

*Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Durham*

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

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This Month ...

- **Saturday, December 7** Community Holiday Dinner
- **Sunday, December 8** - Budget Meeting, Congregational Dinner; Confirmation
- **Thursday, December 12** - Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John UCC, Riegelsville
- **Sunday, December 22** - Children's Christmas Program, Lunch, Caroling to Homebound
- **Tuesday, December 24** - 5:30 AM - Christmas Eve Service for Families 7:30 PM Candlelight Communion
- **Sunday, December 28**—NO Sunday School, 10:30 AM Service of Lessons & Carols
- **Wednesday, January 15** - Soup Supper

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EVANGEL



December 2019

"Come Lord! Come Quickly!"

On Sunday, December 1, a new Church Year will begin, the Year of Matthew. The Church Year begins with the Season of Advent. Advent promises light and hope, justice and peace.

Oh, do we need all of those promises in our confusing, divisive, and dangerous world. Political unrest, destructive climate events, disease, terror, war - to name just a few - are a regular part of our experience. Matthew will tell us that **we** cannot address these challenges alone. It is God who will send a Messiah - a Savior into our lives. He will become God with us. He will forgive us. He will bring us healing and hope. He will announce peace and equip us to be peacemakers as well.

Advent has always been my favorite Church Season. I love the blue, the candlelight, but especially the hope that Jesus, our Lord, brings to us and to the world. Please, don't miss this holy season as we gather together each Sunday morning,

The Light of the world is coming. The Light of the world is God with us - Emmanuel.

~ Pastor David Deal



Advent Music.

Advent Worship! December 1, 8, 15, and 22. Lighting of the Advent Wreath, with Advent Scripture and Special

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 AM - our Sunday School presents "The Christmas Story."

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

5:00 PM - A service designed for families with children - The service will be short and interactive, with safe candles for children.

7:30 PM - Festival Service of Holy Communion with Candlelight, Communion, and Adult Choir.

Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 AM - Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols! There will be no Sunday School until January 5, 2020.



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 8- A VERY SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT DAY!

- **Congregational Budget Meeting** - A brief meeting after worship to approve our 2020 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee and Church Council.
- Immediately after the meeting, head on downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for our annual **Christmas Covered Dish Dinner** sponsored by Women of the ELCA.

Saturday, December 21- Help is needed **decorating the Sanctuary**. We will prepare candles, decorate the trees, and other fun things, starting at 9 AM. The more, the merrier!

Sunday, December 22 - Caroling to the Sick/Homebound - It is our annual tradition to carpool and go out to homes/assisted living facilities after worship. Helen Dungan and the Outreach Committee sponsor this service activity. We will begin with lunch right after worship, then carpool to go caroling.



Adult Sunday School

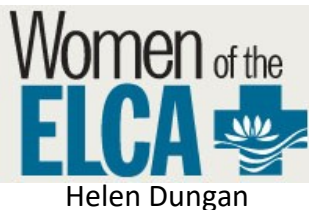
We are studying the Minor Prophets, minor because they are brief, NOT because they have nothing to say. Most of us are unfamiliar with them. We will read the text, get some background on what the prophet was facing, then discuss what it says to us today. We will be studying Joel and Obadiah in December. We invite you to join us! This is not a long term commitment.



Just a reminder, we will be making Vegetable and Potato soup for our January Soup Supper on Wednesday, January 15th. Mark your calendars for a fun morning of peeling and chopping vegetables and yacking; and an afternoon and evening of serving and visiting with our guests and customers. More information will be in the January newsletter.

Don't forget about the free Community Holiday Dinner, held at the Riegelsville Fire House on Saturday, December 7. Seatings are at 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, and 6:00 PM. For free tickets and more information, contact Joe Hlavaty or Lois Altemose.





Upper Bucks gathering: The speaker was from a Woman's Place and she spoke on domestic abuse. Abuse takes many forms – we are all acquainted with physical abuse, but there is emotional abuse, mental and verbal abuse. There are between 3,000 and 4,000 victims a year in Bucks County – we rank third or fourth in the state. During their lifetime, one in every three women and one in every four men will be victims of abuse. Teen dating abuse is one in three. Jealousy and possessiveness are not signs of love, in fact they are a red flag for the potential for abuse. A Woman's Place offers free counseling, medical advocacy, legal advocacy as well as education and outreach. They are talking in the schools in an attempt to raise awareness as to what is acceptable behavior and what isn't.

We held our **November meeting** at the Hellertown Diner with our special guest Cleo Eck. Then four of us went to Saucon Manor to visit with Helen Ballek. WELCA will be collecting gift cards for some of our neighbors this Christmas; Lynn Gaun will be the contact person.

Please lift up in prayer the following:

THANK YOU to Joan Mammana, for doing such a beautiful job managing the Prayer List. If you've asked for prayers for someone, please update Joan ASAP on their condition. THANK YOU.



