

In September ...

- **September 9** - RALLY DAY /Spark Sunday School-
- **September 9** - FALL SCHEDULE STARTS - 9 AM Sunday School; 10:30 AM Worship
- **September 9 at 5 PM** - Confirmation Kick-Off -
-
- **September 11** - Care-A-Lot 1st day of school

- **September 20 at 7 PM** - "Experience Acts" Bible Study
- **September 23** - Harvest Home
- **September 30 @ 2 PM** - ELCD hosts Palisades Cluster

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Want a firm faith foundation? Dig into the WORD!

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path ..." (Psalm 119:105)

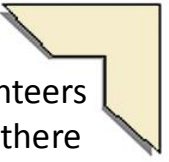
As Fall of 2012 begins, it would be good to review where we've been so far in this 200th Anniversary Year. It has been a year of celebration and gifts for Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham. We celebrated the Ascension of Our Lord on May 16, along with many other Christian brothers and sisters from the Upper Bucks Conference. As a result of the hard work of Lynn Gaun, our Anniversary Chair, and many other committed folks, our 200th Anniversary Service and Banquet on June 3 was a great day in our lives and history. Lynn continued to push forward with Christmas in July on July 14. We reached out to the community and offered food, crafts, games, fellowship, and more. Then just a few weeks after that, Val McGinn and Dave Sauter led us in another successful Beef Roast on August 4th. Many of you have put in countless hours to make our 200th Anniversary Year a year to remember.

I'd like to go back to the message that Rev. Jim Moss delivered to us at our Anniversary Banquet. As we go forward in mission and ministry for the next 200 years, we need to be grounded in these words: "Love Jesus and Love People." Rev. Moss elaborated that in order to love Jesus, you need to "know" him. He challenged us to read the Gospels of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

In 2012 and beyond, if we are to remain on firm footing in our decisions and actions as Jesus' disciples, we need to dive into God's Word—The Scriptures, the Bible. September and another autumn season are upon us. It is my hope that all of us this year may accept the invitation and challenge to grow in the Word of God.

You may ask, "But how do I get started?" I have some very practical and simple suggestions: 1. The children of the congregation and of our Care-A-Lot Preschool will be using the Spark Story Bible to experience some of the finest and most exciting stories in the Bible. 2. Parents: There are 150 stories in the Spark Story Bible. If you have one, read them at home with your children. There are questions and suggested activities at the end of each story. If you don't have a Spark Story Bible, let me know, and we will order one for you. 3. If you are part of a family with older children or youth, make daily devotions part of your family life. Pick a Bible Story or Psalm or other Bible passage to read as part of devotions.

Council Corner



Our anniversary year summer has been a busy one. A thousand thanks to all the volunteers at Christmas in July, the Beef Roast, and Vacation Bible School. While not everyone was there every night, V.B.S. had a total of 25 children, six youth helpers, and fourteen adult helpers.

We certainly couldn't have done it without the Naska family, with all four adults playing key roles. Considering that it almost didn't happen at all, there were some 'best one ever' reviews from both children and helpers. We were also blessed with pretty good weather for all of our summer events.

There's been some concern expressed regarding attendance at the Beef Roast, which was about the same as last year when we had pouring rain. It is a very work intensive event. We make about \$1000 in profit, but only because everything except the meat [almost \$600 this year] and the venue are donated by Traugers Market and various volunteers. Suggested changes have included moving the date to late July or later August to avoid conflict with Music Fest, but that might cost us some of our core volunteers or usual customer base. We will probably have to raise our price as beef costs will almost certainly be higher due to the mid-west drought. We might consider a discount for tickets sold in advance. If you have suggestions, please pass them on to me or to Dave Sauter. Of course, suggestions will get more attention if you also offer to help implement them.

Work has already started on the first phase, prepping and freezing vegetables [donated by Traugers], for the Community Dinner at the Riegelsville Firehouse sponsored jointly by area churches. Nancy Fox made some phone calls and assured that ELC Durham had a good turnout. Joe Hlavaty and Nancy will be our contact people for this worthy cause.

