

SPRUCE RUN

Fellowship

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Fall 2017 Vol. 63, No. 3

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, peace, and mercy be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!



Instead of the usual message regarding the Fall season and how everything at our church is "cranking up" with the winter schedule resuming, Sunday School Rally Day arriving, Choir and Handbell Choir rehearsals resuming, and so on, I'd like to focus a bit on world events, national interests, and the current devastation in Texas that was caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Over several years, and many years ago there were several events that were seen as threats to our country and the world. The destruction of the Twin Towers on 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the major conflicts in the Middle East come immediately to mind. After those catastrophes there was a general sense of loss and a growing feeling that people had to get together,

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LUTHER'S INFLUENCE ON THE MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH, REFORMATION TO TODAY

Martin Luther had strong convictions about the importance of music in religion. Luther himself studied musical arts in both his schooling and cloistered life. He became a proficient instrumentalist on the flute and traverse flute as well as a singer and a composer of some skill. "I always loved music," he said. "Whoever has skills in this art is of good temperament, fitted for all things. We must teach music in schools; a schoolmaster ought to have skills in music, or I would not regard him; neither should we ordain young men to preachers, unless they have been well exercised in music."

Before Luther's time, congregations rarely spoke, let alone sang during the church service. There were special occasions such as processions and festivals which called for corporate singing, but congregational song was not standard procedure during the Divine Service in 16th century Germany. Luther moved congregational singing to the forefront in the service.

Congregational participation brought about the birth of the most distinctive and important musical contribution to the Lutheran Church, which was the congregational hymn called "the chorale."

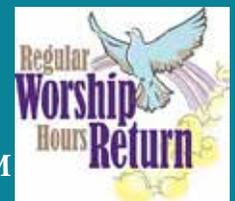
A chorale is a hymn tune which served as the battle hymns for the Reformation. He started services in German rather than in Latin. "I wish," he wrote, "to make german psalms for the people, that is to say sacred hymns, so that the word of God may dwell among the people also by means of song."

Luther and his fellow reformers created the first chorales by adapting melodies from Gregorian Chant, from popular tunes, and from secular art music. Originally sung in unison, these hymns were soon written in 4 part harmony to be sung by the choir.

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Regular Worship Schedule

Reminder: beginning September 10th we return to regular worship hours when we celebrate the Holy Eucharist twice each Sunday, once at 8:15 AM and once at 11:00 AM.



September - November Celebrations

As we go through lists for the Fellowship, we find that there are names of people who have moved away or who have not attended worship or any church activities. "Celebrations" is not meant to be an official membership list. If there is a name of someone who wishes that their name be removed, please let us know.

Birthdays

September

- 4 Zackary Novak
- 7 Andrew Ettlemeyer
Lily Fielding
- 13 Jenna Baranek
- 16 Jason Mansilla
Dottie Wilson
Timothy C. Peare Jr.
- 18 Ruth Ruediger
- 19 Kristen Cunningham
- 21 Sherry Baranek
Jennifer Naumovitz
- 22 Jonathan Glahn
Jon Tyndall
- 24 Christine Gorton
Gianna Ascenzo
- 25 Cadence Grieder
Cheryl Mrozek
- 26 Mary Gaydick
- 27 Gene Armbrecht
- 30 Parker Mayberry

October

- 1 Eileen Clancy
- 6 Carole Fishburn
Ron Lomerson
- 9 Gary Apgar
Grace Clifford
- 13 Anthony Balzer
- 18 Dakota Jones
- 21 Paul Smith
- 22 Matthew Cordova
Peter Desch
- 24 Doris Esser

November

- 4 Shirley Zwick
- 9 Mark Baranek
- 11 Cecilia Ossi
- 13 Gretchen Apgar
- 24 Judi Mansilla
- 27 Jack Eustace
- 28 August Knispel
Ruth Ferik
- 30 Susan Dastis
Janet Ledoux



