



Advent & Christmas



The Ambassador

Advent / Christmas 2024

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, 1748 S. Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ 08610
www.stbartlutheran.net (609) 393-6060 (office)



Tuesday, December 24th
5:30 PM



Sundays @ 11 AM

CONTENTS	
From the Pastor's Desk	Pg 1
Message From Council President	Pg 2
Thank You's	Pg 3
Congregational Birthdays	Pg 3
Church News	Pg 4
Community Service	Pg 5
Fellowship & Small Groups	Pg 5
110 th Anniversary Highlights	Pg 6
Enid's Pantry	Pg 7
Upcoming Events	Pg 8
Bishop's Challenge	Pg 9
Order Forms	Pg 10



from the Pastor's desk

Beloved People of God,

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Thinking about the magi, contemplating their journey to Bethlehem and their homage to Jesus, I was reminded again of the sacred nature of giving, and indeed how it is a holy thing. This is borne witness by the fact that upon giving the gift, it is the giver who is made whole, the giver who feels blessed, the giver who understands that in having given, their life is enlarged.

I expect that the magi, filled with joy at having found Jesus could not wait to open their treasure chests and offer their gifts. It is, according to Matthew the very first thing they did when they saw Mary with the child. It is an amazing thing that their hearts were guided to not only make their journey to Bethlehem but also to share their gifts.

Giving creates connection and commitment. Our giving connects us in both physical and spiritual ways. As scripture says, we earn our living by the sweat of our brow, and most of our earnings are used in transactional ways. But in giving without expectation of a return, we become just a little more like Jesus, the one who emptied himself, became flesh and who gave even his life for us. In giving, I believe we come to understand more like deeply what God's grace is like.

In the Christmas Carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter," Christina Rossetti contemplates her life in relation to Jesus, "What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; If I were a wiseman I would do my part; Yet what can I give him – give my heart."

As we receive the Christ child, we, like the magi and the shepherds, are honored with the opportunity to give, and by our own giving somehow acknowledge what God has done in the Incarnation to imitate in the most gracious way we can God giving us his own Son.

Here at St Bart's, we have been blessed time and again. It is as if God cannot stop giving us gifts! Time and again, God has motivated people to support St Bart's mission, our programs are blessed with renewed growth, and the Gospel is proclaimed. We are blessed with fellowship, friendship, and love. We are given myriad opportunities to worship and to serve; to gift ourselves to others.

As a new year has begun with the season of Advent, and as we look forward to Christmas, I hope you will experience again the connection made by the magi and the shepherd: the connection between our hearts and our treasure, which comes in giving. This is a joy that comes in giving with no expectation of return, only the knowledge that you have shared something of yourself, something of value, with the one who came among us to give to us a place in the kingdom of Heaven.

I want to extend to you our hopes and prayers that you may have a very blessed Christmas celebration.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Erich

**Please contact
Pastor Erich
whenever you
are in need of
pastoral care or
are aware of
others who may
be in need -
Church office,
609-393-6060.**

This includes:

- if you want to talk,
- emergencies,
- sickness,
- hospital
- times of crisis when things are out of control or down times,
- times of decision when you are not sure of what to do,
- when someone is near death,
- when there has been a birth,
- when contemplating marriage.

Vision Statement

*"Little Church
with a BIG
HEART!"*

Message from the Council President

110 ten years! What a celebration! It was great having our former pastors back that covered the past 48 years of our ministry. In their sermons, they talked about the time they spent here, but also talked about our last ten years (100-110) and all that we have done while looking ahead to what our mission will be in the future.

We are thankful for all those at St. Bart's who carried out the work of the church for the past 100 years and especially for those who continued on for the last 10. Now it's time to keep looking forward, to carry on our mission of serving those in our neighborhood who need so much. We thank God for all those who donate food, time and money so that we may continue our ministry.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let us remember to thank God for all that he has given us individually, but also remember to thank him for the people of St. Bart's and their willingness to keep on helping the people of the South Ward. God's work doesn't have to be done from a big church or a big food pantry. It can be done from a little church with a big heart.

After Thanksgiving, we approach Advent and then Christmas. Amidst all the hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas, please remember that Christmas is not presents, glitter, decorations, etc. It is the time to remember the little baby born to young parents in a cold stable with animals around him. A little baby, sent from God, who will grow up and spread the word of God and his love. A little baby, sent from God, who will die on the cross for our sins and then be resurrected so that we might have eternal life. Make the Advent and Christmas Eve services part of your preparations for Christmas. From all of the church council members, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in church.

PS. Don't forget our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025 after church. It is that time that we look back on what was done in 2024, and forward to 2025 and what we hope to do. We will vote on a budget for the year and elect new council members. Hope to see all voting members at this very important meeting.

