

### In February ...

- **Tuesday, February 2 at 6:30 PM** Church Council
- **Sunday, February 7** Souper Bowl of Caring & Annual Congregational Meeting
- **Monday, February 8 at 1:30 PM** - WELCA
- **Wednesday, February 10** - Ash Wednesday Worship at 1 and 7:30 PM
- **Sunday, February 14** - Scout Sunday and Valentines Day
- **Thursdays, February 18 and 25** - Palisades Cluster Midweek Lenten Gathering

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### "You are My Son/Daughter—My Beloved"

We will hear these words from scripture several times. During the beginning of the Epiphany Season, Jesus, the Son of God, heard these words from heaven when he was baptized. He was empowered by his Father's love to begin his mission of bringing about God's Kingdom.

Atop Transfiguration Mountain (in Luke 9), Jesus, Peter, James, and John heard the words again. From a cloud of God came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him." And this time, Jesus heard these words shortly before his journey of sacrifice to Jerusalem and the cross.

You and I have also heard those words at our baptisms: "We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn *Children of God*..." In our daily lives, in our joys and in our struggles, we are unbreakably bound to Jesus as beloved sons and daughters of God. We are about to begin the Lenten Season together, where we cannot help but recognize how we have fallen short as God's children. We are sinners. Yet, we can embrace Lent in faith, knowing that God has loved us, saved us, and will always love us. Lent can be a time for us to be strengthened in our baptisms, in our promises to God, in our ministries together. I look forward to confessing, praying, and growing with you this Lent 2016.

~ **Pastor David Deal**

### Don't Forget!

#### Sunday, February 7

- Souper Bowl Sunday - The Souper Bowl of Caring - **BRING SOUP!**

-**Annual Congregational Meeting** - immediately after worship - the meeting will be streamlined this year; it will be shorter, with no covered dish necessary - Council will provide snacks.

#### Wednesday, February 10 - Ash Wednesday - 2 worship services

1:00 PM A simple, spoken, daytime service of communion with ashes

7:30 PM Communion, with singing, choir, and imposition of ashes



## Council Corner

### From your Council President ...

So, how do we like the new envelope system?

The glue doesn't seem to hold well, so they may require tape, especially if they are to be used to

mail a donation. Several people have reported not receiving them. Please let Ken Anderson know; he can order another set for you. When I received mine, I almost discarded them as they looked like just another charity solicitation. Please watch for the next batch that will come to cover the second half of the year.

Please try to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on February 7<sup>th</sup>. As always, we need a quorum of voting members in order to comply with our constitution. We'll have some drinks and snacks to munch on during the meeting, and we hope to keep it brief. We will try to have the Annual Reports available ahead of time, so you can take them home and study them before the meeting. One issue that we want some feedback on is what to do about the episodic ceiling leaks in the choir loft area. These seem to occur only after heavy rains accompanied by strong winds. One possible solution is to cover the steeple louvers with Plexiglas to see if that is the source of the leaks, but that will probably block the sound of the bell.

Council members please note the next meeting will be one week earlier than usual to precede the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Val McGinn, Council President

Next Council Meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30

Council Assignments for February: Joe Hlavaty and Lynn Gaun

## SOUP

We sold 132 quarts of vegetable and 85 quarts of potato; we had 33 adults for dinner plus 1 older child and 2 younger ones.

Once again we sold out of soup. Our final profits, which included some donations, were \$1308.17. **Thank you to everyone who helped with this project:**

- **The Kressmans** for supplying us with the potatoes, onions, cabbage, and leaks we used. Our potato soup is almost totally a **Trauger's Farm Market'** creation. We also thank them for ordering other produce for us.
- **Springtown Meat** for donating the beef bones.
- **Our bakers:** Miriam Anderson, Helen Dungan, Betty Fox, Kathy Hlavaty, Lynn Leichleiter, Barbara Naska, Makenzie Naska, Rachael Roney, Diana Streletz, and Joanne Thaler for their donations of desserts and bread.
- **The Monday night crew:** Miriam Anderson, Helen Dungan, Mark Harwick, Val McGinn and Dot Peterman. These folks make the beef broth – while watching the pots, Dot peeled almost a basket of onions, and Miriam washed jars and cleaned the kitchen. In the evening we strained the broth, pulled the meat off the bones and washed pots (thank you Val.)
- **The chief chefs,** Mark Harwick (vegetable soup) and Esther Crouse and Nancy Moskella (potato soup).
- **The Wednesday workers who** peeled potatoes and 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: Althea Crouse, Bonnie de Portillo, Helen Dungan, Cleo Eck, Betty Fox, Joe and Kathy Hlavaty, George Kreitz, Frank and Joan Mammana, Val McGinn, Jayne Miller, Barbara and Ben Naska, Gladys Nicholas, Dot Peterman, Rachael Roney, and a big thanks to our guest workers – Deborah Angstadt, Dolores Hess, Lois Miller and Jim Rotzhford. **You folks are great!**

