

## In December ...

- **Sunday, December 4** -  
Ingathering of Gifts
- **Sunday, December 11** -  
Congregational Meeting  
and Covered Dish Dinner
- **Tuesday, December 13** -  
6:30PM Council Meeting
- **Sunday, December 18** -  
Children's Christmas Musi-  
cal at 10:30 AM; Caroling  
to Homebound
- **Saturday, December 24** -  
5 PM Children's Service  
7:30 PM Candlelight Com-  
munion Service
- **Sunday, December 25** -  
No Sunday School, Service  
of Lessons and Carols at  
10:30 AM

## Inside this issue:

Council President's Report	2
Church Happenings	2 - 3
Dec/Jan Worship Assistants	4
Dec/Jan Birthdays & Anniv.	5
December Highlights	6
Care-A-Lot News	7
Prayer List	7
Christmas Flowers Order	8
Lutheran Disaster Relief	9
December Calendar	10

We appreciate your patience  
as we work without electricity  
in the Church Office!



## Transformation

"God is doing something new!"

*But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine ...*

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:1, 18 & 19)*

On Sunday, November 6, Gerry and Don Seipt and I were able to attend a gathering of Southeastern Pennsylvania Lutherans at Trinity, Lansdale, with the theme: "Breaking News: God is doing something new!" We listened and shared with people from all over our five county area. We talked about our fears, frustrations, and challenges as congregations. We heard, if we didn't already know it, that the church is attempting to do mission in a rapidly-changing, very different world from 10,20,30, 50 years ago. We still have some un-changing treasurers to share, but we must consider sharing the treasures of the Gospel in new ways. Some of what we have done and thought needs to be left behind.

More and more, we will be networking and sharing with other congregations. No congregation can do God's work alone. The prophet Isaiah also spoke to a fearful people, beset by change. But he said, "God is doing something new!" And God is also doing something new to transform people's hearts and lives. We just need to be open to the Spirit's leading and calling. And we need to leave some of our old ideas behind.

This month we are beginning a new church year, and in 2012, we will begin a new century of congregational mission - 200+ years. There is no better time to heed the words of the prophet. The sending of a savior born in a manger in humble surroundings is the most amazing new thing God has ever done. He came that we might have life, hope, and a future. He came that we might be transformed.

To become part of the conversation of the synod's "God is doing something new!" process, access a special website set up for all members of all of our congregations: Go to [www.godisdoingsomethingnew.com](http://www.godisdoingsomethingnew.com).

Blessed Christmas,  
Pastor David Deal

## COME AND WORSHIP CHRIST THE NEWBORN KING

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24**

**5:00 PM Service for Families and Children**

**7:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service**

**Christmas Day**

**10:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols**



## Durham Township News

To receive email notification of up coming township events and news (such as road closings) send an email to the township [durhamtownship@enter.net] and ask to be added to their email list. Joe Kulick, township manager, sends out important information almost weekly.

## ELCA Good Gifts

**Tired of giving and receiving those same old Christmas gifts?**  
**Give an ELCA Good Gift.**



What is the best gift you ever received? It was probably given out of love. Love comes to us as a gift from God, and we are called to share it with others. The best gifts are those that deepen our relationships with one another. They are unexpected. They are filled with love. And, they are impossible to wrap.

**ELCA Good Gifts** make great gifts for your loved ones and carry that love on to others, making a difference in their lives and the world. Take a few moments to explore the Good Gifts catalog in the Narthex, and discover the life-changing ministry we do together as a response to Christ's love in our lives. You can give a gift right now to support the work of ELCA World Hunger.

**TO ORDER your own Good Gift Catalog, call 800-638-3522.**

## Council Corner

Well, what kind of winter should we expect when a snowstorm in October left our church and many of our homes without power for so long. Unfortunately, the pole that came down belongs to us, not the power company. Fortunately, insurance will partially pay for its restoration, and the Property Committee is hard at work trying to remedy this in a timely and economical manner.

Meanwhile, our staff and volunteers deserve commendation for their resourcefulness and ingenuity in coping with a difficult situation. Pastor and Ann are still dealing with no heat or power in the office. The computer was moved into the library, but the copier is too big to move easily. All phone calls are redirected to Pastor's home. Luckily, Moira Hower has a cell phone that actually functions here, so Care-A-Lot has some communication with the outside world. Please keep all these trials and tribulations in mind when you read my request for donations for staff Christmas gifts, especially as we can't afford to give them a raise this year. Hopefully, we'll be fully back to "lighting the way to God's love" in time for Christmas and the start of our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, just a few short weeks away.

Try to come out and help with decorating the church or caroling to shut-ins. Squeeze a little extra money out for a charity you care about, perhaps the Lutheran Disaster Response or a local food bank. These are the antidotes for the commercialization of Christmas and the depression that afflicts many during the holidays and the cold, dark winter. And in January it's time to peel potatoes for the first Soup Supper of the next 200 years.

Please remember our Covered Dish Dinner, sponsored by WELCA, after church on December 11th. It wouldn't be the same without you, and besides, we need a quorum to approve the budget and keep us legal.

Val McGinn, Council President

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 PM

## Staff Christmas Gifts

To Our Church Family,

Please consider giving an extra donation towards a Christmas gift for Pastor Dave and our other loyal employees if you possibly can. Any amount you can afford will be greatly appreciated. Simply mark an envelope "Christmas Gifts" and place in the collection plate or mail to: Ken Anderson, PO Box 51, Durham, PA 18039-0051.

