

February

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



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



Scout Sunday & Coffee Hour 02/08/2026

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

On February 1st, our Gospel passage is the Beatitudes.

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

We've heard them a million times, and yet, how do we hear them now, in these divisive and difficult times?

You read the news, you know how violent the headlines have been. You know the conflict that fills every page of the newspaper and floods our social media. And amidst the tumult, we hear these words. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are the peace makers. Blessed are you when people revile and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you on Christ's account.

In the first reading from February 1st, we hear one of my favorite passages: Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

What does God require of us? What are we to do? To do justice, seeking the rights and good of all people. To love kindness, seeking loving and peaceful actions in all we do. And to walk humbly with our God, recognizing our own ignorance and failings and being humble enough to learn, repent, and begin anew in community with others.

Let us hear and follow God's call to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Let us remember that it is in this work that we are blessed.

Amen.

Pr. Bre



Council President

It's Fasnacht Time again! Please mark your calendar for February 15th (after church service) for our celebration. Join us for lunch and entertainment. It's always a fun time and you never know who will show up!

Also, our Social Ministry Committee will be hosting, "Dinner is Served" on Thursday, February 26th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Gibson Hall.

We will be providing a hot meal for the community and all are welcome! More information will follow on this, but if you are interested in helping out in any way, just let me know.

Just as a reminder that 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. If you have any questions please reach out to one of our current council members or if you are interested please join us at our next council meeting on February 10th, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Miller House.

Thanks for all you do.

Stephanie Staudenmayer
Council President



Council Meeting Summary

Minutes from the December 9, 2025 Council Meeting

Council met on December 9, 2025 for our monthly meeting. We had an average of 44 attendees during the November 2025 at the church services. We have a goal of \$10,000 for 2026 to donate to the Synod. WELCA had a great coffee hour with over 40 people. The church is currently having inspections (fire, elevator, and state). Issues with hanging the memorial plaque. With the food the Scouts collected, approximately 250 families were fed. Online donations had an issue, which has been resolved.

We had a presentation by Tracy Foedisch related to the "Feast of Abundance" for Bethany to reach out into the community. Social Ministry proposed to work on plans to have a meal at the church open to the community.

Allison Greenfield
Council Secretary

Fellowship Committee



THANK YOU to all who participated in the December 21st coffee hour hosted by *WELCA*. Forty-five people were able to attend and enjoy the fellowship and good food following the Advent Pageant. The January 11th coffee hour was hosted by *Worship & Staff Support Committees*. Fifty-two people attended and helped to celebrate Bobbie Ann's baptism with good food and fellowship!

Up-coming events at Bethany include:

Sunday, *February 8th*: **Scout Sunday** coffee hour will be hosted by the *Scouts* and we are **ALL** invited

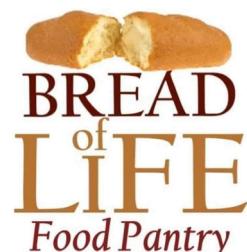
Sunday, *February 15th*: **Fastnacht Luncheon** and Entertainment following our worship service

Wednesday, *March 18th* at 6:00 PM: **Soup Supper**, hosted by *Bethany*

Sunday, *April 4th* at 9:00 AM: **Easter Breakfast** prior to our Worship Service

Please watch for "Sign-up" sheets in the Narthex, and let us know if you plan to attend as the events approach.

Thanks (again)
Your Fellowship Committee



We recently had **143** 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!



Social Ministry Dinner Is Served

Thursday, February 26th, 2026

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Social Ministries Committee is leading a new congregational ministry – a monthly Community Dinner, open to everyone. **Everyone is Welcome!** If you know someone, or see someone, who could really use an evening out, whether for the company, the food, to de-stress, or just to come in out of the cold, please invite them to come with you!

Do we need volunteers? Of course we do! We need home-baked desserts. We need friendly, welcoming greeters, as well as people to sit with strangers, listen to their stories if they are open to sharing, and make them feel like part of the family. And of course, we need help cleaning up.

What is our goal of this monthly Community Dinner? To be welcoming to all, and to treat people with dignity and kindness, particularly people who may feel lonely, invisible, or judged. And what better way to get to know each other than over a hot home-cooked meal!

If you feel called to help with this ministry, please speak to a member of the Social Ministries Committee, or the church office.

Thank You!

