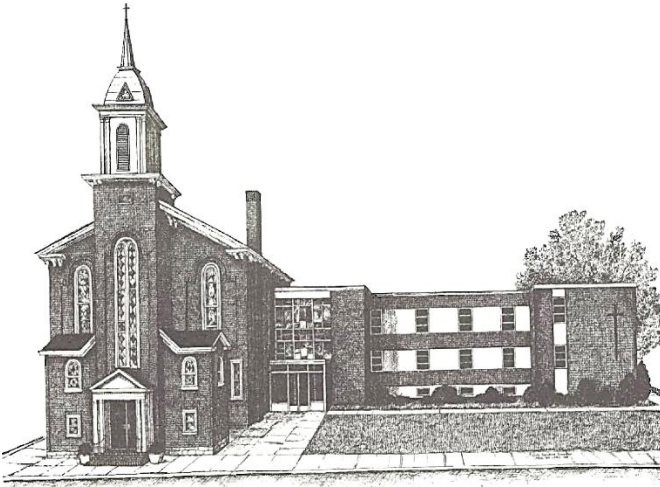


BETHANY MESSENGER



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 76

February 2024

NUMBER 2

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.

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



Well, we are a month into the New Year and in my January article I talked about resolutions and things I wanted to accomplish this year. The first thing I though would have been crossed off by now is the renovations on my upstairs bathroom. Guess what...it still is not done. I'm not happy about it, Jen's not happy about it, and the kids are certainly not happy about it.

As we look to lent and the decisions about Lenten Disciplines, I was wondering about what I should give up this year. I considered giving up hand tools and power tools...but if my family is unhappy about the bathroom now, then I can only imagine how much more so they would be if I did give up using tools! Giving up the tools would not be helpful and would ultimately be self-serving. I have not yet decided what I will give up this year, but I know it needs to be something that I want to be able to give up permanently, something that maybe isn't good for me or that is somehow edifying in its absence.

It is so tempting to give up something easy, something that I want, but can do without. But that is not the purpose of a Lenten Discipline. We give up something so that when we want it, we are reminded to look to God and Jesus. During a fast, when we feel the hunger pangs it is a reminder to pray. It also reminds us to think about those who are hungry, not because of a fast but because they have no food to eat, and to be open to the Spirit's leading to act on their behalf.

In this new season of the Church Year, embrace the tradition, add a Lenten Discipline, and open yourself up to God working in your life through prayer by way of your giving up a practice or comfort. My prayer for all of you is that in giving something up, that you will be blessed with a deepening of faith and understanding.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James



The Alphas Have Arrived

What it is: The New York Times published 12 predictions for the forces that will shape trends and culture this year, noting that Gen Alpha is poised to influence what's in style.

What else could be in store? Style forecasters in The Times predict that rosettes will adorn our clothing, athletic prowess will be cool again thanks to Travis Kelce, smartwatches will inundate elementary schools, and more men will be getting their nails done. And the senior members of Gen Alpha, finally old enough to (legally) engage in public social media spaces, may be out in full force to let Gen Z know that old age comes for us all. It's a powerful turning point when you consider the elements (like COVID-19, YouTube shorts, and ubiquitous iPads) that have already shaped childhood for this group of people. Gen Alpha is currently defined as the people born from 2010 to 2024, and it is estimated that they will number 2 billion—the largest generational cohort in history.

Even at the best of times, teens can seem like a total mystery to their parents. So what happens when it feels like they're speaking a whole new language? Teens in 2024 are reaching maturity in what can feel like a totally new-to-us world, and they're knee-deep in the chaos that adolescence historically brings. As if that wasn't enough, now they're talking about girl dinners and situationships, and for some reason, the Roman Empire. It's enough to make some parents feel like giving up on real conversations.

A New Language for the New Year

It's understandable to feel helpless when your kid walks into a room and says something that might as well be an alien language, but it's also something of a parental rite of passage. At some point when you were young, you probably mystified your own parents, and someday your children's children will mystify them. You're not alone, and this isn't an insurmountable obstacle.

