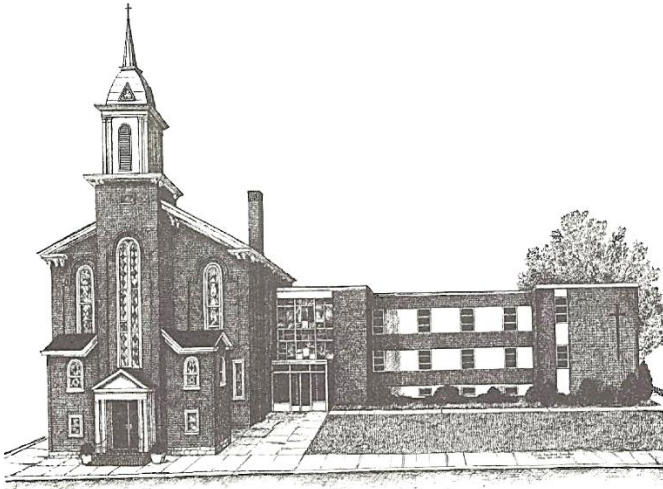


BETHANY MESSENGER



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

369 Broad Street

Montoursville, PA 17754 570-368-8933

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am-2:00pm

www.BethanyNALC.org

www.facebook.com/bethlutmtrsvlle

Email secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com

Sunday Services

9:00 am Holy Communion

10:15 am Coffee / Fellowship

10:30 am Sunday School

Emergency Pastoral Care Rev. James Bartlett

rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com / 570-9391471

Prayer Chain – Gail Stover 570-368-2282

Stover1104@gmail.com

VOLUME 75

DECEMBER 2023

NUMBER 12

Bethany's Mission Statement:

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.





As I write the past two months have flown by much too quickly. Although I have been with Bethany since September 11th, it became official with the installation service on November 11th. I continue to experience the same warm, welcoming, and loving congregation that I met in August and look forward to ministering with you at Bethany and in the community. I am excited about the possibility of small groups starting at Bethany in the near future and how that can raise us up as a community of faith.

As I think about the future of Bethany and the Church in general, I believe we have a lot of work to do. Not all of it easy work, but I hope all of it meaningful to us personally and in some ways possibly fun as it will mean growing and building better relationships among us and the new people we meet. Sometimes we think “work” “ugh! I need a break!” Believe me I know how you feel. However, when it comes to ministry “work” I feel like it isn’t really work. I work my full-time job in mental health and that was draining in the past. I often felt empty and run down. Now I also “work” part-time for Bethany. I can now attest that there is no part-time ministry. You would think with all the added hours I would feel worse, but I don’t. In fact, it is quite the opposite. This is so much different than doing the mission work and mental health work that I feel much better about everything since starting with Bethany. I hope and pray that each of you can have that same experience in doing the “work” of the church, the ministry of the church. Each of you has something to offer. We are all part of the Body of Christ and He has given us gifts to help further His kingdom.

Christmas is around the corner and then New Years. We will be giving gifts to many people, friends, and family, and making resolutions based on what we want to see change in our lives in 2024. This season consider giving a gift to the church. A gift of your time and talent. Make a resolution to assist with one of our ministries, to lead or join a small group, or to attend church services and fellowship events. Better yet, make a resolution to invite a friend or family member who does not attend church to attend with you, introduce them to your church family. Allow them to experience the same warm, welcoming, and loving people that I get to see every week.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James

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

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

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

October 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 December 18, at 7:15pm***

Income & Expenses through Oct 2023

2023 Income	\$100,988.30
2023 Expenses	<u>132,933.21</u>
Expenses Over Income	- \$31,944.91

MINISTRY MEETINGS IN DECEMBER
Church Council – 7:15 PM

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
Gail Stover - Prayer Chain (570)971-5710 / stover1104@gmail.com
Rev. James Bartlett cell (570)-939-1471 email rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com
BETHANY'S WEB SITE: www.BethanyNALC.org
BETHANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org

GRATITUDE AND PLEASE PRAY FOR

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Eugene Harris – Kevin Taylor- Julie Griffiths -Marjorie Fantaskey – Joan Hiller - Betty Rosencrans – Joan Swartz - Margaret Ryan – 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 - Sadie – Iva Kressler – Peggy Shultz – Lenny and Kathy Hinton – Eileen Lauchle — Bebe Bolich – Tonia Wilk – Mindy Gemberling and family – Leroy Hauck — Leonard Mullin – Dave Shipton

Please pray this prayer daily

Prayer For Spiritual Renewal

Oh, loving Lord.

We know You and accept You as Lord and Savior.

So, we come to You seeking a fresh, new perspective,
not to throw away past lessons but for Your spirit to rebuild
and breathe new life into our faith. Show us how to do this.

Let us open ourselves completely to Your voice.

The voice that tells us God is love and in Christ all things are new.

Renew us and restore us in Christ name.

Amen



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting – The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday December 3rd, 2023 immediately following the service.

Cookies for Shut-Ins, December 4th, 2023 – The women of Bethany are meeting to package cookies for the shut-ins, we have 20 this year. Jean Beard is providing refreshments and devotions. Please bring donations to church on Sunday December 3rd or Monday December 4th by 1:00pm.

Annual Childrens Christman Program December 17th, 2023

Please join us on Sunday December 17th, 2023 for our Annual Childrens Christmas Program at 10:30am in the Social Hall. We will begin at our program at 10:45am. There will be singing of songs, a movie and refreshments.

Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2023

Special Music – 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service – 8:00 PM



DECEMBER
BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthdays * Anniversaries **					1 **Gerald & Belinda Drick	2
3 <u>First Sunday In Advent</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion Annual Meeting 10:00 AM coffee /Fellowship -Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School	4	5 Quilters 9:00 AM –11:00 AM Red Poinsettia Orders due	6 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM **Donald & Lauri Cosentine	7 ** Gerald & Belinda Drick	8 *Charles Lichter * Mary Paulhamus ** Ryan & Teresa Oechler Bortnyk	9
10 <u>Second Sunday In Advent</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship –Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School	11 Council Items due	12 Quilters 9:00 AM –11:00 AM	13 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	14 Bible Study 7:00 PM	15	16 ** Joseph & Michelle McQuillen
17 <u>Third Sunday In Advent</u> 9:00AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship –Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Childrens Christmas Program 10:45 AM	18 Church Council 7:15 PM LaVon Hawley	19 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Newsletter Items Due	20 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	21	22	23
24 <u>Nativity of Our Lord</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship -Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL MUSIC 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 8:00PM	25 CHRISTMAS DAY **John & Jayne Reynolds *William Bagwell	26	27 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Stuff Newsletters ** David & Maureen Taylor	28 ** Joseph & Jane Mellish	29 **Thomas & Rebekka Richardson	30
31 <u>First Sunday After Christmas Holy Sunday</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship -Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School * Ernest Koch						