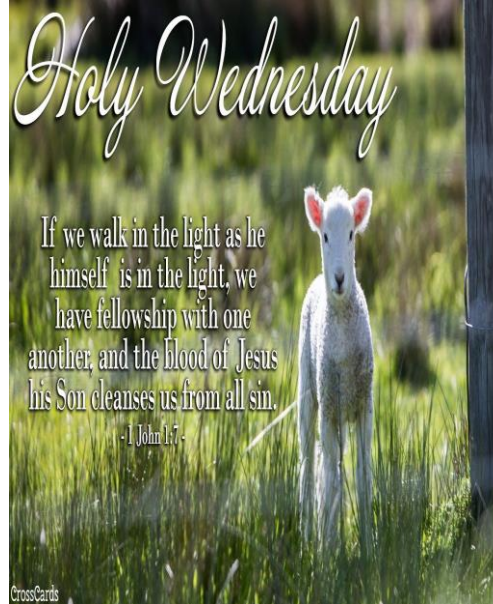


HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT BETHANY



PALM SUNDAY 9:00 AM
April 2



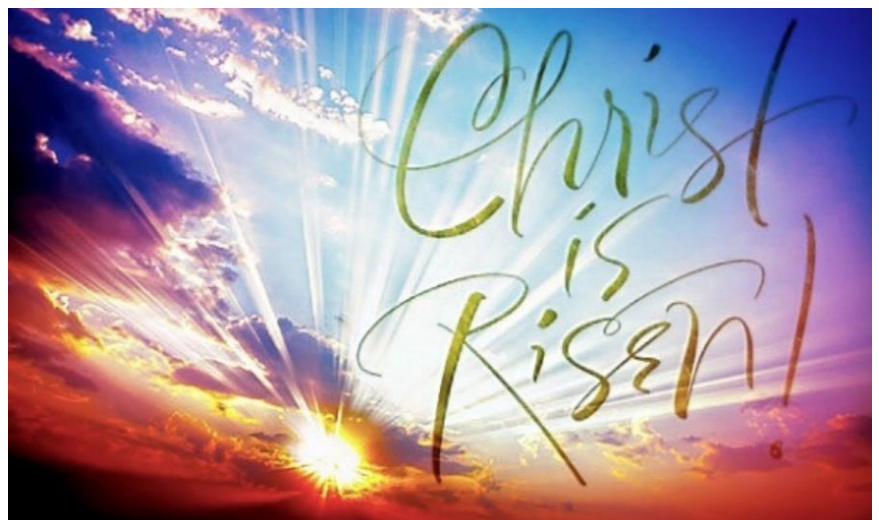
HOLY WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30PM
April 5



12:00 NOON and 7:30PM
April 6



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:30PM
April 7



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 6:00 AM
EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 9:00 AM
April 9

MESSAGE FROM REV. STEVE SHIPMAN

This is the last time I will be writing one of these articles as your interim pastor, and I thank you for the privilege of serving you for the past year and a half. After Pastor Letscher retired, Pastor Scheck served you for a while and then as I look at my iCal it appears that I started in September of 2021.

It has also been a joy and privilege for me to serve along with Vicar Megan Shaffer for most of that time. The reality is that she has done most of the pastoral work at Bethany, and she has helped in many ways to prepare you to thrive and grow under the leadership of the person God will send to be your next pastor.

Certainly, there are many issues that Bethany, like every other church around us, is facing. If we believe in God, we can view these as opportunities and not problems. In the Twenty-First Century, we don't have the luxury of bickering and fighting with one another in a congregation, but we must all commit ourselves to work toward unity of purpose. We can no longer recruit new members on the assumption that most people know what it means to be Christian or that they have any interest in becoming part of a Christian congregation.

The primary thrust of the North American Lutheran Church is to establish disciple-making communities, not just to build church membership. And while pastors can lead us in this, it requires members who desire to be formed as disciples and who are willing to share what they learn with other members and with those friends and neighbors whom God will open to hear what He is doing for them.

