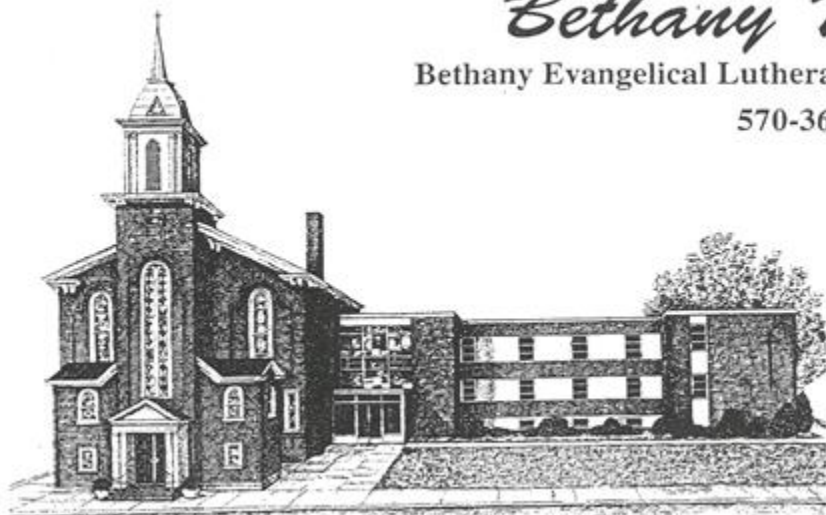


Bethany Messenger

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

570-368-8933



Campus Location: 369 Broad Street,
Montoursville, PA

Rev. Steve Shipman – Interim Pastor
(570-916-7780) prstevshipman@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

December 2022

NUMBER 12

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.3,4 MESSAGE FROM VICAR MEGAN SHAFFER

Pg.5,6 MESSAGE FROM REV. DENNIS SMITH

Pg.7 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 11TH

Pg.8 MINISTRY UPDATES

Pg.9 HAPPY NEW YEAR – First Sunday in Advent

Pg.10 ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Pg.11 HARVEST OF HOPE /Fresh Express

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 DECEMBER CALENDAR

MESSAGE FROM REV. STEVE SHIPMAN

Over the years, a running argument in Lutheran churches has been, “Why don’t we sing Christmas carols in Advent?” The old red book offered a bit of a compromise in declaring “Joy to the World” an Advent hymn, and the lessons in Advent 4 definitely have a Christmas theme.

I admit that I am less bothered about the purity of Advent worship than I once was, especially since I have endured Christmas decorations in stores since around Labor Day. But I believe that we lose something if we skip Advent and move quickly to Christmas, which for most of us ends when the family all leave for home after dinner on December 25 (another concern of mine).

The first mistake is thinking that Christmas is a birthday party for the baby Jesus. Actually, Christmas is one of the later festivals to be added to the Christian year. Easter was our primary celebration, observed every Sunday with added emphasis around Passover. Other festivals were added, starting with Epiphany to observe the Baptism of Jesus (the visit of the Magi became its focus much later) and Pentecost for the gift of the Spirit.

The meaning of Christmas is that just as God fulfilled all His promises to send a Messiah in the coming of Jesus, so God will keep His promises when Jesus returns to inaugurate the new Heaven and the new Earth in which righteousness dwells.

Advent then is about waiting patiently and in faith (unlike those children and not a few adults who sneak into hiding places to peek at what gifts they will be given). Advent is our yearly reminder that this world is not our home, and that we are strangers and exiles looking for the place where we really belong.

The newer lesson series have de-emphasized the understanding of Advent as a “little Lent” calling us to repentance, and with the color change from purple to blue (pink is no longer called for on the Third Sunday), the theme is more about hope than penitence. Not that penitence is a bad thing for us at any time of the year.

I will admit that the editors of the Lutheran Book of Worship did us no favors by fiddling with familiar Advent tunes, some of which are simply unsingable. And it is jarring to switch from Jingle Bells in the stores to “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” in church. John the Baptizer even gets half of the Advent Sundays to himself. So repentance is not absent from Advent.

Among all those Hallmark movies and Sirius holiday channels, it is good for all of us to take a little time to reflect on Advent. For in a sense this life is all Advent — Waiting and hoping for something that we cannot bring about by our efforts, but for which we need to depend on God to accomplish.

