

September

Bethany News

2026

FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN

Pastor - Breanna Tessitore

Secretary, Michelle Ieradi - Music Director, Debra Schoen

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*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,

On August 23 in worship, we read Romans 12:1–8. Paul writes, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship.”

Present your bodies as a living sacrifice...

Paul is inviting us to let God’s mercy reshape our whole lives. When grace takes root in us, it changes how we move through the world. It shifts our priorities. It invites us to give our time, our energy, and our resources to God first, not simply whatever happens to be left over.

This way of living is a form of stewardship: recognizing the many gifts God has entrusted to us and using them for the sake of others. Stewardship isn’t just reorganizing a schedule or adjusting a budget. It’s a way of seeing, a way of trusting, a way of living from abundance rather than scarcity.

A friend of mine has a three-year-old granddaughter who embodies this beautifully. Whenever she finds a coin on the sidewalk, a quarter, a dime, even a penny, she lights up with joy. She runs to her grandmother shouting, “Oh grandma, look! Money! Let’s give half to your church for the people who need it and save half so I can buy a toy.” The coins go into a small envelope, and when it grows to a few dollars, she proudly brings it to the offering plate.

That simple practice captures the heart of stewardship. It begins with seeing everything, even a penny on the sidewalk, as a gift from God. And from that place of gratitude, we learn to share what we have for the good of the world. Stewardship invites us to trust God’s abundance rather than fear scarcity, to live with open hands rather than clenched ones.

As we begin a new Stewardship program this fall, I invite you to spend time in prayer. Give thanks for the blessings you receive each day, and ask God to guide you in becoming a blessing to others.

If you have any questions about our new program or about stewardship more broadly, please reach out. I would be glad to talk with you.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Bre

A Message From Our Council President:

Hi Bethany Family,

Welcome back from your summer break and vacations. The new council started their work in June with the reorganization. I am thankful for the support and being elected as President. I would like to congratulate Tom Willard who was elected Vice-President and Allie Greenfield as Secretary. We all should thank the Dinner is Served committee for their hard work on the last Wednesday of the month. The program has continued to grow and the attendees are most grateful. We have a busy fall schedule and we are looking forward to seeing you.

Rick Dreby



Council Meeting Summary

Minutes from the August 11, 2026 Council Meeting

Council met on August 11th. Climate check averaged 43 in June and 31 in July. We received a donation from a former member totaling \$20,000 in June 2026. Finance Committee updated the Memorial Fund spreadsheet. There are two youth members starting Confirmation in September. We will be having the Church Picnic on September 20th with outdoor service, pending weather. Stewardship is looking for a Challenge Gift offer. Council has started working on budget planning for fiscal year 2027 to 2028. We plan to start looking into Membership review. We also discussed having three new people join as members. There will be a lot of different events happening in October, so please be on the look-out. Please let Allie Greenfield know if you would like to participate in Get to Know Your Church Members!

Allison Greenfield

Council Secretary

Christian Education

How does your faith inform your participation in civic life?

We completed our six-week discussion of the ELCA social statement, *“Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All,”* over the summer. We ended with a lively discussion of selected contemporary concerns, following the foundations laid in the earlier weeks of looking at scripture, our baptismal calling, Lutheran doctrine, and the US Constitution.

Comments from some of the participants include:

“I’ve really enjoyed the chance to think about and discuss our church’s teachings about civic life! It’s so important to know how our faith influences our civic life.”

“I learned about Christian Nationalism – what it is and its impact.”

“You made me think. I like to think! Thank you.”

“Christian Nationalism – I had heard this term but never understood what it means. It is nice to know what this means and to be alert to this type of speech.”

“I enjoyed exploring how my faith informs me, both when I’m inside and outside of church”

If you’d like a copy of this social statement, just let the church office know.

Mimi Confer

Approved by NJ Synod Assembly

On May 30th, our Synod Assembly passed a resolution encouraging congregations to provide educational opportunities exploring the theological errors and political dangers contained within the Christian Nationalism movement.

So, what is this “Christian Nationalism”?

“Christian Nationalism seeks to fuse selected Christian ideas about what should be the national way of life with a comprehensive cultural framework. That framework incorporates highly selective narratives, practices, symbols, and value systems.”

(Pages 56, ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All)

Please look for more about Christian Nationalism, in upcoming newsletters.