*SOUP continued next page ...*



## FEBRUARY SOUP SUPPER IS WEDNESDAY February 17<sup>th</sup>

### Soups are Cream of Broccoli and Chicken Noodle.

We will again need a Wednesday crew to help prepare the soups, set up & take down, jar and serve. On Monday February 15<sup>th</sup> we will need a day crew to pot watch and a night crew to work on the broth. Please mark your calendars and share your time and talents with us. Thanks!

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## Outreach - Helen Dungan

**Ingathering:** Thanks to all who participated in this year's Ingathering; we gave Christmas presents to **10** foster children and col-

lected **50** institutional gifts. A special thank you to the students and parents of **Care-a-lot** who shopped for one of our designated children. I also want to apologize, I should have requested 15 names and will next year; so we won't run out as we did this year.

**Shut in ministry:** Thanks to all who went caroling on February 22<sup>nd</sup>; we started at the Dungan's, singing with Mary; then went to the Rodenbach's to sing with Norma and Silas; then we went to Saucon Manor to sing with some of our shut-ins there.

**Food ministry:** Saint John the Baptist Food Pantry wishes to thank the congregation of Durham Church for all their donations throughout the year and especially for the generous monetary donation that was made from the Beef Roast profits. Together, our congregations feed the hungry and poor of our community.

The Lord's Pantry and ProJeCt also thank the congregation for its generous donations of food and money to help them in their ministry to the hungry.

**Souper Bowl of Caring: February 7, 2016.** We will be 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:** The Christmas Eve Food Basket was given by Lois and Jim Altemose in memory of their parents and Bob Litzenberger.

If you have a loved one you would like to celebrate or remember, consider sponsoring a food basket in their name. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, you can purchase your own groceries or delegate the task to me.

**Progressive Dinner:** We are thinking about having a progressive dinner as a way for older and newer members of the congregation to get to know one another. If you think this would be a good idea, and would be interested in attending or hosting one of the stops, please let me know. If you have another suggestion, please let me know that also. Thanks.

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Helen Dungan

During our January meeting we viewed the NOMA video called "She," where Rob Bell talks about the feminine characteristics of God. Have you ever envisioned God as a mother cradling her child? During our discussion we branched into a discussion about the church and why some are growing and others aren't.

We are going to continue this discussion during our February meeting – considering some comments made by Jay Gamelin at the 2013 Synod Assembly. He said "we are in the midst of a new reformation and need to concentrate not on getting people into church, but on making disciples."

**"If you build church you won't get disciples, but if you build disciples you will get a church."** *Please join us as we think about this.* There will be a business meeting to review the January soup supper and to prepare for the February one.

## February Worship Assistants

<b>* Indicates Communion</b>	<b>7 *</b>	<b>10 *</b> <i>Ash Wed. -7:30</i>	<b>14 *</b>	<b>21 *</b>	<b>28 *</b>
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Emma Humphries	Nicholas Phillipps	Matthew Mueller	Jack Pyne	Conner Aquino
Greeter(s)	Ed Xander	Lynn Gaun	Ben Naska, Sr.	Kressman & Helfrich Fam.	Althea Crouse
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	Mark Harwick	Tom Gaun	Ben Naska & Scouts	Barbara Naska	Kerry Rhine
Council Communion Assistants	Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun	Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun	Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun	Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun	Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun
Counters	Joe Hlavaty, Lynn Gaun				
Head Usher	Althea Crouse				
Altar Guild	Miriam Anderson and Dot Peterman				

	<b>February Birthdays</b>		<b>February Anniversaries</b>		<b>February Baptisms</b>
2	Amanda Frey				
3	Sam Rhine			3	Dale Leidich
5	Laura Helfrich			4	Laura DeWalt
7	Dianna Streletz			5	Mike Rhine
8	Diane DeWalt			9	Andrea Fox; Serena Ashmore
10	Wayne Mesko			12	Haley Rodd
12	Steven Streletz	15	Betty & George Kreitz (58)	19	Kathleen Miller
13	Miriam Anderson			22	Benjamin Williams
15	Norma Fox (85) Norma Rodenbach (83)	21	Jenny & Christopher Moyer (7)	26	Tom Gaun, Doug Litzenberger
16	Kathy Haney	23	Victoria & Adam Phillipps (14)	28	Nicole Crouse; Nancy Fox
17	Betty Kreitz				
20	Esther Crouse (82)				
21	Caitlin Pyne				
24	Frank Moskella				
27	Tanya Naska				
28	Grace Litzenberger				

