

# The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 2022

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION – May 15

The Congregation Council and Pastor Jim are hoping to periodically engage in topics of interest for our community. We've been talking about our Core Values as a congregation over the past several months. We'd now like to hear your thoughts. Core Values guide a congregation as it moves forward in mission. Our creedal documents are also core values. However, in our society, the creeds have sometimes been used inappropriately toward some segments of the population. Our hope is to acknowledge a set of Core Values that speak to our actions of working with each other, and those whom we hope to introduce to Jesus.

You are invited to be part of the Core Value Conversation on Sunday May 15 immediately after worship. Please bring a covered dish to share. We anticipate wrapping up by 1:00/1:30. A copy of the proposed Core Values will be available May 1.



**Memorial Day Service of Remembrance** – will be held on Sunday May 29, 12:00 noon to honor the men and women who died while serving with our nation's Military Services and who are now buried in Bergstrasse Cemetery.

We have secured Ronald R. Blanck, D.O. a retired US Army Lieutenant General originally from Ephrata as our speaker for the event.

In addition, the Red Rose Military Honor Guard, the Vet-21 Salute Honor Guard, Ephrata Boy Scouts, and local bagpiper Isaac Fisher will also participate in the service. Following the service, a luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope to include all persons from our congregation who served in any branch of the military to be a part of the wreath laying ceremony at the flagpole and at the grave of Major Richard 'Dick' Winters. We are also seeking donations for a new American flag to be flown, and two wreaths. Please let Pastor Jim know if you can be a part of the service. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



**For Healing:** Glenn Buffenmyer, Ron Hainley, John Kreider, Sara and Brian, Tanya, Betty, Adrianna, our homebound members.  
**For Grieving:** family and friends of Robin Fritz

**Ascension Day  
 Thursday, May 26  
 7:00 PM  
 Swamp Lutheran Church**



Cocalico Area Lutheran Churches will host an Ascension Day service at Swamp Lutheran Church in Reinholds. The Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry from Muddy Creek will preach. A choir is being formed with voices from the seven congregations in CALM. See Pastor Jim for music if you'd like to be part of the Combined-Voice Ascension Choir.

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[bergluth@dejazzd.com](mailto:bergluth@dejazzd.com)

Worship - 10:00 a.m.

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

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **June** newsletter is  
**May 15.**

**Financial Update:  
 Ending March 31, 2022**

	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2022 YTD</b>	<b>2021 YTD</b>
Net Operating Income	\$9,900.66	(\$369.72)	(\$290.80)
Operating Income	\$23,839.38	\$47,232.90	\$35,497.34
Operating Expense	\$13,938.72	\$47,602.62	\$35,788.14
Net Other Income	\$790.85	\$703.00	(\$635.70)
Net Income from all sources	\$10,691.51	\$333.28	(\$926.50)
Available funds		\$121,108.31	



Last spring I invested almost a thousand dollars in outdoor plants, annuals, and perennials. I enjoy gardening and appreciate the beauty of plants. A few months ago, I thought perhaps I could start plants from seed for my gardens this year thinking it a less dollar investment. For a about one hundred dollars, I was able to get twenty seed packets and starter containers for nearly 300 plants. Way more than I could use! I'll give them away, I thought. I patiently prepared the plant starter kits, added the seeds, placed them near a window or under a plant light in my basement and began to watch them grow. I'm sorry to report I have no plants to give away. It seems my 'green thumb' doesn't work well with seeds! I have noticed though the plants planted last year are showing through the earth larger than I remember last fall.

Getting my hands dirty in soil, working in the sunshine, and watching plants become signs of new life gives me hope for the future. To watch a plant mature to produce scenic beauty is amazing. I have no idea how that all happens except to offer fertile soil, provide water when the soil becomes too dry and to patiently watch it unfold to reveal its natural beauty. When the seasons change, I continue to tend to the plant and its environment. Annuals, whose purpose is to shine for one season, are removed and returned to the soil as nutrients, while the perennials rest and rejuvenate to new life are tucked under leaves for their winter dormancy. The dried leaves provide warmth for the plant and shelter for small insects not accustomed to cold.

The cycle of life rests in hope for new birth. A similar process happens in humanity too, individually and groups of all sizes. Each person is born into the world, nurtured by family and friends, prepared for what life has to offer so that they might respond appropriately for new life to be experienced. It was on May 18, 1752, when a group of twelve men committed to create *Ecclesia Evangelica Lutherana Stratae Montanae* plantada (Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church is to be planted). A seed planted, soon began to grow. I imagine they had no idea what would become of their dream except to trust the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct.

