

BERN BUGLE'S

January 2022



JOYFUL NOTES

Volume 25, Issue 1

MAILING ADDRESS:

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533
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Website: www.berchurch.org
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

WORSHIP AVAILABILITY:

Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**
In-Sanctuary Worship
Parking Lot Service (91.7 FM)
Video on our Website, YouTube and Facebook Page

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

PASTOR:

The Rev. Phyllis Wolkenhauer
Phone: 727-543-3537
Email: pastorphylliswolkenhauer@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am, and
Thursday 10:00-11:30 am

PARISH SECRETARY:

Korinne Hotzman
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Wednesday
12:00 pm-4:00 pm, and Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jane Battaglieri
Phone: 610-370-0965

BUILDING PRINCIPLES:

- Devotion to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Compassionate Sharing and Community Service
- Persistent Faithfulness
- Courageous Witness
- Flexible Leadership

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

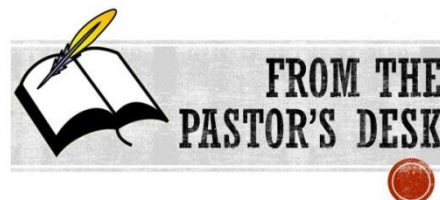
God's purpose for our congregation is to:

Learn God's mission

Share God's love

Witness through Word and Service

Welcome all to a fellowship of forgiveness and
thankful praise



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

I often sign my correspondence with "Peace." I do that because I want the people to whom I write to know the peace of God, the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. I want you to know that God's peace is coming even as we live through what seems a hopeless time. I want you to know that God's peace is present even now as we endure a time of uncertainty. I want to remind you that there is peace in your heart and you have been given the ability to share that peace in your corner of the world. I want you to know that you have blessed me with peace, time and time again, mostly when you aren't even aware.

Peace, my beloved sisters and brothers. Remind yourselves and others of this most precious gift from God as you begin this new year and allow Jesus to carry you through all of 2022.

Peace,

Pastor Phyllis



BERN BUGLE SPONSOR

The *Bern Bugle* for this month is given to the Glory of God in thanksgiving for the many years of Pastor Phyllis' ministry to Bern Lutheran Church.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Next meeting: January 17th at 7:00 p.m.

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, December 20th:

- Appointed Pat Yocum to a 3-year term to fill one of the vacant Council seats.
- Scheduled Installation of Council Members for Sunday, January 9, 2022.
- Scheduled the next Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 20, 2022.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will be held on January 9, 16, and 23 at 11:00 am. See you in the Youth Room!

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Please join us from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. We meet in the second classroom on the right.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A friendly reminder that it is once again time to begin preparing the Annual Book of Reports for 2021. Please submit all reports to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 9th**, so that they can be assembled and available prior to the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 20th.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Volunteers are needed! Bern Lutheran Church is scheduled to help at the next Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry distribution on **Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.** The pantry is located at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 102 Apple Street, Leesport. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway if you are able to volunteer your time. Thank you!



LUNCH BUNCH will be meeting on **Monday, January 17, at 12 noon.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the January *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, January 18th.**

A VOLUNTEER will be needed to post the Sunday worship service to YouTube after the end of this year. Please contact Mike or Brenda Reichart if you are willing to take over the posting. Training will be provided if needed.

TEXT ALERTS

We needed to establish a new text alert account so everyone who would like to receive them will need to sign up. If you received them in the past and would like to continue to receive them, you will need to sign up again. These alerts have been used for daily scripture, announcements and reminders as well as service cancellations due to inclement weather. If you would like to receive text messages, please type @bernlut on your phone and send to 81010 to sign up. If you want to register an email account, please provide your email address and you can be added to the group.



BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER, AND ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. Or you can help in presenting our best before God as we worship by sponsoring Altar Flowers. **Please note: Effective January 1, 2022, the cost to sponsor Altar Flowers will increase to \$35.00/week.** You are welcome to sponsor any of these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. Sign-up sheets for 2022 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Altar Flower sponsors for January:

January 2 – sponsored
January 9 – Brent, Kate, and Adam Schuler
January 16 – Beth and David Hartman
January 23 – *sponsor needed*
January 30 – Barbara Auchenbach

Bulletin sponsors for January:

January 2 – sponsored
January 9 – sponsored
January 16 – *sponsor needed*
January 23 – *sponsor needed*
January 30 – Barbara Auchenbach

Newsletter sponsor for January:
sponsored

Church Openers for January:

January 2 – Dianne Leininger
January 9 – Brenda Reichart
January 16 –
January 23 – Terri Shurr
January 30 –

GREETERS NEEDED!