The Good News is that God does keep His promises, although not necessarily on our schedule. And that is the point of Advent and of Christmas.

We can trust God to lead us through this life into the wondrous new world He will send in the fullness of time.

And until then we have the three cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and love. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we live each day with our eyes on the future God is creating for us all.

Steve Shipman, STS
Interim Pastor
570-916-7800
prsteveshipman@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM VICAR MEGAN SHAFFER

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

I did not have the opportunity to write to you for the November newsletter because of my trips in October, as a result, I would like to take this time to share with you what your crazy Vicar has been up to. Where was I and what was I doing? From October 17th through the 20th, I attended my FINAL Kairos gathering. During a gathering, Kairos students from all different denominations, all over the world gather to read and study scripture, pray together, and share peer-to-peer experiences. The peer-to-peer experiences, done in small groups make up the majority of our week. In these sessions, we share something that has happened or is currently happening in our context. Questions like “What would you do differently?” Or, “Did I miss something? Have any of you had a similar experience?” Are asked. It is quite comforting when you hear someone else has had something similar and can share with you what happened to them.

As a pastor, I take my call very seriously, and I try very hard to be a good minister to our flock. Yet, just like everyone else, I am not perfect. I make mistakes and I take responsibility for them. These peer-to-peer groups are a wonderful place for us to share our struggles, where we feel we have failed. Most importantly we have the Word of promise and the forgiveness of sins, put back into our ears by other pastors and seminarians. Gatherings leave us emotionally exhausted, as the guilt and struggles we carry are lifted.

On the 20th, as I was wrapping up the gathering, Pr. Dennis Smith traveled to my home and together, we drove to our Regional Convocation. Each year our convocations, both regional and district, are held at different congregations. We are a part of the Western Mission District with Pr. Paula Murry as our Dean. Geographically our district stretches from the uppermost part of Pennsylvania, all the way down to the Maryland border. Along with three other districts, we make up the Atlantic Mission Region, with Pr. Shipman.

Our Regional Convocation, this year was hosted by Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church in Edgewater, Maryland. Eighty-Nine representatives of different churches from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. joined us for a two-day gathering. During the convocation, the NALC Disaster Relief gathered emergency relief supplies and put them into kits to be delivered to our brothers and sisters in Florida recovering from hurricane Ian. Three of the quilts from our very own Bethany Quilters were taken to families who needed warmth and comfort. Along with the emergency supplies, 112 backpacks were put together to be distributed to children who lost everything.

Another highlight from the convocation was listening to a talk given by Pr. Dan Schaefer, a licensed therapist, and NALC pastor. He discussed how chronic anxiety affects our brains and society. We discussed how our congregations struggle with anxiety as a result of the COVID pandemic. One of the struggles I hear from you, Beloved Flock, is how many of you are overwhelmed with struggles at home that are preventing you from joining us in Sunday worship.

Some of you struggle with caring for loved ones, such as a spouse or children, and their needs leave no space for your own self-care. Some of you are struggling to balance your own family life, the needs of your job, and having to care for a parent who is having health struggles. Perhaps your struggle is personal mobility or your own health. Whatever your struggle is, I want to let you know that I am here to support you.

So here is one of the ways I can help, if you can't get to church, let me bring the Word and the Sacrament to you. I know that some of you may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the practice of pastoral visits. Visits no longer have to be a thing of the past and NO YOU ARE NOT BOTHERING ME. Pastoral care is my spiritual gift and I love visiting with all of you, our visits can be tailored to your schedule and needs. I know some of you have commented on how busy my schedule is and yes I have been busy - but please do not let that be a barrier. I'll explain why in a bit. But, first, let me finish sharing the rest of what occurred in October and I will come back to this.

I came home from the Convocation in Maryland on October 23rd and traveled on Tuesday, October 25th to Wisconsin with Pr. Shipman for a supervisor and intern retreat.

It was wonderful to catch up with my friends and I got to talk to another seminarian who is in a similar internship to mine. He also has an off-site supervisor in a multi-point parish with no called pastor. Together we shared with our General Secretary, Rev. Amy Little what we have found to be helpful in our unique experiences. Pr. Amy was very receptive to what we had to say, knowing that there will be more and more seminarians who will have internships similar to our own. After two crazy weeks, I was happy to return home on October 29th. With all of the craziness of October, I had the honor of closing out the month as our community welcomed two young men to the Lord's Table on Reformation Sunday: Cortland and Bryson.

