



SPRUCE RUN *Fellowship*

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Advent 2022 Vol. 68, No. 5

From the Pastor's Pen



40 Negative Propositions about Lutheranism

This last Sunday was Reformation Sunday, where we commemorated Luther's nailing of 95 points of debate about the sale of indulgences on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenburg, an event often pointed to as the start of the Lutheran Reformation. Inspired by these 95 points, I sent a prompt out to a cadre of Lutheran Pastors from around the country, to see what they felt were necessary statements about our faith today. After some back and forth we came up with 40 statements. Following the model Luther gave us in his explanation of the 10 commandments, these statements go from negative to positive, "Lutheranism is not this, but that." So, as we quickly move from Reformation to All Saints and onward to Advent and Christmas, take a moment to consider these statements about Lutheranism. See if they

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A Message from the Council President

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The season of Advent is approaching and as we prepare for Christmas Day and celebrate the birth of our Lord, we have many opportunities to join together in preparation.

Our second Game Night will be held on Nov 9th. Please bring family and friends for pizza, fun and laughter.

Jingle Bell Junction is a wonderful way to support our church and enjoy a day of food and shopping. It will be held on Saturday, November 19th.

A special service will be celebrated on Christ the King Sunday (Nov 20th) to celebrate the seasons of the church on what is the last Sunday of the church year.

We will decorate the church on Saturday, Dec 10. Young and old are welcome to help ready the sanctuary for Christmas. It's always a fun morning of fellowship!

December 11th will be our second annual Caroling Capers at the church. We have combined two events from the past into one and had a great time last year. There will be food and singing at the church, followed by outdoor caroling to some of our homebound members and local nursing homes. You are welcome to attend either or both of these activities.

Please invite extended family and friends to join in any or all of these events. There will be further details, including hours, available in the Sunday bulletins or elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas season!

Janet

ring true, if they challenge you, if they move you.

Lutheranism is not...

1. about what we do, but what God does.
2. morality or ethics, but grace and response, grace and response.
3. bound, but is freed in Christ.
4. about being upright, but being made right by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
5. about self-reliance, but relying on God as a mighty fortress.

Lutheranism is not..

6. the Way, the Truth, and the Life, but witnessing to the one who is all those things.
7. private, but Evangelical—the impulse to share the good news of Jesus.
8. ashamed of the Gospel, but embrace a living daring confidence in God's grace.
9. spiritual, but instead embodied in the profoundly common.
10. triumphant, but students of the God found on a cross.
11. fundamentalist, but the experience of God's Word as a two-edge sword.
12. an 'ism, but a relationship with Jesus.

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: Janet Ledoux
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Treasurer: George Creasy
Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen
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Gene Ambrecht
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Laura Mortensen

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Erik Henriksen

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Worship and Music

Judi Mansilla
Matt Gaydick

Altar Guild

Judi Mansilla

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Gail Vajda

Tuesday Quilters

Rose-Marie Green

Family Promise

Wendy DiNapoli

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent

Laura Mortensen

Music

Qingyang (Kelly) Ye

Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

George Creasy
Rob Ossi

Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Chris Halverson

STAFF

Pastor: Chris Halverson
Music Director: Candice Peare
Director, Handbell Choir:
Qingyang (Kelly) Ye

