Bethany News

2024 2025

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



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





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

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Crew 9 BSA
y
Troop 9 BSA

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

A Message From Our Pastor

By the time we get to December and January every year, many folks find themselves exhausted. There's always so much to do. Between holiday parties, family get-togethers, worship services, shopping, cooking, cleaning, reaffirming commitments with the new year, it all can become a bit overwhelming. Add on end of the year work expectations, fewer daylight hours, and all the pressure we can feel as one year ends and another begins, it's no surprise some of us may be running on fumes.

It makes me think about a passage we read from Mark this year, Mark 6:30-31.

When the apostles returned from their mission, "[they] gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." (NRSVUE)

There always seems to be so much to get done. Whether with work, housework, volunteering, self care, there are always more and more things to fill our time with. Busy schedules become a badge of pride and soon we can become so busy that we don't even have the leisure to pause and enjoy a calm meal.

Here and throughout the Gospels, Jesus reminds us of the importance of rest. In Luke 5:16, we hear that Jesus often withdrew alone into the wilderness to pray. This time to rest and reconnect with God is crucial to our spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

And yet, as our days fill up, we find ourselves slipping out of good habits of rest and prayer. Finding time to go to church, sit quietly and pray, or read the Bible are some of the first things to fall away when we become busy.

Martin Luther was asked about his schedule for the following day once and responded, "Work, work from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

While I am hesitant to say I know anyone who spends so long in prayer, I think Luther has a beautiful point here. The busier we are, the more essential it is for us to carve out time to withdraw to a quiet place in prayer, just as Jesus did.

I hope that during these busy months you are able to find pockets of rest and prayer that help to revive and restore you.

Peace and Blessings,

her Breanna Tesistore

Pastor Bre

A Message From Our Council President

Hello Congregants,

It is that time of the year to prepare for the Christmas season, why it will be trying times for some of us, I would hope that the rest of the membership and children enjoy the outdoor lights throughout the communities and the festive atmosphere.

Although I am not an advocate of Christmas music before Thanksgiving, I have not choice but to listen to them on the radio.

I hope each of your families enjoy the Thanksgiving Day and the turkey and all the fixings that go along with it. It has been unbelievable weather this fall and I hope your families had an opportunity to enjoy it.

The Council is hard at work supporting the Pastor and programs. The various programs we have supported this year have all been a success and we should continue to give when able to.

I hope to see each of you in church to celebrate this Christmas season!

In Prayer	
Rick Dreby	

Fellowship Committee

We thank the WELCA ladies for hosting the very delicious Coffee Hour following the November 17, 2024 Sunday Worship Service. Also, a huge THANK YOU to those who helped with the set-up and cleaned-up in Gibson Hall. Thirty-two congregational members were able to attend.

Thank you Michelle, for clearing the leaves from the Miller House and the Morgan Avenue side of the our church!!

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holidays!

Allie and Mary Ann

Nurturing

The Nurturing Committee met on November 18th to discuss plans to send Thanksgiving cards to each of our Bethany shut-ins.

We will be visiting each of our shut-ins during the upcoming holidays and dropping off a small gift and holiday greetings.



Social Ministry

From now until December 15, 2024, Social Ministry is accepting monetary donations to be given to Bread of Life Food Pantry to aid in the purchase of Turkeys for their Christmas Baskets. All cash and check will be given to Bread of Life (make checks payable to Bread of Life) on December 15, 2024.

aber 2024

Stewardship Letter – December 2024

Welcome Advent Season & Merry Christmas to All



Here is an update on our October 2024 Financials:

Balance 9/30/2024	Receipts	Disbursed	Balance 9/30/2024.
(\$-12,256.66)	+\$19,154.72	(-\$16,577.55)	(-\$9,679.49)

As you can see above, our balance in our Parish increased \$2,577.17 over the month of October 2024. In October, Bethany Church sold stocks to supplement the Parish budget, offsetting some of the deficit experienced in 2024. The number of receipts from giving was \$8,616.56 plus \$10,538.56 from stock sale, Thank you all for your generous contributions each month.