Baptism Anniversaries

September

- 7 Sharon Hogan
- 10 Jane Heeckt
- 13 Charlotte Kimberly Casuscelli
- 14 Grace Hogan
Allison Most
- 16 Rosemarie Adickes
- 19 Kristen Cunningham
- 21 Adele Benedikta Ossi
- 24 Donna Mayberry
- 25 Paul Winch
- 29 Mark Creasy
- 30 Wayne Gaydick

October

- 1 Charles R. Shebey
Nia Henry
- 11 Mary Gaydick
- 13 Nancy Bibinger
- 14 Paul Henriksen
- 15 Cheryl Mrozek
- 17 Gemma Ossi
- 18 Kelsey Jones
- 22 Joseph Codis
Christine Gorton

- 25 Justin Baranek
- 29 Dale Monroe, Jr.
- 30 Kenneth Peare
- 31 Charles W. Shebey

November

- 3 Landon Cordova
- 8 Carole Fishburn
Jonathan Glahn
Collin Peare
- 9 Lily Fielding
- 11 Olivia Gorton
- 14 Richard Glahn
- 15 Colton Bernard Balzer
- 17 Parker Mayberry
- 22 Nadia DiRe
Logan Carpenter
- 24 Ron Lomerson
- 25 Jenna Baranek
- 30 Colin Most

September

- 15 Heidi & Vincent Cimilluca
- 17 Sherry & Mark Baranek
Chris & Tony Jones
- 18 Frank & Cheryl Mrozek
- 19 Jane & George Creasy
- 23 Brande & Scott Grieder
Amy & Adam Borchin
- 24 Susan & Gary Apgar

October

- 8 Leslie & Scott Talochino
- 10 Sara & George Armbrecht
- 14 Mary & Doug Downs

November

- 18 Roslind Jensen & Rob Ossi
- 22 Pastor & Ginny Ettlemeyer

News from Our Committees and Interest Groups

Women of the E.L.C.A.

Veterans Haven North benefited from the congregation's purchase of carnations on Mother's Day and Father's Day. We were able to purchase and deliver comforter sets, sheets, toilet articles, and washing machine detergent for distribution to the veterans housed at this facility. The comforters and sheets will become the personal property of each recipient.



Veterans Haven North, located "on top of a scenic mountain in Glen Gardner," is a transitional housing program for homeless veterans. Their vision is to provide services to the veterans guided by principles of excellence and quality.

Our WELCA group made the decision to honor these men and women with gifts at some time during the year, instead of at Christmas when many other organizations bring gifts.

Our July picnic was held at the home of Bernice Mayer.

Our recent Thank offerings have been sent to Lutheran Social Ministries and to Hunterdon Interfaith Outreach Council.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21 at 11 AM. We invite all women of Spruce Run to join us.

Ruth Ruediger

Sunday School

Summer has been amazing, with the collection of enough materials to fill 12 elementary and 15 secondary backpacks for donation to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ. Our grateful thanks go out to all who participated, especially the Ossi family, who helped load, check, and deliver the packs.

Now with the days getting shorter and school in session, it's time to think about Sunday School! Rally Day is scheduled for September 10, 2017 from 9:30-10:30 AM. We'll meet in the Sanctuary and then head downstairs for the party. Please sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board to bring a treat to share. As always, our program is open to any children from 3 year olds in preschool to 6th graders and all members of the congregation are welcome to join in our celebrations throughout the year.

This fall we'll resume our collection of coins for the Coins for Christ and

Birthday banks, so don't forget to bring your change when you come to church!

If you would like to volunteer your time, talent, or treasure to our program, please give me a call at 908-638-5624. The participation of our members insures the success of our program. We couldn't do it without you! See you on Rally Day!

Yours in Christ,
Sharon Hogan
Sunday School Superintendent

Finance Committee

Greetings! We have had another busy summer, and I hope that this finds you all well.

Our budgeting has worked pretty well this year, but we have had some unexpected infrastructure expenses. I am planning to meet with Gail and Paul in early October to flesh out the proposed budget for FY 2018. So, if you are aware of or anticipate anything that should be considered for the budget, such as any one-time expenses or a changing need for a

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Jingle Bell Junction!
November 18, 2017
Shop Wonderful Crafts!
Come for Delicious Food!
See Father Christmas!
Bring Friends!
We can't wait!!!

