
Spruce Run Spark

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



September 2024 Vol. 1, No. 2



From the PEANUT GALLERY...

Greetings! Welcome to Fall!

Sunday services have returned to the 10 o'clock hour, and Choir and Bell Choir have resumed. Jingle Bell Junction is coming up, and we will soon be kicking off our 250th Anniversary Celebration Year!

Our Roofing Appeal Fundraising has brought in \$7,200 of the \$12,000 we were seeking. If you are able, please consider helping us reach our goal!

As always, please check out the calendar in this newsletter.

Brad Cox,
Council President



Wisdom

It seems like this summer we've been focused on Wisdom here at Spruce Run. On one hand, I've been doing final edits to our project we'd started the previous summer: Wisdom from Spruce Run. On the other hand, every three years a bunch of readings from the Old Testament wisdom books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes, as well as the only wisdom book of the New Testament, James, come up as first or second readings for two or so months in a row.

At its core, "Wisdom Literature" is focused on practical knowledge, how to survive and thrive in a moral way throughout life. Often times this is done by describing a wrong and foolish way of living in the world, followed by the wise, right, way of living in the world.

Our Wisdom from Spruce Run project was a unique Bible Study. In it I gave a brief description of the concerns of each of the 3 main Wisdom book of the Old Testament, and the questions they

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Pastor's Perspective

Continued from page 1

focused on, but then the rest of the time was spent on collecting the groups thoughts and answers to those Wisdom questions. I want you to know that your fellow parishioners gave deep and meaningful answers to these questions, and showed how they are truly still relevant today. You should look forward to the release of this Wisdom from Spruce Run book on Reformation Sunday.

This book will be released that day because Reformation Sunday is also the day our confirmands will be confirming their faith. We'll be passing this book on to them as a way to pass on some of our hard-won wisdom.

We'll be giving them a model for being a faithful person at a variety of ages. We're giving our confirmands space to imagine what being an adult Christian will be like as they get older—When I reach decision points in the road about my career or family life, how might I make decisions that are faithful? When I'm middle aged, what will my Baptized life look like? When I retire, what will be a wise way to fill my time? When old age comes knocking, how do I greet it as a Christian? What do I have to look forward to throughout my life? How do I navigate it well?

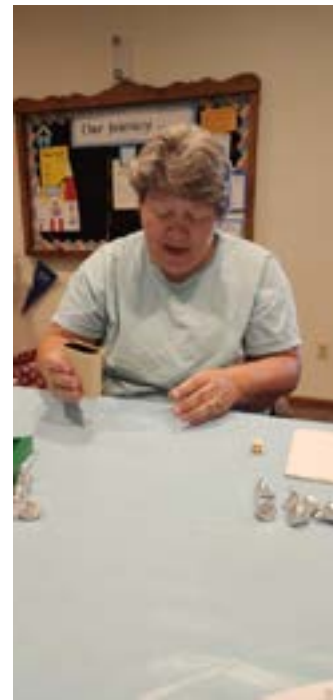
Finally, a word on the Letter of James. As I've said before, Luther was uncomfortable with James because the letter has a different focus than most of the other letters in the New Testament, and on top



of that the Counter-Reformation used the book as a “proof text” against Lutherans. That said, it is a good book, it's just doing something a little different than Pauline letters Luther loved. It is asking the question: How should Christians live wisely in the world after the death and resurrection of Jesus? James' answer is: point to God's grace with your own generosity, speak in ways that are gentle, live a faithful life by showing forth blessings and mercy, and pray always.

I have several hopes for this season of Wisdom that we have been in as a congregation. I hope that: it is helping you live out your faith in concrete ways, challenges you to imagine what it is like to be a Christian at different times of life, encourages you to be thankful and prayerful, and helps you to navigate a world that can be challenging in many ways.

Peace,
Pastor Chris



SPRUCE RUN Women of the ELCA

We had our summer picnic and had a blast playing Farkle. Join us for our monthly fellowship and Bible Study. All women are welcome!

Pet Blessing

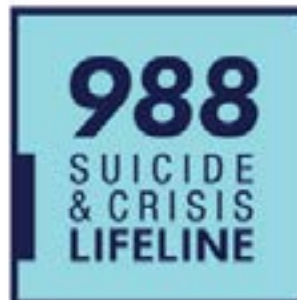


OCTOBER 5, 2024
2 - 4 PM

*For the safety of all, please make sure
your pet is on a leash or in a crate.*

DON'T RUN... CALL 911

IF YOU WITNESS A DRUG OR ALCOHOL OVERDOSE, the NJ **911 LIFELINE LEGISLATION/ GOOD SAMARITAN LAW** PROVIDES IMMUNITY FOR THE PERSON CALLING AND THE PERSON NEEDING HELP!



