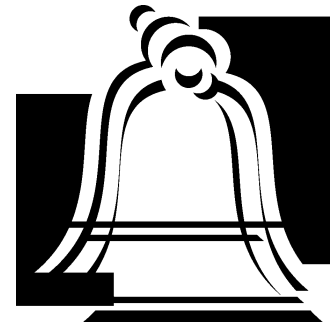


The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 2020

Celebrating the Saints Sunday, November 1

Each year the Church celebrates those persons who have completed their baptismal journey and are now at rest from their labors on earth. We remember the faith each of these people cherished and taught us. Death is the beginning of new life, not the end. For it is in death we are claimed by God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yes, we are saddened our loved ones are not present with us. We rejoice in their newfound eternal life with a God who gives life.



In our worship on Sunday November 1 we will remember the lives of Bill Irvine, Jamie Weiksner*, Dervin 'DJ' Keisling, Loretta Long*, Phyllis Roberts, Kenneth Garner, Sr.*, Harold Wenger*, and Matthew Perry* -- all disciples of Jesus Christ. *denotes non-members of Bergstrasse congregation. We are better people for having them present in our lives.

NEW Worship Opportunity Wednesday Midweek Worship



Beginning Wednesday November 4 at 12 noon – gather for a brief worship service centered in God's Word, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and building community. Pastor Jim AND Pastor Mark will lead and offer a dialogue on the coming Sunday texts. We will alternate locations monthly.

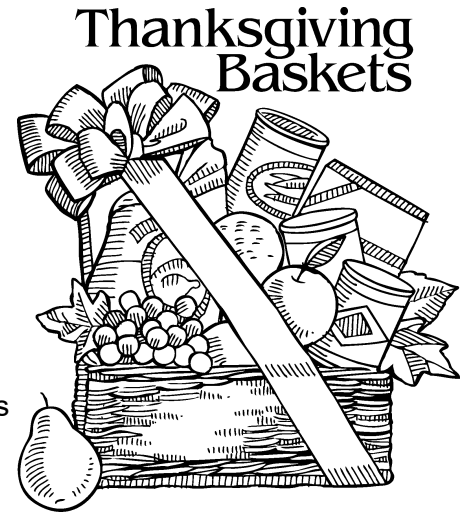
November – Bergstrasse; December – Holy Trinity.
Face masks and social distancing are expected.

Thanksgiving Meals

Ephrata Lutheran Ministry is collecting foods to create Thanksgiving Day Meal Baskets. Your food donations will help to provide a bountiful Thanksgiving Meal for 20 families given to us by Ephrata Area Social Services.

Please bring food items according to your last name.

- A - D: Canned Peas or Corn
- E - H: Canned Sweet Potatoes
- I - L: Seasoned Stuffing
- M - P: Instant Potatoes
- Q - S: Jello Snack Packs (premade Jello in containers) or packaged cookies or applesauce
- T - Z: Apple Juice or Orange Drink



Place your food donations on the Bergstrasse Bounty Tree in the Sanctuary before November 22. Monetary donations (cash preferred) will also be accepted. Contact the Church Office if you would like to donate a 10 - 14 lb. turkey.

Each family will be asked to pick up their Thanksgiving Day Meal Basket. For families unable to pick up, we will offer to deliver on Sunday November 22 at 3:00 pm. If you are willing to help with delivery, contact the Church office by November 15. Holy Trinity has been providing these meals for a number of years. This year, the baskets are graciously provided by Ephrata Lutheran Ministry: A Cooperative Ministry of Bergstrasse & Holy Trinity congregations. Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to provide.



The Bell is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by
 Bergstrasse Lutheran Church
 9 Hahnstown Road
 Ephrata, PA 17522
 (717) 733-7808
 bergluth@dejazzd.com

Worship - 10:00 AM

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

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **December** newsletter
 is **November 15**.

Financial Update: Ending September 30, 2020

	MONTH	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Net Operating Income	(\$3,134.01)	\$4,069.72	(\$8,679.35)
Operating Income	\$8,804.39	\$111,156.01	\$97,602.60
Operating Expense	\$11,938.40	\$107,086.29	\$106,281.95
Net Other Income	(\$2,149.71)	(\$6,159.67)	\$6,715.89
Net Income from all sources	(\$5,283.72)	(\$2,089.95)	(\$1,963.46)



From the Pastor's Desk

Life changes, shifts, transforms to become something new every day. Out of the past, new growth blossoms. The new, through habitual practice, eventually becomes normal. When are our practices named as normal? Especially when life seems to always be in flux. When O God, will we return to 'normal' the people cried out...seven months into a pandemic. It feels like we've been waiting forever to settle into a routine that feels familiar. One that could be navigated without hesitation, knowing what to expect. The known dies, so that resurrection is realized and believed. This is the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. AND it is our story today as our lives are being changed by an invisible coronavirus.