Council Meeting Highlights



April 11, 2017

- ◆ The annual NJ Synod Assembly will be in May.
- ◆ A new computer was purchased for the pre-school.
- ◆ Locksmith rekey & repairs were completed on some internal doors.
- ◆ Telephone service will be transferred to Comcast for cost savings.
- ◆ The kitchen plan will be reviewed and updated.
- ◆ Updates are required to the church constitution.

May 9, 2017

- ◆ A financial overview was provided by Paul Henriksen.
- ◆ There will be one First Communion in May, and 8 young people will be confirmed in June.
- ◆ Plumbing repairs were made to the upstairs bathrooms.
- ◆ Elevated levels of lead were found in tap water samples from the kitchen & downstairs bathrooms. Additional testing is being requested by the NJDEP.
- ◆ NJ Festival of Ballooning has again offered volunteer opportunities to SRLC, for which they will make a donation to the church.

June 13, 2017

- ◆ Pastor attended the annual police Chaplains conference in Trenton.
- ◆ The county prosecutor's office is offering a presentation on security measures for places of worship June 21.
- ◆ Notification from NJDEP was received that SRLC is out of compliance for lead levels in samples taken from downstairs taps. A committee was formed to review findings from the NJDEP and develop an action plan. 🙏

Council President

In response to the observation of elevated levels of lead in the water at taps on the lower level, a water treatment system has been installed in the classroom adjacent to the pump room. Thanks to the oversight and foremanship of Erik Henriksen, the system was installed quickly by a certified plumber and a carpenter has built a wall around the water treatment unit. The response of the Council to the water compliance issue has allowed the Preschool to obtain a temporary license to begin the new school year. Water testing and water treatment system adjustments are continuing. The water in the lower kitchen is still not for consumption.

George Creasy

National Back to Church Sunday

"Imagine what good things could happen!"
Sunday, September 17th

The Evangelism Committee encourages everyone to INVITE someone to church! Sunday, September 17th is National "Back to Church Sunday!"

Be part of the movement! Reach out to someone with a phone call or email or send someone a special "Invitation" designed for our special rally day!

"Welcome Bags" are available for our guests.

"Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the GOSPEL." —Philippians 1:27

Committees ...

Continued from page 3

committee, please email me at:
brad.cox@comcast.net with that information!!

Brad Cox
Chairman, Finance Committee

Family Promise/IHN

“May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this.” (2 Samuel 2:6) 2017 has been titled as the “Year of Kindness” and I have asked all of you to show your kindness to our families that we have hosted this year.

From July 23-30 we hosted 5 adults, 7 kids and two service dogs. Overall, we had the help of 32 Spruce Run members, 10 St. John’s members, one of our preschool teachers, and even several of our friends. I thank those that reach out to others to encourage more involvement with our church and those that bring friends to volunteer with them!

I am grateful to have Debbie Hunt from St. John Neuman Church to help coordinate the effort there. We could not manage to share our church home with the Family Promise program without BOTH churches working together. Also, I thank Roxanne Overton for agreeing to take on a more active role in helping run this program! She is a great addition with super ideas and enthusiasm.

Our next and final hosting of 2017 runs September 3-10. We will have guests with us all day on Monday, Labor Day, so we need EXTRA effort and help from all to fill all of the slots. You may sign up on the sign up sheets in the Lounge, call the office, or go to

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Rally Day
September 10, 2017
9:30-10:30 AM
All are invited to the party!



CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: George Creasy.....537-4034
 Vice President: Brad Cox.....638-8533
 Secretary: Sonia Cordova.....537-2418
 Treasurer: Gail DeRemer.....689-0943
 Financial Secretary:
 Paul Henriksen.....835-9522
 Pastor: Rev. Gary V. Ettlemeyer ... 537-2333
 Richard Glahn.....236-2771
 Rose-Marie Green.....735-4444
 Mary Lomerson.....537-7377
 Jeff Smith.....617-5351
 Anthony DiRe..... 537-4398
 Rich Balzer..... 574-5239
 Doug Lanning..... 201-755-1306
 Elke Naumovitz..... 782-5710
 Lori Terry.....832-1573

