

FALL



at

I WAS LUTHERAN



BEFORE IT WAS COOL



The Ambassador

FALL 2024

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, 1746 S. Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ 08610
www.stbartlutheran.net (609) 393-6060 (office)



Bible Study
9:45 AM
Worship
11:00 AM

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from the Pastor's desk

Beloved People of God,

What does it mean to be a community of faith?

People of faith worship, they pray, they stay in relationship with the people of their church, they serve neighbors, they witness to the love of God for everyone, they see God in each face they encounter and they give of their resources.

St. Bart's is worshipping, serving meals, and gathering for prayer. We are studying God's word and we are helping those in need with food and an abundance of produce! St. Bart's is still sharing the beauty of a life lived for Jesus, and your church needs your help and your support. Worship together (if possible) or online (if needed). Give in person, through the mail, or online.

During the next few months, we will be reflecting and celebrating our rich 110 year history! Loving God and loving our neighbor is the greatest thing we can do with our lives, and when we love and care for each other—we do so for Jesus. Join us in worship, and discover once more how God is calling us to live and love as the community of faith that we are created to be.

We have had a great concert outside with the St. Bart's Trio, Common Hymnal, Living Hope, and Blockwryter. We were also able to remember our baptism! Our Community BBQ is upon us and it is our largest event that we do! We are entering what we like to call our busy season.

September is one of my favorite months. As we go back to school, we go back to church. At church, we pray for God to give us eyes to see the world the way God sees. This September, though, two (planned) out-of-the-ordinary things will come to the forefront. First, we will hopefully finish raising our anniversary fund as we are over 2/3's there! Second, many pastors of old will return to preach with us!

Engaging in regular worship with a community of faith is essential to living a rich and holy life. In worship, we rise up and respond to God in faith as one body—to be renewed, recharged for the abundant life God has created us to live. In worship, we draw near to God and each other celebrating this wild and wonderful life knowing that even when life is no picnic, God prepares a feast for us. There is a whole lot going on at St. Bart's and it is never too late to come home...

See you in worship!

Pastor Erich

"OUR NEIGHBOR IS
ANY HUMAN BEING,
ESPECIALLY ONE
WHO NEEDS OUR
HELP"

MARTIN LUTHER

**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!"*



1914- 2024



We are excited that we at Saint Bart’s are celebrating 110 years of serving the southward of Trenton! We have some events planned around the theme of Reformation that we hope that our beloved members and friends will attend this upcoming year – including pastors of former years coming to preside and preach at worship! Here is your go-to guide for the next coming months:

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS & SERVICES

August 25th – Saint Bart’s Day (Wear St Bart T-shirts for picture and ice cream)

August 31st @ 11AM – Community BBQ

September 22nd – Rev. Froehlke preaching (vice pastor 2018)

September 29th – Rev. Pat Medley presiding – (served 1976)
with Rev. Eisenburg. (served 2014)

October 6th – Blessing of the Animals service – Rev. Richter preaching (served 2009)

October 13th – Rev. Pancoast preaching (served 2001)

October 20th – Rev. Krommes preaching (served 1980)

October 27th – Reformation Sunday – Bishop Tracie Bartholomew (wear St. Bart T)

***A Special Lunch will follow every guest preacher’s service!*

110th Anniversary Fund: We plan to raise \$15,000 by October to help continue to maintain our building and grounds. \$10,800 has been raised so far! We have already fixed louvres on the Bell Tower, revamped the fellowship hall Bathroom, and repaired the ceiling in nursery! We also hope to finish up the garden, and do some window repair. Please make checks payable to “St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church” or donate online at <https://www.stbartlutheran.net/donate>

Message from the Council President

One Hundred Ten years ago, a congregation was started and named The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Bartholomew. We fondly know it as St. Bart's. The people at that time saw a need to have a church here in this part of Trenton. One Hundred Ten years later there is still a need to have a church here in this part of Trenton. When St. Bart's was started, there were ten Lutheran churches in the city of Trenton. Now there are two. The others closed, merged or moved to the suburbs.