The familiar is always safe. Living in the unfamiliar requires perseverance, dedication, and patience while navigating unfamiliar territory. With a pandemic, no one is exempt. Everyone faces new

challenges. The Church is also facing new challenges. What seemed impossible to do seven months ago, now seems 'normal'. Congregational leaders discovered new ways of connecting with one another. In some ways, the pandemic forced congregations to examine how they minister in their communities. Technology, the use of digital communication, has changed how most if not all congregations share the Gospel of Jesus Christ – that all people are love, that God is with you.

With any change, there is a level of risk involved. Leaders of differing mindsets must come together for the benefit of everyone. Taking risks is leadership. Returning to in-person, indoor worship July 5 was a risk! At that time, many other congregations moved to other ways of gathering outdoors. Our online worship continued to bless persons not yet ready to gather indoors, as well as people from neighboring communities. As new habits become familiar, to remain diligent requires our attention. Washing hands often, wearing a face mask, and social distancing have become normal. Like all habits, sometimes we need to remind others to do the same...for the good of everyone.

Every day we are bombarded with information about the coronavirus. Statistics of new cases, deaths, number of hospitalizations, status of possible vaccines, how to keep your space safe, and so much more. With the fall season, many activities will move indoors with different practices to ensure everyone's safety. The constant in all this – God is with you! Jesus teaches we are not alone in our work of being. God's work is evidenced in our love and care for each other. You are constantly being transformed by God's Word. Being with God is risky business! Being love for each other in our action as well as our words take perseverance, dedication, and patience. What risks are you taking with God?

Pastor Jim

Who Knew!

A few weeks ago my mother, aunt and three of their cousins gathered for story sharing. One of the cousins discovered through her genealogy work that my six-great-grandfather was one of the founders of Bergstrasse Lutheran Church!

Elias Meyer came to Lancaster county after sailing from Germany aboard the William & Sarah. Also, on board was Phillip Schweikharth, a descendant of Nevin Rutt!!

Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, organized in 1752, continues to nurture disciples through their founding members. – Pastor Jim

ANNUAL MEETING



**Bergstrasse Lutheran Church
Sunday November 8, 2020
following worship.**

We will vote on our proposed 2021 Budget.

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."
—G.K. Chesterton

Under the Pines

Did you know the small grouping of pine trees behind our building is NOW an outdoor worship and gathering space?

Thanks to the efforts of Ben Gunzenhauser who last spring rid the area of two piles of brush, stones, and ivy, Ephrata Lutheran Ministry began offering Weekly Outdoor Worship!

Central to the space is a 'Table'. This 'table' once stood in the front lawn of Jane Pittman's mother's home as a pine tree. With the help of tree trimmers and John Gehr, knowing a sawmill willing to cut the log, we now have a beautiful natural table to gather around.

Why 'table' and not 'altar'? An altar is where offerings are made, including in sacrifices. A table is where Jesus gathered disciples to share in the Last Supper and where he met others for conversation. This space is more than a place for worship. It is a gathering place for fellowship too!

Christmas Eve 2020 at Bergstrasse

We are offering multiple worship opportunities to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. It is our hope to be able to accommodate as many people for worship and still be within the safety guidelines for indoor activities.

3:00 pm AND 7:00 pm – A **Traditional Christmas Eve** worship including retelling Jesus' birth story, hearing traditional carols (no singing), Communion, and a candle lighting ritual.

Weather permitting, we will gather outside around the Angel Statue where we will sing one verse of Silent Night, socially distanced and masked. For those who are able, we will begin to place the luminaries.

5:30 pm – **NEW!** We will gather **OUTDOORS** around the Angel Statue to again hear Jesus' birth story surrounded by light. A portion of this 40-minute service will include final placement and lighting of the luminaries. Details are still being formed. *If you would like to plan this service, contact Pastor Jim.



Mark your calendars now to invite friends and family to Christmas Eve on the Bergstrasse Hill!

