

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2023

Lent 2023 at Bergstrasse



Bergstrasse will use 'ASK, a Lenten series to guide our Lenten Journey.

Questions are the root of discovery and learning. Did you know there are nine unique types of questions? Throughout Lent, questions will drive our conversations in worship. It is doubtful there will ever be a concrete answer! That is okay. Faith is an individual encounter with the God you understand. Hopefully your questions guide you to a place of greater understanding of God's mystery in our lives is a grace filled gift.



a Lenten series

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, March 5
Following worship
Fellowship Hall—Potluck Lunch



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

Presentation by: Rev. Darla Bair, an interfaith leader in the Lancaster area.

First Friday Night on the Hill
Friday, March 3, 5-9 PM
at St. Paul, Penryn for Karaoke.

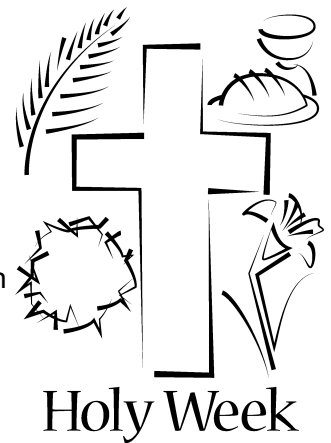
HOLY WEEK *opportunities for community to gather together...*

Holy Thursday – April 6, 6:00 pm begins with a Potluck Supper – followed with a modified Tenebrae Service ending with preparing the chancel for the events of Good Friday.

Good Friday – April 7, 12 noon – 3 pm & 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm – NEW this year! An interactive Stations of the Cross where each person is invited to engage with Peter, Pilate, and Jesus who were there. Discover how each person was challenged in that moment. Come as you are able and walk the journey at your own pace. Guides will be available.

Easter Sunrise – Sunday April 9 6:30 am – Gather at the original Cemetery Gate. As the new dawn breaks, we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead. We hear the Gospel promise of new life! A community breakfast follows in the Fellowship Hall.

Resurrection Day – Sunday April 9, 10:00 am – He is Risen!



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Ephrata, PA 17522
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www.bergstrasselutheran.com
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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 20.

Financial Update: Ending January 31, 2023

	MONTH	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Net Operating Income	\$4,046.90	\$4,046.90	(\$5,531.47)
Operating Income	\$14,980.98	\$14,980.98	\$10,292.48
Operating Expense	\$10,934.08	\$10,934.08	\$15,823.95
Net Other Income	\$30.96	\$30.96	(\$270.68)
Net Income from all sources	\$4,077.86	\$4,077.86	(\$5,802.15)
Available funds		\$115,441.94	



From the Pastor's Desk

Hey pastor, I've got a question....

From the Barn Goose 2023 Lenten series, Ask:

At some point in every Christian's life, they discover a question. You know the kind. Not how are you? or What kind of toothpaste should I buy? But what really happens when we die? Or why does this terrible stuff happen to people who do their best to follow God? Or how could God forgive me after what I've done? Or how do I know what God wants me to do next? You know. That kind of question.

People often feel isolated when they discover that type of question, as if they are the only ones asking it. For whatever reason, questions like this often feel like obstacles to our faith. They may feel forbidden, out-of-

bounds. In our holy scriptures, we read about characters like Job and Nicodemus asking questions that sound like ours, only to hear what sounds like a very touchy response from God.

But what if faith requires us to ask questions?

What if questions are an essential part of our personal faith?

What if we need questions to survive and grow as a community of faith?

Well, guess what? You're in good company.

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.

It has taken me a lifetime to feel comfortable with asking questions and to wait for a response. Ninety-nine percent of the time the response leads to another question! While in seminary, my Lutheran Confessions professor habitually asked 'why do you ask that question' when presented with a question! Ugh, he was intentionally inviting me into a conversation. Now you know why I ask questions! Rarely am I seeking a definitive answer, rather an opportunity to engage a deeper relationship so that we might engage differently to support our ministry together.

Recently, I've been asking myself questions around our future as a congregation.

