

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church**  
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**Facebook: St. Thomas Lutheran Church**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church, located on the New Jersey Shore in Brick, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. We are a congregation under redevelopment. The congregation takes pride in all of its ministry, but in particular the Food Pantry which served 2191 individuals (650 families) in 2013. Our pantry provides enough food for a week whereas others often provide food for 2 days. Another source of pride is the Christmas Store which an ecumenical partnership with St. Paul's United Methodist Church. This ministry is in its 38<sup>th</sup> year! Families come by invitation to purchase new gifts at a very nominal fee. They also receive a food basket, toiletries, hats, gloves and scarves, and can take gently used clothing as needed. Finally, in the days following Hurricane Sandy the church opened its doors to the neighborhood, offering a place to charge cell phones, food, water, clothing, toiletries, clean-up kits and a place to hang. Later that month we provided a Thanksgiving meal for displaced families and workers. We have partnered with Northern Ocean County Habitat for Humanity on several occasions and are currently in the process of converting 2 stationary trailers formerly used as classrooms into a volunteer host site for workers coming from out of the area who will be doing recovery work.

As we move forward our goal is to live out more fully our purpose statement:

### **GOD'S** purpose for St. Thomas Church:



**S**erve Others

**M**ake Disciples

**I**nvide All

**L**ive in Hope

**E**mbody Christ

### **PRAYER:**

Holy One, we pray that you will send your Spirit among us; make us faithful disciples; transform our hearts, and empower us to serve you. We pray in your name. Amen.



This is the cross in the front of the sanctuary at St. Thomas.



The Jubilation Ringers rang on Palm Sunday and lead the congregation in procession from the narthex to the sanctuary.



Children of all ages came together to tell the story of the birth of Jesus in a new way at the Christmas Pageant called "Live from Bethlehem."



The Apostle Paul (a.k.a. Pastor John) visited Vacation Bible School to share his stories about his dangerous adventures to share the good news about Jesus.





The Bunch Bunch Women's Group held a retreat at the "Cozy Mountain Lodge." Women, young and old, gathered for the day to study, scripture, sing, share in fellowship and make crafts.



At the retreat, the Brunch Bunch also packaged soup mixes which were distributed to Food Pantry Patrons.



Rally Day was a fun-filled day. The kids are playing with a parachute which was a gift to our congregation from the NJ Synod Senior High Youth ROAR event.



St. Thomas has a very active Food Pantry. In 2013 we served 2191 individuals (650 families). Unlike many pantries, our pantry distributes enough food for 1 week for each individual.





For God's Work-Our Hands Sunday, we collected 2500 pounds of food (100lbs. for each year of the ELCA's life). It took us about 8 weeks to collect the food. Our youth did the counting until we reached our goal.

The Holy Hobbies craft group makes hats, booties and blankets for premies and newborns at a local hospital.





We partnered with Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity, sharing our VBS offerings to purchase supplies, making lunches for workers and working on a "Brush with Kindness Project." Here we worked on a home in Brick destroyed by Sandy.







After a workshop on prayer, members of the congregations went on 2 separate Prayer Walks in the Brick community to pray for the schools, local government, police, businesses, and areas devastated by Sandy.







Our Sanctuary Choir sang at a Community Choir Festival sponsored by the Brick Ministerium. The festival was held at Windward Beach. Proceeds from the concert benefited Sandy victims.

St. Thomas received a grant from OCLTRG to convert 2 stationary trailers formerly used as classrooms into temporary housing for volunteers coming into the area to do recovery work. We are working closely with LSM-NJ



The First Communion Class dressed up and learned about the Passover and the Last Supper.

This All Saints Sunday, we remembered both the saints who had died, as well as, the newly baptized saints.

