



The Ambassador

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
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From The Pastor's Desk

As the summer months unfold, we are reminded of God's abundant blessings—both for time away and for the joy of family and friends. Summer also affords us an opportunity to witness and participate in our church's outreach firsthand. More importantly, to build up the foundations here.

This summer, we are particularly excited about:

- **Movie Nights and Bingo** —we plan to invite families to a St Bart's family movie night and a few times this year to build community!
- **Trenton Thunder**—we invite the congregation to enjoy a night of fun and fireworks!
- **Beach Trip & Six Flags**— we plan to build the relationships we have by having time together for fun!
- **Backpack Drive**— every year we try to help the community by offering backpacks with supplies for the new school year.
- Adult education will run throughout the summer!
- Summer will bring new people into our community—granting us the opportunity to practice extravagant hospitality to the guests God sends our way.

These ministries are possible because of your faithful support. I know the summer is busy, but I want to offer this loving and spiritual challenge to each of you.

- Spend time in re-creation this summer. Renew your spirit.
- Pray for all churches as well as St Bart's.
- Attend worship as much as you are able. Don't let the summer be an excuse to fall out of good habits.
- Find people in your life who need encouragement. Offer them God's love.
- Don't forget to give to the church during the summer.

Summer often brings a dip in giving. Let's avoid the summer slump and demonstrate generosity to God's good work in our midst.

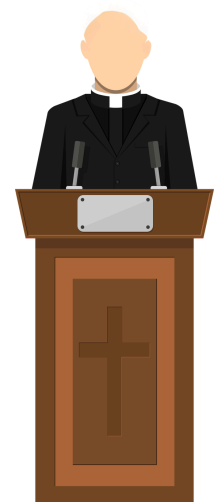
I believe that by embracing generosity this summer, we can deepen our faith, strengthen our church, and make a greater impact on the world. Thank you for your continued commitment to God's mission and for making our church a vibrant and loving place.



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
- Time of crisis when things are out of control or down time
- When someone is near death
- When there has been a birth
- When contemplating marriage



From The Pastor's Desk Continuation

Lastly, I want you to know the current national campaign of mass detention and detention is a grave moral evil, one which must be opposed, with prayer, peaceful action, and acts of solidarity with those affected. There has been many vigils to plead for respect for human life. If you are able, I invite the faithful "o march and pray as an act of Christian solidarity.

In this holy season of Eastertide, God invites us to journey with the suffering Jesus to the cross and to new life in the Resurrection. For this reason, I take this opportunity to speak to all the faithful in our community, and in particular to immigrant families.

Our Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry, encourages us to stand in solidarity with suffering migrant families and not to remain silent. As your pastor, I will do everything I can to uphold the God-given dignity of every person in our community. To those of you affected by hatred and discrimination and afraid of what comes next, know that the Church stands with you. While we do need significant immigration reforms, it is an injustice to make families, children, and the vulnerable pay the price of our inaction. Policies, laws, and borders must always be at the service of human dignity, genuine community security, and human flourishing. Our churches should be places where migrants are welcomed and strengthened in their faith. Our faith community is also called to announce the Good News of the Kingdom, shaping the terms of public debate for a more just society and witnessing to the values of mercy, justice and truth.

We must continue to denounce the evil of family separation, the militarization of our border communities, for-profit immigrant detention, the mistreatment of asylum seekers and the disparagement of our Muslim brothers and sisters. We must address the plague of substance abuse afflicting our people, the confusion and depression that push our children to drugs, and the drug trafficking destabilizing Mexico and Central America, driving migration to our border. We must work to overcome the polarization tearing our communities apart.

May God be with you all!

**In Christ
Pastor Erich**



Vision Statement

"Little Church With A BIG HEART"



Message From Council President

Well, it's May already and summer is soon to come. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in continuing to help with the growth of St. Bart's. Our winter/spring seasons have been full. St. Bart's Enid's Pantry held a Volunteer Dinner which was attended by thirty-two people, all involved with helping our largest ministry. We shared in midweek services with our partner churches, the Peace March we held on Palm Sunday was a success, and Holy Week was well attended. April 18 was Spring Cleaning Day and on May 2 an Open House was held for RAW Tools. Our next few months will be just as full.

