

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2023

BERGSTRASSE Community Meal and Activity Sunday September 10

God's Work: Our Hands celebrates 10 years as a Day of Community Service for ELCA congregations. Many congregations will take time to engage with their local communities, spreading the message that God love for neighbor is paramount to living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world.

We will gather for worship, celebrate with a community potluck meal then give voice to ministry for the coming year using the information gathered in our recent planning session.



Trees are coming! Trees play an important role in the environment.

Here are five reasons we need trees.

1. Trees purify our air and combat climate change.
2. Trees provide housing to millions of species that protect us from disease.
4. Trees cool our streets and cities.
5. Trees protect against floods and water pollution.
6. Trees ease the mind during stressful times.

Besides maintaining the earth's water cycle, fighting global warming, providing shelter, food, shade, medicine, and weather modulation. Trees are crucial for life because they actually generate most of the air we breathe.

Thanks to the generosity of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Bergstrasse will receive 25 free trees to plant on the campus. Watch for details on how you can help to plant and care for these trees. Expected to arrive in early October.



Lutheran World Relief October 1

The Stitches of Love group has been making quilts to be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

We will be collecting school kits for Lutheran World Relief Ingathering.

We have some of the backpacks needed for the school kits.

You do not need to bring all the items needed for a school kit.

Include the following items in each School Kit:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener

One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One 2½" eraser

One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps
(no standard backpacks)

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in bag and close. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

The cost to handle and ship one school kit overseas is \$1.40. Please consider a monetary donation to help with this cost.

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Lutheran Church
9 Hahnstown Road
Ephrata, PA 17522
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www.bergstrasselutheran.com
bergluth@dejazzd.com

Worship - 10:00 AM

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

Due date for the **October**
newsletter is **September 17.**

Financial Update: Ending July 31, 2023

	MONTH	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Net Operating Income	\$658.13	\$4,328.92	\$16,935.77
Operating Income	\$9,773.42	\$92,461.12	\$109,461.16
Operating Expense	\$9,115.29	\$88,132.20	\$92,525.39
Net Other Income	\$510.00	(\$1,599.89)	\$7,000.30
Net Income from all sources	\$1,168.13	\$2,729.03	\$23,936.07
Available funds		\$114,250.24	



From the Pastor's Desk

When September rolls around I notice a series of changes that are often out of human control. The days are noticeably shorter, a new school year begins, the fall season begins as farmers harvest their crops and begin to prepare their fields for a winter rest. I find September refreshing and challenging at the same time. The cooler temperatures make for a comfortable climate following hot, humid summer days while returning to a more structured life.

For the Church, September is a continuation of the Pentecost Season of recognizing God's presence in daily life. Many congregations step into a programming mindset like the rhythm of the school year. At Bergstrasse, September is a time of prayerful discernment for the Holy Spirit's guidance preparing a Ministry

Spending Plan for the upcoming calendar year and considering community leaders for our Leadership Council. According to our constitution, these tasks are to be completed and approved by the congregation at our November Annual Meeting.

Since February, your Leadership Council has been reading *Abundance Creating a Culture of Generosity* by Michael Ward. Using bees living in community to sustain a colony as a metaphor, the author offers insights to congregational leadership to help them create a culture of generosity and abundance that raises both more money and faithful disciples. Through the telling of personal stories, and congregational examples Ward offers a new approach to giving and growth that begins with recognizing that we are blessed with an abundance of all that we need to sustain our lives.

Generosity begins by first recognizing that humanity is created good in God's image, to be in relationship with each other, to care for each other, and to be the best possible person by loving and showing compassion for others, especially persons society casts aside. Moving forward, all that we have is a gift – our time, our possessions, the earth in which we live, and our purpose is to be in community together. Encouraging each other to offer from your abundance creates community to serve others out of love and compassion.

Sharing our purpose for being or why Bergstrasse Church exists, and then being able to share that message was a key learning from reading *Abundance*. Congregations that desire to thrive will create a mission of serving our neighbor in authentic ways – by showing up, by active listening, and working together to support each other. Church is called to be the intersection of the needs of the community and their willingness to share their gifts – the skills & talents of the faith community.

