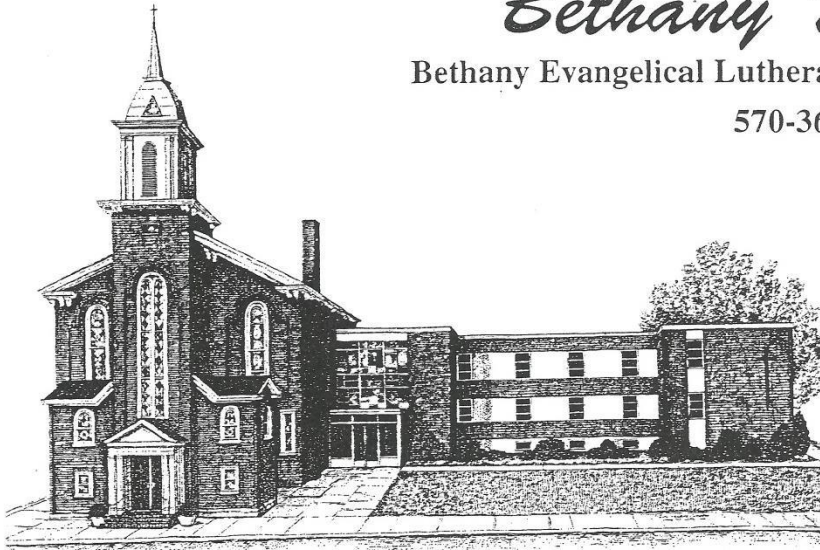


Bethany Messenger

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

December 2020

NUMBER 12

O, COME, O, COME EMMANUEL

On Sunday, November 29th, we begin the Season of Advent. Always a time of great anticipation for our Christian family, this year it has an even deeper significance as we face challenges that can take our focus away from the One for whom we are waiting, the One who saves us all. From the Prayers of the Day in the LBW, the Second Sun. of Advent:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By His coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

✠ ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ✠

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 6, 2020, immediately following the 9:00 am. Worship service. Among items of business will be the election of Council members, approval of the 2021 Budget, and determination of a Call Committee. Every active (those who have communed and contributed directly to Bethany [rather than to a charity *through the church*]) and confirmed member of Bethany is encouraged to attend and help direct the affairs of our congregation.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP

For those who are unable to attend Sunday worship and do not have access to a computer or the internet, there are MP3 players (the modern equivalent of the tape recorder!) available to borrow. Each week the audio of the Sunday service is recorded onto them, 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.*

<u>CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE:</u>	9:00 am. to 4:30 pm., Monday through Thursday (570)368-8933 email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com
<u>IN AN EMERGENCY:</u>	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
	<u>BETHANY'S WEB SITE:</u> www.BethanyNALC.org
<u>BETHANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE:</u> www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org	

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Church Council met on November 9th



- Received and accepted reports from:
Treasurer, Christian Ed Committee, Finance Committee, Mission Committee.
- PPP Loan (Cares Act) forgiveness was approved by the bank.
- Quote was approved to repair the sound system with financing from memorial fund.
- Annual Congregational Meeting agenda will be same as 2019 with the addition of Call Committee elections.

The Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, December 14 at 7:15 pm.

RECONCILIATION OF BETHANY CHURCH FINANCES

Income Received through October 31, 2020	(43 Sundays)	\$ 160,761.13
Expenses through October 31, 2020		<u>\$ 171,347.95</u>
Balance		\$ -10,586.82

Income Received through October 31, 2019	(43 Sundays)	\$ 163,362.02
Expenses through October 31, 2019		<u>\$ 177,085.76</u>
Balance		\$ -13,723.74

