

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2016



LENTEN SERVICES

Once again, this year we will have the opportunity to attend special worship services on each of the Wednesdays of Lent. Together with six of our sister Lutheran congregations, we will gather for worship each Wednesday at 7:00 PM at one of the six churches. The seventh will be a special service for the Ascension in May. This year's theme will be "Old Testament Stories."

All offerings will be given to Homes of Hope in our area and Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania.

The schedule will be as follows:

February 10 Ash Wednesday at Bergstrasse

February 17

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, Denver
Pastor Tim Craven, preaching on Job 38
"God Answers Job"

February 24

Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, Ephrata
Pastor Joe Veres, preaching on Genesis 18:1-14
"God Visits Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre"

March 2

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Adamstown
Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry, preaching on
Ezekiel 37:1-14
"Ezekiel and the Valley of the Dry Bones"

March 9

Mellingers Lutheran Church, Schoeneck
Pastor Herb Lohr, preaching on
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
"Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea"

March 16

St. John Center Lutheran Church, East Earl
Pastor Dennis Trout, preaching on "Ruth"

March 23

Faith United Lutheran Church, Denver
Pastor Sandy Gideon, preaching on Micah 7:13
"Micah Teaches Us Steadfastness"

May 5

Ascension service
Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds



Please bring the following donations each week during February to give to the Food Bank.

February

- 7 soup and crackers
- 14 Pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese
- 21 Hygiene articles, bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, powder
- 28 Juices, coffee, tea, hot chocolate

The Bell is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church
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 Sunday Church School - 9:00 AM
 Worship - 10:30 AM

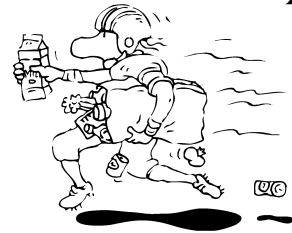
The Rev. Herbert A. Lohr, Pastor
 Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **March** newsletter is **February 21.**

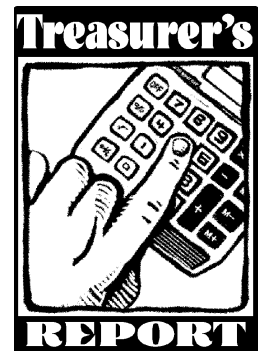
On Sunday, February 7, 2016, Bergstrasse will be one of the participating congregations to collect dollars in soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday. Soup and crackers may also be brought to church for this collection.

Each participating group will then donate their collection directly to their charity of choice and report their amount to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters so totals can be announced to the media. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. The money collected at Bergstrasse will be given to Ephrata Area Social Services.

Souper Bowl Sunday



Balance as of 12/31/15	
General Fund	\$ 705.23
Improvement Fund	\$ 5,542.59
Mission Plus	\$456,640.20
Mission Plus 2	\$ 2,699.43
Handicap Accessible	\$ 7,717.55
Parsonage Security/ Memorial Fund	\$ 7,745.19
Organ fund	\$ 441.20



“Faith walks simply, childlike,
 between the darkness
 of human life and the hope
 of what is to come.”

Catherine de Hueck Doherty



FROM THE PASTOR

Our normal total snowfall average for a year is 30.6 inches. The recent Blizzard of 2016 produced 30.2 inches all in one super-storm. As I write this, I am still not dug out, but otherwise, we are weathering the event in pretty good fashion.

In today's world, many people fail to respect the weather and its power to please and challenge. When the reports of the possible magnitude of this blizzard of 2016 were being broadcast, I began planning for the possibility that we might lose power. Living in a rural area means when the power goes off, I lose heating, lighting, and most importantly water. I have a well that needs electricity to run a pump to provide water. It's a very strong well, but without electricity to power the pump, I have no water. So I prepared for this possibility by filling large containers with water for general use and drinking .

For the possible loss of electricity for lighting, I have battery operated lanterns and flashlights in storage. So I pulled them out of storage and checked the batteries. They were getting low, so I made a trip to the hardware store for new ones. As for heating, we have a gas fireplace to heat the house and kerosene stoves for the garage.

Next, I checked my fuel supplies for the snow blower and lawn tractor. That meant another trip, this time to the gas station to fill reserve gas cans. It was also time to put the snow plow on the lawn tractor, so that it would be ready for plowing the drive way. (As it turned out the monster storm lived up to its name, and my plow was too small to move so much snow. So, I had to call in reinforcements.)