Secretary: Karen Smith
Sextons: Rosemarie Adickes
Sara Ambrecht

**FELLOWSHIP
EDITORIAL STAFF**

Jane Creasy
Karen Smith

WEBSITE

Mark Creasy
Karen Smith

Council Meeting Highlights



August 9, 2022

- Pastor is on vacation September 25, Laura Mortensen will lead worship service.
- Pastor will be leading baptisms at St. James Church in Phillipsburg October 16.
- There will be two services on Christmas Eve – 4:30 pm, organ only & 7:00 pm prelude, organ & choirs.
- Church decorating for Christmas will be Saturday, December 10 & Caroling Capers will be Sunday, December 11.
- Joint service with Bethlehem Presbyterian Church will be September 11 at Lebanon Memorial Park. Coffee hour to follow.
- Annual picnic will be Sunday, September 18 after worship at the Henriksen home.
- SRLC will participate in the Lebanon Township Community Day, Saturday, September 24.
- Communion will resume at the rail using only individual use plastic communion cups.
- The Eagle Scout carriage house project is moving forward.
- The financial audit is underway.
- Temple Talks are being scheduled. Annual pledge drive kick-off will be Sunday, December 4. A breakfast is being organized as well.
- Fall themed Gnome craft night will be Tuesday, October 18 in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pricing is being obtained to replace windows in the upstairs classrooms and offices.
- Music Under the Carriage house is scheduled for Saturday, October 1.
- It is targeted to have council members resume counting Sunday offering in October.
- Substitute/alternate teachers are needed for Sunday School.
- COVID policy update – SRLC will let people make their own decisions regarding use of protective equipment, distancing, level of participation etc., based on individual comfort level. The policy is subject to change should the conditions warrant..
- Christopher Knoll of Martin's Funeral Home will attend the November Public Theology session.
- Job descriptions/ responsibilities are being outlined for ushers, altar guild & worship assistants.
- September 18 is Rally Day & the annual picnic. A reminder e-mail will be sent.
- September 24 is Lebanon Township Community Day. SRLC & the food pantry will participate.
- Trees were removed behind the carriage house.
- A car drove through the back of one section of the carriage house on September 10. A quote for repairs is being obtained to file the insurance claim.
- The Eagle Scout project for updates to the carriage house and outdoor benches will move forward.
- Completion of the financial audit still has to be scheduled.
- Music Under the Carriage House will take place October 1. Proceeds will go towards benevolence and will be managed by Women of the ELCA.

June 14, 2022

- Bible study "check-in" was conducted, and upcoming topics were outlined.

Righteous Recipes

Broccoli Cheese Dip

- 1 pkg (8 oz) Philadelphia Neufchatel cheese, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 env. (0.7) Good Seasons Mild Italian Dressing Mix
- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed, well drained
- 1 pkg. (7 oz) shredded cheddar cheese, divided

Heat oven to 350.

- Beat first 3 ingredients in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add broccoli and 1 ¼ cups of cheddar cheese.

Spoon into 9 - inch pie plate.

Bake 20 minutes.

- Sprinkle with remaining cheddar; bake 5 minutes or until melted.

Christmas at Spruce Run

Grace and peace to you all!

On behalf of Spruce Run Lutheran Church, I would like to invite you to our upcoming Christmas-time worship services.

On **Sunday, December 18th at 10 am**, we will be holding a Christmas Pageant in a Box as part of worship.

On **Wednesday, December 21st at 7 pm**, we will hold our Longest Night service. This is an Advent/Christmas-inspired service that acknowledges that, for many people, these Holy Days, this Holiday season, can be hard, this is especially true for those who mourn. I hope the music and mood of this service gives you a space to grieve and just be as you are.

On **Sunday, December 24th**, we will celebrate Jesus' birth at two different Christmas Eve services:

4:30 pm a short *Lessons and Carols* service

7 pm our *Traditional Candlelight Christmas* service

Then, on **Sunday December 25th at 10 am**, we will hold a brief *Christmas Day Communion* service.

If you can't join us in person, we will be on Facebook Live and later on the congregation's YouTube Channel. We look forward to seeing you at any or all of these services!

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Chris

Caroling Capers

Sunday, December 11, 2022 2 - 4 pm

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

*Join us for fellowship, food, and carols.
Everyone is welcome!*





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMAND



ADELE

The Longest Night

**December 21, 2022
7 PM**

**This service will be a time and place
where you can find a spiritual space
to grieve and just *be* as you are!**

Spruce Run Lutheran Church
442 West Hill Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

On December 21st, 7 pm we will be holding a Longest Night service. This is an Advent/ Christmas themed service acknowledges that the holiday season is hard for a lot of people. This is especially true for folk going through new firsts, for example the first Thanksgiving without a parent or the first Christmas without a spouse. I hope this service will be a time and place where you can find a spiritual space to grieve and to just be as you are!

News from Our Committees and Interest Groups

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The pantry has been very busy. We have been stocking, organizing, and rotating the items on the shelves. The shelves are the lowest we have seen in a while, but we are hopeful that the Reverse Advent Calendar and other donations will help fill our shelves. We are thrilled to have some new volunteers, as well as, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops to help us pack the monthly distribution bags and the Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution bags.

