

**Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Durham**

*~The church on the hill, lighting the way
to God's love.~*

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In December ...

- **Sunday, December 7,**
Christmas Ingathering
- **Sunday, December 14-**
Budget Meeting, Congrega-
tional Dinner
- **Wednesday, December
17** - Longest Night Service
at Salem UMC
- **Friday, December 19** -
Red Cross Blood Drive at
St. John UCC
- **Saturday, December 20** -
Living Nativity at Trinity
Lutheran
- **Sunday, December 21-**
Children's Christmas Pro-
gram, Caroling to Home-
bound
- **Wednesday, December
24** - 5:00 PM - Children's
Service, 7:30 PM Candle-
light Communion

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EVANGEL



WINTER 2014-15

Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

It All Begins Again -- But Always with the LIGHT

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out." (John 1:5)

As you read this newsletter, we will be experiencing the darkest meteorological days of the year. In the midst of a shortage of sunlight, with signs of death all around us --- war disease, hardship, cruelty, selfishness and most of all SIN --- we in the Church prepare for the Light, the light of a Savior, a Light which shines hope and healing and comfort and joy on our lives. Don't miss the Light this year. Notice it! Worship in the midst of its splendor. Let the Light of Christ change your reality. Come and join Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham as we see the Light together:

- ♦ Season of Advent - Sundays - November 30, December 7 and 14 - we will use the "With One Voice" Blue Hymnal for worship as we prepare for the light with Water, Bread, Wine, and the living Word of God.
- ♦ Living Nativity - See the light in the darkness at Trinity Lutheran in Pleasant Valley on Saturday, December 20 with performances at 5 and 7:30 PM (more info inside).
- ♦ Children/youth proclaim the Light coming into the world with a special worship presentation on Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 AM.
- ♦ Shine the light as you bring gifts for the Christmas Ingathering, food baskets, carols for the Homebound (on December 21 after worship) and Prayers for the hungry, homeless, grieving, sick, and war-torn.
- ♦ Come worship the Light - Christmas Eve at 5 PM is our service for Children and Families, and at 7:30 PM is our Candlelight Communion service.
- ♦ Watch for the light of our outdoor nativity display which will go up in December. We're giving our outdoor scene a makeover and upgrade, replacing figures which have been broken, lost, or stolen over the years.

The light shines in the darkness for all of us and for the world. Don't miss the Light this year! See the Light! Be the Light - the Light of Christ.

~ Pastor David Deal

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

**5:00 PM - Children's Christmas Service
7:30 PM - Candlelight Communion
Service.**



Council Corner

From your Council President ...

Just in case the holiday season isn't frantic enough this year, Paul and I managed to schedule not one but two fairly extensive home im-

provement projects in November and December. What were we thinking?

Somehow we'll have to find time for the Community Dinner at the Firehouse, decorating at church and at home, the Living Nativity at Trinity, the Sunday School program, caroling to our shut-ins, and the beautiful services on Christmas Eve. At least these are all really joyful activities. Staying after church on the 14th for the budget meeting probably doesn't seem so appealing. However, our constitution says we need a quorum for the congregation to approve the budget so it's important, and you'll be well rewarded by the covered dish dinner hosted by WELCA.

Val McGinn, Council President

Next Council Meeting: December 9th at 6:30

Council Assignments: Ken Anderson and Val McGinn



On **Sunday December 14th**, WELCA will host our annual Christmas covered dish dinner. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship. Our January meeting has not yet been scheduled. Please watch the church bulletin for information.



Helen Dungan

January Soup supper: Date: Wednesday January 21st **Time:** 4:00 to 6:30

Soups: vegetable beef and potato.

Price: Quart of soup - \$6.00 (please bring your own container; we have some jars but not enough for all)

Eat In (includes soup, bread, beverage & dessert) \$6 adults; \$3 kids 6-12; 5 & under free

Please join us at 9 on **Wednesday** morning to chat, peel potatoes, chop vegetables and prepare the soups. We have BASKETS of potatoes to peel as well as other vegetables so there is lots of opportunity to chat. We also have 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. Volunteers to help with serving and dishwashing are needed beginning around 3:30. Helpers to take down the tables and putting chairs away are needed around 6:30.

