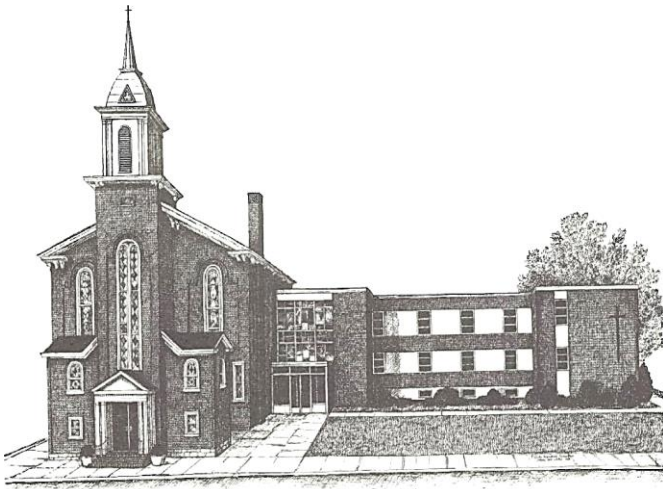


BETHANY MESSENGER



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/bethlutmtrsylv

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

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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.

BETHANY UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Bethany Church Tureen Lunch November 19 at 12:00 pm**

Please bring a dish to share and your tableware.

- **Hoss's fundraiser November 7th all day, coupons are in the newsletter and at the office.**

- **Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoeboxes – Please return shoe boxes by November 5th.**

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



Thanksgiving is fast upon us and as I was considering what to write I thought of the holiday and the origins. Many are unaware that there was a tradition of prayer and fasting followed by a day of thanksgiving in the churches of England dating back to King Æthelred between A.D. 978 – 1013. The pilgrims carried this tradition to the “New World” and the first declared Fast was in the summer of 1621 after experiencing 6 weeks of drought. After the prayer and fasting the rain came and a day of Thanksgiving was held, recognizing the providence of Almighty God. That day of Thanksgiving they “returned all glory, honor and praise, with all thankfulness” to God who is gracious and merciful. The “day” of Thanksgiving was actually a three day with the Wampanoag.

The first Thanksgiving was not about giving thanks for a harvest as we are so often taught in school, but it is about giving praise to God for answered prayer. I thought about our sharing praises at the start of worship for answered prayer. I am so thankful for those of you who have shared what God has done in your life, and lifted up how He has blessed us individually and as a church. We have even heard praises for healing both through medical treatment and through prayer with the laying on of hands. All evidence that God is active in our lives, and He works in many ways.

The other aspect of the first Thanksgiving is that it was the result of faithful Christians practicing a spiritual discipline. There are a variety of spiritual disciplines and prayer and fasting is one of them. Some examples are Bible study, prayer, fasting, confession, worship (liturgy of the hours), fellowship, solitude (rest & silence), celebration, service, generosity, chastity, and disciple-making. As you can see spiritual discipline can take various forms and all of them are good at their appointed times in our lives, but we cannot practice all of them all the time. These are the ways the pilgrims lived their faith and the ways many of us today continue to live our faith. The pilgrims observed the three daily services, Matins, Vespers, and Compline. It is something that some of us still try to do each day (not always successfully in my case). Hopefully, we as a congregation can come together and study the spiritual disciplines and see what we each feel called to incorporate into our daily lives and how to strengthen our current practices.

I hope and pray that you all have a wonderful November and a blessed Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Devoted to

PRAYER

2023-2024 DAILY PRAYER AND READING CALENDAR

This daily prayer and Bible reading guide, *Devoted to Prayer* (based on Acts 2:42), was conceived and prepared by the Rev. Andrew S. Ames Fuller, director of communications for the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). This guide is to provide the average layperson and pastor with the simple tools for sorting through the busyness of their lives and reclaiming an act of daily discipleship with their Lord. The daily readings follow the Lutheran Book of Worship two-year daily lectionary, which reflect the church calendar closely. The commemorations are adapted from Philip H. Pfatteicher's *New Book of Festivals and Commemorations*, a proposed common calendar of the saints that builds from the Lutheran Book of Worship, but includes saints from many of those churches in ecumenical conversation with the NALC. The following introductory portion is adapted from Christ Church (Plano)'s *Pray Daily*. Our hope is that this calendar and guide will provide new life for congregations learning and re-learning to pray in the midst of a difficult and changing world.

Daily Text Message

Receive a text message with a daily devotion. Text: "ReadingTheWord" to **24251**.

Daily Email

Receive a daily email with that day's devotion. Text: "ReadingTheWord" to **24251**

When they confirm your signup, you have to additionally let them know you'd like to be added to the email list by signing up via the link they provide. Then, if you wish, you can unsubscribe from the texts.

