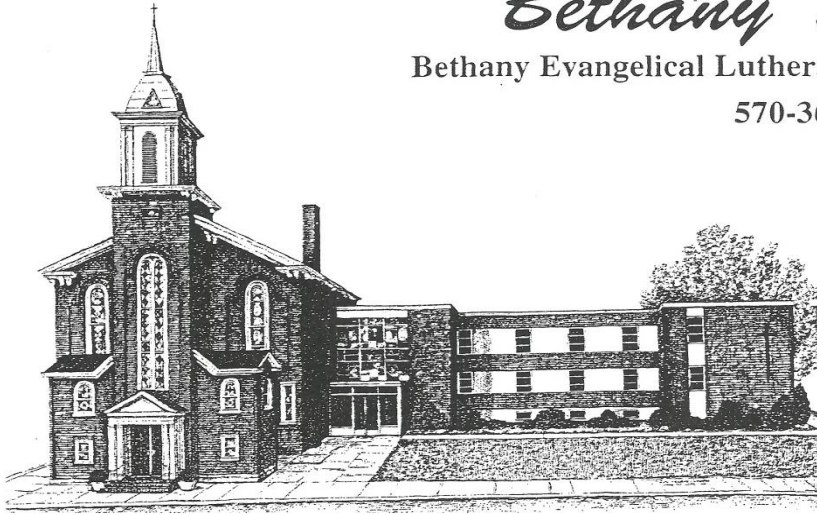


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



VOLUME 74

April 2022

NUMBER 4

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

Lenten Devotions and Study – Continues, Join us each Wednesday in lent for devotions 12:00pm and Lenten Study 7:00pm

Palm Sunday April 10 Hand Bell Choir - After the Prelude, prior to our traditional service, Hand Bell Choir is providing music ("Lamb of God") Paris arr. Waldrop

Holy Week Beginning April 10th with Palm Sunday Dennis Smith and Vicar Megan Shafer
Maunday Thursday Rev Steve Shipman and Vicar Megan Shafer
Holy Wednesday Good Friday and Easter Sunday with Pastor Shipman and Vicar Meghan Shafer.

Easter Egg Coloring *Friday April 15 10:00 am* / **Easter egg Hunt** *April 16th 10 am*

Spring Banquet **April 25**, Stuffed Chicken Breast or Ham \$17.00 each/ all you can eat. **April 25 RSVP by April 11.**

Order Easter Flowers - Lillies, Mums, tulips 12.00 each by April 4th.

Mark your calendar for the **Church Picnic and Vesper Service August 21st.**

Red Cross Bloodmobile – At Bethany **Friday June 17th** , **Friday Sept 9th**, **Friday November 11th, 2022**
Redcrossblood.org *Denise Bergenstock 570-323-2984* *(1:00pmt to 6:00pm each visit)*
If you are able to assist with this event

A Few Words from Rev. Steve Shipman

A lot of good things are happening and are being planned at Bethany. I encourage you to focus on your spiritual growth, especially in these troubled times. There is so much uncertainty about world events, whether the missiles will start flying, and over the economy, as the inflation we were assured would not result from governmental policies is gobbling away at our financial resources.

Jesus warned us that things like this would happen in the time until he returns in glory, so we should not be dismayed. We are aliens and exiles on Earth, seeking a homeland which is permanent. And while we are here, we claim the promise of Jesus that as we serve and follow him, he is with us always, to the end of the age.

As Easter approaches during April, this is a good time to reflect on what Russell Kirk called “the permanent things.” We worship Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights at 7 to prepare ourselves for the glorious Good News that Jesus is Risen. On Easter morning we celebrate our hope at 6 am (I hope there is plenty of coffee on hand) and 9 am. The services are different, and you are welcome at both.

Vicar Megan (although she won't be official until May 1) and I will be sharing preaching duties during Holy week. And I keep hearing how her Lenten Bible studies have been a great blessing to those who have participated. I look forward to our year working together for renewal at Bethany.

I wish I had some sort of encouraging news regarding a called pastor for Bethany, but at this point we (like all religious groups in North America) are swamped with retirements and have very few folks preparing for full-time ministry. “Pray to the Lord of Harvest to send laborers into His harvest.” God has a pastor for Bethany, He just hasn't told us (or that person) who it is yet.

