

In April...

- **Monday, April 4 -**
- 6:30 Church Council
- **Saturday, April 9 -** Upper Bucks WELCA Spring Gathering
- **Sunday, April 10 -** Palisades Lutheran Cluster
- **Monday, April 11** at 2:00 PM - WELCA
- **Tuesday, April 19** at 7:00 PM Finance Committee
- **April 11-13 -** Pastor Deal at Continuing Education Program
- **April 18-19 -** Pastor Deal on Vacation

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"Fullness and Hope"

*Including portions of an article from "Sundays and Seasons" - Year C-2016,
published by Augsburg Fortress"*

Are you full? Have you had enough? After the devotion of 40 days of Lent and the intensity of the Three Days - Maundy Thursday (footwashing, Last Supper, betrayal and arrest); Good Friday (scourging, crucifixion, death); Holy Saturday (Jesus lay in the tomb); Resurrection Day ("He is risen!" it is announced), it might seem like we've had enough on our faith plates - enough prayer, enough repentance, enough drama, enough sadness, enough surprise. And yet there is more. There is Easter - for 50 days, and every Sunday morning.

We will continue to celebrate Easter, the Feast of Feasts, each Sunday in April and into May as well. This is what we will find and hear each Sunday:

April 3 - The disciples see, Thomas sees the risen Lord.

April 10 - Jesus appears to the disciples again, fishing and feeding.

April 17 - It's about sheep ... and us ... and our risen shepherd.

April 24 - Jesus, Son of God, is glorified in a commandment to love.

May 1 - Jesus promises us an Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

May 8 - Jesus ascends into heaven, but he is not absent.

Indeed, the Easter Season extends for 50 days, and you do not want to miss any of it. So, we'll look for you on this next Easter Sunday.

"City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and archangels
Sing with creation to God the I am!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
(ELW #377)

~ Pastor David Deal

Have you taken the 2016 "Book of Faith" Challenge yet? Maybe you have no idea what that is. This challenge was issued in February at the time of our Annual Congregation Meeting. It is a challenge to every adult at ELC of Durham to engage or re-engage with the Bible, our "Book of Faith." Several of you have accepted the challenge. If you have not, see the Challenge on page 8 in this newsletter. Fill it out. Return it by email, on Sunday morning, or by regular mail. Opportunities to participate are being planned right now!

Council Corner

From your Council President ...

Church Council members met on Monday, March 14, 2016 to re-organize for the year 2016-2017.

Elected as officers are: President - Barbara Naska,

Vice President - Cheryl Mesko, Secretary - Helen Dungan, Treasurer - Beth Snyder, and Financial Secretary - Ken Anderson. Council also honored Val McGinn and Joe Hlavaty with small tokens of appreciation for all their years of service and dedication. We welcomed and thanked Serena Ashmore and Mike Rhine for coming on board to fill the open vacancies. Other Council members include Lynn Gaun, who will be hosting our Hospitality Committee, Cathy Mueller, who will coordinate the Chapel Chats and be our liaison for our youth and youth activities, and last but not least, Pastor Deal.

A little history on your new Council President. I am one of four children born to Albert and Mary Hoover, originally of Raubsville. Some of you who are long time members of this church remember my father, as he also served as a council member back in the 1950's and 60's. I was baptized on October 1st, 1950; attended Sunday School at Durham until we moved from Raubsville to Williams Township. As a preteen I attended Sunday School, Bible School, and church at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church New Williams on Morgan's Hill in Williams Township. This is the church at which I was confirmed and took my first holy communion. While a member of St. John's, I served as President of Luther League (now called Youth Group). It was through Luther League that I met my husband, Ben, from St. Luke's in Ferndale. We were married at St. John's New Williams in 1970 and when I moved to Bucks County I moved my membership to St. Luke's. All three of our children were baptized and confirmed at St. Luke's. In December 2005, I made the decision to come back home to Durham so that I could be part of my grandchildren's Christian upbringing.

Ben and I will be celebrating 46 years of marriage in May of this year. We have three grown children and four grandchildren. Our son, Ben, and his wife, Tanya, and their children Makenzie and Benjamin John; our newlyweds, daughter Bethany (who was one of the first year graduates from Care-A-Lot Preschool), and her husband Josh, are all members of Durham Church. Our daughter Becky and our other two grandchildren, Amanda and Chad, live in Port Orange, Florida. My work experiences include over 30 years of office and sales administration. Since my retirement I have been active with the American Red Cross Blood Services and the Country Gardeners Red Hats.

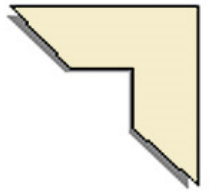
Some of my other commitments at Durham include serving as Altar Guild President, Secretary/Treasurer of WELCA, member of the Choir and Music & Worship Committee, and serving on the Prayer Chain. Ben and I enjoy attending our adult Sunday School class, and are looking forward to opening our home to hosting "Dinner and Move Nights" beginning in April for any adult who would enjoy dinner and good Christian fellowship. If you are interested and would like more information about these dinners, you can speak to me.

I feel honored being elected again to serve as your Council President. Val is a hard act to follow, but I am committed to give it my all. I pray that you have had a blessed and an Alleluia Easter and are looking forward to a refreshing rebirth of spring.

Barb Naska, Council President

Next Council meeting will be Monday, April 4th at 6:30 PM with dinner hosted by Helen Dungan and 7:00 PM call to Order.

