THE AMBASSADOR

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





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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church Family,
As we gather this Christmas season amid the lights, carols, and busyness of life, I want to invite us all to pause and look to the true heart of our celebration: the birth of Jesus Christ.

The magic of Christmas is not found in the presents under the tree, but in His presence with us—Immanuel, God with us. In a world that often feels heavy, uncertain, or rushed, the manger in Bethlehem reminds us that God chose to step directly into our human story. He came not as a distant ruler, but as a helpless child, willing to share in our struggles and offer us His unending peace and salvation.

We see that love in action right here in Trenton through your incredible faithfulness this year. I am especially grateful for the dedicated hands serving at Enid's Pantry, sharing God's grace and nourishment with our neighbors. I also want to deeply thank our Church Council for their steady leadership, vision, and care for our congregation.

This season, we also celebrate the unique ways our community comes together. We thank Gay Egan for her profound dedication in running our English class, opening doors of connection and learning for so many. We lift up the beautiful sounds of our Bell Choir, whose music lifts our spirits and enriches our worship. And I am deeply grateful for our collective persistence in keeping our community safe from ICE, ensuring our church remains a warm, secure sanctuary for all who enter.

We are also filled with joy for the growth in our ministry, celebrating our new **Spanish service led amazingly by Carmen and Pastor Nate** as we expand our welcome and share the Gospel across languages. Every volunteer, leader, and member is a vital part of what makes St. Bartholomew such a beautiful, diverse family of faith.

My prayer for you, your home, and your loved ones this Christmas is that you would experience the quiet, life-changing joy of the Christ Child. May His light illuminate your path, may His peace guard your heart, and may His love overflow from your life into our neighborhood and community in the New Year.

Merry Christmas to you all!

In His Grace,
Pastor Erich
St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church



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

Vision Statement

"Little Church With A BIG HEART"



MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Time flies when you're having fun! It's almost the end of the year and things have been rustling by like the leaves in the wind here at St. Bart's. As you all know Enid's Pantry has been very busy with Tuesday and Friday produce trucks as well as regularly scheduled pantry on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. Our other ministry, RAW Tools has been giving demos in a few places and a few of our members attended a three day Peace Summit in Philadelphia this fall. God's work, Our hands is alive and strong here at church.

For the first time in what seems like forever we held our Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. It was a huge success with 15 cars decorated and many children and adults taking part in collecting their Halloween candy. Thanks to everyone who helped to bring this event back for the neighborhood. Thank you to all the rapid responders who helped watch to keep things safe for all of us.

St. Bartholomew held its first official bi-lingual service on Sunday, Nov. 8. Pastor Nate and Pastor Erich both presided over the service and it was attended by 30 people. Everyone enjoyed the service and Pastor Nate even got the children to sing Jesus Loves Me in front of the congregation, which was also played by our Bell choir at the beginning of the service.

Bi-lingual services are something we will be seeing more of in the new year. At present Gay Egan has been running English classes on Wednesday evenings and afterwards there is a Spanish service which has been attended by both Gay's students and people from the neighborhood. We will also be planning more bi-lingual "family nights" so we can include much of the neighborhood as a way for us all to be together in play as in worship.

If you haven't heard yet you will hear soon that we will be hosting a Pot Luck Christmas dinner with a White Elephant game and lots of holiday fun. All congregation members are invited so look for an announcement.

With all the changes coming to the service there will also be changes to fellowship hall. As the pantry is our biggest mission in the church and the needs of the community are ever growing we are moving things around to help the flow of production. We ask for your patience and understanding with all the future changes. Our council has been working very hard to serve our community and our members. It is our hope to bring us all together as we feel God intended.

Please feel free to speak with one of the council members or myself should you have any questions or concerns. We pray for peace and understanding as we help St. Bart's grow through God's Grace.

Blessings to you all.



THANK YOU

Thank you to our dedicated members who have served our neighbors and packed grocery bags for our community in providing thousands of bags of food: Jackie, Kristen, Emely, Jamie, Walt, Virgie, Jim, Lisa, Don, P.O.P. Mercer Street, & St Paul's!

Thank You To All!





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

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.

