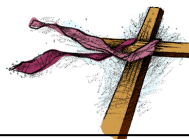


In March...

- **Tuesday, March 3** - Lenten Midweek Series at Christ, Springtown
- **Sunday, March 6** - Upper Bucks Conference Spring Assembly
- **Tuesday, March 10** - Lenten Midweek Series here at Durham
- **Monday, March 14** at 1:30 PM - WELCA
- **Monday, March 14** at 6:30 PM Church Council
- **Sunday, March 20** - Palm Sunday Worship 10:30
- **Maundy Thursday March 24 - 7:00 PM** Worship at Trinity, Pleasant Valley
- **Good Friday, March 25** - 7 PM Worship at Durham
- **Easter Sunday March 27** - 6:30 AM Sunrise Communion, 10:30 AM Festival Communion

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"Are We Ready for the Cross ... and Empty Tomb?"

Spring is near ... Beginning March 20.

Easter Day is March 27.

The world awaits. We've been through some powerful winter storms, drastic temperature shifts, and societal storms as well - terrorist acts, refugee displacements, political sniping in a presidential election year, continued economic anxiety (demonstrated by wild changes in the Stock Market), and more.

Personally, we struggle with our own health and that of our loved ones and friends, grief over the loss of those we love, challenges at work and in our relationships.

Are we ready for Good Friday and Easter as the Church? Maybe NOT! Jesus' earliest followers were not ready as they faced the hardship and fear of the 1st century. They were not ready to gaze on the sacrifice of the cross for their sin and the sin of the world. They were not ready for the unbelievable message: "He is not here. He is risen."

But, ready or not, God came to us, died for us, and rose to restore hope and new life. That act of sacrifice and Resurrection still reverberates in our ears and hearts. We will hear that message again in a few weeks. The power of love and new life lifts us, reassures us, strengthens us for life in the world as followers of Jesus Christ. Let us gather together throughout Lent and Holy Week to worship, to pray, and to open ourselves to the miracle of new life.

~ Pastor David Deal

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday - March 20

10:30 AM, at Durham

The Three Holiest Days

Maundy Thursday, March 24 - 7:00 PM at Trinity, Pleasant Valley

Good Friday, March 25 - 7:00 PM at Durham

Resurrection Day - Easter Morn

6:30 AM Sunrise Service - Communion

10:30 AM Festival Service of Holy Communion

Council Corner***From your Council President ...***

For those of you who were unable to join us at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Joe Hlavaty and I are leaving Council, having completed two



terms. We are grateful to Serena Ashmore and Mike Rhine for graciously agreeing to serve on Council, which will reorganize at the Monday, March 14th meeting. We thank Joe for all his hard work, but he doesn't get off scot-free. He will continue, along with Nancy Fox, as our liaison to the Community Dinner and retains his place on the snow removal team.

I will continue to harangue you about the child protection legislation background checks. We plan to do Vacation Bible School immediately after school ends in June. This worked out well last year and delays our need for full compliance for our most volunteer-intensive week. However, anyone who wishes to help this year, but who has not been one of our regular volunteers with children, must submit their clearances before they can begin. For all our faithful repeat volunteers, please have copies of your clearances to me by July 1st. Please try to do them all around the same time because the five year renewal date will be based on your oldest one. State Police and DHS Child Abuse clearances are now free for volunteers. In addition, if you have lived in Pennsylvania for all of the last ten years, you will need to sign a form, witnessed by me or a Council member, attesting to this. If you cannot meet this residency requirement, you will have to do an FBI fingerprint check, done through the Department of Human Services, which will cost \$25.75. However, if you also wish to volunteer with the public schools, to avoid having to do two fingerprint checks, call your school system and ask if they will provide you with an official copy for us. The Palisades district will do so per Susan Keogh in Human Resources. Furthermore, all staff and volunteers who work with children are required to have training on recognizing and reporting child abuse. There is an online training site, free, three hours long but you can stop and restart at your convenience. It is www.ReportChildAbusePA.Pitt.edu. You can print out a certificate of completion and submit a copy for our records. All the information you should need to accomplish all this will be available on the table in the Narthex.

