

# The Ambassador



## FALL 2009

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, 1746 S. Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ 08610  
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**Thanksgiving Eve  
Service  
November 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2009**

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### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, in service to the Lord Jesus Christ, is a community of believers that hears the Word of God, Celebrates God's grace in the Sacraments, and shares God's love in word and deed.



from the Pastor's desk

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

An important part of my seminary education was to look back on my history and background in order to understand what sort of pastor I will be. At the same time, this community of St. Bartholomew has almost 100 years of history, filled with wonderful people and traditions, seeking the mission of God in Trenton. Not only the congregation,

but also each of us comes into this community of faith with different histories, values, and faith stories. Despite our differences, we all gather into this place, learning how to become a loving community of faith.

The stories where Jesus calls his disciples to follow him have a similar theme. When we hear about the different backgrounds of the disciples (fishermen, tax collectors, violent rebels), we see that these people came with different histories, values, and faith stories, all of them seeming to be so different and at odds that it would be hard to fathom them being able to do anything together. But it was this group that was called to share the message of God's redeeming love to all the world. *And they did it.*

As we learn to come together, to live and love together as the people of God, my hope is that we can learn to be faithful witnesses of the gospel, bringing all the things that make us unique together into an offering to God in our worship and ministry. Sometimes this can take time, patience, and speaking the truth in love, just as in every true relationship. Nevertheless, rooted in the grace and love of God in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we are able to do amazing things for the mission of God, just as those first disciples. As your new pastor, I hope that we are able to build and lift one another up, as well as be good disciples of Jesus. May God bless us in this new relationship and our future ministry together...

Peace,

Aaron Richter  
Pastor

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

This includes:

- sickness,
- hospitalization,
- 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

Just to name a few.

If you cannot reach Pastor Aaron (609-393-5744) than contact the church office (609-393-6060).



## Thank You!

❖ Thank you to **Barbara Fletcher, Pastor Mangiante, Norman Marcelle and Barbara Schendlinger** who played the hymns for worship this summer. Thank you for sharing your talent so that we can joyfully



❖ Thank you to **Barbara Schendlinger** for hosting the Women's picnic in August.



*Thank you from The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia*

"On behalf of President Krey, faculty, staff and students of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, thank you for supporting your seminary with a Seminary Sunday and financial gift of \$111.00. Your gift to the Leadership Fund directly supports seminary students with financial aid & scholarships."...

*Thank you from Pastor Moeser*

Dear members of St Bartholomew,

Many thanks for the beautiful card wishing Susan and I much happiness in our forth coming wedding on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ohio. I was blessed to serve with you in your outstanding community ministry. Best wishes for a new beginning with your new pastor. Best wishes always, Pastor Don Moeser (6/25/09)

*Thank you from the family of Bill Gretton*

Please thank all of the wonderful people that either prayed for our family or served in some way with Poppy's (Bill Gretton) funeral. We were so blessed by the love we felt at this hard time. We appreciated all you did and I wanted to personally thank all of you. Poppy will be terribly missed, but we know he is in heaven singing in the choir! Probably drinking coffee. Thank you for the kindness

towards our family.  
Blessing Marianne  
Curry

*Thank you from the Trenton Area Soup  
Kitchen*

Dear Friends of TASK. Thank you for your donation of \$65 to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK.) ... We serve a hot, nutritious lunch Monday through Friday and an evening meal Monday through Thursday at our Escher Street location. We also serve dinner Monday through Thursday at satellite locations in South Trenton. We are serving over 3,350 meals per week.

**Thank You to all the volunteers** of this years VBS,- "Crocodile Dock". We had approximately 40 children attend this year.

*Thank you from St. Mark Lutheran Church*

Thank you for sharing St. Bart's Crocodile Dock Decorations. The children and VBS crew enjoyed the bayou setting. It was really great to be able to use the incredible scenery you loaned us. We had a great time at VBS! Thanks for sharing your gifts with us.

