

October

# Bethany News

2024

**FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN**

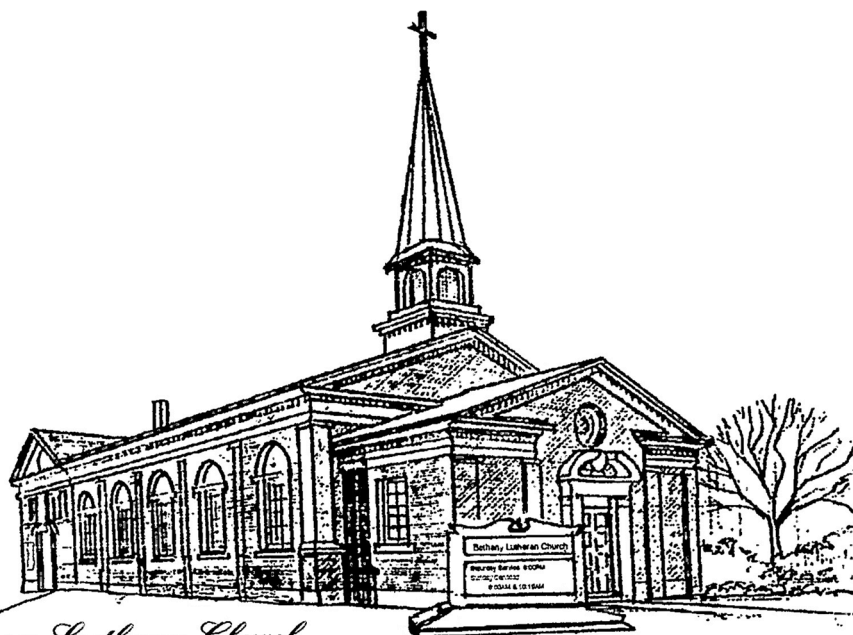
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Pastor - Breanna Tessitore

Secretary, Michelle Ieradi - Music Director, Debra Schoen

www.bethanypalmyra.org - - E-Mail: bethanypalmyra@gmail.com

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*Bethany Lutheran Church  
Palmyra, NJ*

Church Office - 617 Morgan Ave. Palmyra, NJ 08065 \* Office Ph 856-829-2373



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## Monthly Meetings

Church Council & Finance Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Pack 9 BSA	every Monday & Tuesday and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Night
Worship Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	Crew 9 BSA	every Monday Night
Men's Breakfast	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Troop 9 BSA	every Tuesday Night
WELCA Circles	1 <sup>st</sup> full week		
WELCA Exec. Board	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday		

## A Message From Our Pastor:

**“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”**

Last month, we heard how Jesus welcomed the children in his midst and encouraged us to do the same. I have to say, we do a good job welcoming kids into our worship here at Bethany. It’s always a joy when any of the toddlers, infants, or children are present with us. Seeing faces light up as the kids assist in collecting the offering, greeting everyone on their way in or out of the sanctuary, or coming forward for a children’s sermon. It’s clear that we love and value the children in our midst.

I want to share with you all one way that some congregations are welcoming the children in the midst of worship. It’s called a prayground, a space specifically dedicated for our youngest disciples to be a part of worship and engage with the Gospel in age-appropriate ways.



These spaces are filled with soft toys, crayons and coloring pages, and foam blocks. They are located in a space where the children have an unobstructed view of the altar, often at the front. In a pray ground, toddlers and preschoolers have the space to engage with worship at their level, learning about how we pray and sing and worship the same way they learn about the rest of the world around them: by playing.

As an article from Augsburg Fortress says, “What happens is that, during the words of institution, you’ll see kids mimic the postures of the celebrant. You’ll watch kids who used to build towers out of blocks every week pull their chairs up to the chancel with a hymnal in their hands. You’ll get texts after dinner from young parents telling you that their toddler started singing the Kyrie in the bathtub, out of nowhere. When kids have a comfortable place to exist in the worship space, they can relax enough to allow the liturgy to sink in. It won’t happen in only a few weeks, but if you commit to the Pray-Ground, I promise that it will happen.”

I give thanks for the many ways children contribute to our worship and pray that we would continue to welcome children of all ages and abilities in our midst. May we welcome children and remember that Christ is present as well.

