

April

# Bethany News

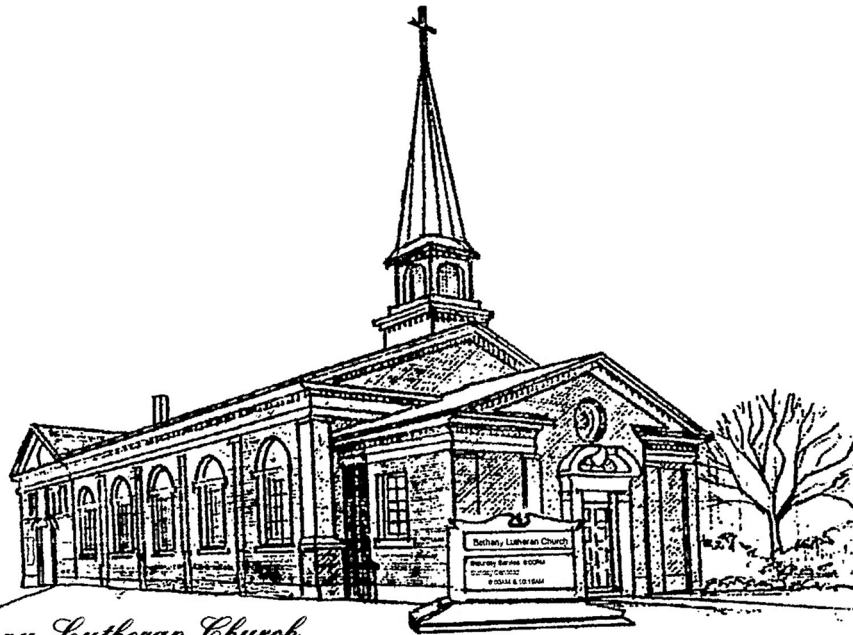
2026

**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



## HOLY WEEK

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### Monthly Meetings

Church Council & Finance Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Pack 9 BSA	every Monday & Tuesday and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Night
Worship Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	Crew 9 BSA	every Monday Night
Men's Breakfast	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Troop 9 BSA	every Tuesday Night
WELCA Circles	1 <sup>st</sup> full week		
WELCA Exec. Board	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday		

## **A Message From Our Pastor:**

Blessed Easter!!

As we enter this Easter season, which lasts from Easter Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>, I'm spending a lot of time thinking about faith formation. What are the ways we grow our faith? How do we find time and opportunities to ask questions and explore our doubts? Where may God be calling us to explore long held assumptions?

Education and faith formation are two ways to describe the ways in which we explore the Bible and its teachings. No matter our age or previous study, there is always room for us to learn and grow in our faith. Here at Bethany we have a number of faith formation opportunities coming up.

I want to encourage you to consider joining the discussion group about the ELCA's new social statement, "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Wellbeing of All." This group will meet six times, beginning on April 12<sup>th</sup> after worship, to read through the new social statement which was approved at the 2025 ELCA churchwide assembly. Copies of the statement are available for pickup from the church office.

In addition to the discussion group, we will continue to hold weekly Bible Study. We meet at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays at the Miller House (as well as on zoom) in order to discuss the gospel text assigned for the upcoming Sunday. If you intend to come, please reach out and let me know. We occasionally make changes to the time or location to fit the needs of the group.

For our rising seventh graders or those who have not yet participated, we will be starting a new confirmation cohort. Confirmation is flexible based on the students involved but primarily involves two years of reading, thinking, praying, and discussing our faith as Lutherans in preparation for the opportunity to affirm one's baptism and become an adult member of our congregation. Anyone who is curious or interested should reach out to me sooner rather than later so I can organize our plans based on the participants.

I am also looking to gather folks for a communion education event. Whether in preparation for receiving communion for the first time or as a refresher on our theology around communion, everyone is invited to participate in this event. Depending on interest, I am happy to have multiple classes, one for elementary aged folks and one for teenagers/adults. If you are interested in attending, let me know so I can schedule based around participants' availability.

In addition to these more formal opportunities, please reach out if there is a topic or question that is weighing on you. I would be happy to share books, resources, and potentially hold a discussion group about a topic if interest is present.

May God bless you in your questions and doubts, your learning and pondering.

Pr. Bre



## A Message From Our Council President

Welcome Spring and welcome this time of renewal. We have much to be thankful for. God is good.

Please mark your calendars so you don't miss any of our church services or activities. Join us Easter Sunday prior to service for a delicious breakfast. It should be a lovely time.