I am looking forward to the next few months where we will have opportunities for all to be involved. I hope you can find something you can join us in and share in fellowship and God's love. We will begin with Pentecost where there are a few baptisms planned. What better way to celebrate these next few months than to begin by welcoming infants to God's family here at St. Bartholomew.

Activities are planned to encourage member participation throughout the summer months. To start, a yard sale is planned, a Bingo night, and a few Movie nights. In July, we will have this year's Trenton Thunder game. We are also hoping to organize a beach day for everyone to get together and have fun. Keep an eye out for info and join us if you can.

I would also like to acknowledge that we have a few new people coming to church, and they are jumping right in to be part of our community. It is my hope that we can continue to accept and welcome all, just like Jesus teaches.

May God bless and keep you.....

Jackie Prekop



Enid's Pantry and Food Missions

Message From Our Pantry Coordinator

I am glad to report that the pantry is continually gaining support from many groups of people. Of course, many of St. Bart's members are the first to step up whenever needed, and we also have support from our partner churches, Prince of Peace and Abiding Presence. We also have support from some of the members of St. Paul's who come once a month with supplies. As people learn about what we do, they are more than happy to get involved.

In the last few months, we have set up "bagging" times, and many from the above groups have come out to help, which is wonderful. Recently, I was contacted by the Hopewell Valley Democratic Club, and they would like to contribute their time as well. Bagging was something they thought they could get volunteers for, so I thought that would be great. I feel the spirit when we are reaching so many people, as if God's helping us to do what we are supposed to be doing.

Our pantry is still feeding more than 1,000 people (adults and children) a month. The farmers market serves about 300 people a month, and soon we will be able to have another produce day where we can serve others. All three of these services will be held on different days of the week, so we may be able to reach more people in the community.

Until food insecurity is gone, I am so grateful we can offer these ministries to our community and feel blessed to have so many people wanting to help us meet our needs to continue doing God's work and serving our neighbors.

Yours through Christ,
Jackie Prekop



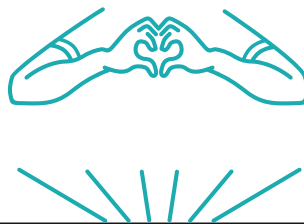
Thank You

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, Jackie, Kristen, Emely, Jim, Gay, Jamie, Tracie, Chris, Walt, and Rolf.



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

Keep in Prayer
Our Homebound Members
Bob Farr, Billy T.,
Carol Black, Vi Teschke



Are you receiving our weekly e-news?

If not, please send a message to:
officestbartlutheran@gmail.com

Congregational Birthdays

Apologies for any omission of dates.



JUNE

25 – Zayan Rivera

JULY

4 – Robert Farr
10 – Karson Arcos
18 – Debbie Formoso
31 – Kristen Arcos
31 – Alan Ari

AUGUST

2 – Dawn Roberts
14 – Rosemary Dwyer
28 – Rolf Erga

SEPTEMBER

1 – Pastor Erich Kussman
6 – Zelinne Rivera
12 – Chris Rivera
14 – Brandon Plantier
19 – Virginia McNulty
22 – Emely Tecum



In Memory Of Beth Peroni



Beth was a very active member of St. Bartholomew’s Lutheran Church and loved volunteering to help the community. Beth worked several bookkeeping jobs throughout the years. Beth’s faith was best expressed in acts of service to the Church. She served the NJ Synod for many years in a variety of roles. She began as a Supply Pastor coordinator, a role she returned to in her “retirement” and which continued until her passing. In recent years, she served as bookkeeper for Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Ascension Lutheran Church, and as Office Administrator for Abiding Love Lutheran Church. We dedicate this edition of the Ambassador to her loving memory!

Church News

UP COMING EVENTS

MAY

- 24th – Pentecost (Red)
- 30th – SYNOD Assembly

JUNE

- 6th – Yard Sale 9:00AM
- 14th – Pastor Peter’s Retirement 9:30AM @ PoP
- 19th – Movie Night 6:00PM
- 21st – Father’s Day.

