

February

# Bethany News

2025

**FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN**

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Pastor - Breanna Tessitore

Secretary, Michelle Ieradi - Music Director, Debra Schoen

[www.bethanypalmyra.org](http://www.bethanypalmyra.org) - - E-Mail: [bethanypalmyra@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypalmyra@gmail.com)

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*Bethany Lutheran Church  
Palmyra, NJ*

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



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## Monthly Meetings

Church Council &  
Finance Committee  
Worship Committee  
Men's Breakfast  
WELCA Circles  
WELCA Exec. Board

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
1<sup>st</sup> full week  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

Pack 9 BSA  
Crew 9 BSA  
Troop 9 BSA

every Monday & Tuesday  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Night  
every Monday Night  
every Tuesday Night

## A Message From Our Pastor:

These are exciting times here at Bethany, full of opportunities for you to connect with the congregation, God, and yourself in new ways in the upcoming months. I wanted to take a moment this month to highlight a few of these opportunities for you.

We are beginning a once a month Sunday School! This group will be primarily geared towards elementary schoolers but toddlers are welcome to participate with their parents' help. We will meet after worship on the first Sunday of every month upstairs in the Sunday School Classroom. For the first month or two, I will be teaching but if you are interested in teaching, let me know. It is a great and rewarding way to engage with our youngest members. If you intend to come to Sunday School, please let me know so we can prepare appropriately.

Our congregational assembly is creeping up on us which means it's time to acknowledge those who have completed their terms on council and what spots will be opening. Emily Cheney and Peggy Schock will both be completing their second term and will need to step down. This means we will have two openings on council for the upcoming year. The work of our church council is critical to our mission at Bethany. I humbly ask you to consider whether serving on council is something you are called to do. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at 7 PM. Meetings run between one and two hours and transportation can be arranged if driving at night is a challenge. Please reach out to our Council President, Rick Dreby, or myself if you are interested in serving on council.

In addition, Synod Assembly will be here before you know it. Once a year, representatives from every ELCA congregation in New Jersey gather to pray, worship, and complete the business of the synod. This year is an especially full year because we will be electing a new Bishop as Bishop Tracie Bartholomew ends her term and is not seeking reelection. The Synod Assembly will take place at Hilton East Brunswick Hotel (3 Tower Center Blvd, East Brunswick, NJ 08816) from June 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. Expenses will be covered by the congregation. Our congregation can send two adult voting members and one youth/young adult member (30 and under) to the Assembly.

This event is a fantastic look into the work our congregation is a part of with the NJ Synod and the ELCA as a whole. During the assembly, you will hear from various task forces and teams within the synod, celebrate joys and acknowledge losses. I still remember attending my first synod assembly in Maryland when Bishop Bill Gohl was elected. I was blown away by the presence of so many Lutherans in the same place praying and discerning the future of the Synod together.

Voting members who will be attending the Synod Assembly are encouraged to attend our District meeting at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Magnolia on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM as well. We will be nominating folks to Synod council but our time will primarily be spent discussing in small groups, what people would expect of a new bishop or what they would desire of a new bishop. This is sure to be a fruitful preparation for our work at the assembly in June.

May God be with you as you discern,  
Pastor Bre



## A Message From Our Council President

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas season and the services that we had at Bethany. The service were both well attended as we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Council would like to thank those that decorated the church for Christmas, it was beautiful.

I hope that you are enjoying the winter and the snow. Please be safe and if at any time you need assistance please call the office and we will do whatever we can.

The Council is working with the Pastor to create a prayer ground in the front of the sanctuary. This is being done in order for our children to be able participate in our services. Members of the men's work group and council members will working to create this area.

As we move closer to our annual May meeting we are in need of members to consider joining the Council. We have several openings. If you are interested please feel free to talk with the Pastor or any member of council.

Rick Dreby



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### WELCA

For February:

**Martha:** February 4<sup>th</sup> 11 AM - 1 PM @ Miller House

**Eve:** February 5<sup>th</sup> 11 AM - 1 PM @ Miller House

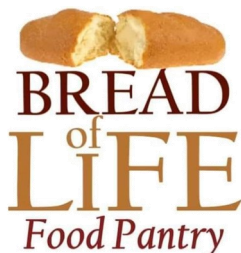
**Executive Meeting:** February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Projects:** January - May    **Lutheran Social Ministries - Journey Hospice** (Cash donation)

**February Topic:** "The Love Wastefully" - Matthew 26:9

From the Book by Bruce Main "God Writes A Better Story"

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**We recently had 161 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**

# Stewardship Letter – February 2025

## Winter is here and its cold outside!

Hello Bethany Friends,

It is so very cold outside as I am writing this month's Stewardship Newsletter. There is snow on the ground, and ice forming as the temperature is below freezing. We are expecting a cold spell all week in single digit temperatures. Please be sure to dress warmly and in layers, do not venture outside if it is not necessary to be safe from falling on the ice.