Until then, we can all pray, study, and work together in the power of the Holy Spirit. We have the Word and the Sacraments, and we have the priesthood of all the baptized saints at Bethany. This is not a time to sit back but a time for everybody to step up to accept the responsibility of moving Bethany forward. And you will be far more attractive to any pastoral candidate if they can see a vital church moving forward under solid lay leadership.

Until then, please join us in celebrating the greatest truths of all — Jesus died for our sins, he rose with death forever behind him, and he is leading us into a more glorious future than any of us could imagine or deserve.

Steve Shipman, Interim Pastor
prsteveshipman@gmail.com
570-916-7780 (call or text)

Holy Week

Please journey with us and experience Palm Sunday thru Easter April 10 to April 17.

Witness who Jesus is and how He demonstrates:

- His Mission, Kingship and Sacrificial Nature on **Palm Sunday** at 9:00AM
- His Grace and Mercy on **Holy Wednesday** in our Corporate Confession and Forgiveness Service at 7:30PM
- His Servanthood and Love on **Maundy Thursday** in Footwashing and Holy Communion
- His Sacrificial nature in the Tenebrae service of gathering darkness **Good Friday**
- His Victory over sin and even death itself at **Easter Sunrise**
- His Lordship and Eternal Reign in **Festival Worship** at 9:00Am **Easter Sunday**.

Many thanks to all for providing the special music to help us go from shouting "**Hosanna!**" on Palm Sunday, then crying "**Crucify Him!**" while witnessing His sorrow, betrayal, and death, and finally singing "**Alleluia!**" joyfully on Easter

Larry Barnard, Chair, Worship and Music

“JUSTIFICATION”

Mary was asked to write a few words about our upcoming Hymns for our services as we prepare for Holy Week. This is what Mary and also John wrote for us.

April 3

Fifth Sunday In Lent

#294 **My Hope is Built on Nothing Less**

We are justified by Christs Strength. He is all powering and, if we believe, He will keep us strong and carry through all troubles.

#336 **Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me**

By believing in Jesus' love and power, we are saved and, in Our final hours, we will be taken home to be with him.

#344 **We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died**

Jesus suffered and died a terrible death upon the cross so that we may be forgiven of our sins and be accepted eternally with him in Heaven.

April 10

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

#179 **At the Name of Jesus**

We should always give honor and praise to the Lord; he will come again and give us eternal Life in His Heavenly Kingdom.

#108 **All Glory, Laud and Honor**

The title speaks for its self. As believers, we should at all times give Him all thanks and praise.

94 **My Song Is Love Unknown**

Jesus, Lord gave his life that we may be saved for eternity. We must never forget his love shed for our salvation.

Mary Paulhamus / Music Director



CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS: THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S MEETING ON MONDAY MARCH 21ST

Reports are posted outside the church office

Worship and Music Committee

Mission Committee

New Council Meeting Nominations and Election

Treasurers Report

2022 Congregation Officers:

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

Council Members:

Larry Barnard,, Jamie Brouse, Michael Brouse, Richard Hillegas, Glenn Kaufman, Ruth Lundy, Weston Miller, David Neidig, Philip Oechler, Kathie Snauffer, Gail Stover, Michael Stover

Megan Shaffer will begin Internship May 1, 2022

Council will hold its next meeting Monday April 18th at 7:15pm

Notice:

There will not be an announcement for a church closure due to weather but please use your own judgement about weather conditions and coming to church. Your health and well being are important to us.

2022 January Income	\$ 20,483.98
2022 January Expenses	<u>30,415.62</u>

Reminder of committee Meetings

Mission Committee - Monday April 11th 7:15 pm
Church Council - Monday, April 18th, 7:15 pm.
Finance Committee - Tuesday, April 19th 7:00 pm
Staff Support Committee - Tuesday April 19th 8:00 pm

Newsletter Team - Tuesday April 26th, 9:00 am.
Christian Ed Committee – Wednesday April 27th 7:00pm

*** Weekly:** **Quilters** - Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.
Handbell Choir – Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

***Bi-Weekly+:** **Bible Study** - 2nd, 4th (& 5th) Tuesdays at 7 pm.



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.



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: 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

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

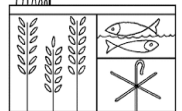
The Food Pantry currently is blessed with an abundance of food, but that will probably change as we go into the fall. They are beginning to prepare for the upcoming holidays, and are also beginning to distribute gift cards (\$5-\$10) to each client so that they are also able to purchase if they need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



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
-Shaving Cream

-Paper towels
-Feminine Hygiene items

-Conditioner

-Band aids
-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”

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)