

# The Ambassador



*Not Just Going to Church, but Being the Church*

## Lenten Season / Easter 2021

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



*Ash Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>  
10AM - 6PM*

### Online Lenten Prayer

*February 24<sup>th</sup> 5PM  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> 5PM  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 5PM  
March 17<sup>th</sup> 5PM  
March 24<sup>th</sup> 5PM*

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## *Beloved People of God,*

from the Pastor's desk

We are entering this Lenten season and the coronavirus pandemic seems to be continuing to affect our loved ones and neighbors. Thankfully, vaccines are rolling out! With this being said, we will not be able to enter in person worship but hopefully we can restart outdoor worship beginning in Easter. I thank you for your thoughtful efforts to promote public health, further the common good, and care for the well-being of others as you continue to be the church of Jesus Christ in ministry. I thank you again for your creativity, energy, and caring during these difficult days.

I was reflecting upon John 2:13-22, where Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Jesus drove all of them out of the temple and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

We are a people familiar with political and social unrest. This political season has shown us how divided we are. We continue to witness the pursuit of justice in new forms that join a long history of prophetic responses to oppression. For many, there is a deep desire to dismantle the racial and economic systems tearing apart our nation and our neighborhoods. Yet, it is quite controversial in the church to suggest how we ought to respond to these calls for justice.

It can feel uncomfortable to try to navigate a world of chaos and division. Afraid that we might create even more division, we sometimes cling to the familiar. When we turn to this story of Jesus overturning tables in the temple, we see that our God does not shy away from the uncomfortable or controversial. During the season of Passover, Jesus entered the temple to find people selling cattle, sheep, and doves. In order for people to make the necessary sacrifices, there needed to be an exchange of goods. For the travelers coming from afar to celebrate in Jerusalem, they could purchase their sacrificial animals conveniently upon arrival. This might seem reasonable to us, but Jesus' reaction is to pour out all their money, turn over tables, and order those selling animals: "stop making my Father's house a marketplace." In the Gospel of John, Jesus does not focus in on individual greed, but he seems to critique and order a dismantling of the entire system. This system of the marketplace is not necessary, and he makes no promise to rebuild it. Instead, Jesus turns the disciples' attention to his own physical body. It is not the physical temple that will be resurrected after three days—it is the person of Jesus who will continue to draw near to offer life even after death. In this season of Lent, we practice releasing our clenched fists that cling to what is familiar. This is not an easy or passive task; it requires our constant attention to untangle ourselves from systems that seek to dehumanize and to profit off the soul of humanity. As we engage in this work, this passage reminds us where our God is.

**Please contact Pastor Erich whenever you are in need of pastoral care or are aware of others who may be in need of 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*

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, my eyes were open to how beautiful and open our community is. I learned that reflection with God is possible in any circumstance, whether that'd be in the overwhelming demands of school, or trying to get by in the midst of a global health crisis. I chose to celebrate Lent this year to remind myself to stay grounded in the faith, which has been difficult under the stress of life. Given the amount of love and support that has come out of this chaos though, I've been reminded that there's always a spare minute to reflect on our blessings, and that's enough reason to stay strong in our faith.

We don't know yet when we will return to in-person service, but hopefully it maybe soon as long as it is safe for our most vulnerable members. Yet know that Saint Bart's has been active and vibrant serving our neighbors weekly and our live stream attendance averages 70 a week!

I pray for ALL of you during this time and may we grow stronger by it.

Let us all pray: God of Justice, continue to draw near to us, for we know the journey is not always convenient or comfortable. When we find ourselves in seasons of despair, give us perseverance to continue on the journey, wisdom to untangle ourselves from systems of injustice, and courage to be enactors of justice. May we seek your comfort not in the systems that are familiar, but in the one who draws near. Amen.

With Christ's love,

*Pastor Erich Kussman*

## Ash

### Wednesday

The beginning of Lent 2021 is mere weeks away, raising questions about how to approach Ash Wednesday during a pandemic.

An ancient symbol of mortality and penitence in the Judaic and Christian faiths, ashes have marked the beginning of Lent since at least the eighth century.

What will the day look like? Will churches be open? Will there be the imposition of ashes? Will the imposition of ashes be safe? Will there be restrictions?

Pastor will be giving out Ash Wednesday kits from 10AM-3PM then 5PM-7PM.

You can place your own ashes on your head, partake in the sacrament, and burn something written you want to get rid of.