Val McGinn, Council President

Next Council Meeting: September 11 at 6:30

Council Assignments for September: George Kreitz and Beth Ross

Pastor's Message continued ...

4. Katie Aquino and Clayton Leichter will begin a two-year program of growing in the Word as they participate in Confirmation Ministry. 5. Adults (single, younger, older) - Accept Rev. Moss's challenge. Begin today on either of the two reading schedules. Schedule 1: Read a chapter a day from the Gospels of Mark and Luke. (It will take you 40 days.) Already a small group of folks hosted by Helen Dungan completed this challenge in a Wednesday evening summer Bible Discussion Group. Schedule 2: Read a chapter a day from all of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. (This will take 89 days.) 6. More Bible discussion groups can be formed! I am beginning a new group on the Book of Acts, entitled "Experiencing Acts" on Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 PM here at the church.

Let's be strengthened and guided by God's Word in the next 200 years, or as the children learned in Vacation Bible School this summer, "God's Word is our Rock!"

~ Pastor David M. Deal

Food Banks: Our September food items for the food pantries are cereal and jelly. Thank you to everyone who donated over the summer!

Harvest Home: We will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, September 23rd. We will collect non-perishable food items for both food banks. However, the Lord's Pantry has refrigeration and can also accept excess garden produce. ProJeCt does not have any way to keep non-perishable food items.

The Lord's Pantry is always in need of canned means. ProJeCt is asking for cereal, juice, peanut butter and jelly, powdered milk, and macaroni and cheese among other items. However, any non-perishable food item is welcome. Money collected for Harvest Home will be split between the two food banks.

The September meeting of Women of the ELCA will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 1:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. The program is "Inviting others to God's Feast.". The leader is Helen Dungan, the hostess is Cleo Eck.



by Helen Dungan

All women of the congregation are invited to join us.

◆ **NOTES ...**

-To the Pastor and Congregation of Durham Evangelical Lutheran Church: We want to thank you all for the many visits, prayers, cards, and donations during the illness and death of my Dear Husband Clarence F. Fox and father of my sons and daughters. It was a challenge, but with your help it was much easier. Thanks ever so much. --- From Norma, Deb, Gene, Chris, and their families, and on behalf of Ruth Carr and her family.

-From the Rev. Dennis Ritter, Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services --

What a wonderful surprise to learn that LCS was designated to receive the offering from a special service that was held at Durham on Ascension Day ... Please accept and extend to your congregation and the other congregations my heartfelt thanks for the gift of \$438. It will help to insure that LCS can continue to provide quality ministries to the congregations and leaders who turn to it ... Congratulations to Christ's disciples at Durham on the occasion of the congregation's 200 years of faithful witness to the Gospel... I pray that God continues to bless the work of Christ's disciples' hands and their faithful proclamation of the Good News of life in and through Jesus Christ.

September	2	9	16	23	30
Acolyte	Austin Apgar	Matthew Mueller	Katie Aquino	Clayton Leichliter	Alaina Apgar
Communion Assistants	George Kreitz and Beth Ross		George Kreitz and Beth Ross		
Greeter(s)	Manfred & Elfriede Marschewski	Bob & Evelyn Newcomb	Valerie and Paul McGinn	The Apgar Family	Althea Crouse
Lector	Joan Mammana	Tom Gaun	Lois Altemose	Joe Hlavaty	Val McGinn
Counters	George Kreitz and Beth Ross				
Head Usher	Helen Dungan				
Altar Guild	Serena Ashmore and Barbara Naska				

	September Birthdays		September Anniversaries
5	Bruce Crouse		
7	Bob Crouse Jim Miller		
10	Michelle Causa		
12	Bob Fox Barbara Naska		
14	Dot Peterman	14	Karen and Hans Rilling
15	Laura Pyne	16	Jason and Michelle Causa
22	Don Seipt	21	Nancy and Frank Moskella
24	Mary Ellen Jonczyk Nancy Fox	23	Nancy and Bob Fox
27	Jack Pyne	26	Ben and Tanya Naska
28	Maggie Fischer		

August Births -

A son, Christopher Jacob, to Rachael and Joel Roney.