There was a time when St. Bart's didn't know if it was going to make it to its 60th anniversary. We thought we would close in 1973, but God knew there was a purpose for us and kept us going. In the course of 110 years, we've had our ups and downs. Lots of members, children and adults, to not many members and having spaghetti dinners to pay our bills. But the attitude has always been "We will adapt and survive. This little church is not closing its doors."

There are only a few of us left that can remember back to the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's but there will be pictures up in fellowship hall to give you an idea of what the church was like then (and before). It's always been a church that has wanted to be involved in the neighborhood through Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, Boys Club, Youth Groups, tutoring programs, pre-schools, summer programs (swimming and sightseeing) and lots of Vacation Bible Schools. Everything was always open to the neighborhood and lots of neighborhood youth participated and then brought their parents to the church too.

Now, as we do at St. Bart's, we've adapted our programs. We know the need now is to feed the neighborhood and minister to our neighbors any way we can. We always say "we're not sure what God has planned for us, but we'll do whatever we can". We may be a small congregation, but we have a big heart and lots of friends from other congregations who help us. We are very thankful for their help.

You've heard us talking a lot about our 110th Anniversary and we've been celebrating it with fixing things around the church and our Revival Concert. It was great to get together and hear all that different type of music. A special thank you to Jo Ann, Nick and Rick for starting the concert off. Rick grew up in this church and his singing was a great tie in to the anniversary. We'll celebrate St. Bartholomew day on August 25th. Come, wear your red shirts and hear about the Saint our church was named for. Starting September 22nd until October 27th (Reformation Sunday and our Anniversary service) we will be celebrating our anniversary by bringing back former pastors to preach. Come hear them. It is a great way to learn some history of the congregation.

This is an exciting time. One Hundred Ten years is a long time for this little church. A lot of Lutheran congregations in the New Jersey Synod and throughout the country have closed, but we are still going. Come out and celebrate with us. Hear our history, meet the former pastors, and celebrate "The Little Church with the Big Heart".

110th Anniversary REVIVAL CONCERT

We had a blast worshipping with our community!!



OUR LIVES BEGIN
TO END THE DAY
WE BECOME SILENT
ABOUT THE THINGS
THAT REALLY MATTER

Martin Luther
1483-1546



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

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

Thank you to all who made our Revival concert Spirit filled!!

Thank you to our new office Administrator Cindy for volunteering with us!!

**Keep in Prayer
Our Homebound Members**

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



Congregational Birthdays

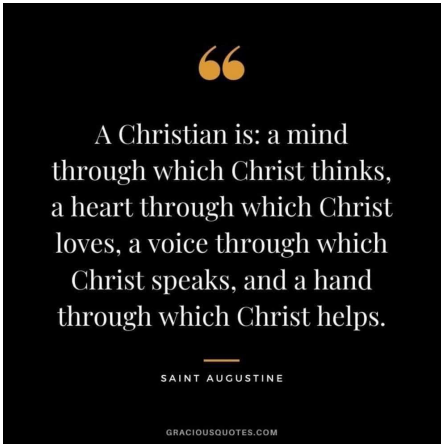
Apologies for any omission of dates

September

- 1 – Pastor Erich Kussman
- 6 – Zelinne Rivera
- 12 – Christopher Rivera
- 14 – Brandon Plantier
- 19 – Virginia McNulty
- 26 – Rosalie Conover

October

- 1.- Lisa Schendlinger
- 11 – Katrina Dillon
- 23 – Kristine Andrejco
Cindy Percak
- 28 – Kathy McNulty



Are you receiving our weekly e-news? If not, please send a message to:
officestbartlutheran@gmail.com

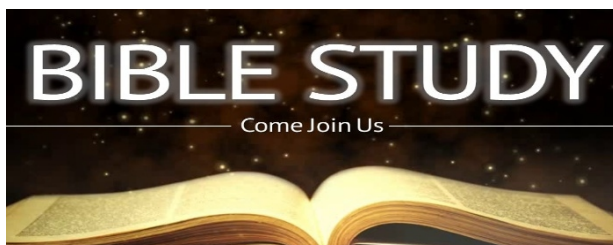
Contribute a church memory! Forms are available at coffee hour.

