

May

Bethany News

2026

FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN

Pastor - Breanna Tessitore

Secretary, Michelle Ieradi - Music Director, Debra Schoen

www.bethanypalmyra.org - - E-Mail: bethanypalmyra@gmail.com



*Bethany Lutheran Church
Palmyra, NJ*

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



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Monthly Meetings

Church Council & Finance Committee	2 nd Tuesday	Pack 9 BSA	every Monday & Tuesday and 3 rd Friday Night
Worship Committee	1 st Monday	Crew 9 BSA	every Monday Night
Men's Breakfast	1 st & 3 rd Saturday	Troop 9 BSA	every Tuesday Night
WELCA Circles	1 st full week		
WELCA Exec. Board	3 rd Thursday		

A Message From Our Pastor:

In March, I attended our district meeting where nearly every congregation in our district was represented, either by their pastor or lay leaders, as we prepared for our Synod Assembly on May 30th. While gathered, we worshiped: praying for healing, justice, and peace in all the world.

We sang one of my favorite hymns, “Canticle of the Turning” ELW # 723. This hymn is based on the Magnificat, the song Mary sings when the Angel Gabriel announces that she will give birth to Jesus. It speaks of the hope of turning a broken world upside down. As we sang, I couldn’t help but notice the tears coming down my face.

We are confronted daily by injustice, hunger, and oppression. I wept as I sang this song like a prayer. May the hungry poor weep no more for food they could never earn. May the spear and rod be crushed by God.

The hope which Mary proclaimed in the Magnificat remains powerful for us today. It call us to join her song, proclaiming: “My heart shall sing of the day you bring. / Let the fires of your justice burn. / Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, / and the world is about to turn.”

We pray these words with our hearts and voice and join in the work with our hands. Through our community meal, “*Dinner Is Served,*” and our evangelism at “*Palmyra Day,*” we help proclaim peace and hope. In all the ministry we do here at Bethany, we participate in this vision.

As we prepare for our annual *Congregational Meeting* and Synod Assembly, we are reminded that while the need is great, our hope is greater. We can indeed place our faith in God who is turning the world around—bringing bread for the hungry, freedom from oppression, raising up the weak and humbling the strong, giving hope to the hopeless, and holding us close in love.

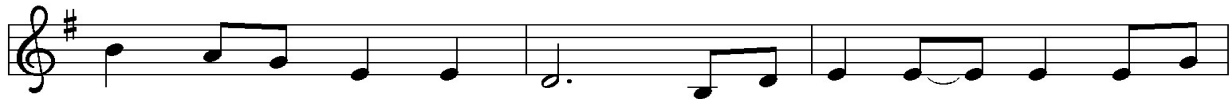
May we be inspired and uplifted by the promise that God is turning the world around.

In Christ’s name,
Pastor Bre Tessitore

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.



Council President

We will be holding our annual *Congregational Meeting* on May 17th after the church service where lunch will be provided. Please plan on attending this important meeting. We will be voting on the church budget which has been approved by council.

Just a reminder that we are still in need of three Council Members as some members have completed their terms. Church Council is a wonderful opportunity for you to become involved and help shape our future. If you have any questions please reach out to one of our council members or if you are interested please join us at our next council meeting May 12th at 7:00 PM in the Miller House.

Stephanie Staudenmayer



Council Meeting Summary

Minutes from the December 9, 2025 Council Meeting

On April 14th, the Church Council met for our monthly meeting. We had an average of 42 church attendees. Annette Brown came to discuss the By-Laws and memo from Council that will be discussed at the Congregational Meeting on May 17th. The budget was a hot topic since the Parish account is current negative. We are excited for an upcoming Baptism and Confirmation in May. The sale of Morgan Avenue lot has been progressing and we should have an update soon.

Dinner is Served had approximately 33 guests and 19 congregation-related people attend in March. Stewardship is working on the 2026 stewardship drive with more information to be announced in September. Our next meeting will be May 12th at 7:00 PM.

Allison Greenfield
Council Secretary

Christian Education

How does your faith inform your participation in civic life?