Image 1: Prayground at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN 55124

(<https://graceofav.org/prayground>)

Image 2: Grace Space Prayground at First United Methodist Church in Holland, Michigan

(<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/praygrounds-encourage-little-children-to-come>)

In Christ’s name,

Pastor Bre

## A Message From Our Council President:

As the summer has ended at least by the date we move into the fall with the opportunity to watch the trees turn into the beautiful and different colors.

The Church Council continues to do their work, the bench that was obtained after collecting the plastic bags has been under consideration as to where it is going to be placed. The Council has decided to place it by the Morgan Avenue entrance to allow for members of the church and the Little Friends nursery to have a place sit and reflect, have conversation and enjoy sounds around them.

The picnic was very nice as the day could not have been better, the service being held outside was different and but beautiful. Thanks to those that set up, cooked, and brought food and cleaned up after the picnic.

As we continue to move towards the holiday season, we want to wish all of you good health, good memories and continued faith in coming together in Church services weekly at 10:15.

Rick Dreby

**President of Council**

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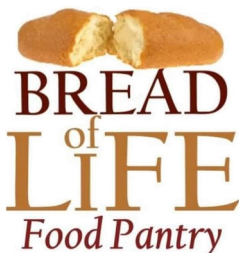
## Fellowship Committee

AND how about that picnic on September 22<sup>nd</sup>! A great outdoor worship service; great food and great participation from everyone to set-up and clean-up. Thank you all so much,

Allie and Mary Ann

P.S. Coffee Hour hosted by Worship Committee after worship on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**We recently had 145 families receiving help.  
As food prices have risen recently,  
Ongoing donations are especially needed.  
Drop off in the Narthex or  
Call or Text Judy at 609-670-4916 for pickup  
at your home**

# Stewardship Letter – October 2024



## Happy Halloween We Welcome the Fall Season

Here is an update on our July 2024 Financials:

<b>Balance 8/1/2024</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursed</b>	<b>Balance 8/31/2024.</b>
(\$-4,445.04)	+\$6,860.30	(\$-13,262.70)	<b>(\$-10,847.50)</b>

As you can see above, our balance in our Parish decreased **(\$-6,402.46)** over the month of August 2024. As you can see our expenses are exceeding our receipts and our Parish is now in the negative as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Thank you all for your generous contributions each month.

Well, it is that wonderful time of the year, beautiful Fall colors, leaves falling to the ground, crisp cool winds blowing and time for changing our shorts and bathing suits to warmer clothing and light jackets to feel warm and cozy. It is so nice to be able to experience all four of the seasons the God has given us to make our lives more interesting and enjoyable. So, take time to take a nice long walk through the woods, listen to nature, hear, and see God's creation.

As we move closer and closer the upcoming Advent Season, we must remember to be Thankful for all of God's mercy and blessing that he rains down on us every day, stop complaining about things, learning to live a life of gratitude. You will see a change in your life for the better, and life will be more fulfilling.

We had a wonderful time at the Bethany Annual Picnic with our Church Service held outdoors to celebrate God's Creation. There was lots of tasty food made by lots of hands and shared by all, just the way God wants us to live. I hope everyone had a wonderful time, I know I sure did, the fellowship with each other was the best course served at our event.

I am looking forward to our Fall Season, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and eventually Christmas!

Please be safe and I hope to see you all in Church on Sunday if you can attend, if not catch it on the Bethany Lutheran Church website.

**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**

# WELCA

**Martha:** October 8<sup>th</sup> 11 AM - 1 PM

**Eve:** October 9<sup>th</sup> 11 AM - 1 PM

**Projects:** September - December **Urban Promise** (Cash donation)

**Christian Service Project** for WELCA and Congregation-Sock Collection for children and adults.  
Drop off all donations in the Narthex Box.

**Topic:** TBD

**Important information:** Cross Roads Women's Retreat: The Feminine Face of God  
October 18-20, 2024, Port Murray, NJ.

This will be an interesting week-end. Sign up by October 11, 2024.  
We have a few women signed up already

Pamphlets with all information will be found in the Narthex.

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## Worship Committee

Worship services in the month of September focused on Season of Creation (September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>). Members of the congregation provided fresh flowers each Sunday. They were a beautiful addition to the services.

Also in September:

Marli Butler (daughter of Jeff and Chelsea Butler) had her first communion on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Her Bethany Church family was very proud of her.