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting, May 17<sup>th</sup> after church service. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Just 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 council members or if you are interested please join us at our next council meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Miller House.

Easter Blessings,

Stephanie Staudenmayer



## Council Meeting Summary

Minutes from the December 9, 2025 Council Meeting

Church Council met on February 10, 2026. Staff support was in attendance to provide recommendations regarding increases regarding staff in advance of the congregation meeting in May. There is an open spot to attend the Synod Assembly meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Committee reports included updates and what is to come in the following month.

Allison Greenfield

Council Secretary

## Christian Education

*How does your faith inform your participation in civic life?*

Does praying, “*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*” call us to strive to understand and join that work? Be part of the conversation, as we share and discuss questions like these for six sessions, following church service, starting April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Last year, after a six-year process, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a social statement by a vote of 762-16, titled “*Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*”. This statement is grounded in Scripture, Lutheran theology, modern social science, and the discernment of the church.

One of the purposes of ELCA Social Statements, is to encourage discussions in local congregations. They do not tell us what to think – they provide a framework for thoughtful engagement with social issues as we participate in God’s work in the world. For more information, visit [www.elca.org/socialstatements](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements) .

We look forward to interesting, meaningful discussions as we journey together throughout the Easter Season! Please let Mimi Confer know if you are interested in participating.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Confer



## Fellowship Committee

**THANK YOU** to the many cooks and workers who helped make Bethany’s Soup Supper a Memorable Lenten Event, preceding the Worship Service on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Forty-five people came to Gibson Hall to enjoy a choice of six different, delicious, home-made soups and good fellowship.

### Up-Coming Events:

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** at 9 AM Easter Sunday Breakfast prior to our 10:15 AM Worship Service

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** Coffee Hour following WELCA Sunday 10:15 AM Worship Service

Please watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex and let us know if you plan to attend and / or wish to help with these events.

Thank you again

Your Fellowship Committee



## Social Ministry Committee

### *Dinner Is Served*

Wednesday, April 29, 5-7 PM

**Wow!** Our free monthly open community dinner, “*Dinner Is Served*”, got off to a great start on February 26<sup>th</sup>! Fifty-two people attended, including about 25 who are not connected with our congregation! It was a wonderful evening of meeting new people, sharing conversation and a great meal! Many thanks to all who helped – folks prayed, baked desserts, invited guests, posted flyers, shopped, set up the room, prepped the meal, greeted guests and made them feel welcome, served, chatted with our guests, and cleaned up! We thank God for each and every one of you!

Bethany’s friendly, welcoming nature is on display at these monthly dinners, highlighting our ministry of hospitality to the whole community. “*Dinner Is Served*” is open to all. Everyone is welcome! Looking around the room brings to mind the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews: “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

As I write this, we are looking forward to the March 26<sup>th</sup> “*Dinner Is Served*”, and once again so many of you are coming forward to volunteer and to participate! We so appreciate your support and openness! Our congregation’s Endowment Fund has generously provided a \$1,000.00 grant to start a new special fund for gifts to “*Dinner Is Served*”. And, Thrivent Financial has donated a \$250 Action Team gift card, to help pay toward the cost of the March dinner. If you would like to donate towards future dinners, just mark your donation “*Dinner Is Served*”, and put it in the offering plate.

If you feel called to help with this ministry of hospitality, please speak to a member of the Social Ministries Committee, or call the church office. Please note that we plan to hold these dinners on the **last Wednesday** of each month. Thanks be to God for this opportunity to serve our neighbors!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Confer,  
Social Ministries Committee



# Stewardship Letter

## Happy Easter to All – Alleluia He is Risen!!!!!!

Hello Bethany Friends,

Happy Easter Season to all, it is my great honor to share with you that on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, our own **Kim Salton** will be leading our Sunday Service and will preach her very first Sermon of which she wrote because of the training that we both went through last year. Then the very next week on the fourth Sunday of Easter I will be leading the service and preaching my very first Sermon which I wrote myself. This is a momentous occasion for both Kim and I as we attended classes together for several weeks and practiced our Sermons live in Hamilton, NJ. Please do your best to be present and support us as we worked extremely hard to get to this point. We feel confident to be able to help when Pastor Bre is not available and it will save the Church some money since we will not be paying for a substitute Pastor for the two weeks in a row. Of course, there will be no communion both weeks as neither of us are ordained and cannot offer the sacrament. I hope to see you all there! If not, then please watch our live stream online.

