

The Bethany Messenger

369 Broad Street, Montoursville, PA 17754 570-368-8933

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–1:00pm

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 Communion

10:15 am Coffee / Fellowship

10:30 am Sunday School

Website: www.bethanylutheran.faith

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Emergency Pastoral Care:

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Deadline for submission
of material for the Bethany
Messenger is 9 a.m. the 15th of each
month.



From the Pastor's Desk...

The practice of holding additional evening services on Wednesdays in Advent and Lent comes out of the ancient practice of Ember Days. One Wednesday, Friday and Saturday were set aside in each quarter of the year for a penitential and catechetical focus with prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving for God's gifts, especially related to seasonal harvests. Ember Days occurred on those weekdays after Ash Wednesday, Pentecost, the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14), and St. Lucy's Day (December 13). These dates for 2026 are February 18, 20, and 21 (Spring); June 27, 29, and 30 (Summer); September 16, 18, and 19 (Autumn); and December 16, 18, and 19 (Winter).

The earliest observances of Ember Days date to the time of Augustine of Canterbury. Augustine was a Christian monk who Pope Gregory the Great sent on a mission to Britain where he converted King Æthelberht to Christianity and afterward became the first archbishop of Canterbury in the year 597. It was after Augustine converted King Æthelberht from Anglo-Saxon paganism that Ember Days were first observed. The name is derived from the Old English/Anglo-Saxon word "ymbren", which means circuit or revolution, relating to the annual cycle of the year.

(continued on next page)

(From the Pastor's Desk, continued)

To put this date into some perspective, Ember Days were first observed around the same time that Advent (567 A.D.) was established as a season of the church, being the four weeks prior to Christmas anticipating the birth of the messiah. Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and Holy Cross were already established feasts. However, All Saints (731 A.D.), Holy Trinity (796 A.D.), and Ash Wednesday (1091 A.D.) would all come later.

Over time, the full Ember Days practice faded and some of these days fell out of regular practice (two of the quarters), but the emphasis on Wednesdays was expanded to the entire season of Advent and Lent where a penitential focus evolved. These services serve as a reminder to refocus on spiritual matters during the seasons of Advent and Lent, and they also echo into our faith lives the ancient practice of the Ember Days.

Here at Bethany, we offer Advent Prayer services and Lenten Prayer services on Wednesdays as part of our commitment to these spiritual disciplines and offer another opportunity for us to experience mutual support in practicing our faith outside of Sunday worship. Over the past couple of years, we have had a committed group of members who faithfully attend these services, and they get to experience the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. It is our hope and prayer that this year you will all join us for our Advent Prayer services on Wednesdays at 8:00pm (December 3rd, 10th, & 17th). When we come together on these special days in the church year we honor the ancient traditions of the church in worship, prayer, and fasting. At the same time, we also remember the Word of God reaching new lands through the mission of Augustine of Canterbury and the countless others before and after him.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James

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

Information on the Ratification of Three Amendments to the NALC Constitution



At the recent NALC Mission Convocation, August 6-8, in Pittsburgh, PA, the 457 delegates of the convocation voted to approve three amendments to the NALC Constitution. Those amendments are given and explained in this edition of the Bethany Messenger. As a result of those actions, each congregation is asked to vote on these changes at our Congregational Meetings. This is something that we will be doing on December 14th.

The threshold required for ratification consists of three benchmarks:

- 1) **50% of NALC congregations** that were members at the time of the Mission Convocation must vote on the amendments.
- 2) A **simple majority at your congregational meeting** is sufficient for your congregation to ratify each amendment.
- 3) In order for the ratification to pass, **two-thirds of the congregations which voted need to have voted in the affirmative.**

The deadline for voting on ratifying the amendments is within six months of the close of the 2025 Mission Convocation – February 8, 2026. It is important to remember that we vote to ratify the NALC Constitution changes as congregations, and not as an assembly, is because one of the Core Values that guides the NALC in our mission and ministry is “Congregationally Focused.” Participation in this ratification process is an important right and responsibility. In doing so we are making our voice heard through our votes.