Linda Sauter has volunteered to coordinate a coffee hour after worship once a month during those months that don't already have a scheduled fellowship time. So watch for it in April. Thank you, Linda.

Val McGinn, Outgoing Council President

Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 14th at 6:30

Council Assignments for March: Barbara Naska and Cheryl Mesko



Outreach - Helen Dungan

Correction: In the January newsletter, I reported thanks from the two food banks for our cash donations from the Beef Roast – it should have read from the Thanksgiving Offerings.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Cheryl Mesko reports that we collected 277 food items and \$50 in cash which will be split between the two food banks.

Food baskets: On January 31, 2016 a food basket was given by Tim and Faye Gadwell and their families in honor of Cora Fay's baptism. On February 28th a food basket was given by Barbara and Benjamin Naska in honor of the birthdays of Tanya Naska, Becky Naska, and Amanda Harrison.

If you would like to donate a food basket during Lent, there is a signup sheet on the bulletin board on the right as you exit the church. You can either purchase the groceries yourself or delegate the task to me.

Food banks: We will be collecting **hygiene items** for the food banks in March. Both food-banks requested this.

Hymning: We will take the music of Holy Week to our shut in members on Palm Sunday March 20th. We will have lunch at the Dungan's (and sing with Mary) before visiting others to



Helen Dungan

Blanket / Tool Sunday: We received a thank you from Church World Service for our donation of **\$1,157.00** from last spring's Blanket and Tool Sundays collections. We want to thank everyone who contributed. WELCA used to handle the donations, but they didn't get recorded in the church's giving records. The church also didn't get credit for the donations. However, WELCA kept track of the dedications. We are going to try to work out a system for this spring where we can note the dedications while continuing to pass the money through the church treasury.

Meeting: During our February meeting we reviewed and critiqued our January soup supper – trying to document our procedures and needs. We had a technology glitch, the internet connection to the speech we were going to listen to and discuss just kept freezing. So in between the practicalities of soup, we discussed the ideas of church and change.

Our March meeting will be held on Monday March 14th at 1:30 in the church fellowship hall, Lynn Gaun will present an Easter devotion and a little craft project. At our business meeting we will give away the proceeds from our two soup suppers. **All are invited to attend (particularly everyone who helped with this project.)**

March Worship Assistants

| * Indicates Communion | 6 * | 13* | 20* Palm Sunday | 25 Good Friday | 27 * Easter Sunday |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst. | Hunter Aquino | Samantha Mueller | Matthew Mueller | Jack Pyne | Nicholas Phillipps |
| Greeter(s) | Betty Fox | Betty Kreitz | Esther & Bob Crouse | Lynn Gaun | Ben Naska & Family |
| Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector | Joe Hlavaty | Beth Snyder | TBA | TBA | 6:30 Mark Harwick 10:30 Scott Gaun |
| Council Communion Assistants | Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun | Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun | Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun | Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun | Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun |
| Counters | Cheryl Mesko and Barb Naska | | | | |
| Head Usher | The Phillipps Family | | | | |
| Altar Guild | Mary Crouse and Nancy Moskella | | | | |

| | March Birthdays | | March Anniversaries | | March Baptisms |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 4 | Amanda Harrison | | | 1 | Mike Rhine, Jenny Moyer |
| 6 | Gladys Nicholas 982nd) | | | 4 | Norma Rodenbach |
| 7 | Kenneth Crouse | | | | |
| 8 | Alaina Apgar | | | 8 | Karen Bolesta |
| 15 | Samantha Mueller | | | 12 | Blake Rodd |
| 10 | Wayne Mesko | | | 15 | Evelyn Newcomb |
| | | | | 17 | Don Crouse |
| | | | | 23 | Rachael Roney |
| | | 28 | Esther and Bob Crouse (63rd) | 25 | Althea Crouse |
| | | | | 28 | Clayton Leichliter |
| | | | | 29 | Steven Streletz |

SOUP

Statistics: We sold 152 quarts of broccoli and 130 quarts of chicken noodle soup. We served 36 adults, 5 children and 3 children under 6. Our profit was \$1898.18.

