

May

Bethany News

2024

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



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		

Message from Pastor:

This month, we will celebrate two interesting Sundays of the church calendar: Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. I love these two days because they are so difficult to wrap our minds around. One Sunday a year, we are asked to consider either the Holy Spirit or the Trinity as a whole, two difficult and mysterious theological concepts which whole courses are taught on in seminary. I love them though because we have the opportunity to hear these stories and readings again and again, to revisit them every year and continue to grow in our questions and understandings.

On May 19th, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is always celebrated fifty days after Easter and remembers when the Holy Spirit came as rushing wind and tongue of fire in Acts 2. With the Hebrew word for Spirit also able to mean wind or breath, this rushing wind acts as an embodiment of the Spirit. Pentecost Sunday is a moment when we can marvel at the ways the Spirit has been active in the church in the past and the ways the Spirit is active in our lives today.

Trinity Sunday is always that next week, and is a relatively recent addition to the liturgical calendar, having been instituted in the 1300's. On this day, we marvel at the wonder of our God who is three in one. We explore the ways God is revealed to us and sit in that which is holy and wholly mysterious.

In recognition of these two celebrations, I want to share a bit about how one theologian thinks about the Spirit. Elizabeth Johnson, a renowned Catholic theologian wrote about the Trinity in her book *She Who Is. Johnson pulls on beautiful feminine imagery from the Bible to talk about the Trinity. She discussed how the Spirit is present whenever we feel there is more to the world, whether we are hoping and yearning for more or being held in the promise of what will come. Our very lives are dripping with the Spirit's involvement, from the wonder of the natural world, to personal and interpersonal relationships where we love and lose, to the institutions and structures that shape our lives.*

We often forget about the Holy Spirit; we find ourselves a bit unsure of how to talk about her and how to relate to her. And yet, many of the times when we think of God generically, we are thinking of the work of the Spirit. When we ask God to guide us, to sustain us, to give us grace, we are reaching for the Spirit. When we look to the origins of the church in Acts or the Israelites' journey in the desert, "Biblical narratives of origin show that Christian Life is unthinkable apart from the presence and activity of the Spirit who animates and makes holy the church". It is God the Spirit who reaches for us and draws us into herself, enabling us to become the church and act in accordance with God's will.

This month, as we prepare for our Annual Congregational Meeting, the baptisms of Lane Hozier and Noah Ferreira-Strauss, Pentecost Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and the year ahead, may our eyes be opened to the working of the Spirit in our midst. May every breath we take and every breeze we feel be a reminder of God's presence in with and through us all.

The Holy Spirit is at work in, through, and with you, my friends. She is calling you ever closer to God and giving you strength for the days ahead. May we continue to walk by her guidance this day and every day.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Bre

Worship Committee

I don't know about you but I would like to get off of this weather roller coaster. Unfortunately I can't so then I must make the best of it. The flowering trees have been beautiful, the other trees have their leaves, and the flowers have been lovely. They aren't complaining they are just doing their usual spring job. Rather than complaining we can just get out and enjoy each day and all the beauty that surrounds us. Let's move on to all that is happening this busy month of May at Bethany.

May 5, Easter 6: We will welcome Dr. Karyn Wiseman, an ordained Pastor and teaching professor at ULS.

May 12, Easter 7: Mother's Day

May 19, Day of Pentecost: We will be welcoming Albert Strauss and Eliene Ferreira DeSouza as new members. They are the parents of Noah Gabriel Ferreira-Strauss born 07/16/2023 who is being Baptized today. God Parents: Alex and Christina Lopes. Grandparents: Dianna Strauss and Ed Schmidt, Albert Strauss, Jr. (deceased), Maria Florentino and Valci Freitas

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10:15 Worship Service

May 26, The Holy Trinity: We will celebrate the Baptism of Lane Ashton Hozier, born 06/10/2023. His parents are Dana and Robert Hozier. God Parents: Krista Dreby and Justin Nugent. The Grandparents are Gary Lamon and Linda Edwards, Karen and Irv Hozier.