JULY

- 4th – Picnic
- 17th – Movie Night 6:00PM
- 25th – Trenton Thunder 6:00PM

AUGUST

- 1st – Beach Trip 9:00AM
- 11th – Six Flags 9:30AM
- 14th – Movie Night 6:00PM
- 23rd – St. Bart’s Day

SEPTEMBER

- 5th – Backpack Drive
- 18th – BINGO (Community) 6:00PM

POP (Prince Of Peace)

177 Princeton Hightstown Rd,
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550



BIBLE STUDY

EVERY SUNDAY **9:45AM**

ST. BARTHOLOMEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
Postponed until June 14th

Enid's Pantry

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
10:00 AM

ST. BART'S YARD SALE

JUNE 6TH 2026
9:00AM

Affordable Pricing for everything! All reasonable offers welcomed.


1746 S. Clinton Ave, Trenton NJ 08618

stbartlutheran.net St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church st.barthlutheran

Church News Continuous

Backpack Drive / Collection

Bart's will be organizing our annual backpack drive, and we need YOUR enthusiastic support to make it a success! This year, we will be collecting a variety of school supplies from July 15th through August 25th. Our goal is to ensure that children in our community are well-prepared and equipped for the upcoming school year. Your generous contributions will make a significant difference in helping these kids start the year with confidence and excitement.



Back to School Supplies Needed

Backpack collection: July 15th - August 25th

Supplies Needed For All Backpacks

- 1 Pencil case or pouch
- 1 Pack of No. 2 pencils
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 2 Pink erasers
- 1 Pack of colored pencils
- 1 Pack of multi-colored highlighter
- 1 Ruler
- 1 Safety scissors
- 2 Scotch tape rolls
- 5 Pocket folders
- 6 Marble composition notebooks

Add-Ons for Grades K - 2

- 1 Box of crayons
- 2 Glue sticks
- 6 Think dry-erase markers

Add-Ons For Grades 3 - 5

- Lined index cards
- 1 Pack of loose-leaf ruled paper
- 1 Three-ring binder
- 6 Binder dividers
- Headphones for Chromebooks
- 1 Pack of thin markers
- Colored construction paper

Add-Ons For Grades 6-12

- Lined index cards
- 1 Pack of loose-leaf ruled paper
- 4 Three-ring binders
- 6 Binder dividers
- Headphones for Chromebooks
- 2 Spiral-bound notebooks
- 4 Post-it note pads
- Ballpoint pens (black, blue, red, green & purple ink)
- 1 Combinational lock
- 1 Stainless steel water bottle

Your Role In This Journey:

We're calling on our community heroes – yes, that's you! To contribute in whatever way you can. Here's how to make a tangible difference:

- **Donate:** Every contribution helps. Sponsor a backpack for a child with a donation of any amount you can afford.
- **Volunteer:** Join us to pack and distribute backpacks. It's a perfect opportunity for team building or community service.
- **Spread the word:** Share our mission with your network.



Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

Enid's Food Pantry

Running on a limited volunteer

Schedule at this time

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.

Donations Can Be Given Online!

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

Fellowship – Small Groups

Martha's Breakfast

The women of St. Bart's are welcome to join our table at Pat's Diner the last Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m.

Bell Choir

The bell choir has finished ringing for the Spring season. Thank you to Dawn, Brandon, Kris, Debbie, Virginia, and Miguel for their ringing. They did a great job. A big thank you to Jo-Ann for accompanying us. We'll start back up in late September. If you are interested in ringing bells, please talk to Barb. You don't need to read music, but you do need to be committed. Have a great summer. See you in the fall.

RAWTools Trenton Article

Our nation has been through a variety of horrific events surrounding gun violence, and it has brought the conversation to the forefront of our current events and "water cooler" conversations. It has largely become a binary conversation of either more guns or more laws. RAWtools wants to open a new option, a third way:

What if we made a commitment to solve our problems without guns and violence?

Turning guns into garden tools is at the center of the work of RAWtools. It connects our programs and enables storytelling—stories of magnificent transformation as well as the deep trauma of grief and loss.

Shop Hours: Fridays & Saturdays at 1 PM! (weather permitting)



**RAWTOOLS
TRENTON**



Trenton Thunder Order Form

DATE _____

TRENTON THUNDER TICKET ORDER FORM

GAME IS JULY 25TH

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
E-MAIL	

NAMES	QTY	AMOUNT
TOTAL		

**TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH
DUE BY JULY 1ST!**



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DATED MATERIAL
