



SPRUCE RUN

# Fellowship

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Lent 2021 Vol. 67, No. 2

## Pastor's Corner



### Holy Week @ Home

While we continue to worship virtually, are meeting for communion monthly in the parking lot, and are making plans to meet for an Easter worship service at the Lebanon Township Memorial Park, worship is still very much an at-home activity. With that in mind, may these prayers, object lessons, and reflections strengthen you in this Holy time!

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## Church Offering

In lieu of the traditional church offering during worship, please 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).

## Holy Week Worship Opportunities



March 28 Palm Sunday Online Worship Service  
Gathering for Holy Communion 10 AM & 11 AM

[Help us plan by signing up to attend here.](#)



*Palms will be available at the communion gathering and outside church all day Sunday.*

April 1 Maundy Thursday  
Online Service 7:30 PM



April 2 Good Friday  
Online Service 7:30 PM



April 4 Resurrection of our Lord  
Celebration of Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM outdoor worship service  
at Lebanon Township Memorial Park

**\*\*Please check the website for any changes**

# News from Our Committees and Interest Groups

## North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The North Hunterdon Food Pantry monthly client count continues to vary. We continue to add new families each month. Weather has played a large part in families arriving to collect food. We have reached out to some families to ensure that they know that we are available. Fortunately, our communities and organizations continue to support the pantry with food drives and monetary donations. We have a very good relationship with the Voorhees Key Club and we continue to update and notify each other of any emergency needs. The Boy Scouts have also contacted us numerous times with food drives, volunteer work they can perform, and Eagle Scout projects.

We provided the nurses at all of the local grammar schools and high schools with the food pantry schedule to share with their district families. Hopefully, with the children going back into the schools, the schools nurses will be able to reach out to the families about the services we can provide.

The reverse Advent Calendar food drive was a success and something that we will organize again next holiday season.

In addition to the monthly distributions in November and December, we were able to provide each family with a complete holiday meal for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. This was possible through the generosity of ShopRite, the congregation and other donations. The holiday distributions included everything; the turkey, canned vegetables, canned fruit, fresh celery, potatoes, carrots, stuffing, gravy and a ShopRite gift card to enable them to purchase dinner rolls and desserts.

Karen and I had a chance to visit the Flemington Food Pantry and the Open Cupboard food pantry in Clinton. We exchanged some ideas with each pantry and viewed how they handled some situations, particularly the handling of food distribution during this pandemic. We are happy to report, we are all basically following the same method of distributing food.

We are thankful for our steady crew of dedicated, reliable and hard working volunteers and are pleased to announce the addition of several new members in recent months.

Thank you,  
Gail Vajda

## Family Promise

Family Promise has been able to assist 45 families maintain or find new housing with rental assistance since the shut-down last March.

Family Promise also continues to offer case management services for individuals and families.

Due to Covid-19, Family Promise is currently not able to utilize churches for shelter locations. A few months ago, there was a prospect of leasing a facility for a year to house families but unfortunately, that deal did not come to fruition.

You can follow Family Promise on Facebook or Instagram. Please support us by making donations there. In their last newsletter, they suggested making a donation for the price of a cup of coffee. How simple!

You can also shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. You get the same products, same prices, same service and Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases.

Donations to Family Promise can be made through Venmo @familypromisehc.

If you have household items, furniture, clothes or other items to donate, contact Pam Briant, Office Manager at Family Promise of Hunterdon County by phone at 908-782-2490 or by email at info@familypromisehc.org.

We miss our families and friends and look forward to being more actively involved in the near future!

Be well,  
Wendy

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## A Message from Council

Thank you to everyone who participated in January. We are looking forward to meeting in person for fellowship and worship in the not too distant future. We are happy to note that a number of parishioners have already been vaccinated.

At the February Council meeting where officers were elected for 2021, Judi Mansilla was welcomed as a new member. The officers and all council members are listed with their contact information in the table to the right.

