

Thanksgiving is All About Gratitude - All About Grace

I have so much to be thankful for - my daily bread, family, brothers and sisters in Christ here at ELC of Durham, good neighbors, many other Christian friends, and so much more. You probably can echo that gratitude in your own life.

“Gratitude” comes from the word “grace.” And grace is the experience we all share. Grace is that which is provided to us freely. Grace is from God. It includes earthly stuff (food, shelter, clothing), family and friends, roads and schools and government and more. But the arena of grace is chiefly filled with acceptance and forgiveness from God the Creator for us creatures, who do not always live thankful lives. As we come to the end of one Church Year, we cannot give enough thanks for Jesus Christ, our Savior.

On All Saints Day (and Sunday), November 1, we thank and praise the Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of the world and granted us new and eternal life. On Christ the King Sunday, November 22, we confess and acknowledge Christ as the one and only King of our lives. We seek to have Christ influence our relationships, our choices, our time, talent, and treasure.

Let us give thanks joyfully. Let us live thankfully always under God's grace.

~ Pastor David Deal

A New Church Year begins November 29! It is the Season of Advent. The color is blue. The theme is hope in God's presence with us all the time - present in birth and death, present in sickness and health, present in times of fear or struggle, present especially in a little child named Jesus who was born to be God with us. Come and begin the new church year with us as the Advent Wreath is lit. Come and rejoice. Come and be renewed.

Make sure you check out information for all the important events coming up in the next weeks - SleepOUT for Homelessness (p. 7), the Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service (p. 8) and the 4th Annual Community Dinner (p. 8). We have so much to be thankful for as we join other Christians in our community in service to each other.

In November ...

- **Tuesday, November 3-**
Election Day - No Pre-school, Church Office Closed
- **Tuesday, November 10 -**
Church Council Hunger Meal and Meeting
- **Saturday, November 14**
SleepOUT 4 Homelessness
- **Saturday, November 14**
Upper Bucks WELCA meets at Durham
- **Sunday, November 15-**
Bake Sale benefitting Community Dinner at Riegelsville Fire House starting at 9 AM
- **Sunday, November 22 - at**
4 PM - Community Thanksgiving Service at Salem UMC in Springtown
- **Sunday, November 29-**
First Sunday of Advent

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Three of us attended an informative Upper Bucks Conference for council officers in October. We learned of the potential savings of group purchasing when churches band together, and were given guidelines for Sabbaticals for rostered leaders. We heard about a possible youth mission trip to Knoxville, TN, next summer. For more information on this, go to facebook.com/upperbuckschurch.

PA State Representative Craig Staats spoke about changes in the child protection laws. By the end of December, employees that work with children need to have State Police, Department of Human Services, and FBI fingerprint clearances that must be renewed every three years. Those of us who had been volunteering with children prior to August, 2015, have until the end of June, 2016 to get State Police and Department of Human Service clearances. We must also sign a witnessed disclosure form affirming continual residence in PA for the past 10 years. Anyone who cannot meet the residency requirement must obtain the FBI clearance. Any new volunteer must meet all these criteria before they can begin working with children. Renewals are required every 5 years. The church must maintain copies of all 3 documents for volunteers and employees. For further information, go to keepkidssafe.pa.gov/.

As requested at our last Congregational Budget Meeting, we are working to have the budget done early so the congregation can have ample time to review it before this year's December 13th meeting and WELCA dinner.

Council wishes to express its gratitude to Pastor Deal for his 20 years of service here. The stability of having the same guiding hand has protected us from the disarray that so many of our fellow congregations are dealing with.

Val McGinn, Council President

Next Council Meeting: November 10th at 6:30

Council Assignments for November: Barb Naska and Cathy Mueller

November - A month to highlight our mission support offerings. *(These are the offerings that go in the quarterly yellow envelopes in your envelope box.)*

Have you contributed regularly to "Mission Support" in addition to your regular weekly offerings? It's important that all of us do. For these special offerings help us to join congregations everywhere to do the things we cannot do alone as individuals or single congregations. There is a free resource from the ELCA called "Stories of Faith in Action" which will be distributed to every family in November. In this resource you will learn about the incredible ministry happening around the globe - God's work. Our hands. **Don't let your yellow envelopes stay empty and alone!**



Saturday, December 12 – Hagey Bus Trip to American Music Theater 2015 Christmas show "Deck the Halls" in Bird In Hand. Cost is \$92, please call Robert Gerstenberg at 215-538-0587 to reserve seats by November 1st.

Sunday, December 13, 2015 Hunterdon Hills Christmas Show, tickets are \$69 per person for full course dinner & show. Call Nancy Fox at 610-346-8059 by November 10, 2015.