You very likely will not be able at this point to afford a full-time pastor, which will be a change (Although you haven't had a full-time pastor for more than two years and are doing well).

Many

of you are marvelous stewards of your time and finances, and I would only counsel you "not to grow weary in well-doing." Others of you might pray about your level of participation at Bethany in worship attendance, service within and outside the congregation, and financial support. Are you responding in faith and love to the call God has laid on you? Are there other ways God is calling you to grow as a disciple of Jesus?

Your next pastor will not be everything you hope for and want. We pastors are sinners, and we are not good at everything. That is a blessing. The Bible speaks about spiritual gifts, and the Body of Christ is built up not by watching one person do everything, but as each member uses the gifts the Spirit has given to build up the whole Body and bring renewed blessings to those inside and outside of the church. We grow not as we watch others do ministry but as we join with them in accord with our own particular abilities and opportunities.

There are two Scripture passages I would suggest to you as you move forward:

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

And: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Steve Shipman, interim pastor

prsteveshipman@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM VICAR MEGAN

Hello Beloved Bethany, and Greetings to the Flock beyond these walls,

As I sit here and write this, I have come to the full realization that my vicarage will soon be over. This hits big time for me, for not only is my vicarage ending, but my four years as a seminarian are coming to a close. Soon and very soon, I will depart from the nurturing environments that have fostered my growth, and I will bravely step out in faith to embrace what God has planned for me.

As I reflect back over these last few years, I have come to better understand the things my educators told me. Initially, I did not understand what they meant. They said things like “preach into what you hear from your flock,” and “it takes a year for the flock to adjust to and to claim you as their own.” They told me, ‘The most important thing about a call is, you need to love your people.’ Over the past year, I found that loving you as a flock was not something I ever felt forced to do; it just happened. I have found it a privilege that, over the past year, you have allowed me to enter your world, your homes, and your family. Together, we have walked side-by-side through the good and tough days, and I am thankful that you bravely stepped out of your comfort zone to extend this experience to me.

As both Pr. Shipman and I step away, I want to remind you not to forget that as a community, you have bravely stepped out of your comfort zone by having a vicar AND allowing a female to step into a leadership position within your community. This speaks to the resiliency and strength of your community as a people of God. Bethany was the place where Our Lord sought refuge before completing his mission upon the cross for our salvation. You, Bethany, have the opportunity before you to be where others come to see shelter, rest, and nourishment during the storms of life. I encourage you to embrace this as you discern where God calls you as a community of faith. The future can be scary, but only if you let it be.

Corrie Ten Boom faced an unknown future daily as she lived in a concentration camp. There, she placed her trust in God, and Corrie found hope, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” The Prophet Jeremiah reminds us, “For I know the plans I have for you, ‘declares the Lord,’ plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and future.” God has good plans for you, Beloved. In that, you can rest assured. In the meantime, continue to pray for His revealing of them to you.

Over the next few weeks, your care will be handed off to Pr. Paula Murry, the Dean of the Western Mission District of the Atlantic Mission Region. Please let me assure you that you will be well cared for. Pr. Shipman’s last day at Bethany is April 16th, mine is April 30th.

Continued pg. 4

So, what's next for all of us? We shall see what God has planned. I have been asked quite a bit about what I have planned after the vicarage. As we know, 'While man plans, God laughs.'

I have scheduled a two-day retreat with the Society of the Holy Trinity (S.T.S.) because I need time for discernment. As you know, my mother passed away just as I began my vicarage. For the first five months that I served as your Vicar, I still helped out Orangeville Borough as their town manager while they hired and trained a replacement. I also attended seminary full-time and traveled a lot to meet candidacy requirements while I cared for my children and managed not to forget my wonderful and patient husband, David. I am intentionally scheduling some downtime in May when I return from there treat. After that, I will request to be placed back on the supply roster at the discretion of our deans. I look forward to taking intentional time in my vegetable gardens and kayaking the Schuylkill River.

