

March

Bethany News

2024

FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN

Pastor -Breanna Tessitore
Secretary, Michelle Ieradi - Music Director, Debra Schoen



*Bethany Lutheran Church
Palmyra, NJ*

**Church Office - 617 Morgan Ave. Palmyra, NJ 08065 * Office Ph 856-829-2373
bethanypalmyra@gmail.com**



Monthly Meetings

Church Council &
Finance Committee
Worship Committee
Men's Breakfast
WELCA Circles
WELCA Exec. Board

2nd Tuesday
1st Monday
1st & 3rd Saturday
1st full week
3rd Thursday

Pack 9 BSA
Crew 9 BSA
Troop 9 BSA
Girl Scouts

every Monday & Tuesday
and 3rd Friday Night
every Monday Night
every Tuesday Night
Wednesday Night

Message From Pastor

One Saturday at the end of February, I pulled up to the Miller House. I normally don't come in on Saturday but this day was special. One of our Life Scouts from Troop 9 was working on his Eagle Scout Project at the Church Office and I wanted to stop by and say hello.

Our usually sleepy office was a whirlwind of paint and teen boys, adults on step ladders and classic rock music. All of the furniture from the front office was piled into the living room and stacked onto the table. I wove my way into the chaos, a bit overwhelmed. Construction supplies lined the small walkway and close to twenty people skittered through the building doing various projects. Everyone smiled, laughing, teasing one another about their painting skills or inability to use a screwdriver.

As the days passed and we hit day five without internet or bathrooms in the Miller House, however, we all got a bit antsy. This was supposed to be a simple project. Something you could knock out in three days max. And here we were on day five. Sanding, painting, moving furniture, removing bushes, so much of it had taken longer than expected.

The middle phase of a change is difficult. It's messy, overwhelming, and exhausting. The systems and habits we relied on for years may cease to work. (Try finding a pencil, tape, or scissors when the entire desk and office has been taken apart.) And in the midst of the chaos, sometimes we find ourselves wishing we hadn't even started. Wishing we had left it as it was.

While I stood eating dinner hunched over a clean spot on the counter on Tuesday night, I almost felt that way. Wouldn't it have been easier to have suggested he do some other project? And yet, we had begun the project. While everything was moved we took the opportunity to clean the windows and carpets, the screens and the blinds, and so much more. "Guys, come look!" The boys called before dumping the dirty carpet water. The sounds of surprise and disgust echoed as they watched. Evidence of decades of use was lifted up out of the carpets, leaving them cleaner, if not perfect.

When we take the chance to change things, tidy up our routines, and refresh our outlook, it takes time before the fruit of our changes comes to pass. We have to walk through the messy middle, the times where we question if all this fuss is worth it. Times when we remember the good things and wonder if we should have left well enough alone.

But I promise you it is worth the fuss. Worth the chaos, discomfort, and mess. God calls us to meet the needs of the church as it is today, not the church of years past. God calls us to shake up dust, walk through the mess and find what is waiting on the other side.

I'm sure many of you have fond memories of Bethany over the decades, of events in the Miller House, and so much more. And I know that as we continue to discern where we are called now it may get hard, or messy. We may find more dust and problems than we expected. It may take longer than we would like. And at the end of the day, it will be worth it.

Anyone who has owned a home or a building knows that the work is never done. There is always another project or dream. And ministry is much the same, while we will never sit back and say that we are finally done, each step we make in the next faithful one as we follow God into the future.

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P.S. Thank you to Life Scout, Max Weiler, and all those who supported him in his Eagle Scout Project. The Church Office is certainly brighter and cleaner after your work. We appreciate it!

WELCA

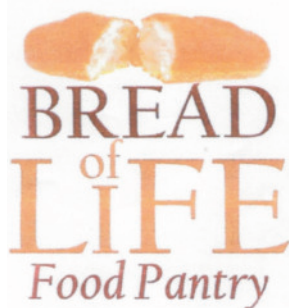
Martha March 5th 11AM - 1PM
Eve March 6th 11AM-1PM

Project: Urban Promise

Topic; Daring to Dream Again

WELCA Sunday will be April 21st. We will sponsor a Coffee Hour.
We need participants. Sign up sheets will be available at Circles

We are trying to set up date for Urban Promise visit.



We recently had 145 families receiving help.