Fellowship Committee

Upcoming events:

09/20/2026: Following our 10:15 AM outside Worship Service, we will be having our Annual Picnic & 1st Birthday Party for Bobbie

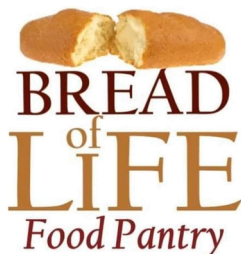
10/25/2026: There will be a coffee hour following our 10:15 AM Worship Service. Come on out to help celebrate Bethany's 88th Year Anniversary

09/27/2026: We will have a New-Member Installation during the 10:15 AM Worship Service. Following our service, we will celebrate our new members with a coffee hour.

Sign-up sheets for each one of these events will be in the Narthex.

Please sign-up if you may possibly attend the event. This will help with estimating how much food will be needed for each event.

“Thank YOU”, as we look forward to Fall!



For this summer, we had in:

June: 456 people or 157 households who received help
July: 400 people or 143 households who received help
August: 389 people or 119 households who received 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!



Nurturing Committee



Nurturing Committee went to Arbor Terrace in Marlton to visit with Hattie Thomas for her birthday on July 22nd. Hattie sends her well wishes to everyone, and hopes to see you soon.



On August 25th we visited Phyllis Hess for her 103rd Birthday at the Cambridge Rehabilitation Center.

We sang happy birthday and celebrated with cupcakes.



Social Ministry Committee

Dinner Is Served

Coming Up Wednesday, September 30th, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Our next free monthly open community meal, "*Dinner Is Served*", will be Wednesday, September 30th. Thank you to EVERYONE who donates toiletries and other giveaways, invites people, bakes, hangs flyers, shops, cooks, cleans, sets up, greets, welcomes, chats with our guests, serves food, cleans up, prays for the people we serve, or helps in some other way! Each and every volunteer is essential to this whole-congregational ministry!

At our June Dinner, we had 79 guests (people not connected with our congregation) and 27 volunteers present; and in July, 80 guests with 29 volunteers present! As I write this, we are preparing for our August 26th Dinner.

We would like to thank Hunter's Farm of Riverton for their contribution of 100 delicious ears of corn on the cob, ShopRite of Cinnaminson for their contribution of two \$25.00 gift cards, and the Boy Scouts for their contribution of 100 hot dogs, to our July Picnic - Themed Dinner. We also thank everyone who has donated toward the *Dinner Is Served* special fund!

Thanks be to God for this opportunity to meet and serve our neighbors! We hope to see you September 30th. We are especially in need of people who can arrive around 6:30 PM to help with clean up!



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

Stewardship

GIVE

SERVE

ATTEND

GROW

Welcome to Fall Season 2026!

Hello Bethany Friends,

It is hard to believe that Summer is about over, and we will celebrate Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 7th, 2026. Where does time go so fast before we even realize it, we will be raking leaves and going back to school or college for our students. Have you gotten a chance to go to the shore or on a vacation somewhere to have fun and share time with your loved ones over the last few months? I certainly hope so and look forward to seeing you all in Church if you can attend regularly. There are a lot of exciting plans for the Fall Season at Bethany Lutheran Church including our Church Picnic on Sunday, September 20th please pray for a nice sunny day and no rain in the forecast! We will be hosting **"Dinner is Served"** on September 30th, 2026, in Gibson Hall as this program has been a tremendous success. If you have not joined us yet, please plan to attend or offer to volunteer to help with this community outreach program, remember all are welcome! We would love to see you there and have a fun time together.

Our new Stewardship Campaign will also begin this Fall Season with our Kickoff on Sunday, September 27th, 2026, which will begin a 5-week series of **"Building a Culture of Generosity"** and will culminate on November 1st, 2026, on "All Saints Sunday". I have some great news to share with the entire congregation since my last appeal we have received not one but two Church Members who have offered **"Challenge Gifts"** which will be communicated later as we get the specific donation amounts from our parishioners who have decided to donate. This is extremely exciting news as my prayers have been answered with the training and planning over the last 8-9 months to make the Stewardship Campaign another momentous success for our Church. What we all need to be contemplating now is how can we increase our generosity for this campaign and when it is time to return our **"Intent Cards"** on Sunday, October 25th, 2026, will we have at least 40 willing participants that return a fully completed card with their intention for their gifts starting in November 2026. God is present at Bethany Lutheran Church and we are his Sheep! Let us all ponder this new campaign over the next several weeks and we can have an influence by closing some of the shortfall in our budgeted expense for 2027-2028!

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

We held our end of year meeting on June 16th and it was attended by 26 women. Our guest speaker was Nicole Belolan, a historian from Riverton. She gave a very interesting presentation of happenings in 1776. It was very informative and enjoyed by everyone.