❖ Thank you to our dedicated members who have served meals and packed grocery bags for our community in providing thousands of meals and bags through this pandemic: **Jack Fletcher, Elliot M., Virgie Plantier, Brandon Plantier, Enid Rivera & Paul Pavlov!**

**Keep in Prayer  
Our Homebound Members**

Bob Farr  
Carol Black  
John Holpp,  
Roger, Kris,  
Vi Teschke



**Congregational Birthdays**

*Apologies for any omission of dates*



**February**

- 8 – Barbara Schendlinger
- 18 - Aiden Baneky
- 26 - Ashley Kussman
- 27 – Daniel Eisenberg
- 28- Craig Schendlinger

**March**

- 9 – Maria Sobke
- 19 – Sean Sobke
- 23 – Phillip Victor
- 27 –Joshua Marcelle
- 29 – Bill Teasenfitz
- 30 – Kris Pinter

**April**

- 6 – Miguel Velez
- 8 – Bill Schendlinger Jr
- 13 – Michael Worth
- 14 – Matthew Worth
- 14 - Alexis Russo
- 15 – Carol Andrejco
- 18 – Barbara Mazur
- 20 – Mary Ann Fues
- 22- Tracie Bartholomew
- 26 – Justin Mura

**MAY**

- 7 –James Springstead
- 17 – Ada Jallah
- 25 - Marcia Good
- 30 – Adam Fletcher

31 - Eleanor Dillon

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**February**

**2/19-** Norman & Mildred  
Marcelle

# Church News

## Worship at St. Bart's



With the Lenten season coming up, there are lots of opportunities for ways to worship in addition to Sunday morning. Brandon does live stream Church every week on Facebook. Church is at 11:00 AM. Lent starts February 17th with **Ash Wednesday**.

The distribution of "Lenten kits" will be from 10AM-3PM; 5PM-7PM by Pastor Erich Kussman at the front of the church with an online service at 515PM.

Holy Week starts on Sunday, March 28th with **Palm Sunday**. Our Palm Sunday service will be online. There will a Socially distanced **Palm Processional** at 1:00PM after service for all.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 1st, we will have online worship at at 5:00PM.

On **Good Friday**, April 2nd, we will have our Tennebrae service at 5:00 PM.

**Easter Vigil** is held on Saturday, April 3rd at 5:00PM.

*All are online services at the moment.*

**Easter Sunday** will be celebrated on April 4th. Come to worship on that glorious day **outdoors** if weather permits, when we shout Alleluia and a praise the Resurrection of Jesus!

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### 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 ON OUR **FB PAGE** AND OUR **WEBPAGE**. [www.stbartlutheran.org](http://www.stbartlutheran.org). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR RESPONSES TO OR COMMENTS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO: [barbfletcher2@aol.com](mailto:barbfletcher2@aol.com)

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.



Mark your calendars:

*Annual Meeting*  
March 2021 TBD

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

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

# COMMUNITY SERVICE POSSIBILITIES



## Clothes Closet

Our Clothes Closet & Food Pantry is open every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 10AM!  
*Feeding the 5000* initiative starts Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm then every Wednesday at 5pm. Dinner meals will be served.

## 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.

### Men's Group

This has been postponed at this current time

### Music Ensemble

(Norman Darcelle)

Postponed until further notice.

## Bell Choir

What do you get when you get 2 people and a lot of bells? A bell choir! When the Bell Choir last met, Brandon and Barb S. were able to perform for Christmas Eve service. We miss our fellow ringers and the chance to practice! When things are safe, we will start ringing again! In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy.

- Barb S.

# Welcome

New Members

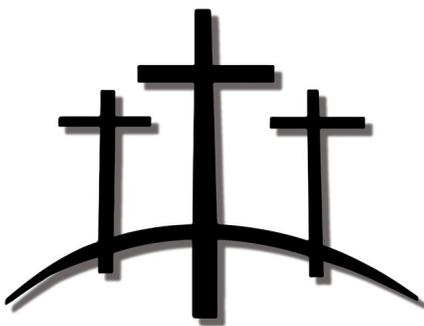


We are delighted to have you among us. On behalf of all the members of Saint Bartholomew's, we would like to extend our warmest welcome and good wishes!

## Shirley Dorsey



## Joel Liles





**Restaurant Dinner Meals**

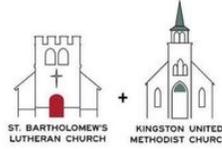
Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 5PM  
&  
Every Wednesday at 5PM

**3 Locations:**

**Saint Bartholomew  
Lutheran Church**  
1748 S Clinton Ave

**Living Hope Church**  
401 Farragut Avenue

**Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
of Trenton**  
1140 Greenwood Avenue



Help us  
**FIGHT  
FOOD  
INSECURITY**

Food insecurity is higher than it has ever been for neighbors in need. Join local churches in providing weekly meals to our Trenton neighbors.

We're looking for volunteers to pack lunches, and donations to buy food!