<https://thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/>

Visit the web address above to more details and to read the full introduction to this resource for daily encouragement.

**COUNCIL ACTIONS:
THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S LAST
MEETING ON MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 2023**

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

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

September 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 NOVEMBER 20, at 7:15pm***

Income & Expenses through Sept 2023

2023 Income	\$ 88,774.21
2023 Expenses	<u>120,665.20</u>
Expenses Over Income	- \$31,890.99

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Mission Nov. 13th at 7:15 pm
Property Nov. 21st at 7:00 pm
Worship and Music Nov. 27th at 7:00 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

MESSAGES OF THANKS

Thank You to Denny Palmeter, Bill Clees and Flip Oechler for the work completed on the heating system. As the temperatures drop it is nice that the heating system is providing heat.

Thank You

Thank You - *Receiving the altar flowers for our 56th anniversary helped to make the occasion special. Many, many thanks for thinking of us. We feel blessed to have a wonderful church family and to have had so many years together.*

June and Dave Grube

Thank You – *To everyone that assisted with the Fall Festival. From organizing, to setting up, being there tearing down, it was all greatly appreciated.*

Thank You – *We would like to say a big thank you for the beautiful Fall flowers we received to celebrate our 41st Anniversary. They are still looking great!*

Sue & Dave Neidig

Thank You - *To the call committee Haley Potter (chairman), Deb Harman, Tracy Rhian, Wes Miller, Flip Oechler, and Dave Grube for all their hard work and Recognizing Pastor James as God's answer to Bethany's search for a pastor.*

Thank You – A big thank you for the beautiful flowers which brightened my window and my day. It was perfect timing as we are having an open house and many people will see them. Thank You so much to Jamie and Mike for bringing them to me! Thank You! Thank You!

Ruth

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 – The family of Eleanor Mellish – Bebe Bolich – Tonia Wilk – Mindy Gemberling and family – Leroy Hauck – Bev Brown – Leonard Mullin – Dave Shipton – Family of Sarah Jeremiah – Family of Audrey Newton- Family of Pastor Heaps – Family of Marjorie Gower

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Tureen lunches are back!!

Join us on 11/19/23 @12:00 noon in Memorial Hall. Bring a dish to share (and tableware). Fellowship and activities to follow!

****Hoss's Fundraiser coming up on November 7, 2023.**

Put it on your calendar now!

Watch for coupons in the newsletter or pick one up outside the church office;

Bethany will receive a portion of your bill when you present a coupon at Hoss's on that day.

Christmas Shoe Box Shopping!

As you see all the "Back to School" sales, it is time to stock up for the shoe box Christmas mailing. These boxes need to be prepared and ready to mail by November 5th.

SAVE THE DATES-BLOODMOBILE

Our next Blood Drive will be held **Friday November 10, 2023 from 12:30 -5:30 PM**. If you are able to help with time or providing brownies, please contact **Denise Bergenstock 570-323-2984**. You are encouraged to register online or by phone: **RedCrossBlood.org (800)733-2767**, and if possible, do a pre-donation screening and health history online at **RedCrossBlood.org/Rapid Pass**.

Bible Study – ***"Twelve Ordinary Men"*** Will meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each Month and the fifth Thursday as it may occur, except Thanksgiving Day which leaves November 30th as the only 5th Thursday in 2023. All are welcome.

November 2023
BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthdays * Anniversaries **			1 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	2	3	4 ** Craig & Denise Hiller
5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00AM Coffee / Fellowship – Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School *Thomas Long Turn clocks back	6 * Judith Thomas	7 Quilters 9:00 AM –11:00 AM HOSS'S FUNDRAISER ELECTION DAY	8 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM ** Robert & Roberta Bergman	9 Bible Study 7:00 PM * Marjorie Gower	10 *MARTIN LUTHER	11 VETERANS DAY
12 24th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00AM Coffee / Fellowship Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School	13 Mission 7:15 pm	14 Quilters 9:00 AM –11:00 AM * Jane Leiter * Judith Hayes	15 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	16	17	18
19 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee / Fellowship – Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School TUREEN LUNCHEON 12:00PM	20 Church Council 7:15 PM	21 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Church Property 7:00 pm Newsletter items Due * Linda Wurster	22 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	23 Thanksgiving Day ** Robert & Denise Koch	24	25
26 Last Sunday of the Church Year Christ the King Sunday 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship - Memorial Hall 10:30 AM Sunday School	27 Worship & Music 7:00 pm ** John & Jayne Reynolds *William Bagwell	28 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Stuff Newsletters	29 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	30 Bible Study 7:00 PM * Joseph & Jane Mellish		