Amendment One: The movement of some language in the Constitution to Bylaws, clean up Scrivener’s errors. See Appendix: *Amendment 1 – Constitution & Bylaws* for the full changes, beginning on page 9 of the packet. **Packets are available on the table outside the office for anyone who wants to see the complete language changes.**

Amendment Two: Addition of Article on the North American Lutheran Seminary

Article # – North American Lutheran Seminary

X.01 The North American Lutheran Seminary, hereinafter referred to as “the NALS,” shall exist to form pastors and church leaders for the NALC. X.01.01 There shall be an NALS Center.

X.01.02 The NALS may partner with institutions that are aligned with the mission, values, and model of the NALS and the NALC.

X.01.03 The NALS Center and partner seminaries will together comprise the NALS Network.

X.01.04 The NALS Network shall function as one faculty, comprised of NALC faculty at the NALS Center and full-time NALC faculty at partner seminaries.



X.02 The NALS President shall lead the NALS.

X.02.01 The primary ministry of the NALS President is to grow, strengthen, and support all aspects of theological education and pastoral formation for the NALC.

X.02.02 The President of the NALS is called by the Executive Council upon recommendation by the Board of Regents.

X.02.03 The President is a staff member of the NALC and directly reports to the NALC Bishop.

X.02.04 The President shall direct the relationship between the NALS Center and partner seminaries.

X.03 A Board of Regents shall be the primary governing body for the NALS.

X.03.01 The Board of Regents shall have operating policies and procedures approved by the Executive Council.

X.03.02 The Board of Regents is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, and oversight of fiscal, academic, and student affairs.

X.03.03 The Board of Regents communicates changes regarding budgets and strategic initiatives to the NALC Executive Council.

X.03.04 The Board of Regents is accountable to the NALC Executive Council.

Amendment Three: Addition to current Article 16 entitled, “Indemnification” to be renamed, “Legal and Financial Matters.”

Article 16 –Legal and Financial Matters

16.02 The Executive Council shall approve policies concerning all financial and legal matters of the NALC.

16.02.01 The NALC fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

16.02.02 The NALC shall receive funds, grants and other real or personal property contributed by individuals, congregations, foundations, and other entities with the approval of the Executive Council.

16.02.03 Funds shall be held in reputable banks, trust companies or other depositories selected by the officers with approval of the Executive Council.

16.02.04 Funds shall be received and disbursed by the Treasurer, the General Secretary and their designees as set forth in policies and resolutions approved by the Executive Council.

16.02.05 The officers of the NALC shall be authorized signers for all legal documents.

16.02.06 The Executive Council may authorize any officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the NALC, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

16.02.07 Notification by electronic means is considered written notification.

16.03 Validity of meetings of the NALC shall be determined by the Executive Council.





Remembering Those Who Are at Home

*Names & Addresses
Redacted for Online
Version*

Praying for God's People

Len & Kathy Hinton – Matthew Sharrow – Peter Beguhl – Lori Clauseen – Kevin Taylor
– 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 – Mike Brouse – Molly Bienly – Paul
Steiger – Brenda Przekop – Dave Lundy – Sally & Mark Lomison – Bud & Louise Jordan
– John Klinger – Karen Yeomans – Peggy Shultz – Michael Hennigan – Robert Margel
– Anakin Walker – Carol Early – Arlene Klepper – Mike Snauffer – Pastor Jeff & Dawn
Zetto – David Hughes – Linda & Ray Bomboy – Darlene & Robin Connelly – Barb
Pentz – Debra Bartlett – Dick & Elva Whitmoyer – Chris & Dawn Inch

FROM THE DESK

RESOURCES & GUIDANCE FROM THE EASTERN DISTRICT STAFF

The following article was written by Rev. John Pingel,
President of the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

*Roseto, Pennsylvania. Its reputation: the healthiest town in America.
At the center of that claim is an amazing story.*

Many of the inhabitants of the town trace their ancestry to the village of Roseto Valfortore, located 100 miles southeast of Rome. The medieval village centers on a town square and a church named Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Narrow stone steps run up the hillside flanked by rows of stone houses with red tile roofs. The major industry there: stone quarries, located in the surrounding hills. Villagers would walk 4 to 5 miles each way to work, down the mountain and back, leaving early and returning late.