Hello all, I am happy to say we have made it to the 2024-2025 Advent Season where we will celebrate the birth of our Savior & Lord Jesus Christ! I am pleased to be with you this year as we welcome the Christmas Holidays and the New Year of 2025. We must always celebrate this wonderful, spiritual time of the year together. As we gather let us keep our minds focused on the season. Let us share the miracle that is Christ birth over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem.

In this season we should spend time with our families, pray for peace, be generous, share the love of Christ in everything we do. We should remember the many Advent Seasons we have spent together through good times and troubled times. We should not forget those who are no longer with us this year. Some very long-time members have gone home to our Father in Heaven.

We will miss them, but we have faith that we will be reunited with them in the future. This is the promise of the Bible and the words of Christ our Savior who gave his life so that we may live forever in Heaven with our God. So even though this season can be sad for us, we must be confident that we have been blessed and will be resurrected as our faith teaches us. The words of the Bible tell us of the life ever after in Heaven. So, let us enjoy all the days ahead.

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

WELCA

For December:

Martha: December 3rd 11 AM - 1 PM @ Lois Gerkin's House

Eve: December 4th 11 AM - 1 PM @ Miller House

Projects: September - December Urban Promise (Cash donation)

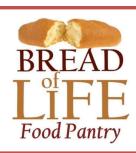
December Topic: This was not on my list

For January:

Martha: January 7th 11 AM - 1 PM **Eve:** January 8th 11 AM - 1 PM

Projects: January - June: TBD

January Topic: TBD



We recently had 224 families receiving help.
As food prices have risen recently,
Ongoing donations are especially needed.
Drop off in the Narthex or
Call or Text Judy at 609-670-4916 for pickup at your home

Angel Tree

Help to make a child's "Christmas a happy one!

Return unwrapped gift with the tag attached by

December 15, 2024



Worship Committee

Highlights in November:

- •Charleigh Maeve Fields, daughter of Elisa and Rob was baptized on November 24th.
- •Thanksgiving Service was held on Tuesday, **November 26th** at 7:00PM at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cinnaminson.

Coming up in December:

- •Christmas Decorating Dates
- •December 3rd, 4th, 5th Wreaths and inside decorations (other than the tree). Help would be appreciated– please coordinate with Jim Francis / Dan Schoen
- •December 6th, 7th Tree with lights to be placed in church (by Jim Francis)
- •December 11th Tree decorating at 10:00AM
- •December 24th Christmas Eve Services will be held at 3:00PM (Family Service) and 7:00PM (Candlelight Service)
- •December 25th No Service on Christmas Day
- •December 28th Blue Christmas Service will be held on Saturday at 4:30PM. This is a more subdued worship opportunity that acknowledges the difficulty the season can present as well as the hope that comes in the darkest night. There will be no communion at this service. All are welcome.
- •December 29th Service will be Lessons and Carole Sing no communion on this Sunday