Thanks: I missed thanking Clayton Helfrich for his help last month – he not only helped put away the chairs and tables, he mopped the kitchen floor.

This month we were again helped by many volunteer laborers and generous benefactors:

Generous donators:

The broccoli team: Mark Harwick and Dot Peterman who picked the broccoli from fields at Trauger's Farm in late fall; Althea Crouse, Helen Dungan, Mark Harwick, and Dot Peterman who cleaned, blanched and froze it for our soup.

Thrivent who through their new action team project gave us a debit card with \$250 to help with expenses. This program is designed to involve Thrivent members as they lead volunteer projects and it paid the majority of our expenses.

The Kressmans for supplying us with the stewing chickens, and broccoli, and getting our other produce at wholesale prices.

Dot Peterman who bought chicken meat for the soup.

Diane DeWalt who donated 10 gallons of milk for the broccoli soup.

Lois Miller who donated 4 bags of noodles.

It is the generosity of everyone who contributes that makes our profits so high.

Volunteers:

The broccoli team: Mark Harwick and Dot Peterman who picked the broccoli from fields at Trauger's Farm in late fall; Althea Crouse, Helen Dungan, Mark Harwick, and Dot Peterman who cleaned, blanched and froze it for our soup.

Our bakers: Miriam Anderson, Althea Crouse, Helen Dungan, Cheryl Mesko, Barbara Naska and Dot Peterman for their donations of cakes and bread. Also to Barbara Naska who made a big fruit bowl.

The Monday crew, Miriam Anderson, Althea Crouse, Helen Dungan, Mark Harwick Valerie McGinn and Dot Peterman who cut up the chickens, put them on to cook, stayed with the cooking broth during the afternoon (and peeled onions), strained the cooked broth, and washed pots and pans and mopped the floor.

The chief chefs, Mark Harwick (chicken noodle soup), Diane DeWalt (cream of broccoli soup) and Esther Crouse, administrative chef. We received numerous instructions NOT to run out of the broccoli soup; and Diane worked long and hard to see that we didn't.

The Wednesday workers who chopped vegetables in the morning, set up and watched over the soup in the afternoon, and jarred, served, washed dishes and pots, and took down the tables and cleaned up in the evening: Miriam Anderson, Joe Hlavaty, Gladys Nicholas, Betty Fox, Val McGinn, Althea Crouse, George Kreitz, Dot Peterman, Helen Dungan, Cheryl Mesko, Barbara Naska, Nancy Moskella, Kathy Hlavaty and Clayton Helfrich. And a big thanks to our guest workers – Deborah Angstadt, Sharon Gallagher, and Lois Miller.

Finally the Friday sales crew, Mark Harwick, Barbara Naska, Althea Crouse and Dot Peterman who took our leftovers to the Firehouse to sell. And to the Riegelsville Firehouse for giving us permission to do so. **It is the help that everyone gives that makes this possible. THANK YOU!**

March 2016 Worship/Mission/Service Highlights for Lent & Easter

Sunday, March 6 - Upper Bucks Conference Spring Assembly, from 1:30 to 4 PM at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Sellersville. See page 8.

Palisades Cluster Midweek Lenten Series continues! Thursday Evenings, March 3 at Christ, Springtown; March 10 here at Durham; and March 17, location TBA. Light Supper is at 6 PM with Worship at 7 PM, focusing on Luther's Small Catechism (the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Holy Communion).

Sunday, March 14 from noon to 3 PM - Saintry Soup Supper at St. Andrews Church, 20 Dill Avenue in Perkasio. Proceeds benefit the hungry. See page 9.

Monday, March 14 at 6:30 PM - First meeting of newly elected and formed Church Council.

Saturday, March 19 - Easter Egg Hunt - 10 AM Sharp here at Durham.