We kicked off the six-session study and discussion of the ELCA social statement titled, “Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All” on April 12th. If you would like to join us, we meet Sundays, following the 10:15 AM service, in Miller House:

April 26th, May 3rd, (May 17th?,) May 24th, May 31st (and June 3rd if didn't meet May 17).

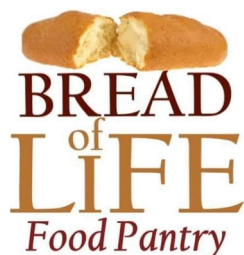
In our first discussion, we talked about three scriptural or Lutheran doctrine foundations of this social statement:

1-God's intention for all creation is shalom – a very wholistic concept, encompassing an abundance of peace, well-being, wholesomeness, etc. We evaluate actions of earthly institutions towards God's intention with terms such as “the well-being of all” or “the common good”.

2-Our Baptismal Vocation includes a call to work for justice and peace.

3-Luther's explanation of God's two-handed reign, working through explicitly gracious means in the church, and through secular means through secular roles, structures, and institutions to protect and foster the well-being of people and creation. Both are necessary and are interrelated.

If you'd like to take part, please see Mimi Confer for a copy of the social statement.



**We recently had 153 families receiving help.
As food prices have risen recently,
ongoing donations are especially needed.
Drop off in the Narthex or
call the office at 856-829-2373 for pickup
At Your Home!**

Fellowship Committee

Thank you, again, to all our helpers, bakers and attendees! You make our events very enjoyable.

In April:

April 4th: 29 people attended the Easter Breakfast

April 19th: 25 people attended WELCA Sunday Coffee Hour

Coming up:

May 17th: at Bethany's Annual Congregational Luncheon, there will be hoagies, salad, and deserts along with the beverages. This will follow the Sunday Service. We hope many will be able to attend!!

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Your Fellowship Committee



Social Ministry Committee

Dinner Is Served

Wednesday, May 27, 5-7 PM

Our free monthly open community dinner, “Dinner Is Served”, will be Wednesday, May 27th, 2026. We are very grateful to the entire congregation for all the support and volunteers that make this possible. Whether you donate toiletries for people to take with them, or pray, bake, invite, post flyers, cook, prepare, shop, set up, greet and welcome, serve, chat with guests, clean up, or help in some other way, you are essential to this ministry!

In February, about 25 guests (meaning people who are not connected with our congregation) came to the Dinner. In March, it had grown to at least 33! As I write this, we are preparing for our April Dinner, and are hoping to attract even more guests for a wonderful evening of meeting new people, sharing conversation and a great meal! Some of our guests may be living on the streets.

Others may have homes, but are challenged by food costs. Others really need fellowship with kind people who are happy to see them. And still others come to enjoy a night out. Whatever the reason, Bethany is here for our community, and it is our pleasure to serve our neighbors. Everyone is welcome!

We are grateful to Thrivent Financial for donating a \$250.00 Action Team gift card, to help pay toward the cost of the April dinner. Thrivent makes these gift cards available to Thrivent members, to encourage local volunteer projects. If you happen to already be a Thrivent member and would like to apply for one for an upcoming Dinner, please see Mimi Confer.

If you would like to help with this ministry of hospitality, please speak to a member of the Social Ministries Committee, or call the church office. Please note that we plan to hold these dinners on the last Wednesday of each month.

Thanks be to God for this opportunity to serve our neighbors!

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Confer,
Social Ministries Committee



Stewardship Letter



Spring Has Sprung – I Think

Hello Friends,

It is Springtime yes, but the weather is not sure about it!

We have had hot days, cool days, moderate days, and even freezing warnings recently!

So, let us all pray for that consistent Spring weather that make us all want to spend time outdoors in God's beautiful creation our world, our planet earth! I am looking forward to having the grill fired up, watching baseball or softball games this season. Maybe even going to beach or down the shore as we say here in New Jersey.