December Worship Assistants

| | 1* | 8* | 15* | 22 | 24* Christmas Eve | 29 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--|------------------|
| Youth Acolyte & Communion Assistant | Conner Aquino | Nicholas Phillipps | Addyson Mammana | Hunter Aquino | Grace Litzenberger | Hunter Aquino |
| Greeter(s) | Bea von Watzdorf | The Phillipps Family | Frank Mammana | Ed Xander | 5 PM Williams Family 7:30 Lois & Jim Altemose | Lee Ann Kressman |
| Lay Worship Assistant | Scott Gaun | Kerri Rhine | Bea von Watzdorf | NA | TBA | NA |
| Council Communion Assistants | Scott Gaun Mark Harwick | Scott Gaun Mark Harwick | Scott Gaun Mark Harwick | | Scott Gaun Mark Harwick | |
| Counters | Scott Gaun, Mark Harwick | | | | | |
| Head Usher | Ben Naska * Indicates Communion will be served | | | | | |
| Altar Guild | Barbara Naska, Nancy Moskella, Mark Harwick | | | | | |

| | December Birthdays | | December Anniversaries | | December Baptisms |
|---|---|----|--|----|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Clayton Lechlitter | 8 | Dianna and Peter Streletz (29th) | 1 | Kerri Rhine |
| 14 | Victoria Phillipps Benjamin Williams | | | 2 | Blake Trauger |
| | | | | 4 | Rowan Froehlich |
| 19 | Bob Starling | 21 | Kathy and Joe Hlavaty (45th) | 6 | Brian Ashmore, Sr. |
| 20 | Valerie McGinn | 26 | Cheryl and Wayne Mesko (43rd) | 8 | Brendan Snyder |
| 23 | Scott Gaun, Clayton Helfrich | 28 | Jayne and Jim Miller (51st) | 9 | Lois Altemose |
| 27 | Gerry Seipt (92nd) | 29 | Lois and Jim Altemose (46th) | 10 | Jocelyn Frey Hunter Frey |
| 29 | Leo Grzelkowski | 30 | Gerry and Don Seipt (69th) Laura and Dave Helfrich (13th) | 11 | Alex Crouse |
| 30 | George Kreitz | | | 15 | Lee Ann Kressman |
| | | | | 18 | Ken Anderson |
| | | | | 23 | Coraline Trauger |
| | | | | 29 | Matthew Mueller |
| Other December baptisms, exact date unknown: Nancy Fox, Cheryl Mesko, and Cathy Mueller | | | | | |

Community Blood Drive Thursday, December 12th

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM



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

To sign up go to www.redcrossblood.org

Or call 1-800-redcross Eligibility questions call 1-866-236-3276

-- GIVE A MEANINGFUL GIFT THIS HOLIDAY— DONATE BLOOD!

Personal Care Kits: When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry; so these kits give the basics for self-care. With the tremendous number of disasters we have experienced this year, there is great need for them. On **Sunday December 8th**, we will dedicate our donations of personal care kits. These will not be delivered until later, so they can be given later.

Personal care kit: Each contains: 1 light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27", dark color recommended), 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping, 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging, 1 sturdy comb, 1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional). The personal care kits will go to Lutheran Disaster Relief for those forced from their homes and into shelters.



Caroling: After church on Sunday December 22th (weather permitting) we will go caroling to 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: Thanks to all who donated food for our Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive, and to Cheryl and Wayne Mesko for delivering the food to Upper Bucks and to Mark Harwick for delivering it to Easton. If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with a food basket on the altar, please sign on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex; include your dedication. If you do the shopping yourself, any non perishable items are appreciated. Alternatively, I can do the shopping. Minimum price is \$25 (the cost of altar flowers.)

December – we will collect **personal care items**

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 is a month of anticipation and joy. The children are awaiting the arrival of Baby Jesus and also the arrival of the “man in the red suit”. They will learn about the “Star” shape, especially the “star” that announced the birth of Jesus. They’ll also be learning about “Holidays Around the World” and the people and animals of the North Pole.

We are fortunate to have Jim Roney, Joshua’s uncle, return to share his Christmas music and instruments with the children. Last year he showed the children how to play in a “bell choir”. Each child had a bell and rang it when he pointed to them and they played a song that they recognized.

Pastor Dave will be sharing the story of the birth of Baby Jesus with the children.

The classes will have their Christmas party on Thursday, December 19th. Care-A-Lot will be closed from December 24th through January 2nd. Classes will resume on Tues., January 7, 2020.

The Care-A-Lot Students and Staff wish everyone a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020!!

Christmas Flowers It is time to order Poinsettias to decorate our chancel for Christmas. Orders will be taken until December 15. You can place your check and completed order form in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or you can order by mail. Send your check and completed order form to: Victoria Phillipps, 100 Meadows Lane, Riegelsville, PA 18077. Make checks payable to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham. Please make sure to include your phone number. Flowers will be delivered on Friday, December 20 or Saturday, December 21. Any questions, please contact Victoria at 610-346-1996.



Please remember to pick up your plants after worship on Christmas Eve!

| NAME | | | Phone Number | |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Quantity | Plant Description | Price | Total Amount | In Honor/In Memory of |
| | Red Poinsettia | \$7.00 | | |
| | White Poinsettia | \$7.00 | | |
| | Grand Total | | | |

| December 2019 | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 First Sunday of Advent 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Holy Communion | 2 | 3 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 4 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 5 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon Adult Small Group 2 PM | 6 | 7 Free Community Dinner at the Riegelsville Firehouse |
| 8 Second Sunday of Advent 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Holy Communion Congregational Budget Meeting Covered Dish Dinner 5:30 PM Confirmation at St. Peter's | 9 | 10 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 11 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 12 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 13 | 14 Pastor's Day Off |
| 15 Third Sunday of Advent 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Holy Communion 5:30 PM DRATT Youth Group here at Durham | 16 | 17 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 18 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 19 Care-A-Lot Preschool 9 AM - Noon | 20 | 21 Pastor's Day Off |
| 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Program 11:45 Lunch followed by Caroling | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Children's Service 7:30 PM Festival Communion | 25 | 26 Church Office Closed | 27 | 28 Pastor's Day Off |
| 29 First Sunday of Christmas NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols | 30 Church Office Closed | 31 Church Office Closed | | Items for Food Pantries: Personal Care Items | | |

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