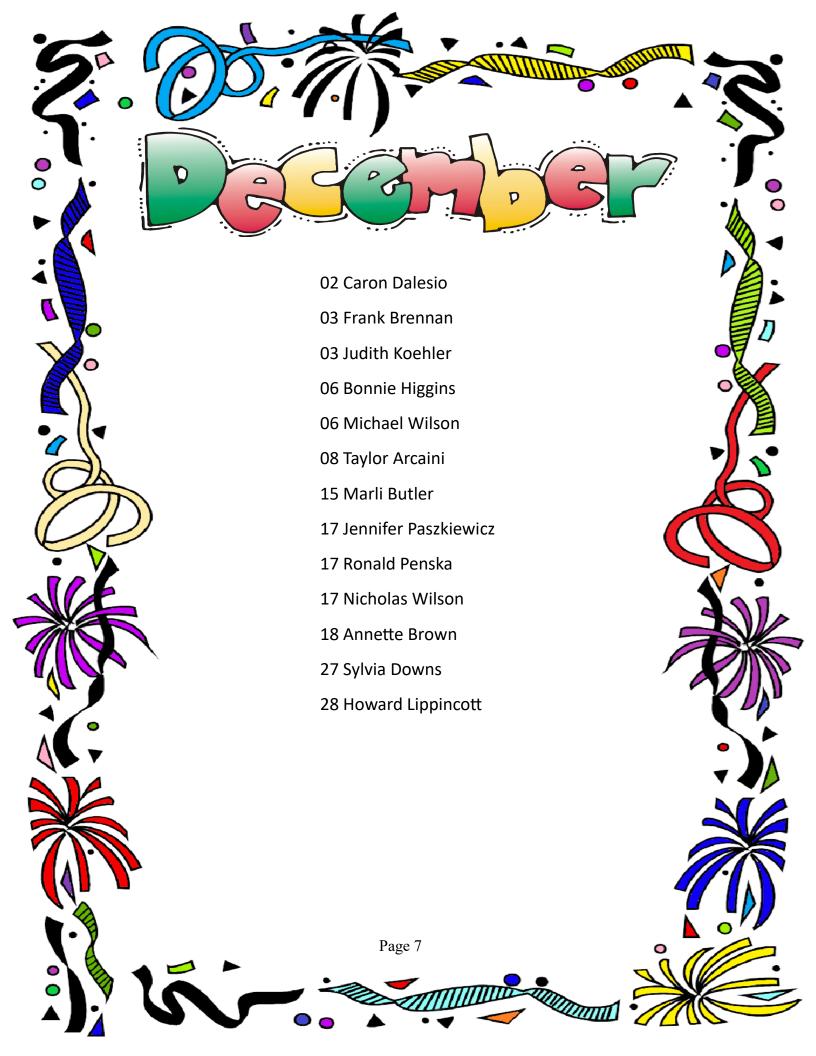
Coming up in January:

- •Date of putting the Christmas decorations away will be announced
- •January 5th Second Sunday of Christmas
- •January 12th Baptism of Our Lord
- •January 19th Second Sunday of Epiphany
- •January 26th Third Sunday of Epiphany

Coming up in February:

•February 9th - Scout and Soup-er Bowl Sunday (bring in all your soup cans to support Bread Of Life). There will be a coffee hour after the service, sponsored by the Scouts.





December

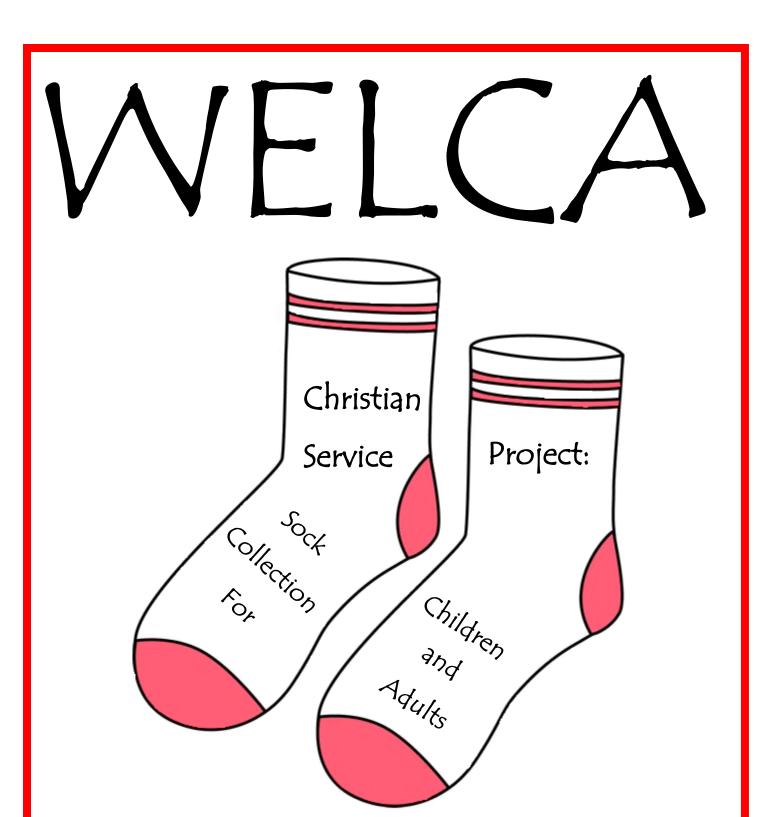
What's Happening...

