The Bethany Messenger



369 Broad Street, Montoursville, PA 17754 570-368-8933
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–2:00pm

Thursday 9:00 am–2:00pm

Thursday 9:00 am–2:00pm

Staff

Ministers: All God's People Pastor: Rev. James Bartlett, STS Organist: Mary Paulhamus Sexton: Deborah Harman Secretary: Hope Harrington

Sunday Services

9:00 am Holy Communion10:15 am Coffee / Fellowship10:30 am Sunday School

Website: www.bethanylutheran.faith Email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com

Emergency Pastoral Care:

Rev. James Bartlett rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com 570-939-1471

Prayer Chain:

Gail Stover
Stover1104@gmail.com
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Deadline for submission of material for the Bethany Messenger is 9 a.m. the 15th of each month.

So far this summer, I officiated at three funerals. And as with so many others, the 23rd Psalm was chosen as one of the readings. There is so much comfort brought

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul.He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

to so many by hearing David's words:

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

(continued on next page)

(From the Pastor's Desk, continued)

In verses 2 and 3, it is God who is leading us. God's leading is something I have come across more than a few times this summer in my readings. Psalm 73:23 "Nevertheless, I am continually with You; You hold my right hand."; Psalm 139:10 "even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me."; Isaiah 41:13 "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'" In these versus God leads us, but does so by holding our hand just as we would a small child's hand.

Then, during worship at the beginning of last month, while distributing communion, I could hear the congregation singing "He Leadeth Me" and the imagery was there again. "Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me."

Part of what made this verse stand out was not just the imagery that evoked the recollection of all the verses in my readings, but it was partly because the verse is not included in the version of this hymn in my playlist. As with so many hymns, only three versus were used when it was recorded.

Pastor Joseph H Gilmore wrote this hymn as a poem after preaching on the 23rd Psalm. The words of that third verse show not just an intimate relationship with God, our Father, but illustrates our trust in His leading regardless of the outcome. When we put our faith into practice, we are trusting that God is leading us even when we face difficult situations because of that leading. Doing what is right is not always popular or well received. And there will be times when you can accomplish a great amount of good but can at the same time be hated because you bear the name of Christ. For Pastor Gilmore, as God leads him by the hand he writes "nor ever murmur nor repine." To murmur, is to mutter complaints or grumbling softly under our breath. To repine, is to express discontent or to complain. In my own experience, as you know, it can be difficult for somebody to share a praise, thanking God for His work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. However, people are generally more than willing to share complaints about almost anything. For some reason, it is so much easier to complain than to be thankful. But here in this verse, when we willingly allow God to lead, we do not grumble quietly under our breath because we are discontented, and we certainly do not outright complain that things are not what we want them to be.

I found the verses in my reading encouraging. But as much as I found the third verse of the hymn encouraging, I also found it to be convicting. I know that I have often dragged my feet when I am being called to something different. I am not always happy about the process that needs to be followed, or the application being completed, or the hoops that have to be jumped through, or the test that must be taken. But, when I look back, I can plainly see God's leading, and why I had to jump through the hoops and take the test. Those things I grumbled about as I was going through them are where I can see in hindsight that God had my hand and was leading me.

I know from our conversations that the same thing is true for many of you who are reading this. There are times in your life where God was leading you to something new, and something better, but it didn't seem so at that time. You could only see what was really happening when you were able to look back at everything that happened and could see God's hand guiding you through everything.

Sometimes God calls us to do things in a different place and sometimes God calls us to do something new right where we are at. As long as we are members of the one Body of Christ, God will always be calling us to be different, even right where we're at. To continually change as His words enter us and continually work in us as we are transformed into a new creation in Christ Jesus. Sometimes it may feel like we are taking baby steps in faith as we grow and mature, but each step no matter how small brings us closer and closer to reflecting more accurately who Jesus is in our daily lives.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Len & Kathy Hinton – Matthew Sharrow – Peter Beguhl – Lori Clauseen – Chris & Dawn Inch – Kevin Taylor – Julie Griffiths – Marjorie Fantaskey – Joan Swartz – Margaret Ryan – Michael Woodley – Louise & Jim – Fay Sausser – Colleen Davidson – Lou & Emily Bassler – Ann Long – Evelyn Seaman – Eileen Lauchle – Bebe Bolich – Dave Shipton – Rev. Ray & Nancy Forsythe – Dorothy Lee – Marian Mott – Robert Bennett – Rikki Nevins – Mike Brouse – Molly Bienly – Paul Steiger – Brenda Przekop – Dave Lundy – Sally & Mark Lomison – Bud & Louise Jordan – John Klinger – Karen Yeomans – Julie Stover – Peggy Shultz – The Family of Eugene Harris – Michael Hennigan – The Family of Biddy Woodley – Phil Riggs – Robert Margel