Church News



St Bart's Day August 25th 11:00AM

110th Anniversary Services begin September 22nd



Bonhoeffer Class begins September 8th
@ 9:45AM
in the Community Center (parsonage)



Mark your
calendars:

Saint Bart's Day
Sunday, August 25th 11AM

Community BBQ
Saturday, August 31st 11AM

Bible Study
Resuming September 8th

ESL Class
Starting in mid-September

Blessing of the Animals
October 6th

Reformation Sunday
October 27th

Trunk or Treat
October 31st 4PM

Turkey Drive
November 23rd 10AM

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

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

Community Chest Food Pantry

Open every 2nd & 4th Saturdays @ 10AM /
Farmer's Market Fridays @ 11AM



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.

Assemble a backpack for a local student!
For a list of school supplies, see pg. 10



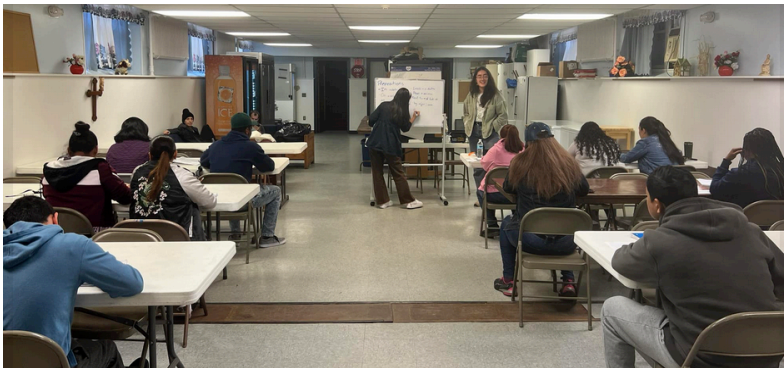
Fellowship – Small Groups

ESL CLASSES

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
@ 12PM
Beginning in September

Bell Choir

After a break, practice will start again in September 15th @ 9:45AM. If you are interested in ringing, please talk to Barb Schendlinger.



A Glimpse Back into St. Bart's History...

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW - 1914 SOUTH CLINTON AND LAKESIDE AVENUES

This congregation was incorporated in 1914, having been organized by the Rev. U. S. G. Bertolet, field missionary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and the Rev. J. C. Mattes, pastor of the Church of the Saviour. It began with sixty-two members. The present church building was purchased in 1914 from Christ Episcopal Church, having been previously used for a chapel known as St. John's. The purchase price of the property was \$6,000.

The first pastor, the Rev. Rufus E. Kern of Marion, Va., assumed charge December 6, 1914; he resigned two years later. The Rev. Otto C. F. Janke was the next pastor, who remained a little over one year. On November 25, 1917, the present pastor, the Rev. W. Penn Barr of Weatherly, Pa., was called and took charge the following December. The brick dwelling adjoining the church property was bought for a parsonage at a cost of \$4,000, in 1917.

The church record shows that 312 names have been enrolled since the beginning of the congregation, of which 167 are now active members. Since May 1, 1925, the congregation became entirely self-sustaining.

Source: *A History of Trenton, 1679-1929* (The Trenton Historical Society, 1929)



HIGHLIGHTS OF SUMMER 2024



Pastor Erich, Pastor Linnéa, and Pastor Peter talk with Pastor Munther Isaac of Bethlehem at a prayer gathering for Gaza at the Friends' Center in Philadelphia



Fun with our parishioners and church partners at the Trenton Thunder Faith & Family Night!

“Community Chest” Food Pantry

The mission of the Community Chest 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 250 families of people in need.

In 2023, our community saw a rise in food insecurity, and now 1 in 10 Trenton residents are food insecure. We have seen a slight decrease in families. However, we serve approximately 250 families through 2 distributions: the Free Farmer’s Market on Friday and the main pantry on Saturday.

Abiding Presence, Prince of Peace, and Saint Bartholomew’s have formed a partnership to work together 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 secondary partners such as Farmers Against Hunger, Saint Paul’s, St Mark’s, Princeton Alliance, and Mercer Street Friends.



