



Guided by God's Word - For 200 Years

(Vision and Mission Statement below, approved by this congregation on January 30, 1999)

Our Vision:

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

Our Mission:

As a community of faith, firmly rooted in the love of God through Jesus Christ, we are called to:

WORSHIP God in praise and thanksgiving
SUPPORT one another in faith and fellowship
INVITE others to receive the joyous new life God offers to all
CARE for the real human needs of our neighbors, both near and far.

In February ...

- **Sunday, February 5**
Souper Bowl of Caring -
Bring canned food and \$\$
- **Tuesday, February 7-**
6:30PM Council Meeting
- **Wednesdays, February 8
& 15-** Bible Study Info
Session
- **Sunday, February 12-**
Congregational Meeting
and Covered Dish Dinner -
Annual Report
- **Wednesday, February 22 -
Ash Wednesday.**
Communion Worship at 1
PM and 7:30 PM

Twelve years ago, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham adopted this Vision and Mission Statement to guide our life together and for the sake of others in the 21st century. As we begin this 200th year of mission. I would like to focus us on these spirit-inspired words. First, let us acknowledge that we have not perfectly carried through on our intentions. But let me also give Glory to God that we have been able to humbly do what the Holy Spirit has empowered us to do. In this newsletter, I will focus on the following words from our mission statement: "As a community of faith, firmly rooted in the love of God ..."

How firmly are we as a community of faith **rooted** in God's love? In worship on January 145, 2012, we heard a scripture lesson from 1 Samuel indicating that, "... the Word of God was rare ..." in Israel at the time. The people had strayed from God's Word and will and were selfishly pursuing their own will. What resulted was corruption, cruelty, lack of compassion and idolatry. Yet, God raised up the boy Samuel to become a new priest and prophet to return the people to the Word of God.

It is not unfair to say that in 2012, in North American Christianity, an awareness of the Word of God is rare, even among so-called practicing, worshipping Christians. How many of us read the Bible daily? How many of us participate in Bible Studies, or other regular small-group spiritual experiences? Pastors, including this one, bemoan the difficulty of persuading folks to study the Bible.

In this 200th anniversary year, I am praying for a renewal of the study of God's Word, so that our mission this year and into the future will be truly guided by our God. Let's start this month! I invite you to come on either Wednesday, February 8th, or Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 PM to begin a conversation of small group Bible Study. We will meet in the sanctuary. If you are unable to be present on a Wednesday evening but would like to come to God's scripted Word, call me at 610-346-8314 or speak to me on Sunday morning.

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You MIGHT be LUTHERAN if ...

-you only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season.
-potluck dinners are your favorite indoor sport.
-you think hotdish is one of the major food groups.
-doughnuts are in the official church budget.
-you notice the Kool Aid stock shoots up during the Vacation Bible School season.
-you make your hot dishes with cream of mushroom soup and your salads with Jell-O.
-it's 110 degrees outside with 90% humidity and you still have coffee after services.
-you can't have a meeting without having a meal.
-you hold your family reunion in the church basement.
-you know what a Lutheran Church Basement Woman is.
-a midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.
- ...the only open pew is up front, so you volunteer to shovel the sidewalk.
-when you were little you actually thought the Reverend's first name was "Pastor."
-you hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can.
-it takes 10 minutes to say good-bye.
-sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon
- ...you're watching "Star Wars" in the theatre and when they say, "May the force be with you," you reply, "and also with you."
-Bach is your favorite composer because he was Lutheran, too.

Council Corner

As you may have heard, we have received a very generous donation from Dorothea Shaffer. It's a great blessing not to have worry about how much longer we can remain solvent. However, we can't let this lull us into a false sense of security. It's still critical that we maintain our current levels of giving so earnings from this money can cover our budgetary shortfalls for many years.

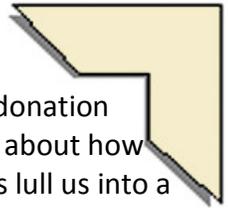
Likewise, we have to continue the same caution in spending that has allowed us to survive thus far. In a thank you note to Mrs. Shaffer, we promised to strive to manage these funds with the same sort of wisdom that enabled her to make such an astounding gift.