Monday we will be cooking bones for the beef broth; help is needed around 5 for straining the broth, and washing pots. If you can help Monday evening, please let Helen Dungan know.

And remember, ***ALL proceeds are donated to hunger causes.***

Palisades Cluster

Helen Dungan

Trinity, Pleasant Valley is hosting their biannual living nativity on Sunday December 20th; there will be two showings at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 pm

The next meeting of the Cluster will be at St Luke's, Ferndale on Sunday January 18, 2015 at 3:00.

CROP Walk Update ...



We raised \$6534.46 at our Palisades CROP Walk, with over \$1500 of that staying in Palisades to support Meals on Wheels and the Lord's Pantry. Thanks everyone for the work of your legs, arms, and pockets. God is good.

Prize results:

Evangelical Durham had the most walkers, barely beating St. Luke.

Donald Seipt (Evangelical Durham) raised the most individually among adults.

Outreach - Helen Dungan

Ingathering: On December 7th we will receive and transport our gifts for the Christmas Ingathering. There will be gifts for 15 children in foster care as well as gift packs for residents of Norristown State Hospital. The institutional gift packages include the following items: a heavy plastic comb, 1 tube of toothpaste (not Pepsodent), 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 21st (weather permitting) we will sing carols to some of our shut-in members. We will share a light lunch in the fellowship hall before heading out. Please join us – all ages and singing levels are welcome. **You do NOT have to be a great singer to share the music of Christmas.**

Food Banks: December – tuna fish. January - soup in preparation for Souper Bowl of Caring. However, **everything** is welcome, If you find something on sale at a really good price, please donate it. Both food banks appreciate all donations.

Food baskets: The following food baskets were placed on the altar during November,

November 16 - Ed Xander donated a food basket in memory of Nancy Jean Xander.

November 16 - Barbara & Ben Naska donated a food basket in honor of their grandson, Chad Harrison's 17th birthday.

November 23 – Phyllis Lanshe in memory of her parents Montford and Helen Nicholas.

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with a food basket, please sign on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex; include your dedication. If you do the shopping yourself, any non perishable item is appreciated. Alternatively, I can do the shopping. Price is the same as altar flowers.

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.

December Worship Assistants

	7*	14*	21	24* Christmas Eve	28
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Nicholas Phillipps	Makenzie Naska	Austin Apgar	Alaina Apgar	Matthew Mueller
Greeter(s)	Jim & Karen Beerer	Naska Family	Althea Crouse	5:30 Aquino Fam. 7:30 Lois & Jim Altemose	Leichliter Family
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	Bonnie De Portillo	Alaina Apgar	Sunday School	5 PM Children 7:30 PM TBA	TBA
Council Communion Assistants	Val McGinn, Ken Anderson	Val McGinn, Ken Anderson		Val McGinn, Ken Anderson	
Counters	Val McGinn, Ken Anderson				
Head Usher	Cheryl Mesko				
Altar Guild	Cheryl Mesko and Linda Sauter				

	December Birthdays		December Anniversaries
2	Clayton Leichliter	8	Dianna and Peter Streletz (24th)
14	Victoria Phillipps		
20	Valerie McGinn	21	Kathy and Joe Hlavaty (40th)
23	Clayton Helfrich	26	Cheryl and Wayne Mesko (38th)
27	Gerry Seipt (87th)	28	Jayne and Jim Miller (46th)
29	Myron Kressman	29	Lois and Jim Altemose (41st)
30	George Kreitz	30	Gerry and Don Seipt (64th) Laura and Dave Helfrich (8th)
	January Birthdays		January Anniversaries
1	Ruth Behm (94th)	8	Betty and Leo Fox (66th)
5	Joe Hlavaty		
12	Landon Helfrich		
14	Joann Thaler		
15	Don Crouse, Kathy Hlavaty		
16	Jim Altemose		
18	Rachel Crouse		
25	Audrey Bolesta		
30	Carolyn Williams		
31	Rachael Roney, Sharron Streletz		

