



SPRUCE RUN *Fellowship*

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Lent 2024 Vol. 70, No. 1

From the Pastor's Pen



We are a Christian family of faith who celebrates God's grace through worship, fellowship, and service. We welcome you to share in our journey to fulfill God's purpose in our community and world.

At the Congregational Meeting, I introduced the above new Mission Statement that the council and I developed. I must confess that I really wish we'd been recording what I said; it was one of those instances where I said something off the cuff way better than I can in writing. Here is a rough capturing what I said at the meeting.

We are a Christian family of faith

We're ministering in a day and age where what Church is, what a congregation is and does, isn't a cultural given. Approximately 30% of Americans have never experienced Church outside of the most tangential way. As such, using the description of "family of faith" describes the size as well

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A Message from the Council President

Greetings all!

As you may have heard, I (Brad Cox) will be taking the reins from Janet Ledoux, who has led the Church Council with grace and aplomb over the last several years. We, the new Council, met briefly following the Annual Congregational Council Meeting on January 28th, and elected officers for the 2024 term. Erik Henriksen was elected as Vice-President, and Sonia Cordova will continue as Secretary. We are delighted to welcome our newest member, Kathryn Ressel! Thanks go to our returning Church Council members Rosemarie Adickes, Gene Armbricht, Judi Mansilla, Laura Mortensen, Sue O'Brien, and Gail Vadja.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to departing council members Richard Glahn, Janet Ledoux, and Danielle Beyers. I would also like to thank George Creasy, Paul Henriksen, and Jeff Smith, who have served as Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Finance Committee Chair, respectively. I am pleased to report that all three men have agreed to continue in these roles!

I'm also pleased to be able to say that Janet Ledoux and Sue O'Brien have agreed to head up the efforts to complete the audit process for the years 2021 and 2022. I know that they could use a few extra hands, so if you can volunteer a couple of hours, please reach out to them!

I would like to thank Pastor Chris for his compassionate leadership, and I'd like to give a shout out to the many people who invest their time and efforts in many roles, large and small, to keep the church running smoothly.

Please note that we have a Special Appeal running currently. It relates to unanticipated maintenance work that we have had

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News from Our Committees & Interest Groups

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The pantry had a good Fall and Winter season. Every distribution day was clear, some a bit chilly. We distributed approximately 35 Thanksgiving and 35 Christmas special holiday meals to our clients along with the monthly distribution. We are gaining 1-2 additional clients each month.

The pantry received a lot of needed donations from the Reverse Advent Calendar donation drive and a lot of help bringing them to the pantry and shelving the donated items.

We have partnered with Veteran's Haven North to assist veterans that are discharged from the program by providing them with some pantry staples and simple meals for a few days. Watch for more information on the VIBE (Veteran's Initial Basic Essentials) program and how you can help!

Gail, Karen, Janet and Sue

Family Promise

New year, new chance to get involved with the Family Promise outreach ministry. If you would like to help out and be more active in Spruce Run's participation with the homeless population of Hunterdon County, reach out to Wendy - wdinapoli@comcast.net). There are opportunities to help with donation drives and hosting events.

The Promise Center, the only permanent shelter in Hunterdon County for families, is complete and awaiting state certification. Once families have moved in to the facility, we will get clearer information on what "hosting" them will look like. What I know is that volunteer opportunities will be a combination of new and old. I know that hosting groups will be bringing groceries, cooked dinners, and on weekends, bringing breakfast, lunch and dinner. There will be a paid staff member there for overnights, but volunteers will be able to come and visit and engage with clients in the common area of the house on weeknights and throughout the weekends.

Our 2024 hosting schedule:

May 19-26

August 11-18

November 24-December 1

Please continue to pray for the

families that are in the difficult position of not having a safe, warm place to live. Thank you to all that have provided financial contributions in order to enable our continued support of Family Promise of Hunterdon County through a difficult time of change.

Blessings,
Wendy

Worship & Music

The Worship and Music Committee continues to address any concerns regarding the liturgy and the worship life of our wonderful congregation. We are always looking for more volunteers. If anyone is interested in becoming a Worship Assistant and/or helping with the Altar Guild, please reach out to anyone on the committee.

The Lenten Season is approaching and we hope to see you at our upcoming Lenten services and events:

Feb 13 – 5:00 – 7:00pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 14 – 7:00pm
Ash Wednesday Worship

Weekly Wednesday Lenten
Vespers at 7pm.