A daughter, Norah Elizabeth, to Jessica and Alan Johnson.

A son, Martin, to Marian and Michael Kempf.

New Bible Discussion Group to Begin in September!

“Experience Acts” will look at some key passages from this New Testament book about the growth and mission of Christianity. Thanks to Helen Dungan for hosting a small group in her home over the summer—reading and talking about the Gospels of Mark and Luke.

Please meet with Pastor Deal on Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 PM at the church to begin to “Experience Acts.”

200th Anniversary Event DVD's Available

Maybe you were fortunate enough to be present at our 200th Anniversary events this Spring and Summer. Maybe you missed them. Don't worry. Thanks to the commitment of Bob Newcomb, DVD's have been produced for you to borrow or purchase.

Several DVD's of the entire worship service on Ascension Day, May 17, 2012 are available. Also, there is a DVD dated June 3, 2013, the date of our 200th Anniversary Service — a brief slide presentation of our church facilities. Please contact the church office, 610-346-8500, or Bob Newcomb ,610-540-2165, (if you would like Bob to produce your own copy) if you would like to borrow or purchase an anniversary DVD.

Vacation Bible School—August 13–16—House on a Rock

Children (ages 3-11), Youth, and Adults had a rousing experience with Jesus' parable from Matthew 7. We learned that it is much wiser to build our lives on the spiritual foundation of the Word of God. “God's Word is our Rock!”

We used music, prayer, games, crafts, and snacks to make this Bible parable a part of our lives.

On Wednesday evening, our older children performed a short and stirring mini-drama on the story. And on Thursday evening we all gathered with our popcorn to enjoy the movie “Toy Story 2.”

The children of the Bible School (supplemented by members of the congregation) contributed \$223.23 to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County—using special little “Habitat” House Boxes (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and \$\$\$).

THANKS to all who gave time, talent, donations, and prayer for our Vacation Bible School!



200th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

First and foremost, I want to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone who gave of their time, talents, and money to make our "Christmas in July" event a successful day. Even though we didn't have a big crowd, there was a steady stream of people attending throughout the day. The crafters were even happy about the money they took in that day. We also made enough money to pay for our T-shirts and ornaments. Now, whatever we sell will be all profit. The adult T-shirts are priced at \$14 each, and the youth sizes are \$8 each. If anyone would like XL or XXL, these sizes need to be special ordered. If interested, please contact Lynn Gaun at 610-749-0217 to place an order.

Our ornaments are heart shaped, to emphasize our "church with a heart" missions. It is shatterproof with our church logo printed on the front to celebrate our 200th anniversary. The ornaments are \$10 each. They would make great gifts for any of our children who attended Durham Church. Think Christmas!

Mark your calendars for October 13, 2012 for the Oscar Hammerstein Sing-A-Long at 6 PM. The evening will feature songs written by Oscar Hammerstein, from shows such as South Pacific, Oklahoma, and the Sound of Music, as well as other famous Broadway tunes. Even if you know that you're not a singer, come and enjoy the familiar music. The event is free of charge and open to the public, so invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Light refreshments will be served at intermission. A free-will offering will be collected to help defray the costs of the event.

Jessica Barth, who leads the Sing-A-Long, is an author, teacher, and expert on the life of Oscar Hammerstein, and she will intrigue you with the knowledge she possesses. Jessie and her percussionist, Carol Lindsay, will delightfully entertain you and invite you to be part of the entertainment if you wish to. We are proud that one of our own, Carolyn Williams, our church organist, will accompany Jessie in all of the songs. I have attended several of these Sing-A-Longs, and, in my opinion, everyone who attends will be in for a real treat. Hope to see you there!

