

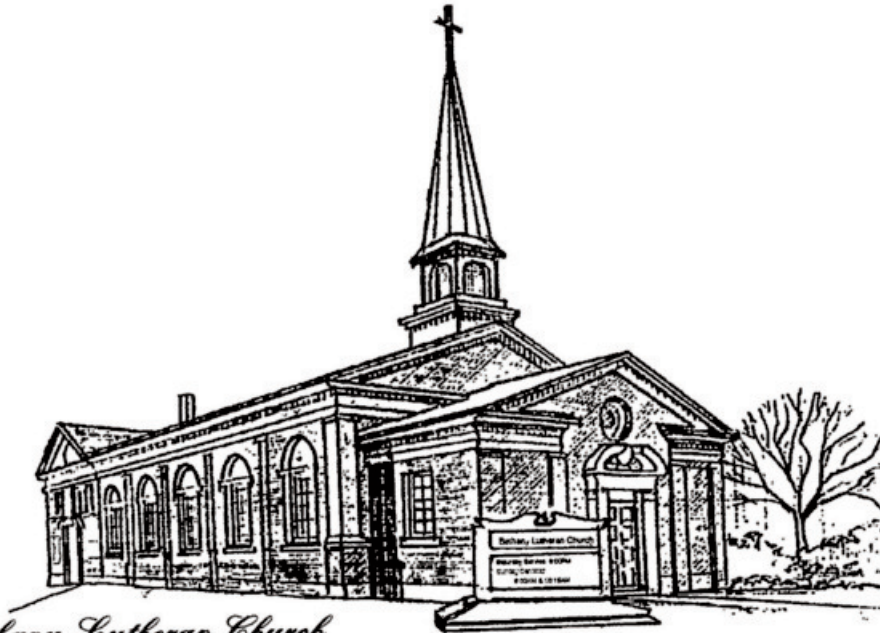
February

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**



February 14th

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

Peace be with you all!

First off, I would like to say what a joy it was to celebrate Christmas with you all for the first time. Getting to enter into your traditions, see the sanctuary so beautifully decorated, and remember Christ's coming among us was absolutely wonderful. My husband, Tom, and I would like to thank you all for the generous Christmas gift you gave to us. We were touched by your kindness

As we enter February, we enter Lent and all that this season holds for us. Lent is an interesting season of the church year, a solemn time of repentance and acknowledgement of the ways we fail to follow Christ. I know growing up, Lent was (and is) one of my favorite seasons because it honors the hard parts of our faith. It's a time for us to be honest with ourselves and God, to see the brokenness of the world around us, and to prepare to walk in the darkness of Good Friday. And through it all, we are tasked with holding on to the hope of Easter morning. To walk in the night, knowing that dawn will come.

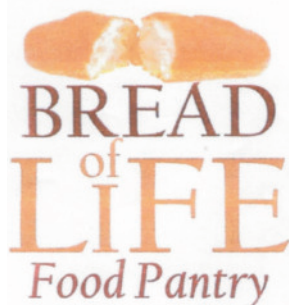
A woman I follow on social media lives on Svalbard, an island close to the North Pole, where for two and a half months of the year the sun does not rise, causing them to live in polar night from October through February. I've always been surprised though when she talks about the polar night as her favorite time of year. It's dark, and cold, and you get no sunlight! I struggle during the winter even with the amount of sun we get here. How can someone enjoy the polar night?! But she talks about it as a time to reflect, to tidy up, to spend time restoring yourself before the polar day during the summer.

Lent can be difficult, a stretch of six weeks where we refrain from saying alleluia, take on stricter spiritual practices, and fast from various things. It can seem like an endless night. But I pray that during this Lenten journey you would find time to reflect, repent, and restore your relationship with God.

May our Lenten practices guide us as we live more fully into our faith. Perhaps you will chose to fast from something you love and say a prayer each time you think of it. Perhaps you will take on an additional devotional practice. Perhaps you will join the Lenten Adult Education we are offering. Regardless of how you spend this season, I pray that it will be a meaningful time of restoration and repentance

May we enjoy our time in the darkness and quiet of Lent, knowing that the Easter dawn is just over the horizon.

Peace,
Pastor Bre Tessitore



We recently had 155 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

Well folks, Happy New Year. I am sitting down to write my Bethany News article, January 16th, my kind of day. I am enjoying the first snowfall of 2024 and it has inspired me to write my news article early. Bill Isard will be so happy he will want more snow days if it inspires me to have this ready ahead of time. Needless to say, I have been shoveling, feeding the birds and squirrels and checking out some interesting animal footprints. No wonder I am so motivated.