In 1882, a group of 11 Rosetans set sail for New York City. They spent some time in what is known as “Little Italy,” and then travelled 90 miles west to a location near Bangor, Pennsylvania, in order to work in a slate quarry there.

The initial 11 immigrants were followed by 1,200 more Rosetans over the next few years. They bought land on the rocky hillside and built closely clustered stone houses resembling those they left behind in Italy, only with slate roofs. They also built a church near the center of town, naming it, predictably, “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.” The church became the center of their social and spiritual life. The town thrived. The Rosetans planted grapes and made homemade wine. They opened bakeries and other small shops. For several decades, the inhabitants spoke mostly Italian, the exact dialect spoken back in Roseto Valliafore. They gathered regularly in social clubs and community centers. They worshiped and celebrated their

holidays and holy days and significant events in each other’s lives. They rejoiced together and in times of death and misfortune they grieved together. It was evident that no matter what life brought their way, they were in this together, to love and support each other. No one would suffer alone, no one would live their life alone, no one would die alone.

So what made Roseto, Pennsylvania, remarkable? Simply put, rarely did anyone living in Roseto under the age of 65 get heart disease or die of a heart attack, in contrast to the surrounding towns. The medical community began to take note of this. A physician by the name of Stephen Wolf from the University of Oklahoma launched an investigation into the reason why. This was a time, by the way, before cholesterol lowering drugs and aggressive measures to prevent heart disease. He analyzed physicians’ records. He took medical histories. He studied their diet. In fact, the death rate in Roseto was ½ that of the United States as a whole. Medical clinicians were baffled. What would explain the medical miracle they were observing? Not only was heart disease almost non-existent—there was also hardly any suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, cancer, or ulcers. People simply died of old age. All the while, they ate sausages and pepperoni year round. A full 41% of their diet consisted of fat. Neither diet nor exercise explained their findings. No one ate yogurt or did yoga. Quite a few of the inhabitants, typical of that time period, smoked.



To make a long story short, the answer to the clinicians' quest lay not in diet or exercise or the location of the town or genetic good fortune. The answer was Roseto itself. The Rosetans had maintained over the years an exceptional sense of community. People knew one another, and they visited with one another frequently. They stopped to chat on the street. They cooked with one another and ate meals with one another. They attended church together and met together in their 22 social clubs. The conclusion of the medical community was that the people of Roseto were exceptionally healthy not for any of the reasons normally associated with maintaining good health—but because of their sense of community. Roseto was a place where people, in the truest sense of the term, “belonged” and were cared about.

Our churches are at their best when they reflect a sense of community, where people love and care for one another. Jesus says in John 13: 35, ‘By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if ye have love for one another.’ “See how they love one another” is a famous quote attributed to the early Christian writer Tertullian in the 3rd century, which in turn quotes pagans observing the early Christians. It refers to the remarkable love, unity, and charitable acts the early Christians displayed toward each other and those in need, which stood out in contrast to the surrounding Greco-Roman culture.

We live in a rather cold and indifferent age. People live next door to one another and never talk. They don't know who their neighbors are. The medical community maintains that the isolation experienced by many takes its toll on us mentally,

emotionally and physically. People self-isolate, and yet surveys show that people at the same time actually crave a sense of community. They want to belong. They want to be cared about and have an opportunity to care for others. They desire to be “connected,” --a desire which appears to have increased in the aftermath of Covid.

The church from its earliest days is described as a community—a community of faith and love, a place where we “bear one another's burdens” (Galatians 6: 2), where people are “devoted to none another in love.” (Romans 12:2). Acts chapter 2 says that the early Christians “ate together with glad and generous hearts” and “provided for another as any had need.” They knew that the fellowship they enjoyed in the present would continue in eternity (Revelation 7: 9-17), which made it a pretty special thing.

Perhaps you are a small church. You may not have a lot in terms of programming. Sometimes leaders of small churches will say: “What do we have to offer?” My answer is: community. You offer a place where people can find a sense of community. Better still, in this community, at its center, stands the Savior, offering us forgiveness, life and salvation.

