
Spruce Run Spark

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH
442 West Hill Road Glen Gardner, NJ 08826-3252
www.SpruceRunLutheran.com



Summer 2024 Vol. 1, No. 1

Welcome to the Spruce Run Spark!

Dear Spruce Run Family,

Welcome to the *Spruce Run Spark*! This newsletter is not intended to replace *The Fellowship*, but to be a resource in addition to *The Fellowship*. *The Fellowship* is typically published quarterly (Lent, Spring, Fall and Advent) and relies on a number of people submitting articles in order to have the content to publish. The *Spruce Run Spark*, will be a much smaller, more frequent update between the quarterly newsletters.

There will still be a few articles, but there will mostly be information about events and activities that are coming up in the next handful of weeks and some general information. If you have something that you would like included, you can submit it.

I hope the *Spruce Run Spark* helps to keep you informed about all the worship, educational, fellowship and service opportunities that we have at Spruce Run.

Karen





Our Ecumenical Relationships

One of my favorite things about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is our commitment to Ecumenism; we play nice with our fellow Christians. In fact, in the last 30 years or so we've become a sort of hub for ecumenical agreements.

We have "Full Communion" agreements with: the Moravian Church, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church.

This means we see their ministry as the same as ours. Where this usually comes up most clearly is when we call one another's pastors (for example, an Episcopal Priest can serve in a Lutheran church and vice versa) and sharing of Holy Communion (for example Roman Catholics and parishioners from Orthodox traditions would likely be uncomfortable receiving communion in a Lutheran church, but a Reformed parishioner would be overjoyed to join us in celebrating the Lord's Supper). In some cases, these other denominations have decided to recognize each other's ministries based on their mutual agreements with the ELCA!

Additionally, we are in ongoing theological conversation with the African Methodist Episcopal-Zion

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PANCAKE CHURCH
Est. 2024

Join us for a special Pancake Church
Agape Worship Service & Breakfast

July 7, 2024 at 9 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Due to the nature of this service, there will be no live broadcast.

The poster features a yellow background with a black silhouette of a person's head on the left. At the top center is a black circular logo with a scalloped edge containing the text "PANCAKE CHURCH" and "Est. 2024" above a small illustration of a pancake. Below the logo, the event details are written in a blue, serif font. A stack of pancakes is shown in the lower right quadrant. At the bottom, a small black box contains the text "Due to the nature of this service, there will be no live broadcast."

**OUTDOOR
ECUMENICAL
WORSHIP**

July 28 & August 25
9:30 am

Lebanon Township Memorial Park
67 Bunnvale Rd Califon, NJ

Join us in person or Facebook Live

The poster has a background image of a sun shining through trees over a body of water. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned above the main title.

Pastor's Perspective

Continued from page 2

Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Disciples of Christ, the Mennonites, the Orthodox, and the Roman Catholics.

This is no accident, it flows from our theology. Lutherans affirm that we are certain that a worshipping community is church if they, "proclaim the Word faithfully and administer the Sacraments rightly." Some people call that a low bar, I call it a gracious one!

I bring all this up because we here at Spruce Run Lutheran have been living out these ELCA ideals really well as of late. It started when I met a Presbyterian at one of our Grow-a-Row events a couple of summers back. He thought I should meet his minister, and I did.

Next thing we knew the new Reformed Pastor had joined us. Then we were worshipping together (both in the summer and during Lent) and did a VBS together. Eventually we made it official and called the group of congregations The North Hunterdon Ecumenical Fellowship. In addition to the three founding congregations, there is a Methodist and a second Reformed congregation who are starting to join in as well.

We are again doing VBS together on Monday evenings in July and we'll be returning to the scene of the crime, where it all started, Grow-a-Row. There will be "Bushels of Fun" Grow-a-Row events on Wednesdays and Thursdays in August. Come on out and join with your ecumenical siblings of the faith.



From the PEANUT GALLERY...

Greetings! I hope that you are finding this little newsletter fun and informative!

We have a lot going on at SRLC, from VBS to PubLiCK Theology to Music Under the Stars, not to mention our Sunday services, which are now at 9 AM for the summer. Coming up also are more outdoor services and several opportunities to participate in Grow-a-Row. Please check out the calendar that follows.

Brad Cox,
Council President



Please reach out to Sara or Denise if you would like to purchase ShopRite gift cards. The church receives a percentage of every gift card sale. This is a very easy way to financially support our church.

NORTH HUNTERDON ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP INVITES YOU TO...



A Round Robin VBS Happening on Monday Nights in July from
6pm—8pm

July 1st at Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church

July 8th High Bridge United Methodist Church

July 15th at High Bridge Reformed Church

July 22nd at Lebanon Reformed Church

July 29 at Lebanon Memorial Park

**For More Information
and to Register Go to:**

Fun Bible Lessons

Crafts

Snacks

Music

Hbrefomedchurch.org

All Children

Ages 4-12

Are Welcome!