DECEMBER
24- Maria Ramirez
26 - Monica Cu Tiul
29 - Marianny Aragone
30 - Virgie Plantier

JANUARY
10 - Francisco Aragone
19 - Carol Black

FEBRUARY
8 - Barbara Schendlinger
8 - Judy Parish
17- Kylie Arcos
23- Kaleb Arcos
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

Walter Woodley
Property

Jo-Ann Sciarrotta
Music Administrator

Brandon Plantier
Musician

Kristen Arcos
Sexton/Enid's Pantry Coordinator

Jackie Prekop
Enid's Pantry Coordinator

Emely Tecum
Media Manager

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jackie Prekop
President

Debbie Formoso
Vice President

Kristen Arcos
Secretary

Emely Tecum
Financial Secretary

Chris Rivera
Council

CHURCH NEWS





Advent And Christmas Schedule

Advent 1
Sunday November 29th
11:00AM

Wednesday Advent at Prince of Peace
December 2nd
6:00PM

Advent 2
Sunday December 6th
11:00AM

Wednesday Advent at St Bart's
December 9th
6:00PM

Advent 3
Sunday December 13th
11:00AM

Wednesday Advent at APLC
Wednesday December 16th
6:00PM

Advent 4
Sunday December 20th
11:00AM

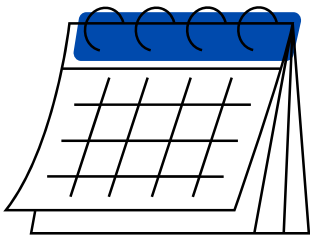
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday December 24th
5:30PM

Lessons & Carols
December 27th
11:00AM



CHURCH NEWS CONTINUOUS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



Turkey Drive.
November 21st
10:00AM

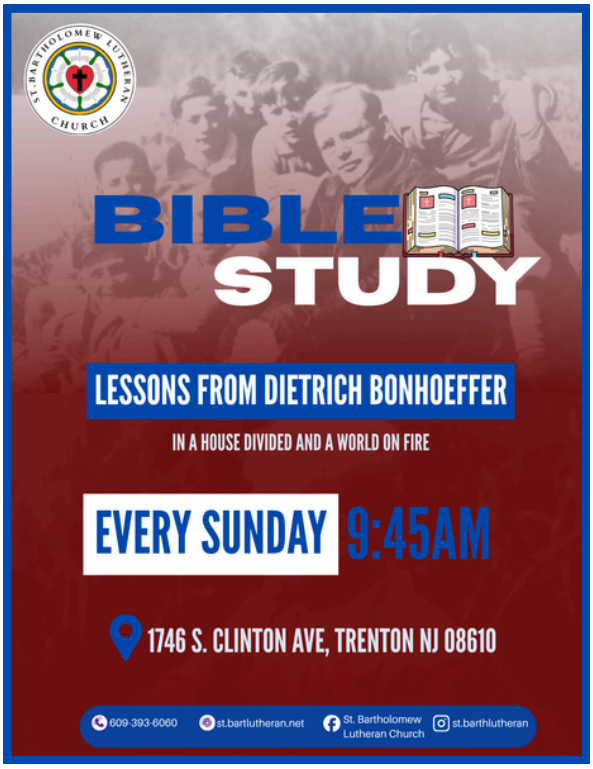
White Elephant (For church members only)
Saturday, December 5th
5:00PM

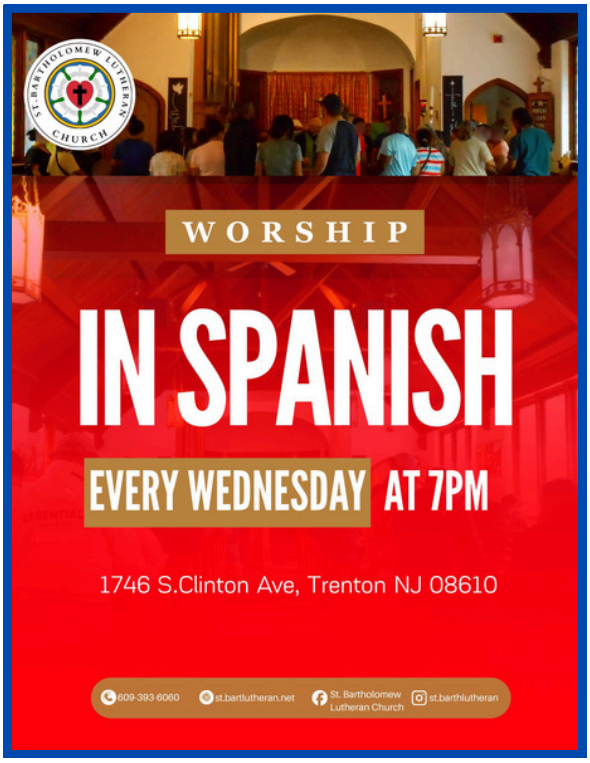
Lessons & Carols
Sunday December 27th
11:00AM

