

# FALL



at



## The Ambassador

IT'S FALL, Y'ALL!

FALL 2025

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



*Bible Study* - 9:45 AM  
*Sunday Worship* - 11:00 AM



2nd & 4th  
 Saturday  
 of the month

9:00 AM

1748 S. Clinton Ave / Trenton

### CONTENTS

From the Pastor's Desk	Pg 1
Message From Council President.	Pg 3
Thank You's	Pg 4
Congregational Birthdays	Pg 4
Church News & Worship	Pg 5
Community Service	Pg 6
Fellowship & Small Groups	Pg 6
Highlights of the Summer	Pg 7
Enid's Pantry	Pg 8

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

MARTIN LUTHER



from the Pastor's desk

## *Beloved People of God,*

Fall arrives like a threshold. One season gives way to another. The rhythms of summer and its slower pace, long evenings and looser schedules, begin to fade. In their place come sharpened pencils, schedules pinned to refrigerators, early alarms, and new shoes that don't yet have dirt on them.

This time of year is filled with change. Some of it is exciting new beginnings, fresh notebooks, eager anticipation. Some of it brings anxiety like those first days, unknown classmates, academic pressure, shifting routines. And for many, especially our children, it is all of that at once.

At its core, this season reminds us that life does not stand still. And yet, in the midst of this seasonal shift, God is not absent. In fact, God is deeply present, woven into each bus stop wave, each lunchbox packed with care, each anxious first step into a classroom. God meets us in the newness, in the worry, in the growth.

Unlike many churches, St. Bart's does not have a "slow season." In many traditional churches, summer is when much of the church goes on cruise control. School is out; the organizations do not meet; and attendance declines as people head off on vacation. At St. Bart's, attendance was pretty decent during the summer. Late spring to early fall is also has also seen baptisms, weddings, and 1<sup>st</sup> communions!

However, as we move into fall, some groups do "ramp up." The RAWtools shop will be having plenty of hours for shop time and learning. Our Bible Study also resumes meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am. We began the year, transforming the way we do ministry which only continues to flourish especially with our new full partnership with Mercer Street Friends. We gained a new awesome family who have jumped in head first! They join some returning members who we missed! Also take a look outside the church and see the wonderful work that was done. .

Now we have ministry opportunities and faith formation programs coming up- Bible Study, RAWtools, Martha's Breakfast, Turkey Drive; but are we building community and are we praying together? Does our group in some way mirror what we do at Sunday Service and make it more immediate and personal?

**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!"*

I have a Spanish Liturgy retreat this fall and a chance to preach to folks incarcerated in South Dakota in October. Also we continue to monitor the situations and climate of ICE raids in our community. If you hear the bell, then you know ICE is around.

So as we step into Fall, let's commit to being church for each other - especially for our children. Let's be a place where people feel welcomed, tears are held, wins are celebrated, questions are welcomed, and every child knows they are beloved by God.

Let us show up - not just for programs or service- but for people. Let us be foolish in all the right ways: slowing down, welcoming loudly, and valuing presence over polish.

Let us build a season - not around perfection - but around grace.

And may those who walk through our doors, whether once or every week, know this truth deep in their bones:

They are loved by this God.

They are loved by this church.

And they belong.

**In Christ,**

Pastor Erich

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### **Staff and Officers of St. Bartholomew**