May has certainly been a very busy and happy month, what a joy.

WELCA

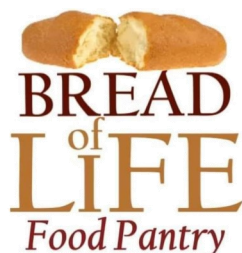
Eve Circle: May 8th

Martha Circle: May 14th

Project: UrbanPromise

Topic: Motherhood Of God

General Meeting: June 5th Guest Speaker, Beth Gebhart, Social Ministry of New Jersey
All Women are welcome.



**We recently had 145 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**

Hello fellow congregants,

As I reflect back on the past month and our church activities I found Easter uplifting and was refreshed in my belief in our Savior Jesus Christ.

I can't help to also think about Bob Deats and the kind gentleman that he was and would do anything for anyone. His talents can not be replaced and he will be missed. His service to our church was very much appreciated.

As this month is our annual meeting and reorganization of the new council, I wanted to thank the Council for their work this past year. We along with each of you have accomplished many things including receiving our new Pastor Breanna Tessitore. She's brought her energy and enthusiasm to us and we all are looking forward to our future together. I am sure that the new members will continue to do what is necessary to keep our church alive and well.

Lastly, I on behalf of the Council want to thank Lois Gerkens for her untiring work while serving as chairperson of the worship committee. Many, many years of her dedication will never be forgotten. Her responsibilities grew larger when we went through COVID and our interim pastors Jeff VanOrden and George Richmond. Thank you Lois, we appreciate you.

Thanks be to God!

Rick Dreby



MAY 19, 2024

Annual Congregational Meeting

It will be held

After the 10:15 Worship Service

In Gibson Hall



Stewardship Letter – May 2024

Summer is Coming - Let us Enjoy the Great Outdoors !



Here is an update on our March 2024 Financials:

<u>Balance 2/1/24</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance 2/29/24.</u>
\$17,071.80	+\$9,154.95	(-\$15,256.49)	\$10,970.26

As you can see above, our balance in our Parish decreased by **(-\$6,101.54)** over the month of March 2024. Thank you all for your generous contributions each month. Expenses are trending higher than our receipts this past month.

To: Bethany Lutheran Members & Friends.

The First of Our Four Temple Talks – scheduled for April 14th, 2024, did not occur.

Therefore, I have included it in our May monthly Bethany Newsletter for your convenience.

“The Four Cs of Stewardship” is our theme this year for our Annual Stewardship Drive 2024-2025 (please see below).

“Commitment, Challenge, Compassion, Community”

The Call to Commitment:

- Commitment is not a mere obligation; it is a **calling**. Our commitment to God and his work is rooted in our love for Him. Just as God is faithful to us, we are called to be faithful in return.
- In 1 Corinthians 4:2, Paul reminds us, “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” Our commitment is an act of stewardship – a faithful management of the gifts God has entrusted to us.

Dedication and Faithfulness:

- Commitment involves **dedication**. It is not about convenience; it is about devotion. We commit ourselves to regular worship, prayer, and service because we love God and desire to honor Him.
- Hebrews 10:25 encourages us: “Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another.”

Our Covenant with God:

- Commitment is like a **covenant**. Just as marriage vows bind two hearts together, our commitment to God is a covenant relationship. We promise to walk with Him, even when the path is steep.
- Psalm 37:5 says, “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and he will act.”

Loyalty and Obligation:

- Commitment involves **loyalty**. Loyalty is not blind; it is a deliberate choice. We remain loyal to our church family, supporting one another through joys and challenges.
- Galatians 6:10 remind us, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Examples of Commitment:

- Let me share a brief story: A longtime member of our congregation, Mary, exemplifies commitment. Despite health struggles, she faithfully attends Sunday services, serves in the food pantry, and prays for others.
- Mary’s commitment is not just about showing up; it is about **living out her faith**. She embodies dedication, loyalty, and love for God’s people.