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

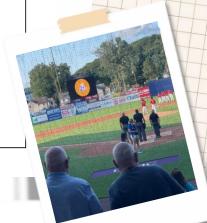
MESSAGES & GRATITUDE



Thank You

Thank you to all of the women who made and served food at Gene's funeral luncheon, and also to Pastor James for officiating the very nice service. Thank you also to Flip for his Sunday visit! God bless you all!

-Kathy and Marian





Crosscutter's Outing

July 17 2025

Submit your Recipes!

One of the ways we can share in fellowship with one another is to share our favorite, or most requested, recipes. We are asking everyone to share their recipes by submitting them to the church office and each month we will share a recipe in our newsletter. Please take a moment to copy your favorite recipe or one that is most requested by others and email it to secybethanyNALC@gmail.com or drop it off at the church office. We look forward to seeing all the yummy recipes as they come in!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Aug 3 - Tracy Rhian Aug 10 - OPEN Aug 17 - Gail Stover

Aug 17 - Gail Stover

Aug 24 - Bonnie Sechler

Aug 31 - Arlene Klepper

Sep 7 - Barb Winchester

Sep 14 - Denise Bergenstock

Sep 21 - John Bennett

🎍 Sep 28 - Mike & Jamie Brouse



Names & addresses are redacted for online version.





BISHOP SELBO BRINGS ECUMENICAL GREETINGS TO ACNA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Ariel Wicker

Editor, NALC News

Speaking from the campus of Trinity Anglican Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania—home to The North American Lutheran Seminary since 2014—Bishop Dan Selbo brought ecumenical greetings on behalf of the NALC to the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). His remarks were filled with gratitude, theological resonance, and a strong affirmation of the deepening partnership between the two church bodies.

"I bring you greetings on behalf of the NALC and our congregations," Bishop Selbo began. "I want to express our thanks for the many ways in which your church and our church have walked together and continue to serve the gospel in partnership."

Reflecting on the past decade of growing collaboration, Bishop Selbo celebrated the visible witness of shared mission. He noted the close relationship between the churches in areas such as church planting, disaster response, public witness, and theological education. "Our two church bodies have a tremendous amount in common," he said, "not only in what we believe and where we place our trust, but also in our history." The location itself served as a powerful symbol of this relationship. The NALC seminary's presence on a campus affiliated with the ACNA, Bishop Selbo noted, is not



merely logistical—it is theological and missional. "That relationship has grown deeper in these last 10 years, and we pray it continues to be so."

He went on to thank ACNA leaders for their regular presence at NALC events and installations, observing that the two churches "are not just formal partners, but truly members of one body."

As both ACNA and the NALC continue maturing as young church bodies formed in response to the crisis of North American Protestantism, Bishop Selbo offered a vision not of institutional rivalry but of Spirit-led unity. "We believe God raised up our two churches for such a time as this—not to compete, but to walk together as sister churches."

He concluded with a prayerful charge:

"May our partnership be deepened, our witness strengthened, and our joy made full in Jesus Christ."

THE REV. DR. JUKKA KÄÄRIÄINEN BEGINS HIS ROLE AS NALS PRESIDENT

Emily Clark

Communications Specialist & Seminary Liaison North American Lutheran Church

We're excited to officially welcome the Rev. Dr. Jukka Kääriäinen as President of the North American Lutheran Seminary. Dr. Kääriäinen began his role on Monday, June 2, bringing a wealth of global experience in theological education, pastoral ministry, and mission leadership.

While Dr. Kääriäinen and his family prepare for their international move from Finland, he will begin his work remotely. The family plans to arrive in Pennsylvania later this summer.

As he shared with the NALC staff this month, these next six weeks are filled with transition.

Please join us in praying for:

- A smooth move across the Atlantic (their belongings are currently en route by ship).
- Wisdom and peace as Jukka prioritizes his first months of work.
- Their teenage daughter, who will remain in Finland to begin a new school and live with her grandparents.
- Safe travels—and a kind, dog-loving airline attendant—as they hope to bring their family dog with them on the flight in July.