## Palisades Cluster News

**PACT (Partners in Action for Community Togetherness):** Emily French, Community Mobilizer, spoke about the drug and alcohol abuse problems in the community. She spoke about PACT's Strengthening Families program which is geared to youth Aged 10-14 and aims to help them learn to make wise decisions and how to say no without alienating their friends. The next set of 7 classes begins March 7, 2016. The classes are free but registration is required. (see page 11) She also talked about their programs aimed at preventing substance abuse. Bucks County has a high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse - a combination of money and location. Opiate use for pain is a frequent precursor to the use of heroin. There will be a presentation on Monday February 1, 2016 by doctors from St. Luke's Health Network and Penn Foundation beginning at 7:00 PM in the Palisades High School auditorium discussing this.

**Bear Creek Day Camp:** The camp will be held the week of June 27, 2016 at Trinity Pleasant Valley. More information will follow.

**CROP Walk:** Pastor Rasmussen announced he had underestimated the length of last fall's walk – it was 5 miles not 3! Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown may be interested in joining us next year; we will also invite New Jerusalem. Times and location of the walk will be decided later (the trail in Hellertown being another possibility.) Planning meetings will begin after Easter.

**Code Blue:** Linda Frey praised the great volunteers who are helping staff the shelter. They are interacting with the guests at the shelter who frequently want to talk. AHUB would like to expand their services so that the shelter can be open till 9:00 AM; currently it closes at 7:00 AM.

**Building Repairs Assistance:** Bucks County Habitat for Humanity offers low cost assistance for exterior home repairs – including handicapped ramps – for residents of the county whose income is below the county's average. There is also government funded weatherization help available for low income residents. Home Depot is helping veterans with building repairs for free.

**Advertisements:** The Cluster voted to not run joint Christmas & Easter advertisements this year.

**Youth:** About 25 youth and adults attended the first planning committee for Cluster Youth. Three events were scheduled in the fall – the CROP Walk; SleepOUT for Homelessness (17 attendees)) and Christmas caroling (15 attendees). Coming up is skating at the Steel Ice Arena; worship and dinner with students at Muhlenberg College; and on Sunday June 12, 2016 a trip to see the Iron Pigs. The Iron Pigs trip is open to all members of the Cluster. They are looking into reserving the picnic area. Upper Bucks Conference is organizing a youth mission trip; the information meeting was being held simultaneously with the Cluster's meeting. Pastor Hopke is the organizer; she has reserved spaces for 15 youth and 5 adults to participate.

### **Upper Bucks Conference Announcements:**

The Conference's Spring Assembly will be held March 6, 2016 at 2:00 PM at St Michaels' Sellersville. There are 5 at large openings on the Synod Council for which we can make nominations. They are hoping to have Pastor Jennifer Ollikainen speak on immigration and refugee settlement at the meeting.

### **2016 Cluster meeting schedule:**

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.

**Next meeting: April 10, 2016 at 3:00 at Christ Pipersville.** All are invited (urged) to attend.



## LENT 2016 - A Season to Remember

Lent in 2016 begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and extends through Good Friday, March 25.

Lent is an annual Christian Season of baptismal preparation, repentance, and renewal. We are challenged to honestly look at ourselves - our thoughts, our hearts, and actions. We see how we have fallen short in loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. We are challenged to examine our loyalties and allegiances. Even as we know we fall short, the Good News of Lent is that in Baptism we can still trust in the promises of our faithful, loving, forgiving, and merciful God. The readings of Ash Wednesday, the Sundays in Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday assure us of the profound joy that accompanies our "fasting from the world's empty promises," and that directs us to the "feasting on God's grace."

Ash Wednesday - **February 10 - 1:00 PM** - Spoken Service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

**7:30 PM** Musical Liturgy of Holy Communion with Choir and imposition of ashes.



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### ***~ Palisades Annual Midweek Lenten Series Returns***

On Thursday evenings, the communities of Trinity Lutheran, Pleasant Valley; Christ Lutheran, Springtown; St Luke Lutheran, Ferndale; ELC of Durham; and possibly St. Peter's Lutheran, Riegelsville, will gather for a brief time of light refreshment and fellowship, followed by worship.