We will be having our Bethany Lutheran Church ***Congregational Meeting*** on May 17th, 2026, after the Church Service. I invite everyone to attend this meeting, make your vote count as you have many ideas and suggestions on how to keep our Church healthy and successful for the next year and beyond in the future! Your voice should be heard at the meeting; you should know how everything is going here at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Just a reminder we will be starting our new Stewardship Campaign this Fall on September 23rd with our first letter being mailed to members in advance of the first Sunday of our *Appeal* (Kickoff) for your support of Bethany Lutheran Church. This new Stewardship Campaign will go for four Sundays in a row and on October 25th, 2026 we will be asking for all members to return the "*Intent Cards*" for tabulation (**our goal is to get 40 returned**) and if we do, we may receive from an anonymous donor a "***Challenge Gift***" which is over and above the normal giving from that person/persons who are sharing the very generous gift for Bethany Lutheran Church. If you are interested in making a "*Challenge Gift*" please see Pastor Breanna at any time before our Stewardship Drive starts. This is going to be a momentous year for our Church. God Bless You!

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 Thanks be to God!

Tom Willard - Chairperson



Women ^{of the} ELCA

Come join us Tuesday, May 5th (Marth Circle) or Wednesday, May 6th (Eve Circle) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for our monthly meeting held in the Miller House.

Bring a lunch and our discussion this month is titled,
“She Dresses Us For the Journey”

an interesting article reminding us of all the women who have cared for us and shaped us along the way. Also, as our project, we continue to collect for the
Tri-Boro Clergy Emergency Fund.

Our end of year program is Tuesday, June 16th at 11:00 AM in Gibson Hall. We will have a surprise guest speaker and a catered lunch.

Hope to see you there. Thanks for all you do

Stephanie

Worship Committee

Highlights in April:

April weather was a mix of Spring, Summer, and Winter. As I am writing this the temperature is in the 30's (and it is daytime). I was hoping for Spring weather all month (in the 50's, 60's, even low 70's). I didn't expect days in the 80's, 90's or in the 30's during April. Glad I didn't put away the winter coat.

Regardless of the weather, April at Bethany was a busy month. Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Easter Breakfast, Easter Service, Children's Easter Play, WELCA Sunday followed by a yummy coffee hour, and two services led by our Lay Leaders (Kim Salton and Tom Willard). I hope you were able to participate in these events/services.

Coming up in May:

May 3rd: 5th Sunday After Easter, Holy Communion

May 10th: 6th Sunday After Easter, Holy Communion

May 17th: 7th Sunday After Easter, Holy Communion. Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held after the service.

May 24th: Pentecost, Holy Communion. Aly Butler will be affirming her Baptism (Confirmation) at this service.

May 31st: Holy Trinity, Holy Communion. Aubree Arcaini will be Baptized at this service.



May

05 Susan Vetrecin

09 Suzanne Bohus

09 Diane Groeber

15 Katie Stein

18 Fred Shaffer

26 David Gerkens

26 Don Lamon

27 Eva Butler

27 Jim Francis

31 Jennifer Hershey



May Liturgical Volunteers:

Altar Guild: Lois Gerkens & Peggy Schock
Counters: Mimi Confer & Bill Isard

May 3

Communion Assistant: Bob Middleton
Greeter: Marandola's Family
Head Usher: Bill Isard
Reader: Martha Rimathe

May 10

Communion Assistant: Annette Brown
Greeter: Butler Family
Head Usher: Steve Groeber
Reader: Emily Cheney

May 17

Communion Assistant: Marie Carlin
Greeter: Sandy Torres Suarez
Head Usher: Fred Shaffer
Reader: Sue Bohus

May 24

Communion Assistant: Bill Knowles
Greeter: Brad Young
Head Usher: Bob Middleton
Reader: Rick Dreby

May 31

Communion Assistant: Lois Gerkens
Greeter: Mike Wilson
Head Usher: Stephanie Staudenmayer
Reader: Stephanie Staudenmayer

What's Happening...

