



SPRUCE RUN

# Fellowship

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Lent 2019 Vol. 65, No. 1

## 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

As I prayerfully considered what I would offer as the Pastor's Corner for this issue of the Fellowship, I went over past issues and I came across what follows. The message is particularly important as Spruce Run church looks to its future. All churches are experiencing decreased worship attendance and participation in church activities. I pray you will take what follows to heart!

From the Pastor's Corner, June 2005:

What follows may or not be something that applies to specific individuals. It is not intended to chastise those who regularly participate in the life of our parish family, but can serve to help us all think about who we are and what we are as Christians and as members of Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church.

During the winter months we often say that we will do one thing or another when the good weather comes. We put off things at home and at church by using the weather, the Christmas or Easter "holy-days," our busy schedules, school schedules, sports schedules, and many other excuses for not addressing certain obligations – not doing what we're supposed to do.

During the winter, for example, some can't

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## Message from the President

At the most recent meeting of the Council with it's newly elected members, a considerable amount of time was spent reviewing and discussing the Pastor's notice of retirement and the official call process of the Synod. The call process has been initiated with the mailing of a letter from the Council President to the Synod. At the next meeting of the Council discussion will begin on the composition of the official Call Committee.

The Council will work to have the call process completed as soon as possible.

Respectfully,  
George W Creasy



## Lenten Worship Opportunities

### March 6

*Ash Wednesday -  
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: 12:00 PM & 7:30 PM*

**March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10**

*Mid-week Lenten Prayer Service: 7:30 PM*

# March - May

# Celebrations

So that all members of the congregation will be included in prayer sometime during the year, please include the following in your prayers this month. If we have missed your birthday, baptism anniversary, or wedding anniversary, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

## Birthdays

### March

- 3 Pauline Smith
- 5 George Peare
- 6 Joshua Mansilla
- 9 Mary Catherine Downs
- 12 Annette Anderson
- 15 Beverly Fielding
- 16 Candice Peare  
Amber Novak  
Wendy DiNapoli
- 17 Colton Bernard Balzer
- 18 Nia Henry
- 19 Jonathan Cordova  
Jane Creasy
- 20 Denise Vallaro  
Scott Grieder
- 21 Matt Gaydick
- 24 Conor Sjogren
- 31 Tim McGuire

### April

- 2 Allison Overton
- 3 Frank G. Schmelz
- 4 Amy Henry
- 5 Adam Borchin
- 6 Charlotte Kimberly Casuscelli
- 7 Olivia Hankinson
- 8 Judy Carpenter
- 10 Rob Carpenter  
Finnbarr Fielding  
Victor Sainz
- 11 Susan Kopp  
Kara Henry
- 12 Kim D'Alessio  
Brad Cox  
Kenley Rehrig
- 14 Heather Naumovitz  
Robert Ossi
- 18 Sonia Cordova
- 19 Michelle Kovach
- 26 Robert Carpenter
- 27 Mark Creasy
- 28 Jaclyn Mansilla



### May

- 2 Cooper Jones  
Ed Novak
- 3 Matthew Jack Carew
- 5 Setsuko Lanning
- 6 Meghan Smith
- 8 Courtney O'Brien  
John Timmerman
- 13 Barbara Schmelz
- 17 Stefanie Naumovitz  
Lisa Ficano  
Scott Curtis
- 21 Casey Eustace
- 24 Matthias Theodor Ossi  
Rose-Marie Green
- 29 Sarah Casuscelli
- 30 Sharon Hogan

## Baptism Anniversaries

### March

- 10 Frances Poppy Hollywood Peare
- 11 David Glahn
- 12 Erik Henriksen
- 15 Becky DiRe
- 18 Timothy Naumovitz

### April

- 7 Setsuko Lanning
- 12 Kyle Rehrig
- 14 Ginny Ettlmyer  
Kaitlin Overton
- 16 Adam Borchin
- 15 Rebecca Fraser
- 20 Lena Carpenter
- 23 Gene Armbrecht
- 26 Christen Kisch
- 27 Kim D'Alessio
- 28 Rebecca Creasy
- 29 Brian Codis  
Brittany Eustace

### May

- 4 Andrew Fielding  
Allison Overton
- 6 Zackary Novak
- 11 Matt Gaydick
- 14 Susan Kopp
- 15 Debra Eustace  
Melissa Mayberry
- 18 Jameson Paul Tyers
- 21 Grace Clifford
- 24 Shaun Adickes  
Ed Novak
- 25 Jacob Baranek
- 29 Jonathan Cordova
- 31 Anthony Balzer



