



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
185 Church Street, PO Box 273
Central Bridge NY, 12035

January 2024 Newsletter

Bethany Lutheran Church

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www.bethanycentralbridge.com

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Best wishes from Bethany Lutheran Church to you and your family for the 2024 year. Time does go by fast. As we end the holiday season and start a new year Bethany is restarting our newsletters. We will try to get something out each month. Any news you would like to share please let Pastor Jeff, Chris, or Jeanette know. Preferably it will be done via e-mail, however, for those of you who do not have email, we will mail you a copy.

Do we have all your information correct? Look at the form at the end of this newsletter under How may we reach you?, Fill out and return to church. Thanks this keeps us up to date.

As the new year begins at Bethany, so does Pastor Jeff Silvernail, who will be returning to Bethany for at least 30 Sundays in 2024. Pastor Jeff was with us about two years ago. Pastor Jeff is now semi-retired, however, not wishing to retire fully Bethany's need for a Pastor fits with Pastor Jeff. When Pastor Jeff is not available on Sundays we will have Pastor Becca, Pastor John Knarvik, Pastor Judy Converse and others fill in. We will take this time to research Pastor David Blackstone and other SAM options. Pastor Jeff will be starting on Jan. 1 with his first Sunday with us on Jan. 14th. Pastor Jeff is available to meet with anyone who wishes to talk, just give him a call.

His phone number is 518-630-7995 or e-mail at jsilvernail@verizon.net. He is also available for weddings, baptism and home visits if needed. Speaking of baptisms – do you have someone in your family who has not been baptized. Pastor Jeff is available.

Snow? In the event of bad weather (snow, ice, whatever we get in Schoharie County), we will post any closings thru e-mail (if you have) and on the school closing network on local TV and radio stations. We do not want anyone taking chances due to weather trying to get to church. We just used this last Sunday!

Sunday School resumes on January 14th and 21st. Everyone is welcome ages 4 and up. We have a bible story, craft and snack. We usually take the children upstairs for communion.

The Sunday school children and the confirmation class presented “A Christmas Tree for Jesus” on December 17th. They did a fantastic job on the program and we thank the Congregation for singing along. If you were not there you can check out the great presentation here at <https://youtu.be/SZ8jmMZR30I>. A very special thanks to the kids – Alena Hahn, Julie Attanasio, Paul Hahn, Elly Luhr (even though she was sick that day), Domenica Taccone, Abby Caiazzo, Maven Armstrong, Kim Rogers, Lorri Armstrong and Jeanette Cornwell for this wonderful presentation.

Our confirmation class will be meeting at least twice a month over the next few months. They resume January 14th and 21st at 8 AM. Pastor Jeff will be joining Lorri in teaching this class. They will be meeting in the Parsonage.

We held our Evening of Music in November with Music from the 50's. A potluck dinner preceded this event with 40 people attending a delicious meal. There were 50 people in attendance for the program. Special guest retired Pastor Greg Zajac, formerly of Altamont, and his wife made the trip from Rochester to join us for the evening. We also had several guests from Altamont Lutheran joins us for the evening. Looking forward to 2024, we are moving on with

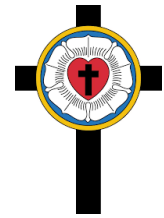
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Music from the 60's. It's not too early to start planning your act! The full performance if you want to relive the highlights can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/3iGrZNSLr6E>

During the months of November and December Bethany did special collections for the following:

- Albany Maritime Ministry where Pastor Judy delivery all our supplies collected.
- Clinton Home – where Judy and Sandy delivered the supplies on December 15th
- Operation Christmas Child – this year we had a record **61 boxes collected!**
- Adopt a Family - this year we adopted one family for the Schoharie County Joshua project for Christmas
- Food Pantry – we gave out 8 Christmas hams this year along with our normal food supplies

Thank you to all that help in this mission!



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“Commit your way to the Lord; Trust in him, and he will act.” Psalm 37:5

This is the time of year when the tree comes down, the decorations are put away, the last of the Christmas goodies consumed and if we are bold or fool hearty we get on the scale and say - WHAT???

On come the diets, the exercise plans and the list of resolutions.

It is a good time to take stock as a new year begins. What good things in our lives do we want to enhance? What detrimental things in our lives do we wish to let go of? What is something new and positive that we can adopt.

Did you ever wonder what the success rate is for New Year's resolutions? According to all knowing Google it is 8 %. It seems 80% of resolutions have failed by February! That's not very encouraging.

