

“The Clash of Wills”

Lent and Easter come very early to the church in 2013. Ash Wednesday is February 13 and Easter is March 31. It almost seems to come too early, catching pastor and people unprepared. It's not that long after our Anniversary and Christmas celebrations. The Super Bowl was played just 10 days before. Yet, there it is on our Christian calendar. And so, we will take the Lenten journey and hear the Lenten scriptures.

Much has been said about Lenten practices and traditions (“giving up something for Lent”) in the past. I want to suggest to you that the primary focus for us in Lent ought to be “repentance” - a radical re-orientation of our lives away from our own self-driven will toward the will of God who made and redeemed us. On Sunday mornings in Lent this year, you will hear about a clash of wills between God and God's son, Jesus, and the world. Jesus' mission and call will clash with our own self-centered desires, with the wills of political and religious leaders, with the will of Satan who demands our allegiance to him rather than God.

We are so easily drawn away from God's call to repentance and service for the sake of our neighbor. Our pride, fear, and selfishness get in the way. But Christ and the living Word of Scripture can begin to re-align our wills with God's will. As we listen and pray and encourage one another, we can be more faithful disciples and a more faithful church.

Please have the courage to come and listen on Ash Wednesday and on the Sundays of Lent. “Return to the Lord your God! For God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!”

Pastor David Deal

In February ...

- **Sundays, February 3 & 10**
Souper Bowl of Caring
- **Sunday, February 10** -
Annual Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish
- **February 13**- Ash Wednesday
- **Wednesday, February 20**
Soup Supper - Cream of Broccoli and Chicken Noodle

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Annual Congregation Meeting - Sunday, February 10
(Snow Date February 17)

Ash Wednesday - February 13 - Services at 1:00 and 7:30 PM

Sundays in Lent - February 17, 24, March 3, 10, and 17 - at 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday - March 24 at 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday - March 28 at 7:30 PM

Good Friday - March 29 at 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31 - 6:30 AM Sunrise; 10:30 AM Festival

Council Corner



Lent? I just took my Christmas tree down. Easter comes early this year, on March 31st. I never understood the variability of the date of Easter until learning that it falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon [March 27th this year] following the vernal equinox [first day of spring, March 20th this year]. Remember that in case you're ever on Jeopardy. This combination of the 365 1/4-day solar cycle and the 28-day lunar cycle allows synchronization with Passover, during which Jesus initiated the sacrament of Holy Communion. Adding the 7-day week cycle to make Easter a Sunday throws it off somewhat, in the same way changing our national holidays to make them fall on Mondays dilute their historical significance a bit. At least we know we're a lot closer to the right time of year than we are with Christmas.

An amazing number of volunteers came to the January Soup Supper despite the icy conditions that morning. It's really nice to have so many men help, too. What's the best part of Soup Suppers: the food, the fellowship, or the feeling you get knowing you're helping those in need? Don't miss the next one on February 20th. Also be sure to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting and covered dish dinner right after church on February 10th. As usual, council members bring the main dishes and request that you contribute a side dish or dessert and a hearty appetite.

Val McGinn
Council President

Next Council Meeting: February 12th at 6:30
Council Assignments for February: Barbara Naska and Joe Hlavaty

SOUP

The final results of January's soup sales are not yet available. The weather was not perfect, but we had a hardy crew of workers, and also some hearty dinners. We are blessed in that we have minimal expenses in making the soups. This is because of the generous donations we are given.

We want to thank and acknowledge:

The Kressmans for supplying us with the potatoes, onions, leeks, and cabbage we used. Our potato soup is almost totally a **Trauger's Farm Market** creation.

Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers for donating the tomato base, chopped onions, and crackers.

Springtown Meat for donating the beef bones.

Our bakers for their donations of cakes and bread.

The Monday night crew, Valerie McGinn, and Miriam Anderson who strained broth, picked meat off the bones, and washed pots and pans.

The chief chefs, Mark Harwick (vegetable soup) and Nancy Moskella (potato soup) and Esther Crouse, chief administrative chef.

