

December

Bethany News

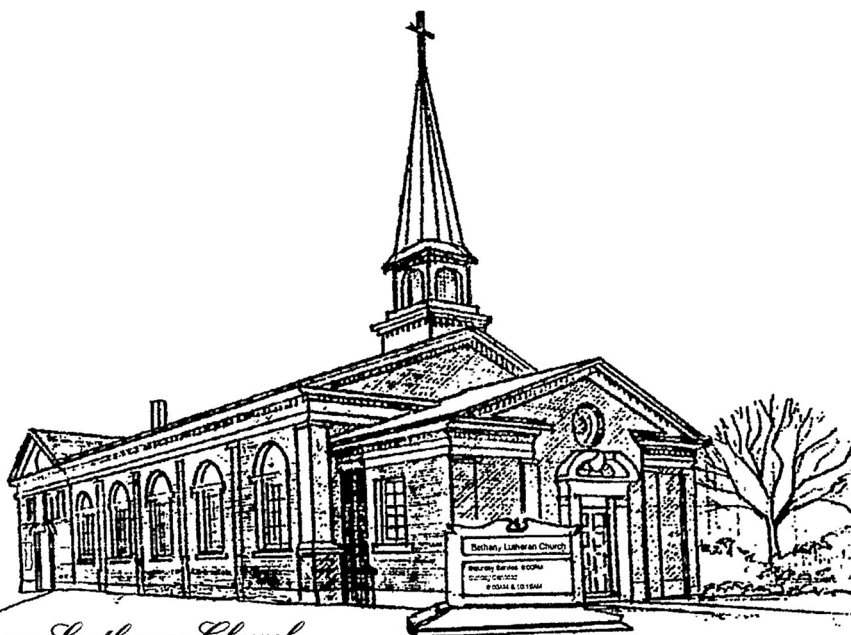
2025

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



*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:

Beloved people of Bethany,

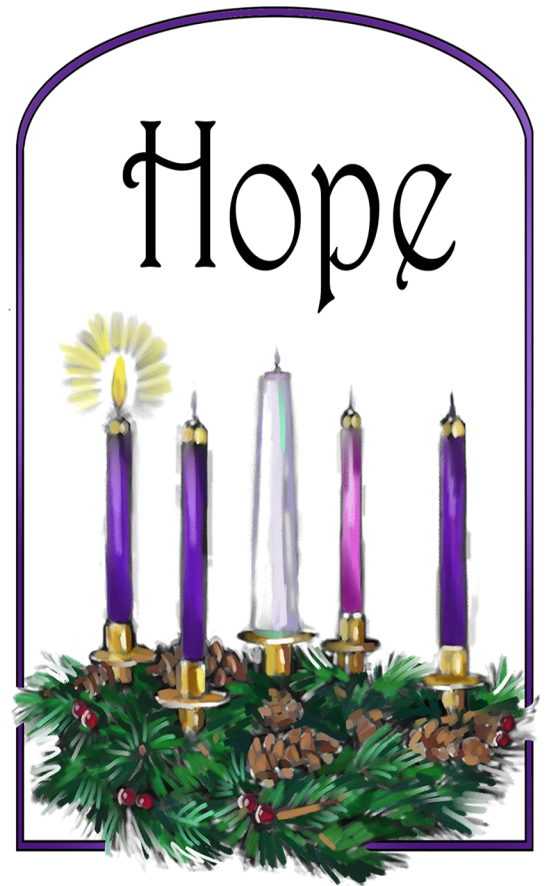
What a joy it is to be writing to you as I near the end of my maternity leave. With Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany right around the corner, I am sure things are busy at Bethany. Please pay close attention to the rest of the newsletter for events and opportunities that are coming up.

While I am enjoying these last few weeks home with our daughter, I am also looking forward to returning to Bethany on December 28th and resuming office hours on January 5th. As I return to work, I ask for your prayers and patience as I make the transition. While Tom is home for about 3 weeks in January, Bobbie will remain with him but after that, don't be surprised if I have a tiny sidekick at the office a few times a week.

