



SPRUCE RUN *Fellowship*

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Summer 2022 Vol. 68, No. 3

From the Pastor's Pen



In last few newsletters, I mentioned the book, "Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church". This book sets out a challenge of expectations for church membership: Worship weekly, pray multiple times a day, read scripture daily, regularly be in relationship with other Christians, regularly point people to Jesus, and give generously. So, let's take some time to think about reading the Bible.

Luther famously wrote, "The Bible is the cradle of Christ." This is very crucial for understanding what Lutherans mean when we use the phrase *Sola scriptura* that is, Word Alone. Some Christians seek to make the Bible into a science text book (see

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A Message from the Council President

Summertime is here and there are a lot of things going on at church!

We have opted to worship at 9 am on Sundays until Labor Day. It gives us a chance to be at church during the cooler part of the day and gives everyone a chance to start the day's activities sooner.

There is weekly Bible study under the Carriage House every Thursday night in June at 7 pm. Join us for an evening of learning and conversation. The first Wednesday of the month they is Pub-Lick Theology. We are meeting at Gronsky's in High Bridge for discussion and ice cream! During the cooler months, we meet at a restaurant, but we're changing things up for summer.

We will be joining with Bethlehem Presbyterian Church on July 24th at 9:30 am for an ecumenical "Christmas in July" worship service. It will be held outside at Finn Road Park in Union Township. More details to come! We will join with Bethlehem Presbyterian Church again on September 11th for a day of worship and service at Lebanon Township Memorial Park.

Don't assume that church is on vacation for the summer. There are so many opportunities to come together in a number of activities. Come to one to check it out or come to all of these gatherings for a new routine!

Have a wonderful, healthy summer! Hope to see you soon!

Janet

Council Meeting Highlights



February 8, 2022

- For this Lenten season, the focus will be on prayer. Two ways to pray will be presented each week.
- Additional volunteers are needed for all Worship & Music opportunities.
- A Gnome making craft event was proposed. Council approved.
- Quotes are being obtained for window replacement in Pastor's office and one classroom.
- Having Sunday School during worship service is working well.
- The ELCA Youth Gathering is cancelled for 2022. Synod is working to establish an alternate local event.
- Having SRLC host a children's event for the community was suggested. Further discussion will take place.
- Having council members resume counting of Sunday offering will be discussed.
- Resources are available to conduct the financial audit. Schedule to be established.

March 8, 2022

- Annual NJ Synod Assembly will be held May 5th & 6th via ZOOM.
- Pastor will be on vacation April 18th – April 24th.
- Additional music will begin to be added back into the service.
- Transition to receiving communion at the railing will begin after Easter.
- Sharing of peace will not be reintroduced at this time.
- Gnome craft event is scheduled for March 29th @ 7 pm.
- The old carillon has been removed from the choir loft.
- Some siding on the lower parking lot side of the church needs repair.
- The parsonage roof has to be inspected, repair may be needed.

April 5, 2022

- Past "stop gap" borrowing from CMA funds was discussed. Short term and long term options to be evaluated.

- NJ Synod is establishing a developmental cohort in the western region – The Faithful Journey. SRLC was invited to join.
- There will be no communion on Palm Sunday.
- Lebanon Township Community Day will be September 24th. SRLC will participate.
- Easter breakfast will be available immediately following the sunrise service. Matthew Gaydick will coordinate.
- There will be an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday.
- CrossRoads is offering a youth activity in May. Details were shared with parents and the LYO.
- Spring clean-up will be April 23 9:00 am to

News from Our Committees and Interest Groups

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The biggest change the Food Pantry must resolve is the elimination of plastic and paper bags for packing clients food selections. Currently, the pantry received a six month extension before we are required to stop using paper and plastic bags. We hope to update our distribution of food to clients by packing in boxes and allowing the clients to pack their food in their own reusable bags. We have some donations of reusable bags to distribute to clients that forget their bags or cannot afford to purchase.

We are thrilled that Boy Scout Troops 121, 200, and Cub Scout Pack 190 brought 3200 pounds of food to our pantry. We have our dedicated volunteers sorting the donated items by dates and finding a spot for all the food.

The special Easter distribution went well with the clients receiving a ham donated by ShopRite along with vegetables, fruit, and rolls to complete their Easter dinner. In that same visit, they picked up their monthly requested pantry items.

We are so grateful and thankful for the continued support we receive from our community.

Respectfully,
Gail, Janet, Karen, and Sue

Family Promise/ IHN

Deliveries have been made. There were 5 families in the program and they all received ShopRite gift cards with which to buy their weekly groceries. Thank you to all participants! You exemplified generosity and grace!

Unfortunately, there were only a small handful of you who answered the need. We had five Spruce Run members, one St. John's member, a St. John's ministry donation, and the Thrivent Action Team grant money (thank the Lord) to try to get enough gift cards together to feed these families for the week. You know the direction grocery prices have been going!

I understand my e-mail went to the spam box for some people? I also understand there is a very quick turn around for action. Family Promise is saying that the new goal is to move into their new facility in August. They have been delayed a year now due to the Flemington zoning office.

Our next hosting is the week of August 14, so it's too close to call where the guests will be at that time. Remember that any assistance you can give (large or small) is appreciated.

IDEA: Maybe set aside a couple of dollars a week (like skip one coffee or ice cream cone purchase) until August 14 to be able to help those less fortunate?

