

October

Bethany News

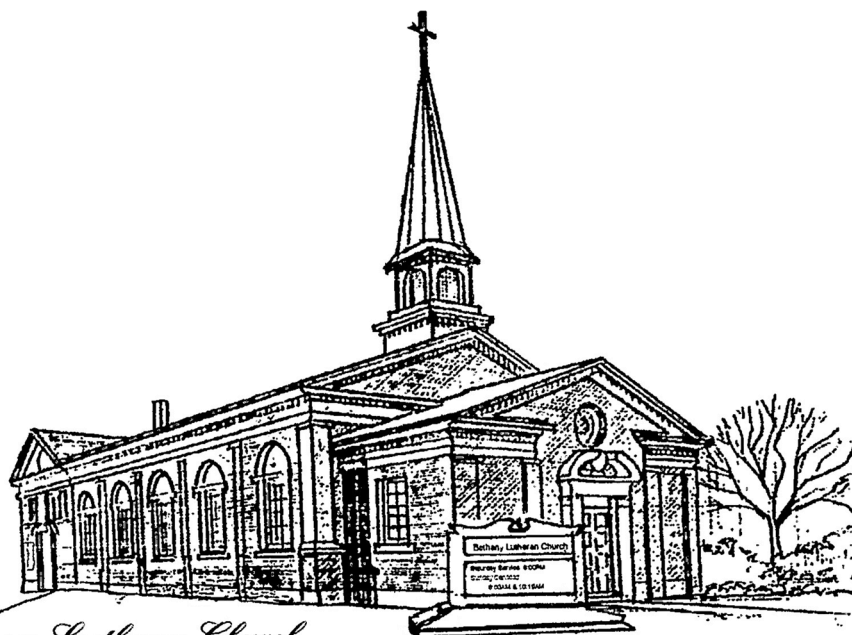
2026

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



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

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

A Message From Our Pastor:

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.
(Hebrews 13:1-3 CEB)

When I was first interviewing with Bethany's call committee, one thing that came up often from both sides was the idea of church as family, as home. The call committee described Bethany as a family, full of true care and concern for one another, as well as all the quirks and idiosyncrasies that families bring. After three years here, I can say Bethany is in fact family, and is home for so many folks.

Over the past 88 years, Bethany has grown and changed so many times. From the early days of charter members putting loans against their homes to be able to purchase our building to the Couples Club and Luther League. From days where the pews were packed to days when they were more sparse. Throughout it all, we have been family, bound together as siblings in Christ. And now, we are beginning to shift again.

With the creation of Dinner is Served, Bethany finds ourselves caught up in the work of the Spirit. The number of guests we host every month has risen drastically. We started with 25 guests in February. In August our monthly meal grew to 105 guests. Whether it be for the monthly meal or worship, more and more folks are joining us.

And as anyone who hosts knows, having guests means work. If you're having houseguests, you may pay extra attention to cleaning, cooking, and anticipating needs. Your routines and habits might be interrupted. And yet, it's also a joy to host. To offer hospitality and care to another person. In Hebrews 13, Paul reminds us that hospitality is holy work. By opening our space to others, by letting folks into our lives, we host the very messengers of God. Hospitality is work. And yet it is also deeply rewarding and blessed.

As we continue to follow the Spirit's lead in this season of Bethany's life, may we be blessed with a spirit of hospitality, an openness and curiosity to the experiences of another beloved child of God, and the strength to do the work of welcoming all people.

Bethany is a family, a community of faith called together in this time and place, and it is one whose doors are always open. Whether someone is stopping by for a quick meal or looking for a family to call their own. May God bless everyone who walks through our doors.

Amen.

In Christ's name,
Pastor Bre

Council President

Hello Bethany,

Fall is upon us and the cool weather and changing of the tree colors are around the corner.

The Church Council had a retreat on Saturday, September 12 at the Miller House. Thank you to Pastor Bre for putting this together, many thought-provoking activities took place, and a great exchange of ideas and messages were discussed. We are working on making Bethany a more welcoming house of worship and continue to discuss ideas on how to make that happen.

Remember that all Council meetings are open to all and are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. You are all welcome to attend and if you cannot feel free to contact any council member with any concerns or questions you have.

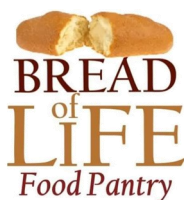
Rick Dreby
Your President in faith!

