

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2023

Trunk or Treat Friday, October 27 5:30—7:30 PM

Decorate your car for Halloween and bring lots of candy to pass out to the kids!

Sign up in Neidamyer Hall so we have an idea of how many cars we will have.

There will be a live DJ, hot dogs, hot chocolate, popcorn and candy.

Don't forget to wear your costume!
All ages welcome



Blessing of the Animals! Sunday October 8 2:00 PM Parsonage lawn

Gather with your feathered, four-legged, multi-legged, or slithering animal friends to give thanks for their presence in our world.

November 12 following worship service

Bergstrasse Annual Meeting will follow Sunday Worship on November 12 in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a Potluck Lunch followed up with our business meeting.

Plan to be there so your voice is heard. Our Annual Report will be available Sunday November 5.



Congregational Meeting

LWR Ingathering

Saturday October 7 - 8:00am on Bergstrasse Campus. Help is needed to unload donated items and reload onto a larger truck for shipment to LWR Warehouse in New Windsor MD.

God on Tap Tuesday October 24

God on Tap – will be at Nonna Rosa Italian Restaurant, Akron 6:00 pm for dinner; Topic of Conversation begins 7:00 pm.

Dinner reservations appreciated by signing up on the bulletin board.

Holiday Fling Fundraiser October 7, 2023 Drop-in 1 PM—4 PM Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Touchstone Crystal Jewelry Mary Kay Products

Benefits Helping Hand Fund (Emergency Fund for people in need)

Contact Sandy Lausch with questions, 717-733-4328

The Bell is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

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Ephrata, PA 17522
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Worship - 10:00 AM

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

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

Financial Update: Ending August 31, 2023

	MONTH	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Net Operating Income	(\$8,820.44)	(\$4,491.52)	\$6,382.93
Operating Income	\$7,875.12	\$100,336.24	\$115,304.18
Operating Expense	\$16,695.56	\$104,827.76	\$108,921.25
Net Other Income	(\$2,500.00)	(\$4,099.89)	(\$4,089.70)
Net Income from all sources	(\$11,320.44)	(\$8,591.41)	\$2,293.23
Available funds		\$103,104.67	



Siblings in Christ,

My late partner, Doug, sensing he might not be present for my 50th birthday, wanted to make sure I received a birthday party. He planned a small celebration of my life milestone one year in advance. Unbeknownst to me, Doug created and sent handmade invitations with a picture of three-year-old Jimmy on the front to nearly 25 friends! Guess he couldn't find a baby picture. Instead of the usual portrait style picture, the picture showed me bending over examining an ant hill in the sidewalk crack. Hundreds of ants scurrying around seeming to know where they were going and their task at hand. There I was nicely dressed, outside in the world, curious about ants!

As a parent I witnessed my own sons being curious about the world too. Bradley was interested in the outdoors, wanting to run and play which eventually led to a curiosity for hunting, fishing, and soccer. His brother Bryan was more interested in reading books to enhance his quest for creating a new computer game. New to parenthood, both boys were signed up to play soccer! Not exactly the best thought out idea thinking they would do well together. I soon noticed Brad running up and down the field, while Bryan was looking for four-leaf clover on the same playing field!

Now as a grandfather, I notice the curiosity of Charlotte reading at a level three years above her 4th grade cohort, Cheyenne with an interest in knowing how things work, Gideon asking a LOT of questions and Oliver wanting to be with anyone willing to hold him! Each unique, each with a curiosity for the world around them that I hope continues to inspire them to explore their world.

Curiosity is defined as “a strong desire to know or learn something”. Being curious about the world offers an awareness of the great diversity of people, places, and opportunities that exist in the world around us. Curiosity blooms when it is engaged with other curious people desiring to create something new or to discover a new purpose for something familiar. Curiosity overflows with questions that rarely have concrete answers. Curiosity opens the mind to a plethora of possibilities. I wonder what our world would be like if we chose not to be curious.

Humans are created to be curious, just as humans are created for love of God, love of neighbor. What happens when curiosity disappears? Yes, humans can and do lose a sense of curiosity, but it can also have the potential to be rejuvenated. You might call it a resurrection experience. I recall a time in my life when I was not the three-year-old curious Jimmy. During my curious drought, I was lifeless, uninterested, feeling unappreciated, like I could do nothing right. It was like I was moving without a direction. I was in a dark place that felt like it offered no life, no hope. It lasted about ten years. Ironically, my 49th birthday celebration was one of the sparks that brought about new life. I began to see my personal value as a beloved Child of God. Discovering myself again, I was renewed to engage with other people. I soon found myself wanting to be curious, wanting to make a difference, wanting to share love with others.

