

# The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 2012

## Richard Sarker Update

### Rocking for Richard

The annual Rock-a-thon was held March 17-18, with all funds raised to go toward sending Richard Sarker back to the mission fields of South East Asia. Seven young people, with the help of their sponsors and the women's Bible study group, raised \$1,305.50. With a \$400 grant from Thrivent for Lutheran's Care in Community fund, a total of \$1,705.50 will be sent to our ELCA Global Missions earmarked for Richard's return to the mission field.

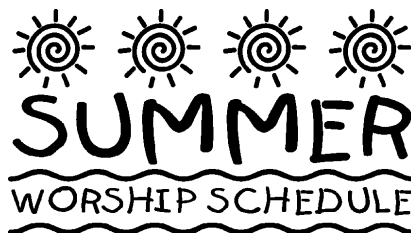
Each of the rockers also received a "Rocking for Richard" bright yellow T-shirt, compliments of Thrivent. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Rock-a-thon successful. To the rockers, the chaperones, those who provided food and encouragement, and all the sponsors, Thank You.

### Bangladesh Church Mission Completed



Richard Sarker is now home from Bangladesh after three months in which he supervised the construction of pastoral housing, a medical clinic, and a school. The work was done in his home village, a poor rural village, whose congregation Bergstrasse helped fund a new roof for their church several years ago. Funds for this project came from Bergstrasse and one other Lutheran congregation and from a fund raising dinner sponsored by Richard and his Akron Mennonite church. Our gift of funds to replace the roof on the village church several years ago resulted in a rebirth of the congregation. Now the completion of this ambitious project will expand and strengthen the ministry of this village church for many years to come.

Pictures of the construction of the multi-purpose building and the finished result will be posted on a bulletin board at our church. In addition, one Sunday very soon, Richard will be present at worship to show pictures of the project and tell stories of how this effort changed lives and promised to make the villagers' lives better well into the future.



**Worship in June, July,  
and August  
will be at 9:30 AM**

May

- 6 Toilet paper, bath soap, toothpaste, deodorant
- 13 Fruit juice, kool aid mixes, coffee, hot chocolate
- 20 Spaghetti and sauce, macaroni and cheese
- 27 Instant potatoes and rice  
Pancake mix and syrup



## True love

After being a team for six years, minimally sighted Graham Waspe and his guide dog Edward suffered the loss of Edward's vision. Very soon, Graham received a new guide dog, Opal, but he didn't give Edward away. Instead, Opal now leads them both — and they all share strong bonds of love.

Does God love us for the ways we serve him? When we can no longer carry out the tasks we've long done, will God love or approve of us less? We seem to believe so, judging by how we keep track of our good works and those of others.

But God loves us for who we are — his children. Our deeds of service show our love for God in return; they don't earn his love. When we become sick or disabled, God doesn't count us worthless and dispose of us. He keeps loving us and brings others near to serve not only him but us as well. Like the retired guide dog, may we rest in that loving care.

## Ascension Day Thursday, May 17 7:00 PM



The North Lancaster Lutheran Cluster will have an Ascension Day service at Swamp Lutheran Church.

This is the final shared worship with our six sister Lutheran congregations for this year's Lenten/Easter cycle.

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

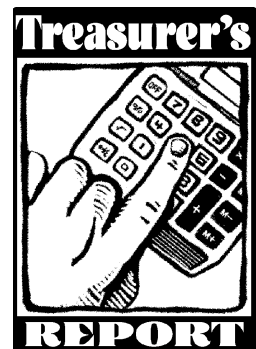
The Rev. Herbert A. Lohr, Pastor  
687-6460 (home)

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **June** newsletter is  
**May 20.**

### Balance as of 3/31/12

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 6,020.45</b>
<b>Improvement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 5,370.40</b>
<b>Mission Plus</b>	<b>\$50,525.20</b>
<b>Mission Plus 2</b>	<b>\$ 2,654.59</b>
<b>Parsonage Secty Dep/ Memorial Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,737.76</b>
<b>Handicap Accessible</b>	<b>\$ 745.00</b>
<b>Organ Fund</b>	<b>-\$ 142.08</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>-\$4,754.41</b>



At the annual question and answer Sermon a few Sundays ago, a question was asked concerning our “soon to be” new neighbors, LCBC. The question asked what effect a congregation of their size and persuasion might have on our congregation and its ministry. As I suggested in my answer that Sunday, a lot will depend on how we view each other—as competitors or as “fellow workers in God’s vineyard”. A recent newspaper article noted that 60% of Lancaster County is “un-churched”. Obviously, the harvest is plentiful. The challenge for Bergstrasse and LCBC is to send “laborers into the harvest”. And on this point, we at Bergstrasse have something important to learn from LCBC.