We aren't the first people in the history of the world who have wanted to make improvements in our lives. Let's learn from the wisdom of those who have gone before us, especially those who are our ancestors in faith.

Do you have a goal? Listen to the wisdom of the ancient psalmist, “Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act.” Let God be your partner and your guide. Let your sisters and brothers in the faith be your cheering section.

Let's do this together for Bethany as well. I look forward to rejoining you for a time of ministry. Let's commit to trusting in the Lord to guide, acting with boldness to serve, and opening our hearts to bless.

Together with our God we can make our lives, our congregation and this world better.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Jeff

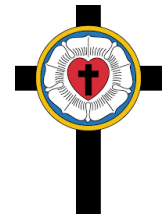
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DID YOU KNOW?

We have a bulletin board on the patio at the back door. We post different events that are happening along with community events.

Civic Association meets at Bethany at 7 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (*note – January and February we do not meet*). This is a community group. They are currently looking for new members. Each year they sponsor the Easter egg hunt, Halloween party and Christmas party for children of the community. Looking for something to do in the community, come join us at the next meeting on March 20. For more information talk with Judy Warner or Jeanette Cornwell.

The coffee pot is on every Sunday after church in the side Sunday School room for a time to socialize. Come on over.

We have communion twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. On the second Sunday we gather to kneel or stand at the Altar rail. On the 4th Sunday we come to the front of the church to receive the communion.

Let's take time to Thank those who do so much for us and save us the cost of hiring persons to do the things they do. These persons just stepped up and have taken on the responsibility of doing the tasks they do.

Special Thanks to.....

Mike Taccone for keeping our church clean and saving us the expense of a sexton.

Scott Price for keeping our lawns in such great shape and saving us the expense of hiring someone to mow.

Fred LaTulipe for keeping our shrubs trimmed during the year, saving us this expense.

Chris Cornwell for shoveling our steps and sidewalk and others like Phil Rogers and Mark Vanderwerken who help keep them cleaned off.

Charles Cornwell for plowing the parking lot for the last 20 years. He has now retired his truck and plow. Mark Vanderwerken will step up and keep our driveway and parking lot plowed when we have snow. This project saves us the cost of hiring a professional.

Kim Rogers for teaching our Sunday School students.

Lorri Armstrong for teaching our confirmation class.

Carol and the choir for their leading of hymns and the wonderful music they perform on Sunday.

Carol for typing and printing our bulletins each week.

Cathy Caiazzo, Judy Warner and Jeanette Cornwell for counting the envelopes after church each Sunday.

Our Treasurer, Jeanette Cornwell, who keeps our bills paid each month.

The Ladies Auxiliary for their help with money towards the fuel bill.

Chris Cornwell for all the miscellaneous "things" he does around the church, including shoveling, communion assistant, recording the sermons, etc. etc. etc.

Jeanette Cornwell for handling the mail, phone and office work of the church.

The Mau family for donating the Christmas tree each year.

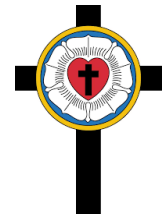
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To Judy Warner, Sandy Deems, Jeanne Hay, Donna Schuttig and “Smokey and Daisy Mae” for keeping our food pantry going.

Our ushers who serve weekly

Our acolytes who serve weekly

The persons who furnish flowers each week

Our Lectors who are willing to read the lessons each week even though some of the words are hard to pronounce.

And for those we may have forgotten to mention we thank you for what you do. You have not been asked, but have stepped up to do the work around the church.

Our congregation who continue to support us both financially and by attending services.

Thanks to All

Offering envelopes are available. If you did not receive a box and wish to have one let Jeanette know. Using envelopes is a great way to allow you to give money for the expenses of the church – pastors, heat, light, etc. and we keep a record for tax purposes for you. We have been able to meet our budget for the last few years, however, in 2024 we will be doing some major projects – driveway repair and Parsonage bathroom remodel and repair. Estimated cost at least \$30,000. Anything you can do to help offset these cost is appreciated.

We have Pew envelopes in all the pews. You can use these for your offering. By including your name on the envelopes, we can track if you made a donation during the year.

Attendance - Did you know that just attending church service does not mean you are a voting member of Bethany? To be a voting member

you must make a documented donation at least once a year and take communion at least once a year. Making sure you do these two things means you are a voting member of Bethany Lutheran Church and can vote at meetings.

Our annual meeting will be held on January 21 after an abbreviated service. Please plan on attending. Your opinion matters.

How can we reach you? If any of your contact information has changed – please make sure to let Chris or Jeannette know!