Respectfully,  
George W. Creasy

### Congregation Council 2021

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

Danielle Beyers and Janet Ledoux were elected to their second three year term. George Creasy was elected to his first three year term, after filling an incomplete term. Judi Mansilla has also been elected to council.

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

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: George Creasy  
Vice President: Jeff Smith  
Secretary: Sonia Cordova  
Treasurer: Gail DeRemer  
Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen  
Janet Ledoux  
Danielle Beyers  
Gail Vajda  
Anthony DiRe  
Gene Armbrrecht  
Rosemarie Adickes  
Rich Balzer  
Bob DeRemer  
Erik Henriksen

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISON

Service  
Sonia Cordova

Witness  
Sonia Cordova

Finance  
Chair: Jeff Smith

Learning  
Janet Ledoux

Building Use/Management  
Erik Henriksen

Property  
Erik Henriksen

Mutual Minsitry  
Janet Ledoux

Stewardship  
Council Liaison: George Creasy

Worship and Music  
Sonia Cordova

Altar Guild  
Chair: Gail DeRemer

North Hunterdon Food Pantry  
Gail Vajda  
Family Promise  
Chair: Wendy DiNapoli

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent  
Laura Mortensen  
Music  
Candice Peare  
Jason Steiner

Pre-K and Kindergarten  
Lisa Ficano

First and Second Grade  
Andrew Fielding

Third and Fourth Grade  
Beverly Fielding

Fifth and Sixth Grade  
TBD

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: Jason Steiner  
Secretary: Karen Smith  
Sextons:  
Rosemarie Adickes  
Sara Armbrrecht

### FELLOWSHIP EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Creasy  
Karen Smith

### WEBSITE

Mark Creasy  
Karen Smith

## **Palm/Passion Sunday**

**Scripture:** Mark 11:1-11

**Prayer:**

*Sovereign God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ. Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. Amen.*

**Object: Plant**

So, please take a moment to look around your house for a house plant, or alternatively, poke your head outside and grab a branch. Hold the plant, lift it up in the air, think back to that day, Jesus entering into Jerusalem, the crowd doing just as you have done. When you have that moment clearly in your mind, shout "*Hosanna!*", which means "Save us!"

**Reflection: The Donkey Makes All the Difference**

My shorthand for what Lutherans call "*Theology of the Cross*" is "*The Donkey Makes All the Difference*." Jesus rode into Jerusalem as conquering king on a lowly donkey; this really tells us everything we need to know about our Lord! It is a small example of a larger truth about him, he short circuits every idea of power and authority we, and every society and culture in existence, may have. From cradle to grave to beyond the grave, Jesus shows us a God who has so little to do with "god" as we wish to conceive of divinity. Our God is always revealed in weakness, always in cross—because the donkey makes all the difference.

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## **Righteous Recipes**

### **Lemon & Oregano Baked Shrimp**

18 oz. Tail-on shrimp  
2 cloves garlic  
2 T mayonnaise  
1 t whole dried oregano  
1 c long grain white rice  
1 lemon  
1/4 c sour cream  
1 lb broccoli  
1 1/4 c Panko breadcrumbs  
2 T butter

Pre-heat oven to 450F.

Cut broccoli into small florets, drizzle with 2 T of olive oil, season with salt and pepper and toss to coat. Spread in an even layer in a large baking dish. Roast 12 minutes. Leaving oven on, remove from the oven.

In a medium pot, combine rice, big pinch of salt and 2 cups of water. Heat to boiling on high. Once boiling, reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook, without stirring 13 to 15 minutes, or until the water has been absorbed and rice is tender. Turn off heat and fluff with a fork.

Peel and roughly chop 2 cloves of garlic. Quarter and deseed lemon. Melt the butter in a medium bowl in the microwave (or melt in a small pot on the stove). Add the chopped garlic, breadcrumbs, oregano, mayonnaise, 1 T of olive oil, and the juice of 2 lemon wedges. Season with salt and pepper and stir to combine.

