

The Ambassador



Summer 2020

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



*Commemoration of the
Emmanuel Nine
Wednesday, June 17th 12PM*



Find us on FACEBOOK 11AM!

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from the Pastor's desk

Beloved People of God,
“Never lag in zeal. Be aglow with the Spirit. Serve the Lord.” Romans 12:11

This verse has brought me much comfort through this time of social unrest and “Stay at Home” orders. I have tried to embody this as a guide for my life. Lately, I find myself praying these words with hope that I receive the same encouragement the

Apostle Paul intended to share with the church in Rome. Encouragement is needed, especially in times like this. The fact is, one of the hardest decisions I’ve had to make in my call as vicar here at Saint Bart’s was to suspend worship back in March. In hindsight, it was the right decision. Another, very difficult decision, is when worship, in physical community, should resume. This letter is meant to serve as a guide for this decision and I hope it may bring you some encouragement.

There has been discussions going on since the loosening of restrictions enacted just this month in our state. I am aware of other congregations going forward with plans on outdoor worship beginning at the end of this month. I have poured over orders from the state government, local medical expertise, recommendations from health officials, recommendations from the NJ Synod and the *ELCA’s Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship Being Church Together During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Updated May 12, 2020)*. We recognize that many may not feel safe nor find it advisable to gather for in-person worship for some time. A guided “phased” approach is recommended with the aim of reducing the level of risk for our community while addressing how we will provide opportunities for worship. The “phased” approach will likely not be linear. There will be times of gradual reopening potentially even followed by new restrictions. In all situations, we will err on the side of protection for the most vulnerable and love for our neighbor and ourselves, knowing that change is inevitable. Patience, grace, and flexibility will be necessary as we strive to make the most appropriate decisions for the people of God in our community at this time. As we are currently in Phase 1, and for Phase 2 worship beginning June 28 thru the summer and, at least, the early fall. Phase 3 will be addressed at another time.

Phase 1 is currently in place as we offer worship on-line.

We will continue to strive to communicate clearly with you through Facebook Live. Throughout all phases, we will continue to encourage our each other to stay in touch, and check in on our members through phone calls, curbside visits, emails, Facebook and mailings. We will use clear signage that describes church policies and best hygiene practices.

We are requiring the wearing of face masks/coverings for those in our building and will have some available for those who arrive without them. This is a way for us to protect the most vulnerable among us and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Phase 2: Outdoor Worship at 9 30.am. by- weekly (possibly once a month. and 11:00 a.m. Live stream the opposite week. Beginning June 28th. St. Bart’s is blessed to have a wonderful parking lot, which we believe can serve as a worship space throughout the summer and into the fall.

Please contact Vicar Erich whenever you are in need of pastoral care or are aware of others who may be in need of pastoral care at 201-618-6544 (personal) or 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

Not Just Going to Church, But Being the Church

2020 Synod Assembly Love Matters

Because of the uncertainties of what life will look like in mid-September, the Council agreed that holding a traditional assembly at a hotel was not prudent. Making this decision now allows us to change our contract with the hotel without incurring financial penalties. We will hold a one-day assembly on Saturday, September 12. It will look and feel different from past assemblies. It is possible we may gather in our six Mission Districts rather than in one central location, but we are still exploring our options. For now, know that you will be receiving a full refund for any registrations paid. Hotel room reservations for 2020 will be cancelled by the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village. As soon as detailed logistics are available, you will receive them.

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Worshipping outdoors allows for greater distancing without adding several additional worship services and disinfecting each space after each use if we were to worship indoors at this time. Further, as mentioned above this allows any aerosols created to dissipate more quickly.

9:30a.m. will be a worship service. Jo-Ann will be utilizing a keyboard for hymns. We will use the Service of the Word & Sacrament with pre-packaged communion kits. Refrain from handshakes, passing offering plates, and handing out hymnals. One family unit will sit together. All others will sit 6ft apart. Some chairs are available but feel free to bring your own, and utilize physical distancing protocols of six feet between family units.

The facility will remain closed, except for those preparing for worship or for emergency purposes. **There will be no restrooms available.** Worshipers are expected to wear masks while on church property as a way of protecting the vulnerable and loving our neighbors and ourselves.

Anyone who is experiencing any symptoms of illness please refrain from attending. Those who are in the most vulnerable population, including those over 65, those with underlying illness, or weakened immune systems, please consider your own personal risk before making the decision to attend. Services will be available on-line utilizing Facebook Live. We will provide an opportunity for communion by providing you to with **prepackaged** communion kits.

Phase 3: Church activities open for more than 50 people (Federal Guideline Phase 3):

I look forward to being able to worship with you in our beautiful sanctuary. Guidelines will be provided when more than 50 can meet once again. This may look like a 2 - service format: one service at 930AM, the second at 11AM. It is our hope that more time and effort will help everyone gain a better understanding of what measures will be necessary to control the spread of COVID-19 to those that are most in need of protection from it. Guidelines will be provided when more than 50 can meet once again.

A Word about Singing and Praying Together

Sadly, singing together, even from a distance, is one of the riskiest behaviors due to the spread of aerosols and droplets that can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air. Singing utilizes forced air and projects further, making masks less effective to protect your neighbor. Further, the preparatory breaths taken during singing or playing wind instruments are deep inhalations, even diaphragmatic breaths for the trained musicians, causes the lungs to expand and take in air beyond typical shallow breathing. For singing, we encourage you to take the position of prayer, bowing your heads and singing softly. Similar caution applies to unison speaking, such as reciting the Lord's Prayer and other communal speech. We will encourage you to share any communal speech and prayers by taking the position of prayer, bowing your heads, and speaking softly.