That said, I believe we need to give thanks for this gift, that we did nothing to earn, by fulfilling our obligation to the wider church. It has been years since we have tithed on our budget to Synod, but we should be able to afford it and I feel that we are morally bound to do so.

Please come to the annual congregational dinner and meeting after church on February 12th. As usual, council will provide the main courses, so side dishes and desserts are needed. Remember, we need a quorum and we need your input as we embark on our next 200 years. We also hope to have the new directories in time for this meeting. And just a few days after that, we need your help for the next Soup Supper on the 15th.

Val McGinn,
Council President

Council assignments for February: Dave Sauter and Helen Dungan
Next Council Meeting: Feb. 7th @6:30



THANK YOU for the Staff Christmas Gifts

Pastor Deal, Carolyn, Norma, Dianna, and Ann would like to thank the congregation for the very generous Christmas bonus.

From Pastor Deal: The generous Christmas gift came in handy for many things, and was a warm symbol of our partnership in the Gospel

From Norma: I would like to especially thank Victoria Phillipps for ordering the pink poinsettias. They were simply beautiful!

From Dianna and Norma: Thank you to the Christmas angels for our Christmas gifts.

Just as God gave his only son with love so that we might have eternal life, gifts are given and received with love amongst our church family.





Outreach - Helen Dungan

Souper Bowl of Caring: On **February 5, 2012** we will celebrate **Souper Bowl Sunday** by collecting soup and and/or money for the two food pantries.

We will continue to collect soup and crackers through the month of February.

Food baskets: Consider celebrating a happy occasion or honoring a loved one by placing a food basket on the altar. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You can either buy the basket yourself, or give the money to Helen Dungan to shop for you.

Food pantries: We received thank you letters from both the Lord's Pantry (Upper Bucks) and ProJeCt (Easton) food banks for our contributions of food and money. Both are serving an increasing number of people and really need our help.

Shut in ministry: Thanks to all who went carolling to Saucon Manor on December 18th; everyone enjoyed our visit and music.

Ingathering: Thanks to all who participated in this year's Ingathering; we gave Christmas presents to 12 foster children and collected 41 institutional gifts. Thanks also to everyone who helped check, count and load my car. This year I didn't miss the truck!



by Helen Dungan

Gerry Seipt hosted our January meeting and shared a video featuring one of the speakers at the Spring Synodical conference. He was both funny and challenging. One of his statements was that the church of the 21st century is much more similar to the church of the 1st century than that of the 20th century. For the first time ever the fastest growing group of believers is the NONEs, *those who are spiritual or religious but feel no need to be affiliated with a spiritual home.*

During our business meeting, we talked soup.

Our February meeting will be held on Thursday February 9^h at 1:30 in the church fellowship hall. Pastor Dave will lead us in a study of Romans chapter 8 "Nothing Can Separate Us – The Resurrection has brought all creation into a new relationship with God." **All are welcome.**

A big thank you to the township for using its information mailing list to notify Durham residents about our soup supper.

If you are a resident of Durham and have not signed up for this, you can do so by emailing Joe Kulick at durhamtownship@enter.net and ask to be added to the list. This is particularly helpful for weather and road conditions during storms.

February Worship Assistants

	5 *	12	19 *	22 * Ash Wed.	26 *
Youth Acolyte & Communion Assistant	Katie Aquino	Matthew Mueller	Alaina Apgar	Katie Aquino	Clayton Leichter
Greeter(s)	Nancy Moskella	Mueller Family	Virginia Hager	Lynn Gaun	Betty Kreitz
Lector(s)	Joan Mammana	Valerie McGinn	Ken Anderson	Tom Gaun	Mark Harwick
Council Communion Assistants	David Sauter and Helen Dungan		David Sauter and Helen Dungan	David Sauter and Helen Dungan	David Sauter and Helen Dungan
Counters	David Sauter and Helen Dungan		* Asterisk indicates that Holy Communion will be served.		
Head Usher	Althea Crouse				
Altar Guild	Nancy Moskella and Mary Crouse				

	February Birthdays		February Anniversaries
2	Amanda Frey		
5	Laura Helfrich Dianna Streletz		
8	Diane DeWalt		
10	Wayne Mesko		
12	Jean Haas (89th) Steven Streletz		
13	Miriam Anderson		
15	Norma Fox	15	Betty and George Kreitz
16	Kathy Haney		
17	Betty Kreitz		
20	Esther Crouse		
24	Frank Moskella		
27	Tanya Naska		
28	Grace Helen Litzenberger		
29	Becky Harrison		

SOUP

We could not make the profits we do on these soup sales without the generous donations that keep our expenses minimal. So, we extend big thank yous to:

- 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 and crackers.
- **Springtown Meat** for donating the beef bones.
- **Our bakers** for their donations of cakes and bread.

