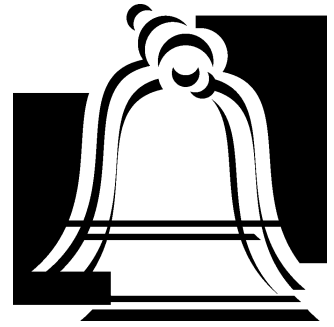


# The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2021



## LENTEN SERVICES

### Mid-Week Lenten Worship

**North Lancaster Cluster** – Online worship service, pre-recorded by one congregation. This year's theme is 'Created for Community', that "we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation." Mark's gospel invites us to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation and with God.

February 24 – Community in Creation, St. Paul's, Adamstown

March 3 – In Community with All the Saints, Faith United, Denver

March 10 – In Community with Our Neighbor, St. John Center, East Earl

March 17 – In Community with Those on the Margins, Mellingers, Stevens

March 24 – In Community with Christ, Muddy Creek, Denver

March 31 – In Community in the Face of Brokenness, Ephrata Lutheran Ministry (Bergstrasse & Holy Trinity)

*\*A link to view these services will be distributed with our weekly email.*

**Ephrata Lutheran Ministry** – Using Holden Evening Prayer as our worship framework, we will include a brief study of God's Covenants from the Old Testament lessons assigned for the season of Lent. These services are offered Wednesday evenings at **7:30pm** via Live Stream / Call-in Worship beginning February 24.

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## Pastor's Bookshelf

The pandemic offered me a renewed interest in reading...for pleasure! I admit, too often I end up reading a lot of theology and church growth books. When I allow myself to stretch, I enjoy historical novels, non-fiction, biographies, and current events (current is relative!). Too often I start a book, set it aside, start another, set it aside...rarely completing any of them!



I recently finished "Unfollow" and "The Bible Tells Me So"

"Unfollow" A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church is written by Megan Phelps-Roper. It tells of her upbringing in the church in which her grandfather Fred Phelps made Westboro Baptist Church known around the world. Best known for their protests of military funerals, and their headline God Hates Fags. She tells her riveting story of growing up thinking Westboro Baptist Church has the corner on God, and everyone else is out of touch with a ticket directly to hell.

"The Bible Tells Me So" *Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It* chronicles Pete Enns's spiritual odyssey, how he came to see beyond restrictive doctrine and learned to embrace God's Word as it is actually written. As he explores questions progressive evangelical readers of Scripture commonly face yet fear voicing, Enns reveals that they are the very questions that God wants us to consider—the essence of our spiritual study. Pete Enns is the Abram S. Clemens Professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University, St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

Both books are available on Amazon. You are welcome to read my copies on the Bounty Tree.

***Read a book other's might enjoy? We'll designate a shelf on the Bounty Tree as a 'book swap'. Bring one, grab another. Indicate in the book if you'd like it returned, otherwise 'read and swap' all you want!***

**The Bell** is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

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Worship - 10:00 a.m.

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

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

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

### Financial Update: Ending January 31, 2021

	MONTH	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
Net Operating Income	\$719.85	\$719.85	(\$2,253.77)
Operating Income	\$11,373.98	\$11,373.98	\$9,841.86
Operating Expense	\$10,654.13	\$10,654.13	\$12,095.63
Net Other Income	\$280.00	\$280.00	\$605.81
Net Income from all sources	\$999.85	\$999.85	(\$1,647.96)



## From the Pastor's Desk

It was mid-March 2020, the world we knew best experienced significant change. Coronavirus, Covid-19, face masks, social distancing, wash your hands, quarantine, words we rarely used became part of our daily routine. An unseen virus was swirling among us, infecting unsuspecting persons. A year later, over 500,000 Americans have died; millions more affected; life routines changed; emergency declarations issued for our safety; questions about decisions made or not made; tempers flared; frustration set in. It has not been an easy year. Through all that was happening, we learned new ways to live. I imagine you adopted new routines that have become life giving. You might even call it a 'new normal'. I've learned that cooking for myself isn't too bad, and it's cheaper than eating out in a restaurant most of the time!