DECEMBER & JANUARY HAPPENINGS

- 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.
- Sunday School Christmas Program**- Sunday, Dec. 13, 10:30 am.
- Church Council** - Monday, Dec. 14, 7:15 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Wednesday, Dec. 16, 4:00 pm.
- Newsletter Team** - Monday, Dec. 21, 9:00 am.
- Christmas Eve Services** - **Thursday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm. & 10:00 pm.**
- Christmas – Joy to the World* - Friday, Dec. 25
- Church Office Closed** - Monday, Dec. 28
- Deadline for 2020 Offering** - **Thursday, Dec. 31 at Noon**

- Healing Service** - Sunday, Jan. 3, 11:45 am.
- Church Council** - Monday, Jan. 11, 7:15 pm.
- Mission Committee** - Monday, Jan. 18, 7:15 pm.
- Deadline - Newsletter items** - Tuesday, Jan. 19, 4:00 pm.
- Finance Committee** - Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:00 pm.
- Property Committee** - Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:00 pm.

Staff Support Committee - Tuesday, Jan. 19, 8:00 pm.
Newsletter Team - Monday, Jan. 25, 9:00 pm.
Worship & Music Committee - Monday, Jan. 25, 7:00 pm.

* **Weekly: Quilters** - Tuesdays and at Thursdays 9 am.
* **Bi-Weekly+: Bible Study** – 2nd, 4th (& 5th) Tuesdays at 7 pm.

OFFERING DEADLINE – All donations for 2020 must be received by the church office by noon, on Thursday, December 31st. All monies received after that time will be credited to 2021. *Thank You.*

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES – Money contributed in the Thanksgiving and Christmas envelopes will be given to charities to help those less fortunate. If you do not wish your contribution to go to these charities, please mark the envelope with the words “Regular Fund” so we may honor your wishes.

*The staff of Bethany wishes our congregation a safe
& blessed Christmas... God Bless One and All!*

WOMEN OF BETHANY WILL MEET - DECEMBER 7th 1:00 pm.

The Women of Bethany will be gathering together on Monday, December 7th at 1:00 pm. They will have their regular meeting and will be packing goodie boxes for our Shut-Ins. Ruthie Kissell will be doing devotions.
We hope you can join us!

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 vital and appreciated!**

BLOODMOBILE NEWS



The Friday, Nov. 13th Bloodmobile was very successful – there were 35 blood donors and 31 total units collected! The Red Cross team from Scranton was very appreciative of everyone involved in this lifesaving endeavor! Special Thanks goes out to Denise Bergenstock, who has stepped up to fill the very experienced shoes of our Betty Letscher(!), Deb Harman who does 100 *behind the scenes things for every drive*, and all the other individuals who contributed in so many meaningful ways – *Share with God's people who are in need.* - *Romans 12:13* Thank You All for positively affecting others in ways you cannot even imagine!

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 will be continuing into 2021! They is a possibility that they will resume increasing back to the 150 students, so they are counting on our continued support!

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!*

LOOKING FORWARD - JANUARY 2021 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 Christmas, the deadline is Tuesday, January 19th; the “Newsletter “Team” will do their work collating and stuffing on Monday, January 25th. You may reach us at (570)368-8933, secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com , or drop off the articles and submissions at the office.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

Thanks to the generosity of a number of members, the Church Women United’s annual Christmas Stockings to Nursing Homes campaign received \$121.00 from our members toward their 1,125 stockings for nursing home residents! Thanks goes to everyone who supported this beautiful effort of sharing God’s love with our area residents!



SAMARITAN’S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are thrilled to report that we surpassed our goal from last year – we filled and collected funds to send **twenty-five boxes this year!** We are so grateful for everyone who contributed to the gifts and shipping, did shopping and packing, demonstrated their crafting skills, and those who organized and made deliveries! What a beautiful gift for those children who will receive love from someone far away showing God’s Love!

For those who participated this year, we have been given some colorful “I Packed a Shoebox!” stickers in the church office if you’d like a sticker to remember your efforts...stickers are available in the office – make sure to contact us!