Barbara Schendlinger
Council President

Trunk or Treat 2024



**Summer BBQ
&
Concert!!!
Over 400
backpacks
Were given!!!**





Thank you to our dedicated members who have served meals and packed grocery bags for our community in providing thousands of bags of food:
Brandon, Jackie, Chris, Jim & Gay Egan, Leyka, Carolyn, Don, Diane & St Paul's, Walt, & Barb!

**Keep in Prayer
 Our Homebound Members**

Bob Farr, Billy T.,
 Carol Black, Vi Teschke

Thank you to ALL of our church partners for helping with the Food Pantry, Trunk or Treat, and the BBQ!!
 – Abiding Presence, Prince of Peace, St Mark's, and St. Paul's!

Congregational Birthdays

Apologies for any omission of dates

DECEMBER

20 - Violet Teschke
 30 - Beth Peroni
 30 - Virgie Plantier

JANUARY

5 - Shirley Dorsey
 19 - Carol Black

FEBRUARY

8 - Barbara Schendlinger
 8 - Judy Parish
 26 - Ashley Kussman
 26 - Kenneth Appold
 27 - Zuleyka Concepcion

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 2 – Dan & Tracie
 Bartholomew

**Staff & Officers
 of St. Bart's**

Rev. Erich Kussman
Pastor

Jo-Ann Sciarrotta
Music Administrator

Brandon Plantier
Media/Musician

Kris Pinter
Financial Secretary

Virgie Plantier
Sexton

Cindy Percak
Office Administrator

Jackie Prekop
Enid's Pantry Coordinator

Congregation Council

Barbara Schendlinger,
President

Brandon Plantier,
Vice President

Debbie Formoso,
Secretary

Virginia McNulty

Enid Rivera, *in memoriam*



Are you receiving our weekly e-news? If not, please send a message to:

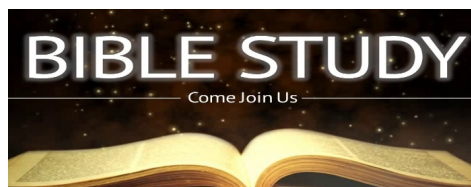
officestbartlutheran@gmail.com



Church News

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent 1 -	Sunday December 1 st	11:00AM
Wednesday Advent at Prince of Peace	December 4 th	6:00PM
Advent 2 -	Sunday December 8 th	11:00AM
Wednesday Advent at St Bart's	December 11 th	6:00PM
Advent 3 -	Sunday December 15 th	11:00AM
Blue Christmas Service at Prince of Peace	Wednesday December 18 th	6:00PM
Advent 4 -	Sunday December 22 nd	11:00AM
Christmas Eve Candelight Service	Tuesday December 24 th	5:30PM
Lessons & Carols	December 29 th	11:00AM



Class begins February 9th
@ 9:45AM
in the Community Center (parsonage)



Mark your
calendars:

Turkey Drive
November 23rd 11AM

Christmas Toy Drive
Saturday, December 21st
11AM

Christmas Eve Candelight
Tuesday, December 24th
5:30PM

Lessons & Carols
Sunday December 29th 11AM

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday January 26th 12PM
(Snow date February 2nd)

Council Retreat
Saturday February 15th 10AM

ESL Classes
Resume February 2025

**Donations and
Tithes Can Be Given
Online!**

Go to
www.stbartlutheran.net
and click on the donate tab!

COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

Enid's Food Pantry

Open every 2nd & 4th Saturdays @ 10AM /
Farmer's Market is closed for season



We are looking for volunteers!

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church is a community of believers that is rooted in God's unconditional grace and love, striving to share God's light of hope and salvation to scatter the darkness wherever it is found, through word and deed.

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS:

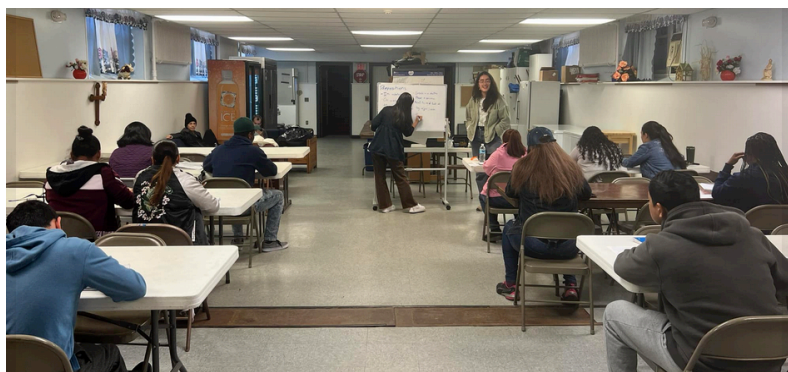
Outdoor pantry built by Mo Clarke's Girl Scout troop & Backpack giveaway



Fellowship – Small Groups

ESL CLASSES

Saturday @ 12PM
Beginning in February



Bell Choir

Practice will start again on
November 17th @ 9:45AM. If you
are interested in ringing, please talk
to Barb Schendlinger.