We also donated \$650.00 as part of our project to “Epworth Triboro Emergency Fund.”

This year we are celebrating our 68th year and our general meetings will be resuming on September 8th & 9th. All “Women of Bethany” are welcome to come and enjoy fellowship.

“Save the Date”

For a “Night of Promise”, a UrbanPromise fundraiser. On Wednesday, October 14, 2026 @ 5:30 pm at the Collingswood Grand Ballroom and Theater, 315 White Horse Pike, Collingswood.

WELCA is sponsoring a table and we need 10 people! This event is open to the congregation. Early bird tickets are \$35.00 (thru September 18th).

Come out and see inspiring performances from the students, an uplifting message from Dr. Bruce Main, live music, a family-style dinner and much more. It is an evening that will leave you inspired by stories of the students and with a deeper appreciation for UrbanPromise’s transformative work.

Please contact Stephanie Staudenmayer (610-212-2764) with any questions.

Worship Committee

Coming up in September:

- As this year is the 25th Anniversary 9-11, please pray for all those who lost their lives, for their families, and for all the police, fire, and ambulance personnel that helped that day and the days that followed.
- A Children’s Skit about “Joseph and His Brothers” will be performed on September 13th, replacing the sermon.
- Church Picnic service to be held outdoors (weather permitting) on September 20th. If the weather is bad, the service and picnic will be held indoors.
- Pastor will provide a Pet Blessing on October 4th after the church service.

Be mindful of children and school buses as school starts again.

Welcome Autumn!



September

02 Stephen Burke, Jr.

05 Iain Docherty

07 Gabrielle Gray

07 Allison Greenfield

07 Candace Mankowski

08 Richardo Muniz

11 Ken DeForest

13 Jeffrey Butler

13 Lauren Edge

16 Malisa Eckhardt

17 Nicholas Wolan

18 Mark Eckhardt

18 Kelly Wilson

20 Bobbie Tessitore

21 Susan Docherty

21 Miriam Confer

22 Albert Strauss, III

24 Madeline Vetrecin

26 Ruth Confer

27 Dana Hozier

September Liturgical Volunteers:

Altar Guild: Lois Gerkens & Peggy Schock
Counters: Joe & Stephanie Staudenmayer

September 6

Communion Assistant: Bill Knowles
Greeter: Dot & Bill Isard
Head Usher: Mike Wilson
Reader: Mimi Confer

September 13

Communion Assistant: Joan Kelly
Greeter: Nick Wolan
Head Usher: Steve Groeber
Reader: Rick Dreby

September 20

Communion Assistant: Peggy Schock
Greeter: Sandy & Steve Stein
Head Usher: Charleen Burik
Reader: Sue Bohus

September 27

Communion Assistant: Annette Brown
Greeter: Fred Shaffer
Head Usher: Brad Young
Reader: Martha Rimathe