As we move into a new season of harvest, how might you share from your abundance so that Bergstrasse continues to share the Good News of Jesus? Are you able to increase your financial giving? Do you have a skill or talent that you enjoy and would be willing to share with others? Are you interested in serving on a small team to create events or activities? Do you feel we need to re-establish a committee structure that is responsible for our ministry initiatives?

How will you make a difference for people beyond our walls so that they can thrive in the world? Pray for God's intervention into our hearts; discern your gifts for ministry; let one of your leadership council persons know of your interest in serving. Together we will continue to make a difference in people's lives by being people who embrace and live in love and compassion for all people. God loves you, and so do I!

Pr. Jim

**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



September 26 – 30, 2023

Plenty of time slots available for you to invite a friend or two and spend a couple hours greeting people and directing them to a safe parking spot while they enjoy the Ephrata Fair. Don't forget to collect the \$5 fee that will be used to support the community outreach ministries of Bergstrasse! You might be surprised who you meet.

Sign-ups are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Coordinator is needed to arrange for parking attendants (4 persons for each shift) and that collected monies are kept safe and given to Jean for deposit. Please let Jean or Pr. Jim know if you are interested.

God on Tap – Tuesday September 26

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 contacting Bergstrasse office.



Worship participants for September

September	3	10	17	24
Greeter	Sandy Napolitan	Peggy Rushton-Witmyer	Clay and Charlann Brubaker	Sandy Lausch
Acolyte	Christian Kramer	William Kramer	Jax Brewster	Deb Hornberger
Lector	Becca Brewster	Kris Kramer	Bonnie Grater	Alice Krah
Prayers	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster	Deb Hornberger	Peggy Rushton-Witmyer
Communion Assistant	Kris Kramer	XXX	XXX	XXX
Flower Sponsors		Jeff and Gail Donahue		Clay and Charlann Brubaker
Bulletin Sponsors				Bonnie Grater

Count Money in September

Tuesday, September 12, 26 at 1:00 PM

Jeff Donahue



Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00am Worship	28	29	30	31	1 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	2
3 10:00am Communion	4	5	6	7 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	8	9
10 10:00am Worship 11:15am Community Meal and Activity	11 7:00pm Council	12	13	14 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	15 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	16 7:30pm Equinox Gathering at Fire Pit with Darla Bair
17 10:00am Worship	18	19	20	21 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	22 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	23
24 10:00am Worship	25	26 9:00am Stitches of Love 6:00pm God on Tap Fair Parking	27 6:30pm Book Study Fair Parking	28 Fair Parking	29 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill Fair Parking	30 Fair Parking

Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Council Minutes
July 10, 2023

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

Absent: None

Meeting opened with a review of the "Abundance" book study. Discussion followed regarding successful fund-raising projects and what makes them successful. To present financial goals and the upcoming budget, a clear "story-line" must be presented to the congregation. This includes generosity of time and talents as well as finances,

Treasurer's Report: Sandy moved to accept; Jeff seconded

Secretary's Report: Gladys moved to accept; BJ seconded

Presentation: Suzanne Accardo, "The Yoga Studio", renewed her rental contract increasing her own rent. There is a leak that needs attention. She requested the locks changed because former employees have not returned their key. This will be done.

Property Report:

The Sexton's garage door is rotted and needs to be replaced.

Jeff will order 30 new keys.

Jeff moved to approve, and Peggy seconded.

Pastor's Report:

The date of the Ephrata Fair Parking was corrected to the last full week of September.

Ministry initiatives were considered including application for the Ann Sweigart

Brossman Foundation Grant, due in September

Old Business Updates: BJ is moving forward to make connections with other

Congregations regarding RIC process.

Budget preparation for 2024 will add a narrative explanation to the regular Line-item report to increase understanding. This will include a more detailed Illustration of Pastor's time and duties.

Sandy and Jeff will meet with Lynn to prepare the new budget.