HIGHLIGHTS OF the 110th ANNIVERSARY! 1914-2024

Back in 1914, a small group was gathered to begin a new mission in Trenton. St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church is in its 110th anniversary in reaching out to her neighbors in God's love and grace, and showing people that there is another way. We want to thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon our congregation throughout these years of ministry. The impact of the church in the lives of people of our community is tremendous. By the grace of God, we have seen the growth, the transformation and dedication in the lives of our members. The good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ makes it possible for this community of believers to remain faithful to the gospel call. We praise God for all the goodness and mercy toward our congregation. We remain confident that God will walk with us for another 110 years!



Enid's Food Pantry



On September 7th, we renamed the Community Chest food pantry in honor of our beloved sister Enid Rivera who was the foundation of our food ministries here at St Bart's.

The mission of Enid's Food Pantry at Saint Bartholomew's is to help end local hunger by ensuring that everyone has access to enough food, thereby helping our overall community stay fed and productive. We have invested deeply in

finding new ways to achieve our mission with volunteers and fundraising activities on which we have traditionally relied on to serve the approximate 450 families of people in need.

In 2024, the rise in food insecurity left 1 in 10 Trenton residents as food insecure. We have seen an increase in families in the last 3 months through 2 distributions: the Free Farmer's Market on Friday and the main pantry on Saturday.

We have formed a partnership with others to serve the Southward of Trenton during this difficult time and it highlights the Christ-centered ethos of unselfishness, unity, grace, and generosity. We have partners such as Prince of Peace, Abiding Presence, Farmers Against Hunger, St. Paul's, St. Mark's, Princeton Alliance, and Mercer Street Friends.



Statistics since January 2024 to October 2024


Bags of Groceries: 3,110 bags

Fresh Produce Fish, & Vegetables: 4,060 bags

Total served: 400 families


Weekly through various feeding programs

Upcoming Events: St. Bart's in the Neighborhood





November 23rd @ 11 AM
1748 S Clinton Avenue- Trenton, NJ

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church will conduct the annual, collaborative food drive with the goal of providing more than 250 area families with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner complete with all the trimmings. Before Thanksgiving on November 23rd @ 11AM, the church will hold a distribution drive for families to receive their meals. Create a Dinner and bring it to the church by **Friday, November 22nd** so that families in the Southward can have a Thanksgiving meal!



Needed for each Meal:

- Turkey or Ham
- Canned Gravy Canned Cranberry Sauce (14 oz. can)
- Muffin Mix (8.5 oz. box)
- Canned Turkey/Chicken Broth (14.5 oz can)
- Canned Vegetables (15 oz. can)
- Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes (15 oz. can)
- Boxed Stuffing Mix (6 oz. box)
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes




1748 S Clinton Ave, Trenton, NJ

DECEMBER
21 11AM

DONATE A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY

TOY GIVEAWAY!!
'CHILD MUST BE PRESENT'
"No sign up required"
"Only 1 toy per child"





**TRENTON
 RAWTOOLS**



**DISARM HEARTS
 FORGE PEACE
 CULTIVATE JUSTICE**



Coming in 2025....



New environmental project!
 We are collecting clean “soft plastics” for recycling
 in conjunction with Prince of Peace.

There are 6 types of plastic especially needed: grocery bags, bread bags, cereal bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, and casings for water bottles. See below for other eligible items.

Bins are placed in the church entry and Fellowship Hall for your deposits.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?





POINSETTIAS

I would like to order _____ (how many) plants in memory/honor (circle one) of

Cost is \$12.00

Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Your Name _____ Donation Enclosed _____

Return by Sunday **December 8th**. Please make checks payable to “St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church”

FOOD GIFT CARDS Cost is \$15.00

I would like to order _____ (how many) gift card(s) in **memory** of

(print name as you would like it printed in the bulletin)

I would like to order _____ (how many) gift card (s) in **honor** of

Return by Sunday the 8th of December

Please make checks payable to “St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church”

I would like to be a donor of (check all that apply) for 2025

Communion Wafers for (month) _____ in memory/honor of _____ \$15/month

Eternal Candle for (month) _____ in memory/honor of _____ \$30/ month

Altar Flowers for (week) _____ in memory/ honor of _____ \$30/ week

Baptism & Confirmation gifts in memory/ in honor of _____ \$5-\$20 per gift

Newsletter in memory/ honor of _____ \$75 per quarter

Bulletin for (month) _____ in memory/ honor of _____ \$15/ month

Building Fund in memory/ honor of _____ \$ _____

Other _____ in memory/ honor of _____ \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Checks are payable to “St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church” and donations are fully tax deductible



Advent & Christmas

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
1746 S. Clinton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08610

DATED MATERIAL