Council Meeting Summary

Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Council Meeting

Council met on September 8, 2026. We averaged 33 people in August. Our net receipts totaled approximately \$5,700 in August. Social Ministry is going to have an account opened with a debit card for ease with Dinner is Served. We discussed various issues with the refrigerators. Plans were discussed for the 88th Anniversary in October. Old tables have been removed and work in Gibson Hall has been completed. Website has been updated, including an Amazon wish list. We continue to discuss budget planning for next year. We have continued discussing Christian Nationalism. Second memorial plaque has been installed. Endowment purchased a transport wheelchair. Two WELCA circles resumed monthly. The Scouts requested building use for various dates in October and November, which were approved.

Allison Greenfield
Council Secretary



We recently had **570 members** or **183 households** 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

Your Fellowship Committee wants to say **THANK YOU** so much to all those who made our Annual Picnic (and Birthday Party) such a great time! We had fund despite being inside; the food was wonderful, thanks to our “Grill Masters” and “Salad Makers.” Sixty-five people attended, including some of our neighbors.

Coming up next on October 25th, is a Coffee Hour, following the Worship Service, where we will be celebrating Bethany's 88th Anniversary. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex as time gets closer.

Thank you again and enjoy the Fall!



Nurturing Committee

Endowment purchased a transport wheelchair. It is being kept in the Narthex under the coat. We went to Health Garden Café and & Brain Freeze Moorestown. A date will soon be announced for our next Nurturing Meeting.

Social Ministry Committee

Dinner Is Served

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wish List on Congregation Website & Facebook!

Donating Giveaways Now More Convenient –
Order from on-line Wish List and you won't have to
remember to carry to church with you on Sunday morning!

Our next free monthly open community meal, “*Dinner Is Served*”, will be Wednesday, October 28th. Looking ahead, in November we will move up one week to November 18th, and then in December will return to the last Wednesday of the month on December 30th. Thank you to EVERYONE for your support! Each and every volunteer is essential to this whole-congregation ministry!

If you are on Facebook, please be sure to share the *Dinner Is Served* post. The first comment includes a link to our Wish List! Perhaps one of your friends will want to contribute. Our guests really appreciate the take home gifts of toiletries and other helpful small items.

At our August Dinner, we had 105 guests (people not connected with our congregation) and 33 volunteers present! We sure have grown from our first one in February when we welcomed 25 guests! We thank Thrivent Financial for its contribution of a \$250 Action Team Gift Card to help pay for the August Dinner. We also thank everyone who has donated toward the *Dinner Is Served* special fund! Donations are always helpful, just mark “Dinner Is Served” and place in the offering plate.

Thanks be to God for this opportunity to meet and serve our neighbors! We hope to see you October 28th. We are especially in need of people who can help with clean up.

ELCA Repudiates Christian Nationalism

For theological reasons, the ELCA repudiates Christian nationalism as a distortion of the Christian faith that crosses the line into idolatry. This church also realizes that Christian nationalism contradicts the U.S. motto, *e pluribus unum* (out of many, one) ...It is an unhealthy form of patriotism that harms the country, divides it, and especially endangers the well-being of vulnerable members of our society. (ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All, pg. 57)

-- Your sister in Christ, Mimi Confer, Social Ministry Council Liaison

Stewardship Letter

Happy Halloween & 88th Anniversary Bethany Lutheran Church 2026!

Hello Bethany Friends,

Yes, it is true **Bethany Lutheran Church** will be celebrating our **88th Birthday** on October 1st, 2026! We are planning to have a **Coffee Hour** as part of our celebration on **October 25th, 2026**, downstairs in Gibson Hall. We should all be there if we can as this is a momentous occasion for our community. You will also get to see the undercroft, kitchen, and our fellowship area has been thoroughly cleaned up, sanitized, and organized recently. Thank you to all the volunteers who stayed after Church on September 13th, 2026, on our Bethany Workday!

As you know our New Stewardship Drive for 2026-2027 “**Building a Culture of Generosity**” has already launched and we will be featuring some guest speakers to our Church to share Generosity Stories with us. As we move through this month, I urge you to think about how much Bethany Lutheran Church means to you and your family. How long have you been a member? We want our congregation to be here for a long time so we must support the Church financially, voluntarily, faithfully, lovingly, and hopefully! We will become more generous as we move forward into the future. We need your help in many ways, supporting our brand new “**Dinner is Served**” ministry each month which has been an enormous success!

Even though **Halloween** is the scariest holiday of the year, we need not fear as **God** is with us and he will lead us, provide for us, nurture us, and feed us with the **Holy Spirit** each day! Please meditate on what you might be able to do to grow in your generosity to Bethany Lutheran Church and our Christian brothers and sisters in our community and around the entire world.