Mimi Confer



WELCA

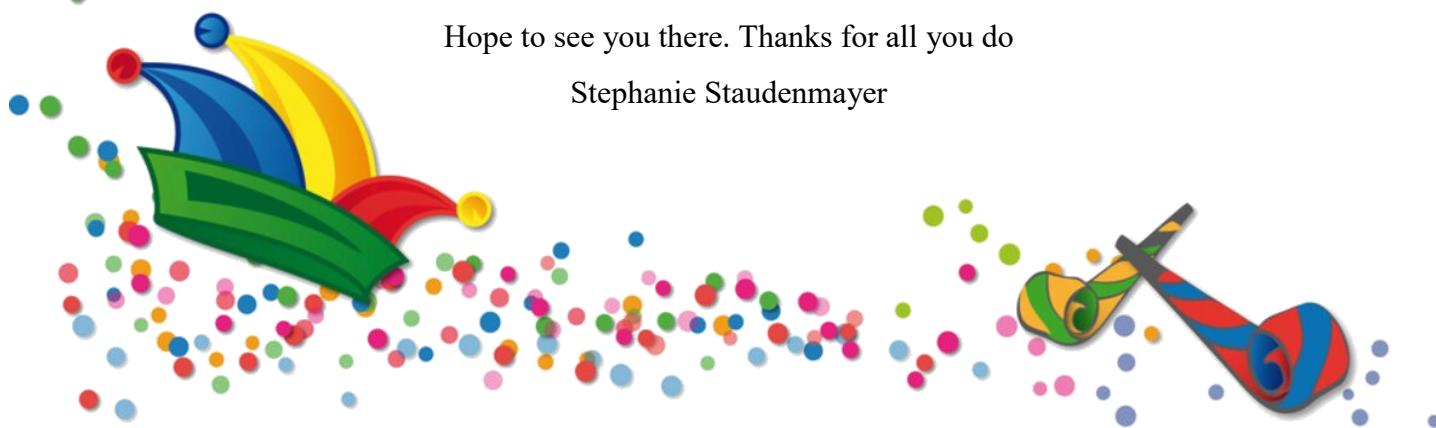
Ladies of Bethany-Come join us Tuesday February 10th (Martha Circle) or Wednesday, February 11th (Eve Circle) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for our monthly meeting held in the Miller House.

Bring a lunch and our discussion this month is titled, " Emergence", an interesting article on baptism.

Also, as our project we continue to collect for "The Tri-boro Clergy Emergency Fund".

Hope to see you there. Thanks for all you do

Stephanie Staudenmayer



Worship Committee

Highlights in January:

January 4th: 2nd Sunday after Christmas

January 11th: Baptism of Our Lord; Bobbie Ann Tessitore Baptism

January 18th: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany (church cancelled due to snow)

January 25th: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Services coming up in February:

February 1st: 4th Sunday of Epiphany

February 8th: 5th Sunday of Epiphany: This will also be Scout Sunday and no communion.
Scouts will host a coffee hour after service

February 15th: Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 18th: Ash Wednesday: Service will be held at Central Baptist at 7:00 pm.

February 22nd: 1st Sunday in Lent



Before you know it, March and April will be upon us and will bring Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Envelopes for ordering Easter Lilies will be included in the March 1st bulletin and placed in the Narthex. Get ready for these holy events. More to come in the next Newsletter.

Altar Guild Schedule 2026

January:	Lois Gerkens Peggy Schock	July:	Kathy Austin Mary Ann Middleton
February:	Stephanie Staudenmayer	August:	Martha Rimathe Mike Wilson
March:	Kathryn Austin Mary Ann Middleton	September:	Lois Gerkens Peggy Schock
April:	Martha Rimathe Mike Wilson	October:	Stephanie Staudenmayer
May:	Lois Gerkens Peggy Schock	November:	Kathy Austin Mary Ann Middleton
June:	Stephanie Staudenmayer	December:	Martha Rimathe Mike Wilson

Other Helpers:

Altar Flowers Coordinator: Stephanie Staudenmayer

Banners: Mike Wilson

Baptismal Napkins: Bonnie Higgins

Christmas Pew & Window Candles: All Altar Guild

Easter Week: All Altar Guild

Good Friday Participants: Altar Guild

Pew Rack Supplies: Altar Guild

Poinsettias and Lilies: Jim & Jeannie Francis

Polish Silver: Dot Isard & Sylvia Downs

Wine & Juice: Martha Rimathe

Kathy Austin 856-829-4364
Mary Ann Middleton 856-829-2179
Stephanie Staudenmayer 610-212-2764

Lois Gerkens 856-829-0897
Peg Schock 856-829-9473
Mike Wilson 856-829-2009

Martha Rimathe 856-829-0786, (c) 609-330-4831



February Liturgical Volunteers:

Altar Guild: Stephanie Staudenmayer
Counters: Joan Kelly & Dan Schoen

February 1

Communion Assistant: Bob Middleton
Greeter: Kathy Austin
Head Usher: Dan Schoen
Reader: Charleen Burik

February 8

Communion Assistant: Non-Communion Day
Greeter: Scouts
Head Usher: Bill Isard (Scouts)
Reader: Scouts

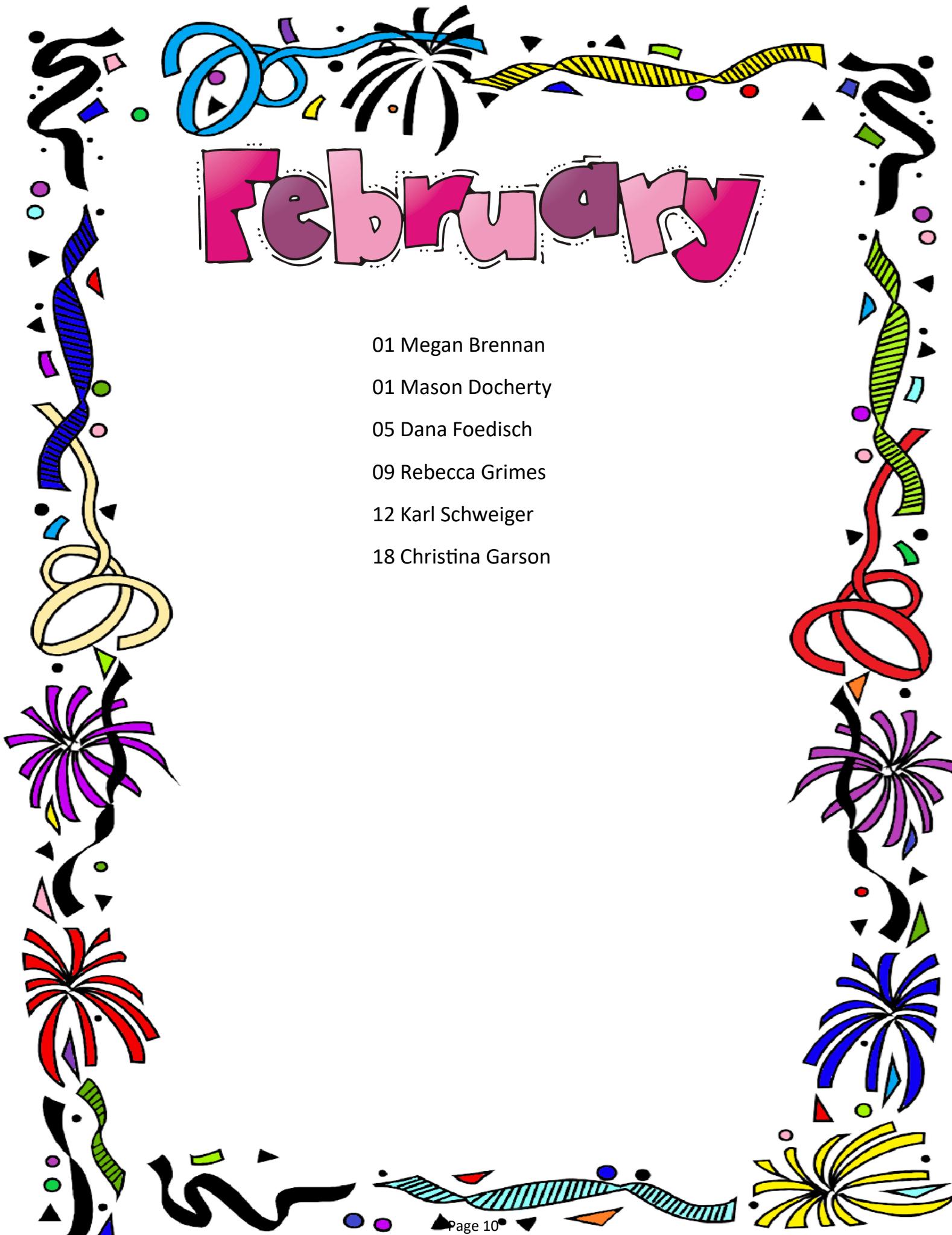
February 15

Communion Assistant: Martha Rimathe
Greeter: Caron Dalesio
Head Usher: Rick Dreby
Reader: Joan Kelly

February 22

Communion Assistant: Annette Brown
Greeter: Sue & Chuck Bohus
Head Usher: Tom Willard
Reader: Kim Salton





February

01 Megan Brennan

01 Mason Docherty

05 Dana Foedisch

09 Rebecca Grimes

12 Karl Schweiger

18 Christina Garson

Sharing the Love

We will be making
Valentine's Day Cards

and baked goods

In the Miller House

Date and Time to be determined

For more information Contact

Emily

Email: emilycheney85@gmail.com

Text/call: 267-266-3831

SOUP-ER BOWL

Sunday, February 8th, 2026

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 **356** cans.