As I return in January, please know I am interested to hear how you are doing. I know I may have missed important events during my leave and/or you may be interested in having a visit or conversation with me. Feel free to call, text, or email me to set up a time and place to catch up.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Bre



A Message From Our Council President

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Bethany.

Wishing comfort and peace to all this holiday season!

We thank all our wonderful supply Pastors and look forward to the return of Pastor Bre on December 28th, 2025.

We are still in need of one more Church Council Member. Church Council is a wonderful opportunity for you to become involved and help shape our future. The time you donate to the church is a true gift from God.

If you have any questions please reach out to one of our current council members or if your interested please join us at our next council meeting on December 9th, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Miller House.

Thank you for all you do

Stephanie Staudenmayer

Fellowship

Thank you to our council Members for hosting our November 2nd coffee hour. Twenty-four of us attended and enjoyed delicious treats and company.

Our next “Coffee Hour” will be on December 7th with WELCA hosting it.

The January very special Coffee Hour will be held on January 11th, following the Baptism of Bobbie Ann. We need a host committee (s) to sponsor this. Grandmother Tessitore has signed up to bring cookies.

We hope to see you there!

Your Fellowship Committee



GUESS WHO?

Let's Get to Know Our Church Members:

Hometown: Born in Newark, NJ

Current Residence: Riverton, NJ;

I live with my Husband John, daughter Sara, son-in-law Patrick, grandson Alexander (4), niece Annie, great nephew Anthony (7), great niece Arya (3), dogs (2) Emma and Lizzy and chickens (5) Miss Bernadette, Silvie, Biscuit, Thelma and Louise

How did you find Bethany? After relocating to Riverton from Maryland, I searched for a new church home and fell in love with BLC.

Position: Council Member

Some Favorites:

1. **Hymn:** Amazing Grace
2. **Season:** Spring/Pentecost-It's a time for growth, renewal and hope.
3. **Bible verse:** Philippians 4:13-I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Answer: *Charleen Burik*, our newest council member

If you would like to participate, please reach out to

Allie Greenfield at greenfield0907@gmail.com

Stewardship Letter – December 2025/January 2026



Christmas Season and New Year 2026

Hello Bethany Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026 !

Well, we have made it through another glorious year and preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ on December 25th, 2025. This year has gone by so fast it seems to me. Does anyone else feel that way too? Time seems to fly the older I get, yet the days seem so slow and long. Why is that? I remember when I was young it seemed like Christmas took forever to get here, and now it comes so fast that I am not always ready for the season. We must slow down and enjoy the wonder of this time of year, celebrate the beautiful gift that God gave us, his only son! So, as we prepare, shop for gifts, plan family get togethers, decorate for the season let us not forget to be thankful and prayerful every day for the mercy and grace of our Lord! Let us offer up our praise and thanksgiving with song, prayer, and gratitude to God!

Once Christmas Day had passed and we enjoy the twelve days of the season we will be celebrating another New Year of 2026! Every year we hope for a better one than the last. We make promises to change our lives or give up a bad habit, making the new year our best one ever! How often have I pledged to make a New Year's resolution to lose weight, get healthier, eliminate debts, be more loving and supportive, and to pray more often. If you are like me, I do this every year. We are all God's children, and he calls us daily to live in his spirit with hope, faith, joy, and love. These gifts are from the grace of God the Father. Jesus paid for these when he died on the cross to redeem all and give us salvation and eternal life in Heaven! Amen!

I look forward to seeing you all in Church throughout this season as often as possible. May God bless you and keep, may he lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace! All God's people say 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



Happy New Year!

Social Ministry

Climate Resilience Kit Update

Our WELCA groups announce that as of November 17th, 2025, we have surpassed our goal to collect \$910.00 to cover the cost of a “Climate Resilience Kit” World Hunger Good Gift, to help a community that has suffered a weather emergency get back on its own feet!!!