After Jesus ascended into heaven following His death and resurrection, His disciples met together at Pentecost and experienced the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit. The very first miracle the Spirit empowered them to perform was one of communication and relationship. The disciples began to share the gospel in the many different languages of the friends and neighbors around them.

When we talk about "culture translation," defining slang and diving deep into trends and media, it's this kind of connection we're striving for. In the book of Acts, the people were drawn to the message of the disciples because they heard them "declaring the wonders of God in [their] own tongues." God's truth and light exist in every corner of our world, and as parents it's our commission (and our great joy) to guide our children to walk with Christ. Talking with our kids about Fortnite or Harry Styles or TikTok might feel shallow, but you never know when the Spirit might move and use those conversations, creating space for your children to hear the gospel in their own language.

With that in mind, here are some questions to help kick off conversations with your teens:

- What's something about being a teen today that you wish I understood?
- Is there anything that people younger than you say or do that confuses you?
- What is one thing you think that your generation and my generation have in common?



Can a small change in your daily habits impact your entire 2024?

Absolutely! One of easiest resolutions you can commit to is K-LOVE's 30 Day Challenge.

Simply listen to K-LOVE for 30 days and see what impact it can have on your life.

Whether you're new to K-LOVE or taking the challenge for the tenth time, all are welcome to join. Even if you're already listening to K-LOVE each day, you can sign up.

AND it's never too late to make the commitment. Surround yourself with the talk and music on K-LOVE that will help you focus on God...music like HITS DEEP artist TobyMac.

Listen now to K-LOVE by downloading the mobile app or on the online player.



88.1 FM – Williamsport, reaches Muncy, Hughesville, Warrensville, Cogan Station and Jersey Shore.

95.9 FM – Bloomsburg, reaches Montoursville, Muncy, Hughesville, Unityville, Red Rock, Benton, Nanicoke, Berwick, Mount Carmel, Shamokin, Milton, Mifflinburg, Sunbury, Selinsgrove and Port Treverton.

Lent and Easter Schedule:

Ash Wednesday Service:

- Wednesday 2/14 at 7:00pm

Wednesday Lenten Services:

- 12:00pm Soup and the Word
 - Study of Luther's Small Catechism
- 6:00pm Lenten Soup and Bread Supper
- 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer

Holy Week:

- Maundy Thursday – 3/28 at 7:00pm
- Good Friday – 3/29 at 7:00pm
- Easter Sunday – 3/31 at 9:00am

There will be a sign-up sheet outside the office for volunteers to make soups and bring bread to the 12:00pm or 6:00pm mealtimes.

Please sign up and bring your favorite soup or bread to share!



GodLovesMarriage.org is the Lutheran expression of Worldwide Marriage Encounter – the original, faith-based, marriage enrichment experience that has helped millions of couples in over 80 countries find more joy and happiness in their marriage relationship.

Enrich your relationship with your spouse with a **Lancaster, PA Marriage Encounter** weekend experience! April 5-7, 2023. <https://godlovesmarriage.org/>

COUNCIL ACTIONS:
THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S LAST
MEETING ON MONDAY JANUARY 15, 2024

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT- MICHAEL BROUSE
VICE PRESIDENT – GLENN KAUFMANN
SECRETARY – NICOLE CAREY
TREASURER – WES MILLER

DECEMBER REPORTS ARE POSTED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE

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

*Council will hold its next meeting **Monday February 19, at 7:15pm***

Income & Expenses through December 2023

2023 Income	\$128,026.13
2023 Expenses	<u>164,766.45</u>
Expenses Over Income	- \$36,412.61

MINISTRY MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Renewal Meeting Feb. 6th at 7:00 PM

Christian Ed – Feb. 26th at 7:00PM

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 / 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 - Lou and Emily Bassler- Ann & Tom Long- Matthew - Evelyn Seaman - Piper - Sadie – Iva Kressler – Peggy Shultz – Lenny and Kathy Hinton – Eileen Lauchle – Bebe Bolich – Tonia Wilk – Mindy Gemberling and family – Dave Shipton – Bob Brown – Lori Clauseen – Larry Conly – Peter Beguhl - Matthew Sharrow – Don Snauffer – Cassie Snauffer – Chris Inch

GRATITUDE, UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

BROCCOLI/CHEESE SOUP SALE - February 10, 2024 Pickup from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Advance orders will be accepted on signup sheet is outside the office.