Lynn Gaun, 200th Anniversary chairperson

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

FOR HEALING: Corinne Ashmore, Mary Crouse, Bob Erceg, Leo Fox, Johnny Hesser, Bryant Hlavaty, Michael Kempf, George Kreitz, Myron Kressman, and Bob Newcomb.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: Corporal Michael Hesser (USMC, Camp Lejeune), Corporal Nicholas Squartino (USMC, Okinawa), Specialist Blake Rodd (US Army, Afghanistan), Sergeant Jamie Newcomb (US Army Reserves).

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Al Borse, Pat Butler, Melissa Carafa, Ronald Christman, Jr., Ronald Christman, Sr., London Dally, Rev. Harold & Miriam Deal, Charlene Higgins, Bryant Hlavaty, Karen Hlavaty, Ronnie Klingbeil, Pearl Musser, Glenn Newcomb, Ken Newcomb, Bill Schnable, Alex Senft, Lewis Snyder, Jack Thaler, Eddie Thaler, Alex Ulrey, and Vernon Wehrung.

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

FOR THE GRIEVING: The families of Dave Morrell, Mary Ann Segeletes, Pearl Emma Howey, Clarence Fox, Evelyn Peterman, Naomi Hoover, Virginia Fisher, Gloria Phillipps, Gene Gribbin, Alexa Bailey, Clarence Berger, Mildred Seifert, and Irene Fox.

September Highlights - Fall Begins

Care-A-Lot Preschool:

Tuesday, September 4, 9 AM to 10:30 AM - Welcome and Orientation for Parents

Tuesday, September 11 - First full day of school. Classes will be held Tuesday through Thursday each week from 9 AM to 12:30 PM.

Fall Worship:

Sunday, September 9 - Worship hour returns to 10:30 AM. On September 9, worship will be Word and Familiar Hymns.

Choir Rehearsals resume every Wednesday at 6:30 PM, beginning September 5.

Spark Sunday School returns, beginning Sunday, September 9 at 9:00 AM. New fall stories include "Hannah and Samuel" and "Daniel and the Lion's Den."

Harvest Home - Sunday, September 23. Bring non-perishable food and special offering - In your 2012 offering envelop box is included a "Harvest Home" envelope. Please use and give generously. Monies will be shared equally with the Lord's Pantry and Project Easton.

Confirmation ministry begins for Katie Aquino and Clayton Leichter. Instruction, Fellowship and Service - A 2-year program. Please pray for these young people.

CARE-A-LOT NEWS

Welcome to our new friends and welcome back to our old ones here at Care-A-Lot! September starts another year of fun and learning. We will be starting our school year off with one "welcome" day for our Zebras (preschool class - 6 students) and our Leopards (Pre-K class - 10 students) on September 4th from 9:00-10:30 am. We will meet with the children and tell their parents all about the upcoming year. Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 11th. Our theme this year is "Wild About Our World".



Care-A-Lot

Our science theme this month is "Colors" so we will learn about the primary colors and how to make secondary colors. We will also learn everyone's favorite color. We will be taking a field trip to the Crayola Factory at the end of the month to enhance our color lessons.

We will focus on Getting to Know Each Other this month since we have some new friends in both classes. In Math, we will learn about counting and recognizing numbers. Pastor Dave will meet with both classes and teach the children about Friends and Sharing using the Spark Bible.

As you come to Church, check out the newly enhanced playground! We replaced the ladder, the ramp with a rock wall, stained the set and painted the fire truck. We hope your children and grandchildren enjoy it!

As always, anyone is welcome to come and visit with the children, perhaps to read to them or play with them. They love visitors and love showing what they know!

Love, Mrs. Naska, Mrs. Pason and Mrs. Hower

Some Words About Social Media ... from a concerned and caring, if largely unplugged, pastor

"Have you heard the latest?"