May

- 05/01 May Day**
- 05/02 PALMYRA DAY**
8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/03 Communion**
11:15 AM: Sunday School (Church 2nd Floor)
11:30 AM: Discussion Group "Faith & Civic Life" (Miller House)
11:30 AM: Sunday School
- 05/04**
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Worship Meeting (Miller House)
- 05/05 Cinco de Mayo**
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/06**
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Gibson Hall)
- 05/07 National Day of Prayer**
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
- 05/08 V-E Day**
- 05/09**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/10 Communion-Mothers Day**
- 05/11**
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/12**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/13**
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/14**
- 05/15**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/16 Armed Forces Day**
8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/17 Communion-Congregational Meeting**
- 05/18**
Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/19**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/20**
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/21**
10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
- 05/22**
- 05/23**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/24 Communion**
11:30 AM: Discussion Group "Faith & Civic Life" (Miller House)
- 05/25 Memorial Day**
- 05/26**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/27**
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Dinner Is Served (Gibson Hall)
- 05/28**
- 05/29**
- 05/30**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/31 Communion**
11:30 AM: Discussion Group "Faith & Civic Life" (Miller House)

Happy
Mother's
day



GUESS WHO?

Let's Get to Know Our Church Members:

Hometown: Palmyra, NJ

Current Residence: Palmyra, NJ; lives with partner, Edwin Lopez; son river Lopez; cats, Badge and Todd and dog Oddy

Position: Council Member: *Technology and Youth Group Committee Council Liaison,*

How did you find Bethany Lutheran Church? I grew up in the church.

Some Favorites:

Hymn / Christian Song – Old Rugged Cross

Season (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter / Pentecost, Advent, etc.) – Springtime

Favorite Bible verse / story - Psalm 23

Favorite item at potlucks / coffee hours - Cookies

Answer: *Kim Salton*

If you would like to participate, please reach out to Allie Greenfield at greenfield0907@gmail.com

Changes to the Directory....

Tessitore

Breanna (Pr. Bre)

Thomas (Tom)

Children: *Bobbie*

111 East Route 70;

Apt. 5212

Marlton, NJ 08053-

Torres Suarez

Sandra (Sandy)

411 Leconey Avenue

Palmyra, NJ 08065

House Phone:

Email: pastorbreanna@gmail.com

Email: thtessitore@gmail.com


House Phone:

Email: mahsil8@gmail.com



May 17th, 2026

Annual Meeting



Luncheon
11:15 AM

In Gibson Hall

Sign up in the Narthex so we know how much food to have.



PALMYRA FIRE COMPANY PRESENTS 2026 GOLF OUTING

Friday, May 29th

Ramblewood Country Club • Mt. Laurel, NJ



- Golf & dinner \$130 ■ Box lunch provided ■ 50/50 and Door prizes will be available!
- Draft beer available before, during, and after the event!
- Business Person Special - 4 golfers, dinner, hole sign at tee box, \$ 550.00
- Corporate Golf Special - 4 golfers, dinner, hole sign at tee box, Corporate banner displayed at Check-in & dinner \$700
- Hole Sponsor - Hole Sign at tee box: \$100

FOURSOMES ONLY
Registration: 12 PM

Modified Shot Gun
start at 1 PM, followed
by dinner, soft drinks
and beer

Golfer Registration: Mail, drop off or Venmo at Palmyra Fire Company (NJ) @ Palmyra-Fire-NJ along with completed form if writing check please make (made payable to Palmyra Fire Company) at **115 WEST BROAD STREET, PALMYRA, NJ 08065 ATTN: Rick Dreby**

Door Prizes - 50/50 • Longest Drive & Closest to Pin Prizes
Food & Refreshments available on Course on a cash basis.

***RSVP by May 15th**

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

GROUP OF FOUR:

1 Name: _____
Email/Phone: _____

2 Name: _____
Email/Phone: _____

3 Name: _____
Email/Phone: _____

4 Name: _____
Email/Phone: _____

Total Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____



All Proceeds Benefit the Palmyra Fire Company, Thank You For Your Support !

RYAN'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



TROOP 9 PALMYRA

**FLAG REPLACEMENT FOR THE
RIVERTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE
AND FLAG RETIREMENT**

AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION!