“SOUPER BOWL” – Is one way to help the Shephard of the Street to help more people in Need. It is an effort to glorify God and care for “The Least of These” by donating a dollar or a can of soup on February 11. Offering plate will at the door.

Tureen Lunch – continues February 18th. Please bring a dish to share and tableware. Everyone is invited to stay for luncheon, fellowship and activities. Anyone interested in providing the main dish for our luncheon, please sign up outside the office.

Women of Bethany – will be packing candy at 1PM February 5, 2024 for the shut-ins and college students. Please bring donations of home-made candy wrapped in 2-piece packages and purchased wrapped candy by Feb. 4th or 5th in the morning. We have 17 shut-ins and 1 college student. Join our meeting for devotions and refreshments will be provided by Jean Beard.

Our next meeting is June 3rd at 1 PM to pack cookies for the shut-ins. Devotions and refreshments provided by Gail Stover

LAY READERS 2024

4-Feb Michael Brouse
11-Feb Greg Dwulet
14-Feb Michael Stover
18-Feb David Neidig
25-Feb Bev Brown
3-Mar Arlene Klepper
10-Mar Michael Stover
17-Mar Michael Brouse
24-Mar Bev Brown (Palm Sun)
28-Mar Michael Brouse Maundy Thur
29-Mar Michael Stover
31-Mar David Neidig

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS 2024

4-Feb Michael Brouse Dennis Smith
11-Feb Tim Logan Wes Miller
14-Feb Michael Stover Gail Stover
18-Feb David Neidig Michael Brouse
25-Feb Barb Winchester Karen Paulhamus
3-Mar Arlene Klepper Dennis Smith
10-Mar Michael Stover Gail Stover
17-Mar Michael Brouse Wes Miller
24-Mar Barb Winchester Karen Paulhamus
28-Mar Michael Brouse Tracy Rhian
29-Mar NA
31-Mar David Neidig Dennis Smith

USHERS

4-Feb Michael Stover, Gail Stover
11-Feb Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower
14-Feb Deb Harman
18-Feb Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse
25-Feb Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler
3-Mar Michael Stover, Gail Stover
10-Mar Richard Hillegas, Michael Brouse
17-Mar Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse
24-Mar Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower
28-Mar Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler
29-Mar Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown, Michael Brouse
31-Mar Tracy Rhian

FEBRUARY 2024
BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthdays * Anniversaries **				1 **Jennifer & James Bartlett	2 * Gail Stover	3
4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee /Fellowship – Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School	5	6 Quilters 9:00 AM Renewal Meeting	7 * Dave Neidig	8 Bible Study 7:00 PM	9	10 * Hope Harrington
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:15 AM coffee / Fellowship –Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School Organization Report Due Souper Bowl Sunday	12 Items for Council Meeting Due	13 Quilters 9:00 AM 7:00PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Newsletter items Due	14 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15 *Skyler Harrington	16	17
18 Frist Sunday of Lent 9:00AM Holy Communion 10:15 AM coffee / Fellowship –Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School * Philip Oechler	19 Church Council 7:15 PM	20 Quilters 9:00 AM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM *Richard Hillegas	21 Mid-Week Lent 12:00 PM Soup & the Word Study to follow 6:00 PM Lenten Soup & Bread Supper 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer * Wes Miller	22 Bible Study 7:00 PM	23	24
25 Second Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:15 AM Coffee / Fellowship Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School	26 Christian Ed 7:00 PM	27 Quilters 9:00 AM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Stuff Newsletters	28 Mid-Week Lent 12:00 PM Soup & the Word 6:00 PM Lenten Soup & Bread Supper 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer	29		