In many ways, our congregation does much that vital, healthy congregations, who seek to follow Jesus Christ faithfully, should be doing. Our worship is vibrant, inspirational, God-centered, and faithful to our rich tradition of Word and Sacrament. Our learning ministry, which includes Sunday school, week day Bible studies, youth retreats & service events, and catechetical and new member’s instruction, is a continuing source of growth in faith and spirit for our members. Our service and outreach to the community and world through benevolence giving, mission trips, missionary support and funding for building maintenance of a poor sister congregation in Bangladesh, community meals, food bank support, the Helping Hand Fund, and school kits and quilts & blankets for LWR, has given new life and energy to members and recipients alike. And in our continued care and stewardship of our cemetery, church, houses, and property, we have shown our desire to leave our property in better condition than when God entrusted it to us. In all these areas and ministries, we have been good stewards of the riches God has given us. Only one area is still lacking—that of inviting the 60% of Lancaster County that is un-churched to come and follow Jesus as disciples.

Part of our difficulty in accepting this part of discipleship, I believe, has to do with our misunderstanding of who should be doing this. For some time now we have wrongfully believed that visiting and inviting new people to follow Jesus as disciples was the “job” of the pastor while members supported the pastor. If we were a football team, only the pastor was expected to take the field and play while the rest of the members cheered the pastor on. Now however, we know that this approach to this challenging ministry doesn’t work very well and is not what God in Jesus Christ expects of faithful disciples. When it comes to inviting new people to follow Christ, we are all to take to the field and work as a team with God’s Holy Spirit, to bring in the harvest.

A journalist once interviewed a man about his service to his community. This man was known for his outreach to those people who were considered outcasts. He reached the homeless, those who were in prison, and those who were HIV-positive. The journalist asked him why he did these works of compassion. “The reason I do what I do,” the man said, “is because of Jesus’ body language.”

“His body language?” asked the journalist. “Yes, his body language,” said the interviewee. “Think about Jesus hanging on the cross. His arms were stretched to their fullest extent. Now I realize that his arms are stretched because they are nailed to the cross, but I deeply believe that his arms are stretched to their fullest extent not primarily because he is being crucified . . . All his life, Jesus stretched out his arms to their fullest extent because that was the only way he could welcome absolutely everyone into the full embrace of God’s family.” And the man added, “And that needs to be our body language, too.”

Presently, our body language at Bergstrasse does not have us opening our arms to their fullest extent. Our arms are open, but not fully extended like Jesus on the cross and throughout his life. To many of this county’s un-churched, we may appear more like a club or privileged organization taking care of our own and not very interested in inviting new people to come meet Jesus and follow him. We need to change our body language to conform more to Jesus’ body language. We can open our arms, learn to extend them fully and invite new people to come, learn of Jesus, and follow as disciples. And in this, I believe our new neighbors will be glad to help us learn how. Then together, we will send “laborers into the harvest”, and both congregations will grow in discipleship.

**Pastor Herb**

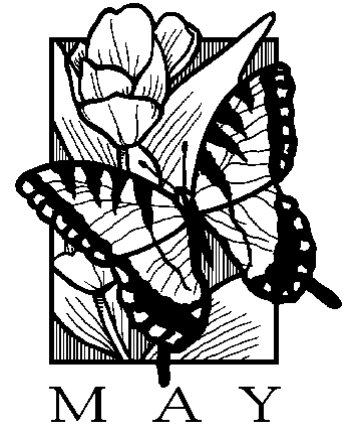


On May 27, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would

come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ's resurrection.

To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.