Ephrata Lutheran Ministry: Bergstrasse & Holy Trinity Lutheran Serving God, Serving Neighbor

We are making a difference in our world, aka Ephrata! Over the past four months we've:

1. Worship together online and/or outdoors in the Pines at Bergstrasse
2. Gather each Wednesday evening via ZOOM for book studies or Bible Study
3. Created an Outdoor Gathering Space on the Bergstrasse Campus
4. Created a Table* for use in the Outdoor Gathering Space from a fallen pine trees
*tables are for gathering around
5. Collected school supplies to be distributed to Students in the Ephrata & Cocalico Schools through Ephrata Area Social Services
6. Conducted a Food Drive for EASS
7. Served over 60 carryout Spaghetti Meals: Feed Our Neighbor; extra donate foods were donated to EASS
8. Gathered candy for Trick-or-Treat night in Ephrata (in event no trick-or-treating, treat bags will be given to S. June Smith Nursery School and EASS for distribution to children)

Watch for these upcoming opportunities to Serve God, Serve Neighbor

1. A logo that identifies our ministry beyond our walls
2. Mid-Week Worship on Wednesday beginning November 4; 12noon; November at Bergstrasse, December at Holy Trinity; Pastor Jim & Pastor Mark wrestling with scripture!
3. Thanksgiving Eve worship celebrating our gratitude – Wednesday November 25
12 noon at Bergstrasse
7:00 pm at Holy Trinity
4. Thanksgiving Meal distribution to 20 local families
5. Christmas Eve – Outdoor at Bergstrasse to include Community Lighting of Luminaries

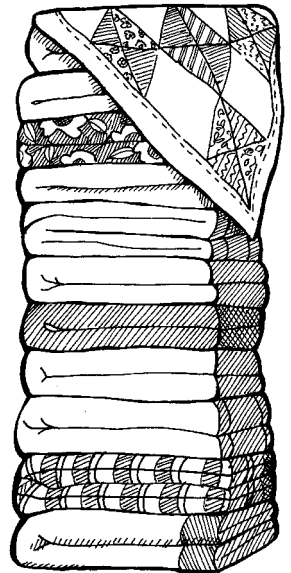
Want to know how you can support Ephrata Lutheran Ministry? Contact Kathy Buck, Curt Hare, Peggy Rushton-Witmyer or Dave Wilhelm – Our ELM Task Force team!

Ingathering Sunday

Our Quilt and Ingathering Sunday October 4 was very successful. The Stitches of Love group made 91 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Forty-eight school kits were also gathered in and blessed at the morning worship.

All these items were shipped to New Windsor, Maryland to the large warehouse of LWR. The truck carrying our items and those of other congregations in the Lancaster, North Lancaster, and Lebanon conferences, was loaded at Bergstrasse on October 10. The items will eventually find their way to needy folks at home and abroad.

We at Bergstrasse are proud to be a part of this valuable relief ministry. Together with our sister Lutheran congregations and LWR, we are making a difference and giving comfort and hope to needy folks worldwide.



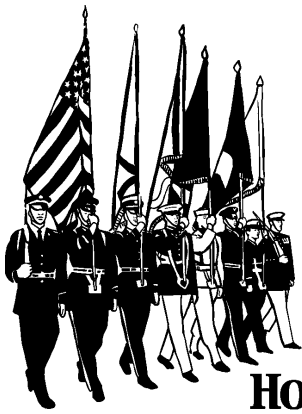
Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship	2	3	4 12:00pm Worship at Bergstrasse 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm Book study on Zoom	5	6	7
8 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Meeting	9 7:00pm Council	10	11 12:00pm Worship at Bergstrasse 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm Book study on Zoom	12	13	14
15 10:00am Worship	16	17 7:00pm Ephrata Lutheran Ministry at Bergstrasse	18 12:00pm Worship at Bergstrasse 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm Book study on Zoom	19	20	21 Private use of fellowship hall
22 10:00am Worship	23	24 9:00am Stitches of Love	25 12:00pm Thanksgiving Eve at Bergstrasse 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve at Holy Trinity	26	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship	30	1	2 12:00pm Worship at Holy Trinity 5:00pm Private Music Lessons 7:00pm Book study on Zoom	3	4	5

Following is a list of Bergstrasse's veterans, past and present. Thank you to them and to those who supported them during their time of service to our country.

Please help to complete this list by passing along any corrections or additions to the church office.