I am looking forward to the Super Bowl game coming up on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and I am praying that the Eagles will win their division and be playing this year. Please pray along with me for a victory in both games as we have a talented team!

Speaking of great teams, we here at Bethany Lutheran Church have a talented team as well. We are collecting cans of soup in our "Souper Bowl Sunday Drive." Please remember to bring in as many cans as possible so we can beat last year's total of 319 cans donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Palmyra. There is nothing more comforting than a hot bowl of soup on these cold, windy Winter days.

Let us also begin to think about our upcoming Stewardship Drive for the year 2025-2026. We will be seeking to support our ministry and our community service in Palmyra and around the World. There are many places that are suffering from natural disasters, wars, and hard financial times. One of which is California with all the wildfires destroying the Los Angeles area. Let us continue to pray for their safety and an end to this tragedy.

We have some innovative programs starting this month including Sunday School (once per month) for our children, and families with young ones. Please bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to this event. Also, plans are in the making for a brand-new idea "Prayer Zone" which will be in the front of the Sanctuary for small children to be present and busy during our Church Services. This is a revolutionary new idea; it should be exciting!

See you all soon!

**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**







# February

01 Megan Brennan

01 Mason Docherty

05 Dana Foedisch

09 Rebecca Grimes

12 Karl Schweiger

18 Christina Garson

# What's Happening...

HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY

February

02/01

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

02/02

**Communion/Groundhog Day**  
11:15 AM: **Sunday School**

02/03

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)

02/04

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)

02/05

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Troop Comm. Meet)  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

02/06

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meeting (Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

02/07

02/08

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Valentines Day Youth Group Activity (Miller House)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)

02/09

**Service of the Word (Scout Sunday Coffee Hour)**  
SOUP-er Bowl Sunday Soup Can Collection **Go EAGLES**

02/10

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

02/11

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

02/12

02/13

02/14

**Valentine's Day**

02/15

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

02/16

**Communion**

02/17

**President's 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)

02/18

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

02/19

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

02/20

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

02/21

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

02/22

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

02/23

**Communion**

02/24

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

02/25

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

02/26

02/27

02/28

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)

# Changes to the Directory....

## Arcaini

*Erica*

Taylor

**Children:** Juliette, *Aubrey*

315 Plantation Drive

Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

**Cell:**

**Cell:** (856) 630-8008

**House Phone:**

**Email:**

**Email:**

## Bauer

*Tina*

Charles, Jr.

**Children:** *David*

200 Cinnaminson Avenue

Palmyra, NJ 08065-

**Cell:**

**Cell:**

**House Phone:** (856) 786-4280

**Email:**

**Email:**

## Bohus

Suzanne (Sue)

Charles (Chuck)

8 Lamp Post Lane

Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-

**Cell:** (856) 905-0860

**Cell:** (856) 986-9082

**House Phone:** (856) 424-7613

**Email:** [bohusteach@verizon.net](mailto:bohusteach@verizon.net)

**Email:**

## Confer

Miriam (Mimi)

*Gloria Bernstein*

8405 Cypress Court

Palmyra, NJ 08065-

**Cell:** (201) 400-9310

**Cell:**

**House Phone:**

**Email:** [miriamlconfer@gmail.com](mailto:miriamlconfer@gmail.com)

**Email:**

## Confer

Ruth

Cambridge Rehabilitation Health Center

255 East Main Street

Moorestown, NJ 08057-

**Cell:**

**House Phone:** (856) 813-5874

**Email:**

## Deats

Roseann (Ann)

626 Siena Drive

Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-

**Cell:** (609) 410-3117

**House Phone:**

**Email:** [redcats@comcast.net](mailto:redcats@comcast.net)

## Dreby

Richard (Rick)

2022 Harbour Drive

Palmyra, NJ 08065-

**Cell:** (609) 868-1305

**House Phone:**

**Email:** [rdreby@gmail.com](mailto:rdreby@gmail.com)

## Hershey

Jennifer

*Isaac*

8305 Cobden Road

Glenside, PA 19038

**Cell:** (856) 430-4358

**Cell:**

**House Phone:**

**Email:** [jennifersmith.jas2@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersmith.jas2@gmail.com)

**Email:**

## Horen

Diana

110 Warwick Avenue

Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

**Cell:**

**House Phone:** (856)303-1612

**Email:**

## Torres Suarez

Sandra (Sandy)

P. O. 2433

Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-

**Cell:** (856) 304-2750

**House Phone:**

**Email:** [mahsil8@gmail.com](mailto:mahsil8@gmail.com)



# Sharing the Love

We will be making  
Valentine's Day Cards  
on February 8, 2025

2:00 pm

In the Miller House

Contact Emily for more Information  
[emilycheney85@gmail.com](mailto:emilycheney85@gmail.com)



# Soup-er Bowl Sunday

## February 9<sup>th</sup>



**Bring in canned soup to support our  
2025 Soup-er Bowl Sunday Project.  
Place your cans in your favorite team's  
box!**

**Everybody wins when everyone gives!**





COME LEARN AND EXPERIENCE THE  
HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY

THE DESCENDANTS OF OUR  
1<sup>ST</sup> AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLICE CHIEF IN THE  
NATION,

WILL BE HERE TO PROUDLY TELL THE STORIES  
ABOUT THE SERVICE OF THIS GREAT MAN.

