



# SPRUCE RUN *Fellowship*

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Spring 2024 Vol. 70, No. 2

## *From the Pastor's Pen*



### ***Our Spring and Summer***

Here we are, already part way through the season of Easter, spring has sprung and here at Spruce Run Lutheran our focus is shifting to a few new learning opportunities. We have just finished up studying some of the shortest books of the Bible, the Letters of John, and now we are preparing to dive into something a bit wider ranging.

#### ***Smart People Wise Faith:***

For the next four weeks, we're going to sampling a buffet of Christian thinkers, from contemporary preachers like Paul Scott Wilson and Barbara Brown Taylor to early Church Fathers like Justin Martyr and Tertullian. On May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, we'll consider together the gap between scripture and our own lives.

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## *A Message from the Council President*

Happy Spring!

Our year has gotten off to a great start, and I am delighted to report to you that your Council Members are a wonderful, dedicated group!

Many good things are happening at Spruce Run, including planning for our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, starting in December of this year. We continue to have things happening such as game nights, Pub Theology, Bible study, Food Pantry distributions, etc. Please consider participating in some or all of these!

I am pleased to report that we are about half-way to our goal with our Roof Special Appeal! It is intended to fund the unanticipated maintenance work that we had 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 seeing you at Spruce Run Lutheran!

*Brad Cox,*  
Council President

## **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

**Worship will begin at 9 AM  
starting June 2nd!**

# News from Our Committees & Interest Groups

## North Hunterdon Food Pantry

The North Hunterdon Food Pantry client list continues to increase. Thankfully, when our shelves are sparse, we always manage to fill them up with wonderful new donated food. The pantry was one of four that received a generous donation from the Flemington Rotary soup sampler event. Donations are used to purchase items that are generally not offered by Norwescap. In particular, we use the donations for meats and in the summer we add kid friendly choices to our client selection list.

In addition to the March distribution, we added a second distribution that included all the makings for a complete Easter dinner including a ham, donated from the Clinton ShopRite. Each child also received a bag filled with Easter treats.

We are currently working on supplying our client's children with additional funds to

purchase food while they are on summer break. These funds were awarded to the pantry via a grant received from the New Jersey ELCA Synod.

The pantry has created a new program VIBE (Veteran's Initial Basic Essentials). This program provides veterans leaving Veteran's Haven North with a small supply of non-perishable food. Currently, we have supplied 18 veterans with starter food. For information on items needed, how you may help or to find out about the program, please pick up a flyer at the church or ask any volunteer from the pantry.

We are truly blessed with a very giving and caring community which enables us to supply assistance to families in need.

Gail, Karen, Janet, Sue

## WELCA

The church's womens group, WELCA, is a small but mighty group of women. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month. The meeting consists of social/lunch hour, business meeting and a bible study. We laugh, learn, and grow together. This is group that is open to every woman in the church and their friends. May is our mystery trip (which is not a mystery), July is our picnic and

December is our Christmas party. We welcome you to join us! If you have any questions, ask any member. Sara Ambrecht, Ruth Ferik, Mary Gaydick, Mary Lomerson, Bernice Mayer, Karen Smith, or Gail Vajda.

## Altar Guild

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 for the Altar Guild, Lectors, and Ushers, but especially need more volunteers for Worship Assistants. If anyone is interested in serving, has any questions, or wants to help in any other way, please reach out to anyone on the committee. The Summer Season will soon be upon us and we hope to see you during the Summer Services:

- June 2nd – starts the Summer Service which will begin at 9am.
- Two Joint Outdoor Worship Services will be planned again this summer in July and August. Dates and Details to follow.

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# Council Meeting Highlights

## January 14, 2024

- Operating income increased over 2022. To date, 18 pledges have been received toward the 2024 budget.
- "The Synod "Fund for Mission" grant was awarded and will be used for VBS, monthly fellowship and the food pantry (to supplement clients with children in providing breakfast and lunch during the school break).
- The new mission statement will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Sanctuary roof repairs are complete. The appeal will again be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Installation of security cameras is complete.
- A building use liaison has to be identified.
- Shrove Tuesday "Breakfast for Dinner will be Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 pm.

- Bernice Mayer's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at SRLC.
- Due to state regulations, Family Promise will not be able to use any of the items SRLC previously used for hosting. Items will first be offered to members of SRLC. Anything remaining will be donated to Catholic Charities.
- Pending confirmation if any students from SRLC will attend the Youth Gathering.
- The ecumenical Pastors will be meeting to discuss Lenten Vesper services.