Finally, thanks to all the Wednesday workers who braved the weather to peel, slice, dice, cook, wash endless pots and dishes, set up tables, jar, serve, put everything away, and generally make this a fellowship as well as a service event. **You folks are great!**

FEBRUARY SOUP SUPPER IS WEDNESDAY February 20th. Soups are Cream of Broccoli & Chicken Noodle.

We will again need bakers, choppers and peeler, folks to set up and clean up, to jar, to serve, and to wash the endless pots and pans. Please mark your calendars and plan to share your time and talents with us.

Outreach - Helen Dungan

Souper Bowl of Caring: We will celebrate it on **February 3 and 10, 2013** (Cheryl Mesko, our coordinator will be away until the 10th.) We will be collecting soup and and/or money for the two food pantries, as well as donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring to help defray their expenses. We will continue to collect soup through the month of February.

Food baskets: Thank you to everyone who put a food basket on the altar during December and January:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 23 | Laura, Dave, Landon, Myron, Lee Ann, Rachael, Joel, and Jacob in honor of Clayton Helfrich's 5 th birthday. |
| December 24 | Lois and Jim Altemose in memory of their parents |
| December 30 | Norma Fox and Family in honor of Chris Fox's birthday. |
| January 13 | Laura, Dave, Clayton, LeeAnn, Myron, Joel, Rachael, and Jacob in honor of Landon Helfrich's second birthday. |

This is a wonderful way to acknowledge a loved one. *Food feeds, flowers fade.* There is a signup sheet in the narthex. You can purchase your own groceries or delegate the task to me.

Food pantries: We received thank you letters from both the Lord's Pantry (Upper Bucks) and ProJeCt (Easton); ProJeCt included their annual report in which we are listed. These are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Shut in ministry: Thanks to all who went caroling on December 16th; we went to Saucon Manor and sang for our shut-ins who live there and lots of other folks we met along the way. We had a large children's choir this year which everyone enjoyed.

Ingathering: Thanks to all who participated in this year's Ingathering; we gave Christmas presents to 15 foster children and collected 42 institutional gifts. Care-A-Lot Preschool provided a gift for one of the foster children. Thanks also to everyone who helped check, count and load my car. I really appreciate everyone's help.

Esther Crouse hosted our January meeting in her home; we talked about Miriam whom we mostly know from the story of Moses in the bulrushes. However, we were predominately looking at the adult woman, who was a leader, a prophetess, and sometimes a critic of her brother Moses.



by Helen Dungan

Our February meeting will be held on Thursday February 14th at 1:30. Continuing our theme of feminine faces of faith, we will be discussing Ruth and her attribute of devotion. Gladys Nicholas is leading the program and Barbara Naska is our hostess. **All are welcome.**

During our January business meeting, we discussed finances. Our monthly donations are what we use to pay our expenses. One of our ongoing expenses is our foster child. Pagaiwon Yaemyuan. We want to see her finish school, but we do not think we can afford to adopt a new child once she has.

| February | 3* | 10 | 13 - Ash Wednesday (7:30) | 17* | 24* |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Acolyte & Youth Communion Assistant | Alaina Apgar | Austin Apgar | Matthew Mueller | Katie Aquino | Clayton Leichliter |
| Communion Assistants | Barb Naska and Joe Hlavaty | | Barb Naska and Joe Hlavaty | Barb Naska and Joe Hlavaty | Barb Naska and Joe Hlavaty |
| Greeter(s) | Betty Fox | The Kressmans | Lynn Gaun | Althea Crouse | David & Laura Pyne |
| Lector | Beth Ross | Val McGinn | Mark Harwick | Linda Sauter | Joe Hlavaty |
| Counters | Barb Naska and Joe Hlavaty | | | | |
| Head Usher | Althea Crouse | | | | |
| Altar Guild | Miriam Anderson and Dot Peterman | | | | |