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

Palmyra Fire Department's 28th Annual

FISHING TACKLE FLEA MARKET

- New and Used Fishing Gear
- Fresh and Salt Water Gear
- Rods and Reels
- Bargains Galore
- Refreshments on site

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th 2026
9am - 2pm

Admission \$5 Early Admission 8am - \$10

Rain or Shine!

Location:

Charles Street School

100 West Charles Street

Palmyra, NJ 08065 (Burlington County)

For more information, please contact:

John 609.868.1311 | Rick 856.829.0805 | John 609.605.6728





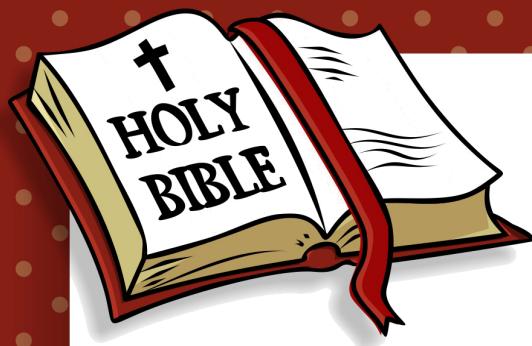


**Ash Wednesday Service
February 18, 2026
7:00 PM**

Churches from The Triboro Clergy Association
will hold an
Ash Wednesday Service at the:
Central Baptist Church
514 Maple Avenue
Palmyra, NJ

All are welcome!





GUESS WHO?

Let's Get to Know Our Church Members:

Hometown: Hagerstown, MD

Current Residence: Marlton, NJ;

married to Tom since 2022, mom to Bobbie Ann,
furparent to my 15 year old cats, Patches and FloJo

How you found Bethany Lutheran Church: Bethany was one of the first congregations I was sent the congregation's profile alongside two others and invited to look them over and see if any of the congregations stuck out to me. Bethany did. I was excited by your determination and stick-to-it-ness, curious to see the ways the Spirit was calling you to grow, and inspired to interview and see if we would be a good match. Within a few weeks, I was in touch with the call committee and had my first interview. Shortly afterwards I was invited to come and meet the council members. On April 16th, I had my call vote preaching at Bethany for the first time. Standing in front of you all and being told that you had unanimously voted to call me as your pastor was one of the most humbling moments of my life. Thank you for trusting the Spirit, for trusting me, and for the work we do together.

