

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2021

A quick recap of Worship Opportunities over this Christmas season by Ephrata Lutheran Ministry. All services, except the Christmas Eve outdoor service, will be Live Stream/Call In and then available on our Facebook page. A reminder for those who call in, to mute your phone or refrain from talking with others on the call or with you. Your voice might distract others on the call. Click link for Live Stream: <https://holyltrinitylutheranchurchephratapa.sermon.net/main>
Call-in: 717-733-4134, enter 7001



Sunday December 20 9:00 am Advent IV Worship
Monday December 21 7:00 pm Longest Night Service
Wednesday December 23 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer
Thursday December 24 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship *pre service music of the season begins 5-10 minutes before
Christmas Eve OUTDOOR 5:30 pm at Bergstrasse

Sunday December 27 9:00 am First Sunday after Christmas - Limited Lessons & Carols around theme of Wonder

Reminders:

Thursday December 24 - 3:00 pm need help to light Luminaires, and final set up for OUTDOOR worship. Let Pastor Jim know if you are able to lead the helpers.

Saturday December 26 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am - Pick up Poinsettias; help collect luminaries

God on Tap Returns – Tuesday January 26 on ZOOM!

Don't forget your favorite beverage. ZOOM Room opens at 6:30 for check-in.

*Link will be sent out the week before.

Conversation Topic: We've lived with Covid almost one year. How has your outlook on life changed this past year? How might you live differently having experienced a global pandemic?



Bergstrasse Leadership Council for 2021

The following persons will serve as Congregational Council leaders: Almanara Buffenmyer, Lisa Conway, Cathy Feather, Ben Gunzenhauser, Nevin Rutt, Peggy Rushton-Witmyer, and Dave Wilhelm. Treasurer, Lynn Hibshman, meets each month to review the financial status.

The Leadership Council elected officers for 2021 effective January 1.

- President – Dave Wilhelm
- Vice-President – Nevin Rutt
- Secretary – Lisa Conway

Please hold these persons in prayer as they strive to make decisions that give life to Bergstrasse’s ministry and mission “to widen the community of people who know, love and follow God”.



The flower and bulletin charts for 2021 have been placed on the bulletin board.

The cost for sponsoring the altar flowers is \$30. The cost for the bulletins is \$10 per week.

- January
- 3 cereal
- 10 fruit juice, canned fruit
- 17 bath products (bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper)
- 24 pasta, spaghetti sauce
- 31 pancake mix, syrup



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 www.bergstrasselutheran.com
 Worship - 10:00 AM

The Rev. James Goodyear, Pastor
 717-676-3954 (cell)

Deadline for the **February** newsletter is **January 17**.

Financial Update: Ending November 30, 2020

	MONTH	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Net Operating Income	\$2,193.01	\$5,612.52	(\$13,482.04)
Operating Income	\$12,952.51	\$132,870.63	\$116,753.25
Operating Expense	\$10,759.50	\$127,258.11	\$130,235.29
Net Other Income	\$18,736.00	\$12,733.07	\$4,021.47
Net Income from all sources	\$20,929.01	\$18,345.59	(\$9,460.57)



From the Pastor's Desk

2021 – No doubt a new and better year tops your wish list! The drop of a crystal ball or turning the calendar page will not be the answer to a better new year! My new year's wish...to continue to grow in our individual and collective relationship with a merciful loving God. A relationship that calls us to action centered in God's loving embrace to serve our neighbor. A call to action that moves beyond words to one that shares our talents and skills offering new life to persons beyond our walls searching for a greater purpose in life. A call to action more than sharing financial resources, that lifts up a physical presence to engage in support of our mission 'to widen the community of people who know, love and serve God'. Yes, our community is small in number; our commitment to love and serve God is greater!

2021 is the year for Bergstrasse to gather, pray, serve our future together. We are faced with situations that require us to wrestle with our being. A significant priority is for the care of our cemetery. It has been a few years since we've had a superintendent responsible for the details of marking graves, ensure graves are opened when needed, selling graves, etc. Recently, Jeremy Nolt, who dug the graves, took care of all these details asking for a minimal stipend. Jeremy's untimely death leaves us facing once again 'who will care for the cemetery?'

Secondly, is our financial situation. Our building and property are probably in the best shape they have ever been! For that we are grateful, but there is a cost to maintaining this level of care. Our resource pool, the fortyish persons engaged in ministry, struggle to support the property's demand. We were blessed to secure a contract to lease a portion of our space to JD Eckman staff working on the 322/222 intersection which added \$23,000/year to our income resources. Eckman's work will end late 2021. Additionally, in 2020 we received a federal loan of \$18,000 to help with staffing costs during the covid pandemic. This loan has been forgiven by the federal government, making it a grant. We also received an anonymous contribution to support our mission and ministry. Where will we find these additional funds in 2021 and beyond?