January Worship Assistants

	4*	11	18*	25*
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Jack Pyne	Nicholas Phillipps	Makenzie Naska	Austin Apgar
Greeter(s)	Helen Dungan	Bob & Esther Crouse	Mary Erceg & Joanne Ziegenfuss	Ed Xander
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Council Communion Assts.	George Kreitz Barb Naska		George Kreitz Barb Naska	
Counters	George Kreitz and Barb Naska			
Head Usher	David Sauter			
Altar Guild	Mary Crouse and Nancy Moskella			



We have been made new in baptism through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

We remember the following, who were baptized in DECEMBER:

1 - Kerri Rhine; 2 - Blake Trauger; 6 - Brian Ashmore, Sr.; 8 - Brendan Snyder; 9 - Lois Altemose; 10 - Jocelyn Frey and Hunter Frey; 11 - Alex Crouse; 18 - Ken Anderson; 23 - Coraline Trauger; Exact Date Unknown: Nancy Fox, Cheryl Mesko, Cathy Mueller, Matthew Mueller.

In JANUARY: 6 - Kaitlin Jensen; 9 - Faye Litzenberger and Conner Aquino; 10 - Austin Apgar, JoAnne Apgar, Erika Trauger; 26 - George Kreitz; 27 - Joe Hlavaty, Scott Apgar, Chris Apgar; 28 - Kenneth Crouse; 29 - Mark Harwick; Exact Date Unknown: Victoria Phillipps.

Special Words about the New Church Year Beginning on November 30 2014

The Church Year does not follow the secular calendar. It is based on the placement of Easter each year; in the case of this new Church Year, Easter 2015. Each new Church Year features specially assigned scripture readings from what is called the Revised Common Lectionary, shared by most Christian denominations. Each Church Year places a greater emphasis on one of the first three Gospels, Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Parts of John are used in each of the 3-year cycle, which is repeated.

Mark will be featured in this new Church Year. What should you know about Mark? His is the earliest Gospel, written around 65-70 AD, and also the shortest Gospel. Parts of Mark also appear in Matthew and Luke, although each of the 4 Gospels includes its own unique stories and sayings. The Gospel of Mark was written after Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians following the fire of Rome in 64 AD, but before the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 AD. The Gospel of Mark was written for a community of followers of Jesus, who believers recognize as the Son of God, Son of Man, and Messiah. They believed Jesus' ministry brought in the Kingdom of God through exorcisms, miracles, and preaching. Jesus' resurrection signified God's overcoming of evil. His words are heard in the gathered community as it awaits through persecution the end of the world.

There is no Christmas birth narrative in the Gospel of Mark. And Mark's Easter Story is a surprise - markedly different from Matthew, Luke, and John. Stay tuned for Mark's Easter next Spring. Meanwhile, take in the words from Mark's Gospel, words of hope for God's people living in any age.

Upper Bucks Code Blue begins December 1st. This is the second year that area churches are offering safe evening shelter, a meal, and care for homeless people in our area. Any time the temperature or wind chill drops below 26° F, homeless folk will be able to find safe shelter. The shelter will be at West Swamp Mennonite Church for the months of December and January. The site for February and March 2015 is yet to be determined.

Would you like to help with this ministry? Volunteers are needed as transportation drivers and aides, hosts, overnight supervisors, and meal-providers. If you would like to volunteer, contact Les Rice at West Swamp Mennonite Church by phone at 215-536-5166 or by email at leslinrice@yahoo.com. Call Pastor Deal if you have any further questions about Code Blue.

•THANK YOU, Pastor Deal and George & Betty Kreitz for volunteering!

~ Some New Year - January 2015 Notes and News~

(There is no full-page calendar for January, but here are some dates you might want to know about!)

Sunday, January 4 - Second Sunday of Christmas - No Sunday School

10:30 AM - Communion - Remembering the Feast of Epiphany with special scriptures and carols.

Tuesday, January 6 - Care-A-Lot Preschool resumes its weekly schedule with classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. There is room for new children to register! Call 610-346-8500 and leave your information.

Sunday, January 11 - Spark Sunday School and Confirmation Classes resume at 9 AM. Come celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord at 10:30 AM!

Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 PM - Regular Church Council Supper/Meeting.