I share this little scenario as a kind of parable of our life of faith. We know that life can be filled with many storms and rough times. There are monster storms, and we would do well to help prepare for them. God in Jesus Christ is our power source, so we need to stay connected. Prayer is that life line, without which we can be left in the dark and cold of life. Prayer provides the power to overcome temptations, crisis, and struggles. It also gives us a way to praise and thank God for all the good things and times of life. Prayer satisfies our thirst for God's love and mercy and guidance.

Another resource in our life of faith is regular worship attendance and Bible study. These disciplines help prepare us for whatever may come in our life of faith. To ignore or slack up on either of these is to run the risk of "dead batteries" of faith when we need it most. Irregular worship attendance also means that when we need the faith and help of others of faith, we may not be able to receive it. Your attendance at worship is a gift of "presence" you give others who may that very day be needing "reinforcement" in the faith.

Lent begins February 10 with a special Ash Wednesday worship service. And during the Lenten season, along with our regular Sunday worship services, we will have additional worship opportunities with our Mid-week Lenten services. You can also sign up for the new Bible Study on Revelation. We all need to be very serious and disciplined about preparing for our life of faith. God has given us the necessary resources to keep our faith strong and ready for whatever life sends our way, but we must be disciplined in their use. Don't get caught ill prepared. Pray often, worship regularly, and read and study your Bible. Then you'll be ready for life's storms.

Pastor Herb

Council Highlights

January 18, 2016

Congregational Council met on Monday, January 18 for orientation, election of officers, election to committees, team building, goal setting, and a brief business meeting. Pastor Lohr led members through a Bible Study on 1 Peter 2:9-10 and several get acquainted activities. As part of the team building, council members set the following goals for 2016:

1. To conduct a Capital Fund Campaign to raise seed money for the repaving of parking lots and driveways. (25% of bequest monies that will be used for this project needs to come from members.) The repaving of parking lots and driveways also includes installing lighting on the carved angel and the flag pole.
2. To plan and execute four social activities (one per quarter) for congregational members. Two of these events will highlight and affirm member's "gifts and ministries."
3. To complete the update of our congregation's Constitution and receive Synod's final approval.
4. To continue our congregation's participation in the Congregational Transformational Process, which began in 2014. This will help us discern the future for our congregation and its ministries.

Following the Goal Setting, Congregational Council elected the following officers:

President—Selma Hainley
Vice President—Chad Landis
Treasurer—Lynn Hibshman
Financial Secretary—Jean Wilhelm
Council Secretary—Peggy Rushton-Witmyer

Council members signed up to serve on the various committees, acting as communication links between committees and council.

Following the orientation, a brief business meeting was held. The following is a highlight of matters discussed and/or acted upon:

- Picked and approved counter tops for the ADA bathrooms
- Noted the visit of Bishop Dunlop of our Lower Susquehanna Synod on Sunday, May 1 and began making plans for that important day in the life of our congregation.
- Approved Music and Worship's recommendation to purchase 20 new choir chairs with wire book racks. Funds for this will come from Lyman Hainley's memorial fund monies and from Selma Hainley.
- Approved a member's request to use Neidamyer Hall for April 16.

Next meeting will be February 8.

Worship participants for February

February	7	14	21	28
Greeter	Betty Evans	Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser	Cleone Rudisill	Mabel Bolar
Lector	Deb Burkholder	Chad Landis	Bonnie Grater	Cleone Rudisill
Acolyte	Marissa Spacht	Brooke Stover	Austin Landis	Marissa Spacht
Nursery	Catherine Weaver	Kathy Landis	Megan Ament	Catherine Weaver
Counters	Dave and Jean Wilhelm	Dave and Jean Wilhelm	Bonnie Grater Kathy Landis	Bonnie Grater Kathy Landis
Flower Sponsors	Pastor Herb and Anne Lohr			
Bulletin Sponsors				

Ash Wednesday February 10

Acolyte—Annalin Bolar
 Lay reader—Bonnie Grater
 Counters—Dave and Jean Wilhelm

	Ushers	Communion Ushers Feb. 7, 10 (Ash Wed.)	Altar Guild
February	Chris and Megan Ament Lisa Stover		Jane Pittman

February 2016 - Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Communion	1 10:00am Men's Bible study at Gus's Keystone Restaurant	2	3	4 10:30am Women's Bible study 6:50pm Handbells 7:40pm Senior Choir	5	6
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Communion	8 10:00am Men's Bible study at Gus's Keystone Restaurant 7 PM Council	9	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00pm Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	11 10:30am Women's Bible study 6:50pm Handbells 7:40pm Senior Choir	12	13
14 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	15 10:00am Men's Bible study at Gus's Keystone Restaurant	16	17 7:00pm Lenten service at Muddy Creek, Denver	18 10:30am Women's Bible study 6:50pm Handbells 7:40pm Senior Choir	19	20
21 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	22 10:00am Men's Bible study at Gus's Keystone Restaurant	23 9:00am Stitches of Love	24 7:00pm Lenten service at Bergstrasse	25 10:30am Women's Bible study 6:50pm Handbells 7:40pm Senior Choir	26	27
28 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	29 10:00am Men's Bible study at Gus's Keystone Restaurant	1	2 7:00pm Lenten service at St. Paul, Adamsstown	3 10:30am Women's Bible study 6:50pm Handbells 7:40pm Senior Choir	4	5

Thank You!