We enjoyed worship service outdoors, followed by our annual picnic on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. It appeared that all who attended had a wonderful day.

Coming up in October:

There will be a Blessing of Pets on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM. This will be held on the Morgan Avenue side of the church.

Worship Committee will be hosting a coffee hour after church on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Hope you can join us.

Looking at our October Calendar:

October 6<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 20, Holy Communion  
October 13<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 21, Holy Communion  
October 20<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 22, Holy Communion  
October 27<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 23, Holy Communion. This is Reformation Sunday

If you are interested in getting more involved in your church, the Worship Committee would be happy to:

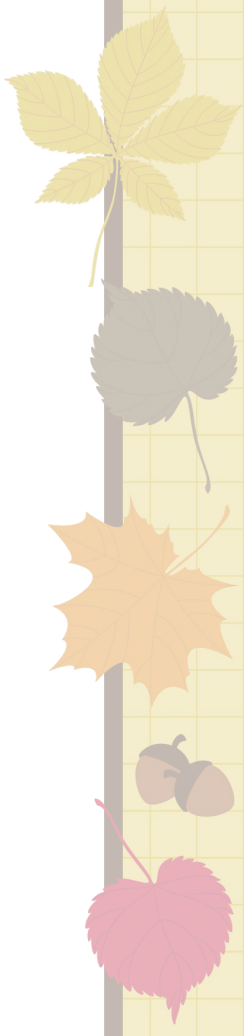
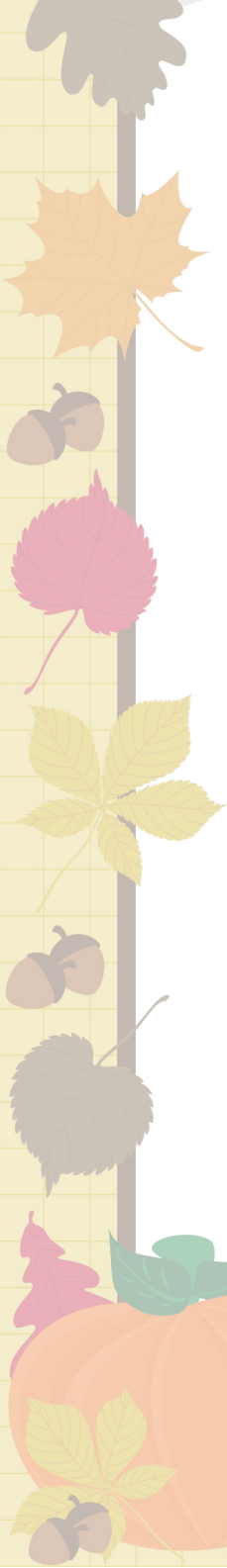
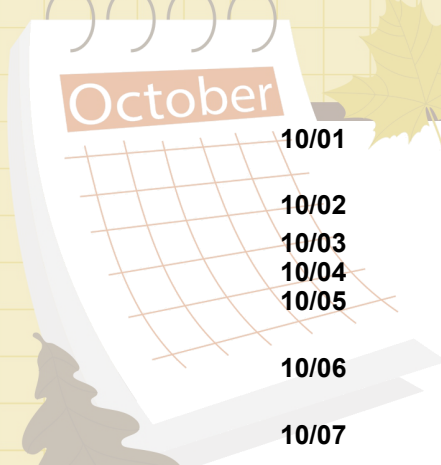
Have you attend our monthly meeting. They are generally held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00PM.

Have you join the Altar Guild, as we are looking for additional volunteers.

# What's Happening...

October

- 10/01** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/02** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 10/03** 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Pack Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
- 10/04**
- 10/05** 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/06** Communion  
1:00 PM: Pet Blessing (Morgan Avenue side of Church)
- 10/07** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM: Worship Meeting (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- 10/08** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Martha Circle (Miller House)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/09** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Eve Circle (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Troop Comm. Meet (Church 2nd Floor)
- 10/10**
- 10/11**
- 10/12** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/13** Communion/Pumpkin Carving
- 10/14** **Columbus/Indigenous People's Day**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- 10/15** 11:15 AM: Women's Luncheon (Martiza's Maple Shade)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM: Council Meeting (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/16** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 10/17** 10:30 AM: WELCA Exec Board. Meeting (Miller House)
- 10/18** Women's Retreat  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/19** Women's Retreat  
8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Cinnaminson Diner)  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/20** Women's Retreat  
Communion/Coffee Hour  
3:00 PM NJ Youth Soccer Trip (Red Bull Arena)
- 10/21** Bethany News Articles are due  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- 10/22** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/23** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 10/24**
- 10/25**
- 10/26** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10/27** Communion/Reformation Sunday
- 10/28** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Quilters (Miller House)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- 10/29** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Piano/Organ Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Scouts (Gibson Hall/Undercroft)
- 10/30** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Bible Study (Miller House)
- 10/31** **Halloween**