Finally, a gargantuan thank you to all the workers whose generous donation of time and skills made this possible!

We ran out of soup this year. We evidently made a little less soup than last year. We sold 97 quarts of vegetable soup, 79 quarts of potato soup, and served 29 adults supper.



THE FEBRUARY SOUP SUPPER IS WEDNESDAY February 16th. The soups are Cream of Broccoli and Chicken Noodle. We need bakers, and workers in the kitchen. Please share your skills and time to make this a successful endeavor.

Palisades Cluster of Lutheran Churches

At its meeting on January 22, 2012 representatives of the Cluster churches discussed our role, goals and the tasks we would like to carry out during the coming year. We didn't finish setting our goals, but did reiterate our primary purpose: *working together to bring people to Christ*. This is also the purpose of each individual congregation but as a cluster we work together on things no one church can do on its own.

Our first goal for 2012 is to increase our outreach into our communities in an effort to make Christ know through our words and deeds (and we have been much better at the deeds than the words.) Another goal is to better publicize and support programs individual congregations are having. The Cluster will again sponsor an Ascension Day service. It will be held at Durham this year with Pastor Donna Deal as the guest preacher.

We also plan to sponsor the Bear Creek Day Camp again. We are hoping to have it the last week in June; but have to clear this date with the camp.

The Parish nurse program is proceeding much slower than we hoped; their next meeting is January 24th. The Cluster's next meeting is March 22, 2012 and we will continue the discussion of our goals at that meeting.



Pastor's Message *(continued from Page 1)*

By the way, “no experience is necessary” to begin. Our study together is not intended to be intimidating to those new to the pages of the Bible. We will seek through reading and sharing to discern together where God is guiding each of us individually and the congregation. Grounded in God's Word and the love of God, we can then more powerfully light the way to God's love for others.

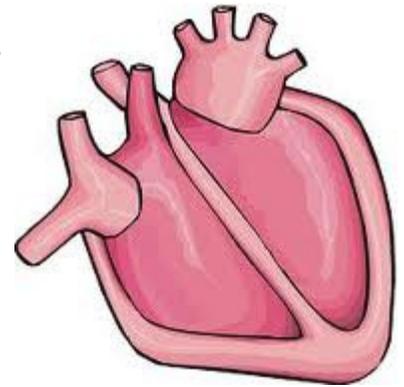
~Pastor David Deal

PS The Palisades Cluster may be developing a Lenten Series to help us return to God's love and Word. Stay tuned for more details.

News from the Parish Nurse

American Heart Association. “Her Health” Doylestown Hospital Pamphlet. Vol 13

As February approaches, The American Heart Association encourages us to be heart healthy. They have designated this month to be “Heart Healthy Month” and will initiate their “Go Red for Women” campaign. Friday, February 3, 2012 is wear red day in recognition of this campaign. There has been an earnest thrust to educate the public, especially women, on the warning signs and symptoms of a heart attack.



Many times the symptoms for women are much different than for men. Men usually experience chest, jaw, and arm pain, while women may experience extreme fatigue, abdominal, or back pain. According to the American Heart Association, “if you want to protect your heart, you may have to raise a little HDL (good cholesterol)” and advise adding the following foods to your diet: *Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, such as fish, dark green vegetables, flaxseed, safflower, sunflower, and canola oil. *Foods high in soluble fiber, like whole grains, oats, brown rice, fruits, legumes, and lentils. *Use cooking oils high in monounsaturated fats, such as canola and olive oils. *Try soy products such as tofu, tempeh and texturized vegetable protein (TVP). *Consume low-fat, or fat free dairy products. *Include onions. Many European health practitioners advise that half a raw onion per day can significantly raise HDL levels.