## *Among Members & Friends*

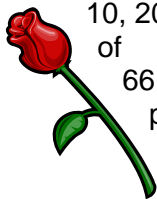
### Weddings

Our sincere congratulations to Pastor Donald Moeser and Susan, who were married on July 2nd, 2009 in Ohio.



### Deaths

**Bill Gretton**, died on June 10, 2009, at the age of 85. He was a member of St Bartholomew for 66 plus years. We extend our prayers to his



### Natural Church Development - Loving Relationships

(Barbara Fletcher)

The NCD Spiritual Health Team, having completed its work for the most recent cycle of Natural Church Development, looks forward to briefing Pastor Aaron on our past experiences with NCD here at St. Barts, and exploring with him our future options. We have sincerely appreciated your ongoing support of NCD, which has been such an important part of the progress we have enjoyed. As always, questions and comments from the congregation are welcome at any time and can be directed to Barb Fletcher. We ask that you would continue to pray for our congregation as we seek God's guidance for NCD going forward.



### 2009 NEIGHBORFEST

(Dick Cooper)

In 2002 St. Bart started something that has now become an annual tradition – the neighborhood

family.

Bill was the sexton here for 35 years, a member of both the bell and choral choir, a Deacon, and read to the children weekly when we ran the day care.

## Congratulations

We express our best wishes to Pastor J. Aaron Richter on his ordination, on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.

### Keep in Prayer Our Homebound Members

Dorothy Black Emma Brink  
Caroline Elmer Hazel Heath  
Helen Herbert Else Metcalfe  
Mary Nikinski Joe Servillo

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barbecue. Held in the fall of the year, the neighborhood barbecue is another large effort on the part of St. Bart members to evangelize into the community. On Saturday September 26th the 2009 Neighbor fest will continue our tradition by encouraging people to come to the church parking lot and take part in some free food, music, conversation, fellowship and games for the kids. The 2009 Neighbor fest will be much like previous barbecues and will start at 11:30 and end at 2:00 pm with lunch beginning at noon. Not only are all neighborhood residents encouraged to attend, but St. Bart members are asked to invite friends, family members and/or other acquaintances as well.

St. Bart extends thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their support of the 2009 Neighbor fest. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a fraternal organization that supports qualifying activities of many local congregations including St. Bartholomew so they can be more of a presence in their communities. In the weeks before the 2009 Neighbor fest there will be a signup sheet available for St. Bart members to volunteer for such duties as setup, de-setup, cooking, food handling, games, booth staffing, etc. There will also be announcements in the church service bulletins. If you have any questions you can email me at [DCooper@StBartLutheran.org](mailto:DCooper@StBartLutheran.org) or call me at 609-915-0789.

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**ST. BART**  
**"GOOD NEWS" KIDS' CLUB**

(Barbara Fletcher)

Club has finished its summer session and is looking forward to a new school year full of fun with the kids. We have a scheduled club session on **Saturday, September 19**, and we will soon be determining the remaining dates for this year. The Kids' Club meets in Fellowship Hall on scheduled Saturdays between **1:00 and 4:00 p.m.** We have nice homemade lunches together; we solve Bible-verse puzzles and enjoy Bible lessons; we have exciting games and wacky relay races; and we create arts and crafts projects with inspiring spiritual messages.

We usually expect from seven to fifteen children, and the good Lord continues to provide us with new faces all the time. We recently had a session about prayer – why we do it, how we do it, and the importance of waiting on, and listening to, God's answers. In another session, we learned about the wise builder, who built his house on



rock. The children painted some beautiful rocks for our church garden, and learned the importance of building their lives on Jesus and His teachings. One of our little girls recently asked us for a Bible, which we provided, and she proudly told us at the next session that she had taken it to school for “show and tell.” God's blessings are truly endless!