Bergstrasse Church will be 275 years in 2027. Are we (Bergstrasse Church) curious about what might be in our future, or have we reached a place of lifelessness, disinterest, feeling lost, without hope. We can ask God to lead us, we then need to show up for each other and our neighbor to experience resurrection. I ask you to pray for our community as your Leadership Council and I work to discern our next steps as a congregation. Being the eternal optimist, I see great possibilities. It needs to be a collective effort by everyone, meaning that everyone gives as they are able of time, talents, and treasure. Matshona Dhlwayo* writes, “The greatest gift you can give to someone is your heart; because when you give your heart, you are giving your most prized possession.” How curious is your heart?

*Matshona Dhlwayo is a Canadian based Philosopher, Entrepreneur, and author of books such as The Little Book of Inspiration, Creativity, The Book, 50 Lessons Every Wise Mother Teaches Her Son, 100 Lessons Every Great Man Wants You to Know, and Lalibela's Wise Man.

Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Communion	2	3	4 6:30pm Book Study	5	6 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	7 8 - 11 LWR Ingathering 1-4 Mary Kay and Jewelry Fundraiser
8 10:00am Worship 2:00pm Blessing of the Animals	9 7:00pm Council	10	11 6:30pm Book Study	12 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	13	14
15 10:00am Worship	16	17	18 6:30pm Book Study	19	20 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	21
22 10:00am Worship	23	24 9:00am Stitches of Love 6:00pm God on Tap	25 6:30pm Book Study	26	27 5:30pm Trunk or Treat	28 9-1 Darla Blair rehearsal in sanctuary
29 10:00am Communion	30	31 Reformation Day	1 6:30pm Book Study	2	3 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	4

Worship participants for October

October	1	8	15	22	29
Greeter	Nevin Rutt Gladys Horvath	Mary Keisling	Almanara Buffenmyer	Alice Krah	Jeff and Gail Donahue
Acolyte	Christian Kramer	William Kramer	Jax Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Christian Kramer
Lector	John Gockley	Gladys Horvath	Lisa Conway	Sandy Lausch	Peggy Rushton- Witmyer
Prayers	Bonnie Grater	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Peggy Rushton- Witmyer
Communion Assistant	Almanara Buffenmyer	XXX	XXX	XXX	Sandy Lausch
Flower Sponsors					
Bulletin Sponsors					

Count Money in October

Tuesday, September 10, 24 at 1:00 PM

Sandy Lausch



Ephrata Area Social Services -
Hand-Up Grocery Pantry.

Current needs -
Soups - Chunky, Hearty and Stew
Style, Jelly, Syrup - regular and
sugar free, Oatmeal, Pasta
Sauce, and Alfredo Sauce



For Healing: Deb Hornberger, Don Adams, Vicki, Eris Kramer,
Scott Harrison, Jennifer, Dave
For Grieving: Walter Deuschle

Scripture Readings for October

Sunday October 1 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 2:1-13 *Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*
Matthew 21:23-32 *A parable of doing God's will*

Sunday October 8 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 3:4b-14 *Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*
Matthew 21:33-46 *The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

Sunday October 15 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9 *The feast of victory*
Matthew 22:1-14 *The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast*

Sunday October 22 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7 *An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will*
Matthew 22:15-22 *A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God*

Sunday October 29 – Reformation Sunday

Romans 3:19-28 *Justified by God's grace as a gift*
John 8:31-36 *Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*



Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Minutes September 11, 2023

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

Meeting opened with conclusion of "Abundance" book study regarding the difficulty we share in talking about money and looking for "giving" stories to be shared at the Congregational meeting in November.

Treasurer's Report:

Lynn shared concerns about shortfall in current funds. Jeff moved to accept; Dave seconds.

Secretary's Report:

no corrections. Sandy moves to approve; Bree seconds.

Property Report:

- A). Current lease for the Sexton's house concludes end of year and must be reviewed and updated. Renter's insurance should be required to avoid church responsibility for loss of contents. Also, a new lease will require the renter to be responsible for septic expenses.
- B). Because of expense of a keypad style lock, Jeff recommends a master key system. Dave moves to approve the purchase of new keys, Jeff seconds.
- C). A new sign is being made to replace the Sanctuary Sign. Sandy approves the purchase, Peggy seconds.

5. Pastor's Report:

- A). trees will be delivered October 24th.
- B). Partners for Sacred Places is an organization that transitions older and historic properties for re-purposing. Plans to work with this idea for Bergstrasse are being considered.

6. Updates / Old Business:

There will be a meeting of the Budget Committee this week

7. New Business:

A camera will be purchased for recording worship. Bree Kramer will assist.

Jeff moved to close the meeting; Peggy seconded. Dave closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting of Council will be Monday October 9th at 7 PM.

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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.

The word "October" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. A single leaf with a stem and two small berries is attached to the top of the letter 'r'. Below the word, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths, suggesting a ground line or a path.