



SPRUCE RUN

# Fellowship

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Lent 2022 Vol. 68, No. 1

## From the Pastor's Pen



### Lent: Practicing Discipleship

Do you remember when you first learned to cook, type, drive a car or play a game? It took practice, didn't it? In fact, you probably practiced multiple skills in order to get them to flow well together. The Christian faith also takes practice. It is a process, not a product to be consumed.

A resurrection life in which you abide in the love of God found in Jesus Christ involves a lifetime of failures and occasional successes and the support of the whole church, not to mention the gracious leading of the Holy Spirit. It is ultimately a way of being—the earliest Christians were described as People of the Way. They were people following after Jesus; they were disciples of Jesus.

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## Church Offering

In addition to the traditional church offering during worship, you can mail your offering to the church (442 West Hill Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826) or use the church website for electronic payment (see the [Donate button](#) on the toolbar and follow the directions to set up an electronic account).

## A Message from the Council President

The upcoming season of Lent is one of reflection and prayer for Christians. As he discussed in his letter, Pastor Chris will be guiding us through a variety of prayer techniques during this time and I encourage you to put into practice an approach to prayer that works for you.

At the last PUBLIC Theology gathering and at the Council meeting, the conversations were about Lent and our commitment to prayer, fasting/abstaining and alms. We spoke about ways to motivate the congregation to get more involved, to challenge ourselves to make more of a commitment. Rather than ask everyone to focus on the same task, we would like to challenge ourselves to make a commitment to show in our approach to prayer, fasting (abstaining) and our giving of alms.

When it comes to fasting, we all can remember the days when we would give up chocolate or even all sweets for the entire season of Lent. But we can take this in a different direction and abstain from social media (for example, Facebook or Instagram) or other activities that distract us from our families, prayer, etc. There's no formula to what fasting activity would be a meaningful sacrifice to you.

For alms, we can save a quarter, a dollar or more a day that can be given to the food pantry or the Pastor's discretionary fund. Crossroads Camp and disaster relief are also options. Use your imagination of where your contribution would be needed. Your time and talents could be offered to assist with various committees and activities in the church. Complete the Time and Talents survey to commit to the wide variety of needs we have.

Let's all join in this time of commitment to ourselves and as a reminder of the sacrifices Christ made for us.

Yours in Christ,

# News from Our Committees & Interest Groups

## North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to assist the needs of our local families. We provide monthly assistance to approximately 35 families. In addition to the regular monthly distribution, during the holidays we were able to provide a complete Thanksgiving and Christmas meal to our families to enjoy. The last few months we have been supported by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lebanon Township organizations, Johanna Farms, Grow-A-Row and private donations. The Food Pantry would like to thank all the people who participated in the "Reverse Advent Calendar"

Along with our dedicated, reliable and awesome volunteers, we have also been joined by volunteers from scouts and local schools. These wonderful young people volunteer regularly and stock shelves, pack bags, provide desserts and hold food drives. Some of them are graduating and moving on with their lives. We are going to miss our young volunteers not only for their work but for their enthusiasm and the joy they brought to us. The pantry would like to thank them and wish them a healthy and happy future.

We had a visit from Daisy Girl Scouts who wanted to learn what a grocery store was doing inside a house! This group of eager Girl Scouts were excited to learn more

about and help at the pantry. Last December, they learned about budgeting and went shopping for items to donate to the pantry. We are thrilled for their enthusiasm and on-going support. The girls did their best to live the Girl Scout Law by using their resources wisely, being friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and making the world a better place by helping us put items on the shelves and get bags ready for distribution.



**We are so grateful for all who assist!**

Gail, Janet, Karen and Sue

## Family Promise

It's a new year and there are changes coming for the Family Promise hosting ministry. Family Promise has moved to a new model and starting at the end of April (that is the expected time as of now) they will be utilizing a residential facility to accommodate

the immediate needs for sheltering families experiencing housing loss, whether it be by natural disaster or family crisis. Family Promise is partnering with Calvary Episcopal Church in Flemington to utilize their Annex to convert it to a four-bedroom residential support center. There will be a dedication ceremony on April 24th. This is a big change for everybody! The new arrangement will provide a more consistent living experience and be close to more amenities in Flemington.