Our Challenge:

- Today, I challenge each of us to examine our commitment:
 1. Are we fully engaged in worship, fellowship, and service?
 2. Do we prioritize our spiritual growth and the needs of others?
 3. Are we committed to the mission of our church\$?
- Remember, commitment is not a one-time decision; it is a daily choice.

Conclusion: As we read this today, let us recommit ourselves. Let us be known as a congregation marked by unwavering commitment – to God, to one another, and to the work of His kingdom. May our loyalty and faithfulness inspire others and bring glory to our Savior.

Thank you, and may God bless our commitment journey. Amen!

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



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 Smith

What's Happening...

May

- 05/01** 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/02** **National Day Of Prayer**
- 05/03**
- 05/04** 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/05** **Communion**
- 05/06** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM: Worship Meeting (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
- 05/07** 11:00 AM: Ladies Luncheon (Maritsa's, Maple Shade)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 05/08** **V-E Day**
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/09**
- 05/10**
- 05/11** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/12** **Communion / Mother's Day**
- 05/13** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/14** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/15** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/16** 10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
- 05/17** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/18** **Armed Forces Day**
8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/19** **Pentecost Sunday** / Baptism Noah Gabriel Ferreira-Strauss
New Member Reception-Albert Strauss, Eliene Ferreira De Souza
11:15 AM: Congregational Meet. & Lunch (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/20** Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/21** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/22** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/23**
- 05/24**
- 05/25** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 05/26** **Trinity Sunday** / Baptism Lane Hozier
- 05/27** **Memorial Day (Office Closed)**
- 05/28** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 05/29** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 05/30**
- 05/31**

Happy
Mother's
day

May 7, 2024



11:00^{am}

Maritsa's, 106 East Main Street, Maple Shade

To make your reservation
contact the office 856-829-2373

By **May 6, 2024**

All *Ladies* are invited to attend.

Transportation will be provided if needed.



Bethany Lutheran Church

Palmyra, NJ 08065

Blood Drive

June 19, 2024

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Reserve your donor time at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive

Or call Stephanie 610-212-2764 or the Church Office 856-829-2373

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

Abridged Minutes
Tuesday April 9 2024
Miller House

Council Members in Attendance: Pastor Breanna Tessitore, Rick Dreby, Stephanie Staudenmeyer, Marie Carlin, Dan Schoen, Dave Stahl, Bill Isard, Joan Kelly, Kim Salton, Fred Shaffer, Peggy Schock, Emily Cheney, Allie Greenfield

Via Phone: Emily Cheney, Allie Greenfield.

Finance Committee Members in attendance: Martha Rimathe, Bob Middleton, Rita Greenfield.
Reports were supplied and reviewed.

Devotions: Pastor Brea
Review of minutes: Approved

Climate Check

March attendance: March 3 – 43, March 16 – 36, March 17 – 51,
March 24 – 54 and March 31 – 80. Average 53

Pastor's Activity Report:

* Lenten book study has concluded. Minimum of 2 attendees each week. Potential for another study to be held in the fall. A first communion class for those interested is possible. Presently there are two potential attendees: Lucas Cooney and Marli Butler.

Synod Assembly to be held on May 11th. Joan Kelly and Kim Salton will attend along with Pastor Bre.

Proposed Budget

Was discussed including 3% salary increase;
Potential insurance increase per accountant.
Increase in Nurturing budget due to increase in luncheon costs.
Synod Benevolence increase approved per suggestion.
Altar flowers decrease cost in budget due to continued use of artificial flowers.

Budget was approved by Council to forward to the membership and voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

Committee reports:

Endowment: Donations approved. (Hope Community Charter School, Cathedral Kitchen) \$1000 each. Memorial Garden Plaque, \$2000.