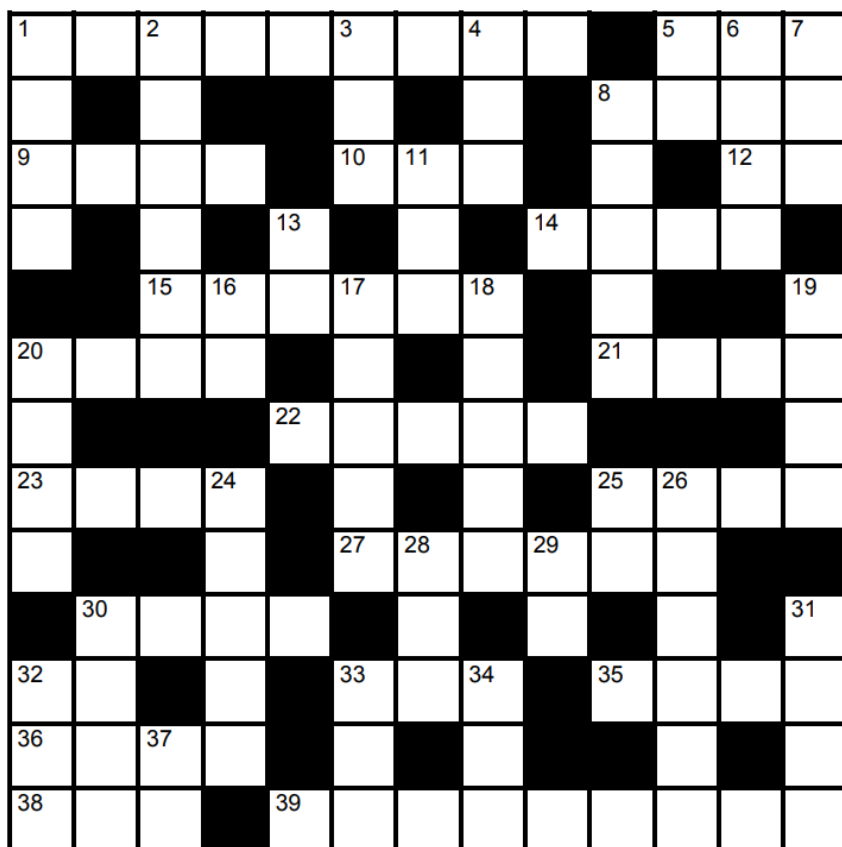
So plug in the coffee pot. And have your pot luck suppers. And gather as God gives you opportunity, with a door open to those outside. Invite others. Share the love of Christ. You can be someone's spiritual Roseto, where people can experience the love of the Savior through you, and find spiritual health and healing in the name of Jesus.



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Jesus' birthplace (9)
 5 Herod slew the children of this age and under (3)
 8 Peter quoted his words on the day of Pentecost (4)
 9 "A ___ shaken with the wind" (4)
 10 "Ye shall find ___ babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" (3)
 12 The year from Jesus' birth (2)
 14 Anna was of this tribe (as recorded in Luke) (4)
 15 "Behold, a ___ shall be with child" (6)
 20 "Fruits ___ for repentance" (4)
 21 The wise men came from here (4)
 22 "He shall reign of the house of ___ for ever" (5)
 30 "As soon as the voice of thy salvation sounded in mine ___" (4)
 32 An altar meaning witness (Joshua 22) (2)
 33 To increase (3)
 35 Malarial fever (4)
 36 To guide (4)
 38 There was no room here (3)
 39 These men went to see the baby Jesus (9)
 23 A female ancestor of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1 (4)
 25 The amount of manna to be gathered per person (4)
 27 He multiplied the widow's oil (6)



