

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2023

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Sunday, February 5

Pot-luck lunch followed with a presentation by Pastor Mark Luscombe to kick-off our year of "Creating a Culture of Generosity", the primary ministry initiative of this congregation for 2023.

We will create Valentine's greeting cards to be sent to our homebound congregants.

A sign up sheet is available in the fellowship hall for potluck items.

February 22

Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes

12:00 noon – Bergstrasse (no music)

7:00 pm – Bergstrasse



God on Tap – Tuesday February 28

Gather at Nonna Rosa Restaurant, in Akron - Dinner begins at 6:00 pm / Conversation begins at 7:00 pm.

Dinner Reservations appreciated on or before the Sunday February 26 via Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, email or leave message at church office

Conversation Topic: watch for details two weeks prior!!!



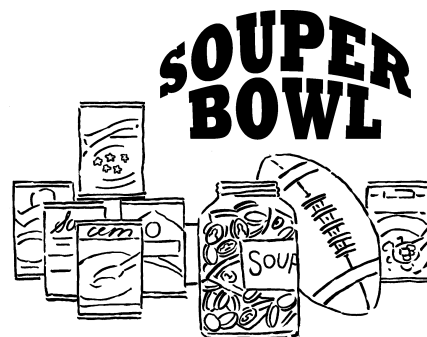


Please bring the following donations each week during February to give to the Food Bank.

February

- 5 Pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese
- 12 soup and crackers
- 19 Hygiene articles, bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, powder
- 26 Juices, coffee, tea, hot chocolate

Which teams will make it to the Super Bowl? Regardless, because of your generous donations of soup, clients of Ephrata Area Social Services will have a bounty of soup & crackers for distribution. Bring your canned soup(s) and crackers on Sunday February 5 and 12 and place them on the Bounty Tree!



Free Tax Preparation

This tax season Jeff Donahue is offering to do church members' 2022 taxes and PA Property Tax Rebates, free of charge. Jeff has been participating in the IRS's "Voluntary Income Tax Assistance" program for 11 years.

You would make an appointment with him and meet at Bergstrasse where you would review your tax information with him. The taxes would be prepared by Jeff and reviewed by another VITA volunteer, per IRS rules. Another meeting would be arranged where the printed documents would be signed. These forms would then be e filed to the proper Federal and State departments. You would need to mail Local tax forms and the PA Rebate forms.

If interested, please call Jeff at 717-733-0921.

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www.bergstrasselutheran.com
Worship - 10:00 AM

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

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **March** newsletter is **February 19.**

Financial Update: Ending December 31, 2022

	MONTH	2022 YTD	2021 YTD
Net Operating Income	(\$1,650.30)	(\$5,196.92)	\$10,993.54
Operating Income	\$13,478.39	\$159,834.33	\$161,570.92
Operating Expense	\$15,128.69	\$165,031.25	\$150,577.38
Net Other Income	(\$1.75)	(\$3,035.95)	(\$4,232.45)
Net Income from all sources	(\$1,652.05)	(\$8,232.87)	\$6,761.09
Available Funds		\$111,953.97	



From the Pastor's Desk

Three years ago news outlets were talking about a coronavirus wreaking havoc around the globe. Less than two months later the coronavirus or Covid-19 as it became known as landed on our doorsteps, sending people into a state of panic. Unsure how to appropriately respond, the world we knew came to an immediate stand still. What was familiar was now halted for at least the first two weeks until medical personnel and elected leaders could assess next steps while agencies began to consider their next steps to keep people as safe as possible. We had no idea how much our lives would change, nor did we know how long our lives would be impacted by Covid-19.