There is an understandable anxiousness to get back to 'normal'. You do know 'normal' only exists as a washing machine setting! Even there, I'm not sure what it means! Doing what is familiar from the past is comfortable, it requires less energy and perhaps offers a sense of instant gratification with little effort. As we look ahead, I wonder if it is healthy for Bergstrasse Church to return to the life we knew a year ago? EVERYONE has changed, life is different. What might the new Bergstrasse Community look like in the next year, two years, five years?

Surely your life has or is changing because of the effects of the coronavirus. I will be asking our Leadership Council and you to consider these reflection questions:

1. What positive experience did you have during the pandemic that you will continue post-pandemic? (For me, the efficiency of zoom meetings; online grocery ordering for pick-up)
2. What did you learn about yourself, good or bad, during this time of pandemic? (For me, trying new things is life)

Next, think about the same questions in relationship to our Bergstrasse Community. Here is what I've experienced about Bergstrasse –

1. Continue to grow our online/digital experience (Worship attendance online is THREE TIMES greater than in-person attendance); weekly written communications brought our community closer together, especially homebound persons; although we didn't meet in person regularly, many continued to participate in ministry opportunities; connections are important – Shepherding Ministry
2. The Bergstrasse Community is open to try new adventures; cooperative ministry initiatives with the Holy Trinity community feel life giving.

It will be helpful if you share your insights with me so that I can let others know too! Your voice is important as we set goals for our future.

Change is hard. At the root of all change is loss of the familiar. Change happens all the time. I find two ways to approach change: 1. Let it happen, grumble, and eventually accept it or 2. Be proactive and part of the process to embrace change for the better. I can offer examples of both approaches to change in my life. Honestly, those where I was part of the process were the most life giving. I trust you too will be part of the change for our beloved Bergstrasse Community.

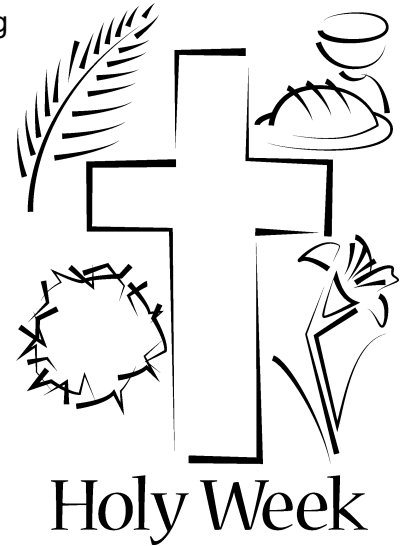
We are in this together is more than a hopeful phrase. Let your voice be heard.

**Pastor Jim**

# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Ephrata Lutheran Ministry is offering a variety of worship opportunities during Holy Week, marking the final days of Jesus' life on earth. You are encouraged to participate as you are able, and to also invite friends to join you. Worship services held on the Holy Trinity Campus will be LIVE STREAMED always with the option to CALL-IN to join the conference call (call 717-733-4134, enter 7001). The only in-person participants are those persons leading worship.

Worship services on the Bergstrasse Campus will be OUTDOORS. Please dress accordingly! We will notify you as soon as possible of changes due to weather conditions. Social distancing practices and face masks that cover your nose and mouth are expected to be worn. You may also want to bring your own lawn chair. At this time, Live streaming is not available on the Bergstrasse Campus.



**Palm Sunday** – March 28 – 9:00 am Live Stream / Call-in Worship

Immediately following worship, at approximately 10:15 am there will be an OUTDOOR Blessing of the Palms in front of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Grab your coat, come on over to see friends, wave your palm (we will have them available), share in the triumphant ride Jesus takes to enter Jerusalem. Don't forget your face mask!

