$ -9,083.13

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

- Healing Service** - Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:45 am.
- Christian Ed Committee** - Monday, Nov. 2, 7:00 pm. (*rescheduled*)
- Church Council** - Monday, Nov. 9, 7:15 pm.
- Veteran's Day** - *Wednesday, Nov. 11*
- Bloodmobile** - Friday, Nov. 13, 1 - 6 pm.
- Mission Committee** - Monday, Nov. 16, 7:15 pm.
- Property Committee** - Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:00 pm.
- Worship & Music Committee** - Monday, Nov. 23, 7:00 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Tuesday, Nov. 17
- Newsletter Team** - **Monday, Nov. 23**, 9:00 am.
- Blessed Thanksgiving** - *Office Closed - Thursday, Nov. 26*
-
- Congregational Meeting** - **Sunday, Dec. 6, 10:15 am.**
- Healing Service** - Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:45 am.
- Women of Bethany** - Monday, Dec. 7, 1:00 pm.

- Church Council** - Monday, Dec. 14, 7:15 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Thursday, Dec. 17, noon
- Special Programs** - Sunday, Dec. 20 - **To Be Determined** *
 *Sun. School Christmas Program, Tureen Lunch & Game Day, Christmas Caroling
- Mission Committee** - Monday, Dec. 21, 7:15 pm.
- Christmas Eve Services - Thursday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm. & 10:00 pm.**
- Christmas – Joy to the World** - Friday, Dec. 25
- Newsletter Team** - **TUESDAY, Dec. 29**, 9:00 am.
- Deadline for 2020 Offering** - Thursday, Dec. 31, 12:00 pm.
- ***Weekly: Quilters** - Tuesdays and at Thursdays 9 am.
- ***Bi-Weekly+: Bible Study** – 2nd, 4th (& 5th) Tuesdays at 7 pm.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:

The Tuesday Night Bible Study - 2nd, 4th, (and 5th) Tuesdays of each month!
Gather at 7:00 pm. in Fellowship Hall for coffee, class from 7:30 – 8:30 pm., followed by prayer.
The study is open to ALL! If interested, please contact Sharon Barnard at (570)435-5408.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is hospitalized (or will be), PLEASE notify the Church Office. With Pastor Letscher’s retirement, we will have some coverage for our members’ needs, so please make sure to get information to our church office. **Good Communication is always important, but will be vital and especially appreciated during these weeks/months of transition!**

BLOODMOBILE NEWS



A Bloodmobile will be held at our church on **Friday, November 13 from 1 – 6 pm.**
You are encouraged to register online or by phone: RedCrossBlood.org
(800)733-2767, and if possible, do the pre-donation screening and health history online at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

We were so grateful to be informed that the Blood Drive on September 12th netted a total of 27 pints, (including 21 whole pints and 3 doubles) which exceeded the goal of 25 pints! We also want to acknowledge all the time and effort that Betty Letscher has contributed over the years in making these drives run smoothly at Bethany; we appreciate all she has done!

The generosity of everyone who contributes their gifts of time, support, and/or blood truly makes a huge difference in saving lives!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS NEWS

Thanks to the loving generosity of many in our community, the Shepherd has reported that there has been an outpouring of support for their ministry! As there are still so many in need during this trying time, they are praying that the generosity can continue!



Please consider giving financial support or donating any of the following on this updated list:

- Band-Aids, Hand/Body Lotion, bedding – new or gently used (Q or K)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes, shaving cream and razors, shampoo and conditioner towels
- and wash cloths, blankets soap, deodorant, brushes, combs
- facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels; women's hygiene products
- baby items: diapers, Baby specific: shampoo, oil, Q-tips, wipes, powder; **pull ups (Sz 1-6, esp. 3-6);**

ALSO: Adult diapers (sz. Med., Large, X-Lg., especially Medium)

Donated items can be brought to the church; financial donations can be put in the collection plate – please designate “Shepherd” or “Shepherd of the Streets”

BACKPACK BREAKFAST NEWS:



The Backpack Program Continues! They are planning on having 120 students from October to the end of year, and then they are hoping to resume having the "full supply of 150 students" beginning in January of 2021.

Please consider donating: 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). *They are incredibly grateful for each and every donation!*

ANOTHER OPTION TO EXPERIENCE SUNDAY WORSHIP!