Generosity is always given by **God** the Father as he gave his only son “**Jesus Christ**” to die for our sins on the cross to redeem us from our sins and offer salvation and eternal life with him. We are so fortunate to be loved unconditionally with the promise of everlasting life! 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



Women of the ELCA

Our circles have resumed the monthly meetings. Currently we have 25 women who join our monthly meetings with spiritual fellowship. Our projects this year will be the Lutheran Disaster Relief and Urban Promise. On October 14th, 2026 at 5:30 PM, Urban Promise is hosting a fundraiser banquet titled, "Night Of Promise" at the Collingswood Grand Ballroom and Theater. WELCA is sponsoring a table of ten and we need four more people. Tickets are \$35.00. Please let Stephanie Staudenmayer or Annette Brown know if you are interested.

Upcoming Dates:

October 6th: Marth Circle: Where we will be welcoming our newest member Claudia Naus

October 7th: Eve Circle

October 14th: Urban Promise Fundraiser

October 15th: Executive Meeting

Worship Committee

Highlights in September:

- A Children's Skit about Joseph and his brothers was performed on September 13th
- Church Picnic service was held indoors (due to weather) on September 20th
- We welcomed new members Claudia Naus and David and Trish Confer on September 27th

Coming up in October:

- Pastor will provide a Pet Blessing on October 4th after the church service
- A coffee hour will be hosted (by Worship and Stewardship) after the service on October 25th to celebrate Reformation Sunday, Bethany's 88th Anniversary, and Intent Sunday (announcement of results from the Stewardship Drive)

Happy Autumn! Enjoy the cooler weather

Due to childcare requirements and a desire to be a good steward of her time, Pastor Bre is changing her office hours. Moving forward, she intends to be in the office Mondays from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. She will be in the office additional days but the schedule will vary by the week. In addition, due to childcare restraints, she may have to cancel or shorten office hours unexpectedly. (If anyone figures out how to schedule a baby getting sick, please let her know!)

With that being said, Pastor Bre wants to be accessible for you. Please call, text, or email if you want to set up a time to meet. She is happy to plan a time in person or to discuss items over the phone. You are welcome to call her cell phone or contact the church office if that is easier.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Bre.