| | February Birthdays | | & Anniversaries |
|----|--|----|--------------------------------|
| 2 | Amanda Frey | | |
| 5 | Laura Helfrich | | |
| 7 | Dianna Streletz | | |
| 8 | Diane DeWalt | | |
| 10 | Wayne Mesko | | |
| 12 | Jean Haas (90th) Steven Streletz | | |
| 13 | Miriam Anderson | | |
| 15 | Norma Fox (82nd) Norma Rodenbach (80th) | 15 | Betty and George Kreitz (55th) |
| 16 | Kathy Haney | | |
| 17 | Betty Kreitz | | |
| 20 | Esther Crouse | | |
| 21 | Caitlyn Pyne | | |
| 24 | Frank Moskella | | |
| 26 | Avery Grace Causa | | |
| 27 | Tanya Naska | | |
| 28 | Grace Helen Litzenberger | | |
| 29 | Becky Harrison | | |

Christian Education -- Lynn Gaun, Sunday School Superintendent

As the new year begins and the hustle and bustle of the holidays is over, now is the time to consider just what you can do to help our church grow in faith, in numbers and in love. The Sunday School staff has worked diligently to improve our program for the children and the number attending each week continues to grow. Being "little" Lutherans, food/snacks has been a real drawing card. Thanks to everyone who has contributed snacks and drinks for our children.

I believe that diversity of the ways we present the Bible stories is also a big factor in stimulating their little minds, in a fun way. Maybe we as adults could diversify the way we teach and hear the word of God and make the Bible come to life for our world today. It is a proven fact that times are changing, and perhaps we need to change to adapt to the younger generations and show them that the truths in the Bible are the same as they were centuries ago. We certainly need to attract younger families as well as new members of any age if we are to continue to grow. Don't get me wrong, traditions are great, but maybe we need to update out-dated ways of teaching and learn some new, exciting methods. If you know of any ideas that might light a "spark" under all of us, please do not hesitate to share your ideas with me.

February is the month of love, please consider how YOU can love God more, and do what He wants us to do to make this world a better place to live. What can YOU do to spread love, both here at Durham Church and out into our community and to the far-reaching world beyond?

February 2013 Highlights

Sundays, February 3 and 10 - Souper Sundays of Caring - Bring canned soup and \$\$\$ to be distributed in February to the Lord's Pantry and Project of Easton!

Sunday, February 10 - Transfiguration of the Our Lord (Last Sunday of Epiphany Season)
Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Service

Schedule for the day:

- 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship: Service of the Word
- 11:30 AM Covered Dish Dinner - Church Council Members will provide the main course, others are asked to bring salads, vegetables, fruit, or desserts
- ~12:30 PM Congregational Meeting begins -
 - Election of Council Members
 - Report on Finances and our new Investment Fund
 - Review of Activities in 2012
 - Dreams and plans for a new year

Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday, February 13

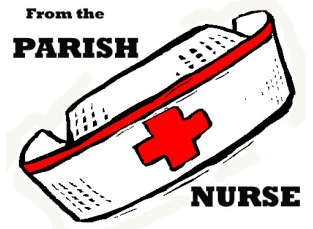
1:00 PM Spoken Service of Holy Communion; 7:30 PM Holy Communion with Music & Choir

Sunday February 17 - First Sunday in Lent - "Rank and its Privileges"

Sunday, February 24 - Second Sunday in Lent - "On that Road Again" - See the Pastor's Article on Page 1 for more on our Lenten themes in 2013.

Wednesday, February 20 - Soup Supper - 4:00-6:30 PM. Cream of Broccoli and Chicken Noodle Soups. All proceeds benefit hunger causes!

February is American Heart Month and, Friday, February 1st is “Wear Red Day” for women. The AHA is celebrating the first decade of the “Go Red” for women campaign. In ten years 34% fewer women are dying from heart disease each year, 23% more women are aware of their greatest health risks and more than 627,000 women’s lives have been saved. Heart Disease remains our number one killer and there is much more to learn about gender specific detection and treatment. (Philadelphia Goes Red Newsletter-Jan 2013)



The following are common early warning signs for both men and women:

- *Pain in the mid-chest, shoulders, neck, jaw, arms, back, or abdomen. Men most commonly experience chest pain radiating to the shoulders and jaw. Women, on the other hand, may experience back or abdominal pain.
- *Lightheadedness or fainting --- *Sweating and paleness. --- *Nausea and/or vomiting. --- *Shortness of breath, with or without chest pain.