The Climate Resilience Kit includes so many great things to help the people create a community fruit-tree farm, with a community vegetable garden. Combined with the hard work of community members, this gift can provide delicious and nutritious fruits and vegetables for years to come!

One important part of this gift is the materials and the “know-how” to build a brand new irrigation project. Many of us have had lawns, plants and vegetable gardens of our own, and we know how important frequent watering is to get good results. And if you’ve ever tried watering with a bucket instead of a hose, then you know how heavy water feels just walking from the spigot; imagine if you were carrying it a mile or two!

Farmers in our country depend on irrigation. But many farmers around the world rely on rainwater to nourish their crops. When the rain doesn’t fall, an entire community can be vulnerable to drought and hunger. Irrigation systems, coupled with training and maintenance, can make some of the most vulnerable farmers and their families more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and give them the tools to protect their water supply.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone who contributed to this gift! What a great feeling it is to help make a real difference in people’s daily lives like this!

God Bless

Mimi Confer-Social Ministry



WELCA

It’s exciting to share the news that between WELCA and the congregation we have reached our goal and we will be able to purchase a climate resilience kit! This will make such a difference in the lives of those in need.

Thanks to all who contributed

Be on the lookout to pick up an “Angel” from the Narthex .We are participating in

Epworth’s Angel Tree Collection.

This benefits the children of families receiving help from the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

You can help make a child’s holiday special.



Thanks for all you do.
Blessings,

Stephanie Staudenmayer
WECA President

Please join us for our next meeting on either

December 9th or December 10th and January 6th or January 7th

Worship Committee

Highlights in November:

Pastor Dave Stoner was our Guest Pastor on November 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd.
Pastor Michael Gebhart was our Guest Pastor on November 30th.

Services coming up in December:



December 7th : Second Sunday in Advent, Communion-
Pastor Dave Stoner presiding
December 14th: Third Sunday in Advent, Communion-
Pastor Dave Stoner presiding
December 21st: Fourth Sunday in Advent, Non-Communion-
Christmas Pageant
December 24th: Christmas Eve-Pastor Kathleen Harris presiding.
Family Service will be held at 3:00 pm.
Traditional Service will be held at 7:00 pm.
December 28th: Christmas 1- Lessons and Carols Sunday-
Pastor Bre returns to Bethany

Services coming up in January:

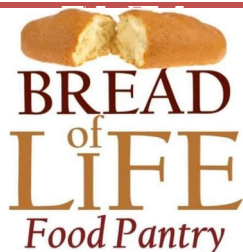
January 4th : Christmas 2
January 11th: Baptism of Our Lord; Bobbie Ann Tessitore Baptism
January 18th: Epiphany 2
January 25th: Epiphany 3

Christmas Decorating:

Decoration of the *Church outside and inside* (other than the tree) will be held on December 9th, 10th, 11th. Help would be appreciated.
Please coordinate with Jim Francis / Dan Schoen
Christmas Tree will be assembled (by Jim Francis) on December 13th.
Volunteers are needed to decorate the tree between
December 13th and December 20th.

Decorations will be removed January 6th, 7th, 8th. Help would be appreciated.
Please coordinate with Jim Francis / Dan Schoen

The Worship Committee wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



We recently had 262 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!

December Liturgical Volunteers:

Altar Guild: Kathy Austin & Mary Ann Middleton
Counters: Bob Middleton & Tom Willard

December 7

Communion Assistant: Annette Brown
Greeter: Ann Deats
Head Usher: Fred Shaffer
Reader: Charleen Burik

December 14

Communion Assistant: Bob Middleton
Greeter: Nick Wolan
Head Usher: Tom Willard
Reader: Chelsea Butler

December 21

Communion Assistant: Non Communion Week
Greeter: Ali Mankowski
Head Usher: Bill Knowles
Reader: Stephanie Staudenmayer

December 24 3:00 PM

Communion Assistant: Lois Gerken
Greeter: Butler Family
Head Usher: Stephanie Staudenmayer
Reader: TBD

December 24 7:00 PM

Communion Assistant: Rick Dreby
Greeter: Tracy Foedisch
Head Usher: Dan Schoen
Reader: TBD

December 28

Communion Assistant: Non Communion
Greeter: Brad Young
Head Usher: Bob Middleton
Reader: TBD

What's Happening...