**WE
HONOR
OUR VETERANS**

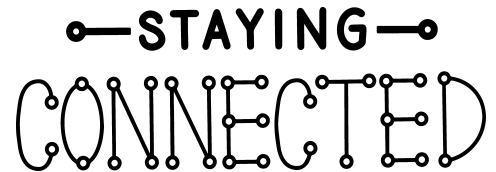
* Deceased

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
*John E. Althouse	Army	*Isreal S. Gockley	Army
Neil Althouse	Army	*Ray Gockley	Army
*William Buch	Army	*Richard Gockley	Army
Glenn L. Buffenmyer	Army	*Thomas P. Grater	Navy
*Melvin R. Burkhart		Benjamin J. Gunzenhauser	Army
*Isaac G. Burkhart		*Lyman L. Hainley	Army
*Donald E. Burkholder	Marines	Ronald Hainley	Air Force
*Franklin Burkholder		Curtis R. Hare	Army
*Lee Burkholder		Christopher Hartman	
*Ray Burkholder		*Harold Hartman	Army Air Corps
Ronald L. Burkholder	Marines	David I. Heisey	Air Force
*Rufus K. Burkholder		*Clair L. Hibshman	Navy
*Harold S. Coldren	Navy	*William C. Irvine	Army Air Corps
*Frank Denlinger	Army	*Howard M. Jorgensen	Navy
Chad O. Devonshire	Marine	*Dervin J. Keisling, Jr.	Navy
*George Diem	Army	*Dervin J. Keisling	Army
*Harold J. Diem		*Irvin J. Keisling	Army
*Richard C. Dornes		*John A. Keisling	Navy
*George Driver		*William D. Kilhefner	Army Air Corps
*Chester Eshleman		William D. Kilhefner, Jr.	Air Force
Earl R. Eshleman	Army	Barry E. Kreider	Marines
*Jacob D. Fry		Troy L. Kreider	Marines
*George S. Gehr		*Solomon G. Lausch	
*John W. Gehr	Navy	Jeffrey Leicy	Air Force
*Paul M. Gehr		Jeremy D. Leicy	Army
*William M. Gehr	Army	Joel Leicy	Army
*George H. Givler			

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
*Lemon Leicy	Army	Dennis Ruhl	Army
*Stanley Leicy	Army	*Daniel Schnader	Army
*Victor C. Leicy	Navy	*Grant C. Smith	
*Ray L. Leisey	Army	*Wilbur Spotts	Army
*Russell McQuate		Raymond R. Stafford, Jr.	Army
*John G. Miller	Army	*Raymond R. Stafford, Sr.	Marines
*Kenneth Lee Mumma, Jr.	Marines	*Neil Strickler	Army
Jane Pittman	PA Nat'l Guard	*Leon W. Sweigart	Army
Daniel C. Rennix	Marines	Vernon E. Sweigart	Air Force
*Lawrence Rice	Army	*Luther G. "Jerry" Troutman	Air Force
Randy Rice	Army	Christopher A. Weaver	Army
*John O. Rineer, Jr.	Navy	Donna M. (Leicy) Willingham	Marines
*Richard Root	PA Nat'l Guard	*John H. Willwerth	Marines Army
		*Richard Winters (Band of Brothers)	Army
		*Clarence Wise, Sr.	Army

Digital Church

The 21st Century ushered in a variety of communication methods that involved digital technology. We no longer needed 'cords' to communicate; instead, the 'airwaves' became the mode of communication. For many, 'wireless' connections are a way of life. In the same way, Church is changing the way it communicates the message of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Then came the coronavirus! Congregations all over the world scrambled to use these new communication methods more efficiently. The learning curve is steep!



From atop the hill in East Ephrata, we are exploring new ways to engage people with building a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Attempts are being made to connect beyond our walls through Social Media (Facebook, YouTube...perhaps Instagram), email marketing and good old-fashioned meeting face-to-face, of course wearing a face mask, six feet apart! The message is the same; the method of communication is different. Will we see new people in the pews? Maybe, maybe not. Does that mean they are less involved? No, they are involved differently. Are lives transformed by engaging in God's Word? I hope so! Here are a few ways to connect to Jesus through Bergstrasse Church:

Facebook – like Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church page AND share their postings on your Facebook page! Watch for daily posts to enhance your faith journey.

YouTube – Subscribe (no fee) to the Bergstrasse Church Ephrata PA channel. Here you will find online worship services. We hope to have our Sunday Worship services 'streamed live' on YouTube by November 1.

Webpage – in the coming months we hope to upgrade our Website to be more interactive and up to date with coming activities & events, as well as pertinent information about the Bergstrasse ministries, including being able to give online.

Share with your family and friends how you are being transformed by God's Word to be a Jesus follower!

Ushers

Ben Gunzenhauser
Peggy Rushton-Witmyer

Flower sponsor

November 1 Cleone Rudisill
November 8 John and Mary Duing

Bulletin sponsor

November 1 Cleone Rudisill

The Denver & Ephrata
Community Thanksgiving Day
Dinner is cancelled this year
because of Covid-19.