Take action and call 911 immediately if experiencing any of these symptoms. Then crush or chew and swallow an Aspirin (This step should NOT be done if contraindicated. For example, a health history of taking anticoagulants (blood thinners) or having an allergy to Aspirin). Taking an Aspirin at the onset of symptoms may prevent formation of small blood clots that could block blood flow and thus result in heart damage. Action taken within the first three hours after a heart attack could save one’s life. So, never feel that it is a “false alarm.” (Bayer Heart Care/Pro Heart.com January 2013)

The AHA is also promoting “Hands only CPR.” It is a two- step process. The first step is to call- 911. The second step is to place hand over hand in the middle of the chest and push hard and fast (AHA recommends pushing to the tune of “Staying Alive”) until help arrives. Immediate action saves lives and the AHA has found that most people will not do CPR because of mouth to mouth resuscitation. They encourage people to do the hands only method as everything helps and it is better to do something than nothing at all. (American Heart.org)

Listening to the news, we know the flu is upon us. Key is hand washing, coughing and sneezing into our sleeves, not sharing utensils or drinks, and staying home when congested and/or have a fever. A person is contagious a day before symptoms appear and incubation can last from three to seven days. Drinking plenty of fluids, to stay hydrated, and rest are recommended. A dentist also suggested cleaning your tooth brush with peroxide after each use, as flu germs will remain on the bristles.

God Bless You,
Mary Hurley, RN

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Bob Erceg, Leo Fox, Kenneth Hager, Johnny Hesser, Michael Kempf, Elfriede Marschewski, Paul McGinn, Bob Newcomb, and Peter Streletz.



For Those In Service to our Country: Corporal Michael Hesser (USMC Camp Lejeune), Sergeant Jamie Newcomb (US Army Reserves, Kuwait), Specialist Blake Rodd (Alaska), and Corporal Nicholas Squartino (USMC).

For Healing of Friends and Family: Al Borse, Melissa Carafa, Ronald Christman, Sr., Kenneth Crouse, London Dally, Rev. Harold & Miriam Deal, Lisa Harris, Bryant Hlavaty, Karen Hlavaty, Debra Johnson, Roni Klingbeil, Carolyn Litzenberger, Dawn Margeson, Pearl Musser, Glen Newcomb, Chuck Peters, James Rillera, Bill Schnable, Alex Senft, Lewis Snyder, Alex Ulrey, and Vernon Wehrung.

For those who are Homebound: Judy Barron, Ruth Behm, Madlyn Chasar, Betty Kiefer, Marcella Krager, Jean Haas, Lillian Melchior, and Norma Rodenbach.

For the Grieving: The families of Gerald Ulmer, Frank Stokes, Joanne Seipt, Ken Newcomb, Pat Butler, Clarence Fox, Evelyn Peterman, Virginia Fisher, Gloria Phillipps, and Gene Gribbin.



Bishop's Message on Connecticut Tragedy

Dear friends in Christ,
The news of the horrific tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut has filled my heart, as I am sure yours, with shock and profound sadness. I have been in touch with Bishop James Hazelwood of the New England Synod to offer our prayers, condolences and support for the people of New England. Let us continue to implore our merciful and powerful Prince of Peace to attend to the pain, the unspeakable grief and righteous outrage of those who are suffering in Connecticut and all over our country in this attack on innocent children, teachers, and school staff.

As you lift up the people of Sandy Hook/Newtown, also remember the victims, and families who lives have been forever changed by gun violence in every community across the United States of America. I will be working with other religious leaders in our region to once again seek ways to diminish the damage brought on by the illegal possession and use of firearms and to take action in ending gun violence which has cost the lives of innocents and caused immeasurable harm to the sanctity of community life ...