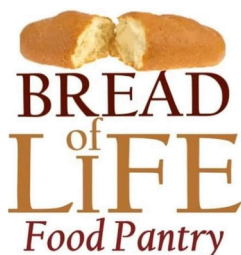
Secondly, I announce that our next Stewardship Drive “**Building a Culture of Generosity**” will kick-off on **September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, and we will have our **Intent Sunday on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. We will be asking our entire congregational to participate and join us by returning your new “**Intent Card**” which will be our new form replacing the old “**Count Me In**” format. In cases you are wondering what is an “Intent Card”? We will be asking all Bethany Lutheran Members to complete with prayerful thought about their Intent to support the community and programs of our Church in the future. We are asking you to join us as we grow our Church, serve the local community and around the world! Let us get excited and motivated because exciting new things are happening at Bethany Lutheran Church. Looking forward to sharing God’s gifts!

**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**



**We recently had 157 households 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!**

# Women of the ELCA

Our April meetings will return to our regular scheduled time. Martha Circle will meet

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and Eve Circle will meet Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:00 AM in The Miller House.

Pack a sandwich and join us for topic discussion and fellowship.

All women of Bethany are members of WELCA.

WELCA Sunday is April 19<sup>th</sup> with a coffee hour to follow.

Hope to see you there.  
Stephanie Staudenmayer  
WELCA President

## Worship Committee

Highlights in March:

- The Season of Lent ended on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- The first day of Spring (March 20<sup>th</sup> – also Pastor Bre's Birthday) was a beautiful day (sunny and breezy).
- By March 22<sup>nd</sup> we had thunderstorms, and wind gusts. We couldn't put away the heavy coats, scarfs, and gloves yet as the winds made it feel like winter again. Typical March weather.

April is a busy month! Hope to see you at some if not all of these services.

- **March 29<sup>th</sup>** is Palm Sunday. We will begin the service outside, weather permitting.
- **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Maundy Thursday Service will be held at Central Baptist at 7:00pm.
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** 7 Last Words on Good Friday will be held at Asbury Methodist, from Noon to 3:00pm.
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held at Bethany at 7:00pm.
- **April 5<sup>th</sup>** Easter Breakfast at 9:00am in Gibson Hall.
- **April 5<sup>th</sup>** Easter Service will begin at 10:15am.
- **April 12<sup>th</sup>** Easter Play will be held during the Sermon time. Come out and see and hear the children telling us about the Good News.
- **April 19<sup>th</sup>** will be WELCA Sunday. Kim Salton will be our Lay Leader. A coffee hour will follow hosted by WELCA.
- **April 26<sup>th</sup>** Service will be led by Lay Leader Tom Willard.



# April

07 Eric Stahl

10 Linda Lippincott

10 Angela Narducci

10 Mary Ann Young

13 Bradford Young

18 Chris Cannon, Sr.

18 Richard Dreby

19 Lois Gerkens

23 Nancy Grimes

24 Gary Grimes

25 Kristopher Wilson

# April: Liturgical Volunteers:

Altar Guild: Martha Rimathe & Mike Wilson  
Counters: Bob Middleton & Tom Willard

## **April 3**

Communion Assistant: N/A  
Greeter: Annette Brown  
Head Usher: Rick Dreby  
Reader: N/A

## **April 5**

Communion Assistant: Rick Dreby  
Greeter: Dot & Bill Isard  
Head Usher: Dan Schoen  
Reader: Mimi Confer

## **April 12**

Communion Assistant: Peggy Schock  
Greeter: Jackie Dorworth  
Head Usher: Bill Knowels  
Reader: Chelsey Buttler

## **April 19**

Communion Assistant: N/A  
Greeter: Judy Kohler  
Head Usher: Sue Bohus  
Reader: Joan Kelly

## **April 26**

Communion Assistant: N/A  
Greeter: Don Lamon  
Head Usher: Brad Young  
Reader: Charleen Burik

April

# What's Happening...

HAPPY EARTH DAY!