1. I see potential for growth, in different ways than what is familiar.
2. I see new people engaging in new ministry initiatives.
3. I see a growing concern for our ability to have the needed financial resources to grow our ministry.
4. I see a need to be more aware of the needs of the Ephrata community and to discern how we might support our neighbor.
5. I see how the care of our building and property might be more than we can handle.
6. I wonder what drives or doesn't drive our community to engage in God's work.

There are no concrete answers, the conversation is just beginning! In my experience, when questions are no longer being asked, the conversation ceases and the possibility of inaction rises.

YOU, have a stake in our future together! Pray for Spirit to guide your Leadership Council, Staff, and pastor as you consider your input to this challenge. For each unique response, Pastor Jim will make \$10 contribution to Ephrata Area Social Services.

CHALLENGE: What three words best describe Bergstrasse Church? With each word, include a brief (less

(Continued from page 3)

than 10 words) description to support your word. Submit your written answer or another question to Pastor Jim by Sunday March 12.

Questions are at the root of faith. Allow yourself to dwell in the holiness of the question, acknowledging the presence of the Holy One in yourself.

Peace,
Pastor Jim

God on Tap – Tuesday March 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 Sunday March 26 via Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, email or leave message at church office

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



Home Visits



We realize everyone's schedule is unique and often changes with little notice. To arrange a visit, contact the church office via email bergluth@dejazzd.com or 717-733-7808 or Pastor Jim at revchef@gmail.com or 717-676-3954.

A visit may include Holy Communion, if you wish.



LENTEN SERVICES

Mid-Week Lenten Worship CALM – Cocalico Area Lutheran Ministries

A cluster of seven Lutheran congregations in the 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: 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.

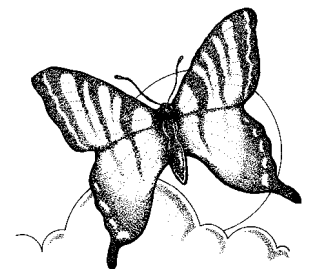
Wednesday March 1 @Faith United, Denver Pastor Jim Goodyear, (faithfulness)
Wednesday March 8 @St. Paul’s, Adamstown Pastor Marissa Becklin, (mercy)
Wednesday March 15 @Bergstrasse, Ephrata Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry, (compassion)
Wednesday March 22 @Muddy Creek, Denver Pastor Scott Brubaker, (forgiveness)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

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

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.



Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00am Worship	27	28 9:00am Stitches of Love 6:00pm God on Tap	1 7:00pm Lenten service at Faith United, Denver	2	3 5:00pm Karaoke at St. Paul, Penryn	4
5 10:00am Worship 11:00am Community Conversation	6	7	8 7:00pm Lenten service at St. Paul, Adamstown	9	10 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	11
12 10:00am Worship	13 7:00pm Council	14	15 7:00pm Lenten service at Bergstrasse	16	17 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	18
19 10:00am Worship	20	21	22 7:00pm Lenten service at Muddy Creek, Denver	23	24 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	25
26 10:00am Worship 1:30pm Fellowship Hall reserved	27	28 9:00am Stitches of Love 6:00pm God on Tap	29 7:00pm Lenten service at Mellingner's, Schoenack	30	31 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	1

Worship participants for March

March	5	12	19	26
Greeters	Peggy Rushton -Witmyer	Clay and Charlann Brubaker	Sandy Lausch	Nevin Rutt Gladys Horvath
Acolyte	Jax Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Christian Kramer	William Kramer
Lector	John Gockley	Gladys Horvath	Lisa Conway	Sandy Lausch
Prayers	Bonnie Grater	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster	Deb Hornberger
Communion Assistant	Sandy Napolitan	XXX	XXX	XXX
Counters	7th Sandy Lausch		21st Sandy Lausch	
Flowers				
Bulletin		William Kramer	Kris Kramer	

Easter Flowers

Name _____

In honor / thanks / memory of _____

_____ Lily (5-6 bloom) \$8 \$ _____

_____ Tulip \$6 \$ _____

_____ Daffodil \$6 \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Easter Flowers

Please return form by March 5, 2023.