We have begun accepting the ShopRite from Home delivery reusable bags, so if you know anybody that would like to donate their bags, we will gladly accept them.

The pantry thrives with our regular, dedicated volunteers which we would not be able to operate without.

Pictured is Sue receiving the monthly Johanna Farm Yogurt delivery. Also pictured is some of the vegetables donated to the pantry from Eric and Paul's garden. Michelle sets up and monitors the produce, baked goods, and selection table.



Check out the website to see all the ways that you can help the food pantry and the clients.

<https://www.sprucerunlutheran.com/outreach/north-hunterdon-food-pantry/>

Happy Holidays,
Gail, Karen, Janet and Sue

Tuesday Quilters

The Tuesday Quilters are few in person, but we are busy working on many exciting items! We made and delivered 25 quilts to the collection point in Lancaster for Lutheran World Relief. From there, they will be delivered to Maryland, and then they go all over the world, where ever they are needed.

We are looking forward to selling our handmade items at Jingle Bell Junction. We have napkins, placemats, a few surprises, and, of course, quilts!

We encourage anyone that has some time on a Tuesday to lend us a hand! We meet every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. No experience is needed. We have many jobs. Stop in and check us out.

Rose-Marie Green

Jingle Bell Junction

We need volunteers to help set-up and clean-up afterwards. Set-up is on Friday Nov. 18 at 7 pm and Jingle Bell Junction is on Nov. 19, 2022 from 9am to 3pm.

Get your recipes out to help with the cookie table and the baked goods table. Don't forget the kitchen has breakfast and lunch available! For questions, please call Sara at (908)-319-5055.

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Lutheranism is not...

13. all casseroles and coffee, but receiving the Bread of Life, for you!
14. monolithic, but a great variety of people found by God's grace.
15. an ethnicity, culture, or nation, but a people gathered by God.
16. theology, but continual failures to fully name the Divine.
17. a Style of Worship, but whatever actions will make Christ known.

Lutheranism is not...

18. the Only Church, but a spoke of the ecumenical wheel affirming the historical creeds, the Word expressed as Law and Gospel, and sacraments administered rightly.
19. a denomination, but a mustard seed planted for all to find rest within.
20. the point, but compost & leaven to enliven the whole church.
21. parochial, but Catholic, Global, Universal.
22. perfect, but always reforming.
23. limited to Luther, but encompasses all who take his writings and insights to heart.

24. a form of Church Government, but whatever form that allows us to be faithful.

25. independent, but interdependent with the whole body of Christ.

Lutheranism is not...

26. having our own way, but respecting one another as God's Children.
27. a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners.
28. putting our heads in the sand, but engaging with the world around us, thinking through faithful engagement with our world with social messages and statements on everything from peace and policing, to education and the economy.
29. words without actions, but 2% of people in North America are assisted by some sort of Lutheran Social Ministry each year.
30. exclusionary, but inviting and listening and trying to understand each other.
31. afraid of questions, but begin our faith life asking, "What does this mean?"
32. self-righteous, but trust that God is for us.
33. anti-Semitic, but repenting and repairing the breach between us and our Jewish friends.

34. politics, but vocation, roles and relationships lived faithfully.

35. afraid of change, but it is one of our core values.

Lutheranism is not...

36. the purview of our great great great grandparents, but springs from their faith and faithfulness.
37. old, but always being made new.
38. frozen, but passionate about matters of life and death, and life again.
39. dying, but more alive than ever, thriving around the world!
40. the Past, but for you, right now in this moment, and for everyone who chases after the Holy Spirit into God's future.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Chris

Family Promise

Big news from Family Promise! After a very long journey through red tape, the Flemington Planning Board, and community opposition, there is light! On October 25, the Flemington Planning Board declared that The Promise Center, transitional housing for Family Promise of Hunterdon County, is inherently beneficial- a designation crucial for the approval of the application. Now, finally, plans can move forward and permits can be applied for. There are some improvements and changes that will be made to the Annex of Calvary Episcopal Church to turn it into The Promise Center. The Promise Center will then become the permanent shelter for families while they are in the Family Promise program.