- 04/01 April Fool's Day**  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- 04/02 Maundy Thursday**  
7:00 PM: Service at Central Baptist  
7:00 PM: Tenebrae Service at Epworth
- 04/03 Good Friday**  
12:00 PM: Service: 7 Words of Jesus (Ashbury UMC)  
7:00 PM: Service: Tenebrae Service (Bethany's Sanctuary)
- 04/04**  
8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 04/05 Communion-Easter**  
6:30 AM: Sunrise Service at Lakeview Cemetery  
9:00 AM: Easter Breakfast (Gibson Hall)
- 04/06**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Worship Meeting (Miller House)
- 04/07**  
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)
- 04/08**  
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)
- 04/09**  
**04/10**  
**04/11** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 04/12 Communion/Easter Play**  
11:30 AM: Discussion Group "Faith & Civic Life" (Miller House)
- 04/13**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 04/14**  
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)
- 04/15 Income Tax Day**  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 04/16** 10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
- 04/17**  
**04/18**  
8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 04/19 Non Communion**  
11:30 AM: Discussion Group "Faith & Civic Life" (Miller House)
- 04/20** Bethany News Articles are due  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 04/21**  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 04/22 Earth Day**  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 04/23**  
**04/24**  
**04/25** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 04/26 Non Communion**  
11:30 AM: Discussion Group "Faith & Civic Life" (Miller House)
- 04/27**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 04/28**  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 04/29** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 04/30**



## GUESS WHO?

Let's Get to Know Our Church Members:

**Hometown:** Teaneck, NJ

**Current Residence:** Palmyra, NJ; lives with my wife, Gloria Bernstein, and our companion dog, Zoey, who runs our household. I have two sisters and one brother (who long-time Bethany Members remember), one sister-in-law and one brother-in-law, and of course their children and families!

**Position:** Council Member, *Social Ministries Committee Council Liaison*, Church Sign, WELCA Member, Counter, Reader.

\* If you are interested in joining or learning more about Social Ministries, please reach out!

**How did you find Bethany Lutheran Church?** I had visited here when my Mom was a member, for Easters and Mothers' Days, and some Saturday services.

**Some Favorites:**

**Hymn / Christian Song** – That's so hard! Can I list 3?

Precious Lord Take My Hand

Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love

All Are Welcome (first line "Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell...")

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

Always so glad that the winter cold is leaving and the daylight seems to be as long, or longer, than the darkness.

**Favorite Bible verse / story** - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

**Favorite item at potlucks / coffee hours** - Fresh Fruit -

Always so glad when someone else has prepared fruit for me to eat!

**Answer:** *Mimi (Miriam) Confer*

If you would like to participate, please reach out to Allie Greenfield at [greenfield0907@gmail.com](mailto:greenfield0907@gmail.com)

# Holy week

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SCHEDULE

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*April 2, 2026*

*Central Baptist | 7:00 PM  
514 Maple Avenue | Palmyra, NJ*

*Epworth UMC | Tenebrae Service | 7:00 PM  
5 Morgan Avenue | Palmyra, NJ*

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

*April 3, 2026*

*Bethany Lutheran Church | Tenebrae Service | 7:00 PM  
617 Morgan Avenue | Palmyra, NJ*



# Easter

BREAKFAST

## Gibson Hall

Month

**04**

Date

**05**

Year

**26**

from **9AM** to **10AM**

Sign up in the Narthex

Sponsored by Council





*Sunday*

*April 12, 2026*

*Come join us for*

*our:*

*Children's*

*Easter Play*

**Welcome to**  
Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 

**Sunday**

**April 19, 2026**

**Coffee Hour Sponsored by:**

**Bethany Lutheran Church WELCA Organization**

**All are welcome to learn what work  
WELCA**

**does for our community.**



Spring Cleaning?  
Council is collecting  
New and Gently Used

# Books And Stuffed Animals

for our

# Palmyra Day Table

WANTED  
New Or  
Gently Used

Books  
and  
Stuffed Animals

Donations are being  
collected from  
now until  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026



**DINNER IS SERVED!**

**JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER!**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH, 2026  
— 5 – 7 P.M. —**

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**ACROSS FROM THE TRAIN PLATFORM**

**BROAD ST. & MORGAN AVENUE  
PALMYRA, NJ**





# Boy Scout Troop 9

Bethany Lutheran Church

## Annual Mulch Fundraiser!



**FREE DELIVERY** to Palmyra, Riverton and Cinnaminson Residents

**Delivery Dates: Weekend of April 11, 2026**

**\$5.00 per bag, delivered to your house!**



Premium 2-cu ft Black Hardwood Mulch gives any landscape a finished look and feel. It controls moisture to help reduce water use and regulates soil temperature.