**Holy Wednesday** – March 31 – 7:30 pm Live Stream / Call-in Worship

Holden Evening Prayer invites us to be part of the Jesus' story as he is betrayed.

\*North Lancaster Lutheran Cluster pre-recorded worship made available.

**Maundy Thursday** – April 1 – 7:30 pm Live Stream / Call-in Worship

**Good Friday** – April 2 – 7:30 pm Live Stream / Call-in Worship

**Easter Vigil** – Saturday April 3 – 7:30 pm – The Grove on Bergstrasse Campus

The Easter Vigil begins with a 'new fire' welcomed in near darkness as we retell our stories of faith—Creation, the Exodus, Dry Bones, and the Fiery Furnace. This moving service calls us 'into the tomb' of darkness overnight. The service concludes the next morning.

**Easter Dawn** – Sunday April 4 – 6:15 am – Old Cemetery Gate on Bergstrasse Campus (best to enter around front of building facing Route 322)

As darkness turns to dawn, we renew our baptismal promise and celebrate the joy of the Resurrection as the sun rises over the horizon, welcoming a new day of promise and hope.

**Day of Resurrection** – Sunday April 4 – 9:00 am – Live Stream / Call-in Worship

\*All service times & locations subject to change

## God on Tap – Tuesday March 23 on ZOOM!

Don't forget your favorite beverage. ZOOM Room opens at 6:30 for check-in, conversation topic begins at 7:00 PM.

\*Conversation topic and zoom link will be available two weeks in advance.

# Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Livestream	1	2 5:00pm Private Music Lessons	3 7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Livestream	4	5	6
7 9:00am Livestream	8 7:00pm Council	9 5:00pm Private Music Lessons	10 7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Livestream	11	12	13
14 9:00am Livestream	15	16 5:00pm Private Music Lessons	17 7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Livestream	18	19	20
21 9:00am Livestream	22	23 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 6:30pm Zoom Good on Tap	24 7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Livestream	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00am Livestream 10:15am Blessing of the Palms at Holy Trinity	29	30 5:00pm Private Music Lessons	31 7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Livestream	1 Maundy Thursday 7:30pm Livestream	2 Good Friday 7:30pm Livestream	3 Holy Saturday 7:30pm Easter Vigil at Bergstrasse Grove

# Easter Vigil – At Bergstrasse Campus

Saturday April 3, 7:30 pm - outdoors in The Grove &

Sunday April 4, 6:15 am – outdoors at the Old Bergstrasse Cemetery Gate

In Christianity, especially the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions, a vigil is often held when someone is gravely ill or mourning. Prayers are said and votives are lit. Vigils extend from eventual death to burial, ritualistically to pray for a loved one, but more so their body is never left alone. For many Protestant traditions formed during the Reformation, they too adopted the practice of a vigil. The Easter Vigil as we know it today began in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. During Lent, the early Christian Church prepared new catechumenates (confirmands) to be welcomed in the faith at the Easter Vigil. It is a celebration of 'new life' raised up at the community resurrection service.

The first Easter Vigils began at sunset Holy Saturday using the first known elements of life – fire, wind, water, earth. A new fire was set ablaze as teachers of the faith and new catechumenates gathered. I wonder if this was the forerunner of the practice that confirmands stand in front of the church council or leaders to state their beliefs? The beginning liturgy is a prayer service inviting participants to welcome the Holy Spirit (wind) into the setting. Next, the gathered people sit around the fire, with individually lit candles of their own, and listen to the stories of their faith – 13 in all shared in the oral tradition. Can you think of 12 key stories of the Jewish faith that shaped even our Christian heritage? (See answer elsewhere in this newsletter). You can be assured we'll hear less than 12 this year!!!