Evangelism: A blood drive will be held on June 19th (Wednesday) from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm in Gibson Hall.

Fellowship and Social Ministry: Luncheon for Bethany ladies to be held at Marista's on May 7th

Stewardship: A mailing will be going out soon to encourage giving. Temple talks will be given on April 14th and April 28th.

Worship & Music:

April 7th – Crossroads Summer Camp representative to speak

April 14th – Stewardship First of 4 Temple talks

April 21th – WELCA Temple Talk 2 - Stephanie Staudenmeyer

April 28th – Walt & Eleanor Mauroschatd will be received as new members.

g. WELCA will sponsor a coffee hour on April 21st at 11:15 am

h. Boy Scouts: Troop is doing well. They are currently selling mulch for \$5 per bag.

i. Nurturing: Continues to visit our shut-ins . Currently there are about 6 shut-ins. Easter flowers were distributed to all shut ins.

j. Youth: Considering a table on Main Street for Palmyra Day on May 4th.

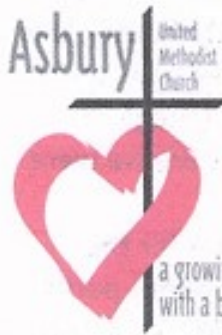
k. Technology: Research by Kim Salton regarding needed replacement of current equipment including "Office professional" and new live stream camera. Approved

l. Memorial Garden: Memorial Garden has undergone spring cleaning .

Old Business:

a. Review of membership updates continues.

New Business: Next meeting is May 15th at 7 pm. Annual Meeting, May 19th following the Worship Service. Lunch will be provided.



Asbury United Methodist Church
2492 Andover Road
Cinnaminson, New Jersey 08077

Website: myasburyumc.com Email: johndasbury@msn.com

Church Office: 856-829-3801

John W. Doll, Pastor

***Sharing the love of Jesus. We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19***

March 14, 2024

Dear Friend,

You are receiving this letter because at some point you have been generous to Asbury's Good Neighbor Outreach to the Homeless. There is so much which I can share with you. First, this ministry found me and our Church – Asbury starts with an A, we are located on a busy highway, and we have gotten the reputation 'they will help you there.' And the rest, they say is history!

In 2023, we assisted 91 neighbors (including at least 24 children/dependents) and provided 737 days/nights of housing. The largest category of assisted neighbors can be described as elderly. Over \$46,000 was spent in this ministry!

Each time, there is a story behind the assistance given. . .

- Like the time the Cinnaminson Police called with a mother and son, a junior in a local high school and said they needed a place to stay due to just being evicted. Thankfully, a place in a local motel was provided. But then, down the road the mother's car was repossessed. Believe me, you never, ever want this to happen as it is a hard process to get the car back. Again, by the grace of God we were able to assist and get the car back so the mother could work. The happy ending to this story is that the mother and son were able to get back into their apartment just before Christmas!
- Just in the past month, a young father taking care of his 1-year-old son called needing assistance. This father, who is working a full-time job while his son is in day care, needed help with 3 days of assistance in a local

motel which Asbury's Good Neighbor was able to provide. Obviously, this young man and his son need more than what we provided – i.e. more stable and permanent housing! Yet, seeing this need doesn't magically provide it! He had an emergency need, and by the grace of God, we were able to meet it.

- As noted above, the largest category of assistance provided is for the elderly. For many, motels are "low-income housing" which means partial stays during the month, often with very limited resources. Asbury's Good Neighbor helps fill the gaps and assists many whose income falls short of their basic needs.
- Just in the past few days, four calls for assistance have come in – one for a seventy-year-old homeless man, another for a 59-year-old woman, another for a homeless mother, daughter and 4-year-old boy, and a family of three who are homeless. The needs are overwhelming!

