

PEW NEWS

The Newsletter for Bethany Lutheran Church



IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor's Desk	page 2
Letter from ELCA Bishop, the Rev. Yehiel Curry	page 3
Church Calendar of Events	page 4
Serving This Month Worship Schedule	page 5
Upcoming Activities	page 6

AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Meeting is Scheduled for December 16th at 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Meeting is Scheduled for December 28th following Worship Service

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2025 Poinsettias For Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m. Pittsburgh Harmony Singers Christmas Program.
Stewardship Meeting Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting on Sunday, December 28th immediately following Worship.
See page 5 for event details





"Light one candle to watch for Messiah (ELW 240)

As we enter into the season of Advent this month, we might expect to hear the familiar whispers of a baby's cry in Bethlehem or the gentle rustle of angel wings. Instead, our Gospel readings thunder with cosmic signs and roaring seas. Jesus speaks of the sun, moon, and stars – the very fabric of creation – bearing witness to extraordinary events. Nations in distress, people fainting from fear and foreboding. These aren't exactly the comforting words we might have hoped for on this Advent Season.

Yet here we are, beginning our journey toward Christmas with Jesus telling us to "stand up and raise our heads." While the world around us might be shaken, while uncertainty seems to be our daily companion, Jesus offers us something remarkable – not a promise of escape, but a promise of presence.

In our own time, we understand what it means to live with uncertainty. We know what it feels like when the foundations seem to shake. The daily news can leave us wondering if we, too, should faint from fear and foreboding. This past year has brought its share of national distress and personal challenges.

What if these signs of upheaval – these moments that make us want to look down in despair – are actually divine invitations to look up in hope? What if Jesus is speaking these words not to frighten us, but to prepare us for an encounter with divine presence that will change everything?

This Advent Season, Jesus invites us to become holy watchers, people who know how to read the signs not of doom, but of divine arrival. Like those who study a fig tree and know by its tender branches that summer is near, we're called to develop spiritual eyes that see God's movement in our world, even – or especially – in times of upheaval.

Let's explore together what it means to be people who don't cower in fear but stand tall in faith, people who know that when the world seems to be falling apart, God is actually drawing near. See you in church.

Pastor Elizabeth Mayforth



South Hills Interfaith Movement 5301 Park Avenue Bethel Park, PA 15102

While our location hasn't changed, we have updated our address to 2601 South Park Rd, Bethel Park, PA 15102, to hetter reflect our main entrance.

November 20, 2025

Pastor Elizabeth Mayforth Bethany Lutheran Church 5303 Madison Ave Bethel Park, PA 15102-3631

Dear Pastor Elizabeth,

Thank you for being part of our South Hills village of neighbors helping neighbors! Your gift of \$750 to South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM) truly impacts local children and families.

Thanks to you, seniors on fixed incomes like John receive nutritious food twice per month. With your help, preschoolers Arjun and Sita receive nurturing care in our preschool program. Because

you care, teens like Preyanka and Anmol have a safe and welcoming place to turn for help with homework and college applications.

Your generosity empowers our neighbors to find hope in their time of need. John is one of 580+ seniors relying on our food pantries. And Arjun, Sita, Preyanka, and Anmol are only four of the 400+ kids attending our youth programs. Your investment in a strong South Hills community helps families address immediate needs while building economic stability for the future.



Learn more about your impact at shimcares.org or follow us on social media. Our South Hills village is kind and caring because of people like you, and we're so thankful that you Thank you for the many blessings upon SHIM. Thank you for being a great neighbor! took action to support our diverse community!

Sincerely,

Executive Director

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation and the total amount is tax deductible. Please retain this letter as a record of your contribution.