# October

01 Carmen Knowles

02 Raymond Paszkewicz, III

03 Raymond Brown

04 Scott Vetrecin

05 William Isard, Sr.

06 Marlene Conover

09 Megan William

10 Ruthanne Arcaini

11 Tom Tessitore

12 Dominick Marandola

13 Kayla Edge

14 Dorothy Kolarovic

21 Miriam Confer

21 Jacquelyn Dorworth

21 Nicole Lumley

22 Martha Rimathe

24 Robert Fields

27 Chelsea Butler

# *Pet Blessing*



*Sunday,*

*October 6, 2024*

*1:00 PM*

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



# Pumpkin Carving at Bethany

**Who:** All Kids from ages 1 to 101

**What:** Bring your Favorite Carving tool and design

**When:** October 13, 2024,

immediately following church service

**Where:** Behind Miller House

(weather permitting) or Gibson Hall

**RSVP BY:** 10/09/2024

**RSVP to Emily at:**

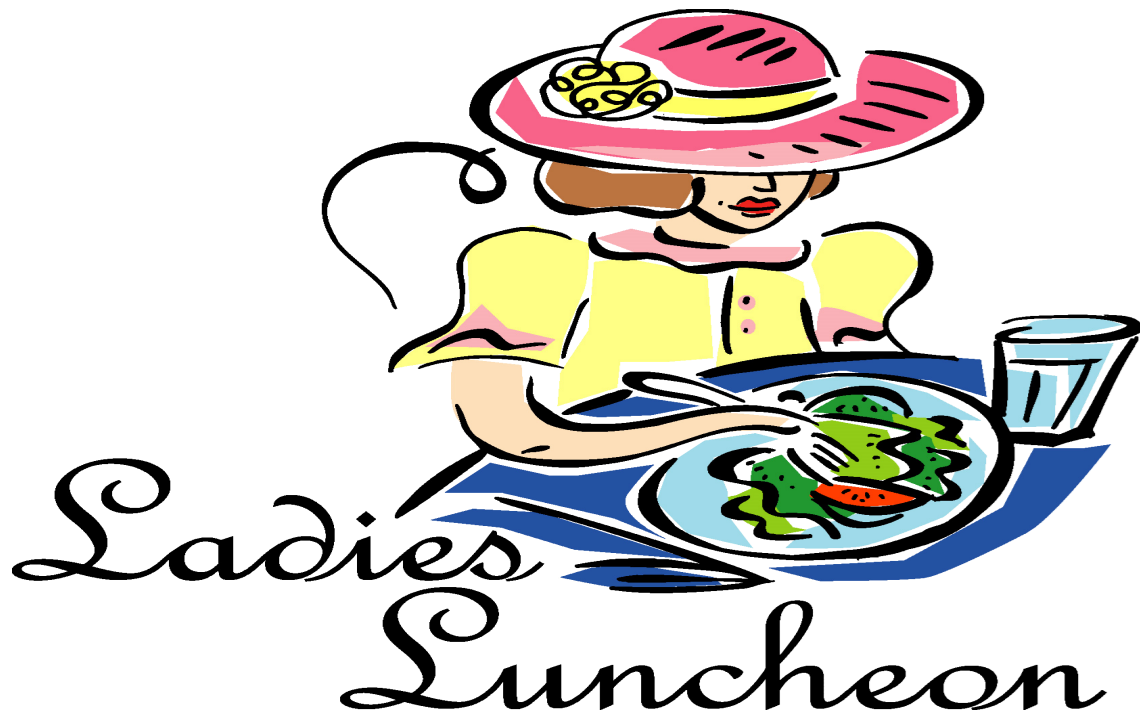
[emilycheney85@gmail.com](mailto:emilycheney85@gmail.com)

**Or Pastor Bre at:**

[pastorbreanna@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbreanna@gmail.com)



October 15, 2024



At 11:15<sup>am</sup> Maritza's, Maple Shade

To make your reservations,  
sign up in the Narthex or call the office

856-829-2373

Transportation will be provided if needed.