## Wedding Anniversaries

### March

- 20 Christine & Bill Gorton
- 29 Kathy & Russ DiLello

### April

- 11 Matthew & Sonia Cordova
- 22 Jon & Polly Tyndall
- 23 Richard and Amy Henry  
Rich and Erica Balzer
- 26 Lisa & Peter Ficano

### May

- 13 Jane Heeckt & Patrick Clifford
- 17 Jeff & Karen Smith
- 18 Frances & Marty Ettlmyer
- 21 Judy & Bob Carpenter  
Mary & Wayne Gaydick
- 23 Donna & Glenn Mayberry
- 25 Barbara & Daniel Hankinson

# News from Our Committees and Interest Groups

## Women of the E.L.C.A.

Our Christmas meeting and luncheon was held at the home of Bernice Mayer. Our Prayer Partners were revealed and new ones chosen for the coming year. As usual – food was delicious and laughter was everywhere. We are all thankful for God's Blessings.

Election of Officers was held as follows:

President – Olga Lanning;  
Secretary – Ruth Ruediger;  
Christian Action – Mary Gaydick;  
Outreach & Fellowship – Annette Anderson;  
Faith and Life – Bernice Mayer.

We thank all who baked and bought cookies at our Jingle Bell Junction table. All proceeds were donated to the church. A donation was also made to the Hunterdon County Interfaith Outreach Council. In addition, we purchased a goat and a pig through the ELCA good gifts program.

Last Fall as a result of proceeds from our sale of carnations on Mother's and Father's Days and through our Christian Action program, we were able to donate 8 - \$20.00 gift cards and rolls of stamps to Veterans Haven North.

Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.

Sunday, February 24, celebrates Women of the ELCA's "Bold Women's Day." This day celebrates all Lutheran Women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Boldness comes in many forms. It can be firm and quiet or it can be bold and loud. However we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others.

It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Please note that our meeting dates have been changed to the third Wednesday of every month at 11 AM. We ask that you bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Please join us.

Ruth Ruediger

## IHN

We finished out 2018 with our third hosting of the year from December 9-16th. We hosted just one family of a mom and two kids. The kids were old enough to enjoy some board games, play the Wii and have nice conversation.

Kelly, the mom, was very appreciative of our help, and even the teenager, Latosha, confided in me that she thought the people here were really nice. Those nice people consisted of 25 volunteers from Spruce Run Church, 22 volunteers (that's a big increase!) from our very gracious support church, St John Neumann, one of our preschool teachers, and a couple of helpful friends.

This hosting was truly a team effort and all of your help was especially appreciated! Deb Hunt has done a bang up job recruiting new volunteers from her church, St John's. Roxanne Overton was instrumental in keeping things running here during the hosting. Both ladies helped to be sure that everyone was able to get in to the church each night, that our guests were comfortable, and that new volunteers had the support that they needed. This hosting would not have been possible without them! Thanks!

2019 brings three more hosting dates, so mark your calendars now!

- #1 March 31st - April 7th
- #2 July 28th - August 4th
- #3 December 8th - 15th

Family Promise issues a national report with statistics about the work they do. A few startling statistics from the 2017 report state that there were 2.5 million homeless children in America and families with children comprised 35% of the homeless population nationwide. Family Promise had 200 affiliates in 43 states, with 200,000 volunteers housing 14,037 guests in the network of churches around the country and 79,302 individuals receiving some other form of assistance. The report states, "Every Family Promise affiliate provides homeless families with not just a shelter, but community... the outcome is not just cost savings from using these existing resources but the creation of a network that addresses the families' daily needs. Just as importantly, the program gives families hope and confidence, connecting them to community resources and empowering them to independence."

We are an integral part in working towards a solution for family homelessness. Let's continue to serve with grace, mercy, love, patience, and flexibility. Please contact me (wdinapoli@comcast.net) with any comments or to ask about the program.

Blessings,  
Wendy

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## THANK YOU...

to all who participated in the annual Christmas Eve preludes.

The Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Children's Choir sounded great!

A special thank you to the Ossi children and Rob, Grace and Patrick Clifford and Tim Naumovitz for their musical offerings. It truly contributed to making this a magical evening.