### Geraniums for Pentecost

On Sunday, May 27 we will celebrate Pentecost here at Bergstrasse. The color which Christian churches use to commemorate the arrival of the Holy Spirit to the early church is red and we would, once again, like to brighten our sanctuary with lots of red geraniums. Since our flower beds are usually planted by May 27, these flowers will grace our worship service and you may then take them home for planting in your gardens or to place on the graves of our departed saints.

This year, our special price for a four inch pot will be \$2.40. You may order one or twenty or thirty by using the order form. In order to be certain that the greenhouse holds enough plants for us, orders need to be placed by Sunday, May 20. As we celebrate the anniversary of the Christian church, the red flowers, red banners and altar coverings will remind us that God is in control and His Spirit is always with us.

### Geranium order form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Geraniums @ \$2.40 each                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_



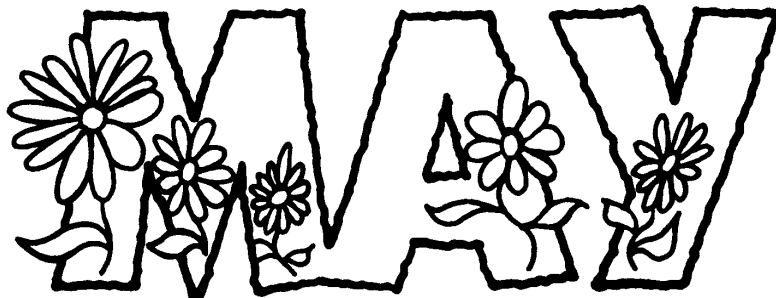
Sunday, May 27 will mark the celebration of Pentecost Day in our worship. Help us brighten this service with red geraniums.

The flowers will enhance our worship and you will be able to take them home with you for planting following the service. Please place form and money in the offering plate by May 20.

# Worship participants for May

May	6	13	20	27
<b>Greeter</b>	Darlene K	Lisa S	Harold C	Ben and Polly G
<b>Lector</b>	Peggy R	Polly G	Cleone R	Chad L
<b>Acolyte</b>	Anna M	Annalin B	Brooke S	Kendall M
<b>Nursery</b>	Kathy L	Megan A	Wanda and Kendall M	Lisa and Brooke S
<b>Counters</b>	Bonnie G Sandy S	Lyman and Selma H	Lyman and Selma H	Dave and Jean W
<b>Organist</b>	Gail S	Anne L	Gail S	Anne L
<b>Flowers</b>		Jean F	Ron and Wendy H	Lyman and Selma H
<b>Bulletin</b>				

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Communion Ushers May 6, 13, 20, 27</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
May	Glenn and Almanara B Chris and Megan A	Chad L Randy R Selma H	Jean F Jane P



# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Bonnie G  
Lyman H  
Terry H  
Shirley M  
Deb P  
Alex R  
Dennis R  
Jerry T  
Clarence W  
Richard A  
Nancy A (Mildred W's daughter)  
Connie A (Lisa C's aunt)  
Doris B  
John B  
Clyde B  
Joe C (Lisa C's husband)  
Sandy D (Ron D's mother)  
Theresa D  
Rachel E (friend of Annalin B)  
Naomi G (Jane Ps mother)  
Addison H (Wendy Hs granddaughter)  
Henry K  
Tim K (co-worker of Chris A)  
Betty K (friend of Erma S)  
Jeorjette L (Peggy R's friend)  
Wanda L (friend of Deb B)  
Lucas M (Mary D's neighbor)  
Will M  
Diann M (friend of Deb B)  
Ruth M (Darlene K's sister)  
Martha R (Mary Ann S's mother in Bangladesh)  
Susan R  
Terry S (Polly G's nephew)  
Roxanne S  
Thelma S (Jean F's sister)  
Carl S (Gail S's husband)  
Patrick S (Peggy R's brother)  
Lori S  
Dolores S (friend of Susan and Brad H)  
June S  
Mildred S (friend of Phyllis R)  
Lauren T  
Ruth T (Darlene Ks aunt)  
Gladys W



Congratulations to those with  
May birthdays:

12 Hilda H  
13 Ryan S  
18 Ruth T  
24 Jane P  
25 Mitzi R  
26 Mary D  
27 Chad L  
30 David W

Anniversaries

15 Dave and Jean W  
24 Ron and Wendy  
H  
29 Lyman and Selma  
H

Please send a card to our  
homebound member  
having a birthday this month.