ACTION: Please let me know if you are receiving these e-mails and if you want to stay on the list or not.

Thank you again and enjoy your summer!

Wendy and Debbie



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.

"The Fundamentals" by Lyman Stewart) or a rule book for secular governance (for example, John Calvin's brief theocratic rule of Geneva), but as Lutherans, we believe Scripture testifies to Jesus Christ and is the basis for the teachings of our faith. When we read the Bible it strikes us a Law and Gospel, naming both the reality of sin in the world and the even greater reality of God's love for us.

Now, for those who haven't done a lot of Bible reading, it can be a disorienting experience. That's because the Bible is not so much a book, but a library. It is a library filled with all kinds of different documents, all describing God's ongoing faithfulness, each in their own unique way. A deed of sale (Jeremiah), a Government Proclamation (Ezra), a Travelogue (Acts), a Hymnbook (the Psalms), Apocalyptic Literature (Daniel and Revelation), a Cosmic Court transcript (Job), and Poetry (almost every book in the bible) all pointing us to God's good acts among people.

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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 Armbricht.....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.....328-6027

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Gail Vajda.....328-6027

Youth

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

Building Discernment

Erik Henriksen.....835-9522

Holistic Stewardship

Rosemarie Adickes.....689-1895
George Creasy.....537-4034

Worship and Music

Judi Mansilla... ..832-9233
Matt Gaydick.....832-6348

Altar Guild

.....

Finance

Jeff Smith.....617-5351

Mutual Minsitry

Janet Ledoux.....537-6974

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Gail Vajda.....328-6027

Tuesday Quilters

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

Family Promise

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendent

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Music

Qingyang (Kelly) Ye.....537-4824

Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

George Creasy.....537-4034
Rob Ossi.....638-5805

Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Chris Halverson.....537-4824

STAFF

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Candice Peare.....534-9862

Director, Handbell Choir:

Qingyang (Kelly) Ye.....537-4824

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

Sextons:

Rosemarie Adickes.....689-1895
Sara Armbricht.....689-0716

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Karen Smith.....617-5351

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Mark Creasy.....303-4356
Karen Smith.....617-5351

In addition to being disorienting, reading scripture can be daunting, especially for people who endeavor to read the entire bible. How do you even do that? The same way you eat an elephant, one bite at a time. If you read about three chapters a day (except Psalm 119, it requires a day unto itself), you'll have read the whole bible in a year!

Regular reading of scripture reinforces the Christian story. These days that is incredibly important. You see, since the internet came into widespread use, the average American engages with 4,000 stories a day (some as simple as "buy our shampoo and everything will be good in your life"). This glut of stories can swamp the good news about God's love found in Jesus Christ. Making sure the biblical stories are part of your daily consumption of stories, is vital for a strong faith life.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Chris

Righteous Recipes

Strawberry Spinach Salad

For the Dressing:

- 1/3 c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. fresh lemon juice
- 3 tbsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp. poppy seeds
- 2 tsp. dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper

In a small jar, combine the olive oil, lemon juice, honey, vinegar, poppy seeds, mustard, salt, and pepper. Seal the jar; shake vigorously to combine. Set aside.

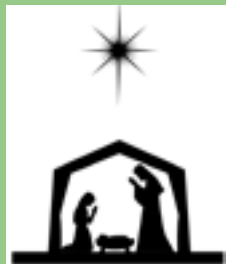
For the Salad:

- 2 5-oz. containers baby spinach
- 1 lb. strawberries, halved or sliced
- 2 oranges, peeled and sliced
- 1 1/2 c. chopped pecans, toasted
- 4 oz. goat cheese, crumbled

Just before serving, add the spinach to a large bowl or platter; top with half of the strawberries and orange slices. Drizzle with half of the dressing; gently toss to coat. Top the salad with the remaining berries, orange slices, pecans, and goat cheese. Drizzle with your desired amount of the remaining dressing, and serve the remainder on the side, if you like.



Christmas in July



Join us for a special Christmas in July worship service with our friends from Bethlehem Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 24th.

The worship service will be held at 9:30 am at **Finn Road Park,**
36 Finn Rd,
Pittstown, NJ
08867

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Landon Cordova graduated from Rutgers University School of Engineering with his Master of Science - Materials Science.

Gemma Ossi has completed her high school education. She has been learning to fly and is pursuing her pilot's license. Gemma will be attending the University of Nebraska Omaha to continue her studies along with leveraging their aviation program.

Emily Smith graduated from North Hunterdon High School and will be attending Shenandoah University Conservatory studying Theater Design and Production - Costume Design.



SRLC Shirts Are Here!

If you did not request one, but would like one, we have some extras. Please contact Karen or Pastor Chris.

COME PLAY GAMES!

Join us for backyard games at
Lebanon Township Memorial Park on
Wednesday, July 13th 7-8:30 pm



**Wear your Spruce Run T-shirt,
bring a friend and come for
fellowship and fun!**



Spruce Run Garden



**Erik, Richard and Pastor Chris worked hard
to prepare our garden to be able to provide
the North Hunterdon Food Pantry with fresh
vegetables.**



Members of Spruce Run and other volunteers spent several hours cleaning the headstones of veterans in the church's cemetery known as *God's Acre*. They were able to clean all 32 headstones! A special thank you to Ken Curtis for the great photos.







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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www.SpruceRunLutheran.com



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

Isiah 61:10

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