## February 20, 2024

- Bernice Mayer's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was well attended – 74 in person / 50 virtual.
- There will be a cello concert in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 23 at 4:00 pm. In lieu of donation, the cello instructor will once again play at the Longest Night service in December.
- ShopRite of Flemington will be hosting a celebration Tuesday, March 19 for being the winner of September 2023 "National Hunger Action Month." SRLC is invited.

- The thermostat in the Fellowship Hall is not working properly.
- An electrical outlet is needed in the choir loft to support the new broadcast camera equipment.
- Sue O'Brien is replacing Danielle Beyers on the Fellowship & Outreach committee.
- No students from SRLC will be attending the Youth Gathering this year.
- To date, \$1,000 has been received for the roof appeal.
- 22 pledges have been received toward the 2024 budget.
- Karen Smith will be conducting training in the use of the broadcast camera.
- A policy for congregation notification during inclement weather has been established.
- A list of events is being compiled for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SRLC, with the kick-off occurring in Dec 2024.
- To save money on postage, mailings will first be made available to congregation members on Sundays. Those not picked up will then be mailed.

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# Council Meeting Highlights

Continued from page 3

- A Synod District meeting will take place March 2, 2024, in Summit NJ. The Annual Synod Assembly will take place May 11, 2024, in Hamilton NJ. Pastor and two members can attend – it would be ideal if the same people can attend both.

## March 12, 2024

- First Communion classes are complete, Confirmation classes are continuing.
- Meeting ecumenical Pastors to schedule monthly summer outdoor worship & the possibility of a “pulpit swap.”
- Received a note from Bernice Mayer thanking SRLC for acknowledging & celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Sonia Cordova has joined the Fellowship & Outreach committee.
- Katie Ressel has joined the Youth committee.
- Additional worship assistants are needed. Personal invitations will be extended.
- Mary Lomerson delivered historical photographs & documents from the Ralph & Ron Lomerson collection.

- \$1,570 has been received for the roof appeal. A visual aid will be created & posted in the lounge to show progress.
- A letter was received from a third party that monitors the use of copyrighted images across the internet notifying that SRLC violated copyright by posting a Reuters photo on our website, and there is a related charge of \$350 due. The photo was removed & the issue is being further investigated.

- The April council meeting will take place at CrossRoads Camp & Retreat center April 16, 2024, at 5:30 pm. Dinner will also be provided.



Please reach out to Sara or Denise if you would like to purchase ShopRite gift cards. Remember this is a very easy way to financially support our church.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONGREGATION COUNCIL</b></p> <p>President: Brad Cox          Vice President: Erik Henriksen          Secretary: Sonia Cordova          Treasurer: George Creasy          Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen                                      Rosemarie (Posie) Adickes            Gene Armbrrecht            Judi Mansilla            Laura Mortensen            Sue O'Brien            Kathryn (Katie) Ressel            Gail Vajda</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  <b>Superintendent</b>          Laura Mortensen</p> <p><b>Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)</b>          George Creasy &amp; Rob Ossi</p> <p><b>Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)</b>          Pastor Chris Halverson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Pastor: Chris Halverson          Music Director: Candice Peare          Handbell Director: Qingyang (Kelly) Ye          Secretary: Karen Smith          Sextons: Rosemarie Adickes                                      Sara Armbrrecht</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS &amp; LIAISON</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship &amp; Outreach</b>          Gail Vajda &amp; Sue O'Brien</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Youth</b></p> <p>Laura Mortensen &amp; Katie Ressel</p> <p><b>Building Discernment</b>          Erik Henriksen &amp; Brad Cox</p> <p><b>Holistic Stewardship</b>          Rosemarie Adickes</p> <p><b>Worship and Music</b>          Judi Mansilla &amp; Matt Gaydick</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Altar Guild</b>          Judi Mansilla</p> <p><b>North Hunterdon Food Pantry</b>          Gail Vajda</p> <p><b>Tuesday Quilters</b>          Rose-Marie Green</p> <p><b>Family Promise</b>          Wendy DiNapoli</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER</b></p> <p>Jane Creasy &amp; Karen Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEBSITE</b></p> <p>Mark Creasy &amp; Karen Smith</p>
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On the 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll widen that question out into the classic Christian question about the tension between Experience and Revelation.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we'll try to wrap our heads around the idea of Post-Modernity—the Philosophy that most people think rules our current age.