To sign up or donate to support our efforts, call 678-699-9637 or email [nikki@kingstonmethodist.org](mailto:nikki@kingstonmethodist.org).

The West Windsor "5000 Families Initiative" aims to help West Windsor dine-in restaurants survive this most difficult winter AND provide 10,000 meals to the food insecure in Trenton.

**WEST WINDSOR 5,000  
FAMILIES INITIATIVE**

Helping West Windsor dine-in restaurants survive this most difficult winter AND providing 10,000 meals to Trenton's food insecurity.

**Step One:**  
Donate to our  
**GoFundMe campaign**



**SCAN ME**

**Step Two:**  
Food collected is delivered to those in need by St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in Trenton.

Search us:  
GoFundMe: "West Windsor 5,000 Families Initiative"  
Venmo: "ww goodworks"

*"If you can't feed 100 people, then just feed one"*  
Mother Teresa

# **2021 Synod Assembly**

## **The 33rd Annual Synod Assembly**

**will take place virtually on May 7-8, 2021**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Synod Assembly will take place virtually on May 7 & 8, 2021 under the theme Springing Forth!

All are welcome! Assembly information can be found online at [www.njsynod.org/assembly](http://www.njsynod.org/assembly)

### **REGISTRATION:**

\$50.00 per Voting Member.

Voting Members may gather together to view the livestream, however, each Voting Member will need an individual device for voting purposes. More information on this will be shared as we get closer to assembly.

Visitors will not need to register to view the Assembly via livestream, however participation links will only be available to Voting Members.

If you have registration questions, please contact Dawn Roberts, Assembly Registrar, at [droberts@njsynod.org](mailto:droberts@njsynod.org). Online registration will open in February. The deadline for registration is March 22, 2021 (45 days prior to the Assembly, in keeping with our Synod Constitution). If you are unable to register online, please call the synod office at 609-586-6800.

In keeping with Synod policy, registration fees must be paid prior to the Assembly. You may pay online by credit card when you register or mail a check, with the congregation name, location, and registrants' names to:

Assembly Registration, NJ Synod, ELCA 1930 Highway 33, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690 Make all checks payable to: NJ Synod, ELCA

*Voting Members are: Lay Voting Members elected in their congregation; Lay NJ Synod Council Members; Rostered Leaders (Clergy/Deacons who are under call; special ministry; retired living in NJ).*

*Non-Voting Members are: Visitors; Guests; Rostered Leaders (Clergy/Deacons who are on leave from call; retired out of state).*

Each congregation is entitled to send two lay voting members of any age. In addition, the Synod Council adopted the following Continuing Resolution regarding Voting Members under the age of 30:

*Congregations with fewer than 500 baptized members may elect one additional Voting Member under the age of 30, and congregations with baptized membership of 500 or more may elect two additional Voting Members under the age of 30; however congregations that failed to file a Parochial Report in the prior year are assumed to have fewer than 500 baptized members, and therefore may elect only one additional Voting Member under the age of 30.*

### **CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS:**

You are invited to submit Resolutions for consideration by the Assembly. The Office of the Secretary must receive all resolution submissions by Monday, March 8, 2021 (60 days prior to the Assembly, in keeping with our Synod Bylaws). Please use the resolution form found on the Synod website. Please be succinct and to the point, following the guidelines on the "Resolution Worksheet." A resolution may be submitted by any voting member, synod council member or NJ Synod committee. Resolutions that are on time will be printed in the 2021 Assembly Bulletin of Reports.

### **BULLETIN OF REPORTS**

All reports from synod committees, teams and mission partners are due to the Office of the Secretary by Monday, March 8, 2021. ([cmack@njsynod.org](mailto:cmack@njsynod.org)) The 2021 Bulletin of Reports will be posted online no later than April 17<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of our synod secretary, I thank you for your faithful attention to these matters and ask that you share this information with your congregation so they might prayerfully consider full participation in this process.

We look forward to our time together in assembly as we share God's love in new ways.

Peace and blessings,  
Dawn Roberts, Assembly Registrar

## “Community Chest” Food Pantry

It has been a very active season in the food ministries of the church. What started out as a venture to help 15 families turned into a ministry of serving approximately 200 families every week. Our main days of operation are every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 10AM. Yet we give groceries out daily! We have given out thousands of bags of groceries and lunches since last March and it does not seem like we will be slowing down any time soon as many are affected by the COVID – 19 pandemic. We thank **ALL** of our partner churches for helping the community in Trenton! – **Prince of Peace, Abiding Presence, Christ the King, Saint Paul’s, Saint Mark’s, Living Waters, Kingston UMC, and Living Hope!**



But BEING the Church



Not Just Going to Church...

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**DATED MATERIAL**