FUNDRAISING

Help Ryan Purchase New Flags for
Parade Route & Fund the Cost
of Flag Pole Repair



- **DONATE TO SUPPORT RYAN'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**
- **SCAN OR DONATE VIA VENMO: @Patrick-Carroll-266**



FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

- Accepting Worn & Tattered Flags
- Details Coming Soon!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



DINNER IS SERVED!

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH, 2026

— 5 - 7 P.M. —

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ACROSS FROM THE TRAIN PLATFORM

BROAD ST. & MORGAN AVENUE

PALMYRA, NJ



FREE

ALL ARE WELCOME



Wanted

Bethany Lutheran Church

Graduates

If you have someone special in your life graduating,
we need their information by May 18th, 2026

All Graduates

Name of Student

Name of Parent/Grandparents:

Name of school they attended:

Town, State:

What is the name of the **next** school (this includes Trade and Military Branch):

They **will be** attending:

Town and State:

What degree/occupation or career they **will be** pursuing:

Did they **complete** Military training, Trade School training/College degree: What rank, trade, degree **did they** obtain:

Will they be getting job?
Where or with who:

In The Mail....



Christian Caring Center

Serving Burlington County since 1983

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
617 Morgan Avenue
Palmyra, NJ 08065

March 20, 2026

Dear Friends at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Christian Caring Center of Pemberton, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your generous gift of \$1,500. Your church's faithful support is a powerful testimony of Christian unity and compassion in action.

Your sustained partnership brings essential stability to our shelter programs and food pantry, enabling us to plan ahead and meet the urgent needs of individuals and families in Burlington County. Through your generosity, we are able to provide emergency food, safe shelter for men in recovery, clothing, and hope to those who often feel forgotten—living out the call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued commitment and for the many lives touched through this shared ministry.

Thank you again for your partnership and generosity.

With deep appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Holston".

Randy Holston,
Development Director

In The Mail....



Grace Church
Pemberton, New Jersey

March 25, 2026

Our food pantry is every
third Saturday from 10am till
2pm. Any NJ family in need
is welcome! We currently
serve approximately 82 families
each month!

Dear Mr. Robert J. Middets,
Thank you for the most generous
gift check from Bethany Evangelical Lutheran
Church for \$1000. This enables us to buy
needed food not delivered by the Food Bank
of South Jersey. We routinely buy loaves of
Bread, extra meat and frozen vegetables
during the winter months, Cereal and any
food items needed! God bless your
Church!

Thank you,
Joan Neas Program Manager

In The Mail....



*Thank you for your
generous donation. Your
support is vital in the
continuing operation of the
Independence Fire
Company*



*Bethany Lutheran Church
617 Morgan Ave
Palmyra, NJ 08065*

In The Mail....



Kate's Place, Inc.

PO Box 771 - Moorestown, NJ 08057

JoAnn McNamee
Executive Director

Phone 609-694-5949

Fax 866-792-0089

E-mail : katesplaceinc@comcast.net

Website: www.katesplaceinc.org

Tax ID # 45-0556587

April 6th, 2026

Bathany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Broad & Morgan St.
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Church Members,

We are writing to thank you so much for your \$1000 donation to our Kate's Place Program! We assure you we will use it in good faith.

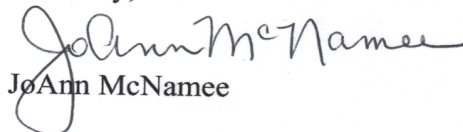
As we recently moved our program from Moorestown to Edgewater Park, we lost half of our attendees and are now struggling to rebuilt our program.

Your donation will certainly help us to continue to provide a wonderful program for these deserving individuals. We feel that our special adults should be able to continue with being able to socialize with their peers as all other young adults are able to do after leaving school.

Kate's Place provides our group with games and physical activities to keep them up and moving. Outside programs come in such as Karate and dance to assist with additional movement. We provide holiday parties and a prom to make them feel as special as possible.

Thank you once again for showing compassion and your wonderful donation.

Sincerely,


JoAnn McNamee