Outreach

Food donations: Thanks to those who contributed to our collection of soap and personal care items for the food banks. In November we will collect Thanksgiving type foods (e.g. cranberry sauce, filling, mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, etc.)

Durham's Community Day: We had a lovely day for the event; and were right in front of the Quakertown Band who were great. We had a fair amount of people who stopped by. We also picked up some brochures about Bucks County services which will be put in the rack in the narthex.

CROP Walk: It was a brisk day as walkers from Durham and other Cluster churches headed for the tow path. More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Christmas Ingathering: We have the names of 10 children in foster care. Only 1 is over 13, and requesting a gift certificate. The others have a wish list of 3 gifts to choose from. The sum total of the money spent is to be about \$25.00. I'll be distributing the names in church or you can phone me (610-346-8829).

We will also be collecting gift packets for residents of Norristown State Hospital. Each gift packet includes: 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, **metal nail clippers** (new this year), and a box of 20 note cards and envelopes (I usually get 2 pack of 8 at the Dollar Store). The gifts are packaged in a clear plastic bag with a bow; you can include a Christmas card, but sign it with the name of the church, not your personal name.

All gifts must be at the church by Sunday December 6th- they will be taken to Little Zion Lutheran Church in Telford; and from there they will be transported to Philadelphia.

Christmas Caroling: Mark your calendars for Sunday Dec 20th to go caroling to our shut-in members.

Our October meeting was postponed until Monday October 26th. The topic is self-control and we will receive our thankofferings at this meeting. The practice of Thankofferings began in the late 19th century as women were given "mite" boxes (after the widows mite) in which they would place small coins as they noted particular blessings.

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. We also have little boxes to fill and this is when we turn them in. Normally we do this as part of our November meeting, but we will be hosting the Upper Bucks conference fall gathering of Women of the ELCA in place of our regular meeting.



Helen Dungan

Upper Bucks Conference WELCA Fall Gathering

Date: Saturday November 14th

Time: 1:30

Place: Durham's Fellowship Hall

Theme: Giving Thanks

(continued on page 6)

November Worship Assistants

	1*	8	15*	22*	29*
Youth Acolyte & Communion Assistant	Matthew Mueller	Caitlin Pyne	Jack Pyne	Samantha Mueller	Conner Aquino
Greeter(s)	Lynn Gaun	Frank Mammana	Esther & Bob Crouse	Linda & Dave Sauter	Bonnie dePortillo
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	Gladys Nicholas Jim Nicholas	Scott Gaun	Linda Sauter	Mark Harwick	Joe Hlavaty
Council Communion Assistants	Cathy Mueller Barb Naska		Cathy Mueller Barb Naska	Cathy Mueller Barb Naska	Cathy Mueller Barb Naska
Counters	Cathy Mueller, Barb Naska * Asterisk indicates that Holy Communion will be served.				
Head Ushers	Dot Peterman and Mark Harwick				
Altar Guild	Cheryl Mesko and Linda Sauter				

	November Birthdays		November Anniversaries		November Baptisms
4	Mary Crouse, Laura DeWalt	1	Norma & Silas Rodenbach (63)	6	Grace Litzenberger
8	Serena Ashmore				
9	Lynn Gaun				
10	Nicholas Phillipps, Brendan Snyder				
12	Tom Gaun, Mark Harwick, Cathy Mueller, Matthew Mueller			16	Marion Kempf
18	Chad Harrison	19	Miriam & Ken Anderson (32)		
19	Hans Rilling				
21	Ken Anderson			22	Bob Fox
23	Faye Litzenberger Gadwell			24	Paula Eck
24	Chase Aquino	25	Cathy & Chris Mueller (15)	25	Helen Dungan, Cheryl Eck
				30	Kathy Hlavaty, Jordyn Trauger



We are grateful for so many wonderful blessings this time of year! November brings us closer to the season of winter; with colder days, fewer leaves still on the trees and preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday.

This month we continue to explore the five senses with a focus on the senses of sight and hearing. We look forward to exciting days at Care-A-Lot like Picture Day on November 10, Wacky Wednesday on November 11 and a visit from Miss Julia from the Riegelsville Library on November 12.

In math, we will learn about sorting items and categorizing things. This month Pastor Dave will talk with us about all that we are thankful for, like God's love, Jesus, our Earth, our families, friends, teachers, homes, abundance of food and the freedom we enjoy in the United States of America. During our Thanksgiving program on November 19th at 9:30 AM, we will perform a short play about the first Thanksgiving and afterwards will share a feast with our families.