Hilda H  
May 12

## Thanks from:

Thank you for all the birthday  
cards I received.

**Erma S**

**COOPERATIVE RECYCLE DAY  
AND CONSERVATION SEMINARS  
SATURDAY, MAY 19<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM-12 NOON**



**Bethany United Church of Christ is the drop-off point for the following items:**

**Sneakers** – Clean ones please. The laces may stay in the shoes. No flip-flops or sandals.  
These go to Nike to be used for base products for playgrounds and athletic track construction.

**Styrofoam** – Clean and free of tape please. No peanuts or soft Styrofoam. Check the back of Styrofoam meat trays; if the Styrofoam says #6, these (when cleaned) are acceptable. The Styrofoam goes to Dart Container and is used for building materials after pelletizing.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is the drop-off point for the following items:**

**Clothing** – Clean clothes, please. These items go to area missions which distribute to the needy.  
Children's clothes will go to Eagle Butte Indian Reservation in South Dakota through Bethany U.C.C.

**Any computer equipment, working or not** – Free Geek Penn will take laptops, monitors, printers, terminals, circuit boards, processors and will repair and reuse what they can. Items that cannot be made useable are recycled responsibly. NO microphones, TV's or any other type of appliances.

**Cell Phones** – These are recycled by Boscov's and the 911 Cell Phone Bank to provide emergency communication to those in need: veterans, senior citizens, abuse victims.

**Conservation Seminars are all held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.  
They will be given twice, once at 9:30 AM and again at 10:30 AM**

- **Rain Barrel/Compost Bin** – Sally Gregory - Lancaster County Conservation District  
Location: Multi-purpose Room
- **Hazardous Material in Your Home** – Lisa Beard      Location: Social Hall
- **Recycling in Your Home** – Ginny Good – Good's Disposal      Location: Conference Room
- **Solar Energy for Residential Use** – Larry Hummer      Location: Upstairs at the rear of the nave

## Bergstrasse Cemetery Records To Be Published

The Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, 237-249 W. Main St., Ephrata is pleased to announce the publication, in a limited edition, of the records of the Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Cemetery. The 624-page book was compiled by Suzanne B. Furlow of Akron, who had previously compiled the records of Cedar Hill Cemetery, Ephrata, in 2004, and the Mount Zion Evangelical Cemetery, Akron, in 2007. The Bergstrasse book documents the approximately 3,000 burials in the church's cemetery dating from the eighteenth century through 2010, the date of the research project's completion.

The book is arranged in five parts, and will prove an invaluable tool for individuals doing genealogical research in Cocalico Valley. The book's first part contains an alphabetical listing of those individuals buried in the cemetery. Following each name is the person's birth and death dates, along with the section, row and grave number in the cemetery. The designated location of each grave, which was assigned by Furlow, allows for the easy location of specific grave sites.

The second section of the book contains 294 pages of detailed compiler's notes, these notes contain extensive genealogical material over and above the information found on the cemetery's tombstones. This information has been gleaned from obituaries, U. S. Census records, and parochial, pastoral, and funeral home records. Also referenced are the records of the Withers Monument Co., Reamstown, which supplied many of the monuments found in the cemetery. This additional information, in many instances, provides the names of the deceased's spouse, children, parents and siblings.

The book's third part contains the tombstone notes; additional information found on an individual's tombstone, such as spouse's name, the individual's age in days, months and years, military service, etc.

A map of the cemetery is found in part five, on which the cemetery's eleven sections are outlined and defined. Following the map is a 96-page listing of the cemetery's graves organized by sections, rows and grave numbers. The final part of the book is a 66-page index of the book's second part, the compiler's notes.

This important and monumental work, having taken years of work on the part of Furlow, documents the burials in one of the largest cemeteries in northern Lancaster County. The cemetery contains the remains of many eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century Cocalico Valley families who resided in Ephrata and Akron Boroughs, as well as the townships of East Cocalico, Ephrata, West Earl and Earl.