The Lent and Easter season will be upon us soon. If you are interested in joining the Celebration Choir, please contact Candy Peare.

# Council Meeting Highlights



## November 13, 2018

- Pastor presided over the Christian/Jewish wedding of Kaitlin Overton & Jeremy Brauner on November 11, 2018.
- Any former SRLC council member can be called upon to assist with the counting of the Sunday offering and preparing monies for deposit.
- Monies from the Memorial Fund were used to purchase children's Bibles.
- Preschool enrollment is up to 13 students.
- After two failed attempts due to inclement weather, Fall clean-up was cancelled.
- The Nominating Committee will be notified to schedule a meeting.
- Proceeds from Pork & Oyster dinner and Jingle Bell Junction will be divided equally between Lutheran Disaster Relief, paying down the CMA loan & general operating expenses.
- George Creasy is preparing stewardship Temple Talks and preparing letters to all members summarizing their giving to date.
- Per the State of NJ, based on the final set of test results, SRLC is in compliance with drinking water standards and the water treatment system installed meets all criteria. The system now must be maintained and a schedule of regulatory testing must be adhered to.
- Sara Ambrecht is checking with the Lebanon Township Volunteer Fire Department regarding having SRLC provide volunteers to help with the monthly pancake breakfast.

## December 19, 2018

- Council could not reach a consensus regarding Sunday worship schedule – maintaining two services or change to a single service. The issue will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.
- Council reviewed the proposed 2019 budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The proposed budget was accepted with minor adjustments to internet, postage and parsonage electricity.
- If finances remain on track for the remainder of the school year, council has agreed to consider giving the teachers a small bonus at the end of the school year in appreciation of the concessions made to salaries at the beginning of the school year.
- Pastor noted to council his intention to retire effective June 30, 2019. NJ Synod has not yet been notified.
- The 2018 Nominating Committee identified George Creasy, Erik Henriksen and Bob DeRemer for open council positions. The candidates have accepted.

### Congregation Council 2019

President: George Creasy  
Vice President: Jeff Smith  
Secretary: Sonia Cordova  
Treasurer: Gail DeRemer  
Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen

Rich Balzer and was elected to his second three year term. Bob DeRemer and Erik Henriksen have also been elected to council.

We thank God for their presence among us and their commitment to our congregation.

## January 8, 2019

- While attendance for Christmas Eve worship was good, attendance at weekly Sunday worship services, especially the 11:00 am service, has been low.
- A request was received from the Worship & Music Committee suggesting to council the handbell director be given a nominal salary increase for the upcoming 2019 – 2020 contract term. Council motioned to present to the congregation at the annual meeting, a revision to the proposed 2019 budget, increasing the handbell director salary \$500 for the July 2019 – July 2020 contract.
- The 2017 Financial Audit was completed. No issues noted.
- Sonia Cordova also has to be included on the ballot presented to the congregation at the annual meeting for approving council members for 2019.
- There are a list of minor property repairs required by the preschool as a result of the most recent state inspection.
- Women of the ELCA officers will be installed January 13, 2019.
- Under New Business on the agenda for the annual meeting, a presentation will be added for the discussion of a single versus double worship service on Sunday.

## North Hunterdon Food Pantry

As a result of the recent Hunterdon County Boy Scout food drive, our pantry was blessed with a room-full of filled grocery bags. Pictures are on the bulletin board.

We thank Annette Anderson, Brad Cox, Elaine Kovach, Roxanne Overton, Karen, Jeff, Emily and Paul Smith and Gail Vajda for emptying the bags, weighing everything, sorting everything, and filling up our shelves. We are certainly thankful to the Lebanon Township and Califon Borough Boy Scouts and their leaders and to the generosity of our community.

I think we have enough peanut butter and grape jelly for at least this entire year!

Ruth Ruediger

## Tuesday Quilters

The Tuesday Quilters wish to express out thanks to everyone that continues to keeps us in mind when you are in need of a baby quilt or any other item.

It means a lot to us when you come in and look around to see what is new.

We appreciate seeing things that you saw or purchased somewhere else that we may want to make.

Again thanks for all your support. We need each other.

Rose-Marie

## Sunday School

The Sunday School is going strong! We had a fantastic Christmas season, with may parishioners complementing the children on the Pageant, followed the next week by a fun Christmas Party.