12/01	Communion
12/02	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Worship Meeting (Miller House)
+++	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2 nd Floor)
12/03	9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating
	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House) 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
12/04	9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating
	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)
	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
40/05	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Tree Decorating
12/05	9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2 nd Floor)
12/06	St. Nicholas Day
12/07	Pearl Harbor Day
	8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
12/08	Communion
12/09	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
40/40	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
12/10	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House)
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Courtel Meeting (Miller House) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2 nd Floor)
12/11	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
12/12	7.00 FW 0.00 FW. Bible Glady (Willion Floudde)
12/13	
12/14	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
12/15	Communion
12/16	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2 nd Floor)
40/47	,
12/17	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
12/18	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
12/19	10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
12/20	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
12/21	8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
12/2 1	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
12/22	Communion
12/23	Bethany News Articles are due
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House) [?]
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2 nd Floor)
12/24	Christmas Eve (Office Closed) 3:00 PM: Family Service - Communion
	7:00 PM: Candlelight Service - Communion
12/25	"Merry Christmas To All!" (Office Closed)
12/26	Office Closed
12/27	
12/28	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
	4:30 PM: Blue Christmas - Non-Communion
12/29	Communion
12/30	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
12/24	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2 nd Floor)
12/31	New Year's Eve (Office Closed) 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
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All monetary donations will be given to Bread of Life

November 24, 2024 ** December 15, 2024



Bring in all donations by: December 1, 2024



"Scouting for Food"

The Scouts ran their annual Scouting For Food Community
Service event in November. At the time of this publishing, the food pantry is still counting the items collected.

All donations were delivered to the Bread Of Life Food Pantry on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

THANK YOU ALL

for your generous contribution to the **2024** Scouting For Food Drive.

Your willingness to SHARE
Shows that you CARE!
Yours in Scouting

Pack 9, Troop 9, Crew 9



LUTHERAN SENIOR RESIDENCE PROGRAM AT PENNSAUKEN

Hats Gloves Scarfs

Body Wash Hand Sanitizer Hand Wash Soap Mouth Wash Toothbrushes Toothpaste

Soap Hair Conditioner Shampoo Bathroom Cleaner

Dish Detergent Kitchen Sponges Kitchen Towels Broom Mop

Laundry Detergent Fabric Softener

FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 1, 2024

For more information contact Sandy Torres Suarez 856-304-2750

2025 Offering Envelopes

Please contact me if you did not receive envelopes this year and would like them for 2025. Similar to previous years, the envelopes will not be dated however your designated number will be listed. In the event you have unused envelopes from this year and would not like a full set, please let me know.

Also, if there is any change to your address, please notify me so that your year end offering statement has your correct address.

Any questions, please reach out to me.

Thank you!