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	Shamrock Manor Women's Club	10:00am: SHIM Shop-Thru Food Pantry 3:00pm: SHIM Shop- Thru Food Pantry 7:00pm: Choir Practice	5 10:00am: SHIM Drive-Thru Food Pantry	6
9:15am: Adult Study 10:30am:Worship	8	9	10	7:00pm: Choir Practice	12	SHIM 12:00pm: Craft Fair
14 10:30am:Worship 3:00pm: Harmony Singers	15	7:00pm: Stewardship Meeting	17	18 10:00am: SHIM Shop-Thru Food Pantry 3:00pm: SHIM Shop- Thru Food Pantry 7:00pm: Choir Practice	19 10:00am: SHIM Drive-Thru Food Pantry	20
21 10:30am:Worship.	22	23	24	Christmas Eve 7:00pm:Candle Light Eve Service	26 Christmas	27
10:3 0am:Worship 11:30am: Council Meeting	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			



THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte
12/7/2025	Elizabeth Hartos	James Palmer	Colt Wigand
12/14/2025	Jeannine Stowers	Karen Housam	Drew Benigni
12/21/2025	Elizabeth Hartos	James Palmer	Katie Hartos
12/24/2025	Jane Scheeser	Ruth Lipinski	Colt Wigand
12/28/2025	Andrew Parker	Karen Housam	Summer Parker

USHER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Dan Volpatti will serve as Usher for the month of December

OFFERING COUNTERS' SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

The Offering Counters for the month of December are Jane Scheeser and Sandy Burns



If you have a specific prayer request, there is a Prayer Petition form in the Narthex. Please note your petition and it will be mentioned by Pastor each week.



Choir Practice is every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. Come join us!!!

Thank you to our faithful members of choir and our director, Patty, for sharing the wonderful gift of music!



DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us for the Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome!

2025 POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Once again this year, we will be ordering poinsettias to help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas and to honor or memorialize those important to us

The cost for flowers is \$15 per plant, and the cut-off date to place an order is Monday, December 15th.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED FOR CHRISTMAS

The Evangelism Committee will be partnering with SHIM to support our Neighbors in Need for Christmas. We would like to provide gift cards, as we did last year, in any denomination from any local grocery or gift store. When you see our Christmas tree light up in the Narthex, please feel free to add your gift cards to the envelopes provided and hang them on the tree. We will accept these gifts until Sunday, December 14, to allow SHIM enough time to distribute and our friends time to use as needed. Our committee would like to thank this congregation for their generosity and faithfulness to our neighbors. Most of us have never been in the position to experience such a need and we are happy that you are able to relate with your kindness.



HARMONY SINGERS AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

n **Sunday, December 14**th at 3:00 p.m., we will be offering a concert presented by the **Harmony Singers** at **Bethany Lutheran Church**.

Two of our choir members, Cathy Irwin and Karen Housam are members of this choir.

A delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon together enjoying the songs of the Season.

CARING FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If you are aware of a need for a member of our church family, please bring that to the attention of Pastor Liz. She will, using the utmost discretion, contact that individual or family to determine how Bethany is best able to assist. Regardless of the need, we have resources available to help. That member is also able to go directly to SHIM or the many other food banks, churches and individuals that provide these services.



If you would like a **Home Visit** or a visit at your care center from our Visitation Committee, please send contact information to the office. The Visitation Committee will coordinate this for you. They would be happy to serve communion, if desired.





UPDATED LIST OF ITEMS FOR SHIM

With the government shutdown continuing, Neighbors like you help feed South Hills families, nurture children, and help people find their path to self sufficiency.

Most needed items for SHIM's food pantries

Pasta sauce in jars

Cereal and oatmeal

Low sodium soups

Condiments for baking (flour, sugar, oil)

Adult pullup diapers

Wipes

Dog and cat food

Personal care items (shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine items, etc.)

Most needed items for our refugee and immigrant neighbors

Dried beans (kidney beans, chickpeas, black beans, etc.)

Lentils

Rice

Flour

Cooking Oil

Sugar

Spices and seasonings (salt, pepper, garlic, ginger, chili powder, turmeric, etc.)

Diapers