We continue to collect pennies in our Birthday bank, which will be donated to the Food Pantry at the end of the year, so

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Don't forget to pick up your Shop Rite Gift Cards before you do your grocery shopping. They are for sale after worship services on the first and third Sundays of the month. The church receives a percentage of all card sales, so it is an easy way to help out.

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: George Creasy.....537-4034  
Vice President: Jeff Smith.....617-5351  
Secretary: Sonia Cordova.....537-2418  
Treasurer: Gail DeRemer.....689-0943  
Financial Secretary:  
Paul Henriksen.....835-9522  
Pastor: Rev. Gary V. Ettlemeyer . . .537-2333  
Janet Ledoux.....537-6974  
Danielle Beyers.....996-6379  
Mary Lomerson.....537-7377  
Anthony DiRe.....537-4398  
Doug Lanning.....201-755-1306  
Elke Naumovitz.....782-5710  
Rich Balzer.....574-5239  
Bob DeRemer.....689-0943  
Erik Henriksen.....835-9522

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISON

#### Evangelism & Social

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

#### Finance

Chair: Jeff Smith.....617-5351

#### 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 Ruediger.....638-6661

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

#### Altar Guild

Chair: TBD

#### Kitchen

Chair: Eileen Clancy.....735-4612

#### North Hunterdon Food Pantry

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

### 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

Andrew Fielding.....537-7195

#### Third and Fourth Grade

Beverly Fielding.....537-7195

#### Fifth and Sixth Grade

Jane Heeckt . . . . .238-0126

#### Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

Patrick Clifford . . . . .238-0126

George Creasy . . . . .537-4034

#### Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Ettlemeyer . . . . .537-2333

### STAFF

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

Music Director:

Candice Peare.....534-9862

Director, Handbell Choir:

Charlotte Steiner.....973-943-8216

Secretary: Karen Smith.....537-4824

Sextons:

Rosemarie Adickes . . . . .689-1895

Sara Armbricht . . . . .689-0716

### FELLOWSHIP EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Creasy . . . . .537-4034

Karen Smith . . . . .617-5351

# The Opportunity to Serve

March - May 2019

## March 3

### Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Gene Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....Adele Ossi  
Crucifer.....Matthias Ossi  
Lector.....Rob Ossi  
Worship Assistant.....Rob Ossi

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Steven Beyers  
Danielle Beyers  
Acolyte.....Lucas Beyers  
Crucifer.....Madeline Beyers  
Lector.....Ruth Ruediger  
Worship Assistant.....George Creasy

## March 17

### Second Sunday of Lent

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Gene Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Sara Armbrecht  
Worship Assistant.....Wayne Gaydick

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Bob DeRemer  
Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Ruth Ruediger  
Worship Assistant.....Gail DeRemer

## April 7

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Gene Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....Emily Smith  
Crucifer.....Paul Smith  
Lector.....Sara Armbrecht  
Worship Assistant.....Wayne Gaydick

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Matt Cordova  
Bob DeRemer  
Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....  
Worship Assistant.....Gail DeRemer

## March 6

### Ash Wednesday

12:00 p.m.

Ushers.....Janet Ledoux  
Lector.....Rob Ossi  
Worship Assistant.....Rob Ossi

7:30 p.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....  
Worship Assistant.....

## March 24

### Third Sunday of Lent

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....Emily Smith  
Crucifer.....Paul Smith  
Lector.....Judi Mansilla  
Worship Assistant.....Judi Mansilla

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Steven Beyers  
Danielle Beyers  
Acolyte.....Lucas Beyers  
Crucifer.....Madeline Beyers  
Lector.....George Creasy  
Worship Assistant.....George Creasy

## April 14

### Palm Sunday

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Amy Henry  
Gail Vajda  
Acolyte.....Lainee Henry  
Crucifer.....Andrew Fielding  
Lector.....Beverly Fielding  
Worship Assistant.....Patrick Clifford

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Bob DeRemer  
Acolyte.....Grace Hogan  
Crucifer.....Grace Hogan  
Lector.....Ruth Ruediger  
Worship Assistant.....Patty Cox

## March 10

### First Sunday of Lent

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Amy Henry  
Gail Vajda  
Acolyte.....Lainee Henry  
Crucifer.....Andrew Fielding  
Lector.....Beverly Fielding  
Worship Assistant.....Patrick Clifford