Personally, I never get used to the needs that come to us. They are real and people are hurting. Some ask, shouldn't someone else be doing this? And that's why many choose not to be involved and as it is put in the Bible, 'they pass by on the other side.' By the grace of God, Asbury's Good Neighbor Outreach works with others in this ministry. Our guiding principle is "IT TAKES A VILLAGE" and we work together with Saint Vincent DePaul of Saint Charles Roman Catholic Church Cinnaminson, Calvary Church – Delran, and The Greater Triboro Clergy Association. We meet and share who we are assisting and pray that our help is helpful.

A quote by Father Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries captures a great attitude in reaching out to the poor. "Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment how they carry it."

You have helped in the past and for that I say **THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU!** Currently, our funds to help are very low. Any assistance you would like to offer at the present time is most welcome.

In God's Amazing Grace and Love,

*Bre,
Bathany
has helped
us or
Either to us*

Pastor John T

*To Triboro Clergy it's all good,
& much appreciated!!!*



March 28, 2024

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor Breanna Tessitore
617 Morgan Avenue
Palmyra, New Jersey 08065-1929

Dear Pastor Breanna Tessitore,

"Would you have breakfast with me and a friend next week?" asked Mark. "He's just retired and is looking for ways to volunteer."

I replied to Mark with an enthusiastic, "Yes!"

I love volunteers, especially retirees. What a gift! People winding down their careers bring so much to an organization like UrbanPromise. Professionalism, education, life experience, and real skills.

But more importantly, volunteers bring a desire to make a difference. Passion. Patience. Love. You can't purchase or teach these virtues. They come from the heart.

More than 200 volunteers donate their time to UrbanPromise on a regular basis. Tutors, mentors, boat makers, chaperones, maintenance helpers, board members, and coaches. Pretty remarkable.

"Tutoring my third graders each week is the most meaningful thing I do," shared Mark. "They hug me when I walk down the halls. I get to see their progress."

As donors, I want you to be aware of the creative ways people give to UrbanPromise and make a difference in the lives of our youth. Besides keeping the lights on and insurance premiums paid, your contributions maintain a structure in which remarkable people can serve and volunteer.

As we enter this new year, please know I appreciate your generosity. And, if you've got a little extra time, give me a call.

Bruce Main
President & Founder

*Less the
ants!
this is
wonderful*

Date of Gift: 3/19/2024
Amount of Gift: \$1,250.00 2024 YTD: \$1,250.00
Tax-deductible Amount: \$1,250.00
Description of Gift: Appeal;
Friend of the Ministry; Fairview HVAC

This is your RECEIPT: All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please retain this portion for your records. Note to the IRS: No goods or services were provided by UrbanPromise to the donor in exchange for the tax-deductible amount of this contribution.
Tax ID #22-3229121.



GRACE CHURCH

... evangelical and

... Lutheran

600 New Brunswick Avenue
Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861-3642

Pastor David Confer

(732) 826-3391 Phone



A “**Surprise**” Service & Luncheon!

April 10, 2024

Pastor David Confer is leaving as interim Pastor on May 15, 2024.

To celebrate Pastor Confer’s 8+ years of mission and ministry in this small city of Perth Amboy, the congregation of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is inviting your members to attend a special **surprise** service on May 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

We know Pastor would be thrilled to see you and have you join in celebrating his years of service in this time and place. A catered luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall.

To allow us to be properly prepared for that Sunday, we would greatly appreciate an RSVP as soon as possible. Our email address is: graceperthamboy@gmail.com.

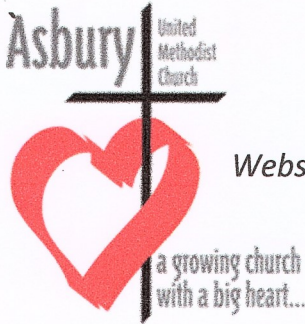
If you have any questions regarding this service or about Grace Church, please call the church office at 732 826 3391 between the hours of 10:30AM and 2 PM Tues.– Fri. or leave a message on our answering machine.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate Pastor Confer’s ministry as he continues on his daily Christian journey and onto the next chapter of his life.