December

12/01

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/2nd Floor)

12/02

9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)

12/03

9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)

12/04

12/05

12/06

St. Nicholas Day

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

Pearl Harbor Day

2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion-Rev. David Stoner

11:15 AM: **Sunday School** (Church 2nd Floor)
11:15 AM: Coffee Hour "WELCA" (Gibson Hall)

12/08

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2nd Floor)

12/09

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: Council Meeting (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)

12/10

9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop Comm. Meet (Miller House)

12/11

12/12

12/13

Christmas Tree Up / Tree Decorating

12/14

3rd Sunday of Advent, Communion-Rev. David Stoner

Christmas Tree Decorating

12/15

Christmas Tree Decorating

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

12/16

Christmas Tree Decorating

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

12/17

Christmas Tree Decorating

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

12/18

Christmas Tree Decorating

10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)

12/19

Christmas Tree Decorating

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

12/20

Christmas Tree Decorating

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

12/21

4th Sunday of Advent, Non-Communion

Children's Pageant

12/22

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)

12/23

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

12/24

Christmas Eve (Office Closed)

3:00 PM: Family Service Communion
7:00 PM: Candlelight Service - Communion

"Merry Christmas To All!" (Office Closed)

12/25

12/26

12/27

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

12/28

Lessons in Carols: Non-Communion (Pr. Bre returns)

12/29

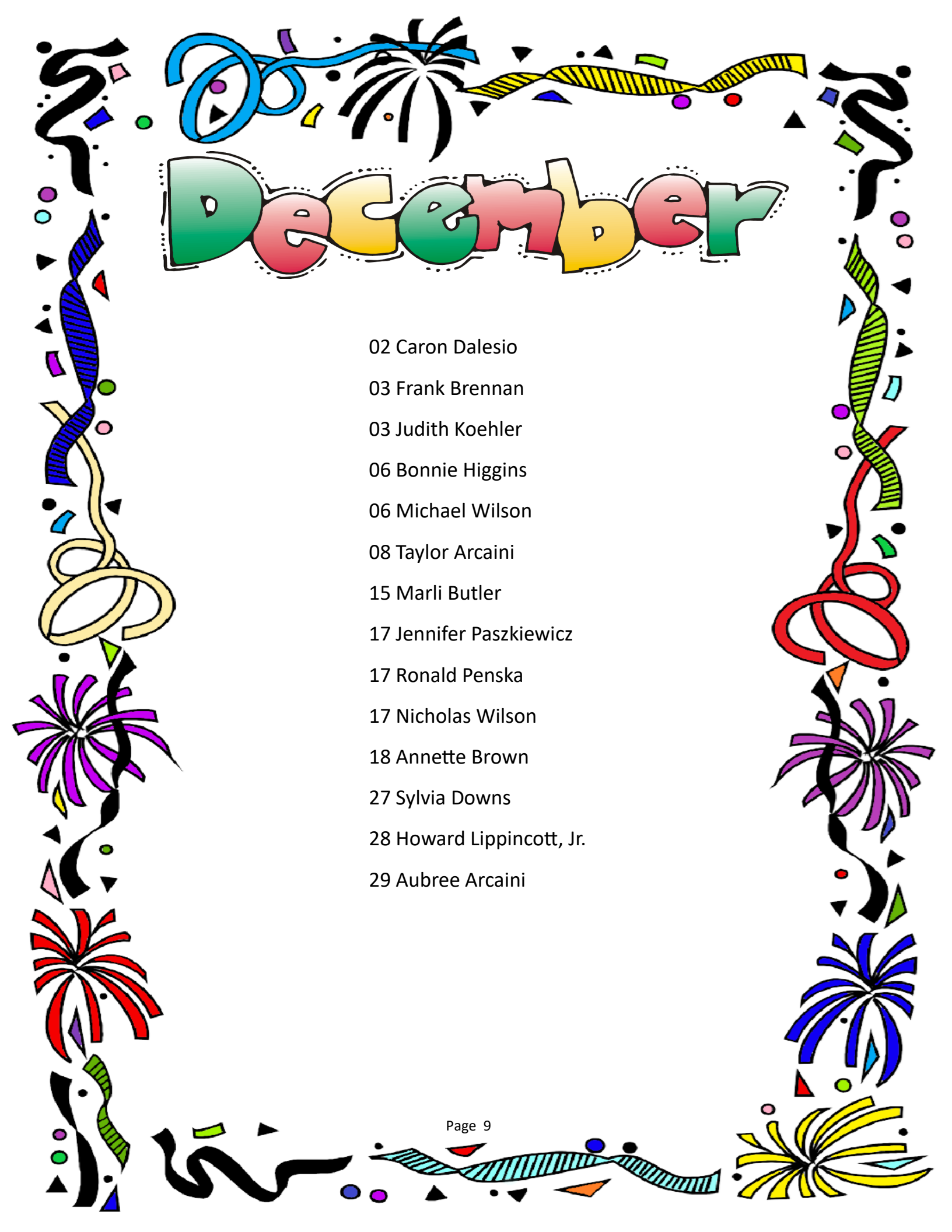
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)