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

The next meeting of Council will be September 11, 2023 at 7:00PM.

For Healing: Deb Hornberger,
Sharon Levering, Vicki, Jen, our
homebound members.



Congratulations to those
with September birthdays:

22 Edie Lausch
24 Pauline Schmuck
John Gockley

Anniversaries
5 John and Mabel
Bolar
14 Jeff and Gail
Donahue
30 Clay and Charlann
Brubaker

Ephrata Area Social Services

As summer days start coming to an end and we start to say goodbye to some of our high school and college volunteers, we have several open volunteer positions. Help spread the word.



Hand-UP Exchange Food Pantry:

Monday 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Thursday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Duties: Greet and check-in clients, help with any of their shopping needs, and help keep shelves well stocked, ok to do with a friend, children, or spouse

Front Desk Greeter:

Tuesday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Thursday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Greet clients, answer phones, support staff members with special projects. Must have some computer skills.

Special Project-Holiday Exchange Program (October-December)

Hours- 1-3 hours a week, flexible

Must be able to use Excel

Duties: Help connect donors with families to sponsor this holiday season. 500+ children served through this program.

If interested contact Tiff Burkhardt:

TBurkhardt@EphrataAreaSocialServices.org or 717-733-0345 ex: 12



Food Bank

September

- 3 pasta noodles
(except spaghetti)
gluten free pasta
- 11 syrup (regular and sugar
free)
- 18 jelly, oatmeal
- 25 pasta sauce, alfredo sauce



Pastor Jim continues to offer in-home
Holy Communion.

To schedule a visit, contact the
Church Office by phone 717-733-
7808 or email bergluth@dejazzd.com.

Mission Outreach – Bergstrasse currently participates with these life enhancing organizations. All items can be placed on or near the Bounty Tree.

"An imperfect, but welcoming, accepting community of love and compassion for our neighbors."

Lutheran World Relief – School Backpacks and Quilts for distribution around the globe – Ingathering is Saturday October 7 – see Almanara for quilting details and Mary for Backpack/Ingathering details.

Lancaster EMS – mobile shower unit & onsite health checkup – visits 6 unique locations around Lancaster county each week – in need of white socks, men's LG/XLG underwear – see Pastor Jim for details.

Ephrata Area Social Services – canned goods & non-perishables for their Hand Up Grocery Pantry – see Gladys, Nevin, Gail, Jeff for details.

Zerbe Sisters Retirement Community - *Our mission at Zerbe Retirement Community is to enrich the lives of those who live and work with us by recognizing their unique needs and the universal desire for dignity and respect.* – women's magazines for their library cart – see Wren for more details.

For a Friend (Josh) – unused greeting cards – creates message of hope for (pink gift bag by check-in station) see Lois for more details.

MCC Resource Center – gathering magazines, glossy paper, and office paper for recycling – See Gladys or Nevin for more details.



Sharing the Good News!!!!

I imagine you've heard this line countless times in relationship to Jesus' ministry. Sharing the Good News also relates to the ministry of Bergstrasse Church!!! **YOU** are a living witness to the good news that all people matter, all people are created good (God says so!), and working together we make life better for everyone.



Bergstrasse offers many opportunities to create community – any time two or more gather IS community. Why not help to share the Good News? Are you the person in charge of an event or activity? YOU can help to get the Good News beyond our walls by

1. Getting information to Jean for the weekly worship bulletin by 12 noon on Tuesday. The office email is bergluth@dejazzd.com.
2. Getting information for the monthly newsletter, The Bell, to Jean by the 15th of the month. Again, the office email is bergluth@dejazzd.com
3. Want your event/activity shared on Facebook? Let Kris know and they will help distribute your information to several community pages.
4. Want to share your event/activity via newspaper? Ephrata Review, Shopping News, LPN – we are looking for someone to write news releases for events/activities monthly – Let a council person or Pastor Jim know if you can fill this role.
5. Our webpage is the most looked at resource for people searching a faith community! However, no one is currently keeping the information up to date or making it fresh. Let a council person or Pastor Jim know if you can fill this role.