**As food prices have risen recently,
ongoing donations are especially needed.**

Drop off in the Narthax

or

**Call Or Text Judy at 609-670-4916 for pickup
at your home**

Worship Committee

February 7, 2024, I noticed my crocuses were blooming. Oh no, Mother Nature is very confused, this is way too early. A few days later, if you receive the BCT, there was a very interesting picture and article titled “Enjoying the longer days? Thank Solar Spring”“. Guess what, solar spring begins February 5-May4, My crocuses were right on target and Mother Nature wasn’t confused, I was. I think this is a good lesson for me, just enjoy the crocuses and the longer days and just let Mother Nature do her job. March is a very busy month with Easter being so early, March 31st.

This year the congregation will have the opportunity to purchase Easter lilies. Envelopes will be available in the Narthex and the price will be \$9.00. The deadline date to place your order is March 11th. The Worship Committee would like to have a lily in each window and upfront. If you have any questions, please speak to someone on the Worship Committee.

March 3rd Lent 3

March 7th Thursday Bethany will be hosting the Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM 7:00 PM Lenten program

March 10th Lent 4

March 14th Lenten Soup Supper will be hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2618 New Albany Rd, Cinnaminson. Soup will be served at 6:00PM followed by the Lenten Program at 7:00 PM

March 17th Lent 5

March 24th Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday. Blessing of the Palms, Procession, reading of the Palm Sunday story according to Mark.

March 28th Maundy Thursday Service will be held at Epworth United Methodist Church, 501 Morgan Ave., Palmyra. Service will begin at 7:00 PM

March 29th Good Friday Service will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church, 2492 Andover Rd. Cinnaminson 12:00 PM - 3 PM An evening Good Friday Service will be held at Central Baptist Church, 514 Maple Ave., Palmyra, beginning at 6:30 PM

March 31st Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Lakeview Memorial Cemetery, Rt.130, Cinnaminson will begin at 6:30 AM Come a little early before the 10:15 AM worship service at Bethany and enjoy a cup of coffee, a doughnut, or a bagel and brief fellowship. We will proceed up to the Sanctuary where Pastor Bre will joyfully announce “Christ is Risen”. The congregation will respond loud and clear “He is Risen Indeed.”

Wasn’t the morning of February 17th truly a winter wonderland. The trees and bushes covered with snow, a post-card picture. What was even better, the sidewalks and roads did not need to be shoveled or plowed. **A PERFECT SNOW DAY!**



Stewardship Letter – March 2024



Happy St. Patrick's Day & Lenten Season to All

Here is an update on our January 2024 Financials:

<u>Balance 1/1/24</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance 1/31/24.</u>
\$25,746.86	+\$10,609.65	(-\$16,294.43)	\$20,062.08

As you can see above, our balance in our Parish decreased by **(-\$5,684.78)** over the month of January. Thank you all for your generous contributions each month. Expenses are trending higher than our receipts this past month.

Wow, time is flying by and here we are now in the Season of Lent, with Easter just a few short weeks away. We have so many events happenings recently with the first in-person Fastnacht Celebration since 2020, Bible Studies, Adult Education Class, Soup Suppers, Good Friday Men's Breakfast all coming up soon. There will be numerous times for worshipping and fellowship this Lenten Season! Please take time to join us every time that you can so we can walk this journey together to our most holy time of the year. The resurrection of our Lord & Savior "**Jesus Christ**" on March 31st, 2024.

Secondly, we are near the time when we begin our annual "**Stewardship Drive.**" We will again be sending out our "**Count Me In**" forms which we have revised to reflect innovative ideas to think about this year! Please spend prayerful time when considering the many ways that you can support the ministry and the programs that our Church is devoted to and give generously of your time, talents, and financial support to keep our ministry strong for years to come. Now that Pastor Bre is leading us, we have many plans to grow our service to the community. We want to see you all worship and celebrate with us in 2024!

Thank you all for your gracious and generous giving as always!

May God Bless you all and keep you safe, healthy, and happy! Remember God loves you and wants you to love him too! So, let us spread the love as Jesus has taught us as we go through our daily lives. **Amen!**

"For God so loveth a Cheerful Giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thanks be to God!!

Tom Willard - Chairperson

From the desk of the President

Fellow Church Members,

As we are in the Lenten season and maybe you have given up something for the 40 days please never give up attending church. As the time nears for Easter we should all remember our commitment to Bethany that we agreed to when becoming members. We are truly on a positive path under the leadership of Pastor Bre. She has brought a breath of fresh air on Sundays in her sermons and message.