The book is being published in a very limited edition. Pre-paid orders are currently being accepted for the book until July 1<sup>st</sup> (books must be pre-ordered); to assure you are able to secure a copy place your order now. After July 1<sup>st</sup> the book will be sent to the printer. The books are being published in paperback by Mastoff Printing of Elverson and will be available only through the Historical Society. To order a copy of the Bergstrasse Cemetery Records, please mail a check payable to The Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley in the amount of \$37.50 plus \$2.25 tax to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, c/o Bergstrasse Book, P. O. Box 193, Ephrata, Pa. Along with your order and check please include your telephone number or e-mail address so you can be notified when the books are available for pick up. After the books are received from the printer they can be picked up at the Society's library, 237 W. Main St., Ephrata. For those individuals who would like their books mailed please add an additional \$11 for priority mail.



**Bergstrasse Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes Highlights**  
**April 9, 2012**

**Treasurer's Report:** Church ran a deficit last month of \$4,754.41.

**Committee Reports**

Cemetery: Lawn trimming company will be contacted over timing of grass cutting. We will suggest to move the mowing before the weekend so cemetery looks good on the weekends and holidays

Parish Family: Good turn out for Easter Egg hunt & luncheon

Property: Painting and replacing ceiling panels in first floor hallways proceeding well  
 : Dirt from construction project will be moved to the cemetery for leveling low spots and construction of future Columbarium  
 : Fence removed – about \$120 received for recycled metal. Funds were given toward Peggy's Mission Trip costs

Youth & Family: Revisited Easter Egg hunt – estimated 160 people of that about 100 children

Unfinished Business: Chris Weaver resigned from Council. Motion was approved with regrets.  
 : Almanara B volunteered to be the female delegate to Assembly – Motion was approved

New Business: Reiff Excavation to remove old tree stumps @ about \$100 ea Motion was approved  
 : Wedding on Sat 4/14 will need coverage – Chad L will check into  
 : Chris A. asked that Council revisit one of our yearly goal of Gaining Entry Pointed for new members...

- Ideas Needed

Christmas Kid's Program – need to start now

Carnival for kids

Book Study – Reviewed Chapter 2 on Leadership for Vital Congregations book study

Pastor's Report : Synod Assembly Delegate request for 334 boxes of crayons for LWR School Kits @ \$26 per congregation  
 : Announced Pastor Tim Craven of Mellinger's Lutheran Church as Confer. Secretary and Gail Harker of Mellinger's as Lay Female Voting Member to National Assembly  
 : Increased Dental Insurance from \$179 to \$731.64 for much better coverage  
 : Request 5 days of vacation April 23-27 taken during the week – no pastoral coverage is needed

Next Meeting \_May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

# Thank You!

Thank you for your generous support of the Friends of Luther Acres Agape Way Gazebo Project. The outside courtyard is a safe environment which promotes physical and mental health of our residents with late stage dementia. Your gift of \$78 will touch lives for years to come as it provides a beautiful setting for families and friends to share happy memories.

We are grateful of the contributions Luthercare receives, which will assist us in the completion of this last phase of the project. Your help has made this Gazebo possible for the residents.

**Sally D. G**  
**Assistant Vice President, Philanthropy**

Thank you for your generous donation of \$50 on 2/23/12 for the Lutheran Home, and for your continuing generosity and interest in Habitat. Your gift will help families achieve their dream of owning a simple, decent home and will break the cycle of poverty while providing investment in the Lancaster County community. Thank you for giving.

**Stacie R**  
**Executive Director**  
**Lancaster Area Habitat for Humanity**

## Achieving Success

When Ralph Waldo Emerson reflected on true success, he didn't mention fame, fortune or social status. Ponder his thoughts — and your own definition of success:

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a redeemed social condition or a job well done; to know even one other life has breathed because you lived — this is to have succeeded.”

## Someday

“Someday” is a snake whose tongue has mastered the talk of deception. “Someday,” it hisses, “I’ll take her on that cruise...we’ll have time to sit and chat...”

But you know the truth before I even write it, don't you? Someday never comes! Wise up! Invest the time. Send the flowers. Write the letter. Make the apology. Take the trip. Purchase the gift. Do it! The seized opportunity brings joy — the neglected one brings only regret!

—Max Lucado, *And the Angels Were Silent*