Meet Rev. Darla Bair

I first met Darla Bair last fall attending a Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus rehearsal where she was the substitute choral director. At one point during the rehearsal, we connected as two clergy people! Darla is an Interfaith Elder. She has created an online faith community named Calm in the Chaos (www.calminthechaos.org) with her weekly God Talk messages. Darla is also an accomplished musician and choral conductor. Over the past nine months, Darla has gotten to know our Bergstrasse community, offering to lead two upcoming events.

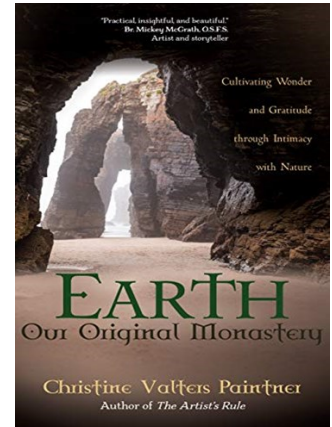
Book Study for Fall, 2023! Seven Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 7:30 pm September 27— November 8, 2023

This wonderful volume leads us through seven weeks of exploring the natural world with clear eyes, open ears, and a sensitive heart, as we encounter God in new places. The subtitle is Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature.

Join us as we combine inspirational prose, scripture, blessings and weekly challenges to remind ourselves that God first appeared to us in the natural world. It was we who built temples, cathedrals and mosques.

Author Christine Valters Paintner invites us to harken back to our roots and see that our planet and all its beauty really was our first scripture, our first prayer and our first monastery.

Please purchase a copy of the book before the first meeting.



Equinox Gathering Saturday, September 16, 7:30 pm



In preparation for the Autumn Equinox on September 23, we gather at the fire circle on the parsonage lawn. The topic to meditate on is "How does the perfect balance of the natural world's equinox play out in my life?"

The evening takes on a life of its own, with offerings of anecdotes, short stories, poems, songs and easy crafts by participants. Please consider bringing something inspirational to share.

We will gather indoors if the weather doesn't permit a fire at the fire pit. Dark Mother Earth Bread and hot cider will be offered.

Scripture Readings for September

September 3 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:9-11 *Live in harmony*

Matthew 16:21-28 *The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*



September 10 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost – God's Work: Our Hands

Romans 13:8-14 *Live honorable as in the day*

Matthew 18:15-20 *Reconciliation in the community of faith*

September 17 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 14:1-12 *Accepting diversity in the community of faith*

Matthew 18:21-35 *A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

Sunday September 24 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 1:21-30 *Standing firm in the gospel*

Matthew 20:1-16 *The parable of the vineyard workers*

Reading scripture offers a time for reflection of God encounters in the ancient world. You might wonder how ancient texts have a place in the 21st century. As we look deeper into the context, the time, place, people of the ancient world we can see that human experiences today are very similar to ancient times.

Interested in delving more deeply into the Bible? Did you know – there are two creation stories in the Holy Bible? Or that one of the Gospel writers had no personal contact with Jesus? Or that the Bible is an anthology of 66 books? I am considering a “The Bible: Did you know?” small group. We would begin with Genesis. At this point, I am considering a Saturday morning, but open to other days/times. Interested, let Pastor Jim know.

‘You’ve Got Mail!’ is more than AOL announcing a new email in your inbox. Your Bergstrasse Mailbox, found in Fellowship Hall. Want to send a quick note of appreciation, send a greeting card, share information, ask a question. No stamps are needed to send a message. Don’t forget to check your mailbox regularly.

Love Inc. - Engage 2023 - Tuesday September 12, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Manheim Township Public Library - Cost is \$12.50, B.L.E.S.S. book \$15.00.

You can register by going to this link: <https://loveinclancaster.org/donate/events/> Attendees will explore tangible ways to engage with your neighbor using the BLESS model. Pr. Jim strongly recommends this learning opportunity for persons serious about making a difference in our greater community. Let Pr. Jim know if cost is a factor for your attendance.

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.**

SEPTEMBER