Then finally, on the 30<sup>th</sup> we'll ask a big question: "What happens when there is a crisis of faith for a whole society?" While this is a meaty fare, filled with big ideas, I promise you I'll keep things down to earth, interesting, and applicable to our life of faith!

***Church, the Hard Parts:***

Every summer we try to do an outdoor learning event, we've been calling it Carriage House Learning. Two years ago, I taught us about non-canonical scriptures, last year I led a study on an early church catechism called The Didache. This year's subject is: Church the Hard Parts; things are going to be a little different, while I'll be co-teaching these sessions, lay leaders in the congregation will be taking the reins and discussing where the rubber hits the road in Christian Community. It will be 4 weeks on subjects such as: Service, Reconciliation, Finances, and Leadership.

*Spruce Run Lutheran Church*  
**Milestones**

We celebrate the First Holy Communion of Eli Mortensen.

Our Sympathies to the Smith family on Mary's passing on April 23, 2024.

***Worship & Pub:***

Please note that there are a few things that change about our life together in the summer months. Our worship time changes to 9am, starting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Likewise, our monthly learning and fellowship event "Public Theology" shifts slightly and becomes "pub-Lick Theology" when we migrate from the Glen Gardner Inn to Gronsky's Milk House. The first one at Gronsky's will take place on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Come on out and see what it is all about!

***Ecumenical VBS:***

Finally, there is another event to keep your eyes open for, the upcoming Ecumenical Round Robin Vacation Bible School! Last year several local churches got together and ran a fun VBS, and the North

Hunterdon Ecumenical Fellowship (Bethlehem Presbyterians, High Bridge Reformed, High Bridge United Methodist, and Spruce Run Lutheran) hopes to do the same again this year!

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Chris

**SAVE THE DATE!**

We will be worshipping outdoors with our friends from the North Hunterdon Ecumenical Fellowship on  
June 30, 2024  
July 28, 2024  
August 25, 2024  
at 9:30 am

## Committees & Interest Groups

Continued from page 2

- September – Rally Day and Church Picnic (date TBD)

Our next Worship and Music Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19th after church.

Judi Mansilla  
Worship & Music  
Altar Guild

### Tuesday Quilters

We continue to meet each Tuesday from 9 am to 12 noon. We are currently working on quilts for Quilts of Valor.

We are beginning to brainstorm ideas of things to make for Jingle Bell Junction. If you have any ideas of things you'd like us to make, let one of the quilters know.

Join us for a rewarding time of service and fellowship. No experience is needed!

### Family Promise

This newsletter finds us still eagerly anticipating the opening of the permanent housing facility in Flemington, The Promise Center. The facility was inspected, but required some work to meet requirements. That work has been ongoing and is awaiting final inspection shortly. Our next

Family Promise hosting week is coming up on May 19-25. Since we don't have a definite move in date, we will have to wait and see if we will be providing grocery gift cards or we will be providing meals and hospitality. As soon as I have a definite answer, an announcement will go out.

The contents of the closet of Family Promise hosting supplies was inventoried and church members were given the opportunity to claim items for their own use. Now that all items have been collected, I will move forward to donate the rest of the items. Some of the items will go to low income families through Catholic Charities.

For your future planning, August 11-17 is our second summer week of hosting. That looks more probable to be a hands on effort!

Memorial Day geraniums  
can be ordered until  
May 19th (for your name  
**to appear in the bulletin**  
**insert, please order by**  
**May 13th!)**

\$5.00 each



### God Conversations

Think back to when I first introduced the God Conversation marbles. 120 of 'em! It was a stretch, the idea that we could have 120 conversations with our neighbors about God, faith, folk's deepest values, hopes, and dreams—all of that, was a lot. But today, as I'm writing this, we're down to 4 marbles left and one person has already told me about their latest God Conversation. We're almost there, we're hitting our mark, fulfilling our goal!

What was that like? Risking the conversation? Noticing when people are going deeper with you, when conversation cuts to the bone, or touches the soul! I'm currently reading a quirky book, *Hunting Magic Eels: Recovering an Enchanted Faith in a Skeptical Age*, and the author contends that much of what our society currently lacks is the ability to notice—to notice God at work, and name it as such.

Those 120 conversations you all have had are doing just that, getting into the habit of noticing, and also re-enchanting your neighbor's life.

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We're allowing people to name that which goes beyond the everyday, to be in awe again! To look up from screens, live beyond mere consumption, and imagine that those moments where heaven and earth meet—the Kingdom of God—are not only possible, but probable. I hope this practice we've picked up as a congregation continues, that we witness to our faith, learn what the Holy Spirit is already doing among our neighbors, and notice the possibilities God is graciously giving to us!