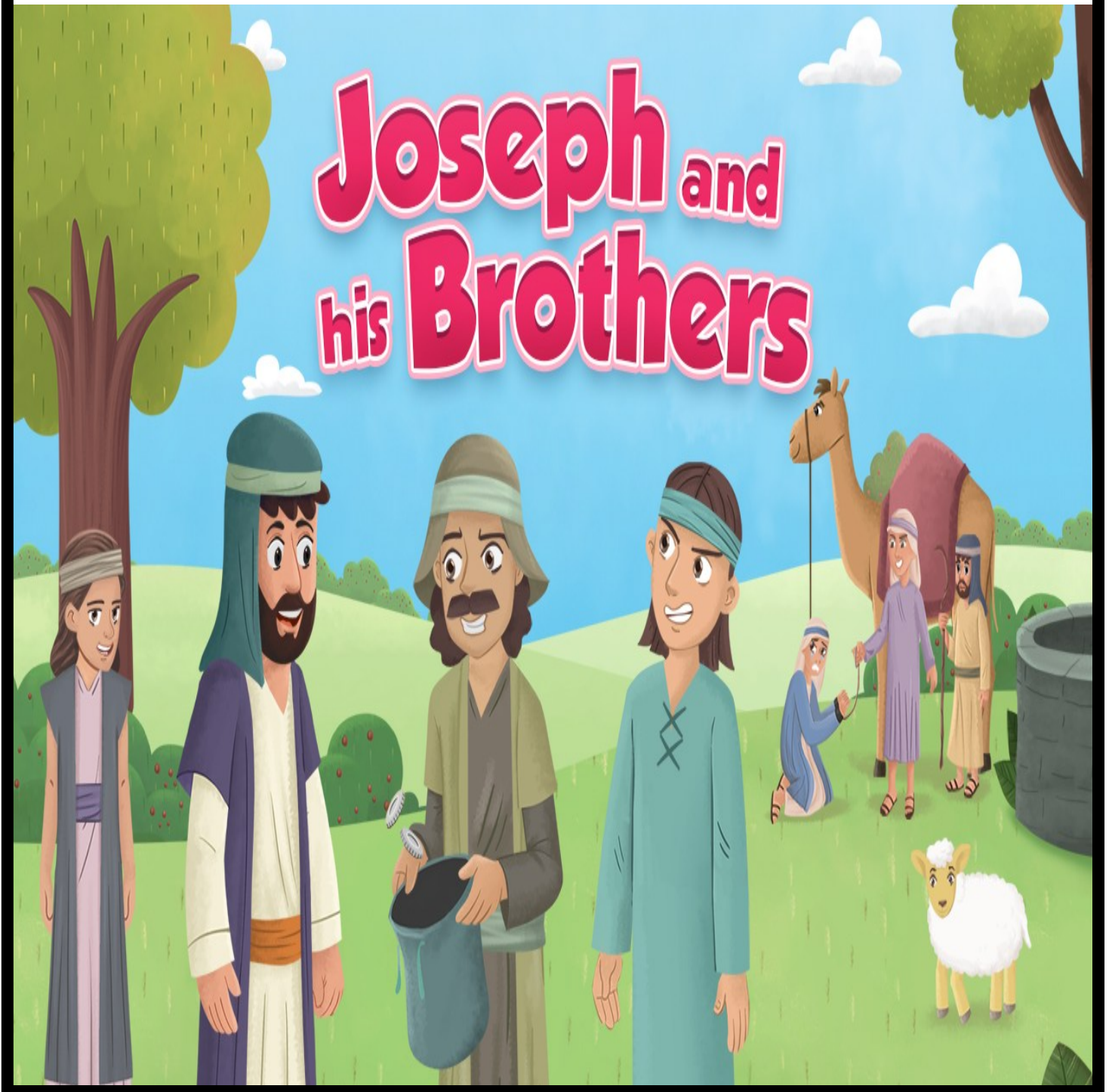
September

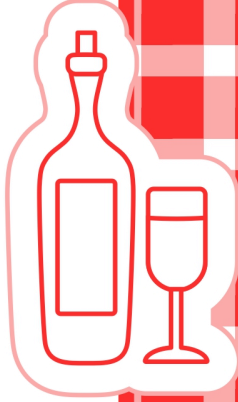
What's Happening...

- 09/01** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/02 VJ Day**
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop. Comm. Meet (Gibson Hall)
- 09/03** 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
- 09/04**
- 09/05** 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 09/06 Communion**
- 09/07 Labor Day-Office Closed**
- 09/08** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House)
7:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/09** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 09/10** 7:00 PM - 9/11 Remembrance (Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverton)
- 09/11 Patriot's Day**
- 09/12** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Council Retreat (Miller House)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 09/13 Communion-Grandparents Day**
Children's Play - Joseph & His Brothers
- 09/14** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/15** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/16** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Stewardship Meeting (Miller House)
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 09/17** 10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
- 09/18**
- 09/19** 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 09/20 Communion**
Church Picnic (weather permitting - outside)
- 09/21** Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/22** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/23** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 09/24**
- 09/25**
- 09/26** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 09/27 Communion**
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Confirmation Class (Miller House)
- 09/28** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/29** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 09/30** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Dinner Is Served (Gibson Hall)

Children's Play

September 13th, 2026





Annual Bethany Church Picnic

September 20th, 2026

Following the 10:15 am service

Bring a friend or grandchildren
Sign up in the Narthex

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are provided.



DINNER IS SERVED!

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2026

— 5 - 7 P.M. —

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ACROSS FROM THE TRAIN PLATFORM

617 MORGAN AVENUE

PALMYRA, NJ



FREE

★ ALL ARE WELCOME ★

In The Mail....



Bethany,

Thank you for your hospitality.
My husband has been traveling for weeks
at a time, and managing the household solo
+ working, etc. can be exhausting. It's nice to
not have to worry about dinner occasionally!

Amy

Pet Blessing



*Sunday,
October 4, 2026
1:00 PM*

*Bring your Pets or photo's
of your Pets for a blessing.*