by Colin

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down

- 1 "Mary, of whom was ___ Jesus" (4)
 2 Jesus' age when he was taken to Jerusalem (6)
 3 Jesus did not do this in the wilderness (3)
 4 Adam's wife (3)
 5 "Mary was espoused ___ Joseph" (2)
 6 "They that ___ soft clothing are in kings' houses" (4)
 7 Zacharias said, "I am an ___ man" (3)
 8 Grandson of 23 (5)
 11 A place near Bethel (3)
 13 "A pair of turtledoves ___ two young pigeons" (2)
 16 "That ___ might be fulfilled" (2)
 17 "The ___ of God was upon him" (5)
 18 Mother-in-law of 23 (5)
 19 This went before the wise men (4)
 20 The mother of Jesus (4)
 24 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth (5)
 25 "___ that one would hear me!" (2)
 26 Jesus was laid in this (6)
 28 The spirit did this to Jesus in the wilderness (3)
 29 Thus (2)
 30 The first garden (4)
 31 "Where is he that is born king of the ___?" (4)
 32 A priest in the time of Samuel (3)
 33 A tree of the olive family (3)
 34 To put into water (3)
 37 "___ angel of the Lord appeareth" (2)



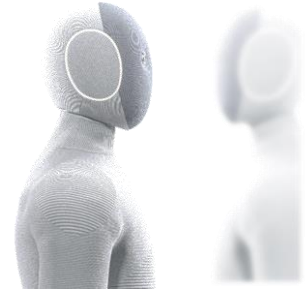


Each week, the Axis.org team research culture to help parents and family members stay up to date on the music, movies, TV shows, and social media trends that are impacting your kid's world.

Whether a teen or pre-teen, the questions suggested by the team can help you continue conversations with them that help you to understand how the trends affect them personally.

NOT THE ONE

What it is: A “proof of concept” from AI and robotics company 1X featuring a helpful robot named NEO took over the internet last week. The robot can, in theory, do chores like cleaning dishes, watering plants, vacuuming, and more.



Why it's all just a theory right now: Autonomous robot companions have long been the dream of futurists, and for just \$20,000, this dream could be yours. Sort of. In tech YouTuber Marques Brownlee's dive into the announcement, he rightly points out that almost all of what Neo is doing is not autonomous. The actions are instead controlled remotely, by a human, the whole time. So what exactly are you pre-ordering? Downton Abbey with less charm? In reality, this is the baby steps of this technology, and Neo is probably the initial way for companies to gather real-life data to train AI models for these robots. Essentially, if you pre-order Neo right now, you are paying for the privilege of training an inferior product for other people in the future to maybe get a more competent one. As one YouTube comment puts it, “That's not a home helper, that's a \$20,000 surveillance intern.”

Continue the conversation: What's something that lived up to the hype?

TEENS AND SNAP

What it is: Even apart from funding restrictions due to the recent government shutdown, new laws around SNAP will require families whose kids are above age 14 to meet stricter criteria for benefits.

What exactly changed: Simply put, even after the government shutdown (presumably) ends, fewer teens between 14 and 18 will qualify for federal nutrition assistance. This change is coming at a time when the number of minors in the US living with food insecurity has been increasing. Christians may feel divided on how food assistance should work, appealing to verses like Acts 2:45 on the one hand, and 2 Thessalonians 3:10 on the other. Either way, right now, the federal government isn't providing the assistance it would typically, creating a unique opportunity for the church to meet tangible needs.

Continue the conversation: What role do you think the church should play to help people in our community?



THAT'S RICH

What it is: Market research is attempting to define the peculiar relationship Gen Z and Gen Alpha have with “luxury” brands.

Why it's not straightforward: For young consumers, “luxury” isn’t necessarily a status symbol—it’s a feeling. And since feelings are subjective, luxury can just be about a little hit of dopamine from buying a product with a brand’s name on it. A high-end handbag thrifted from Vinted? Luxury. A bag charm from Miu Miu? Luxury. And sweatpants from Nike? You guessed it, also luxury. Sephora lists over 150 products defined as “luxury lip balms.” Coach, Ralph Lauren, Prada, and The Row are all on the rise among younger luxury consumers, while Gucci has been less in demand. The price tags on fashion house brands are as eye-watering as ever, but young people make up more of their consumers than ever before. Which begs a bigger question: is luxury somehow more accessible than it used to be?

Let's translate this one further...

Growing up in the backwoods of New York City (that is to say, Staten Island), I knew at least two things about sophistication. First, sophisticated people definitely existed. They floated around in Gucci and Guess, needing nobody’s approval, a cloud of black jackets and woolen skirts, shoe-shined loafers and gleaming heels. And second, I—a curly-haired pastor’s daughter who had crash-landed among them from Lynchburg, Virginia—was definitely not one of them.