If you are unable to attend worship on Sundays and do not have access to a computer or the internet, there are a number of MP3 players (the modern version of the recordable cassette player) that are available from the church for those who would like to borrow them. Each week the audio of the Sunday service is recorded onto them, and then the devices can be picked up at the church OR we can deliver them to you!!!! Please contact the office if you are interested!

LOOKING FORWARD - DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



If you would like something to be included in the next newsletter, we would love to make that happen! Please keep in mind that with the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline is Tuesday, November 17th. You may reach us at (570)368-8933, secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com, or drop off the article/submission at the office.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



A Mission Committee project again this year is to fill as many Christmas shoeboxes as possible for Operation Christmas Child.

Shoeboxes are still available in the church office along with a brochure listing ideas of what is appropriate to pack. If you are unable or would rather not shop, you are welcome to 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, November 8th. If possible, include \$9 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.

Last year we filled 22 boxes. Let's see if we can't do even better this year!

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY:

To assist families who now have children home more often while parents are working, they are asking for food that can be easily prepared by younger children. **updated in October*

Canned Foods (meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, etc); Spaghetti O's & Chef Boyardee Meals; Dinty Moore Meals; easy to make & microwavable meals; cereals and oatmeals;

Thanksgiving items – filling, cranberry sauce, etc.

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

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 tell a staff member if you have a need!

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.



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.

PROJECT LINUS – STILL MAKING BLANKETS

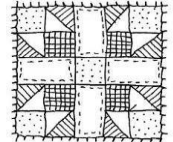
We are still sharing our knitting, crocheting, and quilting gifts with others by making blankets of all sizes (baby, children, adult) for those with cancer or going through traumatic experiences at hospitals. You may bring these items to the Church Office.

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

As winter will soon be upon us, our special donation coat rack is getting a bit bare! If you have a coat (or many!) for which you no longer need, please consider adding to our supply. We are accepting children's and adult's sizes; we also 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!

QUILTING NEWS

Our hard-working quilters are creating a special project that will have the potential of sharing even more warmth and love with those who are suffering AND will allow one very lucky person to win a very special lap quilt they are crafting! There will be a raffle with all proceeds going to purchasing more supplies to make the quilts they work on throughout the year. Be on the lookout over the next few weeks for more information; their goal is to have the giveaway in early December!



OPPORTUNITY FOR MUSICIANS

If you are a musician who might be longing to create music with others (following Covid safety protocols) we have an opportunity for you. We would love to try to get a small group of instrumentalists together to play some VERY SIMPLE (early Jr. High rhythms and ranges!) Christmas tunes, with the *possibility* of playing together sometime during the Christmas/Epiphany season. We might even be able to find a few instruments to borrow if you no longer have your own.



If you might be interested and want to find out *MORE*, please contact Laura in our church office for more information (570)368-8933. *Let us make a Joyful Noise!*



STANDARD TIME RESUMES

On Saturday night, October 31st we will be "Falling Back"- gaining an extra hour of sleep as we return to Standard Time...so remember to set your clocks *back* and enjoy the refreshment of some extra rest before Sunday, November 1st!

*In your hearts, set apart
Christ as Lord. Always*

be prepared to give an answer to everyone who

asks you give the reason for



the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

- 1 Peter 3:15

Count

Count your blessings instead of your crosses
Count your gains instead of your losses
Count your joys instead of your woes
Count your friends instead of your foes
Count your smiles instead of your tears
Count your courage instead of your fears
Count your full years instead of your lean
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean
Count your health instead of your wealth
Count on God instead of yourself

Your Blessings

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

Julie Griffiths

Heritage Springs Memory
Care, Room 220 878
Old Cement Rd.
Muncy, PA 17756

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

James McCloskey

Emmanuel Center 600
Schoolhouse Rd.
Danville, PA 17821

Tessie Moss

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

Francis Poeth

Williamsport Home
Rm. 513
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Betty Rosencrans 885

King St.
Northumberland, PA
17857

Hilary Schmuoder 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

PLEASE contact the office if someone should be on this list and isn't!

❧ NOTES of GRATITUDE ❧

❧ *Thanks so Much for the Flowers – they made our week great!*



- *Chris & Marie Franquet*

✠

☞ *Thank you for the altar flowers, the anniversary and get well cards, the prayers and the support. A special THANK YOU for the gas cards. It is all very much appreciated. - Mike & Jamie Brouse*