As the whole church looks forward to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, special devotional resources have been made available. These resources will shape our worship each Thursday evening during Lent. Early in its history, the Lenten Season became a time of education in the basics of the Christian faith for new converts. Martin Luther encouraged preaching on his catechisms, especially during Lent. We will explore parts of the Small Catechism, revisiting some of the basic teachings of the Christian Community. Our brief worship time will include hymns, prayers, and sermons for insights.

DATES: Thursday - February 18 and 25; March 3, 10, and 17, beginning in the early evening,.

Final details, such as the place hosting each gathering, etc. have not yet been finalized. Watch future e-mails and Sunday morning announcements for full information.

## Care-A-Lot News



The upcoming month is sure to bring tons of fun to Care-A-Lot. In February, we will begin our exploration of size and measurement in math. Tracing our bodies, comparing our height, learning about different forms of measurement will be exciting for our preschoolers! All will have an opportunity to use a ruler and to measure items in the classroom. We will talk about which items are smaller, bigger, and longer than others. Additionally, we will incorporate this lesson into our snack preparation by using measuring cups and measuring spoons when we create in the kitchen. Expanding the lesson, we will discuss what can happen if we don't use precise measurements when cooking or baking!

Our science lesson will include simple tools such as the lever, pulley, wedge, wheel and axle and inclined plane. We will discuss how we use these tools every day to make our lives easier. We will do hands-on experiments using these tools!

Our Christian theme of "Love and Trust" comes at a perfect time as we celebrate Valentine's Day in February. We will read books about the love we share with our families, friends, classmates, neighbors and pets and our arts and crafts will coincide with the holiday. We will discuss and reflect on the greatest love we all experience which is God's love!

Love,  
Mrs. Pason, Mrs. Errico and Mrs. Hoffman

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# PRAYER

## Mission Trip Report - Building a Church in Tulum, Mexico – Mary Crouse



Once again I was fortunate to have a wonderful experience with a different culture and some very appreciative people. The Pastor and his congregation of Solo Cristo Salva were so kind. I was in Tulum, Mexico from January 10-17. The weather was in the 80's and there was a fair amount of rain. We were fortunate to have seasoned block layers, which allowed us to complete the majority of the walls on the first floor.

I participated in sand sifting (for mixing mortar); rebarring; cleaning boards (these are used for forms & are reused); there was a lot of block moving and clean up. I was so impressed how much our group accomplished! Our group consisted of 7 of us from Discovery Services and five native workers. The Pastor and a few of his parishioners also stopped in and helped as they were able. The meals were incredible! We had a Mexican cook, he and the Pastor's wife made us real Mexican meals. Each meal surpassed the last! Our lodging was in a hotel - Hotel Ghia. The rooms are made from shipping crates. They are very narrow and small, but they were very clean. The hotel was constructed a year ago in November. Using shipping crates is a new concept for Mexico.

It was a true pleasure working on this project. The night before we left, the congregation made us a turkey dinner. There were prayers offered, music played, and also some games. They also presented us with small gifts, as a token of their appreciation. I feel very blessed to have had another self-enriching experience serving others!



From the  
**PARISH**

February is American Heart Month and Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, is "Wear Red Day". This campaign has educated both men and women on the different symptoms they may experience having a heart attack. In ten years since the campaign began, 34% fewer women died from heart disease each year. 23% more women are aware of the health risks and more than 627,000 women's lives have been saved.

For both men and women action, taken within three hours after symptoms of a heart attack appear, could save a life. Also, taking an aspirin at the onset of symptoms may prevent the formation of clots. One should crush or chew and then swallow the aspirin. Aspirin **should not** be taken if one is taking anticoagulants (blood thinners) or there is an allergy to aspirin. Never feel that any symptom is a "false alarm" and will go away. Call 911 or go to a hospital immediately as prevention and/or immediate treatment is the best defense.

God Bless You,  
Mary Hurley, RN

[www.AmericanHeartAssociation.org](http://www.AmericanHeartAssociation.org)