Rita Greenfield

Email: rcgmdg@yahoo.com

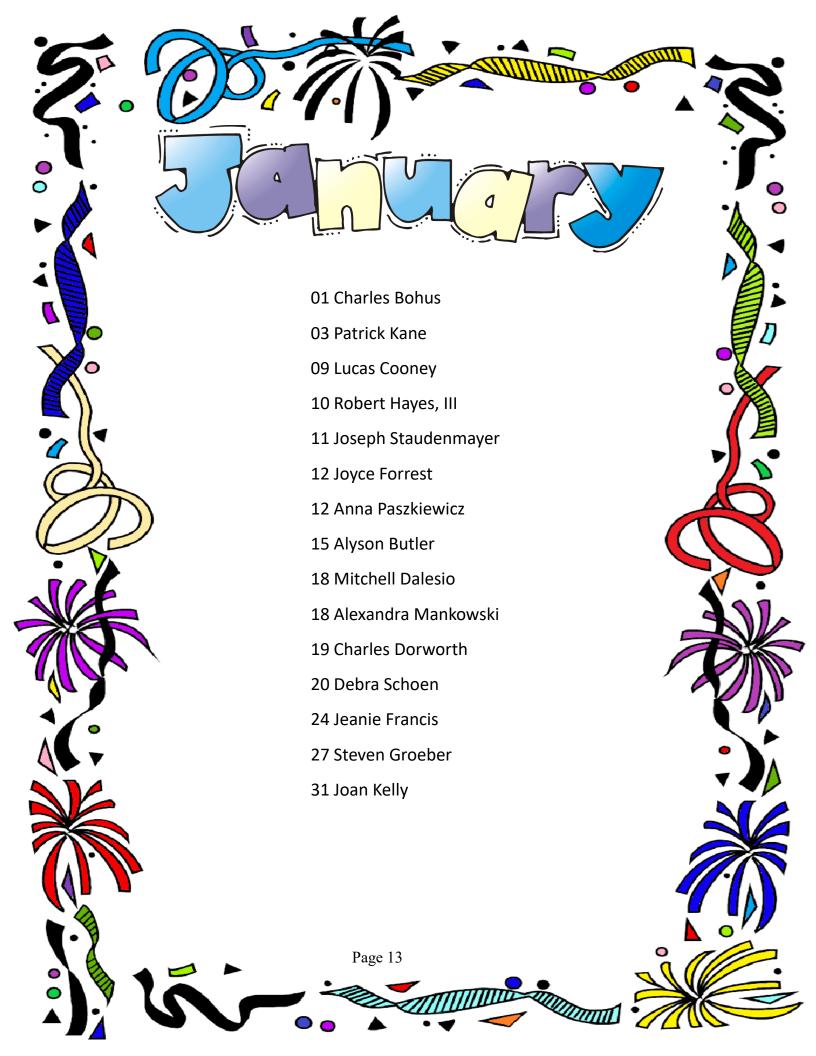
Home: 856-786-8631

Cell: 609-280-1588 (feel free to text)



Remember Your

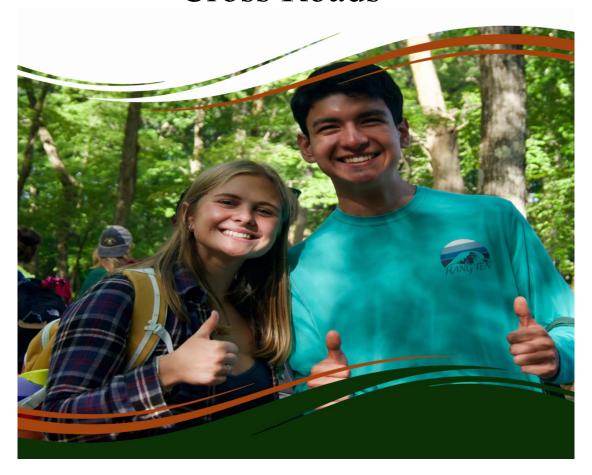
Offerings



What's Happening 01/01 New Years Day (Office Closed) 01/02 01/03 01/04 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner) 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary) 01/05 01/06 **Epiphany** 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) 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House) 01/07 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating 01/08 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Gibson Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House) 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor) 01/09 01/10 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary) 01/11 01/12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House) 01/13 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 01/14 7:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House) 01/15 01/16 10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House) 01/17 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 01/18 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner) 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary) 01/19 Martin Luther King Day 01/20 Bethany News Articles are due 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 01/21 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 01/22 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House) 01/23 01/24 01/25 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary) 01/26 01/27 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 01/28 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft) 01/29 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House) 01/30 01/31/

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Cross Roads



We have some exciting opportunities coming up at Cross Roads that we're eager to share with you! From summer staff applications to enriching retreats, we hope you'll consider getting involved or passing this information along to someone who would benefit.

STAFF APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Apply for our 2025 Summer Staff Team

We are now accepting applications for our 2025 summer staff! Do you or someone you know want to spend next summer making a difference in the lives of campers, building lasting friendships, and growing in faith? If so, we'd love to have you apply!

Working at Cross Roads is more than a job—it's an opportunity to change lives, including your own.