When will everything be normal again, was the cry of the people. What was familiar began to slowly reappear with the introductions of a vaccine – businesses reopened with new health safety

protocols, many restaurants changed how they served the public, ordering essentials became the norm, zoom became a household word for meetings. Face masks were seen less and less. Busy traffic patterns returned. Many people soon acknowledged living into a 'new' normal, whatever that meant, life was different. Life changed, but how have we changed. Change is often resisted because the familiar is comfortable. Eventually change becomes the new normal. Will we know when normal has fully arrived? (Think about something that has changed in your lifetime that now you can't imagine living without)

Faith communities of all traditions and size changed because of the coronavirus pandemic too. What was may no longer be. Religious affiliation has been declining in the United States since the 1960s. For many people who identify as Christian, especially under the age of 45, the Church* is no longer relevant in their daily lives. The Church was looking for a 'new' normal well before March 2020. Does the Church know what it is or has been looking for? I sense the Church was looking for something new with old ideas. Not wanting to shed what was known, the Church often chooses to consider new ideas based on experience, with little regard for what is really going on in the present. No matter how much you try to disguise something old with new clothes, it soon loses its appeal.

The Church, in my opinion, are people who experienced a life transformation from death into a resurrection and who continue to celebrate their newfound hope by engaging with others to find their new hope that will set them free of their past. The Church IS all about resurrection! Can you imagine if all our ministry initiatives were focused toward offering 'resurrection' to others (the least, the lost, the lonely, the left behind)? Can you imagine a Church that shows the presence of the Holy One, the Divine, God in EVERYTHING? Can you imagine relationships growing out of love for each other? Can you imagine a Church that is visible through their various ministries so much that others notice and want to share in offering hope?

Our congregational Leadership Council has committed to engage a Stewardship initiative for 2023. Stewardship (or Generosity) is about sharing from our abundance (time, talents, treasure) so that others might experience God aka love. Bergstrasse is at a crossroads that will shape the future of our effectiveness as a missional congregation. We know where we've been, where do you see your faith community moving toward in the next year, two years, three years? Stewards committed to sharing love in the world are best served with a process that is defined by their vision for ministry – the how's that lead us to support our mission "To widen the community of people who know, love and follow God" – a community of people beyond our walls.

I encourage you to be present for our Community Conversation on Sunday February 5, immediately following worship, where we will hear Pastor Mark Luscombe share his experience of leading people to be faithful stewards of our abundance.

**Church refers to the larger community of followers of Jesus, however, you can also substitute Church with 'the local congregation'*

Peace,
Pastor Jim

Planning for the Lenten season has begun!



Bergstrasse will use 'ASK, a Lenten series' to outline our Ash Wednesday worship, Sunday worship and Holy Week worship experiences.

CALM – Cocalico Area Lutheran Ministries – Midweek Lenten Worship services begin Wednesday March 1. Offerings to benefit Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Houston, TX.

When we read scripture carefully, we discover questions everywhere. Hundreds of questions. Questions are created in the Garden of Eden. In the Gospel of John, the first thing Jesus says to someone after his resurrection is a question.



Like people, these questions come in every type. Some are pesky. Some prefer to hide in the shadows and never be noticed. Some shout loudly, repeatedly, and beg attention. Some walk with us to the grave. Similarly, like people, once you start engaging questions, you quickly discover how hard they are to understand. Questions are hard to pigeonhole. They defy stereotyping. And no matter how hard we like to *think* they can stand alone; they almost *always* require some kind of relationship.

Once you start noticing questions, once you start looking for them in the lectionary, you see them everywhere. Everyone has one, even if they keep it in their back pocket or tightly trapped behind their teeth. Biblical people have plenty of questions, too. So what can we do with *that*?

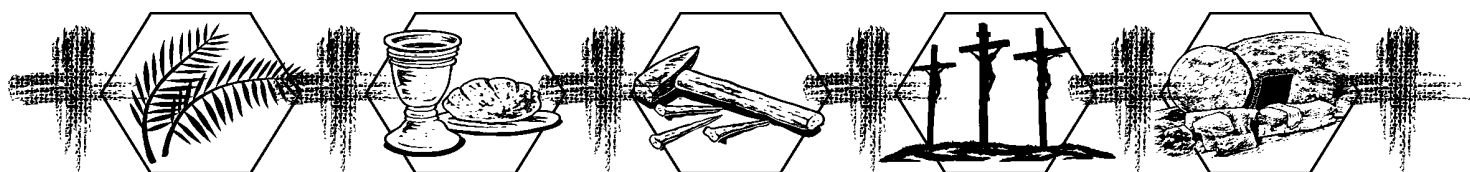
Here's our answer: this series called *Ask*. In this Lenten season, you'll find something for every person who's ever had a question about their faith.