Most of the people I knew who seemed obscenely rich turned out to be mid-level office employees who knew how to shop the Macy’s sales, masquerading in a good blowout and a professional manicure. It was coastal elite cosplay, and I, too, could learn it. The chorus of industrial-strength hair dryers is the outer borough’s national anthem, and an after-hours excursion to the dupe storefronts on Canal Street is our dearest pilgrimage.



Which leads to my most essential lesson as a bridge-and-tunnel person. Proximity to luxury is a poor substitute for actual financial freedom—and I mean that in the literal sense. A fake LV bag and a NARS lip liner from last season’s sale bin will only take you so far. And while it is no sin to “treat yourself” within your means, I hear it does get kind of old after a while.

Financial freedom isn’t being able to afford as many luxury items as you want. It also isn’t about pretending not to want anything. It is contentment with what is currently accessible to you. As Paul writes in 1 Timothy 6:6-8, “Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.” Taking on this mindset is true luxury.

Gen Z’s fascination with luxury is not necessarily a fixation on wealth. It’s a desire to romanticize and elevate—to value precious things, and to consume with care. In that regard, maybe they’re on the right track.

Continue the conversation:

- What is your most valuable possession?
- What would you do if you won the lottery?
- What is your favorite example of a person using their money to do something good?

Do You Hear What We Hear?



*An ode to Christmas music
— and a special new Advent
experience!*

In a 2024 survey by music streaming service Pandora, consumers said that “traditional” holiday music—think Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby—motivates them to stay in stores longer, makes them feel happy, and encourages them to be generous. In contrast, they said that “religious” music played in stores makes them angry and discourages them from shopping.

In other words, customers have become so accustomed to listening to Christmas music about nostalgia, gifts, and family that when they hear “Little Town of Bethlehem” in the mall, they’re actually annoyed.

Maybe it was a biased survey design, but it’s still worth understanding what, exactly, most of us feel when we hear Christmas music—and how those feelings can create opportunities for conversation. If you’re interested in some decidedly Jesus-centric discussions about Christmas music that your teens might actually enjoy alongside you, get on the list for our Advent: For the Record calendar and playlist! It’s a fail-proof Advent calendar for parents with teens and young adults, aimed right at the rich discipleship opportunities that the Christmas season can provide.

Everything we do is always free—which is especially awesome in the Christmas season. Sign up now at <https://axis.org/advent/> to get:

- A digital Advent calendar on our website with 25 days of culture translation. You can read or listen!
- A family-oriented, generation-spanning playlist with something for everyone—and no off-color lyrics to worry about.
- A beautiful printable PDF with all 25 songs and conversation starters to encourage connection, laughter, and discipleship with your teen.

We’re closing the list on November 30, so don’t miss out. Experience the meaning of Advent in a way that connects music, culture, and Christ.

Recipe

Gingershap Bars

from the Fruit of our Labor
Recipe from Janie Bloom



directions

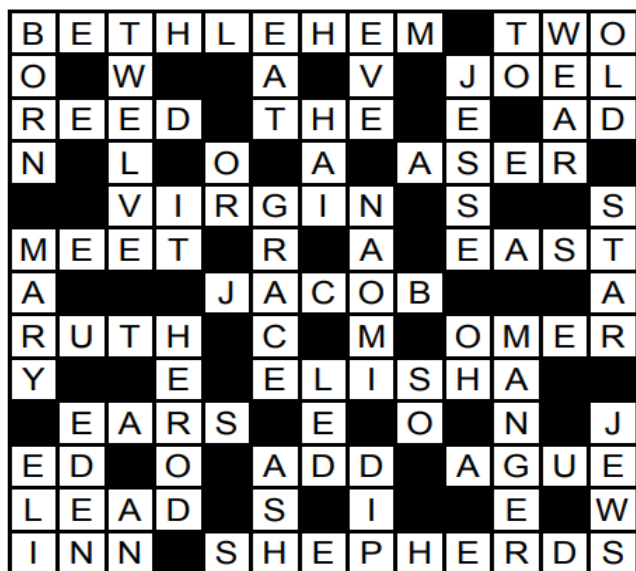
1. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 15in. x 10in. jelly roll pan.
2. In large saucepan, melt shortening, then cool for 5 min.
3. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.
4. Press mixture in bottom of greased pan. Sprinkle on remaining 2 Tsp. of sugar.
5. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 min. Do not overbake!