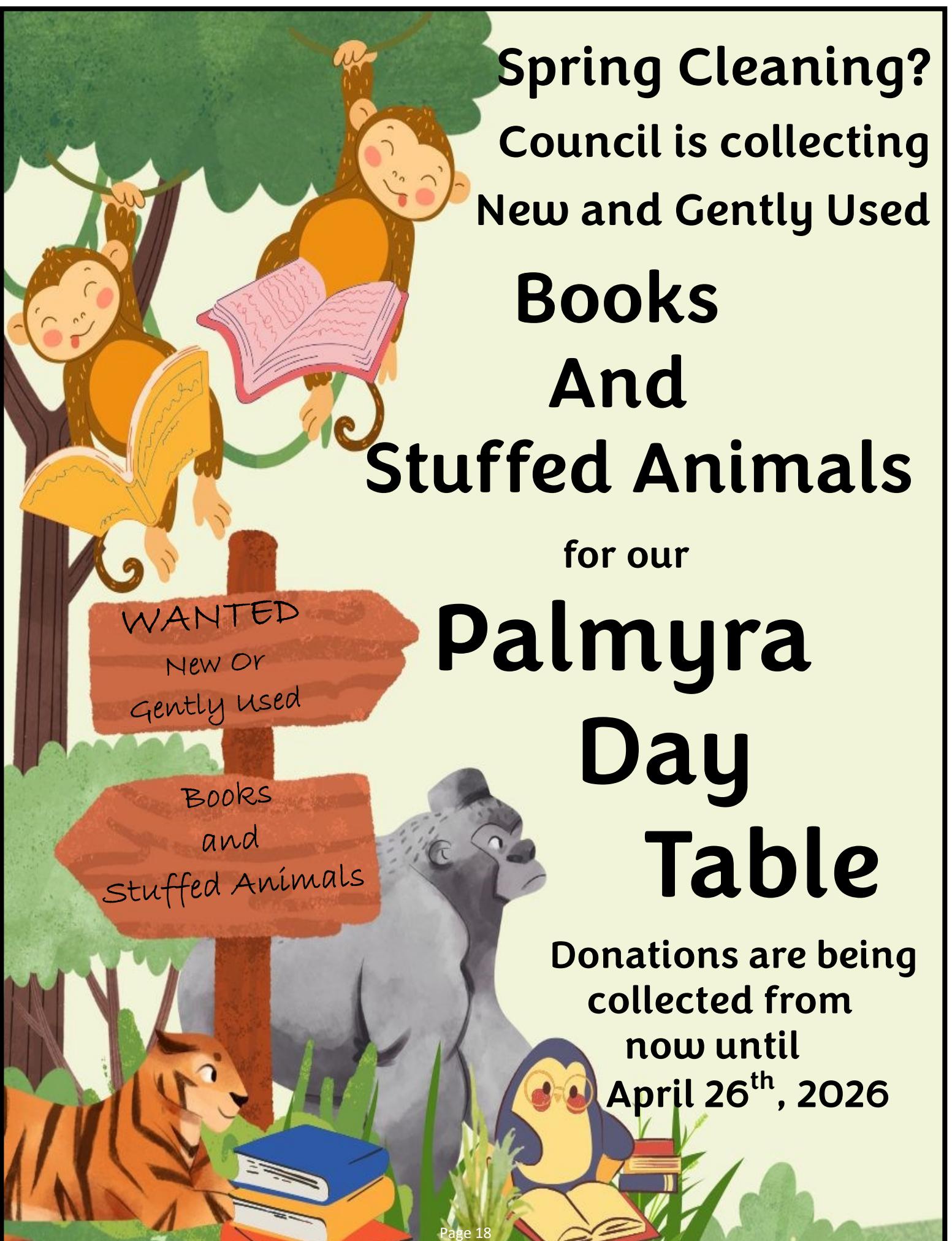
Position: Pastor (gives it away?)

Some Favorite:

1. **Hymn / Christian Song:** My favorite songs are from Holden Evening Prayer. It's a musical prayer service that was written by Marty Haugen during his residency at Holden Village from 1985-1986. They are a quiet, flowing set of songs that you can sing with any number of instruments accompanying or acapella. I love to lose myself in the music, truly praying through the songs.
2. **Season:** Advent and Lent. I've always loved these seasons of preparation— the sense that Christmas or Easter are coming but not yet arrived. It's a way to ground myself in the Christian narrative of the holidays while also allowing myself to enjoy the secular elements.

Answer: Pastor Breanna Tessitore

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



**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 26th, 2026**

In The Mail....



January 2026

Dear Bethany Lutheran Members,

Once again on Thanksgiving Day 2025, 50 members of the Poeder Family gathered in Palmyra for our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, and once again thanks to the generosity of Bethany Lutheran, we gathered in the church social hall for our meal. We are so grateful to all of you for making this possible again in 2025.

Sadly, this year we had an empty chair at the table in memory of Miralda Poeder. Our much-loved family patriarch was called home by the Lord in May. Although our hearts are broken by her passing, we are grateful and feel incredibly blessed for all the lives she touched in her 95 years.

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



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In The Mail....



Dear Pastors and Members of Bethany -
I serve as a member of the
U.S. Synod Council.

With thanks for your
partnership in the gospel.

May this season of Advent
be one of hope and promise as
we await the coming of Christ,
and bless your ministry
and peace be with you -

Rev. Jane McCreary
U.S. Synod Council

In The Mail....



501 MORGAN AVENUE
PALMYRA, NEW JERSEY 08065
856-829-1908
EPWORTH.PALMYRA@YAHOO.COM

Rev. Rachel Callender, Pastor

Dear *Bethany Lutheran*,

Thank you so much for your participation in the Bread of Life Food Pantry Angel Tree Program for 2025. The generosity of our community partners is so appreciated. With your help, we were able to provide holiday gifts, stocking stuffers, and warm winter accessories for 71 families, including 163 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

In The Mail....



January 15, 2026

Dear quilters of Bethany
Lutheran Church,

Your Christian love
has touched my heart.
I received the beautiful
quilt through my church's
Care Team at First Baptist
Church Morristown.

Your artistry is a gift
to my soul and my home.

Thank you so very much.

With love,
Jane Pipes