This ministry is providing the children of our surrounding neighborhood with spiritual growth and loving and supportive relationships, to help them to weather the daily challenges of inner-city life. We have seen God working through this ministry, as St. Bart is being seen more and more as a safe, loving and fun place for the kids in the neighborhood. We are now considering ways in which to expand this ministry to enable us to be even more involved in the lives of the children and their families. We ask that you would offer your prayers for all of our “Good News” kids, and consider joining us in this important effort. You don't need any experience or specific skills, and there are so many ways to help and so much joy to experience in return. Barb and Jack Fletcher will be happy to give you more information.



# Refugee Resettlement Ministry

(JACK FLETCHER)



God's work here at St. Bartholomew has eased the transition of life in America for many refugees, may God continue to bless these soon to be Americans and our congregation. The Lord continues to bring people from Burma, and Nepal. This year we expect 20 new families to arrive. Eight families have arrived since our last newsletter. Three families from Burma, and five families from Nepal, so as you can see there are many more families yet to come. Some of these families have been reunited with relatives that have already been settled here, while others are trying to find their way on their own and need a lot of guidance so that they can get acclimated with their new way of life.

As reported in the last newsletter we have seen God's grace in the birth of a healthy baby girl, Magnolia Si, and a healthy boy, Avhimanu, and we are awaiting the birth of two more babies this year. June babies. Lah Lo and Ehka Tu both little girls were born in the month of June and St. Bartholomew was blessed to have someone present while Lah Lo was born and even played an instrumental part in the birthing of that beautiful little girl. St. Bartholomew's has taken and continues to take an active role in seeing that these mothers are provided with the best care that is available to them by seeing that these young mom's have the correct insurance required for the institute in which they choose to go to during their pregnancy and that they have the means to get to their appointments. We at St. Bartholomew's continue to help our new citizens to enjoy some more of the freedom that America has to offer by helping them with their driving needs. Since the last newsletter a family from Nepal has obtained an automobile and St. Bart's was there to help them register, tag, and insure their new vehicle. This will be a tremendous help to this couple for the husband works in East Windsor and there are no buses that go there and he has to pay 100.00 a month for a ride and is at the mercy of the schedule of someone else, someone in the refugee community who has an ever changing schedule.

As reported in the last newsletter with the coming of warm weather we would be planting gardens in some of the people's yards. Well, we have planted seven gardens and not only is it a thrill for those who have the gardens it was also a thrill for Bishop Riley to see this new endeavor come to fruition. The people can and do now go into their own yards and harvest some of the vegetables that are so vital to their diets. All praise and glory goes to God for inspiring us at St. Bart's with the vision to start this program, and over the winter we will be trying to obtain seeds that are native to their homelands.

Remember that these people come here with very few things, so let us continue to keep them not only in our prayers but to remember the things that are needed to run a house: pots, pans, and cooking utensils. Also needed is: good used twin or full size mattresses, linens and blankets, tv's and vcr's( with tapes) or dvd players to be used to help improve their English, toys, and clothing( a larger majority of the people are small framed people so those are the only sizes of clothing that is needed, larger sizes will be taken to Homefront to help those Americans which also are in need).

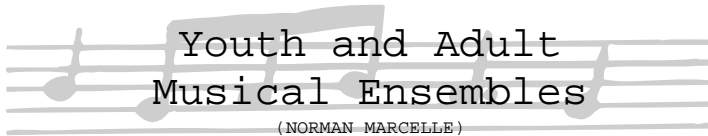
Lastly, while all these things are needed and have freely been given the thing that is needed the most is friendship. Webster's New World Dictionary defines a friend as: a person on the same side in a struggle; one who is not an enemy or foe; ally. A supporter or sympathizer.