Church Council

If you would like to contribute to a “purse” towards Pastor’s leaving, please make a check out to “Grace Lutheran Church” and write “Pastor Confer Gift” on the memo line. Please mail it before May 1, 2024.

Or if you prefer to use Venmo: @Grace-LutheranChurch



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2492 Andover Road
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Website: myasburymc.com Email: johndasbury@msn.com
Church Office: 856-829-3801
John W. Doll, Pastor

Sharing the love of Jesus. We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19

April 15, 2024

To Our Dear Friends at Bethany Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent contribution to Asbury's Good Neighbor Outreach to the Homeless. It is much appreciated! Your assistance enables us to respond when a young father with a one-year-old and a 3-month-old calls needing help. Your assistance is part of the happy ending, or rather the new beginning for a mother and son who had been evicted – but then through the help of Asbury's Good Neighbor Outreach and other ministries getting back into their apartment just before Christmas.

Your Pastor also takes the calls and hears the cry of the needy! Thank you for your help and the recognition that "IT TAKES A VILLAGE!"

In Jesus' Amazing Grace and Love,

Pastor John T. [Signature]

Receipt of Gift:

Check # 10885 \$200.00



JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF CAMDEN

856.246.1087

PO Box 555

Camden, NJ 0810

<http://www.jhoc.org>

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
617 Morgan Avenue
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church,

We would like to express our gratitude for your Parish Appeal donation of check #10887, in the amount of \$200.00, dated 4.9.2024. At Joseph's House, we strive to provide comprehensive and personalized support to individuals experiencing homelessness, helping them to gain stability and take control of their lives. Your gift will help us to continue providing shelter, food, clothing, and other essentials to our neighbors in Camden who are facing homelessness. These funds allow us to make a measurable difference in our community.

Joseph's House of Camden is able to offer much-needed resources and individualized services to assist guests in transitioning to permanent housing. With your support, we were able to serve 864 unduplicated individuals and see 131 of them move into their own homes.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Colandra Coleman

Executive Director



Joseph's House of Camden, LLC is a 501 (c) (3) organization and no goods or services were provided in consideration for your gift.

Please save this letter for tax purposes.



1514 Federal Street • Camden, NJ 08105 • 856-964-6771 • www.cathedralkitchen.org

April 22, 2024

Mr. Robert Middleton
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Broad & Morgan St.
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Dear Robert,

I am writing to thank you and the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church for the generous \$1,000 donation, dated April 10, 2024, to Cathedral Kitchen. Your congregation's support is so helpful right now as we ended 2023 having served more free meals than in any year in CK's history, with the high demand continuing into 2024.

In 2023, we experienced a 39% increase in onsite meals served as compared to 2022. In addition, the number of families coming to CK for meals increased by 66% since 2022. Along with the increase in meals, we have also seen a rise in demand for the array of services provided in our Pavilion, such as case management, free groceries, and free hygiene items.

We just concluded our annual guest survey that took place throughout the month of March. Guests were asked at random to take a 20-minute survey, or a shorter 10-minute survey, and we gave them a gift card for their time. The surveys were anonymous and had questions related to demographics, housing, and services we offer. The results from this survey will give us a better understanding of our guests' needs and help us improve our meals and services.

In addition, we recently held a graduation ceremony and celebration for our 32nd Culinary Arts Training class. During the 15-week program, students learn safe food handling, hands-on cooking skills and important employability skills such as how to work in a team and communicate effectively on the job. Also, the entire class took and passed their ServSafe exam, which enables them to obtain an important food handling certification that culinary employers look for.

Thank you so much for investing in Cathedral Kitchen's mission to help people out of food insecurity and champion their pursuit of stability and prosperity. We could not do this without your support and the support of others.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kitchen-Santiago
Executive Director

*No goods or services, express or implied, were provided
by the Cathedral Kitchen in return for this donation.*