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Matt Cordova  
Acolyte.....Grace Hogan  
Crucifer.....Grace Hogan  
Lector.....Patty Cox  
Worship Assistant.....Patty Cox

## March 31

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Gail Vajda  
Sara Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....Gemma Ossi  
Crucifer.....Cecelia Ossi  
Lector.....Janet Ledoux  
Worship Assistant.....Janet Ledoux

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Matt Cordova  
Bob DeRemer  
Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....  
Worship Assistant.....Gail DeRemer

## April 18

### Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Judi Mansilla  
Worship Assistant.....Judi Mansilla



# April 19

## Good Friday

7:30 p.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Gene Armbrecht  
Lector.....Sara Armbrecht  
Worship Assistant.....Patrick Clifford



# May 5

## Second Sunday of Easter

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....

Acolyte.....Emily Smith  
Crucifer.....Paul Smith  
Lector.....Janet Ledoux  
Worship Assistant.....Janet Ledoux

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Matt Cordova

Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....  
Worship Assistant.....

# May 26

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.

Ushers.....Amy Henry

Acolyte.....Lainee Henry  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....  
Worship Assistant.....Patrick Clifford

Worship Servers are needed for both the 8:15 AM and 11 AM Worship services.

We are seeking Ushers, Acolytes, Crucifers, Lectors and Worship Assistants. Training is provided!

Please consider serving in this important way.

# April 21

## Easter Sunday

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Janet Ledoux

Acolyte.....Matthias Ossi  
Crucifer.....Lucia Ossi  
Lector.....Rob Ossi  
Worship Assistant.....Rob Ossi

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Danielle Beyers  
Steven Beyers

Acolyte.....Lucas Beyers  
Crucifer.....Madeline Beyers  
Lector.....George Creasy  
Worship Assistant.....George Creasy

# May 12

## Third Sunday of Easter

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Mary Gaydick

Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Mary Gaydick  
Worship Assistant.....Wayne Gaydick

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....

Acolyte.....Grace Hogan  
Crucifer.....Grace Hogan  
Lector.....Ruth Ruediger  
Worship Assistant.....Patty Cox

# April 28

## First Sunday of Easter

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Janet Ledoux

Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Janet Ledoux  
Worship Assistant.....Patrick Clifford

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....Bob DeRemer

Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Anne Sainz  
Worship Assistant.....Gail DeRemer

# May 19

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:15 a.m.

Ushers.....Sara Armbrecht  
Gene Armbrecht

Acolyte.....Adele Ossi  
Crucifer.....Andrew Fielding  
Lector.....Beverly Fielding  
Worship Assistant.....Rob Ossi

11:00 a.m.

Ushers.....

Acolyte.....  
Crucifer.....  
Lector.....Anne Sainz  
Worship Assistant.....George Creasy

## Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn .....  
Weatherman's Hymn .....  
Contractor's Hymn .....  
Tailor's Hymn .....  
Golfer's Hymn .....  
Politician's Hymn .....  
Optometrist's Hymn .....  
IRS Agent's Hymn .....  
Gossip's Hymn .....  
Electrician's Hymn .....  
Shopper's Hymn .....  
Realtor's Hymn .....  
Massage Therapist's Hymn .....

Crown Him with Many Crowns  
There Shall be Showers of Blessings  
The Church's One Foundation  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
There's a Green Hill Far Away  
Standing on Promises!  
Open My Eyes That I Might See  
I Surrender All  
Pass It On  
Send The Light  
Sweet Bye and Bye  
I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop  
He Touched Me

## Pastor's Corner...

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make worship because the weather is bad. Others can't make worship, Sunday School, or other church gatherings because of soccer, basketball, baseball, dancing classes, or even music lessons. There are always excuses for why we follow through – or why we don't follow through – with our obligations when it comes to worship. We're busy people living in a busy world! I have to say that in and of themselves, all of the things mentioned above are not a problem. Does the pastor have a problem with a child playing soccer? Football? Music? Definitely not! I believe these things are part of growing up. They teach teamwork, build character, and encourage young people to reach their potential. I do have a problem with any activity consistently becoming a priority over following through with our baptismal promises.

When a child is baptized the parents and godparents stand before the congregation and make a promise. The Pastor addresses them, saying:

In Christian love you have presented these children for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

The parents and godparents reply, "I do."

