



SPRUCE RUN

Fellowship

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Summer 2021 Vol. 67, No.4

From the Pastor's Pen



Education, Music, Service

I remember a religious "higher up" saying something about the ELCA that really got me thinking, "we no longer have the resources to do everything, but we still have the resources to do anything, we just have to decide what it is and focus on that!"

Well, here at Spruce Run, we express fairly clearly what our focus is in our mission statement. We're solidly focused on three ways to reach the community with the good news of Jesus Christ: Education, Music, and Service.

Education:

We've been going strong on the education end of things. We've started up two weekly Bible Study groups who meet on Zoom and have studied everything from the Apostle Paul to Suffering to Sanctification. Additionally, this summer we've changed up the venue a little bit, and are

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A Message from the Council President

As summer comes to a close, it is time for us all to focus on new beginnings in church. Before we know it, we will be moving ahead into the holidays with a time for us to regroup and celebrate in-person worship, resumption of Sunday School, Confirmation on Reformation Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas!

We are coming out of a confusing and uncertain time in our lives with Covid and the changing restrictions on our day-to-day lives as well as our worship habits. Our congregation has continued to rise to the challenges facing us and has adapted to wearing masks, not wearing masks, and now wearing masks again! We have done it with smiles on our faces (that we can't always see) and with creative approaches to do everything possible to keep our friends safe.

Additionally, we have had some financial challenges this year with the breakdown of HVAC units in both the parsonage and the church building. As we reached out to our members for assistance with these costs, I am thankful to report that we have recouped almost 70% of the projected cost of both projects (\$17,500 expense). Many thanks to everyone who was able to assist in this special appeal. The generosity of this congregation is unmatched.

Please stay safe in the coming months both at home with your families, with our church family and out in the world! God Bless!

Janet

Council Meeting Highlights



April 15, 2021

- 85 people attended Easter worship service at Lebanon Township Memorial Park.
- COVID cases in Hunterdon County are declining, considerations for re-opening of indoor worship was discussed.
- The church furnace that supplies the upstairs offices, quilting room & downstairs music room has to be replaced. Estimates are being reviewed.
- The elevator has been repaired. A new vendor is being used – Morris County Elevator.
- Gene Ambrecht & Matt Gaydick have been working in God's Acre cemetery to clean up the property.
- Financial audit is still pending.
- Building use guidelines for internal church groups have been updated based on CDC guidelines.
- Synod assembly will be virtual this year – May 7th & May 8th.

May 13, 2021

- A donation was sent to SRLC by a family member for repairs to the gravestone of Pastor Collier in God's Acre cemetery.
- The church picnic will occur in September, exact date to be determined.
- The Pork & Oyster dinner will not occur this year. An alternate event will be considered.
- Re-establishing a family Advent event will be pursued.
- Gail DeRemer is staying on as Treasurer through May.
- George Creasy is resigning from Council and will assume the position of Treasurer.
- SRLC financial reporting will be transitioned to QuickBooks for churches.
- Installation of Pastor Chris will be May 23. The Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Dean Brown, will lead the service.
- A "dry run" of indoor worship will occur May 16. Only worship leaders will be in attendance, not the general congregation.
- The night of council meetings will be moved to the second Tuesday of the month to work more effectively with Pastor's schedule.

- ELCA grants are available and SRLC will be submitting a proposal for an emergency food pantry.

June 22, 2021

- Pastor Chris and Anthony Briggs of CrossRoads worked together at St. Stephens. They met to seek ways to collaborate since we are the closest Lutheran church to Crossroads.
- SRLC may consider a weekend away fall retreat at CrossRoads.
- There is an immediate need (source of hot water) to replace the furnace at the parsonage.
- A letter will be drafted and sent to the congregation notifying of the need to replace the parsonage furnace and one of the church furnaces. Options for funding were discussed.
- Repairs are needed to the carriage house as a result of a fallen tree.
- Financial reporting via QuickBooks will initially work in parallel with the current Excel spreadsheet to confirm all transactions are being captured.

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News from Our Committees and Interest Groups

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The Food Pantry volunteers continue to be healthy which enables us to continue our monthly packing of groceries and our distributions. This summer, we were fortunate to receive a grant and several donations that allowed us to work with the Clinton ShopRite butcher so that we could provide our clients with beautiful cuts of roasts, steaks, sausage, chicken, and pork chops. The clients were pleasantly surprised.

Because the kids are on summer vacation, we have Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts helping us pack the bags and organize the pantry. We have a significant number of adult volunteers that help on Thursday distributions as well. Because these dedicated and reliable volunteers come each month, the distribution moves along quicker and each volunteer has their favorite area to volunteer.