## ***CHIEF PAYTON I FLOURNOY, SR***

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

11 am

**PALMYRA COMMUNITY CENTER**

30 W Broad Street,  
Palmyra, NJ 08065



Hosted by the Palmyra Riverfront  
Seniors

*All are Welcome!*

*Circle of Friends &  
Mt. Zion AME Church*  
present  
*Afternoon of Joy*  
A Celebration of Gospel Music

*Saturday, February 22, 2025,  
3:00 pm*

*Mt. Zion AME Church  
300 Penn St - Riverton, NJ*

**FEATURING**

The Golden Voices  
Rev. Dr. Leslie Harrison  
The Jennings Sisters


**Tickets \$20 at  
[circleoffriendsconcerts.org](http://circleoffriendsconcerts.org)**

All proceeds will be donated to the performers and  
Mt. Zion AME Church

Meet and Greet after the concert in parish hall  
Please bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage  
and a snack to share with the group

This show is dedicated to our dear friend Frank  
Seifert who passed on 12/11/24





Help make  
a change!

Support our

# DIAPER DRIVE

Donate diapers for the Maker's Place,  
a non-profit diaper bank in Trenton, NJ

*\*The Maker's Place is especially grateful for sizes 5, 6, & 7!*

**Help Us Reach our Goal of 5,000 Diapers!**

**Donate Baby Wipes, Pull-ups and Diapers of  
All Sizes by March 1, 2025.**

Sponsored by Epworth's United Women in Faith  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
501 Morgan Avenue  
Palmyra, NJ 08065  
856-829-1908





**Spring Cleaning?**  
**Council is collecting**  
**New and Gently Used**

# **Books And Stuffed Animals**

**for our**

# **Palmyra Day Table**

**Donations are being  
collected from  
now until  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

# **EMERGENCY ALERT:**

**You can help  
neighbors affected  
by California fires**



**YOUR DONATION IS SECURE**

Our teams rely on faithful and compassionate people like you. Thank you for delivering critically needed emergency aid to neighbors at home and abroad, when and where it is needed most.

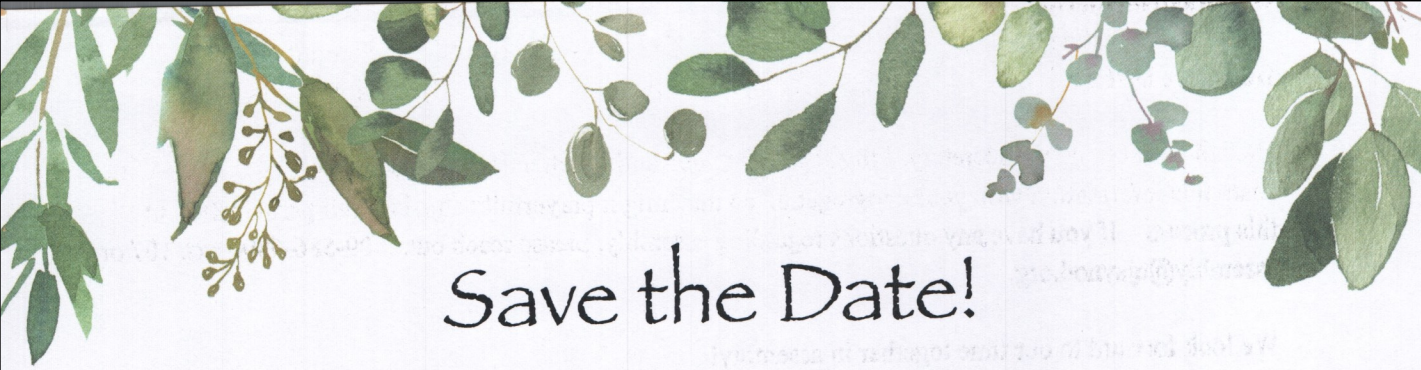
Need help with your donation? Please contact our Donor Relations team at 800-597-5972 or email [lwr@lwr.org](mailto:lwr@lwr.org).

Your gift will be used where needs are greatest and support Lutheran World Relief's programs in health, livelihoods, emergency response and humanitarian assistance.

Lutheran World Relief is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

CFC #11114, EIN 13-2574963.





Save the Date!