EXPERIENCE MISSIONS – CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AND BIBLE COLLECTION

A huge “Thank You” goes to everyone who made donations of bibles and literature for this collection activity. Bethany sent more than 15 boxes and bags of materials to the collection event, where they were a part of nearly TEN TONS of literature and 3,500 bibles going out to spread the Gospel around the world! They joined 100,000 nutritious meals heading to Haiti; 225 packs of supplies for Syrian



EXPERIENCE MISSIONS
 Get Involved • Be Inspired

refugees; 1,000 school kits for Christian Aid Ministries; and 48,000 collard green and green squash seeds going to pastors all over the world! Any additional literature items dropped at the church can be stored until the next event, with bibles being again distributed to the prisons. Thank You for making a *world* of difference!

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY:

To assist families who are struggling with job loss and illness, this is an opportunity to care for their basic needs *and* give them a small way to celebrate the holidays, they are asking for food from the updated list below: **updated in November* Canned Foods (beans, meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, etc); cereals and oatmeals; healthy snacks & popcorn: sugar & sweeteners; coffee, tea, hot chocolate; pop tarts; egg noodles & ramen noodles; dried potatoes; flour; condiments; holiday items – filling, cranberry sauce, etc. *You may drop off items at the church and they will be delivered to the pantry!*

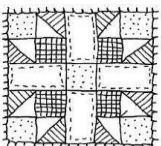
PROJECT LINUS & SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

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

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

As winter is almost upon us, our special donation coat rack needs some help! 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:



LAP QUILT RAFFLE! FINISHED AND ON DISPLAY – DRAWING ON DEC. 13

This special event benefits quilting projects through the year, including Lutheran World Relief, Linus Blankets, and others projects for those in need. The quilt is a beautiful, warm, hand crafted heirloom quality lap quilt that would make a beautiful gift for a loved one (or for yourself)! Tickets - available before & after worship service, & in the office during the week.

Tickets prices: 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10

Drawing: Sunday December 13 after the worship service (you need not be present to win)

Please consider supporting our amazing quilting team!

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 interested, please contact Laura in our church office for more information (570)368-8933. *Let us make a Joyful Noise!*



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.

REMINDER - PASTOR DAVID AND BETTY'S PHONE NUMBER

For anyone wishing to call Pastor and Betty Letscher, please remember to use (570) 484-8202 – their other number (the one beginning with 322) is no longer in service. Thank You!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHANCEL

To sponsor a red or white poinsettia this year, please call the Church Office (570)368-8933 or fill in the information below and put in the offering plate or bring to the office.

All orders must be placed by Thursday, Dec. 10th, 3:00 pm., and should be paid by that time. The cost is \$11.00 for each 5-6 bloom plant.

Plants may be picked up following the 10:00 pm. Christmas Eve service, on Sunday, Dec. 27th, or Tues., Dec. 29th (and the rest of that week).

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Red plants _____ x \$11 Number of White plants _____ x \$11 Total Cost \$_____

** If you would like a dedication in the bulletin, please list exactly as you'd like it:*

In Honor of _____ By _____

In Memory of _____ By _____

Or "other" _____ By _____

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 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

PLEASE contact the office if we need to add anyone to this list!

Paul Wertman is spending time recuperating in a nursing home in Muncy. If you'd like to send a card or note, please send it to his home address and his family will make sure he receives it!

Paul Wertman - 275 West Lincoln St., Muncy, PA 17756

❧ NOTES of GRATITUDE ❧

❧ "Thank You for the altar flowers and the lovely visitation with Ruthie, and for the prayers and encouraging cards – I really appreciate everything. God Bless You All" - Mary Ann Lichter

☞ *“Thank You everyone for your generosity and support during this challenging time. We are overwhelmed with all you have done to help our family. We are extremely grateful.”*

- Mike, Jamie and Jennie Brouse

☞ *The NA (Narcotics Anonymous) group that meets here every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday wants us to know how much our support of them is appreciated – they believe many lives have been saved due to our allowing them to use the space, and for our prayers of healing for their members.*