Pat the shrimp dry with paper towels. Place in a bowl. Drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper; toss to coat. Carefully place the seasoned shrimp in an even layer on top of the roasted broccoli. Evenly sprinkle the breadcrumb topping over the prepared shrimp and broccoli. Bake 11 to 13 minutes, or until the breadcrumbs are toasted and the shrimp are opaque and cooked through. Remove from the oven.

Meanwhile, in a bowl, combine the sour cream, 1 T of water, and the lemon juice of remaining lemon wedges. Season with salt and pepper. Serve the baked shrimp and broccoli over the cooked rice. Top with sauce.



## **Maundy Thursday**

**Scripture:** John 13:1-17, 31-35

**Prayer:**

*Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies. Amen.*

**Object: A Kitchen Table**

Take a moment to sit at your kitchen table. Think back... *What meals have you had here? Who has joined you in them? Friends? Family?* Hold onto those feelings and images that come to mind. Then consider that "last supper" Jesus had with his disciples—with his companions, even his betrayer. Consider too, the awesome meal he offered there—a remembrance of Passover, Jesus was a good Jew after all, and also a remembering of Passover; he put together that story of salvation afresh, in his own flesh and blood!

**Reflection: Every time you wash your hands today recite—"Love One Another"**

Throughout the day today, as you wash your hands (and we're doing a lot of that these days, aren't we?) recite those words Jesus spoke "Love one another." They interpret the washing of his disciple's feet and are his command for those who follow him to do the same. "Love one another."

## **Good Friday**

**Scripture:** John 18:1-19:42

**Prayer:**

*Grieving God, on the cross your Son embraced death even as he had embraced life: faithfully and with good courage. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may hold fast to our faith in him exalted and may find mercy in all times of need. Amen.*

**Object: Hammer and Nail**

If you can, find a hammer and nails. Consider them at noon today. Consider that such tools were once used to execute people, execute, in fact, the Son of God. This act exposes us outright—God came in the flesh, forgiving us continually, and we killed him, but it also exposes God's heart for us—we killed his Son, and he took it as a sacrifice for Sin, including the sin of murdering that very same son. Thanks be to God!

**Reflection: Crosswalk**

If able, take a walk. Look around for crosses. No really! You'll be surprised, telephone poles, cracks in sidewalks, trees, crosses everywhere!



## **Easter**

**Scripture:** John 20:1-18

**Prayer:**

*Resurrecting God, you conquered death and opened the gates of life everlasting. In the power of the Holy Spirit, raise us with Christ that we, too, may proclaim healing and peace to the nations. Amen.*

**Object: A Napkin**

Find a napkin. Roll it up and set it in front of you. A small sign, isn't it? It only hints at what is to come, resurrection! May this napkin be a small sign for you today, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

**Reflection: Keep Showing Up**

One of the requirements for doing internship at St. John's, Pimlico in Baltimore, where I did my internship, was attending open NA meetings at least once a week, so the intern knew more fully the troubles of our neighbors. People would share their story and their ongoing struggles with drug addiction, and at the end we would all circle up and lock arms and remind one another to "Keep showing up."

And when you think about Mary, on that first Easter, that's what she was doing.

Why was she the first to the tomb? Because she kept showing up. Why was she first to hear our Lord's voice? Because she kept showing up. Why was she the first to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Because she kept showing up.

What courage it takes, to keep on in the face of it all! Friends in Christ, Keep showing up!

**Geranium Sale!!!**



Be on the lookout for information on the geranium sale. You can leave them for us to plant around the church or you can take them home. More information to follow.

## Altar Guild

### Liturgical Colors of the Lutheran Church

"What do the different colors in the church represent?"

The church seasons are celebrated with traditional colors that evolved in the early Roman Catholic Church. Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color compliments the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year.

Traditionally, five basic colors (scarlet, green, black, red and white) are used in liturgical congregations.