My tentative graduation for Luther House is June 10th. If my fellow Luther House graduates cannot attend our South Dakota ceremony, we will not hold one. That is the downside of being in an online program. As an alternative, I may be able to attend the NALS graduation ceremony in May in Pittsburg. For the rest of May and June, I will finalize my essays for approval, the final step for candidacy in the NALC. In July, I will attend my approval interviews and, hopefully, with God's blessing, be available for a part-time call and ordination after the July approval meeting. Until we see each other again, God Speed.

May Our Lord Bless You and Keep You,

Vicar Megan



CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS: THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S LAST MEETING ON MONDAY MARCH 20 ,2023

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT- DAVE GRUBE
VICE PRESIDENT – MIKE STOVER
SECRETARY – NICOLE CAREY
TREASURER – WES MILLER

March Reports are posted outside the church office

Council Members: Jamie Brouse, Michael Brouse, Glenn Kaufman, Kathie Snauffer, Gail Stover, Michael Stover, Sally Lomison, Tracy Rhian, Dennis Smith

Council will hold its next meeting Monday April 17th at 7:15pm

Income & Expenses through January, 2023

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 2023 Income | \$ 20,017.83 |
| 2023 Expenses | <u>43,866.54</u> |
| Expenses Over Income | \$-23,848.71 |

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



FAREWELL DINNER

honoring

Pastor Steve Shipman

AND

Vicar Megan Shaffer

Sunday April 16 at 12 noon

Italian Meal

bring a salad or dessert to share.

Accepting a financial donation
for the main course.

Reserve by April 9, 2023

Attitude of Gratitude

MESSAGE OF THANKS

Thank You for the prayers, cards, and concerns during my recovery from surgery.
God Bless everyone.

John Hunter

Thank You to Pastor Shipman and Vicar Megan for the visit and communion. Thank you
Everyone for the cards and phone calls during my recovery.

Gail Stover

Thank You everyone for your preparation of Holy Week

Thank you for placing flowers for Easter Please take your flowers after the service if you can
on Easter Sunday.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Eugene Harris – Marjorie Gower - Kevin Taylor- Julie Griffiths -Marjorie Fantaskey – Joan
Hiller - Betty Rosencrans – Joan Swartz - Margaret Ryan – David Erdley- Biddie & Michael -
Louise and Jim – Vonnie - Fay and Harold Sausser – Colleen Davidson - Jim Sechler – Lou and
Emily Bassler- Ann & Tom Long- Matthew - Evelyn Seaman – Charlie – Piper – John Hunter -
Sadie – Iva Kressler – Peggy Shultz – Gail – Len Hinton- Family of Wayne Newton

Easter Egg Coloring – Friday April 7th at 10:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt / Crafts -Saturday - April 8th at 10:00 AM

BLOODMOBILE - Our first Blood Drive will be held Friday June 16, 2023
From 12:30 – 5:30 PM

LAY READERS 2023

2-Apr Michael Brouse
 5-Apr Bev Brown
 6-Apr Arlene Klepper
 7-Apr David Neidig
 7-Apr Michael Stover
 7-Apr Wes Miller
 9-Apr Wes Miller -**6AM**
 9-Apr Denis Smith -**9AM**
 16-Apr David Neidig
 23-Apr Michael Brouse
 30-Apr Michael Stover
 7-May David Neidig
 14-
 May Michael Stover
 21-
 May Bev Brown
 28-
 May Arlene Klepper
 04-Jun David Neidig
 11-Jun Bev Brown
 18-Jun Michael Brouse
 25-Jun Michael Stover

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS 2023

2-Apr Michael Brouse Wes Miller
 5-Apr NA
 6-Apr Arlene Klepper Karen Paulhamus
 7-Apr NA
 NA
 NA
 9-Apr Wes Miller Tracy Rhian
 9-Apr Denis Smith Tim Logan
 16-Apr David Neidig Karen Paulhamus
 23-Apr Michael Brouse Barbara Winchester
 30-Apr Michael Stover Gail Stover
 7-May David Neidig Karen Paulhamus
 14-May Michael Stover Barbara Winchester
 21-May Tracy Rhian Wes Miller
 28-May Arlene Klepper Tim Logan
 04-Jun David Neidig Karen Paulhamus
 11-Jun Tim Logan Barbara Winchester
 18-Jun Michael Brouse Dennis Smith
 25-Jun Michael Stover Gail Stover