Despite all of the busyness, I finished reading the Bible, cover to cover in October. This was a huge feat for me and I am very thankful for your prayers. As of the middle of December, I will be finished with all of my current classes and I will begin my final presentations in preparation for graduation! Yes, this means I will not graduate in December as I had hoped, however, I will not be too far off the mark and I can graduate in February. This means that as of December, my schedule will be more flexible and open for visitations. Please, don't hesitate to call, stop by for a chat, or I can meet you somewhere or come to your home. Just getting the weight of what you carry off of your chest can be very freeing. You don't have to struggle by yourself. This reminds me of another person who struggled with the weight of the world's demands, King Solomon.

King Solomon certainly wrestled with the 'why' of life in the Book of Ecclesiastes. Why does evil exist, why do we toil (work) under the sun when we gain nothing from it? Is working every week, just to make ends meet as good as life gets? At times, these worries can leave us feeling defeated and spent. The number of tasks we have to accomplish before us never seems endless and all too soon we are exhausted. What about the guilt we feel when we take time for ourselves with so much left undone? Why does this never seem to end? It is easy for all of us to get caught up in these questions when life will not give us a break and all we want to do is catch our breath.

This is how the devil attempts to overwhelm us with distractions so we lose sight of God. Solomon had plenty of distractions like women, wine, power, and pleasure. Sadly, they distracted him. Yet, like King Solomon, we know God and His promises for us. So let me remind you: "But whoever is joined with all the living has hope,..." (Ecc. 9.4). Our hope is in the promise given to us in our baptisms where we first died and were brought to new life in Christ, as Romans tells us "For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6.7-11)

Beloved, this promise can never be taken away from you. You are free from the constant struggle to carry everything the world wants to make you feel like you have to carry. It's okay to turn off the television, social media, and the radio if you find yourself feeling overwhelmed. If you can, come and take refuge with your fellow brothers and sisters on Sunday mornings. Let the Gospel renew your heavy heart and free you of all that you carry. If you cannot make it, give me a call and I will bring the sacrament and the Word to you. "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3.15)

**May Our Lord Bless You and Keep You,
Vicar Megan**

MESSAGE FROM REV. DENNIS SMITH

From the Chair of Worship & Music for December 2022

As I was looking out the window earlier today, watching a snow squall pass through, I was thinking about what to write for this newsletter. I decided to take a look at our Sunday morning service. But realizing that I could write a major paper on it, I decided to do so but over the course of several months.

So here it goes ...

Have you ever thought about the shape, outline, pattern, of our Sunday morning worship, the Divine Service? Why do we do what we do? Do you realize that it is rooted in the historic practice of the Church? Or are you someone who has never thought much about it because you are so use to it? Do you have the attitude “we’ve always done it this way?” Have you ever thought how it seems to someone who is not familiar with this type of worship?

As someone who was not brought up in the liturgical tradition, I found the liturgy fascinating as the service at my home church was not all all like it. When my parents and I would visit a sister of my Dad’s and we would go to church with them on Sunday morning, I was somewhat intrigued by service in their Lutheran Church. The ‘liturgy’ is what initially drew me to the Lutheran Church. And from it, as well as reading Luther’s Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession, the light bulb went on that my understanding of the Christian faith was in agreement with basic Lutheran theology. As I attended worship in the Lutheran Church and attended seminary, I began to more deeply appreciate the God/Christ centered worship that I found there. It was not where I came to be entertained but to encounter God through the Scriptures, primarily the Gospel, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Then in seminary I began to learn more about its historic shape. I soon learned that there was a basic shape of the liturgy but there could be and were variations due to cultural, ethnic, and/or local influences. As time went on, I began to understand that there are core parts that must be there with other parts being valuable in supporting those necessary elements of the service. Even though there can be differences, it is supported by what is stated in Article VII of the Augsburg Confession: “It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian Church that

uniform ceremonies, instituted by human beings, be observed everywhere.” It is sad to note that some have used this statement to disregard for the historic shape of Christian worship and turn the focus from God and the work of Christ Jesus to that of human endeavor.