# Crossroads



**October 18, 2024 4:00 PM**

**to**

**October 20, 2024 11:00 AM**

## **Women's Retreat**

2024 Theme:

*The Feminine Face of God:  
Celebrating the Sacred Within*

29 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865

Phone: 908-832-7264

[www.crossroadsretreat.com/womens-retreat/](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com/womens-retreat/)

⚽ NJ SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO ⚽



## Join Us for a Fun-Filled Evening of Soccer and Fellowship!

Calling all youth, families, and leaders from the NJ Synod congregations! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 20, 2024, as we gather at Red Bull Arena for an exciting match between Gotham FC and Orlando Pride. Tailgating starts at 3:00 PM, followed by kickoff at 5:00 PM.

For just \$5.00 per person, enjoy an afternoon of fellowship before cheering on some of the world's best women athletes, including stars from the US Women's National Team. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to connect with youth from across the NJ Synod while supporting Women in sports.

Register today and be a part of this unforgettable experience!

<https://forms.gle/HJX5yzFgU2MvEEhC7>

**CREATED  
TO BE**

**NJ SYNOD**  
**YOUTH  
RETREAT**

**NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024**

**FOR YOUTH GRADES 6-12 & ADULT LEADERS**

REGISTRATION: SEPT 1 - NOV 1 = \$150  
NOV 2 - NOV 18 = \$175

**REDUCED PRICE!**

(SCHOLARSHIPS AND PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE)

**[WWW.NJSYNOD.ORG/YOUTHRETREAT](http://WWW.NJSYNOD.ORG/YOUTHRETREAT)**

**SHERATON EDISON HOTEL**

**JOIN THE SYNOD BAND  
WITH LARRY OLSON!**



**YOUTHMIN@NJSYNOD.ORG**



**@NJSYNODYOUTHMIN**



**@NJ SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRY**

# WELCA



Bring in all donations by:

December 1, 2024

# In The Mail....



JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF CAMDEN  
856.246.1087  
PO Box 555  
Camden, NJ 08101  
<http://www.jhoc.org>

Mr. Robert Middleton  
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
617 Morgan Avenue  
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Dear Mr. Middleton,


We would like to express our gratitude for your Parish Appeal donation of check #1291, in the amount of \$1,000.00, dated 8.14.2024. At Joseph's House, we strive to provide comprehensive and personalized support to individuals experiencing homelessness, helping them to gain stability and take control of their lives. Your gift will help us to continue providing shelter, food, clothing, and other essentials to our neighbors in Camden who are facing homelessness. These funds allow us to make a measurable difference in our community.

Joseph's House of Camden is able to offer much-needed resources and individualized services to assist guests in transitioning to permanent housing. With your support, we were able to serve 864 unduplicated individuals and see 131 of them move into their own homes.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Colandra Coleman

**Executive Director**

*We are truly grateful for this generosity. Thank you for supporting our unsheltered neighbors!* 



Joseph's House of Camden, LLC is a 501 (c) (3) organization and no goods or services were provided in consideration for your gift.

Please save this letter for tax purposes.

# In The Mail....

## CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

29 Pleasant Grove Road Port Murray, NJ 07865 Ph: (908) 832-7264 Fax: (908) 832-6593

[www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com)

*Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a welcoming and inclusive community providing life changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy.*

August 19, 2024

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
617 Morgan Ave  
Palmyra, NJ 08065-1929

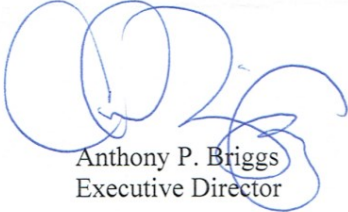
Dear Lay Leaders and Congregation,

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center provides life-changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy. This has only been possible through the generous support of countless people and organizations, including you. Thank you so much for the generous gift of \$1,000 on August 19, 2024.

Partners like Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church support our entire ministry, including summer camp, our year-round programs for all ages, and hosted retreat groups from all over the tristate area. In recent years, support from our community has helped us grow in our year-round usage and grow the impact our ministry has on families. As a Partner, you are ensuring that our ministry can continue to thrive in the years to come.