12/30

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

12/31

New Year's Eve (Office Closed)



December

- 02 Caron Dalesio
- 03 Frank Brennan
- 03 Judith Koehler
- 06 Bonnie Higgins
- 06 Michael Wilson
- 08 Taylor Arcaini
- 15 Marli Butler
- 17 Jennifer Paszkiewicz
- 17 Ronald Penska
- 17 Nicholas Wilson
- 18 Annette Brown
- 27 Sylvia Downs
- 28 Howard Lippincott, Jr.
- 29 Aubree Arcaini

What's Happening...

January

DRAFT

01/01
01/02
01/03

New Years Day (Office Closed)

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

Communion

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)

01/04
01/05

01/06

Epiphany

9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House)
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Stewardship Meeting (Miller House)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)

01/07

9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Gibson Hall)
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)

01/08
01/09
01/10

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

01/11

Communion-Baptism of Bobbie Tessitore
11:15 am Coffee Hour (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)

01/12

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

01/13

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

01/14

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

01/15

10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)

01/16

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

01/17

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

01/18

Communion

01/19

Martin Luther King Day

Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)

01/20

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

01/21

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

01/22

01/23

01/24

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

01/25

Communion

01/26

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

01/27

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

01/28

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

01/29

01/30

01/31

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

DRAFT



January

01 Charles Bohus

03 Patrick Kane

09 Lucas Cooney

10 Robert Hayes, III

11 Joseph Staudenmayer

12 Joyce Forrest

12 Anna Paszkiewicz

15 Alyson Butler

18 Mitchell Dalesio

18 Alexandra Mankowski

19 Charles Dorworth

20 Debra Schoen

24 Jeanie Francis

27 Steven Groeber

31 Joan Kelly

Just in time for your 2025 Christmas Cards...

**Pick up your NEW 2026 Church Directory
and**

Christmas Letter in the Narthex.



**Church
Directory**

Angel Tree Christmas Project



- This program is specifically for children 12 & under.
- Attach your “*Angel Tag*” to an **UNWRAPPED** gift
(*parents will wrap gifts*).
- Place **UNWRAPPED** gift in the bin in the Narthex.
- All Angels are due back to the Church by

Sunday, December 14th.

