



SPRUCE RUN *Fellowship*

SPRUCE RUN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH

Fall 2024 Vol. 70, No. 3

From the Pastor's Pen



Connection Points

When was the last time you invited someone to church? It's hard, you say? I agree! That's why I want to share with you the How, What, and When of inviting someone to church.

How:

I once heard a speaker describe the types of conversations churches have as "front porch" and "back porch" conversations (she also used the metaphor of living room and basement). Think of your front porch: it's the one that can be seen from the road, the majority of guests will enter your home from there, you probably have some sort of welcome mat (at the Parsonage ours is cat and Star Trek themed), and you likely run your fingers through your hair before you answer the porch door. But your back

Continued on page 5...

A Message from the Council President

Greetings!

Hard to believe that we are well into summer and starting to think about the fall already!

Lots of things continue to happen at Spruce Run: planning for our 250th Anniversary Celebration is well under way; game nights, Pub Theology, Bible study, and Food Pantry distributions continue; we have had VBS; several outdoor services have been held; a group went to Music Under the Stars at Deerpath Park; etc.

The new Church Directory is now out and available! We have had drone footage taken to help us inspect the roof, and while it was up there, we got some lovely "fly-away" videos of the church, God's Acre, and the surrounding countryside. Hopefully, that will be available for viewing at Jungle Bell Junction and other events. We have had a dishwasher donated; it is in the lounge. This will allow us to reduce our use of paper, plastic and Styrofoam cups. Spotlights have been replaced in the sanctuary; this will make our on-line services easier to see.

I am pleased to report that we are about two-thirds of the way to our goal with our Roof Special Appeal! It is intended to fund the unanticipated maintenance work that we had to do to keep our beautiful country church warm, dry, safe and secure. If you can, please contribute to help defray the costs. Use the term "Roof" in the memo section of your check, and, if using your offering plate envelope, please also note that on the envelope.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, reach out to a Council Member!

I look forward to seeing you at Spruce Run Lutheran!

Brad Cox,
Council President

News from Our Committees & Interest Groups

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Distribution is moving smoothly each month. We continue to pick up our monthly ordered food from Norwescap in Phillipsburg. Once or twice a month, we schedule a day to shelf the monthly items and to also pack the requested items from the clients in preparation for their monthly pickup.

Additionally, one volunteer picks up donated eggs and another volunteer waits at the pantry for the Johanna Farms donated yogurt and Grow-A-Row delivers on distribution day fruits and vegetables.

Because of a grant received from the church, we are able to give the families with children a generous Shop Rite gift card for the months of June, July and August. This assists during the summer months when these children are not provided with breakfast and lunch during their summer vacation

To date, the pantry has provided 30 veterans discharged from the program at Veterans Haven North with

approximately a weeks worth of start up food. In speaking with our contact at Veterans Haven, the veterans ask before they leave about the groceries. She indicated that it is very popular and how much they appreciate the food. We just made it even easier to donate. You can use ZEFFY to donate online. Please view online or one of the new updated VIBE fliers how you can donate either via ZEFFY, checks, or exactly what is provided for each veteran, if you would like to shop and drop the items off at the church.

Norwescap is updating their ordering system for the pantries to make it more convenient for us to order our monthly items. We are learning this new procedure.

Pantry volunteering can be laboring at times but, also friendly among the volunteers as we discuss recipes and exchange ideas. We share a lot of laughs. On distribution day it's all worth it when the clients come in to retrieve their groceries. They are so appreciative and we receive lots of "thank you" comments. We do have a list of volunteers and if you would like to join our happy group, we would be thrilled to have you!

Gail, Karen, Janet, Sue

Tuesday Quilters

We have two Quilts of Valor to be presented. We continue to work on a number of different projects.

We meet each Tuesday from 9 am to 12 noon. Join us for a rewarding time of service and fellowship. No experience is needed!