Reverend Erich Kussman, Pastor

Virgie Plantier, Sexton

Jo-Ann Sciarrotta, Music Administrator

Brandon Plantier, Media/Musician

Jackie Prekop, Enid's Pantry Coordinator

Cindy Percak, Financial Secretary & Office Administrator

### **Congregation Council**

Chris Rivera, President

Brandon Plantier, Vice President

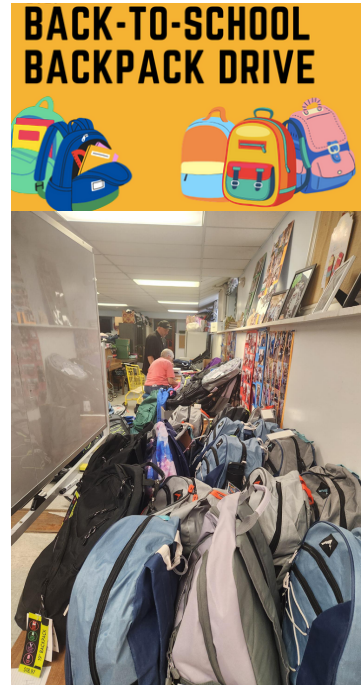
Jackie Prekop, Secretary

Debbie Formoso

Virginia McNulty

Cindy Percak, ex officio

+ Enid Rivera, in memoriam



Thank you to  
ALL our partners  
and "Angels"  
who helped  
provide over 400  
children new  
backpacks and  
school supplies,  
ensuring they  
have the  
necessary tools to  
succeed in  
school. You  
donated items,  
made monetary  
contributions, and  
organized to be a  
blessing!!!!

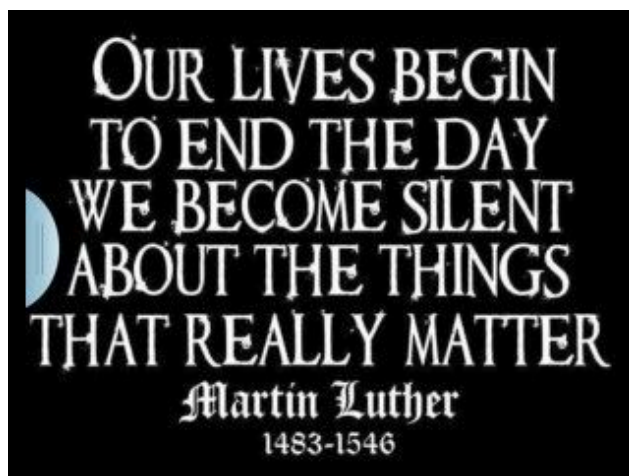
# Message from the Council President

As summer draws to a close I want to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful work our congregation has accomplished together. One of the true highlights was our Backpack Drive, which was a tremendous success. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide backpacks filled with supplies for students in the South Ward and neighboring districts, helping them begin the school year with confidence and encouragement. The amount of backpacks was 415 in total.

Our worship services continue to be a source of strength and inspiration, and our commitment to the Food Pantry remains strong as we serve our neighbors in need. The ministry has been an ongoing blessing, and your support allows us to continue meeting both physical and spiritual needs in our community. On Saturdays, we've continued to gather in fellowship and service, and I am encouraged each week by the dedication of those who show up faithfully to support these efforts.

Looking ahead, I am truly excited for the ministries and opportunities awaiting us this fall and winter. Whether through new initiatives or beloved traditions, I believe God is preparing us for a season filled with growth, service, and community impact. Thank you for your faithfulness and your willingness to serve. Together, we are building a vibrant ministry that extends beyond our walls and blesses many. The RAWtools shop is open Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m., weather permitting. Farmer's Market is on Fridays at 9 a.m. Martha's Breakfast is also going well. We welcomed our new synod bishop, Christa Compton, at her installation.

With gratitude and faith,  
Christopher Rivera  
Church Council president



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 is located in the Fellowship Hall for your deposits.