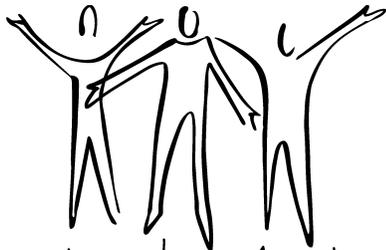
Two hundred seventy years later Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church sits where it all began, on a hill in what was Earltown. Hundreds of thousands of people have passed through our house of worship, passed along the adjoining roads, gathered for worship, celebrated life transitions from birth to death, celebrated the sacraments of baptism and communion, participated in the communal life of the area, nurtured each other, and noticed the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in and through all their life encounters. Bergstrasse became part of a spiritual movement in the area twenty years *after* the formation of the Ephrata Cloister and Muddy Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Today Bergstrasse Church continues with renewed hope through our work to make God known in the world. The people have changed through the years, but God continues to be noticed in each person encountered. We may not have the largest structure, or state-of-the-art equipment or a large bank account, but what we do have is **YOU** and the presence of God encouraging us to make a difference in the lives of each other, especially those who are the least, lost, lonely, or left behind by society. A seed was planted, nurtured in faith, passed through thousands of life seasons, and still shines brightly from the hill where it was planted two hundred seventy years later!

**Pastor Jim**

## God on Tap – Tuesday May 24

**GOD ON TAP** our monthly gathering for conversation about faith and life integration has moved to Nonna Rosa Italian Restaurant in Akron. God on Tap is Tuesday, May 24, 6:00 if you plan to eat, 7:00 if you want to join the conversation. Sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or email the church [bergluth@dejazzd.com](mailto:bergluth@dejazzd.com) by Sunday, May 22. Conversation topics are posted about two weeks prior. Invite friends, meet new people, notice where the Holy Spirit leads our conversations.



New Members Are Joining

### ***Interested in being a member of Bergstrasse***

***Church?*** Attend an informal gathering on Sunday May 1, immediately following worship, to meet with Pastor Jim. As part of our time together, we'll determine a date to make public profession of being an active person in our faith community.

### Geranium order form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Geraniums @ \$2.70 each                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, June 5 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 15.

# Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00am Worship 11:15am New Member Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>7</b> 8:30am Nurturing Our Faith (FH)
<b>8</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Council	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>14</b> 8:30am Nurturing Our Faith (FH)
<b>15</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am Potluck and Community Conversation 2:00pm Ladies' Tea at Holy Trinity	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30pm ELM Task Force at Bergstrasse	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>21</b> 8:30am Nurturing Our Faith (FH)
<b>22</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am Stitches of Love 6:00pm God on Tap	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Ascension 7:00pm Service at Swamp Lutheran Church	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>28</b> 8:30am Nurturing Our Faith (FH)
<b>29</b> 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Memorial Day Service and Luncheon	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Silent Film with Don Kinnier on the organ	<b>4</b> Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus

# Worship participants for May

May	<b>1</b> <i>Easter 3</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Easter 4</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Easter 5</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Easter 6</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Easter 7</i>
<b>Greeter</b>	Peggy Rushton -Witmyer	Clay and Charlann Brubaker	Sandy Lausch	Nevin Rutt Gladys Horvath	Becky and Pattie Martin
<b>Acolyte</b>	Roman Kramer	Judith Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Donna Ruhl	Roman Kramer
<b>Lector</b>	Peggy Rushton -Witmyer	Lisa Conway	Becky Martin	Sandy Lausch	Gladys Horvath
<b>Prayers</b>	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Peggy Rushton- Witmyer	Becky Martin
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Kris Kramer	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
<b>Flower Sponsors</b>	Alice Krahl		Peggy Rushton- Witmyer		
<b>Bulletin Sponsors</b>	Alice Krahl				

## Count Money in May

Tuesday, May 3, 17, 24 at 1:00 PM

Sandy Lausch

## FRIDAY NIGHT on the Hill

# Family Movie Night

Looking to meet new people while engaging in an activity? Friday Night on the Hill is for you and your friends! Fun, games, movies, service activities for all ages. Gather in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 pm till 9:00 pm. You may bring a snack/beverage to share. As the weather gets nicer, we'll move outside. Here is our anticipated weekly activity schedule:

First Friday – Family friendly movie

Second Friday – Board & Card games  
(bring your favorite)

Third Friday – service project  
(serving our neighbors)

Fourth Friday – Team games

Fifth – Hangout



### Coming up in early June

Friday, June 3 – Saturday, June 4 our Lower Susquehanna Synod will gather in assembly to handle the business of synod. Pray for our delegates Dave Wilhelm and Almanara Buffenmyer.