God continues to do amazing things through us at St. Bartholomew, by providing His comfort, love and friendship to those who have been forced to leave their homelands and family members because of war, oppression, and persecution. To God goes all the Glory! Peace



**SENIOR HIGH  
BREAKFAST**  
(KRIS ANDREJCO)

Any youth in grades 9 thru 12 are invited to Breakfast and fellowship on the second Saturday of the month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. We have been discussing life in and out of church, and ideas on things they may like to do outside of church. They are still collecting General Mills Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arkansas. Collection boxes remain in both the back of the church and in fellowship hall for donations. Any youth of the church in grades 9 thru 12 is encouraged to attend. **Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12.**



**The St. Bartholomew Youth Music Ensemble and the Adult Music Ensemble indeed is seeing God prosper and grow this Ministry weekly and monthly. We are being blessed each session more and more with people from the community who are inquisitive and have a desire to grow and share their gifts. As a facilitator for this ministry I am extending an invitation to individuals to grow musically (lifting up God) and in spiritual and social grace. It is not a requirement for the participants in either Music Ensemble to attend services at St. Bartholomew but we hope that someday they will get the opportunity to fellowship with St. Bart's and it will be a positive one that will draw them back again and again. Lewis is a member of the Adult Ensemble and desires to become a member of St. Bart's (praise God!!!) We will be taking him in as a candidate for new membership as soon as Pastor Richter is installed. This is an exciting time for St. Bart's and for the Music Ensembles. We are planning a trip to Six Flags/Great Adventure for the Youth Music Ensemble in August 2009. If "Jesus is the light of the world", surely we at St. Bart's who are Christians can set a goal to be a light in our community.**



**Crafting  
through  
God's Love**  
(KRIS ANDREJCO)

If God has given you a love of creating hand made items, than plan to join us on the second Saturday of the month when *Crafting Through God's Love* meets and inspires each other. If you can not join us on that date but wish to contribute items, arrangements can be made for pick up.

The following items are needed: chemo caps & lapghans, preemie hats and blankets, any baby item, and 7X9 inch blocks of close knit or crotchet. Any medium is accepted; knit, crotchet, fabric, or what ever your favorite medium is.

Join us on the **2nd Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** as we make crafts together for others and ourselves. Upcoming Dates: **Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14 and Dec 12.** Next dedication is on Oct 11.

The Women's Supper will resume on September 26, 2009 at 6:00pm. The format will be covered dish and no cooking will be done at the church, food should come hot and ready to serve.

Please let Jenn know what you're bringing so that there is no overlap. The topic is to be announced

Saturday Dates  
Sept. 26      Oct 24  
Nov. 21      Dec. 19  
(JENN SULLIVAN)

**WOMEN'S SUPPER  
BCLC REFUGES**

**FELLOWSHIP NIGHT**

Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Bring a dish to feed 6 – 8 people.  
Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20.

Check the website for activity information

[www.stbartlutheran.org](http://www.stbartlutheran.org)

# Education Opportunities

## THURSDAY NIGHT

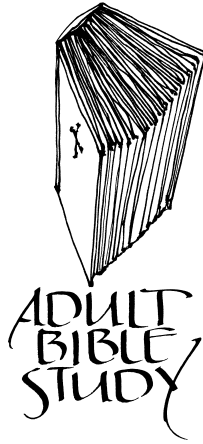
(JACK FLETCHER)

Those persons who attend Thursday night bible study at 1444 so. Clinton Ave. would like to extend an invitation to all those who worship the Lord Jesus Christ both here at St. Bartholomew and also others who would like to come and share in their own words what the Lord is saying to them through His word. This group has been meeting now for going on five years with many different persons throughout that time sharing with each other what Scripture is saying to them and how they can use those words in their lives to guide them in strengthening their relationship with Jesus and to spread His gospel to those in need. We are now in the book of John and should be finishing that study in approximately two months time unless the Holy Spirit feels that more time is needed to absorb the vast amount of spiritual wisdom that He has to give us through our brother John. The intention is that we will be moving into the book of Ephesians and to see where God will take us in our journey to get closer to Him. We begin to gather around 7:10 for fellowship and refreshments in the kitchen and then at 7:55 move to the living room to begin our worship with songs and praise for God. We begin our study approximately 8:10 with opening prayer and then move on to the chapter study until usually 9:05. Closing prayer is then offered up to the Lord and we then part in peace until the time that the Lord chooses to bring us back together again.