"Music Under the Stars"

A FREE MUSIC EVENT AT DEER PATH PARK

120 West Woodschurch Road, Flemington, NJ

"The Captain Jack Band"

a Billy Joel tribute band

THURSDAY, JULY 11 TH

MUSIC 7:00 – 9:00 PM, ARRIVE AT 6:00 PM*

Wear your yellow SRLC t-shirt !!

Bring a chair or spread your blanket. Have a picnic dinner or snacks.
Enjoy an evening of music, fun & fellowship!

*early arrival recommended for access & parking

In case of rain, the concert may move to Hunterdon Central Regional High School 84 Route 31, Flemington, NJ 08822

The decision to move the concert indoors will be made in the late afternoon of concert day.

A voice recording will be available at 908-782-PARK (7275).

TUESDAY QUILTERS



TUESDAYS
9 AM - 12 NOON

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!



BUSHEL'S OF FUN

Help pick produce at
America's Grow-A-Row with our
North Hunterdon Ecumenical Brothers & Sisters

August 1	9am - 12 pm
August 8	5:30pm - 7:30 pm
August 14	9am - 12 pm
August 22	5:30pm - 7:30 pm
August 28	9am - 12 pm





250th Anniversary Events

July 7, 2024	10:00 am	Informational Session
December 1, 2024	10:00 am	Kick-off Worship
May 18, 2025		Cemetery Sign Dedication
June 14, 2025	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Strawberry Pancake Festival
September 21, 2025	10:00 am	Outdoor Worship at SRLC
October 26, 2025		250th Banquet
December 7, 2025	10:00 am	250th Closing Celebration Worship



Dates and times are tentative as details are still being finalized.

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 VBS 6 –8 pm	2 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	3 pubLICK Theology 7pm <i>Gronsky's Milk House</i>	4	5	6
7 Worship 9am 250 th Anniversary Informational Meeting 10am	8 VBS 6 –8 pm	9 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	10	11 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm Music Under the Stars 7-9 pm Deer Path Park	12	13
<hr/> Pastor Chris Vacation 8-14 →						
14 Worship 9am Pastor Chris Vacation 8-14 →	15 VBS 6 –8 pm	16 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	17 WELCA – 12pm	18	19	20
21 Worship 9am Worship at Rolling Hills 2pm	22 VBS 6 –8 pm	23 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	24	25	26	27
28 Ecumenical Outdoor Worship 9:30am Lebanon Twp Memorial Park Plant-Based Tasting Social 4pm	29 VBS 6 –8 pm	30 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	31			

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bushels of Fun 9am-12pm Grow-A-Row	2	3
4 Worship 9am	5	6 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	7 pubLICK Theology 7pm <i>Gronsky's Milk House</i>	8 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm Bushels of Fun 5:30-7:30 pm Grow-A-Row	9	10
11 Worship 9am Confirmation II following worship	12	13 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	14 Bushels of Fun 9am-12pm Grow-A-Row 250 th Committee Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17
18 Worship 9am Worship at Rolling Hills 2pm	19	20 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	21 WELCA – 12pm	22 Bushels of Fun 5:30-7:30 pm Grow-A-Row	23	24
25 Ecumenical Outdoor Worship 9:30am Lebanon Twp Memorial Park	26	27 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	28 Bushels of Fun 9am-12pm Grow-A-Row	29	30	31



VETERAN'S INITIAL BASIC ESSENTIALS

The North Hunterdon Food Pantry has partnered with Veteran's Haven North to provide veterans who are discharging from the program at Veteran's Haven North with some basic pantry staples and a small supply of non-perishable items.



Donations can be dropped off

11am – noon on the

1st Sunday of each month at

Spruce Run Lutheran Church

442 West Hill Road, Glen Gardner, NJ

or by appointment



Contact us:

908-537-4824 x2

nhcfoodpantry@gmail.com

ITEMS NEEDED:

- bag of flour (2 pounds)
- bag of sugar (4 pounds)
- salt & pepper shaker set
- vegetable oil (24 ounces)
- catsup
- mustard
- mayonnaise
- carton of shelf-stable milk
- box of cereal
- box of crackers
- peanut butter
- jelly
- small container of quick oats
- bag of rice (1 pound)
- small jar of applesauce
- box of spaghetti
- pasta sauce
- 2 cans of soup
- can of chili or stew
- can of tuna or chicken
- can of vegetables
- instant potatoes
- 2 boxes of mac & cheese
- 2 packs of ramen
- paper towel
- toilet paper