Warmly,

Mrs. Pason, Mrs. Errico, Mrs. Hoffman

PRAYER

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Joanne Antoni; Althea Crouse; Bob Crouse; Mary Dungan; Leo Fox; Norma Fox; Mark Harwick; Johnny Hesser; George Kreitz; Louise Leidich; Elfriede Marschewski; Barbara Naska; Alison and Emerson Rhine; and Silas Rodenbach; and JoAnne Ziegenfuss.

For Those In Service to our Country: PFC Steven Dickson (USMC).

For Healing of Friends and Family: Laurel Melick Ansbro; Mary Ellen Becker; Jack Bodine; Jane Carr; Ron Christman, Jr.; Josie Crawn; Nora Fallon; Candy Gimbar; Evan Gimbar; Abby Gonda; Luke Grob; Lillian Guckin; Jeanette Harmon; Laila Harris; Lou Hayden; Bernadette Heljenick; Ed and Jean Henry; Kent Hester; Yvonne Howell; Olive and Walter Jarvis; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Kasie Jones; Laura Kacerik; Josephine Kocher; Mary Lindsay; Mary Neiser; Paul Newcomer; Agapoula (Pipitsa) Papageorgiou; David Patten; Jillian Sayre; Sammy Smith; Donna Storm, Michael Szewczyk; Chris Timochenko; Alex Ulrey; Lisa Vargo; Heddy Vymazal; Walter Wolfinger, Jr.; and Patty Wyant.

For those who are Homebound: Judy Barron, Ruth Behm, Betty Kiefer, and Norma Rodenbach.

For the Grieving: The families of Donald Quinn; Karen Hlavaty; Harold Nicholas; and John Stachel (Tanya Naska's father).

Welcome and Thanksgiving – Brinley Willow Mesko, Judy Boorse; Maggie Fischer; and Karly Trauger.



Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Speaker: Karen Reeve from Habitat for Humanity who will speak on their program A Brush with Kindness.

This is a program to help folks who own their homes and need help with exterior repairs to it. Repairs can also include installing handicapped accessible ramps and railings.

This Thanksgiving let us give thanks for the homes we live in, and also for the kindness of those who help us when we are in need.

In Kind gifts: Everyone attending is invited to bring used items still in good condition that the new Habitat families could purchase at the Habitat Re-Store, such as books (even Reader's Digest condensed stories), vases, clocks, pictures for the wall, dishes, flat ware, lamps, small appliances, board games etc. – similar to what you would give to the Salvation Army for resale.

Offering: will go to Bucks County Habitat for Humanity

Palisades Cluster of Lutheran Churches - Helen Dungan

Crop Walk: There were gallon and 5 gallon containers of water for anyone who wanted to try carrying one as women in sub-Saharan Africa do. Our longer walk is a little less than ½ of what is the average they would walk. We had gift cards donated by local businesses which were raffled off; everyone who walked got a ticket.

Community Health: We were shown a new brochure which describes this ministry. Copies will be available soon.

Code Blue: Paper work to is underway to become a nonprofit corporation (under the name Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB). This will allow them to get liability insurance. They also hope in the future to pursue other ways of helping beyond Code Blue.'

Upper Bucks Church Council Officers meeting: Helen Dungan reported to the cluster that Pastor Carolann Hopcke shared plans for an Upper Bucks Youth mission trip to Knoxville Tenn. this summer. They will be participating in WOW Urban Ministry.

A member of the Northwest Philadelphia conference shared their experience working together on a joint purchasing plan. The big savings was in insurance. By doing a group policy for all their churches they save \$14,000.

Guidelines for pastor's sabbaticals were distributed.

There was also had an update on background checks for those working with children. Renewal of documentation for volunteers is now every 5 years; staff remains at every 3 years.

2016 Cluster meeting schedule:

January 10, 2016 (with Jan. 17 as the snow date) at St Luke's, Ferndale

April 10, 2016 at Christ Pipersville August 21, 2016 at Trinity, Pleasant Valley

October 9, 2016 at Evangelical, Durham

All meetings will be at 3:00 PM.

Conference information: Pastor Rasmussen shared some information on background checks.

The Upper Bucks Lay Learning Event will be held January 23, 2015 (with Jan 30th as the snow date.) The topic is education and faith formation. The main speaker is Brad Burke (Molly Beck Dean's replacement at the Synod office). Brochures and announcements are being posted on the Upper Bucks Conference Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/upperbuckscluthera>); you do not have to be on Facebook to access this page.

November Ministry Highlights

All Saints' Day - Sunday November 1 - Our 10:30 AM Worship will include Praise and Prayer, Word and Sacrament, Candles and Bells, a remembrance of the saints here at ELC of Durham who have died during the last 12 months to join the Saints Triumphant, a remembrance of other saints who have gone before us, and an Affirmation of the Sainthood of all the Baptized.