Once the new center opens, volunteers from civic groups and past host churches will provide cooked meals for dinners and groceries for breakfast and lunch items. There will still be opportunities to go in person for hospitality but Family Promise plans to hire additional staff to provide hospitality and overnight coverage.



Thus our role will be different without having guests stay with us in the church, but we continue to stay involved. Our 2022 hosting weeks are: June 12-19, August 14-21, and November 27-December 4.

It is still four months off until our first commitment, but it will be here before you know it.

Blessings,  
Wendy DiNapoli

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### Congregation Council 2022

President: Janet Ledoux  
Vice President: Jeff Smith  
Secretary: Sonia Cordova  
Treasurer: George Creasy  
Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen

Sonia Cordova and Erik Henriksen were elected to their second 3-year term. Brad Cox was elected to finish the two years of an unexpired term. Richard Glahn and Laura Mortensen have also been elected to council for 3-year terms.

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



### Stewardship

Isn't it ironic the way a pandemic increases the need for stewardship and pastoral care while at the same time striking at the means of stewardship support? Please share what you can and perhaps a little more. That is what stewardship is all about.

### 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  
Rosemarie Adickes.....689-1895  
Gene Ambrecht.....689-0716  
Danielle Beyers.....996-6379  
Brad Cox.....638-8533  
Richard Glahn.....236-2771  
Erik Henriksen.....835-9522  
Judi Mansilla.....832-9233  
Laura Mortensen.....732-318-8034  
Gail Vajda.....537-6333

### 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 Ministry

Janet Ledoux.....537-6974

#### Stewardship

George Creasy.....537-4034

#### Worship and Music

Sonia Cordova.....537-2418

#### Altar Guild

.....

#### North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Gail Vajda.....537-6333

### Tuesday Quilters

Rose-Marie Green.....735-4444

### Family Promise

Wendy DiNapoli.....973-568-5168

### SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendent

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

### Music

Qingyang (Kelly) Ye

### Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

George Creasy.....537-4034

Rob Ossi.....638-5805

### Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Chris Halverson.....537-4824

### STAFF

Pastor Chris Halverson .....537-4824

Music Director:

Candice Peare.....534-9862

Director, Handbell Choir:

Qingyang (Kelly) Ye

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

Sextons:

Rosemarie Adickes.....689-1895

Sara Ambrecht.....689-0716

### FELLOWSHIP EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Creasy.....537-4034

Karen Smith.....617-5351

### WEBSITE

Mark Creasy.....303-4356

Karen Smith.....617-5351



What might it look like to regularly practice being a disciple? What skills might you need to hone and learn to get better at following Jesus? What might that look like for you today? What might an ideal "discipleship regime" look like? Here is one inspired by the book *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church*.

### **Worshipping weekly**

What we do in worship matters, not only in the moments we are doing them, but more so, what we do in worship shapes how we will live the rest of our lives. It reminds us we're not alone, tells us our story, feeds us with the bread of life, and sends us out into the world renewed. Jesus shows up in everything we do in worship: he is there when two or three are gathered in his name, he is there when the Word of God is read, preached and confessed, he is there to point us to the Word of God incarnate and, Jesus is truly present in the meal. We leave church seeking the face of God in our neighbors.

### **Pray three to five times a day**

One of the gifts Luther gives us in his Small Catechism is a method to pray daily. He encourages us to bracket our waking life in prayer—prayer as the first thing we do when we wake up and the last thing we do before we fall asleep. On top of that, he also offers us a meal prayer. How might your life be different if you prayed multiple times a day every day? Spontaneously, with your pen, while on a walk, at regular times during the day, on your commute to work?