After the story telling, we move to the Rite of Baptism. Here new believers experience the refreshing waters of baptism. It was not unusual to have hundreds of baptisms – the Church was growing by leaps and bounds. People flocked to engage with a Savior promising new life after death. Eventually, the Church allowed baptisms to happen at other times too! Today, the Easter Vigil includes the Affirmation of Baptism rite for all persons. You can expect to get wet, or at least feel a few sprinkles. On a rare occasion, a faith community today will welcome a new follower into the fold.

Remember, all this started at dusk Saturday night.... As the new dawn peeks on the horizon, the gathered faithful prepare for the Resurrection Celebration. The Easter Proclamation is announced, "He is Risen, Alleluia!" and the liturgy continues with all the jubilation of color, light, sharing the story of the last three days, and culminating with the community sharing the Holy Meal. Are you ready for a 12-hour worship?! No need to worry. When my seminary liturgy class created an Easter Vigil, it lasted two hours and was held at Augustus Lutheran Church in nearby Trappe – the oldest Lutheran Church still in existence in Montgomery County!

This year, Ephrata Lutheran Ministry is offering an Easter Vigil Liturgy. It will include the elements of the ancient liturgy, held over two days. Overnight accommodations are NOT available! Both services will be held OUTDOORS on the Bergstrasse Campus. Saturday April 3, 7:30 PM as the sun is setting, we will gather around a bonfire in prayer, and hear the stories that shape faith in the Grove. A lighted pathway will guide you into the worship space.

We again gather Sunday April 4 at 6:15 AM, by the Old Gate on top of the hill of Bergstrasse Cemetery as dawn begins to break in the Eastern sky. Here we will affirm our baptism, announce the Easter proclamation, celebrate the Resurrection and share in communion. In my experience, the Easter Vigil is one of the most moving liturgies I've ever experienced. It is the backbone of our Christian identity – Gathering, Word, Baptism, Meal, Sending.

What you need to know as you participate in the Easter Vigil:

1. Both services are outdoors. Dress accordingly. Bring a lawn chair.
2. Social distancing will be practiced, and face masks are expected.



*(Continued on page 7)*

**(Continued from page 6)**

3. Communion will be with wafer only, again social distancing.
4. With your prayers there will be no rain or snow!!!! \*If you remember, Christmas Eve was outdoors in cars, during a down pour...we will adjust accordingly!
5. This liturgy requires the hands of many. If you are willing to help, let Pastor Jim know.
  - A. Traffic Control
  - B. Lectors
  - C. Brass Musicians
  - D. Set-up & Tear down – running electric cords, chairs?, worship things
6. Due to Covid restrictions, we will not have breakfast following the service.
7. There will be an Easter Sunday worship later in the morning.

I look forward to worshipping with you as we Celebrate Christ's Resurrection.



Congratulations to those with March birthdays:

- 19 Kathryn Sweigart
- 21 Jaidyn Feather
- 22 Cleone Rudisill
- 26 Bryan Redcay
- 29 Alice Krahl

I have occasion to drive past your church 2-3 times a week. I want to thank you for the beautiful uplifting messages on your sign out front. In this time of anger and bitterness we are experiencing, it is such a comfort to drive past your church and read the lovely messages you put out there! Thank you and may God bless you and your congregation.

A Grateful Viewer

Thank you for making my family and I feel welcome. Thank you for the cards and kind words and keeping us in the loop during COVID. I hope we can be back by Easter. God bless all of you.

**Andrea Martin Family**

Thank you for all you do for us, the church and our community! I hope everyone is safe, healthy and well. God Bless and take care.