Statistics since January 2024 to August 2024

Bags of groceries: 2,240 bags

Fresh produce & Vegetables: 1,260 bags

Total served 250 families

Weekly through various feeding programs



We see this need for this level of ministry continuing at least for the next 2-3 years. Especially with rising inflation and fuel costs. Saint Bartholomew named this endeavor “The Community Chest” because 500 years ago, in Luther’s community of Wittenberg Germany, at his parish church, a “Community Chest” was placed in a central location so that people could make their own contributions to help those who were not-so-well-off.* That’s what we sought out to do, namely, to keep that “Community Chest” tradition alive by helping those who have needs in our own community.

* http://www.godrules.net/library/luther/NEW1luther_d7.htm

Upcoming Events: St. Bart's in the Neighborhood

JOIN US FOR A **Community Barbecue** AND FUN DAY

HOPE FOR TRENTON



August 31st, 2024
11:00AM- 2PM
 Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church
 1748 S. Clinton Ave, Trenton, NJ
www.stbarlutheran.org

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Must bring a Child to receive a backpack

GAMES
Music
 food




ELCA

TRUNK OR TREAT!!!

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church



ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!!
 Join Us for Treats and Fun!
 Show off Your Best Halloween Look!

Thursday October 31th

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church
 1748 S Clinton Ave. (Parking Lot)
 Trenton, NJ 08610
Time: 4pm-6pm

TRICK OR TREAT

Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new backpack 1 large eraser 2 glue sticks 1 bottle of glue 1 box of crayons (24, 36 or 48) 1 box of markers 1 box of colored pencils 24 #2 pencils 1 highlighter 1 ruler 1 pencil bag or box 4 folders 2 wide ruled, one subject spiral notebooks 1 package wide ruled loose leaf paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new backpack 1 large eraser 2 glue sticks 1 pair of scissors 1 box of crayons (24, 36 or 48) 1 box of markers 1 box of colored pencils 24 #2 pencils 1 red pen 3 blue or black pens 1 highlighter 1 ruler 1 pencil bag or box 4 folders 2 wide ruled, one subject spiral notebooks 1 wide ruled composition notebook 1 package wide ruled loose leaf paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new backpack 1 large eraser 1 box of markers 24 #2 pencils 1 box of colored pencils 1 red pen 5 blue or black pens 1 highlighter 1 ruler 1 pencil bag or box 4 folders 2 one subject, wide ruled spiral notebooks 1 wide ruled composition book 1 package wide ruled loose leaf paper 1 package graph paper 1 package index cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new backpack 1 large eraser 24 #2 pencils 1 red pen 5 blue or black pens 1 highlighter 1 ruler 1 pencil bag or box 4 folders 2 one subject, college ruled notebooks 1 college ruled composition notebook 1 package college ruled, loose leaf paper 1 package graph paper 1 package index cards

**Fill a packback for a local student!
 Deadline is August 28**

ST. BARTHOLOMEW LUTHERAN




November 23rd @ 10 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 @ 10AM, 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



TURKEY DRIVE

**UPCOMING: Toy Drive starts November 23
 (new toys only)**



New environmental project!

We will be collecting clean “soft plastics” for recycling.

There are 6 types of plastic are needed: grocery bags, bread bags, cereal bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, and casings for water bottles.

A bin will be placed in the Fellowship Hall for your deposits.



Salads and desserts needed!

Salads and bite-sized desserts for the Community BBQ can be brought to the Fellowship Hall between 10-11 a.m. on August 31.

NJ SYNOD EVENTS....

GO AND...!

Our July Go And... gathering was about **Go And Sing**. See resources here: njsynod.org/go-and

Our next Go And... gathering is on **August 15 at 7 pm** and it will be **Go and Dream**. Our **September 19 at 7 pm** Go and... gathering will focus on **Go and Practice (Loving Dialogue)**.

If you are new to Go And... [register here!](#)



Saturday, September 7, 2024
"Underground Railroad Museum
of Burlington County"
Historic Smithville Park, NJ



The NJ Synod's Transforming White Privilege facilitators invite you to join them on their next journey to learn about the history of New Jersey's chattel slavery. We hope you will engage in conversation with us about the history of whiteness in America. We ask that you open your hearts and minds to this conversation while considering the importance of racial equity and justice. Remember we are called to loved as Christ continues to love us.

- Tours last about one hour
- Conducted at 1:00 p.m. with a brief discussion to follow
- More information will be provided with registration



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

DATED MATERIAL