### **Read scripture every day**

There is a danger that your Bible can become like a coffee table

book, an item to be displayed, not read. May it not be so among us! Some folk use resources to read through the Bible in a year, others use the daily lectionary that follows the pieces of scripture we read on Sunday, and still others follow their own path through the various books of the Bible. However scripture is read, it moves us; it ought to shape our self-understanding, pointing out where we're falling short for the sake of our neighbors, and promising us that God will never abandon us.

### **Regularly be in relationship with fellow Christians**

It is common wisdom that New Year's resolutions stick better when you do them with a partner—jogging every other morning is more likely to happen if you know a friend will be knocking on your door at 6 am tomorrow. This is also true with our faith. When Luther was pressed about how folk ought to do confession and forgiveness, he carved out an interesting space for the laity. He affirmed, yes, individual confession and forgiveness with a clergyperson was important for people when something was vexing their conscience, and also, the "common consolation of fellow believers" was just as important. That is, any fellow Christian can be a good listening ear, and oftentimes they can dispense advice just as well, if not better, than a clergyperson; this is especially the case if that person has dealt with the particular life challenge you're going through.

### **Regularly point people to the good news of Jesus through word and deed**

There is a not so funny joke that our denomination suffers from "Lutheran Laryngitis." There is something culturally in our

## **Righteous Recipes**

### **Creamy Turkey Tetrazzini**

- 1 lb linguine
- 6 T butter
- 6 T all-purpose flour
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/4 t pepper
- 1/8 t cayenne pepper
- 3 c chicken broth
- 1 c heavy whipping cream
- 4 c cubed cooked turkey
- 1 c sliced fresh mushrooms
- 4 oz diced pimientos, drained
- 1/4 c chopped fresh parsley
- 4 to 5 drops hot pepper sauce
- 1/3 c grated Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions.

In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in the flour, salt, pepper and cayenne until smooth. Gradually add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in cream.

Drain linguine; add 2 cups sauce and toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Make a well in center of pasta, making a space about 6x4 in.

To the remaining sauce, add the turkey, mushrooms, pimientos, parsley and pepper sauce; mix well. Pour into center of dish. Sprinkle with cheese.

Cover and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake until bubbly and heated through, 20-30 minutes longer.

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tradition that makes us shy away from telling people the good news of Jesus Christ. So often, we are at the forefront of incredible acts of kindness and generosity and blanch at the idea of telling people that we did this or that good, liberating, and sustaining thing in response to the love of God we find in Jesus Christ. People are hungry for a "why" to life. So hungry, in fact, they will clutch any story told to them, even malicious ones. Wouldn't it be better if they got to know the good story of Jesus and his love?

### **Give generously**

There are several places in Hebrew Scripture that talk about a tithe—a gift of 10% of one's wealth as an offering to God. Some denominations take this concept whole cloth and make it a requirement for membership, which, as you might imagine, can put people off religion entirely. That said, buried somewhere in the religious idea of tithing, or at least being generous; there is a really important point to be made. Nothing is ours; everything in existence is a gift from God, and as such, we are mere stewards of our time, talents, and possessions. Additionally, giving generously of our whole self helps us ask questions like: what's really important? What is enough? What does our neighbor need? It can change our priorities, for example, if we spend an evening volunteering at Grow-A-Row, that might mean we didn't spend the evening fighting with our political foes on Facebook.

For the season of Lent, we'll be focusing on one of these six areas of Christian practice, prayer. Each week we will offer two different prayer techniques for you to try during the week. There will be a bulletin insert and a YouTube video

for each week. Perhaps by Easter, you'll have found one or two ways to pray that are sustainable for you!

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Chris



In order to provide more in-person worship opportunities, we have been invited to join the members of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church for afternoon worship on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Additionally, we have extended the same invitation for our evening worship services.