We are grateful for your prayers as Dr. Kääriäinen begins this important season of leadership and look forward to introducing him in person at Lutheran Week.



In many ways, the liturgy puts the words of the Scriptures into our ears, our mouths, and our hearts. The Bible is "made alive" in our bodies as NALC NEWS 9 MAY/JUNE 2025 we proclaim and receive God's holy words. "The Lord be with you" is a refrain often repeated in Scripture. It is a continual reminder that Emmanuel is "God with us." We are most familiar with these words through the books of Judges, Chronicles, Ruth, Luke, and 2 Thessalonians. We also hear from St. Matthew that "The Lord is with you." In Ruth, the reapers respond to Boaz's words, "The Lord bless you." In the early church, sometimes the refrain, as it was recorded in the New Testament (and translated into Latin), was written, "The Lord be with your spirit."

This sung or spoken greeting and response reflects and creates a bond of love between the presider and the assembly. As the presider then invites the congregation into prayer ("Let us pray"), they are calling those who have gathered to have their hearts opened to hear the proclamation of the biblical texts that will follow. There is a sense of reciprocity between presider and assembly as our petitions are lifted to God.

We can read the Bible and pray when we are at home, but this greeting and call to prayer serve as a reminder that even when we are apart from friends, family, or our congregation, we remain in union with them as well as with our Lord, who has promised to hear our prayers. So, it is also appropriate to take a moment of silence between the call to prayer and the collect, so that we may quiet our thoughts and be prepared to pray.

The term "collect" (noun) dates back to the 3rd through 5th centuries in Gaul (France), as this prayer was intended to bring together, i.e., "collect" (verb), the prayers of the assembly. Like many of the prayers in the early church, it was a free composition of the presider. In the 5th and 6th centuries, the collect begins to take a set pattern that is the foundation of the appointed prayers in the LBW. There are examples of these collects in Leonine, Gelasian, and the Gregorian sacramentaries, which are some of the earliest collections of prayers. Some of the oldest collects that are still in use reflect the liturgical season rather than the appointed lectionary texts. (Lectionaries have changed and developed over time.) Yet, the basic form of the collect has remained fairly constant for the last 15 centuries. Most of the collects are addressed to God the Father, while a smaller number are addressed to the Lord, and very occasionally, to the Holy Spirit. Luther D. Reed, in The Lutheran Liturgy, his 1947 study of the Common Liturgy of the Lutheran Church in America, takes us back to the scriptural roots of this form, reminding us of the words of our Lord from John 16:23, "That whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." In the 16th century, Lutheran Reformers translated and/or adapted the prayers into German and Swedish. And in 1549, the church received Thomas Cranmer's powerful work in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer.

English-speaking Lutherans continue to reap the benefits of Cranmer's work. In the 19th century, Lutheran theologian, William Loehe, brought the church's attention back to the beauty and truth that were prayed through this prayer form and wrote that they were "the breath of a soul, sprinkled with the blood of Jesus, brought to eternal Father in the Name of his Son."

So, what is this form, and how does it help us receive God's love and grow in faith? In its fullness, there are five parts. (On occasion, parts 2 or 4 are not included.)

- We name the one to whom we are speaking, usually the first person of the Holy Trinity, such as "Almighty God," "Father in Heaven," or even simply, "O God." In naming God, we honor Him as we have been commanded to do, as we express our faith that there is only one God, eternal and everlasting.
- 2. We say something about the attributes or power of God, what He has done for us, and why we believe Him to be trustworthy. Such as, "You who led your people out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land; You who made the heavens and the earth"; or "the strength of all who suffer." NALC NEWS 10 MAY/JUNE 2025
- 3. What are we asking of God? Now we come to a request, petition, or plea. Here, we are reminded that nothing is beyond God's care, and no one is beyond His mercy and love.
- 4. Following the petition, we pray for a benefit or outcome from our request. We do not know how God will answer our prayers, but voicing these desires is a sign of trust through which we may discover that God has something to give us that is greater than we had imagined. The gifts with which He fills our hearts are beyond our ability to measure.

5. Even some of the deepest laments in the Psalter end in praise. When Christians conclude their prayers with a Trinitarian doxology, we are joined to all the saints who have gone before us in a proclamation of the resurrection. Thus, a Trinitarian doxology, such as "through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever," followed by a congregational "Amen," powerfully concludes the collect.