CALM – Cocalico Area Lutheran Ministries

A cluster of seven Lutheran congregations in North Lancaster Conference will again offer Wednesday Lenten Worship services beginning March 1st at 7:00 pm. Our theme "Turning toward God's Abundance" will focus on five divine attributes drawn from the gospel texts for Lent (year C): faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Each service is designed for sustained reflection on the gospel in the context of contemplative prayer, readings, silence, and song.

Wednesday March 1 @Faith United, Denver	Pastor Jim Goodyear, on faithfulness
Wednesday March 8 @St. Paul's, Adamstown	Pastor Marissa Becklin, on mercy
Wednesday March 15 @Bergstrasse, Ephrata	Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry, on compassion
Wednesday March 22 @Muddy Creek, Denver	Pastor Scott Brubaker, on forgiveness
Wednesday March 29 @ Mellinger's, Schoeneck	Pastor Sandy Gideon, on love

Thursday May 18 Ascension Day Service at Swamp, Reinholds Pastor Tim Craven, preaching



Assistant Worship Leaders for February

February	5	12	19	22 Ash Wed.	26
Greeters	Almanara Buffenmyer	Alice Krah	Jeff and Gail Donahue		Sandy Napolitan
Acolyte	Jax Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Christian Kramer		William Kramer
Lector	Becca Brewster	Kris Kramer	Bonnie Grater		Alice Krah
Prayers	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster	Deb Hornberger		Peggy Rushton-Witmyer
Communion Assistant	Sandy Lausch	XXX	Becca Brewster	Deb Hornberger	XXX
Counters	7th Bonnie Grater		21st Bonnie Grater		
Flowers					
Bulletin					

The Lutheran Ladies Luncheon

The Lutheran Ladies Luncheon will be meeting the second Wednesday for the month of February only, on February 8. The gathering meets at the Olde Lincoln House restaurant in Ephrata at noon. We order off of the menu and pay our own choices, plus tip. This is a social gathering and our Bergstrasse adult ladies are invited.

Established attendees are already included on the contact list and after February the new participants will be added. The normal week to gather is the third Wednesday of the month. If interested, please contact Charlann Brubaker no later than February 6 by email, ladycharle120@gmail.com or phone 484-347-3608.



Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00am Worship	30	31	1 10:00am Book study 7:00pm Book study	2 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	3	4
5 10:00am Worship 11:15am Community Conversation and Potluck Lunch	6	7	8 10:00am Book study 7:00pm Book study	9 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	10	11
12 10:00am Worship	13 7:00pm Council	14	15	16 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	17	18
19 10:00am Worship 11:00am Worship and Music Committee	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm Ash Wednesday (spoken) 7:00pm Ash Wednesday	23 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	24	25
26 10:00am Worship	27	28 9:00am Stitches of Love 6:00pm God on Tap	1	2	3 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	4



Live Theater returns to Bergstrasse!

We are pleased to announce the return of **Servant Stage** for two shows in 2023. Servant Stage Company joyfully serves the Lancaster county community by providing exceptional theatrical and musical experiences that inspire, educate, challenge, and entertain. All shows are family-friendly shows easily accessible to everyone with pay-what-you-will performances! Free-will donations accepted following the performance. Each performance is 60-70 minutes in duration and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Invite family and friends to an evening of live entertainment! For more information go to their website at: www.servantstage.org.

Tuesday July 25th at 7:00 pm to experience **I'll Fly Away** Servant Stage's audience-favorite revue is returning to Lancaster this summer! *I'll Fly Away* features a live folk band, stunning vocalists, and beautiful renditions of some of the most famous and inspirational songs ever written! With toe-tapping arrangements of old-time favorites, classic hymns, and more, this original tribute to Gospel and Bluegrass music is sure to be a treat for the ears and a balm for the soul!