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISON

Evangelism & Social

Liaison: Sonia Cordova537-2418

Finance

Chair: Brad Cox 638-8533

Parish Education

Chair: Lori Terry.....832-1573

Preschool

Chair: Pastor.....537-2333

Property

Anthony DiRe..... 537-4398

Staff Support

Chair: Ruth Ruediger.....638-6661

Stewardship

Chair: George Creasy.....537-4034

IHN/Family Promise

Chair: Wendy DiNapoli.....973-568-5168

Worship and Music

Chair: Ruth Ruediger638-6661

Liaison: Sonia Cordova.....537-2418

Altar Guild

Chair: TBD

Kitchen

Chair: Eileen Clancy735-4612

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Chair: Ruth Ruediger638-6661

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent

Sharon Hogan.....638-5624

Music

Candice Peare.....534-9862

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Lisa Ficano.....238-3725

Cecelia Ossi.....638-5805

First and Second Grade

Bennett Clifford.....238-0126

Finn Fielding.....537-7195

Third and Fourth Grade

Beverly Fielding.....537-7195

Janine Ascenzo.....832-8944

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Jane Heeckt 238-0126

Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

Patrick Clifford238-0126

George Creasy537-4034

Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Ettlemeyer537-2333

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Gary V. Ettlemyer...537-2333

Music Director: Candice Peare.534-9862

Director, Handbell Choir:

Diane Meyer..... .735-8772

Secretary: Wendy DiNapoli...537-4824

Sextons:

Rosemarie Adickes689-1895

Sara Armbricht689-0716

FELLOWSHIP EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Creasy537-4034

Wendy DiNapoli537-4824

Committees...

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our website and follow the links to our SignUp Genius page.

If you would like to come see what happens during our hosting, please reach out to me and I will plan to meet you and give you a tour. If you would like to sign up with an experienced volunteer, let me know and I will pair you with someone.

Blessings,
Wendy DiNapoli

Evangelism

We began our summer with a new VBS experience! Children from our church family and the community gathered daily to find the "Light" that only Jesus can provide! Many hearts and hands devoted their time and talents to VBS. See page 13 for more pictures!



VBS 2018 is already in the works. Stay tuned for more about "The Mighty Fortress."

After many months of instruction 8 young people gave a public reaffirmation of their faith on June 4, 2017. Confirmation Invitations were presented and accepted by friends and families. Following the Sacrament, the Evangelism committee provided an extra special reception with cakes, candies and beverages. It was a wonderful witness of the Christian community! (Invitation design credit to the Evangelism committee and Pastor Ettlemyer)

Gail Deremer

Preschool

The teachers were very busy in the month of August preparing the preschool for a new school year! They cleaned all of the toys, weeded and trimmed the bushes on the playground, and had the carpets cleaned.

The classrooms are ready to go with new themes, new classroom set-ups and welcoming touches throughout. Classes will begin with Orientation on Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12, allowing the parents to stay with their child for their first visit. We will also give out all paperwork and forms for the parents' information during this time. Regular classes will start on Wednesday, September 13 for the 4-year old and Pre-K classes, and on Thursday, for the 3-year old class.

We have 14 students currently enrolled, with spaces available in the 3-year old class and Pre-K class. We will be scheduling picture day as well as our annual fall field trips.

We look forward to another wonderful year in our home, Spruce Run Lutheran Church.

Anne Alderman-Person 🙏

Stewardship

The Stewardship word for this issue of Fellowship is:
"Harvey"

Please help us support the Lutheran Disaster Response in Texas.

George Creasy
Stewardship Chair

Righteous Recipes

Zucchini Pie

- 1 8 oz crescent dinner rolls
- 1 large or 2-3 small zucchini
- 1 chopped onion
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 tbsp. parsley flakes
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. garlic
- 1/4 tsp.
- 1/4 tsp. basil
- 2 eggs beaten
- 8 oz mozzarella cheese

1. Cut and stir zucchini, onion & butter in fry pan.
2. Stir in all spices about 10 mins.
3. Combine beaten eggs & cheese in bowl. Stir this into fry pan.
4. Have crust ready by spreading crescent rolls on bottom of pie plate.
5. Spread mustard on bottom of crust. Add zucchini to pie crust.
6. Bake 18-20 minutes at 375 degrees.