Have a look at the collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter. (LBW p. 22) It is a clear and straightforward example of this 5-part form. Then, of course, you are invited to pray it!

O God, from whom all good things come: lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen





QUICK BIBLE CROSSWORD XXIV

Across

- 1 Fruit farm (7)
- 5 Extinguish, as a candle (5)
- 8 Sacrifice that required a ram and money payment (5,8)
- 9 Land to which Cain fled (3)
- 10 Someone who provides consolation (9)
- 12 Disciples present at the Ascension (6)
- 13 Produce of 1 across? (6)
- 15 Something to beat your sword into (9)
- 16 Biblical prefix meaning "man of" (3)
- 18 Morality (13)
- 20 Reddish (5)
- 21 Extend over (7)

Down

- 1 Accompaniment for a hymn? (5)
- 2 Through Jesus we can become this (8,2,3)

Solution on page 14

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20			21						

by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.com

- 3 Assailants (9)
- 4 Discredit (6)
- 5 Have a vision (3)
- 6 Not clever (13)
- 7 Sculptures (7)

- 11 Unfair or cruel leader (9)
- 12 Tiberius or Claudius for example (7)
- 14 Stoneworkers (6)
- 17 Levitical doorkeeper (5)
- 19 Your, in the Bible (3)



What it is: An animated film called *"K-Pop Demon Hunters"* released on Netflix, and it's been dominating both music and video streaming charts.

Why it's perfect for social media: The movie has funny moments, relatable characters and themes, Easter eggs for rewatches, catchy music, and lots of stylish outfits. The plot pits Huntrix, the K-pop stars from the title, against the Saja Boys, a K-pop boy band made up of, you guessed it, demons. The two groups battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of their fans via stylish action scenes and K-pop, all while the two leaders of the warring bands slowly falling in love. It all plays very well on TikTok, as fans obsess over the characters, the songs, and pretty much everything about it. While the movie does have animated demons and spiritual themes that aren't explicitly Christian, the conclusion of the movie resounds with Gospel truths like self-sacrifice, redemption, and confessing our darkest secrets to find healing and community.

Continue the conversation: What was the last movie you got really into?

LOOKING AWAY

What it is: The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a Texas law requiring actual age verification for access to pornographic websites.

Why it's a step: Teens can't buy a pornographic magazine without showing ID—but for a long time they have been able to access substantially more extreme content online, with no barrier. With this rule, that tide seems to be turning. Texas is one of 24 U.S. states requiring mandatory age verification, and some think the Supreme Court's decision to uphold their law could pave the way for mandatory age verification in all states, via the SCREEN Act. As long as VPNs allow internet-enabled devices to mask what state or country a user is connecting to a website from, teens will still be able to find their way to explicit content online. But hopefully, speed bumps like this encourage more would-be viewers to pause and ask themselves: is this really what I want to be looking at right now?

Continue the conversation: What role do you think external boundaries and restraints should play in morality?

TRAGEDY IN TEXAS

What it is: Communities in Texas are reeling from grief as the death toll from last weekend's flash floods continues to climb over 120. At least two dozen victims were children attending the Christian, all-girls camp known as Camp Mystic.

Why it's hitting so many, so hard: For over a hundred years, families have been sending their children to the Christian camps on the Guadalupe River. Connecting with camp staff and other campers in a spiritual environment every summer is a tradition that generations have come to treasure, and the memories made are a foundational part of countless personal testimonies of faith. Several of the camps have been physically devastated, but the spiritual devastation of this disaster may be deeper still. The tragedy raises the question of how God could allow such a terrible, tragic thing to happen—and whether joy and laughter will ever return to the banks of the Guadalupe.

Let's translate this one further...

Like so many parents, I cannot stop thinking about the girls of Camp Mystic. They were supposed to have a blissful summer making lifelong friends, practicing archery, making crafts, and encountering Jesus. But something horrible happened. There were heroes present. There were prayers uttered. And yet, those girls are gone.

"After I lost my son, it took me years to figure out if I still loved God," read one comment on a news article about the historic flash flood. This commenter may have been speaking to no one in particular, but everyone reading could feel their pain. It's the kind of pain that never goes away, borne from a question that so many philosophers and theologians have grappled with: Why do terrible things happen to God-fearing people?