Saturday, November 13 - SleepOUT 4 Homelessness -



Beginning at 4 PM at Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton, youth and adults from ELC of Durham will join other Lutheran and Christian youth from throughout Upper Bucks for an experience of understanding and service in observation of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 14-22).

They will sleep outside overnight in cardboard shelters they construct themselves. The experience will include a rally, soup-making, building, and sleeping. Each participant is expected to raise \$100 for Keystone Opportunity Center's programs that serve the hungry and homeless in our community.



***YOU may be asked to sponsor one of our participating youth or adults.
Please be generous!***

Sunday, November 22 at 4 PM - Annual Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service - at Salem United Methodist Church in Springtown. Lutherans, Methodists, and UCC's join together to praise and thank God for all our blessings - chiefly the gift of Jesus Christ. A joint choir will sing, Rev. Evelyn Stupp from Salem will preach, and refreshments will be served after the service. Please bring offering of non-perishable food and \$\$\$, which will go to the

The Fourth Annual Community Dinner will be held at the Riegelsville Firehouse on Saturday December 5, 2015. The three boro churches, Durham, and the North House #42 will again sponsor this fine ecumenical event. The format will mirror the previous year's format with five seatings starting at 2:00 PM and ending at 6:00 PM. The seatings will last 1 hour with an allotment of 50 guests per congregation. Clergy or a lay representative from each church and an officer from the Fire Station will be greeters at each hourly interval. Dinner music will be provided by Jim Roney. Tickets will be available the first four Sundays in November (1, 8, 15 & 22) after worship. You can also contact Joe Hlavaty(610-258-4574) or Nancy Fox (610-346-8059) for special requests. Hope to see even more Durham faces at this year's event. Our church is always will represented.

There will be a Bake Sale to support the Community Dinner on Sunday November 15, 2015 during the Riegelsville North House #42 Fire Station's Breakfast. Items should be delivered by 7:30 AM.

Nancy Fox & Joe Hlavaty

If you're lacking inside shelter in Upper Bucks County during periods of extreme, life-threatening weather (temperature or wind chill of 26°F or below)
between December 1 and March 31,
your neighbors and friends are ready with an

Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter at the Quakertown Masonic Lodge

(501 W Broad St, Quakertown, PA 18951)

from **9:00 PM** to **7:00 AM** the following morning.

We'll have a hot meal and breakfast for you as well as shelter.

Car rides will be provided from the following stops—
call 267.450.5191 to request a ride:

Turkey Hill @ Ottsville/Harrow 8:20 PM

Perkasie Square Shopping Center 8:30 PM

To find out if the shelter is open, contact the Code Blue Status Line:

215.274.5241 or 267.450.5191 after 1:00 PM

The Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter
is a ministry of

Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB)



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A special Thanksgiving worship service featuring a combined choir.



**Offerings: non-perishable food and cash contributions for
the Lord's Pantry.**


Sunday, November 22, 2015 4 PM

Salem United Methodist Church
3365 Main Street, Springtown, PA 18081
610-346-6112

Sponsoring Congregations:

*Christ Lutheran, Springtown - Evangelical Lutheran, Durham
Salem UMC, Springtown - Trinity Lutheran, Pleasant Valley
Trinity UCC, Pleasant Valley*

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 9 AM Christian Ed, Confirmation 10:30 AM Festival Communion Celebration	2	3 <i>ELECTION DAY</i> No Preschool Church Office Closed	4 Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM 6:30 PM Choir	5 Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM	6	7 Pastor's Day Off
8 9 AM Spark Sunday School, Youth Chapel Chat, Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship	9	10 <i>Martin Luther's Birthday</i> Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM 6:30 PM Church Council Hunger Meal & Meeting	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM 6:30 PM Choir	12 Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM	13 <i>Don't be afraid! Friday the 13th gives us another day to be faith- ful!</i>	14 4 PM SleepOUT 4 Homelessness Zion Mennon- ite Church, Souderton
15 9 AM - Bake Sale at Riegelsville Firehouse (benefit Community Din- ner) 9 AM Christian Ed 10:30 AM Communion	16	17 Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM 7:00 PM Finance Committee	18 Care-A-Lot 9 AM - 12:30 PM 6:30 PM Choir <div>Pastor Deal at Annual Bishop's Convocation, Bear Creek</div>	19 Care-A-Lot Thanks- giving Feast	20	21 Pastor's Day Off
22 <i>Christ the King</i> 9 AM Christian Ed 10:30 AM Communion 4:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service, Salem UMC Springtown	23	24	25	26  <i>Thanksgiving</i> <div>There will be no Care-A-Lot Preschool this week!</div>	27	28 Pastor's Day Off
29 <i>First Sunday of Advent - New Church Year Begins</i> 9 AM Christian Ed 10:30 AM Communion	30					

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

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