Tuesday December 5 at 7:00 pm to experience **Jingle Bell Jukebox** The popular Servant Stage revue series adds a holiday rendition to the canon! Featuring a live rock band, show-stopping vocals, and a powerhouse dance ensemble, this original revue will have you rocking around the Christmas tree from The First Noel until New Year's Eve with fun, high-energy arrangements of all your favorite Christmas songs! So drop in a dime and get ready to sing and dance along to *Jingle Bell Jukebox*!

Essence of Joy Choir from Penn State University

At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ephrata
Sunday, March 26, 4:00 PM

This concert is sponsored through a grant from the
Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation.

Easter Flowers

Name _____

In honor / thanks / memory of _____

_____ Lily (5-6 bloom) \$8.00 \$ _____

_____ Tulip \$6.00 \$ _____

_____ Daffodil \$6.00 \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Please return form by March 5, 2023.



For Healing: Edie Lausch, Eldonna Filardi, Linda Gilhuly, Baby Theo, Rebecca, Lisa, Carol Albright, Oliver family, Betty, Marian Russell, Jontel Toland, our homebound members.

For Grieving: family of Paul Bauman, Mary Escobar, Marian Heiser, Jessie Fasnacht, Ed Myslinsky

Congratulations to those with February birthdays:

- 2 Nevin Rutt
- 2 Kris Kramer
- 6 Vernon Schmuck
- 7 Irene Smith

Thank you for the Christmas and birthday cards.
They were much appreciated from my church family.

Glenn Buffenmyer



Dear members of the congregation,
Thank you very much for the monetary gift! It was very thoughtful and I do appreciate it as well as the support of all of you at Sunday services.

Blessings to you and may you have a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Sharon Levering

Dear friends at Bergstrasse

Just a note to say thank you for the gifts! Completely unexpected, and greatly appreciated! I miss worshipping with you all—hope to be back with you sometime soon—as soon as my doctors allow.

Wishing you all the best in 2023!

Eldonna Filardi



Read an inspiring book you think others might enjoy?

Bergstrasse Book Swap returns! Bring your interesting reads and place on the table in the Gathering Area. See a title that interests you? Take it with you, read, and return!

Council Minutes

January 9, 2023

Present: Almanara Buffenmyer, Jeff Donahue, Pastor Jim Goodyear, Gladys Horvath, BJ Kramer, Sandy Lausch, Peggy Rushton-Witmyer, Dave Wilhelm
Absent: Clay Brubaker

Meeting opened with devotions by Pastor Jim.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Hibshman opened discussion to review moving assets to advantage higher interest rates currently available. Dave Wilhelm and Jeff Donahue offered to assist Lynn in making some calls. Peggy moved to accept Treasurer's report for December and Dave seconded the motion.

Gladys moved to accept the Secretary's report from December and Sandy seconded the motion.

Property Report, given by Jeff Donahue covered several issues. These included furnace repairs completed, 2 of the emergency lights have been installed, window sealing is in progress to reduce heat loss, new stair treads were reordered. Jeff indicated the need to coordinate the installation of new stair treads and new carpet with the Yoga Place, as these will require at minimum, 24 hours to set. The Sexton's house needs a window repair as well as the parsonage. The current insurance covering the church and buildings expires in June. A search for comparable coverage may be explored.

Pastor's Report: Housing allowance for the Pastor was approved with Almanara making the motion and Gladys seconded it. A review of Christmas services as well as Taize indicated a larger response on social media than expected. BJ tracked 1335 views of Christmas Eve service (this # indicates clicks on the site, not necessarily the # who watched the entire service.) There were also 1094 views of the Christmas Day service. Deb Hornberger will represent our congregation at the Synod Assembly June 2nd and 3rd of this year. The Community Conversation, Sunday, February 5th will have Pastor Mark Luscombe sharing ideas Trinity is using to promote stewardship. The intention is to better use our gifts in the new year.

Sandy Lausch proposed a spring fund-raiser and will explore dates and opportunities setting a firm time next month.

The meeting adjourned with the motion by Dave Wilhelm, seconded by Jeff.

Next meeting for Council is Monday February 13th at 7:00PM

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.**