Talk with us

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS SUPPORT NOW, CALL OR TEXT 988 OR CHAT 988LIFELINE.ORG



Let's Learn Together

This program year, pastors in our area of the NJ Synod will offer adult education. The first series in "Growing Together in Faith" will occur over **5 Wednesday evenings in October.**



- + Learn from pastors in our cluster
- + Meet other Lutherans in the area
- + Engage thoughtfully with your faith

This first series is called "**Study Skills for Scripture.**" Sessions will build upon each other, but feel free to join only one or a few sessions.

- **10/2** - Introduction: Reading the Bible with Martin Luther (Dr. Tim Wengert)
- **10/9** - Unfolding Story: Understanding the Narrative Arc of Salvation History (Pr. Serena Rice)
- **10/16** - Diverse Witness: Reading Through a Framework of Literary Genres (Pr. Serena Rice)
- **10/23** - Inspiration: Divine-Human Cooperation (Pr. Serena Rice)
- **10/30** - Interpretation: A Conversation Between Text and Life (Pr. Serena Rice)

Gatherings will be held on via Zoom on Wednesdays evenings for 6:30 – 7:30/8:00 (depending on how talkative people are).

Email the church office for the Zoom link.

World Communion Sunday



ECUMENICAL INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK & WORSHIP

OCTOBER 6, 2024 5PM

BETHLEHEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2 RACE STREET, PITTSTOWN, NJ



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.

JINGLE BELL JUNCTION



LUNCH

November 23



COOKIES

9 am - 3 pm

SPRUCE RUN LUTHERAN CHURCH

442 W. Hill Rd., Glen Gardner



CRAFTS



QUILTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TABLE RESERVATIONS



BAKED GOODS



LUMINARIES

CALL 908-319-5055



250th Anniversary Events

December 1, 2024	10:00 am	Kick-off Worship
May 18, 2025		Cemetery Sign Dedication
June 21, 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



[Link to register](#)

[Link for payment](#)

Come Kick It with Your Fellow Lutherans and the NJ Youth Ministry Team!

Gotham FC vs. Orlando Pride

Date: Sunday, October 20, 2024

Time: Tailgating at 3:00 PM | Kickoff at 5:00 PM

Location: Red Bull Arena, Harrison, NJ

Invitation to All NJ Synod Congregation Youth Groups and Leaders

Calling all youth groups and their leaders from NJ Synod congregations to join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and celebration of women in sports! This event is open to all ages, making it a fantastic opportunity for youth, families, and leaders to come together and enjoy an exciting match featuring some of the world's best women athletes.

Ticket Information:

- Cost: \$5 per person
- Includes: Access to tailgating with food, drinks, and fellowship with the NJ Youth Ministry Team

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Tailgating:

- Time: 3:00 PM
- Location: Red Bull Arena Parking Lot
- Details: Join the NJ Youth Ministry Team for an afternoon of food, drinks, and fellowship before the game. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with other youth and families in a relaxed and fun environment.

GAME EXPERIENCE:

See the Stars: Don't miss the chance to watch Marta of Orlando Pride, who helped the Brazil National Team win Bronze at the Paris 2024 Olympics!

Gotham FC: Come cheer for Gotham FC, featuring stars from the US Women's National Team, including Crystal Dunn, Rose Lavelle, Lynn Williams, Tiarna Davidson, Emily Sonnett, and Jenna Nighswonger. Plus, see Gotham FC's Ann-Katrin Berger, who earned a Bronze Medal with the German National Team at the Paris 2024 Olympics. This is a match you won't want to miss!

[Additional information about getting to Red Bull Arena and their bag policy.](#)

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tuesday Quilters 9am -12pm	2 Zoom Bible Study- Growing Together in Faith 6:30 pm	3 PUBlick Theology 7pm <i>The Inn at Glen Gardner</i>	4	5 Pet Blessing 2 – 4 pm
6 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am Ecumenical World Communion Sunday Potluck & Worship 5pm Bethlehem Pres. Church	7	8 Tuesday Quilters 9am -12pm Council Meeting 7pm	9 Zoom Bible Study- Growing Together in Faith 6:30 pm	10 NH Food Pantry Distribution 9am-12pm	11	12
13 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	14	15 Tuesday Quilters 9am -12pm	16 WELCA – 12pm Zoom Bible Study- Growing Together in Faith 6:30 pm	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 Ecumenical Agape Thanksgiving Worship 7pm	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 Ecumenical Advent Craft Night 6pm High Bridge Reformed Church	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 Longest Night Worship 7pm
22 Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Handbell Rehearsal 11am	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm	25	26	27	28
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.

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



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