Sunday, June 29, 2025

5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Dinner Dance

Celebrating the Ministry of  
Bishop Tracie Bartholomew

Hyatt Regency Princeton


Dinner and Cash Bar  
Program and Lots of Dancing

Music by The Urban Guerilla Orchestra and DJ Ol Skool

Tickets are \$50 per person.

More information to come about ticket sales, menu choices, hotel room block, and more.

Save the Date!







*Thank You*

*Sincerely,  
The Poeder  
Family*

December 8, 2024

Dear Bethany Lutheran Members,

On Thanksgiving Day, 53 members of the Poeder Family gathered in Palmyra for our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, held once again at Bethany Lutheran, the family's home church. We are so grateful to all of you for making this possible. Illness and the need to care for others reduced our numbers significantly from last year's peak of 68. However, diminished numbers did not keep us from having a wonderful time celebrating Thanksgiving and our many blessings, including Miralda's recent 95<sup>th</sup> birthday and her successful knee replacement surgery the previous week.

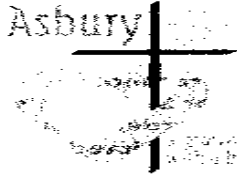
Four of the five Poeder children moved to Palmyra with their parents and grandparents in 1954. In 1959 Lisa was born to complete the immediate family of 5. Family expansion began in 1969 when oldest daughter Linda married (at Bethany Lutheran). In quick order, thereafter, each of the remaining Poeder children married, had children, then their children married, had children, and here we are!

We are grateful to God for our many blessings and especially grateful to you for allowing us to continue to use the church for our annual family gathering.

Sincerely,

All in the Poeder Family





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**

December 19, 2024

Dear Friend of Asbury's Good Neighbor Outreach to the Homeless,

Each year, when I write the Church's Christmas letter, I often look for a compelling story to offer like this year when I found the story of the Kansas City Secret Santa. Google these four words and you will read a compelling story of kindness and generosity.

And yet, for Asbury's Good Neighbor Outreach to the Homeless moving stories have found us. . .

- Like the family of 6 with 4 children who spent the previous night in a local park sleeping outside. It was a Saturday evening when this need became known to us, and they were housed immediately and provided emergency food.
- The single mother of 2 with the children's ages 9 and 7 who left a message on the Church phone in October at 4:30 AM saying that she needed assistance. Turns out, she and her 2 children were living in their car during much of the past year. We were able to provide emergency housing, Walmart and Wawa gift cards, and gas for her car. This mother, is now in her 5<sup>th</sup> week of work, has come to worship with us, and with Asbury's help, the assistance of other ministries, and ultimately God's leading, is finding a way to a better life.
- The single mother of 4 who lost her job with children's ages 10,7,3 and 2. who called the Church and shared that she was facing eviction in her 3-bedroom apartment and needed \$6,000.00. The first thing we did was

pray and ask God for help! And then, latching onto one of the core truths in this ministry that "IT TAKES A VILLAGE", God used Asbury to help coordinate assistance from different groups – the Division of Child Protective Services, Saint Vincent DePaul of Saint Charles Borromeo Church of Cinnaminson, Calvary Church of Delran, and Senator Singleton's Office Head of Constituency Nisha Ray who connected us to Garden State Homes who helped pay the final balance. This mother was not evicted, has a new job, is current on her rent, and faces the future with hope in God. She has also come to Worship and found welcome and warm fellowship.

- The 66-year-old woman facing disability who stays at a local motel. However, her Social Security income falls \$500.00 short each month to pay for her stay. When she first called the Church, her plan was to get a blanket to sleep in the Woods. We are assisting this dear child of God and are trying to find her decent, affordable housing.

November was a dramatic month. I could share with you numbers and costs. But instead I have felt God's leading to tell you the stories which I have shared with you. The most noteworthy categories of people we assist are single mothers with children and the elderly. The need is tremendous!

You are receiving this letter because at some point you have supported this very important outreach. First and foremost, thank you for your support. In large part, because of you, this help has been given. Again, thank you very much! Second, if there is any way you can offer additional support, it is most welcome! This ministry found us, and we are trying to be faithful to God who has called us to love our neighbors who are in need.

May you have a very blessed Christmas and New Year!

In Jesus' Amazing Grace and Love,

Thank you for your support  
Pastor John W. Doll

# In The Mail....



## BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY

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

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

Dear *Bethany Lutherack,*

Thank you so much for your participation in the Bread of Life Food Pantry Angel Tree Program for 2024. The generosity of our community partners was nothing short of overwhelming. With your help, we were able to provide holiday gifts, stocking stuffers, and gift wrap for well over five hundred children. We could not have done it without you!

Blessings and peace,

Bread of Life Angel Tree Program  
Sharon Wariner, Coordinator  
856-220-1949  
SLSuch11@aol.com