## **Sunday Morning**

Bible Study using the "Christ in our Home" devotional as the guide will start on Sept 13. Running from 9:45 to 10:30 am, during children's Sunday School. All confirmed youth and adults are invited.

(John Conover)



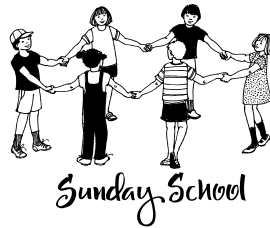
## Women's Bible Study Group

(JENN SULLIVAN)

Women's Bible study will resume September 1 at 7:30 pm with the focus on prayer. We will be using the book **The Pocket Guide to Prayer** by Gary Egeberg, which was made available to the congregation during a retreat on prayer. Should someone need one they should let either Jenn Sullivan or Kris Andrejco know.

### Meeting Dates

Tuesday, Sept 1, 2009  
Tuesday, Oct 6, 2009  
Tuesday, Nov 3, 2009  
Tuesday, Dec 1, 2009



## Starting on Sunday, September 13<sup>TH</sup>

we will be having three classes of Sunday School: a younger group for ages three to kindergarten, an elementary group in grades 1-4, and an upper level for grades 5-8.

We look forward to seeing the children of our congregation and neighbors learn about God. We hope that you will join us as we grow in faith together.



**Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 pm Service**

Hear the word of God and afterwards spend time with fellow members being Thankful and enjoying Holiday Desserts. If you wish to donate a dessert please contact the office



## **FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION**

Jesus said,  
*“Let the children come to  
me.”*

We will be having a first communion class in the fall. The age for first communion varies for a variety of reasons (anywhere from kindergarten to fifth grade). Parents and guardians know their children best. If you feel that your child is ready for first communion please speak with Pastor Aaron, 393-6060.

## **St. Bart on the Internet**

(Dick Cooper - Webmaster)

St. Bart's website address on the Internet is [www.stbartlutheran.org](http://www.stbartlutheran.org). We have had a website for several years but just recently it received a new face lift. The website was completely redesigned to be more welcoming, useful and user friendly. The website's home page contains links to Bible verses, Bible information, New Jersey Synod, ELCA and many other important resources. There is important and useful information throughout the website, such as worship and activity schedules, church group descriptions, printable church activity calendars, contact information and other items. One of the new features that supports St. Bart's evangelism mission is the Visitor's page with many of the frequently asked questions and answers as they pertain to St. Bart.

In the past churches relied heavily upon word-of-mouth to spread the good news about their church's presence in the community. While this remains to be one of the best forms of evangelism, additional methods are used to further the evangelism process, I speak specifically about the Internet and the use of the World Wide Web (www). Today studies show that many people will search the Internet when they are looking for a church or just looking for information about churches. That is a basic reason why our presence on the Internet is important and why that presence must be pleasant. As the saying goes: You only have 1 chance to make a good first impression. We want to keep people coming back to our website. Our website can be used by visitors who are not members, but it can also be used by St. Bart members for reference in many different areas. It is a good source of information both within the website and through use of the many links to other websites that have related information.

Everyone is encouraged to look at the website and check it out. Please feel free to offer suggestions as to the content, layout etc. We want to keep it accurate and user friendly.

# Installation

**Bishop Roy Riley the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod will be at St. Bartholomew on August 30, 2009 at 7 p.m. for the installation of J. Aaron Richter as the Pastor of St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, Trenton. Dessert reception to follow. Put it on your calendar and plan to attend this celebration!**

## **REMINDER!**

### **Fall Worship Hours**

**Starts Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 AM Sunday School**

**(for children age 3 and up)**

**10:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion**

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St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church  
1746 S. Clinton Ave.  
Trenton, NJ 08610

**DATED MATERIAL**