Thirdly, check out the article on Live Streaming in this newsletter. The desire is strong; who will commit to learning this new technology?

Do you know that some of the things we cherish most were developed during economic downturns? For example: 1) The world was a dark place before 1930, and not just because the Great Depression had hit the year before. Until that year, no one had ever eaten a **chocolate chip cookie**. But that year, Ruth Graves Wakefield accidentally created the recipe while baking for guests in her toll house. She ran out of baker's chocolate while making cookies and had to settle for cutting a chocolate bar into pieces. She assumed the chocolate would melt, but instead, it hardened into tiny chips. Her recipe eventually became the Nestle Toll House Cookie. 2) The game of **basketball** was invented in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith, a sports coach, but for the first three years, it was actually played with a soccer ball. Then in 1894, in the midst of a recession that lasted from 1893-96, Naismith encouraged A.G. Spalding to create a ball specifically designed for the new game. With few changes, this is the same Spalding ball you see on the courts today. 3) He may not be a household name, but Richard Drew is definitely the guru of adhesive products. In 1925, he invented the first masking tape. Then, in 1930, he introduced the first transparent adhesive tape, which was quickly rechristened **Scotch Tape**. Scotch Tape was an obvious winner from the start. Cash strapped folks around the country found many uses for the tape, using it to patch up clothing and fix up the house.

(Continued from page 3)

And since the 2008 recession 4) College friends Iqram Magdon-Ismael and Andrew Kortina launched digital payment app **Venmo** in 2009 as a way for peers to exchange cash digitally and without lofty transfer fees. 5) Entrepreneur Andrew Mason founded **Groupon**, a website that promotes companies by offering deals on their products and services to consumers, in the middle of the 2008 recession. 6) Businessmen Travis Kalanick and Garrett Camp founded **Uber** in 2009 after they couldn't find a taxi ride on a cold night in Paris.

What lies in store for 2021? A time to envision new life. Americans are known for their ingenuity especially during down times. It is in those times great minds come together to envision new paths. Bergstrasse is at a similar time. We are at a crossroad that demands our attention. Our Leadership Council is charged with visioning for our congregation; your support of word and action make it reality. Will you step up and out to be a part of the change?

Pastor Jim

Beyond our Walls

Ministry is a lifetime commitment to serving God and neighbor. Included within my ordination vows is a call to serve the church universal, or beyond the limits of a congregation. During my interview process, the call committee expressed their desire to have a pastor involved in the community. I am pleased to share that I was recently elected to the Ephrata Public Library Board of Directors. I am excited for this opportunity, as it includes visioning for the North Lancaster Hub which I support with my time.

I am also excited to share that I have been named Assistant Director of Pinecrest Leadership Ministry Camp. You might recall Pastor Danielle, the preacher at my installation service; she is the Director of this camp. The offering received at my installation provided two camp scholarships (a \$450 value each) for Pinecrest Camp. Camp in any form is my happy place! Pinecrest is for persons 15 – 25 years who are interested in living a faith-filled life of discipleship for Jesus. My key responsibility is to mentor men and women as leaders during a week of camp and beyond.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to go beyond the walls of our congregation, to stretch my faith, and to more fully engage in ministry.

Pastor Jim



WELCOME

New Members

Welcome to Bergstrasse Church

It is our delight to welcome Becky Martin and Pattie Martin by affirmation of faith, to Bergstrasse Church. Becky and Pattie began worshipping in September and quickly became involved with Feeding Our Neighbors!

Over the next year Becky, Pattie, Pastor Jim and a mentor will be mentoring their son Franklin preparing him to become a baptized Child of God for service in the world that seeks to be love for all people. A public affirmation will be celebrated at a time when we gather for in person worship.



a Birthday!

Congratulations to those with January birthdays:

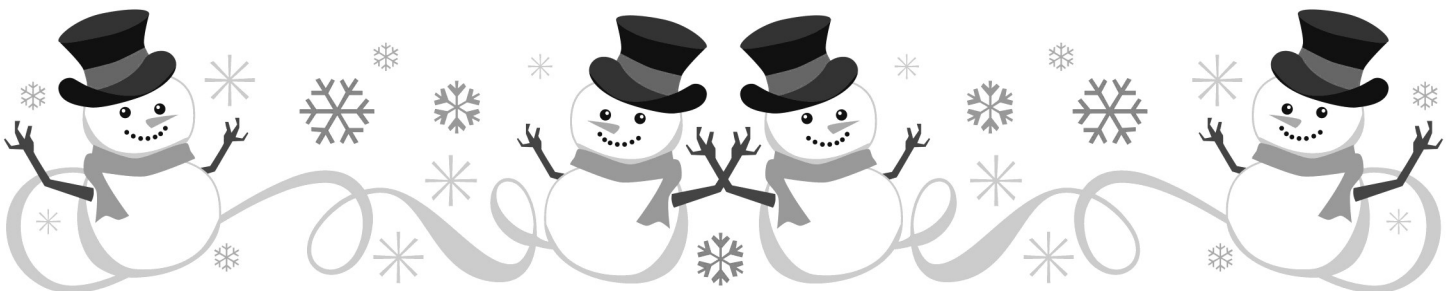
6 Glenn Buffenmyer



For Healing: Inez Hare, Wanda Mumma, Cleone Rudisill, Joan and Noah Stahl, Jane Adams, Donna Burkholder (John and Mary Duing's neighbor), Ray Fry (Lori Chadburn's father), Brad Goodyear (Pastor Jim's son), Larry Goodyear (Pastor Jim's uncle), Axel Grater (Bonnie Grater's grandson), Esther Harmon, Joel Heistand (Deb Burkholder's friend), Viola Hostetter (Cleone Rudisill's friend), Patricia Houck (Deb Burkholder's sister), Jim

Livingston (Becky Martin's former co-worker), Pheobe Martin (Buffenmyer family), Ronnie Martin, Doug Perry, Shirley Slauch, Carly Smith (Patti Martin's co-worker), Donna Willingham (Debbie Stone's sister), Tina (Gladys's daughter-in-law's sister), health care workers, our homebound members.

For Grieving: Family of William Fryberger, Jeremy Nolt



About Home Communion

Know this, your relationship with Jesus is NOT determined by the number of times you receive communion. Rather, it is about how you nurture your relationship by engaging in worship (individual or communal), an active prayer life, continued learning of God's presence in your life, building life-giving relationships with others, living generously by sharing your time in serving others and/or giving financially.



In these times of wanting to be safe in the presence of each other, God is at work within your soul. For some, the practice of receiving Holy Communion is important. In those cases, please contact Pastor Jim directly so that we can arrange a time for that to happen safely (Wearing face masks, being socially distanced, limiting our time together).



Dear Bergstrasse members

I want to thank you all for your expressions of care these past months. I have received many cards—Get Well, Birthday, and Thanksgiving—and I cherish every one. I've also received a delicious casserole and soup which my family and I were very grateful for.

I have completed four cycles of the prescribed six and it has gone well—no side effects—no pain, nausea or dizziness—just a bit groggy for a few days after each infusion, and I am grateful to God for that.

Thank you again for your generous caring and thoughtfulness. After two months of testing and two more of the cancer regimen, I hope soon I can be back in the world.

Inez Hare

Thank you for the many cards, gifts and well wishes! I am honored and blessed to be your pastor. I may not be perfect or meet all of your expectations. Be assured, I offer my best self to lead you to a life-giving relationship with God through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Peace to you and your family in the coming new year!

Pastor Jim

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

A **Gentle Reminder** that although we are not meeting in person, we continue to have financial responsibilities to serve our neighbors experiencing need, a building that requires continued maintenance, and compensation for staff. Ministry continues every day.

At Bergstrasse, there are THREE ways to receive your financial contributions:

1. Bring your offering to the church during office hours. (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 pm) **2021 Offering envelopes are available for pickup.**
2. Mail your offering – Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, 9 Hahnstown Road, Ephrata 17522.
3. **NEW...** Visit our website, BergstrasseLutheran.com, click the DONATE button which will direct you to a secure site to make your financial contribution. Check out our website! Is there a part of our story that needs to be lifted up? Let your Leadership Council or Pastor Jim know!

Live Streaming at Bergstrasse?

What does 'live stream' mean? Live stream is a *digital platform for people to view, hear, or both, an event that is being recorded 'live' in person by the presenters, usually without an audience, that is 'streamed' to your location.* The event recording is then available for review anytime. Live streaming has made a huge significance for people to experience an event where being physically present is not advised in a Covid world. It also has the potential to reach more people than a pre-recorded worship, event or activity. I've been live streaming since moving to Ephrata instead of purchasing a cable subscription!

Congregations wishing to minister beyond their walls often implement Live Streaming into their ministries. The Live Stream event can be viewed on Facebook, YouTube, a website or a service that specializes in offering this service. **Is Bergstrasse ready to offer Live Streaming?** If Bergstrasse is serious about equipping others to know God in Jesus Christ, the answer is YES!

Recently, the Leadership Council wrestled with taking steps to invest in Live Streaming equipment (the approximate cost of \$5,000 is available from an anonymous donor). They were excited and ready to take the next steps – until, 'who will operate the equipment?' The desire, the funding source, are all available. But will (2-3) persons commit to learning and using the equipment so that ministry continues?

The Leadership Council seeks your input... Is Live Streaming important to sustain and grow our ministry? Remember Mary who heard a voice from Gabriel asking her to not be afraid to welcome the child she is about to bear is God's Son. Her reply, "Here am I". Who is God calling to venture beyond their comfortableness to engage in ministry in a new way? Your reply will be graciously received by any Leadership Council person or Pastor Jim.

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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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



January