Blue is used during the season of Advent. Advent begins the liturgical year for four Sundays before December 25th. Blue, the color of the sky, helps convey the message that our faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in the flesh will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.

Christmas is our celebration of the birth of Jesus. The color for the season of Christmas is gold or white, representing Joy, Innocence, and Holiness. Jesus is the Word of God who became one of us, the promised Messiah. The Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and ends the Sunday after January 6th which commemorates the Baptism of Jesus.

Green is the color used during the times after Pentecost; the times when the Gospel scripture lessons focus on the teachings of Jesus. The readings during this season instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives. Green is a sign of hope for triumph of life over death.

Purple is used during the season of Lent. Purple is a color that was reserved for use by royalty, and so it is used in Lent to symbolize the time of Jesus' trial when the Roman guards put an old purple robe over him and hailed him as "King of the Jews." Purple is also symbolic of Reflection and Penance. Lent is the time of preparation for Easter, the greatest season of the Church. During Lent, we are asked to focus on changing our lives through prayer, penance and love. In doing this, we try to become more like Christ in His Love for God and others by His dying and rising to new life.

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Thursday of Holy Week. From the time of the early Church, the 40 days of lent are counted from the first Sunday in Lent until Holy Thursday, called Maundy Thursday, with Sundays excluded from the total. Like the season of Spring, Lent is a time of renewal. The cross symbolizes Jesus' victory over death and the Hope of our salvation.

Black is seen very seldom during the year. Usually, it is used only twice; on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. There's no mistaking the message that his sober color gives. Black represents the absence of light.

Good Friday, in combination with Ash Wednesday, calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption.

In the Easter season, white is the color used. It is the symbol of purity and completeness. White also reminds us of the passage *"though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow."* Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection Day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

Gold is the optional color for Easter Sunday. It is also the suggested color for the last Sunday in the church year called Christ the King Sunday. Gold represents value and worth. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the event that gives our lives meaning and worth.

The symbols for Easter are the Paschal Candle and water which represents the light and new life of Christ's resurrection and the water of our baptism and rebirth. The Easter Season flows from the Easter Vigil and concludes fifty days later on Pentecost Sunday.

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. On this day red is the liturgical color, representing the fire of the Holy Spirit. Red is a power color and is used on Reformation Sunday, and on festive occasions such as Dedications, Ordinations, and Installations of a Pastor.

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## Committees ...

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In conclusion, it should be understood that Paraments, Vestments, and Altar Hangings, and Banners have evolved through the centuries of the Christian Church to communicate a powerful message. They must not be seen as just an attempt to decorate, make pretty, or give an accent to the worship area. As you see the colors and symbols of the Church that are displayed each Sunday, remember that each tells an important and different story.

Peace Be With You!  
Gail DeRemer

[www.lordoflifelutheranrc.org](http://www.lordoflifelutheranrc.org). 2015.

## Stewardship



Our 'Caring Means Doing' Stewardship theme for 2021 is going strong. The Food Pantry shelves are filled, but turning over regularly. Our pledge drive has had a good and continued response; and, our ministry has been well supported by lectors, musicians, and log-ins (you).

Please keep up your support as we have had a lot of snow to clear and a couple of unexpected furnace repairs.



## SRLC Kids' Spot

New and exciting content is being added to the website for our younger members and friends. There is a tab added at the top and it's currently one of the three featured sections at the bottom of the main page. Three sections will be added first: Spotlight on Scripture, Creativity Spot, and Song Spot.

The Spotlight on Scripture will include the children's messages in a condensed format making them easy to share with younger members and friends.

The Creativity Spot is starting with instructions and links to be able to make the parts of Noah's Ark as shown in the children's message.

The Song Spot will include a variety of songs and musical games.

Keep checking back to see all the new content that is being added!

## 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)  
@SRELC on Facebook



## Lent

*"To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul."*

Psalm 25:1