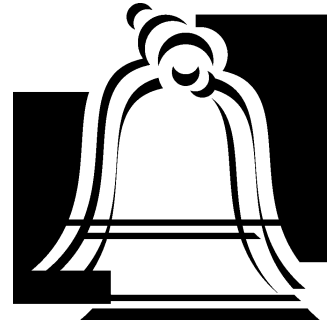


# The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

July/August 2024

## The Marvelous Wonderettes

Coming Soon to Bergstrasse

Tuesday July 17, 7:00 pm

Set in the nostalgic 1950s and '60s, this musical extravaganza takes you on a journey through time, delivering an electrifying blend of chart-topping hits, dazzling choreography, and heartwarming tales of friendship and love. Join

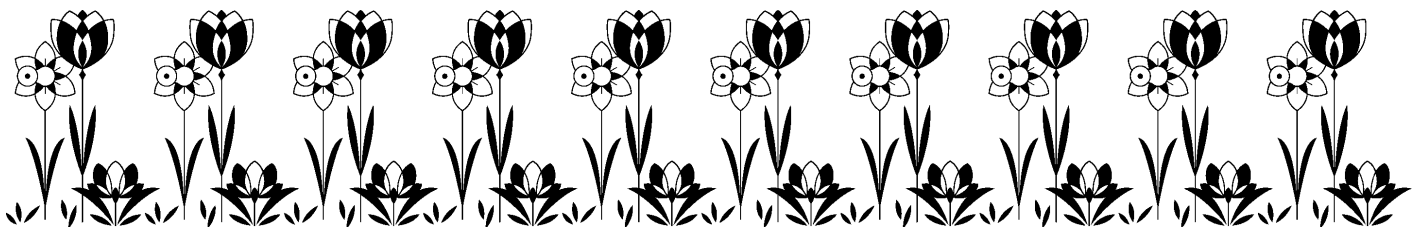
Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy, as they harmonize their way through the highs and lows of high school, celebrating the power of music to transcend any challenge in *The Marvelous Wonderettes!*

All Servant Stage productions are 'pay what you will'.

Coffee before Worship will be offered the first Sunday of the month beginning in July.

It will be a time to gather for refreshments and conversation with each other, a time to get to know each other.

If you would like to be a part of this ongoing event, please see a member of the Fellowship Ministry team  
(Deb Hornberger, Don Kinnier, Doreen McCabe)



## Cooperative Ministry



Our Council officers, Dave, Gladys, and Becca, met with the Executive Committee from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to discuss ways that we could engage in cooperative ministry. We will be meeting regularly to brainstorm ideas for more possibilities in the future, but for now we agreed that we would like to start with two ministries that each congregation has established. Holy Trinity requested help for the weekly Community Meals, and we requested help for the Clothing Closet.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Community Meals at Holy Trinity. Upcoming dates will be announced once we have them. If you are interested in helping with the Community Meals, please speak to Dave, Gladys, or Becca, and one of them will help you to get in touch with the Community Meals point of contact at Holy Trinity.

**Gather on the Hill** – for seniors living in the Ephrata and Cocalico School Districts. In partnership with Ephrata Area Social Services providing space for gathering at Bergstrasse Church on the **FIRST TUESDAY** each month (except July) 11:30 am - 2:00 pm.

Join the fun with light exercises, a meal, a fun activity, crafts, card and board games, and great fellowship. CALL Ephrata Area Social Services, 717-733-0345, by the prior Friday to reserve your space. Need Transportation? EASS has you covered, just make a reservation at least two days in advance! See you on the Hill!



**The Bell** is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church  
9 Hahnstown Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
(717) 733-7808  
www.bergstrasselutheran.com  
bergluth@dejazzd.com  
Worship Sundays 10:00 AM

The Rev. James Goodyear, Pastor  
717-676-3954 (cell)  
Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **September** newsletter is **August 18**.

Financial Update:  
Ending May 31, 2024

	MONTH	2024 YTD	2023 YTD
Net Operating Income	\$25,352.47	\$9,762.60	\$2,597.68
Operating Income	\$35,122.02	\$83,289.42	\$66,483.16
Operating Expense	\$9,769.55	\$73,526.82	\$63,885.48
Net Other Income	\$213.85	(\$2,410.45)	(\$1,925.19)
Net Income from all sources	\$25,566.32	\$7,352.15	\$672.49
Available funds		\$99,819.88	



Greetings Bergstrasse Disciples,

Pastor Karen Minnich-Sadler, an interim pastor in the Lower Susquehanna Synod, creates daily meditations for her followers' edification. Nearly every day her words are spot on with what I am working through in my ministry. I share her post from June 12 (*italics*) alongside my reflection.