Sunday, March 20 - Holy Week begins! Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday. 10:30 AM Blessing and Procession of Palms (Eco-Palms and Palm Crosses), special music, reading of St. Luke's Passion of Our Lord, Holy Communion, stripping of the altar.

**Annual
Community
Easter Egg Hunt**

Rain or Shine

- Candy - Prizes -



**Saturday,
March 19**

**10:00 AM
SHARP**

**Bring your
own basket**

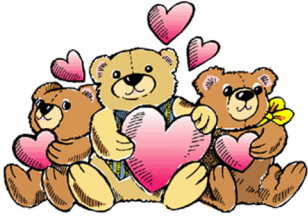
And the Children Shall Lead Them ... Lynn Gaun

A special thank you to all the children in Sunday School for collecting Pennies from Heaven in order to help those less fortunate. A big thank you also to all in our congregation who contributed to this mission. Because of everyone's generosity, we were able to help bring a joyous holiday to two deserving families in our local area. We helped two divorced single moms with a combined total of six children to make their Christmas holiday a joyous one. Those mothers were extremely grateful. Thanks again!

pennies
from
heaven



Care-A-Lot News



CARE -A-LOT

As we head into March, we are hopeful that spring is almost here! With the warmer temperatures we plan to go outside and play on the playground as well as play some outdoor games with our Care-A-Lot friends.

In Math we will continue to identify numbers 1-20, develop patterns with different shapes, colors and objects. We will also start building number sentences and work on basic addition with our pre-k class.

Our Science theme for the month is The Solar System. We will learn about the sun, stars, moons and planets. We will spend time learning about the Earth and its atmosphere and surface. It will be fun to explore the 8 planets and 3 dwarf planets and more! Our arts and crafts will incorporate the solar system.

What does it mean to work together? How do we work together? Who do we know in our families, communities, churches and schools that work together? These are some of the questions we will ask and discuss in March for our Christian theme. Additionally, we will talk about Easter. We will learn about the greatest sacrifice; Jesus dying for our sins and rising from the dead in order for us to enjoy eternal life in heaven with our Heavenly Father!

March also holds several exciting events at preschool. On the 15th we will receive free vision screenings. On March 17th we will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Our Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the 22nd. We will end the month with a field trip to see *Sleeping Beauty* at DeSales University on March 31st.

Love,

Mrs. Pason, Mrs. Errico and Mrs. Hoffman

PRAYER

Please lift up in prayer the following ...

GREEN ABUNDANCE

HELP WANTED: Volunteers interested in helping plan and assist with gardening. AHUB (Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks) has a summer program called the Green Abundance Garden Project. This gardening project is designed to help homeless and low income families have an opportunity to grow their own food. The project gives participants a garden plot, plants, seeds, tools, and assistance with gardening. Last year we grew 500 pounds of food for the gardeners and donations for local families and food pantries.



We are in the planning stage for 2016. So we are looking for some volunteers to help plan this year's gardening experience and volunteers to assist with the gardens. This is a very exciting and fun project, that makes a difference in the lives of the gardeners and volunteers.

Please contact Griffin Bear if you are interested in helping with the Green Abundance project, via email at grzzbearwalk2u@aol.com, by phone at 215-536-4966, or write to AHUB at PO Box 232 Quakertown Pa 18951.

Upper Bucks Conference

Spring Assembly

Special Presentation:

Being a Refugee in America



By The Reverend Dr. Jennifer Phelps Ollikainen
Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services

Rev. Ollikainen will address the refugee/migrant crisis (Syria, Iraq and elsewhere) and how the Lutheran Church is responding. This will be a timely and powerful presentation.

If you are interested, if you have questions, or if you need directions, call Pastor Deal at 610-346-8314.

Sunday, March 6, 2016

2:00 p.m.