Family Promise

Since Family Promise is still awaiting approval from the state to officially open, families in their program have been staying at a hotel in Flemington. Our summer hostings consisted of dropping off gift cards to enable the families to purchase their groceries for the week. We provided gift cards for one family for the week of May 19 and because of a surplus in cards and only one family to serve, we also covered for the week of May 26. Just recently, for the week of August 11, we provided one family with grocery gift cards. A Thrivent action gift card had been secured, so because there was only one family in the program at the time, there was no need to reach out and ask for additional donations.

Update on the storage closet in the church that was used for Family Promise supplies- it is completely cleaned out. Where

Continued on page 6..

Council Meeting Highlights



April 16, 2024

- Repairs are needed to the church chimney banding.
- Pursuing having a drone inspection of the church roof done.
- The attic should be inspected.
- Pending estimate to have an electrical outlet placed in the choir loft for the broadcast equipment.
- Anne & Vic Sainz will present a session on gentle, simple Yoga stretching techniques. Date to be determined.
- Summer 9:00 am worship will begin June 2.
- Planning is underway for events related to the 250th anniversary of the church.
- Food Pantry to determine how to distribute the Fund for Mission summer "school lunch" replacement ShopRite gift cards.
- Wendy DiNapoli will be notified that anything remaining in the Family Promise closet can be donated.

- Roof appeal is halfway to the goal.
- Reintroducing sharing of peace was discussed.
- The member directory is being updated.

May 14, 2024

- There was a waste back-up in the upstairs bathrooms.
- The church phone voicemail is not working properly.
- Clean-up of the upper parking lot is scheduled for May 17.
- The raised planting beds are being prepared to grow produce for the Food Pantry.
- The 2024 NJ Synod assembly was held this month. The Bishop's Challenge for the environment was introduced. Four options offered were (1) Recycle, (2) solar power, (3) reduce meat/beef consumption & (4) clean our waterways.
- George Creasy will lead worship service July 14 while Pastor is on vacation.
- The date for Rally Day has to be determined.
- SRLC will be a sponsor for the

2024 Lebanon Township Volunteer Fire Department's fair.

- The Faithful Journey team proposed a summer fellowship event – Music Under the Stars at Deer Path Park in Flemington.
- The "God Conversation" marble challenge is coming to a close. A new opportunity will be introduced "Pray with / Pray for."

June 11, 2024

- Pastor will be away on vacation July 8 – 14.
- There are two upcoming Baptisms – July 21 & August 4.
- VBS will take place on Monday evenings in July. Four churches will be participating – SRLC, High Bridge Methodist, High Bridge Reformed & Lebanon Reformed.
- A lay lead stewardship presentation will be offered during Carriage House Learning this month.
- Three outdoor ecumenical worship services will be offered this summer.
- A 250th Anniversary dinner will be held October 26, 2025, at the Hawk Pointe Clubhouse.

Continued on page 4...

*Council Meeting
Highlights*

Continued from page 3

- Estimates are being obtained for miscellaneous repairs & painting needed at the church.
- The member directory is updated and ready for distribution.
- The church voicemail is back in working order.
- A local resident volunteered his services and completed a drone inspection of the church roof.



We will continue to meet each Sunday after worship and play regularly for worship this fall. We are also expecting to do a special interactive showcase of our bell choir at Jingle Bell Junction this year! And as usual, we are still looking for more regular or guest members to join us - experienced or not, we always have something for you to play! Please join us in this wonderful and special way of worship.

Kelly Ye

FALL SCHEDULE

Worship begins at 10AM
starting September 1st!