ingredients

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup margarine,
 shortening, or butter
 1 cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ginger
 2 cups flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
 2 tsp. baking soda
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses (green
 label)
 1 tsp. cinnamon
 1 egg
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. cloves
 2 Tbsp. sugar (for
 sprinkling)

Submit your Recipes!

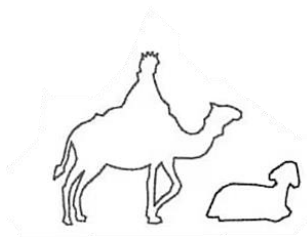
One of the ways we can share in fellowship with one another is to share our favorite, or most requested, recipes. We are asking everyone to share their recipes by submitting them to the church office and each month we will share a recipe in our newsletter. Please take a moment to copy your favorite recipe 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!



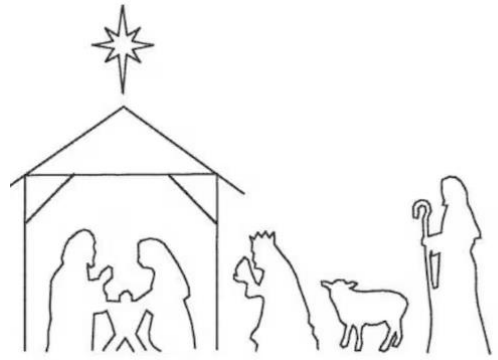
CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD - SOLUTION

Down: 1 Born, 2 Twelve, 3 Eat, 4 Eve, 5 To, 6 Wear, 7 Old, 8 Jesse, 11 Hai, 13 Or, 16 It, 17 Grace, 18 Naomi, 19 Star, 20 Mary, 24 Herod, 25 Oh, 26 Manger, 28 Led, 29 So, 30 Eden, 31 Jews, 32 Eli, 33 Ash, 34 Dip, 37 An.

Across: 1 Bethlehem, 5 Two, 8 Joel, 9 Reed, 10 The, 12 Ad, 14 Aser, 15 Virgin, 20 Meet, 21 East, 22 Jacob, 23 Ruth, 25 Omer, 27 Elisha, 30 Ears, 32 Ed, 33 Add, 35 Ague, 36 Lead, 38 Inn, 39 Shepherds.



ADVENT services



EVENING PRAYER

Liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer

@ 8:00

WED DEC 3

WED DEC 10

WED DEC 17

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



SPECIAL MUSIC @ 6:30

CANDELIGHT CHORAL

SERVICE @ 7:00

All are welcome to attend!

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

369 Broad Street

Montoursville, Pennsylvania 17754-2289

Telephone: 570-368-8933

<http://bethanylutheran.faith>





(Tureen) Lunch Time!

January 18th

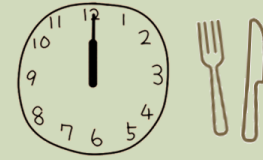
February 15th

March 15th

April 19th

May 17th

Sign-ups for main courses are outside of the church office.



Please remember to bring your own table setting!

COOKIE CRAWL

We will be participating in the annual Cookie Crawl on December 12th and 13th! Cookie Donations will be accepted and should be dropped off prior to these dates. Sign-ups are outside of the church office.



ADVENT PROGRAM

Our annual Children's Advent Program will be on December 14th, 2025. Please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the birth of Our Lord through this wonderful tradition!