**UNPREDICTABLE HOLY LOVE** by Karen Minnich-Sadler  
*At one time in our culture, church was a place of conformity, because society was also a place of conformity. People were expected to think alike and hold the same values.*

*Now, faith communities (unless they are more conservative or fundamentalist) who try to conform to a culture that existed in the past, are also the ones who are struggling. People confuse cultural*

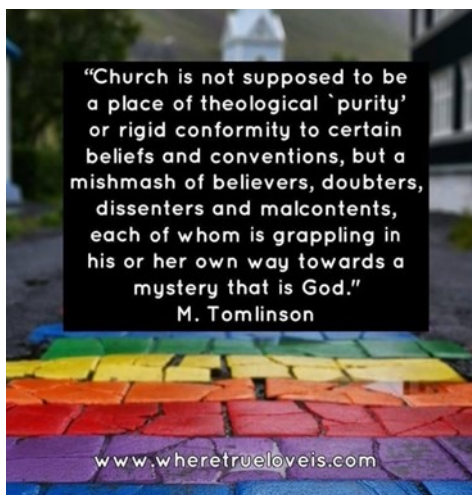
*values with spiritual ones and see changes in culture as the enemy. Seeking to make spiritual truths relevant in a changing world is often seen as watering down the gospel.*

*If we believe inviting people into a faith community means inviting them to come and conform, we've missed the point of the gospel. Jesus never invited people into a rigid set of beliefs that included some but left out others. That is what made Jesus so dangerous to the really religious. He was unpredictable with his love and lavish with grace.*

*We, who worry so much about who is worthy and who is not, who should be included and who should be kept out, wouldn't have enjoyed journeying with Jesus. When the religiously pure used scripture to condemn others who weren't like them, Jesus spoke of God's mercy and unconditional love. Jesus pushed back human boundaries to create a welcoming and safe place for people to walk a spiritual journey, with only love of God and one another as the guiding command.*

*We say, yes, this is true, but...and then we pull out passages to support our inability to welcome all into the journey of transforming faith and life. Or we welcome others, but then expect them to conform to our way of understanding faith, without any possibility it might be we, ourselves, who need to be changed by the Holy Spirit of God.*

*The gospel was never about conformity; it was always about journey where the state of our hearts—our capacity to love as Jesus loved—is more important than any cultural value that seeks to limit God's love, a love that simply will not be contained. The call Christ places on our lives is to humbly walk this journey with others who don't believe quite as we do, and truly see them as our brothers and sisters in whom God abides, imperfections and all. Just like us.*



The current Church, denominationally as well as individual congregations, struggle to unbind itself from the former model of conformity. Unlearning what has worked for generations is possible when the community is committed to being in the present. As the culture around us takes steps to be more inclusive of all people, the Church has opportunity to reactivate its voice in the way of Jesus by meeting people where they are on their life journey.

As I reflect on my past, I see where I was expected to love Jesus, rarely challenged to be like Jesus in my daily encounters with life. I was taught to see Jesus as a life figure to live up to as a model for living while at the same time hearing I could never be like Jesus because I am a sinful person. I continue to unlearn that being a sinful person is exactly where I am to be in this world. I continue to unlearn 'sin' as a specific action against another person, but as my actions against the God who loves me and all people.

(Continued from page 3)

It is easy to live in a world where conformity is the practice. Theoretically, conformity means everyone thinks, believes and acts the same way! How is THAT working for you! Can you imagine what the Church would look like if it were to lean into the diversity of God's people's experiences, including differing opinions on any subject? The first people who gathered after Jesus' resurrection gathered to lift each other up creating a covenant of sharing everything!

The Church today has the potential to be the voice of hope, respect difference as a gift as we serve our neighbor with love. Recently, in my time of reflection, I noticed how our knowledge of Jesus' life is just that – knowledge set apart. Can you imagine if we as faithful people were to set that knowledge into action? Faith is love in action. Being a presence that exceeds what is expected so that others are surprised, acknowledged, and loved. Let your light so shine before others.

## **Bergstrasse Church 2024 Mission Teams**

Mission Teams consist of three persons charged with organizing various activities and events that support our mission to make God's love known through our presence and engagement with our neighbors locally, nationally, and globally.