What this means to SRLC? We will no longer host families in the church building itself, but we will continue to support Family Promise by providing for the needs of the families for three weeks out of the year. This support will come in the form of home cooked meals and some hospitality. Family Promise will hire staff to stay in the facility with the families over night and some other hours. Many of the details

are still being worked out. This arrangement allows more stability for the families while still fostering relationships with community and church groups.

Our weeks for being hosts in 2023 are as follows:

April 23-30

August 13-20

November 26- December 3

We still have commitments THIS year!

Coming up soon: our next outreach is that of being Christmas Angels for a Family Promise family. This coming holiday, we will be providing Christmas gifts for a family of 6, (two parents and four kids). The wish list will be sent out with a SignUpGenius so you will be able to select items you wish to purchase. Look for a notice and email in the coming weeks. All gifts will be due by December 4th.

Last hosting of 2022: our last hosting for this year is for the week of November 27. Since the guests are still staying in hotels, we will be providing their groceries for the week. It has become the norm for the families to request ShopRite gift cards, as they have their own transportation and are able to do their own grocery shopping. This means, you can start picking up

Shop Rite cards NOW through SRLC or at the store. Look for an e-mail and announcement to come.

Thank you for your continued support of this important outreach. We are blessed to have many willing to help both at SRLC and at our support church, St. John Neuman Church in Califon.

Blessings,
Wendy DiNapoli



ShopRite Gift Card Program

The church receives a percentage of all ShopRite gift cards sold. This is a very easy way to financially support our church.

Please contact Sara or Denise to purchase a card (\$25, \$50 or \$100), if you would like a specific amount or if you have any questions.



Support Spruce Run while shopping on Amazon! Be sure to select Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church as your Amazon Smile Charity. Shop using the Amazon app or by typing smile.amazon.com to ensure Spruce Run receives credit for your purchases.

Christmas Eve Preludes

For the last ten years, our congregation has enjoyed many of its' members participating in our Christmas Eve Preludes.

This year the preludes will begin our 7:00 pm worship service.

If you would like to share your musical talent, contact Candy by December 15.

Please help us keep this Christmas tradition alive!



JINGLE BELL JUNCTION

November 19, 2022

9 AM - 3 PM

*Shop Wonderful Crafts!
Come for Delicious Food!
Bring Friends!*

Volunteers are needed to help with many different tasks to help make this day a success. Please contact Sara if you can help in any way!



**Saturday, December 10th
9 AM - 12 PM**

**Decorating our church for
Christmas**

Everyone is invited!





**Wednesday, November 9th
6 - 8 PM**

Pizza, games and fun.

Everyone is invited! Bring a friend!

**Halloween
Gnome
& Cat
Crafting
Night**



2022 Reverse Advent Calendar

The North Hunterdon Food Pantry helps many families each month. Typically after the holidays, our shelves are almost empty. Please consider finding a box, basket or bag and filling it with the suggested items (or other items) each day as you count the days until Christmas. Your box will be empty when you start, but by Christmas Eve it will be filled and will help our neighbors who might otherwise be hungry or need some of these suggested items.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 27 Italian or Ranch Salad Dressing	Nov 28 Strawberry or Grape Jelly	Nov 29 Canned Fruit	Dec 1 Cookies	Dec 1 Juice Boxes	Dec 2 Bag of Sugar	Dec 3 Bottle of Shampoo/ Conditioner
Dec 4 Coffee &/or Tea	Dec 5 Jar of Applesauce	Dec 6 Cake Mix & Icing	Dec 7 Container of Salt or Pepper	Dec 8 Canned Ravioli	Dec 9 Bottle of Syrup	Dec 10 Dish Detergent
Dec 11 Paper Towels or Napkins	Dec 12 Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo	Dec 13 Canned White Potatoes	Dec 14 Can of Spam or Hash	Dec 15 Laundry Soap	Dec 16 Can of Chicken or Tuna	Dec 17 Bottle of Apple Juice
Dec 18 Can of Sweet Potatoes	Dec 19 Box of Cereal	Dec 20 Pasta Sauce	Dec 21 Jar of Pickles	Dec 22 Bottle of Body Wash	Dec 23 Cleaning Products	Dec 24 



Bring your box to church on December 24th.

All donations benefit the North Hunterdon Food Pantry.

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

“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.”

Psalm 29:11

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