Enjoy!
Submitted by
Posie Adickes

Luther's Influence ...

Continued from page 1

The melody was put in the soprano part, where all could hear it and join in the singing. The chorale greatly strengthened the trend where a clear-cut melody was supported by chords (homophonic texture).

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.”

Martin Luther

The chorale nourished centuries of German music and came into full blossom in the music of Bach.

There has been some speculating as to whether or not Luther composed the music for his own hymns. Composers were not listed in the 16th century hymnals, so it is more difficult to know who composed the music for Luther's new hymns. Many musicologists today are comfortable accepting Luther as the composer of his own Hymns's melodies (especially those in the Wittenberg hymnal) since the poet and the composer were almost always the same person in the 16th century.

During the Reformation, close to 100 hymnals were produced between Luther's nailing of The 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church in 1517 and his death in 1546. For such an enormous supply of hymnals to be printed, there must have been a real demand for them.

Luther's vernacular, doctrinally rich hymn texts allowed people another opportunity to sing praise and supplication to their God. It sang the Gospel into their hearts. The love of hymns was and is the key to Lutheran worship.

Submitted by Candy Peare

The Chancel Choir Confesses: “Why Do I Like Singing in the Choir?”

Annette Anderson: “I enjoy singing in the choir because I love the musical traditions of the Lutheran Church. The hymns, anthems, camaraderie, plus a talented musical director make my participation a special experience. I hope more members will join us for fun and fellowship!”

Brad Cox: “I enjoy the harmonization and socialization!”

Patty Cox: “I love how the music makes me feel when we are singing!”

Ginny Ettlemeyer: “I've always liked to sing. It's been a part of my life as long as I can remember. I like the camaraderie.

Rose-Marie Green: “I like to sing in the choir because I like music and I get to sing with a nice blend of voices. Hopefully I am an asset to the choir!”

Erik Henriksen: “camaraderie!”

Elaine Kovach: “I wanted to learn more about music. I like to sing. I enjoy being part of Spruce Run's music family!”

Diane Meyer: “It brings me great joy.”

Ruth Ruediger: “I love music and I love to sing. I've been in choirs for a long time, starting with a girls chorus at St. Olav Lutheran Church... senior choir next... and then Sweet Adelines... and always family sing-alongs whenever we're together... and now Spruce Run's Chancel Choir. Singing combines joy, fellowship and fun!”

Anne Sainz: “I love to sing. I have always enjoyed making music and feeling happier after I have been singing. I also enjoy being with other members of the choir (and choir director) who are such nice people!”

Vic Sainz: “I like singing in the church choir because the rehearsal before the service gets me mentally and physically prepared to focus my full attention on the service. Singing the choir anthem gives me a good, positive feeling singing to the glory of God. And- it's fun!”

Dave Wilson: “I have always been a fan of organ church music and church anthems. Since I do have some ability to sing myself, I like joining in with other choir members and singing our anthems!”



Please Join Our Choir!
We rehearse every Sunday
10:00 - 10:45 AM
starting September 10th!

Prayer List Updates:

The prayer list has been updated and some names have been removed due to lack of request to continue. If you want a name placed back on the list, please let the office know.

Pastor's Corner...

Continued from page 1

work together, and strive to make things better for all.



Peace became more important. Daily living and families became more important. A need for better communication became more important. There was a general sense that we all have to work together to wade through the destruction and evil in the world to make things right, and keep them right! The problem is that a lot of the positive, life affirming, well-meaning ideas somehow fell along the wayside. There are various reasons why we just didn't keep our desire to make life better but I feel a few things can account for it.