She has started Adult Bible study and has been working on other programs. Your Council continues to work with her in support of her endeavors.

The Ash Wednesday service was one of the best we have had since COVID and before. The Tri-Boro churches Pastors and their members participated in the service. Debbie Schoen gathered a Community Choir which consisted of about 30 people from our members and others from the Tri-Boro churches. The choir sounded fantastic.

We look forward to seeing each of you on Sundays.

Rick Dreby
President



Dear Friends,

I am deeply touched by the love, support and prayers you have shown me during my recent diagnosis. I want you to know I felt your prayers being answered in the peace and many blessings the Lord has shown me on this journey.

He has brought me relief from my pain, and the best doctors and treatment and the acts of kindness by so many in the way of meals, cards and offering to be available to help in any way.

My heart is over-whelmed with gratitude!

With heartfelt thanks and love,

Diane Dreby

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Bethany News



March

01 Briella Hatcher

02 Morgan Dalesio

06 Ryan Arcaini

06 Colin Lumley

10 Ruth Ellen Cheney

17 Elisa Schoen

20 Pastor Brenna Tessitore

20 Chloe Vetrecin

22 Kimberly Salton

23 Dorothy Isard

23 Linda Richardson

29 Ann Deats

31 Ben Cheney

March

What's Happening...

- 03/01 8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)
- 03/02 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 03/03 10:15 AM: Communion
11:15 AM: Miller House (Adult Ed)
- 03/04 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Worship Meeting)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2nd Floor (Troop Comm. Meet)
- 03/05 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Miller House (Martha Circle)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/06 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Miller House (Eve Circle)
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2nd Floor (Pack Comm. Meet)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 03/07 **6:00 PM: Sanctuary/Gibson Hall: Soup Supper**
- 03/08
- 03/09 10:00 AM: Sanctuary/Gibson Hall (Betty Mill's Celebration of Life)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 03/10 10:15 AM: Communion/**Daylight Savings**
11:15 AM: Miller House (Adult Ed)
- 03/11 9:00 AM: Lily Order Forms Due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/12 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Council Meeting)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/13 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 03/14 **6:00 PM: Covenant Church (Soup Supper)**
- 03/15 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/16 8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 03/17 **St. Patrick's Day**
10:15 AM: Communion
11:15 AM: Miller House (Adult Ed)
- 03/18 Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/19 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/20 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 03/21 10:30 AM: Miller House (WELCA Exec Board. Meeting)
- 03/22
- 03/23 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 03/24 10:15 AM: Communion / **Palm Sunday**
11:15 AM: Miller House (Adult Ed)
- 03/25 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 03/26 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM: Gibson Hall/2nd Floor (Scouts)
- 03/27
- 03/28 **7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Epworth Methodist: (Maundy Thursday)**
- 03/29 **12:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Asbury Methodist: (Good Friday)**
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM: Central Baptist: (Good Friday)
- 03/30 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 03/31 **6:30 AM: Lakeview Cemetery (Sunrise Service)**
10:15 AM Communion / **Easter**