May we all continue to be filled with God's zeal and Spirit and serve the Lord!

In Christ's Service,

Vicar Erich Kussman.



❖ Thank you to our dedicated members who have served meals and packed grocery bags for our community in providing over a thousand meals and bags through this pandemic: **Jack Fletcher, Virgie Plantier, Brandon Plantier, & Paul Pavlov!**

Keep in Prayer Our Homebound Members

Bob Farr
Carol Black
John Holpp
Vi Teschke & George Van Pelt



Congregational Birthdays

Apologies for any omission of dates

June:

2 – Danielle La Flame
6 – Rob Conover
8- Juliana Adams
14- Paul Pavlov
15- Crystal Mura
22 – John Conover
Robert Worth
24 – Bryan Schendlinger
Victoria Horsburgh-Lidicker
28- Mildred Marcelle

July:

4 - Bob Farr
11 – Shawn Lidicker
18 – Debbie Formoso
21 – Eric Plantier
Kelly Calderone
26 – Margaret Thomas
Jim Springstead
Alan Ari
Jack Fletcher

August

2 –Bob Eversberg
Sean Worth
19 – Rosemary Dwyer
Marcia Good
31 – Joseph Calderone

ANNIVERSARIES AUGUST

8- Katrina & Matthew Dillon
25- Jack & Barb Fletcher

Church News

Worship at St. Barts

Online Worship 11AM

Commemoration of the Emmanuel Nine
Wednesday June 17th 12PM

June 28th outdoor worship 930AM

Bible Study

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HAVE A MORE INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY UNTIL WE'RE ABLE TO MEET AT CHURCH AGAIN. STARTING THIS WEEK, THE GOSPEL READING AND STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE COMING SUNDAY WILL BE POSTED EVERY WEDNESDAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR RESPONSES TO OR COMMENTS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO:

AT THE END OF THE WEEK, ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED WILL BE COMPILED AND ADDED TO THE POSTING ON SATURDAY. WE HOPE THAT THIS NEW PROCESS WILL ENCOURAGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE GOSPEL READING EACH WEEK.



Donations and Tithes Can Be Given Online!

Go to www.stbathlutheran.org can click on the donate tab!



Mark your calendars:

St Bart's Clean Up Day

Information will be made available for this as we find out when we can reopen our building for service.

Men's Luncheon

The Men's Luncheon has been postponed at the current time.

COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

Clothes Closet



Our Clothes Closet has been put on hold until we can find a way to safely give clothes out. We will provide clothes on an emergency basis.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

Third Thursday of Each Month 3:20pm-4:50pm

Postponed until further notice,

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

Fellowship – Small Groups

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Women's Group has been postponed at the current time.

Mens' Group

This has been postponed at this current time

Music Ensemble

(Norman Darcelle)

Postponed until further notice.

Bell Choir

Postponed until further notice.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
1930 Highway 33, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

May 22, 2020 Dear Friends,

Just this afternoon, President Trump declared houses of worship to be essential and to open this weekend. I would agree that houses of worship are essential. Throughout this pandemic and stay-at-home order, our congregations have continued to provide essential ministry by proclaiming the gospel, feeding the hungry, advocating for the most vulnerable, carrying out Christian education, and being the church for the sake of the world. While we have not gathered in person, we have continued to be open.

The declaration about opening this weekend should not lead you to rush to have in person indoor worship services. I am eager to gather again in person but not at the expense of the most vulnerable among us. Many of our members and most active churchgoers are older which puts them in a high-risk category. Some of our rostered leaders have underlying health conditions, which also puts them in a high-risk category. A number of our buildings do not allow for the physical distancing required (6 feet between non-family groups) to have more than a handful of people present. In NJ, the stay-at-home orders remain in place.

Please follow the guidance we put out last week and utilize a congregational planning team to make decisions about how to gather again in person in your building when it is safe to do so. It is better to plan a methodical phased return than to risk causing an outbreak of COVID19.

My prayers are with you as you make these decisions,

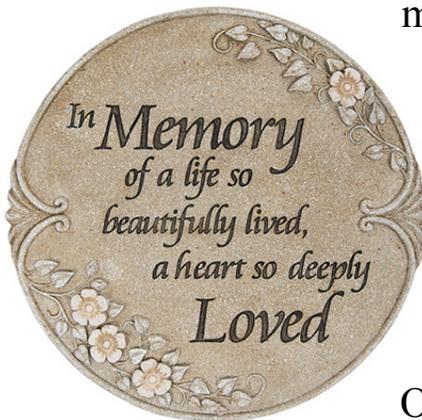
Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew

In Loving Memory of

Carol Shevelev

We mourn the death of our sister in Christ, Carolyn Shevelev.

Carol passed away on June 9th. Carol was a long time member of St. Bartholomew, starting as a child and being confirmed here.



Carol taught Sunday School, played the piano for the Saturday night services when we had them, sent lots of cards, contacted the shut ins, and always loved her St. Barts.

Our deepest sympathy to her husband Fred, her family and her Best Friend Rosemary Dwyer.

Saint Bart's "Community Chest" Food Pantry

Thank you to all who help support the community!!!



Thank you to: Prince of Peace, Saint Paul's, Christ the King, Abiding Presence, Living Hope, Saint Mark's, and the NJ Synod!!!

But BEING the Church



Not Just Going to Church...

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DATED MATERIAL