USHERS

2-Apr Michael Stover, Gail Stover
 5-Apr Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse
 6-Apr Tracy Rhian
 7-Apr Tracy Rhian
 9-Apr Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower, Hayler Potter - **6AM**
 Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse -
 9-Apr **9AM**
 16-Apr Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler
 23-Apr Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower
 30-Apr Richard Hillegas, Michael Brouse
 7-May Michael Stover, Gail Stover
 14-
 May Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse
 21-
 May Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler
 28- Michael Stover, Gail Stover
 May
 04-Jun Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower

11-Jun Richard Hillegas, Michael Brouse

18-Jun Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse

Jun 25 Philip, Gary Oechler

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Apr-23 Kathie Snauffer (570) 772-2815

May-23 June Grube (570) 368-1424

Jun-23 Arlene Klepper (570) 666-0378

Gail Stover (570) 368 2282

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

COMMUNION COMMITTEE

Apr-23 Jean Wentz (570) 368-8835

May-23 Jamie Brouse (570) 433-3577

Jun-23 Arlene Klepper (570) 666-0378

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

GREETING CARDS

Apr-23 Jean Beard (570) 368-1277

May-23 **Volunteer Needed**

Jun-23 Jean Wentz (570) 368-8835

LOCK UP

2-Apr Thomas Gower (570) 368-1892

09-Apr David Grube (570) 368-1424

16-Apr Philip Oechler (570) 368-2876
Denice Palmeter (570) 368-

23-Apr 2137
William Bagwell (570) 368-

30-Apr 3957

07-May Thomas Gower (570) 368-1892

14-May David Grube (570) 368-1424

21-May Philip Oechler (570) 368-2876

28-May Denice Palmeter (570) 368-2137

04-Jun William Bagwell (570) 368-3957

11-Jun Thomas Gower (570) 368-1892

18-Jun David Grube (570) 368-1424

25-Jun Philip Oechler (570) 368-2876

FLOWERS

2-Apr Lent No Flowers

09-Apr Jean Wentz Easter

16-Apr Open

23-Apr Colleen Oechler

30-Apr Barb Winchester

07-May Open

14-May John & Carolyn Hunter

21-May Evelyn Seaman

28-May Jamie Brouse

04-Jun Open

11-Jun Open

18-Jun Robert Bennett

25-Jun Gail Stover

APRIL 2023

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30 AM SCS/ Confirmation | 3 | 4 9:00AM Quilters | 5 7:00 PM Holy Wednesday Service | 6 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Service | 7 7:00 PM Good Friday Service 10:00AM Easter Egg Coloring | 8 10:00AM Easter Egg Hunt |
| 9 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 6:00 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30 AM SCS / Confirmation | 10 | 11 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Bible Study Joan Swartz | 12 7:00PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee / Fellowship 10:30 AM SCS/ Confirmation | 17 7:15 Church Council | 18 9:00 AM Quilters 8:00 PM Finance <u>Newsletter Items Due</u> | 19 7:00PM Handbell Choir 8:00PM Chancel Choir | 20 Robert & Deb Brown | 21 Bev Brown | 22 William & Loreen Bagwell |
| 23 <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee / Fellowship 10:30 AM SCS / Confirmation James Foose | 24 7:00PM Christian Ed | 25 9:00AM Quilters 10:00 AM Stuff Newsletters 7:00 PM Bible Study | 26 7:00PM Handbell Choir 8:00Pm Chancel Choir | 27 Eleanor Mellish David & Yvonne Erdley Florence Winchester | 28 Andrew Snauffer | 29 Donald Sunderland |
| 30 <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship 10:30 AM SCS / Confirmation Eugene Harris | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