Food bank

Please bring the following food items during March:

- 5 toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, bath soap
- 12 cake mixes, cookie mixes, pancake syrup
- pancake mixes (preferably made with water)
- 19 canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juices
- 26 pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese

Salem Lutheran Preschool

Salem Lutheran Preschool, 1331 W. Main St., Ephrata, is now taking registrations for Fall 2023. Classes are available for 3 and 4 year olds. Call Salem's office at 717-733-6646 or email office@salemephrata.org for a tour or more information.



Congratulations to those with March birthdays:

- 26 Gladys Horvath
- 29 Alice Krahl
- 30 Bob Filardi
- 31 Gail Donahue



Prayers - Contact Pastor Jim or the church office for prayer requests or updates.

For Healing: Neil Althouse, Inez Hare, Theresa Diem, Paul Higgins, Karen, Mary Mazakas, Deb Hall, James Cunningham, Jim Matthews, Rahiem, David Koslowski, Sr., our homebound members.

For Grieving: family of Smucker family, Wayne Gunzenhauser, Cole Brandt, Michael Diem, Clay Brubaker family, people of Turkey and Syria

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$161.05 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!

Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief

On behalf of the families and staff of Vantage, I wanted to thank you for the donation of hats, gloves, scarves and other items this holiday season.

It is always a pleasure to receive these items from Bergstrasse Lutheran Church each year. We are hoping that the winter continues to be mild, but God will handle the weather and we will be prepared!

Thank you so much for supporting us as we aim to guide the families here at Vantage to a healthier way of life without the use of alcohol and other drugs. We appreciate the support of the Lancaster county community throughout the year.

Karen Plowman
Director of Prevention Services

Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Feb. 13, 2023

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

Meeting opened with devotions by Dave Wilhelm.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Hibshman, along with Jeff and Dave advocate the transfer of some funds into short-term CDs to take advantage of current higher interest rates. Dave moved to approve, and Jeff seconded the motion.

Sandy moved to approve the Secretary's report from January, and Dave seconded the motion.

Property Report: Jeff reported Bomberger was out to check rodent problem. The furnace may need a circulation pump. New stair treads have been installed, and two electric receptacles have been replaced. There is a need for emergency lighting downstairs and outside. Jeff is investigating the best route. There has never been a box outside to provide emergency entrance for fire company use. The need is obvious, and the cost for the box is approximately \$280. Council agreed on the need to supply this. Cedar Ridge Lawncare will provide mowing only. Stauffer's will be coming out to check windows in the Sexton's house and the parsonage. Property/liability insurance for Bergstrasse is due in March. The current premium is approximately \$ 6000. /Year. It was agreed that a comparable quote should be obtained to compare rates. Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance was suggested. We appreciate Jeff's hard work.

Pastor's Report: Suzanne is meeting with LCBC regarding music loudly interfering during her yoga sessions downstairs. The date for the next Community Conversation is changed from March 12th to March 5th. Deb Hornberger has volunteered to be a delegate to the Synod Assembly; one additional delegate is needed. The book "Abundance" has been provided for Council's conversation regarding stewardship. The 1st 3 chapters will be discussed at the next meeting March 13th. This will entail an agenda change for the next meeting, to devote the beginning of the meeting to this discussion.

Unfinished Business: Clay Brubaker read a list of suggested improvements Charlann Brubaker proposed. These include; update signs in the kitchen; add sign on refrigerator to clean out every 2-3 months; signs on all cabinets indicating their contents; a reminder to all to remove dishes and pans brought to community events; and to list "Safe Serve" Rules in the kitchen. Charlann's suggestions and willingness to make the signs is greatly appreciated. Also, the proposed fund raiser, "Spring Fling" suggested by Sandy Lausch was discussed more thoroughly. There will be an announcement in the "Shopping News", "Ephrata Review", and on Facebook. The proceeds from the fund raiser will be designated to the "Helping Hand Fund". Clay has begun organizing the Memorial Day Service.

New Business: Pastor Jim encourages us to find Purpose for our Vision for the future of Bergstrasse. He suggests considering purpose before reading the book "Abundance" to cultivate a culture of generosity.

Dave Wilhelm moved to adjourn, and Jeff Donahue seconded. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting for Council is Monday, March 13, 2023

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.**