Trusting in the mercy, healing, and power of the Prince of Peace, † Claire Burkat, Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham,

I too have been deeply shaken and saddened by the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut. But I was also saddened by the violent deaths in Aurora and Columbine, Colorado; Virginia Tech University; Detroit Michigan; and on and on. And as I lived in Chicago and Philadelphia for 22 years of my life, I was saddened and angered by the senseless drug shooting and other murders of children and young adults.

I, like the Bishop, am unable to keep silent about this any longer. Having been here in your community for 17 years, I have grown to understand and appreciate a rich culture of hunting and sport shooting. And I understand the desire to own a gun for self-defense or self-protection. But my love of my neighbor, commanded by our Lord Jesus, prods me to speak up for those who are wrongly, innocently killed by guns - military weapons - not hunting rifles, collector guns, or personal handguns. I know many of you may disagree with me. I urge that we dialog about this. But I believe God is calling the church to advocate for sensible measures to reduce gun violence.

Pastor David Deal

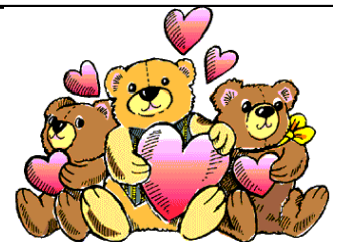
CARE-A-LOT NEWS

Love is in the air! In February, we will be learning about Love and Trust as we celebrate Valentine's Day. We will be doing a Valentine's craft and celebrate with a party.

This month we are "Wild About Tools" so we will study different tools and their uses. In Science and Math, we will use different tools to determine sizes and measurements of different objects.

We will be taking a field trip to the DaVinci Science Center where we will learn more about tools, animals and our bodies.

Love, Mrs. Naska, Mrs. Pason and Mrs. Hower



Care-A-Lot

February 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 Pastor at Home Office | 2 Pastor's Day Off |
| 3 Souper Bowl of Caring 9:00 AM - Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM - Communion | 4 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office | 5 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor at UBC Monthly Gathering 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | 6 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir | 7 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | 8 Pastor at Home Office | 9 Pastor's Day Off |
| 10 Transfiguration 9:00 AM - Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM - Worship 11:30 AM - Covered Dish 12:30 PM Annual Meeting (snow date February 17) | 11 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office | 12 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor at UBC Bible Study 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office 6:30 PM Church Council | 13 Ash Wednesday 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 1 and 7:30 PM - Worship with Communion | 14 Valentine's Day 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 1:30 PM WELCA 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | 15 Pastor at Home Office | 16 Pastor's Day Off |
| 17 First Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM - Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM - Communion <i>Snow Date for Annual Meeting (if needed)</i> | 18 Presidents' Day 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office | 19 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor at UBC Bible Study 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | 20 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 4-6:30-Soup Supper 6:30 PM Choir | 21 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | 22 Pastor at Home Office | 23 Pastor's Day Off |
| 24 Second Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM - Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM - Communion | 25 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office | 26 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor at UBC Bible Study 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | 27 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir | 28 9 AM-12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 1-5:00 PM Secretary in Church Office | | |

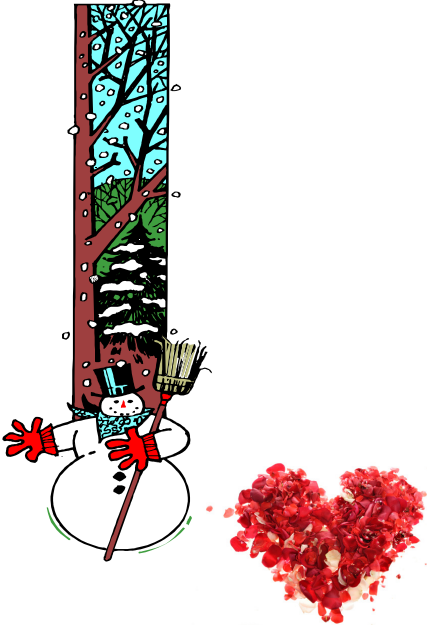
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

"The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"

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EVANGEL



FEBRUARY

2013