2024

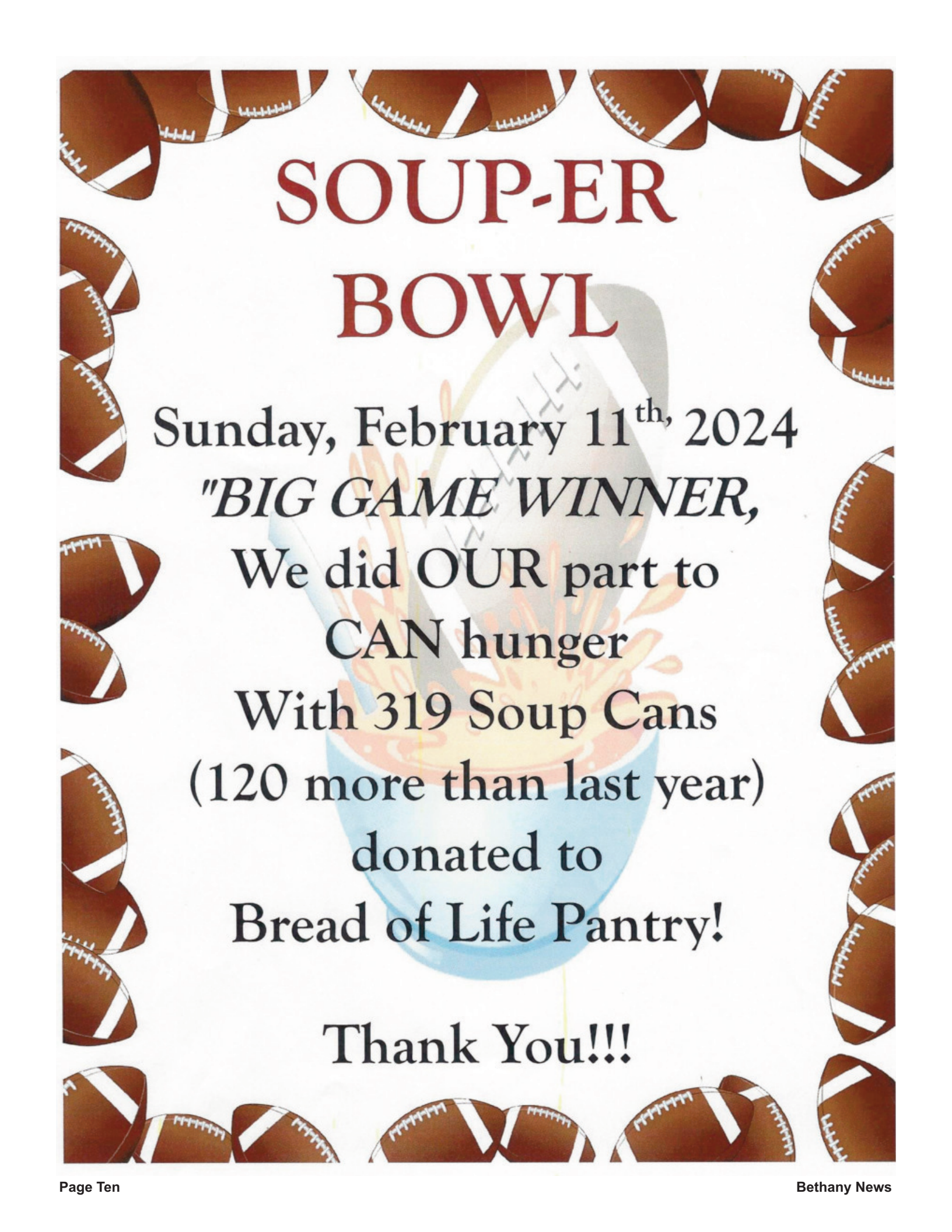
Easter Lilies

Deadline for ordering

March 11, 2024



\$9.00 each



SOUP-ER BOWL

Sunday, February 11th, 2024

"BIG GAME WINNER,

We did OUR part to
CAN hunger

With 319 Soup Cans
(120 more than last year)

donated to
Bread of Life Pantry!

Thank You!!!

The Council met on February 13, 2024, in the Miller House.

Highlights of the meeting were that we averaged 36 people for the church services during January. The giving for the month of January was very good.

Our overall expenditures exceeded out the income but overall, the Church finances are good. We are starting the budget preparation with the Finance Committee for our May Annual meeting. Property committee is looking to schedule a one day a week workday and possibly one Saturday a month so other folks may be able to help. We would also like to remind folks not to adjust the thermostat as they are programed to come on for Sunday's. If necessary, you can adjust the temperature on other occasions. See Bill Isard for instructions.

The Council approved the following Endowment Committee recommendations for funds. Camp No Worries, Global Refugee, Heifer International, and the Stephanie B. Furrer Foundation to send kids to camp.

Stewardship committee is preparing for the annual funding drive and Temple Talks. Bethany hosted the Ash Wednesday service.

Bethany will host the soup supper on March 7. Bethany members will be supplying the soup. Lilly's will be ordered for Easter Sunday

WELCA is planning a trip to UrbanPromise in April to tour their facility.

Valentine cards and cookies were done by members of the church and distributed to the shut-ins. The IT committee is looking into live streaming our services.

Membership list are being reviewed by a Committee and Council.

Fastnacht was a success. Approximately 45 attendees with 6 acts by about 11 ½ participants

Church Council will be hosting coffee hour 9:15 to 10:15 am on Easter Sunday before the Church service at 10:15.

Reminder to those that would like to use Gibson Hall for any type of event should complete the form that can be obtained in the office a week before the monthly Council meeting so the use can be approved.

Joan Kelly and Kim Salton along with Pastor Bre will be attending the Synod Assembly

The Soup drive was a huge success with 319 cans collected for the Bread of Life

Gibson Hall request for April 19 and 20 was approved.