*We will be rotating services
with the other local churches.*

March 24 – Palm Sunday

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Council Meeting Highlights

November 14, 2023

- The mission statement requires updating. Online research was presented on how to create an effective mission statement. Council members to each create a mission statement, and they will be discussed at the December council meeting.
- The "Fund for Mission" grant application has been submitted.
- Repair to the chimney liner is complete. Additional issues were found with the chimney (banding) and the slate roof. Estimates will be obtained.
- Guidelines for building & property usage have to be established.
- Thanksgiving Eve service will be November 21, High Bridge Reformed Church will host.
- The VBS program "What a Mess" will be done in the summer of 2024. It will be done again with other local churches.
- Pledge cards will be available November 12.
- SRLC is in queue to have security cameras installed.

- The new broadcast camera is installed. The existing wireless mics work with the new camera. Pending training for new system.
- A date for the celebration of Bernice Meyer's 100th birthday to be discussed with her family.
- The copier lease has been renewed.
- Jingle Bell Junction will take place November 18. WELCA will be donating 75% of the proceeds from the cookie sale to the SRLC general operating fund.

December 12, 2023

- No response yet on the status of the "Fund for Mission" grant.
- Will discuss the possibility of rotating vespers with the Ecumenical Pastors.
- The building usage form will be reinstated.
- Security cameras will be installed the week of December 18.
- The new broadcast camera is installed, issues have been encountered. Troubleshooting is in progress.
- Estimate for the repair of the chimney banding & slate roof was received.
- The ELCA Youth Gathering will be

discussed further. Will pursue having SRLC join with Cross Roads.

- Additional temple talks will be held.
- The 250th anniversary committee is being established.
- Longest Night service will be December 21. The cellist that played last year will play again this year.
- Epiphany craft night will be January 6.
- Annual meeting will be January 28, snow date February 4. Potluck luncheon to follow meeting.
- Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner will be February 13. Gene Armbricht & Erik Henriksen will coordinate.
- Bernice Mayer's 100th birthday celebration has been confirmed for February 18.
- Council approved to present the proposed 2024 budget to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Discussion & creation of a new mission statement to be scheduled.

as the nature of a congregation. We're not a corporation or club, not a government or secret society.

We're a group of people who share a trust in Jesus Christ, our numbers fit the outer bounds of an extended family, and there probably is as much diversity of thought amongst us as would be found at a typical family reunion. And, however badly we might do it sometimes, we love and care for each other.

who celebrates God's grace through worship, fellowship, and service.

Everything we do as a congregation ought to be done in response to God's loving kindness found in Jesus Christ, and because we trust that God has created, redeemed, and is making us holy us, we can do all our works together with joy—as a celebration.

Worship is the ongoing joyful reception of the good news and our rejoicing in response to it—Gospel and Thanksgiving, Gospel and Thanksgiving! When we gather together in fellowship

we're gathering as the resurrected body of Jesus Christ, that's something worth celebrating. When we serve our neighbor, we are not offering anything other than what we first received, we are like beggars pointing to where we found a blessed feast.

We welcome you to share in our journey

One of the worst parts of being a Lutheran is our propensity toward "Lutheran Laryngitis," that is, the average Lutheran shares their faith once every 28 years. That's why it is so important to have welcome be part of our mission, that we can be an outward facing congregation.

That we're inviting folk on a journey is equally important. We're naming that our own faith life as a congregation is in process. As the well-loved "ventures prayer" names, God has called us "to ventures of which we can not see the ending, on paths as yet untrod, through perils unknown." We're not looking to impose some ridged ideology on those who would join us, but instead we're seeking to find what the Spirit is up to among us.

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Recipes from the Congregation

Slow-Cooked Loaded Potato Soup

5 c peeled & cubed potatoes
1 small onion, finely chopped
4 1/2 c chicken broth
1 clove garlic, minced
3/4 t salt
1/8 t pepper
8 oz cream cheese, softened & cubed
1/2 c half-and-half
1/8 c butter, cubed

Toppings:
1/2 lb bacon, cooked & crumbled
1/2 c shredded cheddar
1/4 c minced chives

Place potatoes and onion in slow cooker; add broth, garlic, salt, and pepper. Cook, covered, on low 8-10 hours or until potatoes are tender.

Mash potatoes to desired consistency. Stir in cream cheese, cream and butter. Cook, covered, 15 minutes longer or until heated through.

Just before serving, whisk soup to combine. Top servings with bacon, cheese and chives.