In the pew racks here at Bethany, you can find “WITH ONE VOICE: A Lutheran Resource for Worship” (WOV). It is a supplement to and builds upon the foundation of the liturgies for Holy Communion, the Divine Service, found in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) which is our primary worship resource. (Please note that even though the LBW is our primary resource, we do use hymns out of WOV and that in the planning of our worship services guidance is found in the Ministers Desk Edition and Manual on the Liturgy of the LBW, as well as the Leaders Edition of WOV.)

Sometime take a look at this resource, paying close attention to the first three sections, Introduction, Foundations for the Christian Assembly, and Holy Communion: Shape of the Rite. I encourage you to take the time to read and reflect on what is said in those pages of WOV, pages 4-9. Here we see that there are four basic sections to our liturgy: the Gathering, the Word, the Meal, and the Sending.

We as Lutherans, share this basic shape of worship with Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and Anglicans/Episcopalians, and to varying degrees Methodists, United Church of Christ, Presbyterians. Yes there maybe and are differences reflecting theological stances but the central elements are there. Clearly in agreement with the Augsburg Confession Article VII. I have even attended services in these churches. I have also attended services in the churches of the Restoration movement (Church of Christ, Christian Church, Disciples of Christ) and even though the order is different the core elements have been there.

How does our liturgical practice reflect what is laid out in WOV? What could we do better to uphold this historic shape of Christian worship in our worship practice? Or doesn't it matter to you?

Next time, a look at the first section of our liturgy, the Gathering.

PAX

Pr. Dennis



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE TABLE AT THE BUILDING ENTRANCE

RESERVATIONS DUE By December 4th:

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 4th** so we know how to plan.

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS: THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT’S LAST MEETING ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 21 ,2022

NOVEMBER Reports are posted outside the church office

*Christian Education
Mission Committee*

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 DECEMBER 19TH at 7:15pm*

Income & Expenses through October 2022

2022 Income	\$103,017.70
2022 Expenses	<u>137,929.62</u>
Expenses Over Income	- 34,911.92

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

MINISTRY UPDATES

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE CHURCH.
ORDER BY Dec 5th for white Dec 12th for Red. Let us know - In memory/ Honor of. Place order at the church, flowers are delivered to the church from Janet's Floral Creations and are 12.00 each paid in advance. They may be picked up after the Service on Sunday Christmas Day or after.

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.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS DECEMBER 18 TH

Join Us on Sunday, December 18th for our Annual Children's Christmas Program. Our program will begin at 10:45 in the Social Hall. We will sing songs, enjoy a movie and refreshments. We will be collecting hats and gloves for local donation.

.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Each year, on the first Sunday in Advent, we begin a new church year. Each year we focus on one of the three canonical gospels with the gospel of John sprinkled throughout each of the three years. Our focus this year is the Gospel of Matthew.

The Gospel of Matthew, the first book of the New Testament, was written by Matthew, a former tax collector, between 80 and 85 a.d. Matthew shares with us the largest collection of Jesus' authoritative teachings on the Christian life. Because of its well-known teachings on the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, the commandment to love one another, and the great commission, Matthew's Gospel is the most popular of the four canonical gospels. Due to the popularity of his writings, Matthew's gospel was set as the first gospel of the New Testament.

Each of the four gospels was written with a specific audience in mind, in order that the audience may have an individual portrait of Jesus by sharing his person and nature. Matthew specifically shares with us two titles for Christ. The first is the *Messiah* or the *anointed one, the savior of His people*. In referring to Christ as Messiah, Matthew reaches out to those of the Jewish background who were awaiting the Messiah to come and bring about the messianic kingdom as foretold by the prophets. However, Christ's arrival did not bring about the messianic kingdom as the Jews thought he would. Rather Christ brings the blessing to all nations where all are heirs by faith and that is why Matthew uses the second title of *Son of God*, a title the Gentile population would understand. Lastly, there is a third title that Matthew uses to refer to *the Son of God; Immanuel* which he translates as *God with Us*. His very birth to Mary was a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The title of Immanuel is how Matthew introduces Jesus to his readers as a way to share the hope that Jesus gives to us.

Happy New Year, Bethany. May it be a blessed year filled with hope, for God is with you.

Vicar Megan Shaffer

Attitude of Gratitude

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.

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