The organization feels it cannot
adequately ensure the safety for
all volunteers, drivers and
diners.



Congratulations to those with
November birthdays:

- 11 Debbie Stone
- 13 Lynn Hibshman
- 16 Peggy Rushton-Witmyer
- 28 Inez Hare

Thank You!

To the Bergstrasse Congregation:

THANK YOU for your continued financial contributions to date. Because of your generosity, combined with CARES Act funds, our contract with JD Eckman, and an anonymous donation, we are able to meet our monthly financial obligations! YOUR commitment to the ministry of Bergstrasse is to be commended, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. We continue to receive donations by mail, dropped off during office hours, or in worship. Coming soon – online giving!

Our 'Shepherds', nine individuals, have begun to 'tend the flock' with regular connections. Please pray for their work.

Reminder that if you feel ill, PLEASE stay home and seek appropriate care. Many in our community are compromised and can easily contract the coronavirus. IF you come in contact with a person who tests positive for Covid-19, notify the office immediately so that we can contact others who were in your presence.



Inez Hare, Jane Adams,
Shirley Slaugh,
Kate Singleton, Tina Wanner,
Family of Matthew Perry,
Sally Fitch, Pat Jacobs

The 2020 Annual Report will be available in the Narthex November 1. Please pick up a copy before the annual meeting on November 8.



Food bank

We continue to collect food for Ephrata Area Social Services.

November

- 1 canned ham/rice/rice mixes
- 8 pasta/spaghetti sauce
- 15 pancake mix and syrup
- 22 canned vegetables/fruit
- 29 hamburger helper, cereal

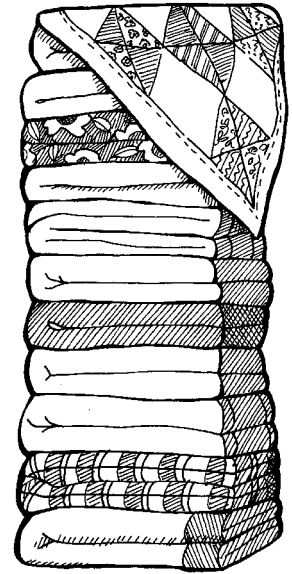
Please help to keep EASS shelves filled for those in need.

Ingathering Sunday

Our Quilt and Ingathering Sunday October 6 was very successful. The Stitches of Love group made 88 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and an additional three quilts were given to the Lutheran Camping Corporation to auction off in their latest fundraising appeal. Three were sold for donations to Stitches of Love to defray some of the cost. Forty-four school kits were also gathered in and blessed at the morning worship.

All these items were shipped to New Windsor, Maryland to the large warehouse of LWR. The truck carrying our items and those of other congregations in the Lancaster, North Lancaster, and Lebanon conferences, was loaded at Bergstrasse on October 12. The items will eventually find their way to needy folks at home and abroad.

We at Bergstrasse are proud to be a part of this valuable relief ministry. Together with our sister Lutheran congregations and LWR, we are making a difference and giving comfort and hope to needy folks worldwide.



Poinsettia order form due December 8



Name _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Number of red _____ x \$7.00 = _____

Number of white _____ x \$7.00 = _____

total enclosed _____

Please place order form and money in offering plate by December 6.

Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Minutes October 12, 2020

Members present were Nevin, Dave, Almanara, Lisa and Pastor Jim

Lynn Hibshman plans to complete the report for the loan forgiveness this Saturday, Oct. 17th providing he can scan the needed information and enter it in the portal.

Almanara made a motion to approve the September treasurer's report and Nevin seconded it.

Nevin made a motion to approve the proposed 2021 budget and Almanara seconded it. Electronic giving capability is on the horizon.

Almanara made a motion to approve the secretary's report from September's meeting and Nevin seconded it.

The J.C. Eckman/PennDOT construction project is ahead of schedule.

Livestreaming the worship service is a work in progress.

Communion wine will not be reinstated yet. Only wafers will be used.

The Christmas luminaries will be wax candles in sand inside the plastic holders and the community will be invited to help to light them on Christmas Eve. We won't sing inside but we'll gather at the angel statue outside for one verse of "Silent Night" after each service, weather permitting.

ELM will meet again next week. Signs for the drive-through take-out spaghetti dinner were posted at Ephrata Area Social Services and at the Cocalico House.

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8th after the worship service.

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

Growing through gratitude

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude "fertilizer for the mind" because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn't always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn't grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. "Give thanks in all circumstances," he writes, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



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.**



n o v e m b e r