CPR and external defibrillation do save lives. The Tincum Health Ministry, through a grant, purchased AEDs (defibrillators) one for each church. Volunteers were recruited and took the CPR/Defibrillator course. I am in the process of planning another CPR/Defibrillator course for the original volunteers and for any church members interested. Once I get dates for the CPR/Defibrillator trainer, I'll post a signup sheet on the bulletin board.

God Bless You!
Mary Hurley, RN

CARE-A-Lot Preschool Report

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.



Care-À-Lot

This month we are "Curious About Animals" so we will study different animals and their habitats. In Science and Math, we will study tools and learn which ones we use 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

PRAYER

Please speak to the pastor before the service if you have someone you would like him to lift up in prayer. To place someone on the Prayer List, call the Church Office. For urgent prayer needs, start the Prayer Chain by calling Virginia Hager. Please make updates to Prayer List in the Narthex on the condition of anyone you've placed on the list. If you are on the Prayer List and are ready to be removed, please let us know!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

FOR HEALING: Rachel Crouse, Bob Erceg, Betty Fox, Clarence Fox, Leo Fox, Johnny Hesser, Bryant Hlavaty, Michael Kempf, Elfriede Marschewski, Barbara Naska, and Norma Rodenbach, Silas Rodenbach, and Sharron Streletz.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: Corporal Michael Hesser (USMC, Camp Lejeune), Corporal Nicholas Squartino (USMC, Okinawa), Private Blake Rodd (US Army, Afghanistan), Sergeant Jamie Newcomb (US Army Reserves), LTJG Randall Reichenbach (US Navy, USS Preble), and Sergeant Jimmy Apgar (US Army, Ft. Richardson, Alaska.)

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Susan Ackerman, Ruth Anderson, Jimmy Ashmore, Al Boorse, Pat Butler, Lindsey Capus, London Dalley, Rev. Harold & Miriam Deal, Amanda Gaughrin, Betty Helm, Charlene Higgins, Phyllis Monesmith, Dave Morrell, Judy Nelson, Glenn Newcomb, Linda Wolfe Pursell, Alex Rios, Alex Senft, Alex Ulrey, Blake Alexander Valero, Vincent Viscomi, & Jane Wong.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND: Judy Barron, Ruth Behm, Madlyn Chasar, Jean Haas, Betty Kiefer, Marcella Krager, Lillian Melchior, Evelyn Peterman.



FOR THE GRIEVING: The families of Connie Prescott, Virginia Fisher, Gloria Phillipps, Gene Gribbin, Alexa Bailey, Clarence Berger, Mildred Seifert, and Irene Fox.

In 2011 **five families** in Bucks County became Habitat Homeowners!

Meet our newest family: Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County warmly welcomes its newest partners, the Mbugua-Njoroge Family.

Stephen and Serah, of Quakertown, completed their sweat equity hours and purchased the final townhouse in our Emerald Hollow community. Having recently moved out of a one-bedroom apartment in which their daughters slept in the attic, while they shared a room with their son, this family has completed our homeownership program and will be moving into their home after the holidays.

Highlights from 2011...

- 5 New Habitat Partner Families are celebrating Christmas in their very own homes.
- 700 Volunteers logged in over **10,650** hours of service.
- 2 *A Brush With Kindness* projects were completed as this program launched in July.
- 6 *Do it Yourself* Clinics were held in the ReStore.
- 1 Home is slated to begin construction soon in Bristol.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES:

Have you signed up for your spring
Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend?



NOW is the time to register for this opportunity to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage with all the joy and beauty God intended. The spring 2012 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are: **March 16-18 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College, PA** (peaceful resort located in the center of the state) and **April 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA** (a lovely hotel featuring king beds and in-room hot tubs --1 hour north of Pittsburgh.) Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday afternoon around 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES.

There is a \$45 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. If the spring weekends don't fit into your schedule, the two fall Weekends are: September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA -- 20 miles southeast of Warren, PA; and October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA -- just off Interstate 80, two hours north of Philadelphia. Many say the Weekend was the most fantastic and moving experience of their lives.

Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure your first choice. To sign up, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and register online using your credit card. Or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.

February Highlights

Sunday, February 5, 2012 - Souper Sunday of Caring - Once again on the day of the Super Bowl, children and adults are asked to collect soup and other foods for local food pantries, joining Christians around the country in this effort.