Thank you to our dedicated members who have given produce and packed grocery bags for our community in providing thousands of meals and bags of food: **Jackie, Brandon, the Arcos Army Chris, Don, Lisa, Jim & Gay Egan, Rolf & St Paul's, Walt, & Barb!**

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

## Keep in Prayer Our Homebound Members

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

# RE•FORMATION

## THEN • NOW • ALWAYS



## 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  
9 – Kaiden Arcos  
11 – Katrina Dillon  
23 – Cindy Percak  
28 – Kathy McNulty

### Anniversaries

10/10 – Ashley & Erich  
Kussman

“

A Christian is: a mind  
through which Christ thinks,  
a heart through which Christ  
loves, a voice through which  
Christ speaks, and a hand  
through which Christ helps.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

GRACIOUSQUOTES.COM



Are you receiving our weekly e-news? If not, please send a message to:

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

# Church News



**RAWtools Shop Hours: Fridays & Saturdays at 1PM!**

**Spanish Services : 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9AM!**



Begins September 14th  
@ 9:45AM  
in the Community Center (parsonage)



Mark your  
calendars:

**Sparking Peace**

*(Children's Event)*

September 6<sup>th</sup> 11am

**Volunteer Training**

September 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm

**Bible Study**

Resuming September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Blessing of the Animals**

October 5<sup>th</sup>

**Reformation Sunday**

October 26<sup>th</sup>

**Daylight Savings**

November 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Turkey Drive**

November 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am

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

Go to  
[www.stbartlutheran.net](http://www.stbartlutheran.net)  
and click on the donate  
tab!

# COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

## Enid's Food Pantry

Open every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays @ 10AM /  
Farmer's Market Fridays @ 9AM  
(must go through volunteer training 9/14)



## 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

Martha's Breakfast  
September 30<sup>th</sup>

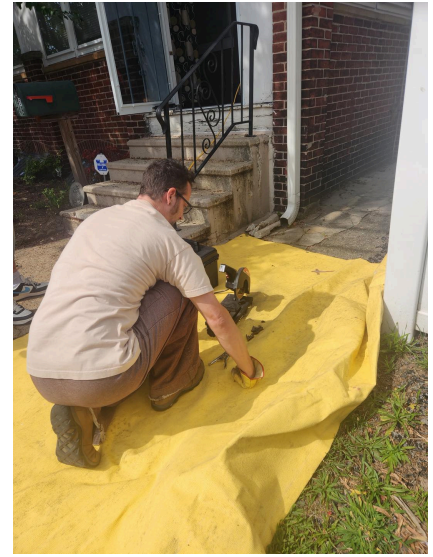


## Bell Choir

After a break, practice will start again on September 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30am. If you are interested in ringing, please talk to Barb Schendlinger.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF SUMMER 2025



## **Enid's Pantry/Farmers Against Hunger**

Submitted by Jackie Prekop

Enid's Pantry has been doing very well these past summer months. We were able to provide families with bags of canned and shelf stable food as well as eggs and produce. Our numbers prove that there is still a great need to help those with food insecurities serving over 100 people each time.

I would like to thank all those that contribute, whether with monetary donations or with goods. This helps us continue to serve our community. The pantry wouldn't be able to function without all our hands-on volunteers either. Those that show up during the week to organize as well as those who show up to help on Saturdays and get a chance to meet and serve the community. St Bart's is blessed to have you all.

New news for Enid's starting in September. We will be partnering with Mercer Street Friends and will be able to receive more food such as cheese, meats and fish. We are very happy to be able to do and give more to our neighbors.

On Fridays we have our Pop Up Pantry thanks to Farmers Against Hunger. Again we serve over 100 people a week. We seem to have a "regular crew" that show up to help and move things along. Things move very quickly on Fridays so Thank You "crew" for making it happen!

## **Backpack Giveaway**

As you know we had to change our Backpack giveaway this year. We ran it like we do our Enid's Pantry having everyone meet in the sanctuary. I am pleased to announce that we gave away 415 backpacks to anyone in pre-k through 12th grade.

This was all made possible by the generous donations (enough to make almost 500 backpacks) and the hard work of all those involved in filling and sorting. Everything ran smooth and took 2 hours to give away.

We at St. Bart's have been blessed to be able to bring happiness and a good start to the new school year for all our neighboring children.





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**DATED MATERIAL**