## February Highlights

- ♦ The **Church Council** meeting in February will be on the 1st Tuesday, **February 2**, not the second Tuesday. This is so we can make last minute preparations for the Congregational Meeting.
- ♦ The **Souper Bowl of Caring** is **Sunday, February 7**. We join with faith communities around the country, collected canned soup, other non-perishable food, and \$\$\$ to fight hunger in our communities. You can bring soup up to Sunday, February 7. Cash contributions can also be made to the 2 food pantries we support. Checks should be made payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham," with Souper Bowl on the memo line.
- ♦ The **Annual Congregational Meeting is also on February 7**, immediately after worship. There won't be a covered dish dinner this year, but there will be snacks provided by Council members. We'll acknowledge those who served this year, elect new Council members, and plan for ministry growth in the year ahead.
- ♦ **Scout Sunday - February 14 - also Valentine's Day and the first Sunday in Lent**. On this meaningful and important day, Boy (Cub) Scouts, and Girl (Brownie) Scouts will participate in worship. Girl Scout cookies will be for sale after worship. Thanks to Ben Naska, Jr. and Cathy Mueller for this special emphasis on scouting.
- ♦ Second (and final) **Soup Supper of the Winter - Wednesday, February 17**, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The soups featured are Cream of Broccoli and Chicken Noodle. Come enjoy the soups, the fellowship, and the joy of helping the hungry all over the world to eat. All of our proceeds go to various hunger causes.
- ♦ **Palisades Area Youth Group** (Northern Tier) will take a trip to Muhlenberg College in Allentown on **Sunday, February 21**. We'll worship with Muhlenberg's Chaplain and college students at 5:30 PM. Then, we'll enjoy a light supper together afterward. All kids from 6th to 12th grade are invited. For more information or to RSVP, speak to Pastor Deal.

## *NOTES ...*

- ♦ Saint John the Baptist Food Pantry wishes to thank the congregation of Durham Church for all their donations throughout the year and especially for the generous monetary donation that was made from the Beef Roast profits. Together, our congregations feed the hungry and poor of our community.
- ♦ From the Church Secretary - My Office Hours during the month of February will continue to be irregular as I assist my father with his health care. There are times when his necessary doctors' appointments can only be scheduled during my regular office hour time. If you need assistance and I am not in the Office, please email me at [evangel@durhamlutheran.org](mailto:evangel@durhamlutheran.org), or in an emergency call my cell phone 610-730-3525. Thank you for your understanding! ~Ann

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</b> (610-346-8500) :</p> <p><i>Pastor Deal: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings</i></p> <p><i>Ann Wong - Tuesday and Thursday afternoons</i></p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring Transfiguration of Our Lord</i></p> <p>9 AM Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>11:30 PM Annual Congregational Meeting with snacks</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>14 <i>Scout Sunday - Valentines Day - First Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9 AM Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 AM Communion Worship with Scout Participation</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>21 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9 AM Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>5 PM Campus Youth Event at Muhlenberg College</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>28 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9 AM Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 AM - Communion</p>	29					



# PACT presents:



## ***"The Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14"***

**Join Us For Seven Weekly Sessions That Include:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Family Games and Activities         | <input type="checkbox"/> FREE Family Meal Each Week          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging & Interactive Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> FREE Childcare for Younger Siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interaction with Other Parents          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Gift Card Raffle each week     |

### **Parents/Caregivers will discuss:**

- ~The normal developmental changes in teenagers
- ~ Helping youth to avoid risks and substance use
- ~ Communicating and Setting age appropriate limits
- ~ Effective joint problem solving skills
- ~ Ways to show love and support

### **Youth will Learn About and Practice:**

- ~ Making good decisions and setting goals
- ~ Refusal skills to resist drugs and alcohol
- ~ Empathy and appreciation of parents/caregivers
- ~ Coping with Stress

### **What SFP participants have said:**

- "The program helped me bond with my child and opened up communication. It helped her prepare for future challenges."
- "I was skeptical at first but doing the program has changed my life more than I ever thought possible for the better."
- "This was a lot of fun and beneficial for everyone in our family. I would suggest this class to everyone."

**Classes begin Monday March 7, 2016 and continue weekly through  
Monday April 18, 2016**

**Time: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Location- Palisades Middle School**

**Pre-registration required!**

**Please register by February 29, 2016**

.....  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ***Yes, my family would like to attend Strengthening Families Program!***

Parent/Caregiver's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Childcare needed? (check one) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Children's Names and Ages needing childcare: \_\_\_\_\_

Any food allergies or special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Do any family members have any difficulty reading? (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**Three ways to register: ONLINE: Website [www.palisadessd.org](http://www.palisadessd.org) - Click on headline link**

**EMAIL Complete form and send to [ewfrench@verizon.net](mailto:ewfrench@verizon.net)**

**US MAIL: Complete form and mail to Emily French, PO Box 212, Springtown, PA 18081**

**For more information call Emily French at 267-377-7347**

*"This project in part is made possible by funding through the Palisades School District and justCommunity, Inc."*



# *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](mailto:evangel@durhamlutheran.org)

Web site: [www.durhamlutheran.org](http://www.durhamlutheran.org)



# *EVANGEL*

*February*  
*2016* 