LutherCare is committed to serve, and we are deeply grateful you have joined us in this important mission, with your gift of \$1,000 to support *Your Neighborhood Connection's Benevolent Fund*.

We are very excited about this newly created partnership with Moravian Manor which provides in-home services to our residents and to the greater community. As indicated in your correspondence, we thank you for an advanced notification of Bergstrasse's congregation announcing additional gifts to be received in 2016 and 2017 for this program.

We appreciate your partnership in our ministry. Your gift will touch the lives of so many others through the work of LutherCare, where potential is ageless.

Carl. R. McAlouse
President/CEO of LutherCare

February 10, 7:00 PM



The Lenten season begins February 10, Ash Wednesday. There will be a special service of Word and Sacrament at 7:00 PM at Bergstrasse on Ash Wednesday.

In addition to Holy Communion, this service will also include the Imposition of Ashes, an ancient rite among Christians on Ash Wednesday, when ashes are placed on each worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross with the sobering reminder: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Thus begins our forty day season of Lent, when we recall all that our Lord Jesus did for us, and commit ourselves to repentance, fasting, prayer, and deeds of love.

Easter Flowers

Name _____

In honor / thanks / memory of _____

_____ Lily (5-6 bloom) \$7.25 \$ _____

_____ Tulip \$2.75 \$ _____

_____ Daffodil \$5.25 \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Please return form by March 6, 2016.

The greatest love of all

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

An early start to spring cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.



Cathy Feather
 Beth Gehr
 Selma Hainley
 Pat Heisey
 Howard Jorgensen
 Shirley Martin
 Paul Michael
 Mitzi Rice
 Randy Rice
 Dennis Ruhl
 Peggy Rushton-Witmyer
 Erma Snader
 Noah Stahl
 Jerry Troutman
 Ruth Troutman
 Carmen Broker (friend of Seth Hamill)
 Eric Buchanan (Polly Gunzenhauser's nephew)
 Shelley Bulett (Kathy Buck's neighbor's daughter)
 Evanna Estes (friend of Mary Duing)
 Elmer and Sheila Gockley
 Earl Goshert (Jane Pittman's step-father)
 Albert Heiser (Jane Pittman's father)
 Shannon Hostetler (Phyllis Roberts' grand niece)
 Sarah Irons (daughter of Robin Irons)
 Madeline Kilmer (Megan Ament's grandmother)
 Yvonne Lausch (Larry and Edie Lausch's daughter)
 Beverly Martin (Jean Fryberger's niece)
 Ryan Martin (Susan Hagen's nephew)
 Tracy Martin (sister-in-law of Susan Hagen)
 Cindy McCullom
 Joe Suprik (friend of Jane Pittman)
 Cosette Sweigart (Polly Gunzenhauser's niece)
 Randy Walker (friend of Chad and Kathy Landis)
 Anne Wells (friend of Betty Evans)
 Jim Winters
 Hudson Wise (Ron and Donna Daub's nephew)
 Miriam Wolf



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congratulations to those with February birthdays and anniversaries:

- 1 Tori Gunzenhauser
- 2 Nevin Rutt
- 3 Dennis Ruhl
- 5 Beverly Jorgensen
- 6 Vernon Schmuck
- 7 Irene Smith
Anne Lohr
- 13 Justin Carvell
Jordan Carvell
- 14 Jeff Weaver
- 20 Joan Stahl
- 21 Evelyn Coldren
- 22 Paul Michael
- 26 DJ Keisling

Anniversaries

- 12 Pastor Herb and Anne Lohr
- 26 Jerry and Ruth Troutman

Bus trip to Washington, D.C. May 16, 2016

Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington, D.C. on May 16, 2016, featuring Washington National Cathedral and Arlington National Cemetery. Check out all the details on the registration form on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The deadline for registration and payment is April 15.



The Bell

Bergstrasse Evangelical
Lutheran Church
9 Hahnstown Road
Ephrata, PA 17522

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Our mission at Bergstrasse is to widen the
community of people who know, love, and follow God.

