

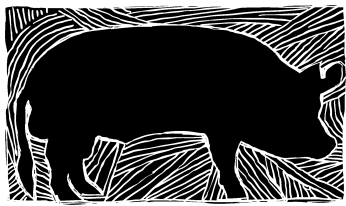
# The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2021

## **PIG**



## **ROAST**

Fall Festival ELM (Ephrata Lutheran Ministry)

Fellowship Pig Roast

Sunday September 26

on Bergstrasse Campus (lower level)

Community Worship – 10:30 am

Lunch to follow

Bring a dish to share: If your last name starts with

A – I: Bring a Hot Dish

J – R: Bring a Cold Dish

S – Z: Bring a dessert

Don't forget a lawn chair too!!!

**Sunday October 10**

**Bergstrasse will celebrate Pastor Jim's**

**10 ½ year anniversary of**

**Ordination to Word & Sacrament in the ELCA**

The festivities begin at 10:30 am with worship & communion.

Rev. Glenn Beard and the Heidelberg Brass Band  
will be leading their Polka Mass!

A luncheon follows at 12:00 noon.

Storytelling during and after lunch are being planned too!

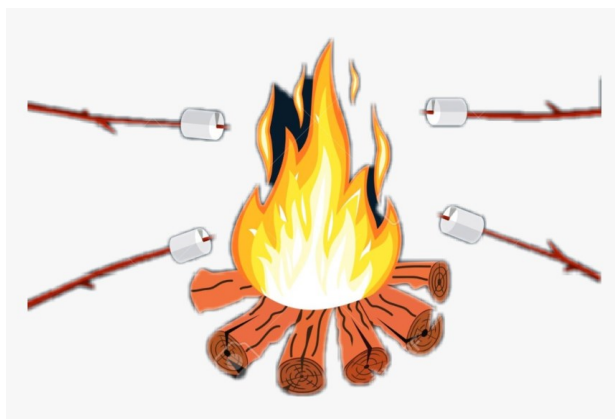
RESERVATIONS are appreciated for the luncheon.

Sign up at church or call or email the church office before October 1.

**ORDINATION  
ANNIVERSARY**



## S'MORES AND MORE! Every Friday



Our popular Friday night hangouts in the Grove around a Fire Pit have been a huge hit for conversation, meeting new people, and of course Smores and so much more will continue as long as we have favorable weather! Come on over after 6pm and join the fellowship!

\*Winter idea – gather in Fellowship Hall for board games? Let's talk!!



## September 21 – 25, 2021

Our fundraiser for the ministries of Bergstrasse Church returns! Signups are available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The Ephrata Fair runs Tuesday September 21 – Saturday September 25.

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[www.bergstrasselutheran.com](http://www.bergstrasselutheran.com)  
[bergluth@dejazzd.com](mailto:bergluth@dejazzd.com)

Worship - 10:00 AM

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

Due date for the **October** newsletter is **September 19.**

## God on Tap – Tuesday September 28

God on Tap – September 28 will be at THE NEW CLOISTER RESTAURANT

6:00 – 7:00 pm for dinner;  
Topic of Conversation begins 7:00 pm.

Dinner reservations appreciated by contacting Bergstrasse office or Pastor Jim by Friday September 24. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



## From the Pastor's Desk

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, I was the General Manager for Altland House Catering headquartered in York. Altland House continues to be a premier catering company in south central Pennsylvania. During my time there, it was not unusual for us to serve 500 – 1000 people on a single weekend in one of the five venues we operated in the greater York area. Most of our business was wedding receptions and contracted services for meals on wheels or the food service operations at local golf courses and ski resorts. A small, but important portion of our business included working with non-profits to plan fundraising events for their work serving others in the York area. Working with these events gave me an opportunity to use my creativity talents for their special event.

I advised these nonprofit organizations to set their fundraising goals conservatively at first so that they might meet their goal and proceed with enthusiasm. The rule of thumb was that it takes three years to gain the confidence and commitment from the public to reach and exceed ambitious goals for the future. Three years sounds like a long time to wait to gain a positive reputation! In nearly every instance the three years was the marker for momentum to more forward further.

Next April will mark three years for our ministry together! At seven months from that marker, I sense Bergstrasse is about to blossom into something new. The flower buds are beginning to burst to present their true beauty. Bergstrasse Church, the people who gather for worship and/or who are present for non-worship activities, continues not only to grow in numbers but also in depth of understanding. During my interviews I clearly heard a desire to have our pastor in the community – someone who has a pulse on what is happening in the Ephrata area. It was something I looked forward to with caution.