PIANO WOOD AVAILABLE

If anyone is interested in the wood from the old pianos for a project, please let Tracy, Deb or Flip know. It is in piles by flat, hinged or pieces that could be used for a shelf and a couple of odd pieces.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

We are taking orders for memorial bricks! Payment will be required prior to placing the order. Please return the form along with your payment to the church office by January 31st, 2025.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held December 7, 2025, in the sanctuary immediately following the service. In addition to the normal yearly business, we will vote on proposed changes to the NALC Constitution which were approved by the 457 delegates at the Mission Convocation on August 6-8, 2025. Materials related to these proposed changes are available to any interested members at the entrance to the sanctuary and on the table outside the church office.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Orders for Poinsettias will be due on December 7th to the church office. Please fill out the form and return it to the office with your payment. Thank you for helping us decorate the chancel for the Christmas season!

Worship Participants

December Ministries

Altar: Jean Beard

Communion: Tim & Brenda Logan

Greeting Cards: Jean Wentz

December 7

Lay Reader: Greg Dwulet

Communion: Greg Dwulet, Karen Paulhamus

Ushers: Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler

Lock-Up: Denice Palmetter

December 14

Lay Reader: David Neidig

Communion: David Neidig, Tracy Rhian

Ushers: Michael & Gail Stover

Lock-Up: William Bagwell

December 21

Lay Reader: Beverly Brown

Communion: Babr Winchester, Barb Pentz

Ushers: Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown

Lock-Up: David Grube

December 24 *Christmas Eve*

Lay Reader: Michael Stover

Communion: Michael & Gail Stover

Ushers: Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower

Lock-Up: David Grube

December 28

Lay Reader: Arlene Klepper

Communion: Arlene Klepper, Tracy Rhian

Ushers: Richard Hillegas, Mark Whitmoyer

Lock-Up: Philip Oechler

January Ministries

Altar: Earla Gower & Barb Winchester

Communion: Tracy Rhian

Greeting Cards: Beverly Brown

January 4

Lay Reader: Michael Stover

Communion: Michael Stover, Gail Stover

Ushers: Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler

Lock-Up: Denice Palmetter

January 11

Lay Reader: Gregory Dwulet

Communion: Gregory Dwulet, Barb Pentz

Ushers: Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower

Lock-Up: Mark Whitmoyer

January 18

Lay Reader: David Neidig

Communion: David Neidig, Karen Paulhamus

Ushers: Michael Stover, Gail Stover

Lock-Up: William Bagwell

January 25

Lay Reader: Phil Riggs

Communion: Phil Riggs, Yvonne Sechler

Ushers: Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown

Lock-Up: David Grube

Altar Flowers

Dec. 7 – Barb Winchester

Dec. 14 – OPEN

Dec. 21 – Pr. James & Jen Bartlett

Dec. 24 – Wentz Family

Dec. 28 – *Poinsettias*



Sunday November 30

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

Tue. Dec. 2

9:00am	Quilters
1:00pm	Lace Group

Wed. Dec. 3

6:00pm	Pudgie's
7:00pm	Handbells
8:00pm	Advent Evening Prayer
8:30pm	Choir

Thu. Dec. 4

7:15pm	Renewal Committee
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Upcoming Events

Sunday December 14

9:00am	Holy Communion
10:15am	Coffee/Fellowship
10:30am	Sunday School
	Children's Advent Program

Tue. Dec. 16

9:00am	Quilters
1:00pm	Lace Group

Wed. Dec. 17

6:00pm	Pudgie's
7:00pm	Handbells
8:00pm	Advent Evening Prayer
8:30pm	Choir

Sunday December 7

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

Mon. Dec. 8

7:15pm	Church Council
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Tue. Dec. 9

9:00am	Quilters
1:00pm	Lace Group

Wed. Dec. 10

12:00pm	Bible Study
6:00pm	Pudgie's
7:00pm	Handbells
8:00pm	Advent Evening Prayer
8:30pm	Choir

Thu. Dec. 11

6:00pm	Bible Study
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Fri. Dec. 12

10:00am-4:00pm	Cookie Crawl
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Sat. Dec. 13

10:00am-3:00pm	Cookie Crawl
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Sunday December 21

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

Tue. Dec. 23

9:00am	Quilters
1:00pm	Lace Group

Wed. Dec 24

Christmas Eve

7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
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Thu. Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

Sunday December 28

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

Tue. Dec. 30

9:00am	Quilters
1:00pm	Lace Group