I know you will respond with your usual loving generosity. God bless you all.



**Ingathering:** On December 4<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our Christmas Ingathering as we share some Christmas joy with children in foster care

**Outreach** - Helen Dungan

and with adults spending the holiday in an area institution. The institutional gift packages include the following items:

a heavy plastic comb	1 tube of toothpaste ( <b>not Pepsodent</b> )
a plastic bottle of shampoo	1 toothbrush
1 wash cloth	a small packet of tissues
2 pencils	2 pens
box of 20 note cards and envelopes	

The items should be assembled in a clear plastic bag and have a bow on it. If you like, you can include a personal note or Christmas card with the name and address of our church - no personal names or addresses.

**Caroling:** After church on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting) we will be visiting our shutin members at Saucon Manor; depending on time we will try to visit some of our other shutin members. We will have a light lunch following worship and then head out. You do NOT have to be a great singer to share the music of Christmas. Come make a joyful noise. This is not replacing our major 'hymning' which is tentatively scheduled for Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>..

**Food Banks:** We will be collecting **peanut butter and jelly** in December, and **soup** in January. However, if you see something on sale at a really good price, feel free to donate it. Both food banks appreciate all donations. Project Easton told me they were buying juice to distribute and so were very grateful for our November donations of cereal and juice.

**Food baskets:** Please consider sponsoring a food basket this Advent / Christmas season. It is a way to show God's love to someone in need while honoring someone you love. If you do the shopping yourself, any non perishable item is appreciated. Alternatively, I can do the shopping.

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** On Super Bowl Sunday, we will again be collecting cans of soup for the food banks. More details in the February newsletter



On **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>** following the annual budget meeting, WELCA will host our annual Christmas covered dish dinner. Please join us for lots of good food, fellowship and a few Christmas carols. WELCA will supply the beverages, rolls and butter; you bring a dish and/or desert to share. We will decorate our tables with poinsettias which will then be distributed to our shutin members.

Our January meeting will be **Saturday Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.** We are having an epiphany party and will be watching a video our hostess is Gerry Seipt,

**January Soup suppers:** ***ALL proceeds are donated to hunger causes.***

**Date:** Wednesday January 18th **Time:** 4:00 to 6:30. **Soups:** vegetable beef and potato.

**Price:** Quart of soup - \$5.00 (please bring your own container; we have some quart jars but not enough for everyone)

Eat In (includes soup, bread, beverage and dessert) - \$6.00 for adults; \$3.00 for kids 6-12; 5 and under free.

January is our most labor intensive soup preparation as we have BASKETS of potatoes to peel, other vegetables to prepare, tables to set up and take down, bread and desserts to bake, pots and dishes to wash, and soup to serve. There is plenty of work and we need lots of helpers. Food prep begins at 9 on Wednesday. A night shift for serving and dishwashing begins around 3:30; taking down the tables and putting chairs away begins around 6:30.

Monday we will be cooking bones for the beef broth; after 5 help is needed straining the broth, and washing pots. One or two assistants would be greatly appreciated with this. **Please, please help.**

## December Worship Assistants

	4 *	11 *	18	24*	25
Youth Acolyte & Communion Assistant	Clayton Leichliter	Corinne Ashmore	Alaina Apgar	TBA	Katie Aquino
Greeter(s)	Karen & Jim Beerer	Serena Ashmore	Cleo & Ken Eck	5 PM Aquino Family 7:30 PM Lois & Jim Altemose	Helen Dungan
Lector(s)	Linda Sauter	Cathy Mueller	Sunday School	Jessica Lehr	TBA
Council Com-munion Assistants	Beth Ross & George Kreitz	Beth Ross & George Kreitz		Church Council Members	
Counters	Barb Naska and David Sauter		* Asterisk indicates that Holy Communion will be served.		
Head Usher	Cheryl Mesko				
Altar Guild	Barbara Naska and Beth Ross				



	December Birthdays		December Anniversaries
2	Clayton Leichliter		
		8	Dianna and Peter Streletz
20	Valerie McGinn	20	Evelyn & Bob Newcomb
		21	Kathy and Joe Hlavaty
23	Clayton Helfrich	26	Cheryl and Wayne Mesko
27	Gerry Seipt	28	Jayne and Jim Miller
29	Myron Kressman	29	Lois and Jim Altemose
30	George Kreitz	30	Gerry and Don Seipt Laura and Dave Helfrich

## January Worship Assistants

	1*	8	15*	22	29
Youth Acolyte & Communion Assistant	Katie Aquino	Clayton Leichter	Alaina Apgar	Jack Pyne	Austin Apgar
Greeter(s)	Lynn Gaun	Karen Rilling	Evelyn & Bob Newcomb	Alaina Apgar	Serena Ashmore
Lector(s)	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Council Communion Assistants	Beth Ross and Lynn Gaun		Beth Ross and Lynn Gaun		
Counters	Beth Ross and Lynn Gaun			* Asterisk indicates that Holy Communion will be served.	
Head Usher	David Sauter				
Altar Guild	Dot Peterman & Miriam Anderson				



	January Birthdays		January Anniversaries
1	Ruth Behm (91st)		
5	Joe Hlavaty		
		8	Betty and Leo Fox (63rd)
14	JoAnn Thaler		
15	Don Crouse Kathy Hlavaty		
16	Jim Altemose		
18	Rachel Crouse		
31`	Rachael Kressman Sharron Streletz		



*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*  
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# Part One



# *EVANGEL*