If you would be willing to serve as a greeter on a Sunday morning, please sign up on the sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board. The duties are simple! You just need a smiling face and the ability to greet people coming inside to worship. Simply hand them a bulletin and greet them. Also, provide a bulletin and communion supplies to those worshiping on the parking lot, as well as collect their offering. We ask that those volunteering arrive 20 minutes prior to the start of the service. We would love to see lots of new faces!



COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED!

Three (3) council seats remain vacant. We would love to see them filled as we begin 2022. Many of the members approached by the Nominating Committee were not sure what exactly council members do, so here is a quick summary: According to our Constitution, "Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, and in particular, its worship life to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the ELCA." Council is also "responsible for the financial and property matters of the congregation". Specific duties of council are spelled out in the Constitution and can be reviewed in the posting of that portion of our Constitution on the bulletin board in the hallway. To accomplish these duties, council currently meets on a monthly basis. At our meetings we review reports from committees and act on items from them that require council approval. Monthly meetings also include a review of the financial reports as well as a review of a report from the Pastor summarizing the prior month's pastoral activities. Serving on council is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow members a little better and be part of guiding our congregation in ministry. There are no requirements for the position other than being an active member of the congregation. We will be entering a year of transition for our congregation. If you would like to be a part of determining the path that we follow, please consider filling one of those vacant seats. Please let Pastor Phyllis know if you are willing to serve.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Just a reminder to consider designating your "Choice Dollars" to Bern Lutheran Church. This program continues to benefit our church through your quarterly designations. Thrivent's phone number is 800-847-4836. When you hear the menu of options, simply say "Choice Dollars" and you will be connected to an operator to conduct the transaction. To make your designation by email, go to www.Thrivent.com and fill in the necessary information.



The current newsletter from our Missionaries, The Rev. Dr. Robert and Kathy Moore is available to read on the bulletin board in the hallway. Take a look to see how they are sharing God's love in Germany.

WINTER WEATHER

The winter season is upon us, and may from time to time affect scheduled worship services and activities at church. Particularly when bad weather conditions arise on Sunday mornings, you may wish to tune into WFMZ TV69 or check their website for any information regarding our worship services. Any decision to cancel will be made through consultation with the Council President by 5:15 a.m.



I would like to thank each and every one for the many cards, phone calls, and well wishes. I'm progressing well and hope to see you in church soon. God Bless! – *Arlene Ensinger*

Thank you, the parish of Bern Lutheran Church! Without kind and generous people, the Christmas Outreach Program wouldn't exist! Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! – *Jessica Sweeney*, County of Berks (Angel Tree)

THANK YOU for your adherence to our COVID guidelines

Council would like to thank everyone for your willingness to comply with the COVID guidelines that we have put in place to try to keep everyone as safe as possible. We recognize that it is uncomfortable for many to wear a mask during worship, and that limiting our physical contact with each other is difficult for some of us. We all anxiously await the time when we can get rid of the masks, shake hands, spend time together socializing over coffee, and many of the other things that were part of the ways that we showed our care for and support of each other pre-COVID. Please know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.



Please be sure to use your Save-a-Tape card when making your purchases at Redner's. We can only use receipts that have used this card. For more information about this program, please visit:

<https://www.rednersmarkets.com/redners-save-a-tape-program.html>

GLOSSY MAGAZINE RECYCLING PROGRAM for Ronald McDonald House.

We are currently collecting glossy magazines. You will find a black bin under the coat racks to place your magazines.



Why do we do this?

To help each other and the environment.

When the containers are full, Ronald McDonald House calls Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. to pick up the containers. They process the contents and sell them to a paper mill, which turns the discarded paper into new magazine paper. A portion of the proceeds from each ton of paper collected comes directly to RMHC-CP. Since this program began in 2004, over **\$371,000** has raised by recycling over **14,000 tons** of glossy paper.

"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." – C. S. Lewis

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

\$3,259.19 is needed per week to meet 100% of the Budgeted Expenses

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$12,957.07	\$149,641.19
Congregational Fund Raising	.00	5,668.74
Total Funds	<u>\$12,957.07</u>	<u>\$155,309.93</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$12,413.40	\$124,122.26
Non-Budgeted Income	934.67	31,187.67
Budgeted Expenses	11,509.25	143,420.35
Non-Budgeted Expenses	830.00	4,398.45
Benevolence to be Paid	391.00	934.00
Surplus/Deficit	+1,008.82	+7,491.13

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2021 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$2,584.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	1,594.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	772.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	456.50	600.00
Other		
CROP Walk	308.00	--
Disaster Relief	130.00	--

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$115.00	\$1,340.00
Interest	.67	7.33
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$40,741.78</u>