**Finance Mission Team** – *general oversight of our financial stability*  
Dave Wilhelm, Jeff Donahue, Lynn Hibshman

**Fundraising Mission Team** – *planning ways to add dollars to our income resources*  
Becca Brewster, Sandy Lausch, Lauren Hammond

**Community Outreach Mission Team** – *monitoring the ways in which we engage with our neighbors locally and globally*  
Almanara Buffenmyer, Gladys Horvath, Bree Kramer

**Fellowship Mission Team** – *providing opportunities for our faith community and our neighbors to play together*  
Deb Hornberger, Don Kinnier, Doreen McCabe

**Worship and Creative Arts Mission Team** – *discovering ways to utilize our sanctuary space to experience Spirit in worship or for sharing any creative art*  
Becca Brewster, Bree Kramer, Wren Dillon



**September 24-28, 2024**

**Can you be counted on to help with parking? A great fundraiser for Bergstrasse...**

**Joe and Lisa Conway will coordinate this event**

# Worship participants for July

July	7	14	21	28
<b>Greeter</b>	Becky and Pattie Martin	Peggy Rushton-Witmyer	Alice Krahl	Nevin Rutt and Gladys Horvath
<b>Shepherd</b>	Deb Hornberger	Deb Hornberger	Deb Hornberger	Deb Hornberger
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jax Brewster	Cloey Hammond	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster
<b>Lector</b>	Becca Brewster	Kris Kramer	Wren Dillon	John Gockley
<b>Prayers</b>	Kris Kramer	Peggy Rushton-Witmyer	John Gockley	Wren Dillon
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Almanara Buffenmyer	XXX	XXX	XXX
<b>Flower Sponsors</b>				
<b>Bulletin Sponsors</b>				

## Count Money in July

Tuesday, July 2, 16, 30 at 1:00 PM

Doreen McCabe

# Worship participants for August

August	4	11	18	25
<b>Greeter</b>	Sandy Lausch		Mary Keisling	
<b>Shepherd</b>	Almanara Buffenmyer	Almanara Buffenmyer	Almanara Buffenmyer	Almanara Buffenmyer
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jax Brewster	Cloey Hammond	Kris Kramer	Becca Brewster
<b>Lector</b>	Alice Krahl	Gladys Horvath	Lauren Hammond	Lisa Conway
<b>Prayers</b>	Deb Hornberger	Lauren Hammond	Becca Brewster	Bonnie Grater
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Sandy Lausch	XXX	XXX	XXX
<b>Flower Sponsors</b>			Lisa and Joe Conway	
<b>Bulletin Sponsors</b>	Bonnie Grater			

## Count Money in August

Tuesday, August 13, 27 at 1:00 PM

Jeff Donahue



# Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6 12:00pm Clothing Closet
7 9:30am Coffee time 10:00am Worship 11:00am Clothing Closet	8 7:00pm Council	9	10	11 6:00pm Private use of fellowship hall	12 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	13
14 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Teams	15	16	17 7:00pm Servant Stage	18	19 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	20
21 10:00am Worship	22	23 9:00am Stitches of Love	24	25	26 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	27 Pastor on vacation
28 10:00am Worship 6:30pm Private use of fellowship hall Pastor on vacation	29 Pastor on vacation	30 Pastor on vacation	31 Pastor on vacation	1 Lanmas Pastor on vacation	2 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill Pastor on vacation	3 12:00pm Clothing Closet Pastor on vacation

# Bergstrasse Lutheran Church

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 10:00am Worship 6:30pm Private use of fellowship hall Pastor on vacation	<b>29</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>30</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>31</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>1</b> Lammas Pastor on vacation	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill Pastor on vacation	<b>3</b> 12:00pm Clothing Closet Pastor on vacation
<b>4</b> 9:30am Coffee time 10:00am Worship 11:30am Clothing Closet Pastor on vacation	<b>5</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>6</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>7</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>8</b> Pastor on vacation	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill Pastor on vacation	<b>10</b> Pastor on vacation
<b>11</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am Stitches of Love	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Friday Night on the Hill	<b>31</b>



*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

**For Healing:** Lauren Hammond, Cathy, Carol, Harold, Bonnie Magill, Becky Schmidt, Christy Rushton (Peggy's daughter-in-law), Bob and Eldonna Filardi, Dave Fite, Theresa, Justin Harts  
**Celebrating:** healing and comfort for Penny, Lilly, Vicki  
**Grieving:** family and friends of James Fletcher, Carol Royer and Elizabeth Jacobs