*Smart People,  
Wise Faith*  
May 9, 16, 23, 30  
7 - 8 pm

**CARRIAGE HOUSE  
LEARNING**  
**Church, the Hard Parts**  
June 3, 10, 17, 24  
7- 8 pm

**GAME NIGHT**  
Join us for food, fun & fellowship!

May 17  
June 21  
July 19  
August 16  
6 - 8 pm





## VETERAN'S INITIAL BASIC ESSENTIALS

The North Hunterdon Food Pantry has partnered with Veteran's Haven North to provide veterans who are discharging from the program at Veteran's Haven North with some basic pantry staples and a small supply of non-perishable items.



Donations can be dropped off  
11am – noon on the  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at  
Spruce Run Lutheran Church  
442 West Hill Road, Glen Gardner, NJ  
or by appointment



Contact us:  
908-537-4824 x2  
nhcfoodpantry@gmail.com

### ITEMS NEEDED:

- bag of flour (2 pounds)
- bag of sugar (4 pounds)
- salt & pepper shaker set
- vegetable oil (24 ounces)
- catsup
- mustard
- mayonnaise
- carton of shelf-stable milk
- box of cereal
- box of crackers
- peanut butter
- jelly
- small container of quick oats
- bag of rice (1 pound)
- small jar of applesauce
- box of spaghetti
- pasta sauce
- 2 cans of soup
- can of chili or stew
- can of tuna or chicken
- can of vegetables
- instant potatoes
- 2 boxes of mac & cheese
- 2 packs of ramen
- paper towel
- toilet paper





# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> PUBlick Theology 7pm <i>The Inn at Glen Gardner</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Choir 9am Worship 10am Handbells 11am	<b>6</b> 250 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting 7pm	<b>7</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> North Hunterdon Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm  Smart People, Wise Faith (in- person) 7pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Synod Assembly
<b>12</b> Choir 9am Worship 10am Handbells 11am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm  Council Meeting 7pm	<b>15</b> WELCA – 12pm – Mystery Trip	<b>16</b> Smart People, Wise Faith (in- person) 7pm	<b>17</b> Game Night 6-8 pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Choir 9am Worship 10am Handbells 11am  Worship & Music Committee 11am  Worship at Rolling Hills 2pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Smart People, Wise Faith (in- person) 7pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Choir 9am Worship 10am Handbells 11am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Smart People, Wise Faith (in- person) 7pm	<b>31</b>	

# June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Worship 9am  Plant-Based Tasting Social 4pm	<b>3</b> Carriage House Learning 7pm	<b>4</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	<b>5</b> pubLICK Theology 7pm <i>Gronsky's Milk House</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Worship 9am	<b>10</b> Carriage House Learning 7pm	<b>11</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm  Council Meeting 7pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> North Hunterdon Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship 9am  Worship at Rolling Hills 2pm	<b>17</b> Carriage House Learning 7pm	<b>18</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	<b>19</b> WELCA – 12pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Game Night 6-8 pm	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship 9am	<b>24</b> Carriage House Learning 7pm	<b>25</b> Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Outdoor Ecumenical Worship 9:30 am						

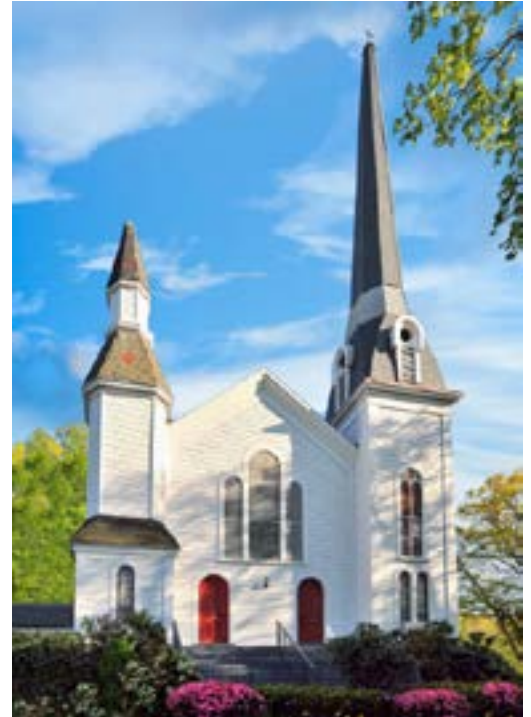
# Our Mission

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.

## 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)



*“Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.”*

Zechariah 10:1

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