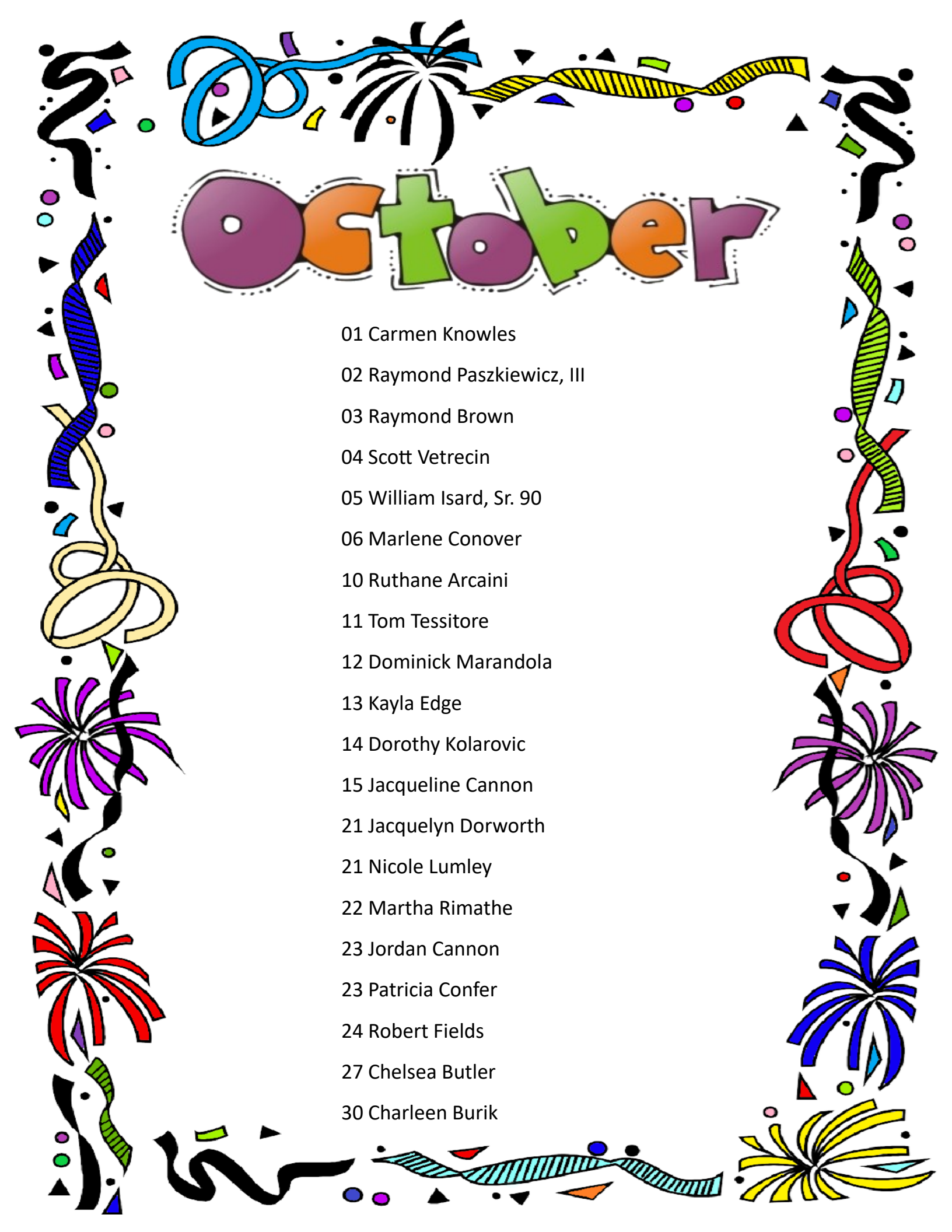


Pastor Bre's Office Hours

Monday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

For an appointment call
or text

301-491-4018
609-232-2702



October

01 Carmen Knowles

02 Raymond Paszkiewicz, III

03 Raymond Brown

04 Scott Vetrecin

05 William Isard, Sr. 90

06 Marlene Conover

10 Ruthane Arcaini

11 Tom Tessitore

12 Dominick Marandola

13 Kayla Edge

14 Dorothy Kolarovic

15 Jacqueline Cannon

21 Jacquelyn Dorworth

21 Nicole Lumley

22 Martha Rimathe

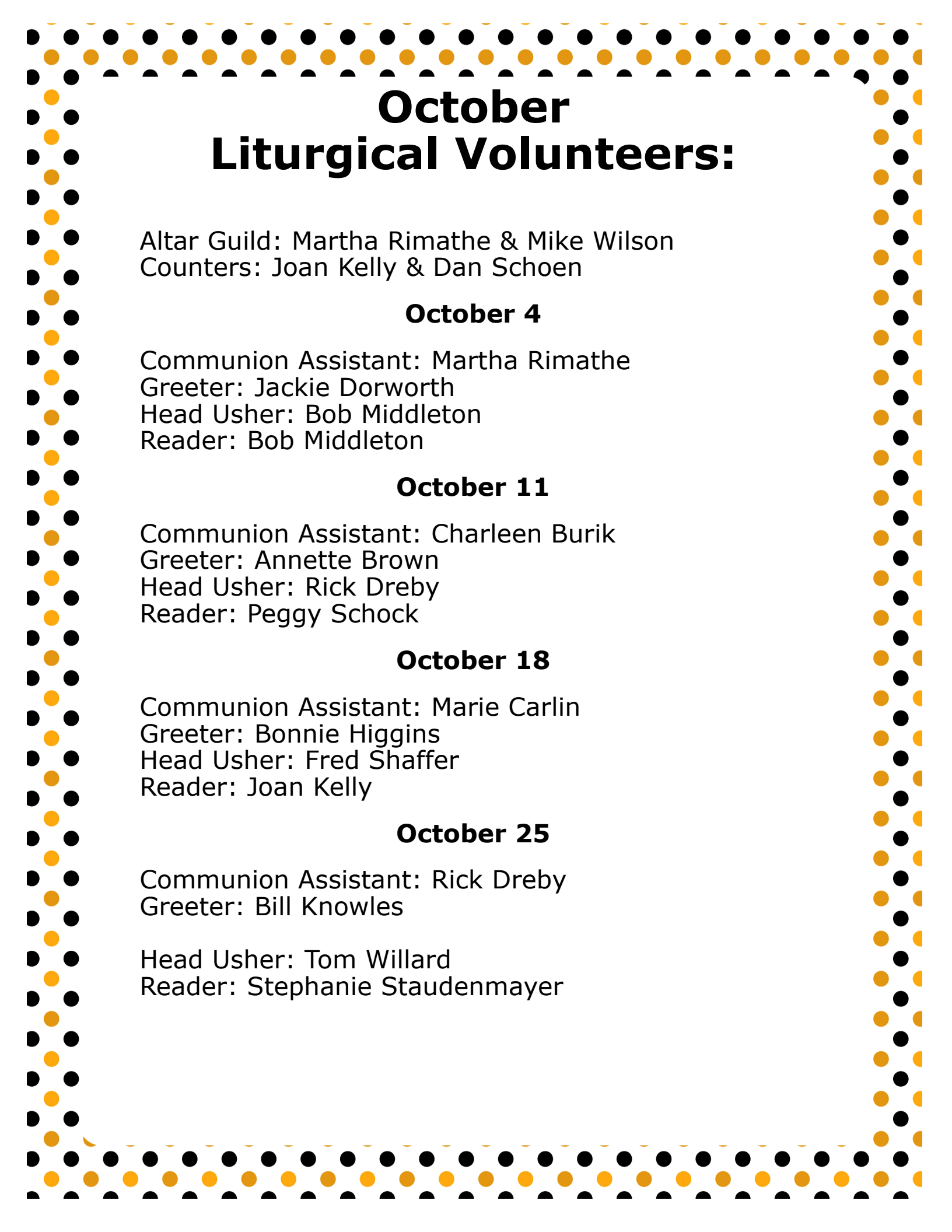
23 Jordan Cannon

23 Patricia Confer

24 Robert Fields

27 Chelsea Butler

30 Charleen Burik



October Liturgical Volunteers:

Altar Guild: Martha Rimathe & Mike Wilson
Counters: Joan Kelly & Dan Schoen

October 4

Communion Assistant: Martha Rimathe
Greeter: Jackie Dorworth
Head Usher: Bob Middleton
Reader: Bob Middleton

October 11

Communion Assistant: Charleen Burik
Greeter: Annette Brown
Head Usher: Rick Dreby
Reader: Peggy Schock

October 18

Communion Assistant: Marie Carlin
Greeter: Bonnie Higgins
Head Usher: Fred Shaffer
Reader: Joan Kelly

October 25

Communion Assistant: Rick Dreby
Greeter: Bill Knowles

Head Usher: Tom Willard
Reader: Stephanie Staudenmayer

October

What's Happening...

- 10/01 Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Church (1938)**
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
- 10/02**
- 10/03** 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/04 Communion**
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM: Confirmation Class (Miller House)
11:15 AM: Sunday School (Church 2nd Floor)
1:00 PM: Pet Blessing
- 10/05** 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)
- 10/06** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House)
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/07** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
6:30 PM: Pack Committee Meeting (Church 2nd Floor)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Miller House)
- 10/08**
- 10/09**
- 10/10** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/11 Communion**
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM: Confirmation Class (Miller House)
- 10/12 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day**