	Spruce Run	Bethlehem
Ash Wednesday	7 PM	1 PM
Good Friday	7 PM	2 or 3 PM*

Prior to the 1:00 pm Ash Wednesday worship service, there will be for a soup and bread luncheon (11:30-12:45).

\*Time for Good Friday is not set yet, but is expected to be 2 pm or 3 pm.

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church  
2 Race Street  
Pittstown, NJ 08867

## *40 Days for the Food Pantry*

1. Paper Towel
2. Toilet Paper
3. Tissues
4. Napkins
5. Canned Peaches
6. Canned Pears
7. Canned Pineapple
8. Canned Fruit Cocktail
9. Canned Mandarin Oranges
10. Saltine Crackers
11. Salt
12. Pepper
13. Catsup
14. Mustard
15. Mayo
16. Olives
17. Sugar
18. Canned Tuna
19. Canned Chicken
20. Spam
21. Bread Crumbs
22. Beef Broth
23. Minute Rice
24. Spicy Brown/Dijon Mustard
25. BBQ Sauce
26. Pickles
27. Laundry Soap
28. Dish Soap
29. General Purpose Cleaner
30. Taco Seasoning Mix
31. Granola Bars
32. Canned Beef Hash
33. Coffee
34. Tea
35. Pancake Mix
36. Syrup
37. White Vinegar
38. Canned Ravioli
39. Sponges
40. Ranch/Italian Salad Dressing

## The Prayer Chain of Spruce Run Lutheran Church

Does this still exist? Most definitely "YES"!

We had a little Prayer Chain booklet and the volunteers operated by telephone. The chain at Spruce Run Lutheran Church was started by Sharon Onweller who was a member of the Social Ministry Committee. When Sharon moved to Evergreen, Colorado (and she still lives there and is active in her new church), Olga Lanning become the next coordinator. Upon her death last year, I then become the coordinator.

The original volunteers were Jean Wight, Bernice Mayer, Millie Lotsey, Olga Lanning, Janet Tinder, Anne Faust, and Deborah "Sam" McConnell. If anyone has the first pictorial directory made in 1984, it will refresh your memory of these ladies.

Through the years the requests for prayer have been "spotty". At the present time, the longest participating volunteers have been Carolyn Smith, Mary Gaydick, Fran Winch Klausman, Ruth Ferik, and Bernice Mayer. Upon Olga Lanning's death, I suggested we add our Women of the ELCA members Sara Ambrecht, Mary Lomerson, Gail Vajda, and Karen Smith since it is part of our Statement of Purpose which is to engage in ministry and action.

As coordinator, I only send requests for prayers when we have permission to do so. Our requests have been for many reasons such as health, problems and thankfulness. I can be reached at 908-537-2250. You can also speak to a member of our prayer chain and they will contact me.

Bernice Mayer, Coordinator

## 2022 "Giving 110%" Challenge & Committee Focuses

Do you remember your coach saying, "Give 110%" especially when your team was in a tight spot? Well, Spruce Run is in one of those tight spots—as are churches of all sorts in the United States during the Pandemic— we've all experienced a 35% decrease in offering, worship attendance, and participation in congregational life. So, like that coach, we're saying

**"Give it 110%!"**

Our goal for 2022 is to increase participation, attendance, and offering by 10% in 2022. That means 4-9 more people in worship, an increase of \$1,090 in offering per month, and more participation in bible studies, fellowship events and service opportunities. To do this the congregational council will have five areas of focus for the year; Worship and Music, Holistic Stewardship, Building Discernment, Fellowship and Outreach, and Ministry with Young People.

Please take some time to review these areas of ministry and consider where God is calling you to serve.