First, thank you to all who decorated both the inside and outside of the church, as always, a job well done. Thank you to Debbie, parents and children in presenting a wonderful Christmas Pageant and our dedicated choir. No, I did not forget Pastor Bre. Our 10:15 AM Christmas Service was an intergenerational service with the children having an active opportunity to participate, along with a story and sermon that all generations could relate to. The 7:00 PM candlelight service was very beautiful and moving with lovely solos and music and a meaningful sermon.

Let's move on to all that is coming up in February.

February 4th 5 Epiphany: Service of the Word. Scout Sunday. The scouts will host a coffee hour after the 10:15 AM service.

February 11th Transfiguration of Our Lord.

February 14th Ash Wednesday The Triboro Clergy Association service will be hosted by Bethany. The service will be at 7:00 PM, with no communion, ashes will be available.

February 18th 1 Lent

February 25th 2 Lent

Let's enjoy each and every day the Lord has given us, including the cold, crisp air and the beautiful snow.

.....
Bethany family,

As we enter into the heart of winter with the cold and snow it is imperative to keep in touch with each other to make sure everyone is ok. We had two snow storms already in January which was the first in a couple of years. A thank you to Bill Isard and team for cleaning the sidewalks and walkways. Michelle even helped with her shoveling skills.

Thank you to the folks that were involved with decorating the church and then taking them down at the conclusion of the Christmas Season. The church inside and out was beautiful.

A subcommittee of the Council is reviewing membership rolls for accuracy and sometime in the near future will be reaching out to those members who we haven't seen for sometime to check on them.

The Council continues to work to advance our mission. Now is the time for anyone who is interested in coming onto Council to start your consideration. If you should have any questions about serving feel free to ask any Council member what it entails.

Rick Dreby
President

Soup Supper!

Calling all home cooks!

Bethany will be hosting a soup supper on Thursday, March 7th for the Triboro churches. We will be providing soup, beverages, bread and rolls, and deserts. Please look for the sign up in the narthex in the upcoming weeks. If you have questions, please call the church office at 856-829-2373.

Our soup supper will take place in Gibson Hall on March 7th with the meal at 6pm and program at 7pm.

In addition, please plan to attend the soup suppers being hosted by other churches with the meal at 6pm and program at 7pm:

Tuesday, February 27th at Calvary Presbyterian, Riverton, NJ
Thursday, March 14th at Covenant Presbyterian, Cinnaminson, NJ

WELCA

Martha February 6th 11AM-1PM
Eve February 7th 11AM-1PM

Project Urban Promise January through April (This has been changed from our original plan.)

There will be an upcoming visit to Urban Promise in Camden.
If interested, it will be discussed at circle meetings.



Happy Valentine's Day

February 14th

Stewardship Letter – February 2024



Happy Valentine's Day All

Here is an update on our December 2023 Financials:

<u>Balance 12/1/23</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/23.</u>
\$28,421.61	+\$12,207.88	(-\$14,882.63)	\$25,746.86

As you can see above, our balance in our Parish decreased by **(-\$2,679.75)** over the month of December. Thank you all for your generous contributions each month. Expenses are trending higher than our receipts this past month.

It's Cold Outside, Winter is Here to Stay with Snow & Ice, keeping us locked indoors and making traveling dangerous so be careful, and stay safe. If you need help getting to Church reach out to us, maybe we can help.

As you may see our Parish Balance is shrinking as we are now supporting our full-time Pastor, and this will continue as we go forward. Our 2024-25 Stewardship Drive will begin soon. This will be a great time to re-evaluate your personal support for Bethany Lutheran Church. Any possible increase would be much appreciated and will help to bring the deficit down as we go forward into the future. We will use funds from the Endowment Fund when and if it becomes necessary to keep up with our expenses. A better solution is to support our budget without taking from the Endowment Fund if possible. So, please when you think about giving think positively and generously as you can for our Church.

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



February

- 01 Megan Brennan
- 01 Jonathan Clifton
- 01 Mason Docherty
- 03 Dana Foedisch
- 04 Brian Williams
- 05 Casey Lee Foedisch
- 09 Rebecca Grimes
- 12 Karl Schweiger
- 18 Christina Garson
- 18 Daniel Stein
- 20 Hannah Strauss
- 23 Lily Bauer
- 24 Traci Schock

February

What's Happening...

HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

02/01

02/02

02/03

Groundhog Day

8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)
12:00 PM: Miller House (Cookies & Valentines)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

02/04

02/05

Service of the Word (Scout Sunday Coffee Hour)

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: Church 2nd Floor (Troop Comm. Meet)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

02/06

02/07

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)

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)

02/08

02/09

02/10

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
4:00 PM: Gibson Hall (Fastnacht)

02/11

02/12

Communion (SOUP-er Bowl Sunday Soup Can Collection)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

02/13

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM: Miller House (Council Meet)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

02/14

Valentine's Day

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)

02/15

02/16

02/17

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Miller House (WELCA Exec. Board Meet)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

02/18

02/19

Communion / 11:15 AM: Miller House (Adult Ed)

President's Day

Bethany News Articles are due

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

02/20

02/21

02/22

02/23

02/24

02/25

02/26

02/27

02/28

02/29

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

Communion / 11:15 AM: Miller House (Adult Ed)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)

6:00 PM: Soup Supper: Calvary Presbyterian Church

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)



A SCOUT IS REVERENT



*February 4, 2024
Coffee Hour provided by
Units 9*

Thank you Bethany Lutheran for helping
our incredible family tradition continue in
2023! With love, from all 68 members of
the extended Poeder family!



Thank you from the
bottom of our hearts.

Love,

The Poeder clan

SO MUCH!

Dear Bethany,

Thank you so much for
allowing us to use Gibson Hall
for our Thanksgiving Family
Meal. It is such a special
time for our family to gather
together and you make it
possible.





Lenten Soup Suppers and Program

6:00pm Soup Supper
7:00pm Lenten Worship Program

February 27 Host Church -
Calvary Presbyterian, Riverton

March 7 Host Church -
Bethany Lutheran Church, Palmyra

March 14 Host Church -
Covenant Presbyterian, Cinnaminson

**All donations to support
Triboro Clergy
Emergency Vouchers for the Homeless**



Cookies & Valentines

Come bake some cookies and
make Valentines for our
Prayer List and Shut-in Members.

Who: Youth Group 9 months to 99 years

What: Baking and Making

When: February 3, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Where: The Miller House

RSVP: Church Office 856-829-2373

For more information, contact Emily at:
email: emilycheney85@gmail.com
call/text: 267-266-3831



Fastnacht 2024

February 10, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm

Sign up for:

Appetizers:

cheese, meats & crackers; fruit & veggie tray; pigs in a blanket; etc.

Finger Desserts:

brownies; cookies; doughnuts; etc.

Sides:

casseroles; pasta; potato; salads; etc.

Performance Acts:

WE NEED THEM!!!!

For more information, contact Emily at:
email: emilycheney85@gmail.com
call/text: 267-266-3831



It's

SOUPER-BOWL

Sunday, February 11th, 2024

Before we prepare for the

"BIG GAME",

Let's do OUR part and
CAN hunger

in our own neighborhoods!

Please bring a can
or two, or three or four
of your favorite soups!

Let's top last year's collection
number of **198** cans.

All soups will be donated to the
Bread of Life Pantry!



Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024

7:00 PM

Churches from The Triboro Clergy Association will hold
an Ash Wednesday Service at the:

Bethany Lutheran Church

617 Morgan Avenue

Palmyra, NJ

All are welcome!



Good Friday

March 29, 2024

Men's Breakfast

7:30 AM

Asbury United Methodist Church
2492 Andover Road
Cinnaminson, NJ

\$10.00

Contact Brad Young 609-519-4491



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
POST OFFICE BOX 340
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0340

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor
Commander-in-Chief

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lieutenant Governor

★
LISA J. HOU, D.O.
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

December 11, 2023

Tom McElwee
Bethan Lutheran Church
c/o 905 Columbia Ave.
Palmyra, NJ 08065

RE: Generous Donation

Dear Tom:

On behalf of the residents of the Veterans' Transitional Housing Program, we would like to thank you for your continuous support for our Veterans and our mission here at Veterans Haven South. As you know, our facility depends heavily on donations from individuals, Veteran's groups, and community organizations. With your continued support we are able to further our mission in helping our Veteran's reestablish a healthy and productive way of life.

On behalf of everyone here, thank you for your generous notation of 100 Christmas Stockings and 25 handmade quilts. We are grateful to have a thoughtful friend like you. Again, thank you for your support of our Veterans and our facility.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PK" with a stylized flourish.

Patrick Kennedy
Brigadier General, NJ Air National Guard
Superintendent, Veterans Haven South

**Message from the
New Jersey Synod E.L.C.A.**

Dear Pastor, Leader, & Members of
Bethany Lutheran Church

I am a member of your N.J. Synod
Council (ELCA). I want to thank
you on behalf of your N.J. Synod for
your partnership in the gospel.

Thank you for your Mission Support.

The work we accomplish
together is awesome & wonderful!

Please share the word of thanks
among your saints gathered there.

Blessings
Patty Espy
Jane Sutherland
Dagmar