Many of you will remember two major activities from the 60s and early 70s that captured the attention of our country: the successful moon program and the landing in 1969, and the Vietnam War. When President Kennedy announced the goal of placing a man on the moon, it seemed that our country had a national goal in which almost everyone could agree. There was a sense of pride. We had the desire,

the means, and the know-how to get the job done. Those who witnessed the successful landing on the moon and the planting of the American flag on its surface can recall the pride we had in being Americans. (Of course, it didn't hurt to also know that we had started out-distancing – no pun intended – the Russians and their space program!)

After several successful flights to the moon and the establishment of the space station in the years following, our country seemed to lose interest in our space program. I, for one, was always fascinated with the space shuttle program but it, too, started to fade in importance in terms of the attention given it by the media and the public. Shuttle launches became common-place. The shuttle disasters certainly had a negative effect as well.

The Vietnam War caused a lot of division in our country. The division has subsided over time, but it has not gone away. I choose not to delve into the politics here. Many people who lived through World War II, the Korean War, and – yes – those who were still alive from WWI, recalled enough of the hardship and loss from those conflicts and the threats to our country to understand that freedom's cost is very high. Just as important, the Vietnam War produced a strong sense of insecurity for two reasons: (1) there was no "front" on which the war was fought, and (2) for the first time in history live footage of the war's death and destruction were shown on the TV news programs daily. War was no longer "over there" with articles in the newspa-

pers giving accounts of battles won and lost. Newsreels in local movie theaters were the state of the art in the earlier wars. Letters from the "front" were sent home, most heavily censored. In my opinion, the net effect of the up to the minute broadcasting in the media during the Vietnam conflict was to dull our thinking and reactions to events from that time until today.



What I am getting at is this: the accomplishments of our space program were a source of national pride and something around which we could all unite. The program lost its importance and I believe our sense of national pride and common goals diminished as well. The unpopularity of the Vietnam War and the distrust in government that grew in its aftermath, along with the portrayal of the war in real

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Special Requests

- We are in need of empty paper or tin coffee cans for the Cookie Pic 'n Pak at Jingle Bell Junction.
- We are also collecting plastic bags for a Women of the ELCA project.

Please leave items in the Lounge.
Thank you!

Pastor's Corner...

Continued from page 10

time in the media, caused a general lessening of interest and support for conducting military operations in general. That, in turn, eroded much of the national pride that came from the successes of the three major wars preceding Vietnam. (I am still very troubled by the daily news flashes regarding body counts, and even more troubled by how we greeted returning Vietnam veterans from that conflict! We're still trying to make amends for how our military people were treated after the war, especially with regard to benefits for them and their families!)

At this point you may be asking why I have addressed the issues above in the way that I have. We're living in a society today where people are taking care of themselves first. Only when terribly pressing needs on the part of others is necessary do they seem to reach out. Generally, I believe individuals and families have "turned inward," taking care of their own needs first and not feeling as much responsibility

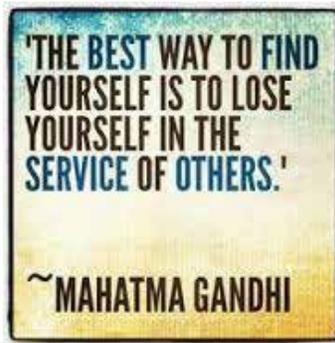
Pork & Oyster Dinner

Save the date: November 4th!

Three seatings: 5, 6, & 7 PM
Sign-up sheets will be
posted in October!

Please call with any questions or
suggestions.

Eileen Clancy
908-735-4612
Event Chairperson



ity to reach out to others. This can be demonstrated by the great decrease in volunteerism with Fire Departments and social service agencies, such as Family Promise/IHN and local food pantries.

During the Vietnam War churches in our country saw an increase in worship attendance, financial support, refurbishing existing church facilities, and building new churches. I maintain that thirty to forty years later, church incomes were down

so that they didn't have the financial wherewithal to remodel or rebuild, and lower attendance and financial support caused churches in all denominations to begin to close. When I think back to the situation years ago, I remember people asking for extra worship services, especially during Desert Storm, yet I am not aware of any churches that have had requests for more worship services once the impact of the events of Ground Zero began to fade.