Is there any misunderstanding as to what is required of parents and godparents here? Remember that the words, "I do" are a promise that is publicly made by those who are presenting the child for baptism. How does this "square" with the parent who sends a note along with their offering for the Christmas holiday in which the parent acknowledges that they've been remiss at attending church, but it's been "busy," and they hope to get to worship and bring the children to Sunday

School sometime – more often – and then doesn't? How does this "square" with the parents who become members of the congregation, come once or twice, and then not show up again, citing busy schedules for not being able to "make it more regularly?"

The Rite of Holy Baptism clearly indicates that the parents and godparents are responsible for the spiritual upbringing of the child. At the same time the congregation also publicly recognizes the baptism and takes on a responsibility as well. A representative of the congregation, an assisting minister, or the Pastor says the following at the end of the baptismal rite: Through Baptism God has made these new sisters and brothers members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

The congregation acknowledges the statement and the baptism, saying:

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

Again, is there any misunderstanding as to what is required of parents, godparents, and the congregation with regard to the baptized and to each other? We are to be family, parish family, and we are to be workers together in the kingdom of God. So far, we have seen that the Sacrament of Holy Baptism makes us children of God and inheritors of his eternal kingdom.

At the same time, it lays upon us certain obligations that are not to be tempered or limited by conflicting schedules and excuses. Too often we say that making church is a hard thing to do. It's hard to get the children to church or to Sunday School. And it's true! But it can't be any harder than getting a child to a practice or to some other function.

We are called upon to set an example for our children by living lives that are examples for them. If we continually make excuses for doing or not doing things, whether it comes to church or something else, they will be excellent students and use the same excuses for the same things, very

often for the rest of their lives.

You have often heard me say that little ones in church become big ones in church. It's true!

... One of the great joys we have as a parish family is the number of young parents who faithfully bring their children to worship. I have publicly thanked them for their efforts, and I know that all of the members of our parish family appreciate their presence. It is apparent that these young parents have taken the vows made at their children's baptisms seriously, and we are blessed by their presence and their faithfulness to those vows. I ask that those who have been somewhat lax in this area to take time to prayerfully consider how they might increase their efforts as well! At the time of their Confirmation, our young people are at an age when they are considered mature enough to take upon themselves the promises made at their baptism. At the beginning of the Rite of Confirmation, a representative of the congregation will say:

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

The Pastor addresses the confirmands:

Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

Whether it is the confirmands or new members received from other denominations, or members who have returned to the household of God after a period of absence, all are asked to profess their faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed. Prayers are offered for those affirming their baptism and for all the baptized everywhere, after which the candidates are asked to make specific promises. The Pastor says:

"You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

## Committees ...

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remember to come celebrate your special day with us during our opening. We also continue collecting Coins for Christ and the 5th -6th grade class made a poster of our goals and progress, so check the Sunday School Bulletin Board for updates.

Looking ahead we have our Easter Egg Hunt and party on 4/14 and all children up to 6th grade are welcome to participate.

See our schedule through June below and remember that our program is open to all 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. We would especially love to see you at the Teacher Appreciate Breakfast to help us celebrate our hard working volunteers! If you would like to volunteer your time, talent, or treasure to our program, please call me at 908-638-5624 or email at [srauschen@hotmail.com](mailto:srauschen@hotmail.com).  
Yours in Christ,  
Sharon Hogan  
Sunday School Superintendent

Our Spring Schedule:

**February 17th** Presidents Weekend –  
Class canceled

**April 14th** Easter Egg Hunt –  
Meet in sanctuary and bring a treat.

**April 21st** Easter Sunday -

Class canceled

**May 19th** Last Day of Regular Class

**May 26th** Memorial Day Weekend –  
Class canceled

**June 2nd** Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

## Preschool

Welcome to 2019! The children returned from the holiday break, older, taller, bigger and ready to work! January began by celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and all of his accomplishments and lessons. We moved onto dental health and had a field trip to the dentist. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a school party. The class moms organized the party with an art activity, games and valentine card distribution. The children had fun decorating the hallway bulletin board with signs of things that they love!

The teachers have been very busy continuing their education with online classes as well as renewing their certification for CPR/AED/ and Basic First Aid. Michelle Snyder, our new Preschool Director, and Jill Matthijssen, our teacher for the four year old class, will both be attending a mandatory class covering all of our licensing requirements.