Spruce Run Lutheran Church Milestones

We celebrate the baptisms of Rosario Perricone and Andrew Wiseman.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: Brad Cox
 Vice President: Erik Henriksen
 Secretary: Sonia Cordova
 Treasurer: George Creasy
 Financial Secretary: Paul Henriksen
 Rosemarie (Posie) Adickes
 Gene Armbrrecht
 Judi Mansilla
 Laura Mortensen
 Sue O'Brien
 Kathryn (Katie) Ressel
 Gail Vajda

SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendent

Laura Mortensen

Seventh Grade (Confirmation I)

George Creasy & Rob Ossi

Eighth Grade (Confirmation II)

Pastor Chris Halverson

STAFF

Pastor: Chris Halverson
 Music Director: Candice Peare
 Handbell Director: Qingyang (Kelly) Ye
 Secretary: Karen Smith
 Sextons: Rosemarie Adickes
 Sara Armbrrecht

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & LIAISON

Fellowship & Outreach

Gail Vajda & Sue O'Brien

Youth

Laura Mortensen & Katie Ressel

Building Discernment

Erik Henriksen & Brad Cox

Holistic Stewardship

Rosemarie Adickes

Worship and Music

Judi Mansilla & Matt Gaydick

Altar Guild

Judi Mansilla

North Hunterdon Food Pantry

Gail Vajda

Tuesday Quilters

Rose-Marie Green

Family Promise

Wendy DiNapoli

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Jane Creasy & Karen Smith

WEBSITE

Mark Creasy & Karen Smith

porch, that's where you plant the experimental vegetables that might not grow and look pretty, your outdoor furniture is quite "lived in"; you might leave a home project you're working on there, and there probably isn't a welcome mat.

One of the mistakes people (your pastor included) often make when inviting someone to church is describing the church's back porch instead of front porch. "You should come to my church, there are fewer people than when I was a kid and that makes me sad," or "At my church we have to chase away the ground hog that chews on the front door, wanna join?"

Instead, bring up things that would be inviting; put Spruce Run's best foot forward. "Let me tell you about this fellowship event I'm going to at my church, wanna join me?" or "I can't believe it, my congregation is going to be 250 years old this year, the kick off is December 1st, can I let you know when 250th Anniversary events happen?" or "There's going to be a musical exhibition at my church's craft fair, you should check it out!"

What:

When inviting someone to church it is good to go for something low stakes. That was the thought behind Pub Theology, worship outside the sanctuary, as well as Game Night—an event that has low walls and very permeable barriers. From my observation at Spruce Run, the places people have found it easy to make a connection are: our monthly Plant Based Recipe Swaps, sewing with the Tuesday Quilters, joining us for Game Nights, and volunteering with the North Hunterdon Food Pantry.

When:

So, when are some of these events taking place? Well, keep August 25th on your calendar, as both the next Plant Based Recipe Swap is scheduled for August 25th and the next outdoor worship will take place then. The next Pub Theology will be September 4th, the next Food Pantry distribution will be September 12th, and the next game night will be September 20th. For that matter, the Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9-noon, and are exceptionally welcoming to first timers and newcomers!

So, is the Holy Spirit prompting you to invite someone to Spruce Run? Is there an event or organization within the Church that might interest them?

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Chris



The 250th anniversary committee has been meeting and planning for our upcoming celebration. We are counting on your help and support. The kick-off will be a potluck luncheon on 12/1. Our bishop will be in attendance. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Our hope is that former members of Spruce Run will be with us to help in the start of our 250th. We will also be putting together luminaries to be sold to the congregation and at Jingle Bell Junction. Plans for the future are a strawberry/pancake festival and a historical display at the front of the old cemetery with a map of the cemetery. If you have any questions, please reach out to Gene or Erik.

Committees & Interest Groups

Continued from page 2

did it all go? Five "bed in a bag" (mattress cover, sheets, blanket, comforter, pillow case, pillow) collections went to Catholic Charities. One "bed in a bag" to Family Promise. The remaining bedding went to Salvation Army. All of the towels (which were showing their wear) went to an animal shelter. The clocks and lamps that were in good enough shape went to Veteran's Haven North. The air mattresses that were still holding air went to Catholic Charities and Veteran's Haven. The remaining miscellaneous toys and lamps went to Simply Thrifty in Washington, NJ. So, all items will be put to good use through various charities and organizations.