In The Mail....

YOU ARE INVITED

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICE

25 NOVEMBER

7:00 PM

Host:



2101 NEW ALBANY RD.

CINNAMINSON, NJ 08077

Partnering

with:

ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH • AME CHURCH OF RIVERTON •
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAL CHURCH • PALMYRA MORAVIAN CHURCH •
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • AND MORE

Price of admission is a food donation
for the Bread of Life Foundation and
the Triboro Association's
Emergency Fund for the Homeless

Refreshments will be served.

FEATURING A
JOINT CHOIR OF
CHURCHES

MORE INFO:

856-829-0658

TempleSinaiNJ2101@gmail.com

In The Mail....

Covenant Presbyterian Church
presents:

Christmas *Luncheon*

Sunday,
December
7
11:00AM

Adults: \$10.00
Children: \$5.00

Catered by
Georgetti's!

All are welcome
for a festive
afternoon!



Crafts for kids
&
Christmas Carol Sing-
along

2618 New Albany Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
Fellowship Hall

In The Mail....

COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION



Sunday, December 7, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

300 Fourth Street, Riverton

(Our elevator is now operational)

TICKETS

\$15 Adults

\$7 Children under 12

Free for infants under 2



Tickets available at*:

*The Calvary Church Office

*Calvary Thirft Store

520 Main Street, Riverton

*Local businesses displaying a
"Buy Tickets Here" sign

Join us for a delicious homemade
spaghetti dinner, community fellowship,
and a fun silent auction!

*Winners of the silent auction will be announced
following the meal.*

In The Mail....

12/7 * 4PM

Christmas

CONCERT

HANDBELLS

VOCALS

EPWORTH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

501 MORGAN AVE

PALMYRA

856-829-1908

PALMYRANJUMC.ORG

In The Mail....



Holiday Joy **Hymns & Heralds**

Community Chorus



**Celebrate the Joy
of the Season**

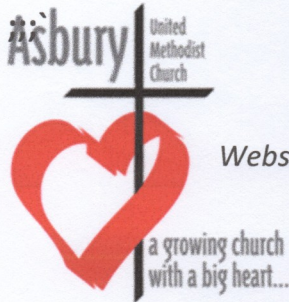
Enjoy classic carols,
festive favorites, and
a warm community
spirit.

Calvary Presbyterian Church
300 4th Street
Riverton, NJ 08077

Sunday Dec 14th 2:00 PM

Free Will Offering to benefit Bread of Life Food Pantry

In The Mail....



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

Website: myasburyumc.com Email: johndasbury@msn.com
Church Office: 856.829.3801
Cell Phone: 856.904.6799
John W. Doll, Pastor

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

October 27, 2025

Dear Friends at Bethany Lutheran Church,

I recently received the 3rd Quarter Report from Treasurer, Mr. Bill Tippenhauer from Epworth United Methodist Church.

I could not help but notice your very generous gift of \$2,500.00 to the Triboro Clergy Emergency fund. Thank you! In this year, Triboro Clergy Emergency Vouchers have provided over 100 nights of emergency housing in local motels and assisted over 35 neighbors which has included children, ages 4, 6, and 13 and in one case a pregnant mother. We have spent over \$10,000 meeting these needs.

Your kindness expressed through your gift is very much appreciated and much needed! IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

In God's Amazing Grace and Love,

Pastor John Doll

Co-Convener Greater Triboro Clergy Association

In The Mail....



October 28, 2025

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

Dear Bethany Evangelical Church,

Thank you for participating in the 2025 **Give a Christmas** program, organized by the *Burlington County Times* in partnership with NJ 211. Your 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

Thank you!

In The Mail....



October 29, 2025

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

Dear Pastor Bre,

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Lauck".

Alison Lauck
VP of Marketing & Fund Development

*Thank you for all
you do!*

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.