*Continued on page 10...*

## Righteous Recipes

### Cherries in the Snow

**1 1/3 c graham cracker crumbs**  
**1/2 c powdered sugar**  
**1/3 c unsalted butter, melted**  
**3 oz cream cheese, room temp.**  
**1/2 c granulated sugar**  
**1/2 t vanilla extract**  
**8 oz whipped topping, thawed**  
**21 oz can of cherry pie filling**

**Mix the graham cracker crumbs, powdered sugar and butter. Press the mixture into an 8-inch dish, using a glass to firmly pack the mixture.**

**In a medium sized bowl, beat cream cheese, granulated sugar and vanilla until incorporated. Using a spatula, gently fold in whipped topping. Spread cream cheese mixture over graham cracker crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.**

**Top with cherry pie filling.**

**Recipe can easily be doubled to fit in 9 x 13 pan.**



## Easter Flowers

Easter is an especially appropriate time to honor or remember loved ones through flower donations for our altar.

You may choose from lilies, tulips or mini daffodils in two different sized pots. What a bargain, prices remain the same as last year!



For more information and to print out an order form, please visit our website, [www.sprucerunlutheran.com](http://www.sprucerunlutheran.com). Under the "Ministries" tab, click on Altar Guild to go to the page with the link for the form.

**Deadline for orders is April 7th.**

You may take your flowers home after the 11:00 AM worship service on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

## Committees ...

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We have sent out our registration forms for next year to our families of our current students. We will open registration to the public the first week of March. We already have one new student signed up for the current 3-year old class who will start in March and then continue in September. This brings our enrollment up to 15 students for the current year ending in May.

In March, we are looking to possibly take a field trip to The Great Swamp. We are also meeting with the Lebanon Police Department to review our emergency drill procedures to ensure that all emergencies are handled properly and everyone stays safe and sound!

## Stewardship Quiz:

What is a Pledge?

- 1.) a promise;
- 2.) something given as security for the fulfillment of a contract;
- 3.) a furniture polish

If you answered #1.) you probably recall that God's testament or covenant or pledge to us is that if we believe and are baptized we are saved.

If you answered #2.) you probably recall that God gave his only son for the fulfillment of his contract to us.

If you answered #3.) you probably did not open the mailing that was sent to you with the pledge card for this year.

If you need another card, please let Karen know and she will provide you with another...I promise.

George

## Holy Week Worship Opportunities

**April 14**

*Palm Sunday & LYO Sponsored Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt*

**April 18**

*Maundy Thursday*

*Celebration of the Holy Eucharist: 7:30 PM*

**April 19**

*Good Friday Service: 7:30 PM*



**April 21**

*Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Day)*

*Sunrise Worship: 6:30 AM at the Cemetery*

*Celebration of Holy Eucharist: 8:15 & 11:00 AM*

## Pastor's Corner...

Continued from page 8

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear his Word and share in his supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in  
Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example  
of our Lord Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all  
the earth?

By responding, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me," each candidate assumes responsibility for the promises made on their behalf by parents and godparents at their baptism. During the worship that day I try to work in the following comment: "Confirmation is NOT graduation from church!"

As a young child is baptized, parents and godparents are charged with the responsibility of nurturing the newly baptized in the faith. It is a shared responsibility that also includes the entire congregation as [it acknowledges] the baptism and the fact that the child is now a child of God. While it is the responsibility of the parents and godparents to provide the nurture through example and bringing the children to church and Sunday School, the congregation is to provide whatever is needed for that nurturing, including setting an example for these young hearts and minds, showing them what it means to be a believer and a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, I repeat: Confirmation is not graduation from church. Our responsibility doesn't end with Confirmation. While a young person is assumed to be able to take on the responsibilities outlined above, they still need the example of a loving Christian family, both at home and at church. That means making hard choices at times with regard to worship – whether to go or not, and whether the reason for not going is sufficient to be a good example, and so on...

The good weather that we were waiting for in order to do certain things has arrived. We have a gracious God who wants us to enjoy the abundance of the earth, the gift of life, and the gift of salvation he has provided for us through the sacrifice of his only Son. The very best way we can show our appreciation for these gifts and the gift of our families, loved ones, and our parish family is to worship together and pray together.

It's the least we can do, as I remain

Yours in Christ,

Pastor+

# 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  
442 West Hill Road  
Lebanon Township  
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826-3252

[www.SpruceRunLutheran.com](http://www.SpruceRunLutheran.com)



## Lent

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Romans 12:12