The pantry now also receives fresh vegetables and fruit from Grow-A-Row, so this past July a number of pantry volunteers and church members volunteered to pick corn at their Pittstown farm. We picked a total of 9600 pounds of corn that Grow-A-Row distributes to the needy. Our client count continues to grow and we

are happy to be able to continue to assist these families in their need to provide for their families.

Thank you,
Gail

Family Promise/ IHN

Due to COVID, Family Promise has been housing guests at a hotel in Somerset County. Each hotel room is equipped with full size appliances, so guests can cook their own meals. There have been no in person church hostings and there doesn't look like there will be any in the future either. More details on that later.

With the help of the St. John Neuman volunteers, we provided groceries for four families for the week of June 6th. Several of helpers shopped and dropped groceries at my house or sent a donation to cover the cost of the groceries. Thank you so much for your generosity and support! All groceries were dropped at the hotel on Sunday, June 6th.

Family Promise did not have a host church scheduled for the week of June 13th. Because of the abundance of donations and a Thrivent Action Team grant, I volunteered us to provide for that week as well. I was able to purchase the needed groceries for the three families in need and provide them each with extra gift cards for Shop Rite so they could purchase other items.

Our second summer "hosting" begins August 8th. Once again, we are just providing grocery items to the guests.

As per the most recent news from Family Promise, they are in the process of securing a lease on a residential facility in Flemington. The current track is to have the facility available for use in September. They will no longer be using the rotation of church facilities to house guests. Instead, they will be hiring staff to provide supervision at the house. They will ask that congregations continue to support them by providing groceries (and after September cooked meals as well) to the families according to the schedule. Once the facility opens, it will be requested that congregations and volunteers stay involved by providing meals, creating events for the families, mentorship, and fellowship.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for the families that are vulnerable and in need. Thank you for giving of your time and resources to provide support of Family Promise as we move forward in a new direction.

Blessings,
Wendy

Property

Thank you to Richard Glahn for joining me weekly in knocking out various projects. Shout out to Matt Gaydick for bringing the shrubbery around the front stairs under control. Let's not forget Karen & George for helping me empty the dehumidifiers daily. Last but not least, the Armbrechts for getting 2 storm window panes replaced. Thank you everyone!
Erik

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Tuesday Quilters

We would love to have you join us Tuesday mornings at 9 am. Any amount of time that you could give to help is welcome! No sewing experience necessary.

WELCA

The women of the Spruce Run Lutheran Church WELCA met on Wednesday, July 21st at noon. This was our second meeting since COVID-19 began. We're very thankful that we can resume our meetings again.

This was our annual picnic meeting. We met at the church. Pastor Chris came in and said the blessing. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and dessert brought by our members and guests. Thanks everyone.

We held a short business meeting preceeded by all saying our Statement of Purpose. We support different groups monthly and each month decide where our Thank Offering goes.

Due to the picnic, we did not have a program this month.

We meet the third Wednesday of each month at noon. We'd love to have more of you ladies join our group. Bring a sandwich - drinks and dessert is provided.

Ruth Ferik
President

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: Janet Ledoux.....537-6974
 Vice President: Jeff Smith.....617-5351
 Secretary: Sonia Cordova.....537-2418
 Treasurer: George Creasy.....537-4034
 Financial Secretary:
 Paul Henriksen.....835-9522
 Danielle Beyers.....996-6379
 Gail Vajda.....537-6333
 Judi Mansilla... ..832-9233
 Gene Armbrecht.....689-0716
 Rosemarie Adickes.....689-1895
 Rich Balzer.....574-5239
 BobDeRemer.....689-0943
 ErikHenriksen.....835-9522

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISON

Service

Sonia Cordova.....537-2418

Witness

Sonia Cordova.....537-2418

Finance

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

Learning

Janet Ledoux.....537-6974

Building Use/Management

Erik Henriksen.....835-9522

Property

Erik Henriksen.....835-9522

Mutual Minsitry

Janet Ledoux.....537-6974

Stewardship

Council Liaison:
 George Creasy.....537-4034

Worship and Music

Sonia Cordova.....537-2418

Altar Guild

Chair:

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Gail Vajda.....537-6333

Family Promise

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendent

Laura Mortensen.....732-318-8034

Music

Candice Peare.....534-9862

Pre-K and Kindergarten

First and Second Grade

Third and Fourth Grade

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

George Creasy.....537-4034

Rob Ossi.....638-5805

Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

PastorChrisHalverson.....537-4824

STAFF

Pastor Chris Halverson537-4824

Music Director:

Candice Peare.....534-9862

Director, Handbell Choir:

.....