For more information please visit this site: https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/employment/



BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY

"A Faith-Based Ministry of Palmyra, Riverton, and Cinnaminson"

501 Morgan Avenue • Palmyra, New Jersey 08065 • (856) 829-1908

July 10, 2024

TO: Judy Evans

Bethany Lutheran Church

FROM: Dale Neas

Bread of Life Food Pantry

RE: 2024 T0-Date Donations to Bread of Life Food Pantry

Apologies for the lapse in time in acknowledging Bethany Lutherans's generous donations that were made to-date this year. I had major surgery with complications early in the year and no one filled in for me. I am still recovering, but am well enough to resume some responsibilities. The records I have show a \$230.00 donation on 03/14/2024 and a \$200.00 donation made on 04/09/2024. We can't thank Bethany Lutheran enough for your generosity and faithful support of the Bread of Life Pantry. You are a real blessing to the pantry and all the families we serve. Please know that you are making a difference for others in our local communities. Please thank the entire congregation for caring and sharing in this community ministry.

God Bless!

Dale R. Neas

Bread of Life Food Pantry Treasurer

609-706-0439

dneas2@comcast.net

Dale R. Neas









OFFICE OF THE BISHOP NEW JERSEY SYNOD Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

Los Pauett

Bartholome

Bartholome

Luamo Jamos "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being." Psalm 104:33

Mariskle Freiberg

Dawn Roberts

Dear Breanna and Siblings in Christ,

Please share this note of the prayers lifted for you, the council and the congregation of Bethany, Palmyra, as part of our weekly staff meeting. We give thanks for your leadership and our partnership in ministry.

Blessings,

New Jersey Synod Staff



October 22, 2024

Rev. Breanna Tessitore Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church 617 Morgan Avenue Palmyra, NJ 08065-1633

Dear Pastor Tessitore,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 designated to Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey.

Your gift helps LSMNJ continue to provide hospitality, healing, and hope for those in need. On behalf of LSMNJ and those we serve, please accept my appreciation for your commitment and gift to sustain the mission. Together we provide that helping hand and the support of compassionate care.

We thank you for your partnership in our mission of serving those who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices. May your gift of compassion and concern bless you and your loved ones. LSMNJ can only continue our work with the generosity of donors like you.

Sincerely,

Alison Lauck

Vice President, Philanthropy

Dlun Lauck

Shank you!

3 Manhattan Drive, Burlington, NJ 08016 P 609-386-7171 | F 609-386-7191

www.lsmnj.org

This letter will serve as your receipt in accordance with the 1993 Tax Act. We verify no goods, services, or benefits were received by you as a result of your gift. Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey Foundation is a registered charity with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs – CH-3176900



October 22, 2024

Reverand Breanna Tessitore Bethany Evangelical Church 617 Morgan Avenue Palmyra, NJ 08065-1929

Dear Breanna Tessitore,

Thank you for participating in the 2024 **Give a Christmas** program, organized by the *Burlington County Times* in partnership with NJ 211. Your congregation's generous gift of \$1,000 will help families throughout Burlington County have a wonderful holiday.

We appreciate your kindness and send our best wishes for your health and happiness during this special season.

Happy Holidays!

Give a Christmas c/o Burlington County Times 116 Burrs Road, Suite B Westampton, NJ 08060



BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY

"A Faith-Based Ministry of Palmyra, Riverton, and Cinnaminson"

501 Morgan Avenue • Palmyra, New Jersey 08065 • (856) 829-1908

November 7, 2024

TO: Judy Evans

Bethany Lutheran Church

FROM: Dale Neas

Bread of Life Food Pantry

RE: \$1000 Donation to the Christmas Angel Program of the Bread of Life Food Pantry

It is our pleasure to acknowledge and thank Bethany Lutheran for their recent \$1,000 donation to the Christmas Angel Program of the Bread of Life Food Pantry. We can't thank Bethany Lutheran enough for your generosity and faithful support. This will certainly brighten the lives of many children this Christmas. You are a real blessing to the pantry and all the families we serve. Please thank the entire congregation for caring and sharing in this community ministry.

We also received \$90 in cash and a check from Steven and Diane Groeber. Both of these were put in the Food Pantry account and a separate letter of thanks was mailed to the Groebers.

God Bless!

Name .

Dale R. Neas

Bread of Life Food Pantry Treasurer

609-706-0439

dneas2@comcast.net