It used to be that these questions came in person-to-person, face-to-face contact. But now the question usually refers to an email or something on a Facebook page, a blog, or a Tweet. The email or whatever may begin with "Have you heard the latest? The government is issuing free cell phones to poor people at NO expense to them ...". Or, "The government is planning to remove nearly a trillion dollars from Medicare benefits...". Or "President Obama is a Muslim, non-citizen, socialist, dangerous figure, who is out to destroy our freedom and our nation."

Now, those of you reading this who know me, know that I am not getting these messages via computer, since I am either backward enough or smart enough not to own or use a PC. But, occasionally, other clergy, congregational members, or my wife will share these messages with me. So, I get some forwarded emails.

Many of them may be sent to you with a request to forward them to others. It is becoming more and more clear to me that these cyberspace messages are an ultramodern equivalent of backyard gossip. They are passed on as truth or fact, many times with no way to verify, and no basis in the facts. Remember the old game, *Whisper Down the Lane*, and how muddled the message can become at the end of the line.

In our time of lightning fast technology, fears, lies, and innuendo can spread like wildfire. It is difficult for me to place any stock in the truth of such communications, whether they come from the right or the left of the political spectrum.

These days, many of us are struggling with fewer resources and lots of fear. It's human nature to blame others for circumstances that seem overwhelming. It's particularly easy to blame our societal institutions (government, schools, banks, and corporations), who seem far away and detached. There are lots of emails about government abuses, bizarre events, the weather, "Jesus," the "Bible," and yes, the "Church" and its leaders.

God's people should realize that when we resend or repeat a statement that we cannot verify or that will only harm others, we are breaking the 8th Commandment: *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."* Martin Luther, in his small catechism, went on to say, "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors [even those far away in Washington, D.C.], betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light." Further, Jesus himself and St. Paul witnessed against gossip, slander, bitterness in the early Church.

My advice to me and to you, if you receive such communications, is to try www.factcheck.org or www.snopes.com (I didn't know that, but I got that useful info from my very wise wife, Donna). If you have a question about Jesus, the Bible, or the Church, go to your pastor. Too many uninformed, uneducated people on the television make claims about our faith, and they do not have the best interests of people at heart, just their own need for attention.

When a friend or neighbor or work associate approaches you with a rumor, you might pass this article along to them to read, put the best construction on your neighbor's intentions, and on our life in community. I need to be totally honest with you. If you show me a copy of an email like this, I will not pass it on, I will not include it in the newsletter, and I will very likely just place it in the roundfile.

It is very highly-charged election year in our nation. All of us have strong opinions and beliefs. Can we at least consider the possibility that we may not "know" or that we may be "wrong." Only God is all-knowing. We need to read and listen and watch and vote in faith, trusting in our ability to think through any rumor that might lead us astray. And especially, we need to trust in our Lord and be guided by his spirit.

Sincerely and lovingly submitted,

Pastor David M. Deal [Call me to respond at 610-346-8314]

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pastor's Day Off
2 9:30 AM WOV Holy Communion 10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn	3 Labor Day, Church Office Closed	4 9 AM -10:30 PM Care-A-Lot Welcome & Orientation 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study	5 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	6 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office	7	8 Pastor's Day Off
Fall Schedule Returns 9	10 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office	11 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot First Day 10 AM Pastor at UBC monthly mtg. 6:30 PM - Church Council Supper & Meeting	12 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	13 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office	14 Holy Cross Day	15 Pastor's Day Off
10:30 AM Worship - Old Favorite Hymns 5 PM - Confirmation Kick-off						
16 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion	17 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office	18 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study	19 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	20 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 7 PM "Experience Acts" Bible Study	21 St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	22 Pastor's Day Off
Harvest Home 23	24 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office	25 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study	26 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	27 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office	28	29 Pastor's Day Off
10:30 AM Worship - Bring food and \$\$\$ to share						
30 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5 PM ELCD hosts Palisades Lutheran Cluster						

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

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EVANGEL

September



2012