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

Sextons:

Rosemarie Adickes.....689-1895

Sara Armbrecht.....689-0716

FELLOWSHIP EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Creasy.....537-4034

Karen Smith.....617-5351

WEBSITE

Mark Creasy.....303-4356

Karen Smith.....617-5351

meeting in the Carriage Shed to study the four-hundred-year period that straddles the Old and New Testament, commonly called the Intertestamental Period and the scriptures written during that time that didn't make it into our bibles.

As fall quickly marches toward us, the second-year confirmation students will be finishing up their time together with a few sessions focused on their personal faith and prayer life, which will culminate in their confirmation on Reformation Sunday. The Sunday School will be starting back up in the fall; Laura is looking for a few volunteers to help teach!

Finally, we'll be starting up a new fellowship/education event on September 1st called PUBLIC Theology. We will meet at the Glen Gardner Inn and talk about God and faith and life over a beverage and/or food for about an hour. The first topic will be, "How do we talk about God in Public?"

Music:

Since the county's Covid rates fell below 10 cases per 100,000 people per day, we've been able to gathered together in person for worship again. As more people got vaccinated and numbers decreased we were even able to include singing the last two hymns. More recently, we added back the Sanctus (sometimes called the *Holy, Holy, Ho!y*). Also, we were able to host a musical event "Music

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Spruce Run Lutheran Church **Milestones**

Our Sympathies to

the Overton family on Roxanne's passing on June 8, 2021.

the Fishburn family on Michael's passing on August 9, 2021.

A Letter from the Past

Do you remember what it felt like the first time you received a letter in the mail? Or perhaps, think back to the early days of the internet, when receiving an email was extraordinary; can you remember what that felt like?

I ask this because I've been trying to recreate that feeling for you all, but more so. Imagine receiving a letter in the mail from a saint; imagine receiving words so powerful that they would become part of scripture and read regularly by millions and millions of people! That's what I hope you're experiencing in the four-part sermon series we're in the middle of right now. Every few weeks we receive another letter "from the Apostle Paul". Each one is a paraphrase and modernization of a section of the letter to the Ephesians.

The first one focused on being thankful for the ways Christian community is truly being God's hands and feet in the world, and how such a community, at our best, can reveal God to the whole world!

The second letter explained the major division in the congregations who originally received this letter, the distinction between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. Bridging these two divisions created the early church, and a place for God and us to dwell!

The third letter moves from division to unity, and how Christians are united in Christ, and also united in their ability to be morally sensitive in a world that overwhelmingly prefers a dull conscience.

Finally, the last letter insists that a Christian's roles and relationships matter; the hardships that come with living them out well are, in fact, part of a larger struggle against those spiritual forces which defy God.

I hope hearing Ephesians (a little altered so its content can still surprise you after all these years), fills you with some of the same joy and hope that the original recipients felt. I pray that this series moves us to embrace being the congregation we are called to be by God. I pray that "grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 6:24)

from the Carriage Shed" which Gene graciously led. Due to a powerful storm, the event was moved into the church's basement, which worked just fine.

Looking forward, the worship and music committee has begun the search for a new Bell Choir Director. Additionally, we're hoping to have something that feels more like pre-Covid worship put together by September 12th.

Service:

The North Hunterdon Food Pantry, our pantry, has continued to serve the community faithfully through the pandemic. We made modifications where needed and are working on new ways to serve the community better. Distribution occurs on the second Thursday of each month. Please stop by, it's a sight to see and the more the merrier!

We recently gathered about a dozen folk together to try out a new way to serve our neighbors. We volunteered with Grow-A-Row, a non-profit based out of Pittstown, that grows fresh produce for the hungry. Our group of 12 picked corn for nearly two hours, harvesting about 9,600 pounds of it!