Tuesday, January 27 at 7 PM - Finance Committee Quarterly Meeting

Looking ahead to the Super Bowl -

Sunday, February 1 will once again be observed around the nation as the Souper Bowl of Car-ing. Bring soup and other foodstuffs along with a special offering for the hungry in Palisades and Easton.



Care-A-Lot News



Winter is almost here! Aside from our changes in weather, we also made a very big change at Care-A-Lot. In November, Tanya Naska decided to go back to work in her field of Speech Pathology and has resigned from Care-A-Lot. We will miss her dearly, but wish her the best! We welcomed Mrs. Andrea Errico as her replacement. Mrs. Errico is a former Kindergarten teacher as well as a former Care-A-Lot parent so she knows our school curriculum and how to work with younger children. The children are adjusting well to their new teacher. In December, we will learn about the birth of Jesus as we focus on faith and giving in preparation for Christmas. Pastor Dave will be discussing this theme in our God's Gifts session. We will perform our Nativity Story play and make our Christmas crafts this month. We will talk about "Our Sleeping Garden" as we discuss hibernation and winter changes in Science. In Math we will be doing number review.

In January, we will celebrate the New Year with a Pajama Party. We will learn about ourselves as we follow the theme of "Our Growing Body" and learn all about our bodies. We will learn what tolerance and diversity are as we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. In Math, we will talk about symmetry. We will also be taking a field trip to go ice skating.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Love,

Mrs. Pason, Mrs. Errico and Mrs. Hower

PRAYER *Please lift up in prayer the following:*

The 3rd Annual Community Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the Riegelsville Fire Station #42. Seatings will be one hour long from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Tickets are available by calling Joe Hlavaty at 610-2588-4574.



Our church will be allotted 40 tickets per session for a total of 200 for the 5 hour period. A large Cornucopia will be used for an optional free will offering that evening.

A sign-up sheet will be hung in the narthex with a list of jobs for Friday, December 5, 2014 (Preparation Day) and Saturday the 6th (Dinner Day) for volunteers. Donate an hour or two for a truly wonderful community event that will give you a WARM FUZZY FEELING throughout this HOLIDAY SEASON!! ~ Nancy Fox & Joe Hlavaty



Community Blood Drive

Friday December 19th 2pm - 7pm

St. John UCC 651 Easton Rd, Riegelsville, PA 18077

To signup go to www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code riegelsville

Or 1-800- redcross

You are eligible if your last donation was on or before October 24th

Eligibility questions call 1-866-236-3276

Christmas Flowers It is time to order Poinsettias, and Cyclamen to decorate our chancel for Christmas. Orders will be taken until December 14. Please remember to include your phone number. You can sign up for flowers on the sheet in the Narthex, or you can order by mail. Make checks payable to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham. To order by mail, fill out the chart below. Place your payment in an envelope—clearly marked Christmas Flowers -- and put it into the offering plate or mail to: Victoria Phillipps, 100 Meadows Lane, Riegelsville, PA 18077. Any questions, please contact Victoria at 610-346-1996.



Quantity	Plant Description	Price	Total	In Honor/In Memory of
	Red Poinsettia 6.5"	\$6.50		
	White Poinsettia 6.5"	\$6.00		
	Cyclamen (whatever color is available) 4.5"	\$7.00		
	Grand Total			

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Longest Night Service

- For those experiencing grief or loss this holiday season -

Open to the community, this informal service of prayer, music, scripture offers God's hope and light in the midst of our darkness and reminds us we are not alone.

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 At 6:30 pm at Salem United Methodist Church

3365 Main Street (Route 412/212) in Springtown, PA 18081 www.salemunitedmc.com

For questions/info, please contact Pastor Evelyn Stupp at 610-428-9095 or salemspringtown@gmail.com.

In case of questionable weather, check the church website after 5 PM.