[Click here for a longer description of this year's plan.](#)

[Click here for descriptions of some tasks of ministry and approximately how much time they would take and a google sign-up sheet to help us plan for the coming year.](#)

## Here are some scriptures to help you in time of need

When things look blue.....Isaiah 40  
When tempted to do wrong.....Psalm 139  
When facing a crisis.....Psalm 46  
When discouraged.....Psalm 23  
When bored .....Psalm 103-104 or Job 38-40  
When lonely or fearful.....Psalm 27  
When anxious for dear ones.....Psalm 107  
When sick and in pain.....Psalm 91  
When planning a budget.....Luke 19  
For gratitude for answered prayer....Psalm 118:21, John 16:28, or  
Phillipians 4:6



## Committees & Interest Groups

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### Jingle Bell Junction

After missing a year, Jingle Bell Junction was back and enjoyed by ALL!!! Crafters, vendors and shoppers came out in force and we are thankful for a wonderful outcome. The cookie and baked goods tables were filled by our church bakers (Lutherans sure know how to bake), community bakers and, some of our fabulous crafters even baked. The kitchen offerings were tremendous, as always. I would like to give a huge thank you to all of you; the kitchen helpers who served the food, the helpers who collected the money, the helpers who chopped, peeled, and those who set-up and cleaned-up. Many thanks to all who came and shopped. We had a great day. Thank you to all, Sara

### MAGAZINES WANTED!

There is a box outside of the sanctuary to collect your old magazines. Each month, they are given to Newton's Guest Home. They are so happy to receive our magazines.

## Holy Week Worship Opportunities



April 10 Palm Sunday

Worship Service 10:00 AM

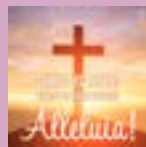


April 14 Maundy Thursday

Worship Service 7:00 PM

April 15 Good Friday

Worship Service 7:00 PM



April 17 Sunrise Service 6:30 AM

Resurrection of our Lord 10:00 AM

"We gathered on Christmas Day and started a fire in the fireplace. One of our gentlemen started us off with a prayer and we sat and shared stories while each person opened their gifts and shared with the others what they had received. It was such a stark contrast to last year when we were all segregated from each other and all too ill to worry about gifts. The cookies were such a huge hit. The plant as well. Everyone kept thanking me and I told them about the generosity of your congregation. The gifts were all well received and appreciated, but being remembered brought tears to some eyes, including mine. It truly is the thought that counts and I wanted to convey everyone's gratitude to all of the faithful at Spruce Run Lutheran Church. Thank You!!"

- Mary Newton & and the residents of Newton's Guest Home

## CHRISTMAS MORNING AT NEWTON'S GUEST HOME



# Stewardship 2022

Your pledge will help us plan the next year of how our congregation will continue our "doing" and it takes just three steps. Remember: You're pledging your intention, not promising a specific amount.

## Step 1 - Your Contact Info

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_  
We'll help you meet your giving goals! Where should we send your reports?  
☐ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Regular mail, using the address above

## Step 2 - Your Giving Goal

I plan to share a total of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

For example:

\$10/week = \$43/month or \$520/year  
\$25/week = \$108/month or \$1,300/year  
\$50/week = \$216/month or \$2,600/year  
\$75/week = \$325/month or \$3,900/year

## Step 3 - Your Allocation

(Please provide dollar amounts or percentages.)

Send my gifts: \_\_\_\_\_ to Operating  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Mission/Benevolence\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Mortgage/Improvements \*

\* Our congregation's pledge is to spend \$1 on helping others through Mission/Benevolence for every \$10 we spend on Operating costs. We will use your donations this way unless you specify otherwise.

Your pledge helps us plan! If you have not already filled out a pledge form, please print out this form, fill it out and return it to church or fill out the on-line form.

[Stewardship 2022 Pledge Form](#)



## ShopRite Gift Cards

Don't forget to purchase a ShopRite Gift Card before you go grocery shopping. The church receives a percentage of cost of the card so it's an easy way to support the church. Contact Sara or Denise to purchase your card today!



# 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)  
Like and Follow @SRELC on Facebook  
Subscribe to our YouTube Channel - Spruce Run Lutheran Church



## Lent

*"The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."*

Lamentations 3:25-26