I admit feeling sad in seeing everything go, as it truly brings an end to hosting at the church. I have so many wonderful memories of meeting new people, watching the good that comes from people reaching out to help others in need, and seeing the beautiful interactions and friendships form.

Our next and final hosting of 2024 takes place November 24 - December 1. Keep the families in your prayers and let's all pray the Promise Center will be open soon!!

Blessings,
Wendy

Altar Guild

The Worship and Music Committee continues to address any concerns regarding the liturgy and the worship life of our congregation. We are always looking for more volunteers for the Altar Guild, Lectors, and Ushers, but especially need more volunteers for Worship Assistants. If anyone is interested in serving, has any questions, or wants to help in any other way, please reach out to anyone on the committee. The Fall Season will soon be upon us and we are looking forward to kicking off the Fall season with Rally Day in September.

- The Last Joint Outdoor Worship Service is scheduled for August 25th at Lebanon Township Park at 9:30am. Spruce Run will be hosting this Ecumenical service this month.
- On September 1st - we will switch to 10am for Worship Service on Sundays.
- Rally Day and Church Picnic is planned for September 8th.
- October 6th is World Communion Sunday.

- October 27th is Reformation Sunday and Confirmation.
- November 3rd - All Saints Sunday.
- November 24th is Christ the King Sunday.
- December 1st - Advent begins. We will also be kicking off the 250th Anniversary celebration with a pot-luck luncheon.
- December 24th - on Christmas Eve we plan to have one (1) service at 7pm.

Our next Worship and Music Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 17th after church.

Judi Mansilla
Worship & Music
Altar Guild

Jingle Bell Junction

Jingle Bell Junction is coming upon us. The date this year is 11/23. The letters and forms have been sent to our crafters. Mark the date on your calendar and get ready to decorate, set-up, bake and shop.

Sara

The Letter of James!

James, the Epistle of Straw Martin Luther famously called the Letter of James an Epistle of Straw! He wasn't sure if the Gospel resided in it. Due to this assessment, there is a taboo around reading it in the Lutheran Tradition.

Before I closely studied the wisdom books of the bible (Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes), I tended to agree with Luther. But I eventually had an epiphany, James is the only New Testament book of wisdom. Once James is read in that light (instead of reading it as a bad version of Paul's letters), it sparkles and comes alive. So, for the month of September, both the Zoom Bible Study and the Sermons in worship will focus on the Epistle of James.



Please reach out to Sara or Denise if you would like to purchase ShopRite gift cards. Remember this is a very easy way to financially support our church.

**STUDY SKILLS
FOR SCRIPTURE**

ELCA NJ SYNOD
NORTHWEST CLUSTER

**GROWING
TOGETHER
— IN —
FAITH**

EDUCATION SERIES

Wednesdays in October
6:30-8pm on Zoom

The logo is circular with a blue background and a white border. It features the text "STUDY SKILLS FOR SCRIPTURE" at the top, "ELCA NJ SYNOD NORTHWEST CLUSTER" around the top inner edge, "GROWING TOGETHER — IN — FAITH" in the center, and "EDUCATION SERIES" around the bottom inner edge. Below the logo, it says "Wednesdays in October" and "6:30-8pm on Zoom".

GAME NIGHT

Join us for food, fun & fellowship!

September 20
October 18

6 - 8 pm





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



DONATE ON-LINE!

Note: The North Hunterdon Food Pantry uses Zeffy, so that we receive the full amount of your donation. You may make a small suggested donation to Zeffy, our third party processor, or you may make that field \$0.00 at check-out.



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





COME, CHRISTIANS JOIN TO SING
ALLELUIA, AMEN!

Our wonderful Chancel Choir is always welcoming new singers. Please consider lending your voice and spirit to the fellowship of music at Spruce Run. Even if you haven't sung since high school, it's much like riding a bike! You might be a little rusty, but you will get up to speed with a little practice! The Choir's contribution to Spruce Run remains strong, but can become stronger with your voice.