We've been focused on our mission, and are continuing to do so, for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Chris

Righteous Recipes

Apple Cider Donut Cake

- Box yellow cake mix
- 3/4 c apple cider
- 1/4 t cinnamon
- 1/2 c apple sauce
- 3 large eggs
- 1 T brown sugar
- 1 t vanilla
- 2 T cinnamon
- 1/4 c sugar
- 1/4 c unsalted butter, melted

Optional Cider Glaze Dip

- 1 c powdered sugar
- 1/4 c apple cider



- Preheat oven to 350 F.
- In a large mixing bowl, beat the dry cake mix, apple cider, apple sauce, water, and eggs.
- Add in cinnamon (1/4 tsp), brown sugar, and vanilla to the cake mix batter.
- Pour the mixture into a well-greased and floured bundt pan.
- Place bundt pan on center rack and bake for 45 minutes. Test with a toothpick by sticking into the middle of the cake, if it comes out clean it is ready. Remove from heat and allow to cool on a wire rack for 20 minutes.
- While the cake is cooking, prepare the apple cider glaze by adding powdered sugar and the 1/4 cup apple cider to a small bowl and whisking them together until you reach your desired consistency.
- In a separate bowl, mix together the cinnamon and sugar.
- Once the cake has cooled, brush the entire surface of the cake with melted butter. Spread the cinnamon sugar mixture until evenly coated.
- Serve the cake with the apple cider glaze dipping sauce and enjoy!

Council Highlights

Continued from page 2

June 22, 2021 (continued)

- Rally day will be September 19 at Lebanon Township Memorial Park. The church picnic will be planned for the same day.
- Music under the Carriage House is being planned as an outdoor event. In the event of inclement weather, the Fellowship Hall will be used.
- Sara Armbrecht suggested proceeds from the music event be used for a community outreach project with Newton Guest Home.
- The seating area in the lounge will be set up again.
- Jason Steiner has resigned as handbell director. A new director will be pursued. The job description remains the same with the director working September to May at the same compensation rate.
- John O'Brien will be coming to SRLC on July 10 to teach a few of us how to repair headstone footings in God's Acre Cemetery.
- Beginning September, in person council meeting attendance is preferred. A ZOOM option will be available for extraordinary circumstances.

- From SYNOD assembly, the Bishop appeal this year is for the Jehu Jones (the first African American Lutheran Pastor) Memorial Fund which supports black ministry candidates in the NJ SYNOD. The ask is for each congregation to contribute \$375 to support benevolence.

July 13, 2021

- Pastor Chris will be on vacation August 19 through August 24.
- SRLC is further along with in-person worship than many other churches.
- Miscellaneous minor plumbing & electrical repairs are needed at the church.
- Masonry chimney repairs are needed at the church & the parsonage.
- Repairs to the Carriage House roof are complete.
- The parsonage furnace has been replaced. The church furnace is targeted for replacement in September.
- John O'Brien, cemetery headstone restorer, completed one session at God's Acre cemetery.

Two headstones were restored during this time. John will return for a second session, date to be determined.

- Letters were sent to the congregation regarding the replacement of the furnaces & the associated cost.
- SRLC picking of vegetables at Grow-A-Row in Pittstown NJ will be July 22.
- LSM-NJ Backpack collection this year will be done online either as a donation to the Education Fund or by placing an order from Amazon to ship direct to the LSM-NJ Burlington, NJ office.
- SRLC Amazon SMILE account has been established.
- Erik Henriksen will chair the Picnic Committee. Janet Ledoux & Judi Mansilla will co-chair.

Chancel Choir

Chancel choir practice will begin on Sunday, September 12th. Practices will be from 9 - 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.

Everyone is welcome to join!



Our congratulations to Emily Smith for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award!

Emily's project was creating gowns for the NICU babies at St. Luke's Hospital. She was thrilled to deliver nearly 300 of them! She would like to thank the Tuesday Quilter's for their tremendous support of her project.



Mark your calendars for November 20th, the date for Jungle Bell Junction. Vendors have been calling for the last few months so anxious to be apart of this. The mailings have gone out. Let us all hope and pray that this can happen for 2021. We need to jingle all the way to Jingle Bell Junction.



Sara Armbrecht



ShopRite gift cards are available. Please contact Sara or Denise if you would like to purchase some. This is a very easy way to financially support our church.



Music Under the Carriage Shed

What a wonderful 3 hours of food and music. The weather outside was not the greatest, but we pulled it off inside. It was wonderful seeing people singing with the music and just having a good time. We were thrilled to have a lot of people from the local community show up for the event. Our thanks go out to the musicians and the congregation for making this event happen. We are excited to do this again next year!



Spruce Run Cemetery

Cemetery expert and chairman of NJ Gravestone Studies, John O'Brien, joined several church members in the Spruce Run Cemetery to demonstrate some techniques to clean and care for the headstones in the cemetery.



America's Grow-A-Row

Together we picked 9,600 pounds of corn! That is about 38,400 servings.

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

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*“From the rising of the sun to its going down
The Lord’s name is to be praised..”*

Psalm 113:3

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