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday January 24th
12:00PM
(Snow date February 7th)

String Quartet Concert
Sunday January 31st
3:00PM

Council Retreat
Saturday February 13th
2:00PM







COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

Enid's Food Pantry

Open every 2nd & 4th Saturdays @ 10AM

Farmer's Market is closed for season

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!

Last Tuesday of the month

@ 9AM at Pat's Diner

Bell Choir

The bell choir has been busy ringing in church through the fall. Now we are practicing Christmas music. We will play in church for the Christmas Eve service. Thank you to Dawn, Brandon, Debbie, and Virginia for your hard work and to Jo-Ann for accompanying us. From all of us in the bell choir, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

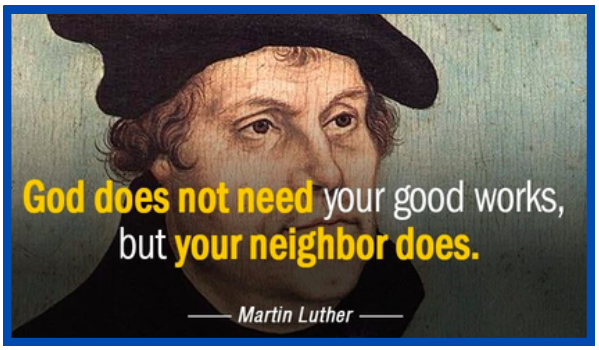
RAWTOOLS TRENTON











ENID'S FOOD PANTRY

Message From Our Pantry Coordinator

Enid's Pantry is doing well and going strong. July, August and September found us feeding an average of 1,050 per month. This past October we fed 1,234 people. Our Tuesday and Friday Produce Markets have been very well attended also. Each Tuesday we are visited by at least 84 adults and Fridays our numbers climb from 91 to 102 adults. We are blessed to be assisted by the Mercer Street Friends food bank and thank God we are able to reach so many community members facing food insecurity.



This past October we again held a "free choice" pop up pantry and it was very well accepted. It was held in the evening from 6-8 and served 164 people. We were able to empty our shelves which will clear room for our annual Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway to be held Nov. 21 at 10am.



Our friend "Salty" surprised us with a load of fresh fish in October as well, Once announced on FB we divided the fish between 48 community friends. We know the neighborhood loves fish!



October was a very busy month for the coordinators of Enid's Pantry. Kristen and I both attended a workshop for Mercer Street Friends where we were able to connect and learn from other pantry coordinators in Mercer County. In November Kristen, Emely and myself will be attending another workshop through MSF, this one will be a training with representatives from the Plentiful App we use to collect all our pantry information.



As always I thank all our volunteers and give a special shout out to Kristen and Emely for all their efforts in keeping informed and up to date on all our pantry needs.

Submitted by Jackie Prekop

UPCOMING EVENTS



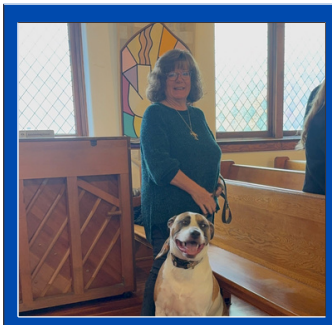






HIGHLIGHTS


















ORDER FORM

POINSETTIAS

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

_____

Cost is $20.00

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

Your Name_____ Donation Enclosed _____

Return by Sunday **December 13th** . Please make checks payable to "St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church"

GIFT CARDS Cost is $20.00

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

_____

(print name as you would like it printed on the BLUE line)

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

_____

Return by Sunday the 13th of December

Please make checks payable to "St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church"

I would like to be a donor of (check all that apply) for 2027

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

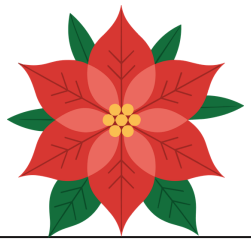
Bulletin for (month) _____ in memory/ honor of _____$15/ month

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



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1746 S. Clinton Ave.

Trenton, NJ 08610

DATED MATERIAL