I hazard to guess that the media's coverage of Hurricane Harvey has not had as much impact on rallying our country around the good people of Texas as it should up to this point. My training as a Disaster Relief Crisis Counselor (DRCC) for New Jersey has helped me to appreci-

ate the enormity of the problems Hurricane Harvey has caused. I am heartened by the good stories about people helping people, but I'm very disturbed by the criticism that has already started, and much of the criticism is along political lines. In my opinion, the problems with Hurricane Harvey will far surpass those of Hurricane Katrina. We already know that the amount of rain that has fallen has surpassed all other weather incidents in our country's history. I believe people across the country haven't begun to help out as strongly as they can, yet. I believe that anyone who calls himself or herself a Christian will pray for those in need and maybe find ways to be supportive.

"I believe the answer to all of the world's problems - all of them - lies in our re-focusing our hearts and minds on that which is in Christ Jesus."

In my opinion, the best way to face the uncertainties of the world, to lessen the social conflicts in our society, restore trust and confidence in government, foster peace, and promote good will in the world is by renewing our commitment to gather together for worship, by hearing and studying God's Word, and recovering our identity as a church family by supporting all activities at Spruce Run, and by volunteering in our communities.

As of August 28th, I completed thirty-three years of pastoral and priestly ministry since my Ordination on the Feast of St. Augustine. As of August 15th, I began my twentieth year as Pastor of the good

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Pastor's Corner...

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people of Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church. I thank and praise God the Father in Christ Jesus for my Calling and giving me the ability to serve. I have been blessed by twenty years of your support!

Prior to my accepting the Call at Spruce Run I made the following statement to the Council and the Call Committee: "As I see it, you have two choices with regard to this church's future. You can build a monument to yourselves, or you can breathe new life and look for ways to strengthen the mission and ministry of the church so that through the work of the Holy Spirit, others will be able to know God's love, grace, and mercy in Jesus Christ. It's up to you."

The mission and ministry continue. Your help and commitment are needed. You might want to start by attending church more regularly, and a good way to start that is by joining us on the National Back to Church Sunday, September 17th. If you haven't attended worship regularly for some time, now's the time to renew your commitment to our Lord and to our church. While

more details are provided elsewhere in this edition of the Fellowship, here are some other church family activities:

- Family Promise/IHN Hosting begins 9/3
- Regular Worship Schedule begins 9/10
- Rally Day, Choir, Handbell Choir start 9/10
- Annual Church Picnic, 9/24
- Special Reformation Celebration Concert, 10/8, 3PM

I believe the answer to all of the world's problems – all of them – lies in our re-focusing our hearts and minds on that which is in Christ Jesus. To do anything less will have consequences for our salvation not only today, here and now in this world, but unto life everlasting.

I pray God's blessings on all of us as we continue to work, pray, praise, and place our Lord first in our lives, and as I remain

Yours in Christ,

Pastor +

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

Already?

That's right! It's never too early to start thinking about how you would like to participate in our Christmas Eve Prelude! Let Candy know how you would like to become part of this wonderful Spruce Run tradition!

Animal Blessing

Sunday, October 1st

12:00 - 3:00 PM

(Rain or shine)

* Bring your pets to be blessed and join us for a brief devotion giving thanks for all of God's creatures!

For their safety, pets must be leashed or caged

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Presentation Brass Quintet will be performing a lovely selection of musical numbers here at Spruce Run Church.

SAVE THE DATE: October 8, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Admission is free and there will be refreshments following the concert!



Vacation Bible School In Pictures



*Mary Lomerson and
Karen Smith helping out
with snack time*



*Gail DeRemer sharing a lesson
with the kids.*



*YaFu and Tony Wang teaching
a painting technique.*



*Cave Quest!
June 26-29, 2017*



SPECIAL EVENTS

A Quilt of Valor is presented to Robert Carpenter on June 25, 2017 by the Tuesday Quilters.



*Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
June 11, 2017*



Our Mission

For over two centuries, Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church has existed to draw people into a community of faith which proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament.

As we move into the next century, our sense of hope, strength, and grace—our Lutheran heritage—will nurture our Congregation and we will reach out to the community through Christian education, music, and service.



Fellowship

Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church
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“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2