Friday June 3 – 7:00 pm  
A Silent Film featuring Charlie Chaplin in "The Kid" and Don Kinnier on the organ.

Saturday June 4 – evening  
The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus comes to Bergstrasse. The chorus is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an hour-long family-friendly repertoire from the past 35 years. The concert is free, however, a free-will offering is asked to support the work of the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus.

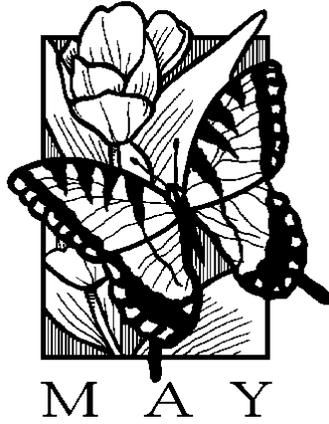
Sunday June 5 – The Day of Pentecost





May

- 1 bath soap, toothpaste, deodorant
- 8 Fruit juice, kool aid mixes, coffee, hot chocolate
- 15 canned pasta, macaroni and cheese
- 22 Instant potatoes and rice  
Pancake mix (make with water)
- 29 Canned fruit, vegetables



Congratulations to those with May birthdays:

- 3 Mabel Bolar
- 9 Donna Ruhl
- 13 Deb Hornberger
- 24 Jane Pittman
- 26 Mary Duing

Anniversaries

- 15 Dave and Jean Wilhelm

# Nurturing Faith

**NURTURING OUR FAITH** – will continue through the month of May on Saturday mornings from 8:30 am – 10:00 am. This 'affirmation of baptism (confirmation)' is **open to all ages!** Living in faith takes work; what better way than to share your experiences with others on a faith journey too. May topics are not yet fully formed, be assured they will include lively conversations! Nurturing Our Faith will take a summer break, resuming in September.

## HOME COMMUNION VISITS BY REQUEST –

Pastor Jim is offering to visit those who have not been able to attend worship during the pandemic to bring them Holy Communion. Although the Covid pandemic seems to be diminishing, it is our collective responsibility to keep ourselves safe so that those we encounter will also be safe.



To schedule a visit, contact the Church office by phone or email: [bergluth@dejazzd.com](mailto:bergluth@dejazzd.com), 717-733-7808 or Pastor Jim by phone or email: [revchef@gmail.com](mailto:revchef@gmail.com), 717-676-3954.

## Bergstrasse Church Council Meeting – April 11, 2022

Ben Gunzenhauser, Dave Wilhelm, Nevin Rutt, Becky Martin, Peggy Rushton-Witmyer, Lisa Conway, Sandy Lausch and Pastor Jim attended the meeting.

Lynn Hibshman reported that he's grateful that we're in a better financial position than last month at this time but advises us to continue to be cautious with spending.

Nevin made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for March and Peggy seconded the motion.

Sandy made a motion to accept the secretary's report for March and Becky seconded it.

Kristi is in the process of obtaining three bids for flat roof repairs and for windowsill and frame wrap on the sanctuary windows.

Peggy made a motion to approve Pastor Jim's vacation requests for June 15-21, August 7-13 and August 21-28. Sandy seconded the motion.

An anonymous donation was received for \$757 to replace the wireless headset so that it meets current FCC standards.

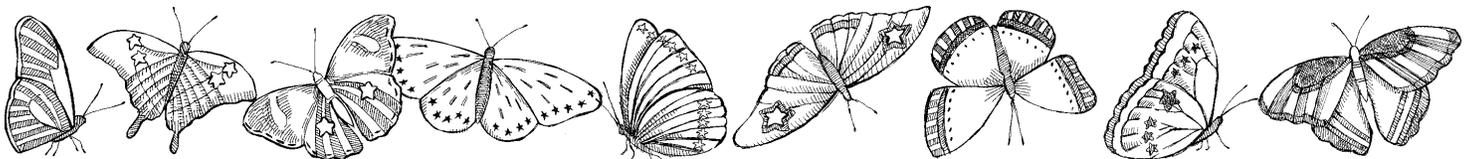
Council discussed compensation amounts for our organists.

The core values for Bergstrasse will be discussed on May 15 at our potluck luncheon following the worship service. Everyone's opinions are encouraged.

Pattie Martin is organizing a lunch for veterans on May 29 after the Memorial Day service.

A variety of music concerts and movie nights are being planned for the near future at Bergstrasse.

Peggy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Nevin seconded it.



# 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.**