### Order Form

**Delivery Date: Weekend Of April 11, 2026**

Number of Black Bags: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 per bag, delivered)

**Prepay by cash or check only. No COD.**

**Scout Name: Bill Isard 856-829-3834**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address for Next Year's Sale: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Your Receipt-Troop 9 Mulch Fundraiser**

**Delivery: Weekend of April 11, 2026**

**Scout Name: Bill Isard 856-829-3834 # Bags \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 per bag)**

Please make your check payable to : "Troop 9, B.S.A." No COD.

Contact any Scout in Troop 9 or mail the above order form and check to:

Bethany Lutheran Church-BSA Mulch, 617 Morgan Ave, Palmyra NJ 08065

**E-mail Questions to palmyrapacktroopcrew9@gmail.com**

# RYAN'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



**TROOP 9 PALMYRA**

**FLAG REPLACEMENT FOR THE  
RIVERTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE  
AND FLAG RETIREMENT**

**AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION!**

## FUNDRAISING

Help Ryan Purchase New Flags for  
Parade Route & Fund the Cost  
of Flag Pole Repair



**DONATE**

- **DONATE TO SUPPORT RYAN'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**
- **SCAN OR DONATE VIA VENMO: @Patrick-Carroll-266**



### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

- Accepting Worn & Tattered Flags
- Details Coming Soon!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# PALMYRA FIRE COMPANY PRESENTS 2026 GOLF OUTING

## Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Ramblewood Country Club • Mt. Laurel, NJ



- Golf & dinner \$130   ■ Box lunch provided   ■ 50/50 and Door prizes will be available!
- Draft beer available before, during, and after the event!
- Business Person Special - 4 golfers, dinner, hole sign at tee box, \$ 550.00
- Corporate Golf Special - 4 golfers, dinner, hole sign at tee box, Corporate banner displayed at Check-in & dinner \$700
- Hole Sponsor - Hole Sign at tee box: \$100

**FOURSOMES ONLY**  
Registration: 12 PM

**Modified Shot Gun**  
start at 1 PM, followed  
by dinner, soft drinks  
and beer

Golfer Registration: Mail, drop off or Venmo at Palmyra Fire Company (NJ) @ Palmyra-Fire-NJ along with completed form if writing check please make (made payable to Palmyra Fire Company) at **115 WEST BROAD STREET, PALMYRA, NJ 08065 ATTN: Rick Dreby**

**Door Prizes - 50/50 • Longest Drive & Closest to Pin Prizes**  
**Food & Refreshments available on Course on a cash basis.**

**\*RSVP by May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUP OF FOUR:**

1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



**All Proceeds Benefit the Palmyra Fire Company, Thank You For Your Support !**

# In The Mail....



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

February 20, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church  
617 Morgan Ave  
Palmyra, NJ 08065-1929

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, which were received by the ELCA churchwide organization last month.

*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
—1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Your generosity is starting new faith communities and sustaining existing ones, empowering leaders, responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Congregational Generosity

*P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for gift detail.*

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • 773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522 • ELCA.org • LivingLutheran.com

## Gifts are designated for:

Date	Program	Amount
12/30/2025	ELCA World Hunger	\$80.00

# In The Mail....

## **Congregational Camp Week: A New Invitation For Formation**

### **A New Way Forward**

We are listening. Many congregations have told us: “We don’t have confirmations youth this year...but we will.” Instead of waiting, we are widening the invitation.

### **What is Congregational Camp Week?**

During one shared summer week, **July 5-11, 2026** Youth Camp, Confirmation Camp, and Senior High programs runs simultaneously. Congregations are invited to:

- Bring youth of any eligible age
- Have a pastor or adult leader present
- Experience camp together as a congregation

### **Why This Matters**

- Builds trust with families
- Reconnects congregations and camp
- Creates a natural feeder system
- Strengthens youth faith formation
- Models shared ministry across generations

This is not just a program shift. It is a culture shift. Instead of asking: “Do you have confirmation kids this year?” We ask: “Do you have youth? Come to camp with them.”

### **The Vision**

For two years, we goth this shared model.  
In year three, we evaluate and expand based on momentum.

### **Our goals are simple:**

- Reweave camp and congregational life
- Strengthen formation
- Build community
- Partner together

**Come to Congregational Camp Week with Your Congregation!**

### **Questions? Connect with us:**

Anthony Briggs - [Anthony@CrossRoadsRetreat.com](mailto:Anthony@CrossRoadsRetreat.com)  
Helen Payanzo - [Helen@CrossRoadsRetreat.com](mailto:Helen@CrossRoadsRetreat.com)