Trinity Lutheran Church

2172 Route 212 in Pleasant Valley

is hosting a

LIVING NATIVITY



on Saturday, December 20

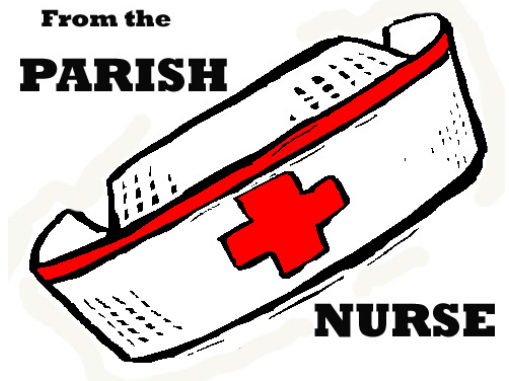
2 performances - 5:00 and 7:30 PM

Live animals, singing angels, free refreshments

Trinity has invited ELC of Durham and other Cluster churches to join in the presentation -- to sing or be part of the cast. There are many ways to be involved in this Christmas event. If you would like to help, contact

Debbie Keller by email at dkeller@rcn.com or by phone at 610-462-5390, or let Pastor Deal know (610-346-8314).

Americans get a billion colds a year and there are more than two hundred viruses that can cause them. Millions of people get the flu each year with approximately two hundred thousand needing medical attention. Over the counter cold and flu meds are “iffy” at best and do not always work. But, healing foods that boost the immune system are catching the attention of the medical community.



The following are some of these foods and their healing properties.

Chicken Soup, provides not only fluids but it also decreases the inflammation that triggers the symptoms. Researchers believe it may be the combination of healthy vegetables and chicken.

“Bonus Tip”- studies show that even commercial soups are effective!

Citrus fruits, red peppers, broccoli, butternut squash, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes are high in Vitamin C. This powerful antioxidant can reduce the symptoms of a cold and flu.

Garlic, onion, and leeks contain broad-spectrum antiseptic and immunity-boosting compounds. Add these to those soups.....

Ginger, be it the ginger staple, ginger ale, or ginger powder does much to soothe sore throats. The chemicals in ginger target the rhinoviruses (cold viruses) and are also a natural pain and fever reducer.

Honey has a natural antiseptic property. It coats the throat for pain relief and acts as a barrier against infectious viruses.

Yogurt contains bacterium called “Lactobacillas” that blocks replication of viruses. Not all yogurts contain it.

Selenium rich foods, such as brazil nuts and seafood (lobster, crabs, clams, oyster, & tuna) boost the immune system.

Mushrooms increase production of cytokines, cells that fight off infections and boost immunity.

Black pepper, peppercorns are high in piperine, a compound known for its anti-fever and pain relief properties.

Hand washing, disinfecting, sleeve coughing or sneezing are essential for minimizing a cold and/or the flu. Staying hydrated, eating healthy, exercising, and getting rest also play a vital role.

God Bless You and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Mary Hurley RN

www.rodalene.com (health 2014)



December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor in Office AM	2 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Secretary in Office PM	3 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor in Office AM 6:30 PM Choir	4 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor in Office AM Secretary PM	5 Pastor at Home Office	6 Community Dinner at Riegelsville Fire House
7 <i>Second Sunday of Advent - Christmas Ingathering</i> 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion	8 Pastor in Office AM	9 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Secretary in Office PM 6:30 PM Church Council	10 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor in Office AM 6:30 PM Choir	11 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor in Office AM Secretary PM	12 Pastor at Home Office	13 Pastor's Day Off
14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Festival Communion Budget Meeting followed by Christmas Covered Dish Dinner	15 Pastor in Office AM	16 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Secretary in Office PM	17 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor in Office AM 6:30 PM Choir	18 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor in Office AM Secretary PM	19 Pastor at Home Office Blood Drive	20 Living Nativity at Trinity Lutheran 5 & 7:30 PM
21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Presentation, followed by lunch and caroling to the homebound	22 Pastor in Office AM	23 Last Care-A-Lot before the Holiday Secretary in Office PM	24 Christmas Eve 5 PM Children's Svc. 7:30 PM Candlelight Communion	25 Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day Merry Christmas!	26 Church Office Closed	27 Pastor's Day Off
28 <i>The Holy Innocents/Martyrs</i> No Christian Education 10:30 AM - Service of Lessons and Carols	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 Church Office Closed	<i>January 1</i> Church Office Closed Happy New Year!!!	<i>January 2</i>	<i>January 3</i>

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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