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/13** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/14** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 10/15** 10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
- 10/16** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/17** 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/18 Communion**
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM: Confirmation Class (Miller House)
- 10/19** Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/20** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/21** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 10/22**
- 10/23**
- 10/24** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/25 Communion-Reformation Sunday**
Intent Cards collected during Worship
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM: Confirmation Class (Miller House)
Coffee Hour (88th Anniversary Celebration)
- 10/26** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/27** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/28** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Dinner Is Served (Gibson Hall)
- 10/29**
- 10/30 Riverton/Palmyra Parade**
- 10/31 Halloween**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)



GUESS WHO?

Let's Get to Know Our Church Members:

Hometown: Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN

Current Residence: Cinnaminson, NJ

Position: Council Member; on a committee with Emily

Family: Mom of Mitchell (20) who is in his Jr. year at Villanova earning his nursing degree to become an anesthetist. Morgan (18) her first year at Rowan University in Glassboro undecided, but hoping to become a dental hygienist, and Meghan (16) in her junior year at Cinnaminson High School. We have a houseful of 2 small dogs and cats (failed bottle-fed foster baby kittens LOL – we still foster when we can)

How did you find Bethany Lutheran Church? I was approximately 7 months pregnant with Mitchell and I wanted a Lutheran Church my kids could grow up in. I walked in with no ring on my finger, big belly, and alone and the congregation welcomed me with open arms. I knew the very first time I found my church home.

Some Favorites:

Hymn / Christian Song – In the Garden

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

I can not pick a favorite – there is something awesome about each of them.

Favorite Holiday at Bethany –

Christmas with the tree and poinsettias and the excitement of retelling the story.