A Message from the Council President

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to do to keep our beautiful country church warm, dry, safe and secure. If you can, please contribute to help defray the costs. Use the term "Roof" in the memo section of your check, and, if using your offering plate envelope, please also note that on the envelope.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, reach out to a Council Member!

I look forward to a blessed year here at Spruce Run Lutheran!

Brad Cox

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.

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!



CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: Brad Cox
Vice President: Erik Henriksen
Secretary: Sonia Cordova
Treasurer: George Creasy
Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen
Rosemarie (Posie) Adickes
Gene Ambrecht
Judi Mansilla
Laura Mortensen
Sue O'Brien
Kathryn Ressel
Gail Vajda

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent

Laura Mortensen

Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

George Creasy & Rob Ossi

Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Chris Halverson

STAFF

Pastor: Chris Halverson
Music Director: Candice Peare
Handbell Director: Qingyang (Kelly) Ye
Secretary: Karen Smith
Sextons: Rosemarie Adickes
Sara Ambrecht

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & LIAISON

Fellowship & Outreach

Gail Vajda

Youth

Laura Mortensen

Building Discernment

Erik Henriksen

Holistic Stewardship

Rosemarie Adickes

Worship and Music

Matt Gaydick &

Judi Mansilla

Altar Guild

Judi Mansilla

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Gail Vajda

Tuesday Quilters

Rose-Marie Green

Family Promise

Wendy DiNapoli

FELLOWSHIP EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Creasy & Karen Smith

WEBSITE

Mark Creasy & Karen Smith

Flowers for Easter

Flowers for Easter can be ordered through March 3rd.

Forms are available at church,
[through this link](#), and on the
Altar Guild page of the website.



**to fulfill God's purpose in
our community and world.**

Most people have some desires and goals for, not to mention assumptions named or unnamed about, Church in general and our congregation in particular. I know I have plenty of plans and ideas for our congregation and what it should be doing in big ways and small. Some of them completely unreasonable or unworkable, others having to do with preferences or passing thoughts, not grounded in anything larger than what I want.

That's not what we're up to here—instead we seek God's purpose. It's very much like Luther's thoughts on the Lord's prayer; we're not praying for God to act in the world, instead we're praying that we might join in what God is doing in the world.

So, I hope in the coming weeks and months our new mission statement becomes part of our congregational DNA. I hope that it guides our actions as a congregation and can be used as a springboard to

talk to other people about our faith and who we are.

***We are a Christian family of faith
who celebrates God's grace through
worship, fellowship, and service.
We welcome you to share in our
journey to fulfill God's purpose in
our community and world.***

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Chris

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

March 29 – Good Friday

March 31 – Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Service 6:30am
with breakfast following
right after
- Resurrection of Our Lord
Service- 10am

Judi Mansilla

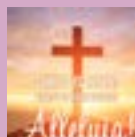
Holy Week Worship Opportunities

March 24 Palm Sunday
Worship Service 10:00 AM



March 28 Maundy Thursday
Worship Service 7:00 PM

March 29 Good Friday
Worship Service 7:00 PM



March 31 Sunrise Service 6:30 AM
Resurrection of our Lord 10:00 AM

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Join us for fellowship and pancakes!



February 13
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us for fellowship and pancakes!

Lenten Worship Opportunities

Feb. 13, Shrove Tuesday Breakfast Supper - 5:00-7:00

Spruce Run Lutheran Church, 442 W. Hill Road, Glen Gardner

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14, 2024

Drive by Imposition of Ashes 7:30-8:30 a.m. @ Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
2 Race Street, Pittstown, NJ.

then

1pm an Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes will be held at
Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 2 Race Street, Pittstown, NJ.

This service will be preceded by a soup and salad lunch.

OR

7pm an Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes will be held at
Spruce Run Lutheran Church, 442 West Hill Road, Glen Gardner, NJ

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Weekly VESPERS or Evening Prayer Service will begin, on a rotating schedule,
Feb. 21 @ 7:00 p.m. Vespers services will be held as follows...

February 21st - Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 2 Race Street, Pittstown.

Soup & Salad supper from 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

February 28th - High Bridge Reformed Church, Church Street & Rte. 513, High Bridge.

March 6th - Spruce Run Lutheran, 442 W. Hill Road, Glen Gardner.

March 13th - Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 2 Race Street, Pittstown.

Soup & Salad Supper from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

March 20th - High Bridge Reformed, Church St & Rte. 513, High Bridge.

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
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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