Tuesday, February 7 - (Note: a week earlier than usual) at 6:30 PM, **Church Council meeting**, beginning with supper provided by Val McGinn.

Wednesdays, February 8 and 15, at 7:30 PM in the worship space - **Bible Study informational meeting** - "No Experience Necessary."

Sunday, February 12, 2012 - Annual Congregational Meeting (*Snow date is February 19*) - The meeting will begin at approximately 12:30 PM: Election of Church Council, 200th Anniversary Report, Discussion of Financial Future and Property Concerns.

Wednesday, February 15 from 4 to 6:30 PM - **Soup Supper**. Soups are Cream of Broccoli or Homemade Chicken Noodle.

Sunday, February 19 - Transfiguration Sunday - End of the Season of Epiphany - A Celebration of Jesus' Glory! - 10:30 AM.

Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday/Lent begins

- 1:00 PM Spoken Service of Holy Communion
- 7:30 PM Holy Communion with Music
- Imposition of Ashes available at both services



YOUTH NEWS

Please welcome our newest group of Acolytes! **Jack Pyne, Austin Apgar, and Matthew Mueller** have been trained and have begun participating in worship with Pastor Deal. Thanks for your participation, guys!

Our most recent Confirmand, **Alaina Apgar**, is in 9th grade at Palisades HS. She has been the recipient of many awards, including the Pirate's Eye Award from Palisades Middle School, and the Gold Award from Girl Scouts. Alaina loves reading and writing songs, and hopes some day to be an English or Math teacher.

200th Anniversary Plans

The 200th Anniversary committee has been working on plans to celebrate this milestone in our church's history. We ask that anyone who knows the whereabouts of past members to please give us their recent addresses so that they can be included in our celebrations.

200th Anniversary SAVE THE DATES!

May 17, 2012 – Ascension Day Service on Thursday evening, Pastor will invite former pastors and we will serve refreshments afterwards.

June 3, 2012 – A banquet dinner celebration catered by the Meadows at 1:30 PM The guest speaker for our banquet will be James Moss. He will give a power point presentation entitled "Loving God, Loving People." ALSO... following the service that morning we will be having our **group picture** taken duplicating the old anniversary picture. The photographer is scheduled to be here at 11:30 AM that Sunday.

June 10, 2012 – A ceremony for the renewal of marriage vows will be performed that Sunday. A covered dish reception picnic will follow. The oldest couple married at Durham church will be asked to cut the wedding cake at the celebration that day.

October 13, 2012 – Community Day involvement with a planned **musical concert** here at the church right after community day.

November 4, 2012 – All Saints Sunday with a visit from Bishop Burkat. A small finger food reception will be held after morning service.

November 11, 2012 – A ceremony to honor our veterans both past and present will be held at our service that day.

Please plan on attending these festivities to make our celebration a success! Hope to see you there.

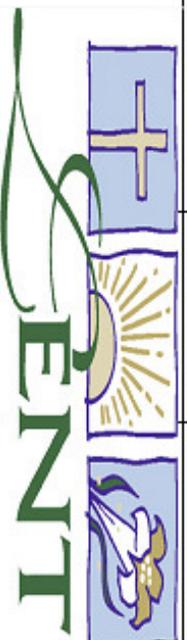
Other plans are in the works, such as the new directory, a heritage cookbook, a history booklet and T-shirts to commemorate our celebration!

Anyone interested in joining our committee or have any other ideas, please let us know.



Take care and God bless you and yours!
Lynn Gaun, Committee chairperson

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
SOUPER BOWL of Caring 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion Bring canned goods and \$\$\$ for Food Pantries		9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Church Council meeting	9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Bible Study Information Mtg.	9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot WELCA @ 1:30		Pastor's Day Off
Annual Congregational Meeting 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting Covered Dish Dinner		Valentines Day 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 4-6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Bible Study Information Mtg.	9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot		Pastor's Day Off
Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion		9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	Ash Wednesday 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 1:00 PM Communion 7:30 Pm Communion	9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot		Pastor's Day Off
First Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion		9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir			

FEBRUARY

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham
"The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"

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EVANGEL



February

2012