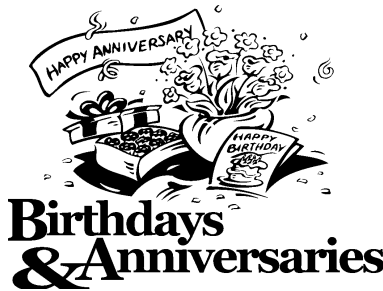
July  
 7 canned meats / tuna  
 14 peanut butter / jelly  
 21 pancake mix / syrup  
 28 diapers / baby wipes  
 Laundry soap

August  
 4 spaghetti / sauce  
 11 instant potatoes / rice  
 18 kool aid / juice  
 25 toothpaste / brushes /  
 deodorant / powder

Congratulations to those with  
 July/August birthdays:

July  
 1 Dave Wilhelm  
 17 Gail Smith  
 19 Eldonna Filardi

August  
 3 Bonnie Grater  
 10 Bree Kramer  
 17 Shirley Martin  
 20 Mary Keisling  
 21 Cloey Hammond



Anniversaries

July  
 11 Kris and Bree Kramer  
 21 Becky and Pattie Martin

August  
 19 Joe and Lisa Conway

*No act of kindness,  
 No matter how small,  
 Is ever wasted.*

*Aesop*

There is a  
 place for  
 you at  
 our table...



**DINNER CHURCH** - Interested in a new worship experience? Enjoy the fellowship with a variety of people around a dinner table, with Bible study, interactive liturgy and communion. Join Pastor Jim as I travel to The Wittel Farm at 5:00 pm on Sunday July 7. Bring your favorite food to share and a lawn chair. We can carpool from the Bergstrasse parking lot or meet me there, 1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown, PA. Be sure to check out the 9 acre farm managed by the Lutheran Camping Corporation too!



# THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Christ's Healing for a Broken World

Meeting in assembly on May 31 and June 1, 2024, the Lower Susquehanna Synod took the following actions.

- Welcomed the Rev. Phil Hirsch, Executive Director of Christian Community and Leadership (USA) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as churchwide representative, and received greetings from him.
- Adopted the agenda and rules of procedure as recommended by the Synod Council.
- Re-elected Jennifer R. Lau as synod vice president for a second term.
- Established slates of nominees for the Synod Council, ELCA Church Council, and voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- Received report of the 2023 Generosity Appeal and thanks from Hope Academy and Tree 4 Hope for the support from the 2023 Generosity Appeal.
- Recognized rostered ministers celebrating 50 years of ordination.
- Received greetings from United Lutheran Seminary in both an address by the Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmermann and video greetings from the Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin.
- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget of \$2,606,708.28.
- Adopted the 2025 minimum salary guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service.
- Launched the 2024 Generosity Appeal to benefit the construction of the new hospital in Mbeya, Konde Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
- Elected to the Synod Council: The Rev. George B. Scott, the Rev. Susan E. Scott, Sue McCleaf Nespeca, Randall D. Tyson, and Jade Lesisko.
- Nominated to the ELCA Church Council for election at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly: Moses Kavishke and Charles R. Roberts III.

- Elected as voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly: Moses Kavishke, Jade Lesisko, Nicholas G. Keilholtz, Zachary M. Fetter, the Rev. Elizabeth Peter Eckman, the Rev. Drahomir Osilk, Andrea L. Osilkova, Molly A. Wirick, Randy Tyson, R. Jack Hinkle, Rebecca A. Brewster, Kay A. Hinkle, the Rev. Molly K. Haggerty, Deacon April E. Trout, and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr.
  - Welcomed Jennie Wolf Smith from GSB Fundraising and received her presentation on our synod's stewardship initiative, Building a Culture of Generosity.
  - Received updates from this synod's Mission Committee regarding the bishop election process that will unfold over the next year, including a call to prayer and schedule of listening sessions.
  - Adopted the motion to amend continuing resolution S9.04.A23 Preliminary Identification Process Leading to the Election of a Bishop.
  - Amended and adopted a resolution submitted by the Synod Council promoting LGBTQIA+ cultural competency in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.
  - Received a presentation and report from the Equity Audit Task Force.
  - Recognized the Rev. Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr. for his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and his ministry in this Church.
  - Amended bylaw S10.07.07. related to the Personnel Committee.
  - Installed newly elected members of the Synod Council and newly elected conference secretaries: The Rev. Andrew E. Berdahl, York Conference; the Rev. DeAnn R. Books, North York Conference; the Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, North Lancaster Conference; the Rev. Douglas L. DeStephano, South York Conference; the Rev. Pamela M. Ilick, Lancaster Conference; the Rev. Matthew A. Kayhart, Chambersburg Conference; the Rev. Susan E. Scott, Gettysburg Conference; the Rev. Sean S. Titus, Harrisburg Conference.
  - Received worship offering of \$7,513.25 in support of the 2024 Generosity Appeal.
  - Registered: 444 voting members, of which 251 were lay voting members and 193 were rostered ministers.
- Gratitude is due to everyone who gathered for the assembly, and to the many people who helped make the assembly happen. We look forward to gathering together again on June 5, 6, and 7, 2025, in St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, York, Pennsylvania.