We are grateful for you and the many ways you continue to support our ministry. We look forward to another year of ministry with you. Please continue to keep Cross Roads in your heart and in your prayers. And thank you once again for your partnership.

Peace,

  
Anthony P. Briggs  
Executive Director

*Thank you all for  
your support + generous  
gift!*

No goods or services were received in exchange for your donation.

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal Tax ID: 22-3715488, and your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this receipt for your tax records.

Cross Roads is an Ecumenical Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New Jersey Synod



# In The Mail....



August 20, 2024

Reverend Breanna Tessitore  
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
617 Morgan Avenue  
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Dear Breanna:

Your gift of \$500.00 to Project Backpack supports a child living in a safe home in New Jersey. Because of you, a student will start their school year feeling confident and prepared.

A child often transitions into a safe home with limited personal belongings, which unfortunately may not include a backpack and school supplies. Your donation sends an incredible message of care and empowerment to a child who may find themselves in a challenging situation.

Thanks to your support, a child in the care of Center For Family Services is able to receive exactly the tools that they need to achieve academic success. Because of your donation, a child can experience the joy of picking out a backpack in their favorite color or with their favorite character, adding excitement and fun to their school year.

Your generosity improves the odds of academic excellence for a student. Thank you for your help in changing a life and redefining the future for a child in your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard".

Richard Stagliano  
CEO

Thanks!!

Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Center For Family Services Tax ID # is 22-3669704.

# In The Mail....



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

August 28, 2024

*Thank You*

Bethany Lutheran Church  
617 Morgan Ave  
Palmyra, NJ 08065-1929

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

*"[Jesus said,] 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' [The lawyer] said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"*  
(Luke 10:36-37)

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity

*P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.*

# In The Mail....



September 16, 2024

Bethany Lutheran Church  
617 Morgan Avenue  
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Dear Friends at Bethany Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1000, and your commitment to supporting our students. We often say that we believe in our students until they believe in themselves. To believe that they *can* do this, that they *are* capable, that their dreams *are* possible so fervently and consistently and unwaveringly that, little by little, they start to believe it, too.

I want to thank you, in turn, for believing in us, in our little school that could. We couldn't exist without you, couldn't continue to do the work that we do without your continued faith and support. Thank you for seeing the value in our work. Thank you for seeing the value in our students' lives. We believe that each and every one of them has something amazing to offer to those around them and to the world. And it means the world to me that you believe so, too. This—all of us believing together—is truly the Power of Orchard in action. It is its own kind of magic. And it is amazing to see.

As we kick off another school year, I want you to know that your gift will touch so many lives on so many levels. New classroom supplies and resources. Professional development, teacher training, and certifications, facilities improvements and operational costs. And, perhaps most importantly, financial aid to ensure that more students who need a school like ours to learn have the opportunity to attend.

Thank you for believing in potential and possibility. Thank you for believing in our students. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for believing in us.

Sincerely,

*Beth*

Beth DiPerna, MA, EdS, LAC  
Head of School

*We can't thank you enough for your continued generous support.*

Orchard Friends is a 501c3, non-profit corporation, and our Tax ID number is #22-3589582.

**Orchard Friends School**  
405 Linden Avenue  
Riverton, NJ 08077

+1 856 786 1123  
contact@orchardfriends.org  
[www.orchardfriends.org](http://www.orchardfriends.org)

ACCREDITED BY MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

# In The Mail....



**BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY**  
*"A Faith-Based Ministry of Palmyra, Riverton, and Cinnaminson"*  
501 Morgan Avenue • Palmyra, New Jersey 08065 • (856) 829-1908

September, 2024

Greetings Ministry Partners of the Bread of Life Food Pantry,

As autumn approaches, the holidays will soon be upon us and it will be time once again for our annual Angel Tree collection. This is a wonderful opportunity to help bless our pantry clients with holiday gifts for their children. We hope that you will help us help those less fortunate in the coming season of giving.

Angels can be picked up at Bread of Life on November 13 & 14 during food drop off, and all gifts will need to be brought to Epworth by Monday, December 16.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Bread of Life Angel Tree Ministry  
Sharon Wariner, Coordinator  
856-220-1949  
SLSuch11@aol.com