Savings Account	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$492.00
Interest	35.96
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>\$131,637.81</u>

FACING THE FUTURE

Don't worry about the future. Worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. He is in charge of all things. Never second-guess him. – François Fenelon

choose
faith
over
worry
♡



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Jamie Wismer
- 2 Charles Lash
- 5 Cindy Reilly
- 7 Bonnie Bohnenblust
- 10 Hattie Schuler
- 12 Nathaniel Rollman
- 13 Richard Greener
- 13 Brooke Noecker
- 14 David Hartman
- 25 Elena Goetz
- 26 Robert Hissinger
- 27 Barry Eiche
- 27 Pauline Shuman *
- 27 G. Michael Zimmermann
- 28 Jane Battaglieri
- 28 Hannah Lash



None this month.

BIBLICAL RESOLUTIONS

- Hold firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- Pray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- Petition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- Notice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
- Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Yearn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- Exercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- Aim for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- Redeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Reprinted from The Newsletter Newsletter



MEMBERS:

Bob Frey, Jim Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Gary Reed and family, Bob Stoner, Betty Gruber, Ashley, Stacy Laroche, Philip Triantis, Mike, Dennis Hettinger, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Ryder Knechtle and family, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, Erin Ascencio, and Lesley Wegman

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As the U.S. evacuated thousands from Afghanistan in August 2021, an Afghan woman gave birth on a plane. She named her daughter Reach—the name of the aircraft that brought her family to safety.

Many people name their children after loved ones or special events; a child born on Christmas might be called Noel or Holly. In Bible times too, names often had meanings: Eve likely means “mother of all living”; Abraham, “father of many”; Isaac, “laughter.” Moses is a play on words with the Hebrew for “draw out” because Pharaoh’s daughter drew him from the Nile.

Of course, the most important biblical name is Jesus, which means “The Lord saves.” As the angel told Joseph, “[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, ESV).

The Christian church traditionally celebrates Name of Jesus on January 1. But every day, as we pray in Jesus’ name, we remember that what’s in *this* name is the salvation God offers to all.

And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name

❧ JESUS; ❧

for he shall save his people
from their sins.

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but **love** your **neig**_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus_____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me_____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

—	father_____
—	pe_____
—	_____venge
—	_____od
—	_____rcy
—	op_____
—	_____hbor
—	humb_____
—	cas_____
—	_____tice

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them
d _____ to you, for this s _____ms up the _____w and the Proph _____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 30

Covid-19 Update & Guidelines

The Latest Situation: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

Dr. Luther Shows The Way:

Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.”

So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.

Covid-19 Continued...

Latest Synod Recommendations:

As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
 - Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

MISSION SUPPORT 2022




Send in your mission support commitments for 2022. You can find the form on the synod website, under the resources tab.

boundless
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT ELCA.ORG

Save the date **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**
June 10-11
Reading

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<div>1</div>  <div>Happy New Year!</div> <div>New Year's Day</div>
<div>2</div> <div>2nd Sunday of Christmas</div> <div>10:00 am – Worship</div> <div>11:00am – Sunday School</div> <div>Opener: Dianne Leininger</div>	<div>3</div> <div>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm</div> <div>7:00 pm – Boy Scouts</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm</div> <div>9:00 am – Bible Study</div> <div>Epiphany of Our Lord</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</div>	<div>8</div>
<div>9</div> <div>Baptism of Our Lord</div> <div>10:00 am – Worship</div> <div>11:00 am – Confirmation and Sunday School</div> <div>• Installation of Council</div> <div>• Committee Reports due</div> <div>Opener: Brenda Reichart</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div> <div>1:00 pm – Senior Berners</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm</div> <div>7:00pm-Boy Scouts</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm</div> <div>7:00 pm – Boy Scouts</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm</div> <div>9:00 am – Bible Study</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7:30am-Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Distribution</div>
<div>16</div> <div>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</div> <div>10:00 am – Worship</div> <div>11:00am-Sunday School</div> <div>Opener:</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div> <div>12:00 pm – Lunch Bunch</div> <div>7:00 pm – Council Mtg.</div> <div>Martin Luther King, Jr.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm</div> <div>3:30pm-Quilters</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm</div> <div>9:00 am – Bible Study</div>	<div>21</div> <div>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <div>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</div> <div>10:00 am – Worship</div> <div>11:00am-Confirmation Class and Sunday School</div> <div>Opener: Terri Shurr</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am</div> <div>Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm</div> <div>9:00 am – Bible Study</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</div>	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> <div>4th Sunday after Epiphany</div> <div>10:00 am – Worship</div> <div>11:00am – Sunday School</div> <div>Opener:</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am</div>					