Young Life Ministries operates 23 camp properties in the U.S, including one in the Texas Hill Country. "Like all who have followed the news over the past four days, it's been tremendously sad and heavy," Gabe Knipp, Senior Director of Content at the organization, told us. "As observers, we feel the tension that runs through life, feeling the weight of the tragedy, and yet continuing to host young people at camp. It speaks to the tension between death and life we all feel at times, and it becomes more acute at times like this."

As Christians, we are called to pray ceaselessly for peace and comfort for those who are grieving. If you're reading this and have been impacted by this tragedy, we want to hear from you. Reply to this email with your request, and we will pray together for you as a staff.

We also encourage anyone reading to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer as they bear the unbearable, knowing that Jesus has gone before us in all our pain and suffering. As Dorothy Sayers once put it, "For whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—He had the honesty and the courage to take His own medicine. Whatever game He is playing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself."

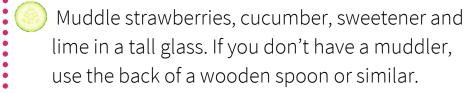
In the meantime, here are three questions to spark conversation with your teens:

- Have you heard a lot of news about the flash flooding that is happening in Texas and New Mexico? How do you feel about that news?
- Why do you think bad things sometimes happen to great people?
- How can our family be present and supportive of the people in our lives who have experienced loss this year?





Directions



Add ice, then sparkling water and stir.

Garnish and serve.

Ingredients

3 strawberries diced

1 inch cucumber grated

1 teaspoon sweetener (opt)

Juice of half a lime

1 cup sparkling water

QUICK BIBLE CROSSWORD XXIV - SOLUTION

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Across: 1 Orchard, 5 Snuff, 8 Guilt Offering, 9 Nod, 10 Comforter, 12 Eleven, 13 Apples, 15 Plowshare, 16 Ish, 18 Righteousness, 20 Ruddy, 21 Stretch.

Down: 1 Organ, 2 Children Of God, 3 Attackers, 4 Defame, 5 See, 6 Unintelligent, 7 Figures, 11 Oppressor, 12 Emperor, 14 Masons, 17 Hosah, 19 Thy.

Ministry Volunteers for August & September 2025

Lock-Up

Aug 3	Philip Oechler
Aug 10	Denice Palmeter
Aug 17	William Bagwell
Aug 24	Thomas Gower
Aug 31	David Grube
Sep 7	Philip Oechler
Sep 14	Denice Palmeter
Sep 21	William Bagwell
Sep 28	Thomas Gower

Altar Ministry

Αι	ıg	Gail Stover	Barb Pentz
Se	p	Jean Beard	Denise Bergenstock

Communion Ministry

Aug	Barb Pentz	Volunteer Needed			
Sep	Tim & Brenda Logan				

Greeting Card Ministry

Aug	Marian Harris	
Sep	Sara Jan Aucker	

Worship Participants

Date	Lay Reader	Communion Assistants	Ushers		
Aug 3	Beverly Brown	Tim Logan, Karen Paulhamus	Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler		
Aug 10	Arlene Klepper	Arlene Klepper, Tracy Rhian	Michael & Gail Stover		
Aug 17	Michael Stover	Michael & Gail Stover	Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown		
Aug 24	Gregory Dwulet	Greg Dwulet, Barb Winchester	Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower		
Aug 31	David Neidig	David Neidig, Barb Pentz	Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler		
Sep 7	Beverly Brown	Karen Paulhamus, Tracy Rhian	Michael & Gail Stover		
Sep 14	Arlene Klepper	Arlene Klepper, Barb Winchester	Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown		
Sep 21	Michael Stover	Michael & Gail Stover	Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower		
Sep 28	Gregory Dwulet	Greg Dwulet, Karen Paulhamus	Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler		

Upcoming Events

Sunday August 3 Pentecost 8

9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School

Tue. Aug 5 9:00am – Quilters

Sunday August 10 Pentecost 9

9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School

Mon. Aug 11 7:00pm – Church Council

Tue. Aug 12 9:00am – Quilters

Sunday August 17 Pentecost 10

9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School 4:00pm - Church Picnic

Tue. Aug 19 9:00am – Quilters

Sat. Aug 23 -Social Hall Reserved-

Sunday August 24 Pentecost 11

9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School

Mon. Aug 25 7:00pm – Christian Ed

Tue. Aug 26 9:00am – Quilters 9:00am – Stuff Newsletters