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.

Offered by United Lutheran Seminary and the Lower Susquehanna Synod



## What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?

*As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that "faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society" (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues?*

*Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community. Each session begins at 7:00 pm and lasts approximately 90 minutes.*

### **June 25: Introduction to Social Teachings**

Dr. Roger Willer, Director of Theological Ethics for the ELCA

### **August 27: Corporate Social Responsibility**

Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA

### **September 10: Abortion**

Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College

### **September 24: Faith, Sexism and Justice**

Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA

### **October 8: Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide**

Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Theological Ethics, Education, and Community Engagement

### **October 22: Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture**

Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**Join Pastor Jim around the parsonage dining room table to engage with these online learnings.**



# Listening Sessions for 2025 Bishop Election



Our Lower Susquehanna Synod is conducting listening sessions as part of a discernment process leading up to the election of a bishop at our 2025 synod assembly. This is an opportunity for you to share how the Spirit is calling us, as synod, to walk together in faith and community in our contexts. The information gathered at the listening sessions will be used to prepare the Synod

Mission Profile and Gifts of a Bishop documents that will serve as educational tools for our congregations in preparing for the election. You may attend a listening session at any location that is convenient for you.

The Listening Sessions, convenient for Lancaster County congregations are scheduled from June through mid-September as follows:

## **Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 6-8pm**

North Lancaster Listening Session  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
200 W Orange Street  
Lititz, PA 17543

## **Sunday, August 18, 2024, 2-4pm**

Lancaster Listening Session  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
3131 Columbia Ave  
Lancaster, PA 17603

## **Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7-9pm**

ZOOM Listening Session  
Digital Registration Forthcoming

## God's gift of music



What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can. God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God's love.



**POWER INTERFAITH** – (<https://powerinterfaith.org>) is a grassroots organization of Pennsylvania congregations and individuals committed to racial and economic justice on a livable planet. Pastor Matt Lenahan, Zion-Akron is the Lancaster County organizer. POWER will be conducting a housing audit in September. They need your help to gather housing information for housed and unhoused persons in the Lancaster area. Local congregations and social services will be asked to gather information from their clients as well with the intention to make our PA lawmakers more aware of the housing needs in our area.

**HOUSING EQUITY CAMPAIGN: LANCASTER LAUNCH**  
**Sunday, June 30, 2024, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET**

Church of the Apostles UCC, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603  
The growing affordable housing and homelessness crisis in Lancaster affects so many of us in so many ways. This season POWER is conducting a housing survey to hear how the housing struggle is impacting our congregations and communities. Join us on June 30th for a housing survey launch event. We will share stories and data that our research actions have surfaced this spring. And we will get trained on conducting this survey powerfully in our congregations and community spaces.

To register: <https://secure.everyaction.com/M2Sy8sFVLEW84uhInxtzIA2> or see Pr. Jim.

## What's your oasis?

As the gospels make clear, even the Son of God needed an occasional break. For Jesus, a solitary place reached by boat served as an oasis.

Although an oasis might make us think of a beach-like vacation spot in the middle of a desert, it's simply "something that provides refuge, relief or pleasant contrast" (Merriam-Webster).

So, what's your oasis? For someone who recently lost a spouse, it could be a break from the newfound silence. For a young parent, it could be a block of solitude and silence to complete a thought.

I haven't found any definition of oasis that includes a timeframe. Such an experience could last 30 seconds or a full week. Work within your circumstances so you can get away for a time with Jesus.

As you identify and pursue an oasis, consider your answers to these questions:

- What circumstances in life cause you to desire an oasis, or break?
- What will it look like to create a personal oasis or sanctuary at home?
- When you spend time with Jesus, what do you want to do?

—Janna Firestone



# 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.**