St. Michael's, Sellersville

Saintly Soups

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
20 Dill Avenue Perkasie, PA 18944**



**Sunday March 13, 2016
Noon to 3pm**

*An Empty Bowl Project to support
the homeless and hungry.*

**\$10 for a bottomless bowl of soup, bread, a beverage and dessert.
For an extra \$10, you can take home a handmade bowl as a
reminder of the hungry in our communities (while supplies last).**

Proceeds of sales will go to Pennridge FISH, A code blue shelter in Quakertown, and the Keystone Opportunity Center

From Lynn Gaun ...

Dorothea Shaffer - Largest Donation Comes from a Child - In 1914, a young Dorothea Shaffer needed help. The Masonic Children's Home welcomed her, along with her brother, and gave them a chance to learn, grow, and succeed. Because Pennsylvania Masons took her in and gave her a chance at life, when she passed away at 101 years of age, Dr. Shaffer provided through her will, one of the largest gifts a Masonic charity ever received; a generous gift of \$10.9 million! Every day, Masonic villages not only change lives, they change hearts. Of all the philanthropic organizations which Dr. Shaffer could have left her legacy, she chose the one that impacted her when she was most vulnerable. Almost a century later, she remembered the good deeds of the Masons and others and wished to ensure that children facing similar circumstances to what she did all those years ago would be taken care of for years to come. The plaque installed in Dr. Shaffer's memory contains a quotation attributed to Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." You can read more about Dorothea Shaffer and her gift at http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/former-resident-leaves-m-to-masonic-children-s-home-in/article_bd0e2024-9b90-11e5-92c1-efe5b514f011.html



FREE MAGIC SHOW

Featuring The Amazing Magi

March 12 at 7:00 PM

Illusions - Sleight of hand - Balloon animals

Snacks and Drinks

Everything is Free. All are invited.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

2170 Route 212, Coopersburg, PA 18036

610-346-7282 freegrace@trinitypv.org

Memorial Gifts

Additional gifts in memory of Harold Nicholas were received from Barb and Ben Naska and Gladys Nicholas, to bring the total amount of this memorial fund to \$5000.



The total number of food items collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring this year was 277, along with \$50 in cash donations.

Thank you to the Congregation for your generosity!

~ Cheryl Mesko

March 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| CHURCH OFFICE HOURS : (610-346-8500) <i>Pastor Deal: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings</i> <i>Ann Wong - Tuesday and Thursday afternoons</i> | | <i>1</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot | <i>2</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir | <i>3</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6 PM Midweek Lenten Series at Christ, Springtown | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> Pastor's Day Off |
| <i>6 4th Sunday in Lent</i> 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion 1:30 PM Upper Bucks Conference Spring Assembly | <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot | <i>9</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir | <i>10</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6 PM Midweek Lenten Series at Christ, Springtown | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> Pastor's Day Off |
| <i>13 5th Sunday in Lent</i> 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion 12-3 PM Sainly Soup at St. Andrew's, Perkase | <i>14</i> 1:30 PM WELCA 6:30 PM Church Council | <i>15</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot | <i>16</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir | <i>17 St. Patrick's Day</i> 3 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6 PM Midweek Lenten Series at TBA | <i>18</i> | <i>19</i> 10 AM SHARP Easter Egg Hunt |
| <i>20 Palm/Passion Sunday</i> 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion with Palms SPRING BEGINS!!! | <i>21</i> | <i>22</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot <i>(last day of Pre-school before Easter)</i> | <i>23</i> NO Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir | <i>24 Maundy Thursday</i> NO Care-A-Lot 7 PM Communion at Trinity, Pleasant Valley | <i>25 Good Friday</i> 7 PM Worship here at Durham | <i>26</i> 9 AM - Preparation of worship space for Easter |
| <i>27 Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day</i> 6:30 AM Sunrise Communion 10:30 AM Festival Communion | <i>28</i> | <i>29</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot | <i>30</i> 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir | <i>31</i> | | |

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

821 Durham Road - P.O. Box 100 - Durham, PA 18039-0100

Phone: 610-346-8500 e-mail: evangel@durhamlutheran.org

Web site: www.durhamlutheran.org

EVANGEL