Favorite Bible verse / story - Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”

Favorite item at potlucks / coffee hours -

I love the variety and generosity of everyone that brings in and donates.

Answer: Caron Dalesio (Pronounced Car-in like get in the car.....not Karen)

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

TROOP 9, Palmyra, NJ

We're raising dough!

SPONSORED BY

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH,
Palmyra, NJ**

Must bring flyer for us to get credit



**October 6, 2026
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
1500 Nixon Drive, Moorestown, NJ**

Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App,
or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your
cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your
organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera
FUNDRAISING

*20% fundraiser: Up to 20% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$100 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 20% donation. 25% fundraiser: Up to 25% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$150 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 25% donation. General terms: Details on percentage of net sales to be donated and the minimum sales requirement will be provided during the event registration process. Fundraising events available only at participating US bakery-cafes. Fundraising event details and available dates and times for fundraising events will vary by bakery-cafe. Gift card purchases, catering orders, and orders placed on third party delivery sites are excluded and will not count towards the total net sales from your designated fundraising event. This offer will be void if flyer is distributed in or near the participating bakery-cafe on the night of the event. Fundraising events may be cancelled without notice due to abuse, error, fraud, computer error, electronic or technical malfunctions, or other unforeseen or unintended circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. For more information on how our fundraising events work, please visit: <https://fundraising.panerabread.com/faq>.

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@Troop_9Palmyra

If you would like to donate directly to
Troop 9, we accept Venmo



venmo



Dinner Is Served

Donating "*giveaways*" is now more convenient!

Just visit our church website at **bethanypalmyra.org**, scroll down to the *Dinner Is Served* section, and click on

"Donation Wish List"

You'll be taken directly to our list on Amazon!

Just choose what you'd like to give and check out. It will be delivered directly to us, and be ready to share at our next Dinner Is Served - and you won't have to carry them!!!

Thank you so much for your generosity.



DINNER IS SERVED!

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2026

5 - 7 P.M.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ACROSS FROM THE TRAIN PLATFORM
617 MORGAN AVENUE
PALMYRA, NJ



Wish List

Scan the QR code to
view our Amazon
Wish List!



In The Mail....



August 27, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church
617 Morgan Ave
Palmyra, NJ 08065-1998

Amount received: \$2,000.00 (Check #1356)
Gift Purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary! We write with heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and partnership. At this year's commencement, we celebrated 52 graduates representing our various degree programs. Through their experiences at ULS, these emerging leaders have been equipped and inspired to serve faithfully in the diverse communities and ministries to which they are called.

This year holds special significance for our community, too, as we celebrate two hundred years of faithful theological education at ULS. For generations, this institution and its predecessor bodies have been deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition, grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and committed to the formation of Christian leaders.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your belief in the transformative power of theological education. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the world—one graduate at a time. If our team can be of assistance, please contact us at advancement@uls.edu. We invite you to stay connected through ULS Kindling Faith Continuing Education opportunities for lay and rostered leaders at kindlingfaith.com.

With sincere gratitude,

Conor Brooks, CFRE
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
United Lutheran Seminary
cbrooks@uls.edu
717-338-3012

United Lutheran Seminary is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution, making it fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this receipt for your records. Our Tax ID: 23-1365169.

GETTYSBURG 61 Seminary Ridge | Gettysburg, PA 17325

PHILADELPHIA 7301 Germantown Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19119

717-338-3000 | uls.edu

In The Mail....



September 1, 2026

Breanna Tessitore
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
617 Morgan Avenue
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Dear Breanna:

Thank you for the donation of \$500.00 to Project Backpack from Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church. This funding directly supports students in your local community. Thanks to Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, students will feel confident and prepared for school each day.

School presents a unique challenge to every individual student, but there are additional obstacles that some students may face through no fault of their own. Because of the investment from Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, students will be provided with the things they need to achieve academic success.

To a student facing a lack of supportive resources, the excitement of a new school year is replaced with anxiety. Being without a backpack, school supplies, uniform, or even hygiene products greatly impact a child's ability to focus and learn. The involvement of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church sends an incredible message of care and empowerment to children who may find themselves in a challenging situation.

Thanks to the donation from Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, children in the care of Center For Family Services are able to receive the exact tools that they need to achieve academic success. Thanks to Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, children feel less anxious because their needs are met.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church's generosity improves the odds of academic success for a student in need. Thank you for making positive change possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Merilee Rutolo".

Merilee Rutolo
President & CEO

Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Center For Family Services Tax ID # is 22-3669704.