In recent years I've heard people encouraged each other to be themselves – an open invitation to discover more deeply self-awareness. In truth, I heard similar words growing up too! Those words always felt framed 'as long as you follow what is expected'. Be who you are within a set of standards. Sound familiar? The same can be said for church or faith communities. I am aware that my approach to ministry is not always what is expected! Yet, you God's beloved people of Bergstrasse were open to the possibilities of new life. For that, I am grateful every day. My love of God, and God's people are always at the center of my ministry.

Bergstrasse is on a path of new discovery of what it means to be church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Here are a few examples of what I've seen in our nearly three years together:

1. A growing sense of God's presence in everyday life with a willingness to share that experience with others. (*Where have you seen God at work through people?*)
2. A growing understanding that Church is who we are, not a place where we gather for worship. (*God on Tap, outdoor worship, LWR service projects*)
3. A willingness to open our building for others to use in ways that offer life outside of our faith community (*JD Eckman/Penn Dot, The Yoga Place*)
4. An openness to discern the Holy Spirit's movement through the communities of Holy Trinity and Bergstrasse. (*Ephrata Lutheran Ministry, book studies, bible studies, fellowship, service to the community beyond our walls*)
5. An openness to invite, welcome, and serve together with people who have been marginalized by the church. (*queer community*)

God's work; Our hands is more than a motto for the ELCA. It is who we are in a world experiencing God's presence in everyday life. Three years is a long time only in human terms. In God's terms it is exactly the time frame for new life. We have much to be grateful for. I hope you are as excited as I am to move into a future of hope built in love for all God's people. What do you tell your friends and neighbors about Bergstrasse Church? Who do you envision Bergstrasse to be in this next season of life?

**(Continued on page 7)**

**Covid Status** – In the past few months we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of positive covid cases throughout our nation, including here in Lancaster County. The rapid spreading Delta strain seems to be hitting mostly unvaccinated persons and young persons not yet eligible to receive a vaccine. It is safe to say, covid will be a part of our lives for a long time.

Like all situations in life, our response to the situation is all that we can control. I acknowledge that we are flooded with covid information that it is difficult to know how to respond to appropriately. As followers of Jesus, who always lifted those persons on the margins (persons experiencing covid), we are called to care for our neighbors as we care for ourselves.

According to what I can understand based on the work of science and health professionals, the coronavirus is spread when virus particles passed through our breath encounters another person. It appears the virus is short lived when it lands on hard surfaces. The best precautions for all include:

1. Washing hands frequently, especially after sneezing or coughing.
2. Maintain a safe distance of 6' between each other.
3. Wear a face mask when indoors and in crowds larger than 20 people, vaccinated or not vaccinated.
4. Get vaccinated. The vaccine will lower the effects of the coronavirus if you become infected.
5. If you feel ill, seek appropriate medical attention, and self-quarantine if possible.

I encourage everyone to do what is best for you, keeping in mind the risk factors of contracting the covid virus when appropriate steps to slow the spread are not practiced.

Our Leadership Council continues to monitor the potential spread for the coronavirus spread in our congregation.

Financial Update:  
Ending July 31, 2021

	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2021 YTD</b>	<b>2020 YTD</b>
Net Operating Income	(\$400.26)	\$18,005.59	\$9,614.60
Operating Income	\$8,890.78	\$100,771.44	\$90,206.18
Operating Expense	\$9,291.04	\$82,765.875	\$80,591.58
Net Other Income	(\$1,463.00)	(\$4,511.15)	(\$6,649.29)
Net Income from all sources	(\$1,863.26)	\$13,494.44	\$2,965.31
Available funds		\$126,757.11	\$95,696.79

**Be still (and silent)**

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grow in silence; see the stars, the moon, the sun, how they move in silence. ... The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within — words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.

—Mother Teresa

# Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00am Worship	30	31 5:00pm Private Music Lessons	1	2 6:30pm Fellowship Hall Rental	3 6:00pm Smores and More	4
5 10:00am Worship	6	7 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm ELM Fellowship at Bergstrasse Pastor on vacation	8 Pastor on vacation	9 Pastor on vacation	10 6:00pm Smores and More Pastor on vacation	11 Pastor on vacation
12 10:00am Worship Pastor on vacation	13 7:00pm Council Pastor on vacation	14 5:00pm Private Music Lessons	15 7:30pm Meditation by Yoga Place	16 6:00pm Smores and More	17	18
19 10:00am Worship	20	21 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm ELM at Bergstrasse Ephrata Fair Parking	22 Ephrata Fair Parking	23 6:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental Ephrata Fair Parking	24 6:00pm Smores and More Ephrata Fair Parking	25 Ephrata Fair Parking
26 10:30am ELM Worship 11:30am Pig Roast	27	28 9:00am Stitches of Love 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 6:00pm God on Tap at New Cloister Restaurant	29	30	1	2

# **Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Minutes, July 12, 2021**

Those present included Dave Wilhelm, Nevin Rutt, Peggy Rushton-Whitmyer, Lisa Conway, Almanara Buffenmyer, Cathy Feather, Lisa Conway and Pastor Jim. Ben Gunzenhauser was absent.