Please feel free to talk to any choir member or Candy Peare if you might be interested in joining. Our rehearsals take place in the balcony of the church every Sunday...9:00-9:45am. Our first rehearsal will be on September 8th.

Please give it a "No Obligation" try!
We look forward to seeing you!

Thanks,
Candy



Through the generosity of the congregation, we were able to provide Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey with 13 backpacks and some additional school supplies to the children that LSMNJ serves for the school year.

Recipes from the
Congregation

Rice Salad

2 cups plain white uncooked rice (basmati rice has the best texture)

1 cup wild uncooked rice

Dressing

3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
½ cup raspberry or balsamic vinegar (maybe a little more)

1 cup olive oil

2 red peppers, diced

1 yellow pepper, diced

1-1/2 cups diced scallions, sliced (use as much of the green part as possible; more colorful and less strong)

1-1/2 cups dried cranberries

1-1/2 cups toasted, chopped pecans (toast then chop)

1-1/2 cups chopped parsley

2 cans of black beans; rinsed and drained

Cook white and wild rice.

Cool some in open bowls (recipe makes enough for 2 bowls).

Mix rices.

Whisk mustard & vinegar; whisk into olive oil.

Add all other dry ingredients and beans to rices.

Add dressing slowly, toss and test; I find using all the dressing makes it too wet.

Refrigerate.

Good for several days.

"Music Under the Stars"



A fun night of fellowship listening to Captain Jack, a Billy Joel tribute band at Deerpath Park.

JINGLE BELL JUNCTION



November 23
9 am - 3 pm



SPRUCE RUN LUTHERAN CHURCH
442 W. Hill Rd., Glen Gardner



FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TABLE RESERVATIONS



CALL 908-319-5055

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10am	2	3 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	4 pubLICK Theology 7pm <i>Gronsky's Milk House</i>	5 Zoom Bible Study- James 7pm	6	7
8 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	9	10 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	11	12 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm Zoom Bible Study- James 7pm	13	14
15 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	16	17 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	18 WELCA – 12pm	19 Zoom Bible Study- James 7pm	20 Game Night 6 - 8pm	21
22 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am Worship at Rolling Hills 2pm	23	24 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	25	26 Zoom Bible Study- James 7pm	27	28
29 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	30					

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	2 PUBlick Theology 7pm <i>The Inn at Glen Gardner</i>	3 Zoom Bible Study- James 7pm	4	5
6 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	7	8 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	9	10 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm Zoom Bible Study- James 7pm	11	12
13 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	14	15 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	16 WELCA – 12pm	17	18 Game Night 6 - 8pm	19
			Pastor Chris Vacation 14-20			→
20 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am Pastor Chris Vacation 14-20 →	21	22 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	23	24	25	26
27 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Confirmation Handbell Rehearsal 11am	28	29 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	30	31		

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	4	5 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	6 PUBlick Theology 7pm <i>The Inn at Glen Gardner</i>	7	8	9
10 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	11	12 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	13	14	15	16
17 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	18	19 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	20 WELCA – 12pm	21 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm	22	23 Jingle Bell Junction 9-3
24 Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	25	26 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	27	28	29	30

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am 250 th Potluck 11am	2	3 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	4 PUBlick Theology 7pm <i>The Inn at Glen Gardner</i>	5	6	7
8 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	9	10 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	11	12	13	14
15 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	16	17 Tuesday Quilters 9am - 12pm	18 WELCA – 12pm	19 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm	20	21
22 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Our Mission

We are a Christian family of faith who celebrates God's grace through worship, fellowship and service. We welcome you to share in our journey to fulfill God's purpose in our community and world.



Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church
442 West Hill Road
Lebanon Township
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826-3252

www.SpruceRunLutheran.com

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.”

1 Timothy 4:4-5

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