**Mabel Bolar**

Thank you for continued communication: the weekly encouragement and updates, worship service, the Bell Continued prayers and love

**Cleone Rudisill**



Annalin Bolar, Jean Fryberger, Inez Hare, Rebecca Buffenmyer (friend of Becky and Patti Martin), Edna Burkholder, Loretta Collins, Joe Conway, Joey Gunzenhauser, Viola Hostetter, Vicki and Mike Lewis, Theresa Maricondo, Eva Mae McGillicher, Shirley Slaugh, Donna Willingham (Debbie Stone's sister)

Family and friends of Curt Hare, Rev. Bob Smith, Keith Sheffer, Jere Heft

## Salem Lutheran Preschool

Salem Lutheran Preschool, 1331 W. Main St., Ephrata, is now taking registrations for Fall 2021. The 3 Year Old Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30. The 4 Year Old Class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11:30. Safety protocols are in place. For registration info and to schedule a tour, call the Salem church office at 717-733-6646.

**Personal Care Kits** - Lutheran World Relief warehouse is nearly empty due to the need for persons experiencing Covid. Ephrata Lutheran Ministry is joining their 'Season of Hope' campaign to restock their shelves during the season of Lent. Return assembled personal care kits to Bergstrasse on or before Wednesday March 31. All personal care kits will be shipped to the distribution center in New Windsor, MD shortly after Easter Sunday. Thank you in advance for your support.

- 1 light-weight bath size towel, dark color recommended
- 2-3 bath size bars of soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size tooth brush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers

Fold towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands

## Food bank

Please bring the following food items during March:

- 7 toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, bath soap
- 14 cake mixes, cookie mixes, pancake syrup
- pancake mixes (preferably made with water)
- 21 canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juices
- 28 pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese



**March 14, 2021**

## Easter Flowers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor / thanks / memory of \_\_\_\_\_

_____ Lily \$7.25	\$ _____
_____ Tulip \$5.45	\$ _____
_____ Daffodil \$5.40	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____



Please return form by March 7, 2021.



# **Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Feb. 8, 2021**

Present were Dave Wilhelm, Nevin Rutt, Peggy Rushton-Witmyer, Cathy Feather, Ben Gunzenhauser, Lisa Conway, Lynn Hibshman and Pastor Jim. Almanara Buffenmyer was absent.

Lynn reported that the average weekly giving was slightly less than usual and snow removal costs were incurred. Nevin moved to accept the treasurer's report and Ben seconded it. The motion carried.

Ben has composed a letter about our cemetery to be sent to Lloyd Smucker, Dave Zimmerman and Ryan Aument. It asks about the possibility of obtaining bequests to offset the cost of maintaining the burial site of Major Dick Winters and over 175 other veterans.

Gladys Horvath has agreed to keep our copy of the cemetery map updated to the match the Nolt's version when plots are sold.

Nevin made a motion to accept the secretary's report from council's January meeting and Cathy seconded it. The motion carried.

Peggy made a motion to accept Pastor Jim's request to mark \$3600.00 of his base salary toward his housing allowance for tax purposes. The motion passed.

Easter outside services are being planned for Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm in the Grove with a bonfire and for Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15am for a sunrise service.

Online services with ELM continue to reach many people and combined musical contributions are being explored.

The North Lancaster HUB and Ephrata Area Social Services are working to obtain a grant to have a daytime center in the area. We'll explore the option to hold it at Bergstrasse.

The second floor of the office building adjacent to the Ephrata Public Library is getting crowded and some of the HUB workers may want to lease space here.

Pastor Jim is looking for interested candidates to help to record the Live Stream services.

Ben moved to adjourn the meeting and Cathy seconded it.

## **12 Easter Vigil Stories of Faith**

Creation – Genesis 1:1-2:4a

The Flood – Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Testing of Abraham – Genesis 22:1-18

Deliverance at the Red Sea – Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Salvation Freely Offered to All – Isaiah 55:1-11

The Wisdom of God – Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

A New Heart and A New Spirit – Ezekiel 36: 24-28

Valley of Dry Bones – Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Gathering of God's People – Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Deliverance of Jonah – Jonah 1:1 – 2:1

Clothed in the Garments of Salvation – Isaiah 61:1-4; 9:11

Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace – Daniel 3:1-29 9

# 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.**