Lynn Hibshman reported that there has been an increase in financial contributions.

Nevin moved to accept the treasurer's report for June and Peggy seconded it.

Cathy Feather made a motion to accept the June secretary's report and Almanara seconded it.

Suzanne Accardo and Kristi Pannebecker showed us the improvements that have been completed in the rooms they are leasing for the Yoga studio and we agreed to pay to have the asbestos floor tiles sealed and covered with carpeting. Ben will get quotes on the cost from several flooring companies. The electric heater in the downstairs women's bathroom will also need to be replaced at a cost of about \$750.00 because it is badly rusted.

At the most recent ELM meeting, Larry Hummer suggested that one of the three church services could be a non-traditional one such as praise or Holden style. Nevin wants Holy Trinity and Bergstrasse to coordinate our musical abilities.

Council will need to gauge the congregation's readiness to accept the queer community. Council members feel that more education is needed.

Peggy moved to adjourn the meeting and Almanara seconded the motion.

There won't be a council meeting in August.

## **Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Special Meeting – August 1, 2021**

Ben Gunzenhauser, Dave Wilhelm, Nevin Rutt, Lisa Conway and Lynn Hibshman met to discuss expenditures for the lower level of the church.

Ben solicited bids for carpeting and its installation for two rooms and First Class provided the lower price quote for both. The smaller room where Kirk used to work will cost \$1707 (vs. \$2079) and will be done very soon. The large room that is currently occupied by J.D. Eckman will cost \$3382 (vs. \$3727) and will be done next April or May.

First Class will charge \$386 to clean the carpeting in the downstairs hallway and \$382.77 to replace five stair treads (three of which were damaged by Eckman). Lynn suggested that we use their \$950 security deposit to pay for these expenses.

Suzanne has agreed to pay the \$540 to replace the small toilet with a regular sized one in what used to be the nursery.

Ben made a motion to approve the expenditures and Nevin seconded it. The motion passed.

(Continued from page 3)

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be praying about our future as a faith community using the above questions as starting points for reflection. I will use those reflections to guide a process for our future together as God's people in a world searching for meaning. I invite you to join me in prayer and to also participate in opportunities to get to know each other. I am a better person because of you, and I am thankful for who we are as God's beloved people at Bergstrasse. God loves you; So do I!



Congratulations to those with September birthdays:

- 10 Nancy Sweigart
- 19 Neil Althouse
- 22 Edie Lausch
- 24 Pauline Schmuck
- John Gockley

- Anniversaries
- 5 John and Mabel Bolar

**For Healing:** Betty Evans, Inez Hare, Irene Smith, Harvey and Roxanne Bair, Kathy Davidson, Julie Duvall, Naomi Goshert, Matt Schaeffer, our homebound members.

**For Grieving:** family and friends of Ray Fry, Kevin Pitts



### **COMING IN OCTOBER**

- Sunday October 3 – Blessing of Quilts & School Kits to be sent to LWR
- Saturday October 9 – Lancaster County Ingathering at Bergstrasse
- Saturday October 16 – Bergstrasse Yard Sale / Flea Market / Craft Fair

**The Yoga Place** – is more than a Yoga Studio! Suzanne offers individualized life coaching, grief counseling, and yoga. In addition, the Yoga Place offers group yoga, meditation, and a variety of activities to restore your spirit. To learn more visit [www.theyogaplaceinephrata.com](http://www.theyogaplaceinephrata.com). Fees may apply.

**Group Meditation** offered by The Yoga Place is held on the third Thursday evening 7:00 – 8:00 pm at Bergstrasse free of charge. Next date: Thursday September 16.



### **Food Bank**

#### **September**

- 5** canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, peanut butter, jelly
- 12** instant potatoes, rice, rice mixes, macaroni and cheese
- 19** canned meats, tuna, canned pasta meals
- 26** pancake mix (just add water), syrup

# 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.**

# SEPTEMBER