Council Assignments for April: Serena Ashmore and Ken Anderson.



Outreach - Helen Dungan

Food ministry: Thanks to everyone who donated food and personal care items to the food banks; next month we will collect **cereal**.

Food baskets: Thanks to the following who placed food baskets on the altar during March:
 March 20th: The Mueller family, in honor of Samantha Mueller's 9th birthday.
 March 29th: Helen & Mary Dungan, in memory of David Patten.



Helen Dungan

During our March meeting, Lynn Gaun shared some facts about crucifixion which highlighted the pain Jesus endured during his trial and execution; we then did a craft project together.

During the business portion of the meeting, we discussed logistics of the soup suppers; there was concern expressed over the sanitary conditions in the kitchen. We decided to suggest Council investigate an exterminator for the mice. We discussed getting plastic containers to hold food so mice cannot get in; we looked briefly at what is on the counters and in the cupboards, is there a better way to store stuff; and can we get rid of stuff we don't use?

Our next meeting will be held Monday April 11th at 2:00; the topic is **Cleaning Church Clutter** – using the articles in the January 2016 Lutheran. As part of the program we will attempt to implement some of their suggestions, but *for now* just in the kitchen.

Upper Bucks Conference of WELCA Spring Gathering will meet Saturday, April 9, 2016 at St Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 25 E. Church St., Sellersville, Pa. 18960. Registration begins at 8:30, followed by breakfast at 9:00. The theme is **Everything by Prayer**. Our speaker, Eileen Albillar, from the Bucks County Opportunity Council, will be speak about their mission and services, opportunities to get involved, and to explain their Bridges Out Of Poverty program and why they strive to be a Bridges community. In Kind Gifts are personal care items such as soap, toothpaste and brushes, floss etc.

Biennial Convention of Southeastern PA WELCA will be held Saturday June 4, 2016 at Silver Springs- Martin Luther School, 512 West Township Line Road, Plymouth Meeting (19462). Registration is at 8:30, the program which includes lunch, begins at 9:00. Registration is \$25. Our keynote speakers will be representatives from the school, and one of the workshops is a walking tour of the school's grounds. If you have never been to Silver Springs, this is a great opportunity. In Kind gifts will supply hygiene kits for the boarders at Silver Springs: Soap (with travel soap dish) or body wash, shampoo & conditioner or 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush with toothbrush cover, toothpaste, washcloth, comb or hairbrush, deodorant, and clear plastic shoe boxes with lids. No glass containers or aerosols, please.

April Worship Assistants

* Indicates Communion	3 *	10*	17*	24 *
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Charlotte Humphreys	Hunter Aquino	Samantha Mueller	Matthew Mueller
Greeter(s)	Linda Sauter	Nancy Moskella	Bonnie dePortillo	Carole Ulmer and Sharon Finn
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	Tom Gaun	Serena Ashmore	Ken Anderson	Beth Snyder
Council Communion Assistants	Serena Ashmore & Ken Anderson	Serena Ashmore & Ken Anderson	Serena Ashmore & Ken Anderson	Serena Ashmore & Ken Anderson
Counters	Serena Ashmore & Ken Anderson			
Head Usher	Ben Naska, Sr.			
Altar Guild	Betty Fox and Serena Ashmore			

	April Birthdays		April Anniversaries		April Baptisms
		9	Elfriede & Manfred Marschewski (61st)	1	Hal Taylor
13	Phyllis Lanshe, Kevin Bolesta, Ben Naska, Sr.			3	Rachel Crouse, Sam Rhine
14	Joshua Roney	16	Joan and Frank Mammana (50th)	4	Dave Helfrich
19	Matthew Crouse			6	Chris Fox, Ben Naska
20	Karen Rilling			9	Diane DeWalt
21	Jayne Miller Chris Apgar			10	Becca Anderson
26	Bobby Ziegenfuss			18	Laura Helfrich
27	Nancy Moskella			19	Cleo Eck
28	Frank Mammana			24	Landon Helfrich
30	Alison and Emerson Rhine (1st)			27	Clayton Helfrich, Landon Frey, Izbella Grzymala
			* Also baptized in April, exact date unknown: Samantha Mueller, Nicholas Phillipps		

SOUP

The total profit from this year's Soup Suppers was \$3209.35.

During our business meeting we distributed \$3000 of the proceeds as follows:

- \$800 ProJect Easton food bank
- \$800 Upper Bucks (Lord's Pantry) Food Bank
- \$800 World Hunger
- \$300 Northampton County Meals on Wheels
- \$300 Upper Bucks Meals on Wheels



NOTES ...

- ♦ Thank you to Pastor Deal for the visits and communion. Also, thanks for all the cards and prayers, they mean so much. And to all those who donate blood and platelets, many thanks. So very much appreciated. Still have a few months of chemo to go. ~ Nancy Fox
- ♦ As Ali and Emi turn 1 this month, we wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for all of the love, prayers, support and encouragement we have received over the past 18 months. From the moment we discovered there were complications with our pregnancy, the prayers and support came pouring in. And after our little miracle babies were born, the outreach only increased. We especially want to thank Pastor Deal for all of his visits to the NICU while our girls were in the hospital. The prayers and blessings you delivered were so comforting, and it was uplifting to know those prayers were being offered daily by our friends at Durham. We feel blessed to have 3 healthy, thriving children, and we feel equally blessed to have the opportunity to raise them in faith at ELC of Durham. The Holy Spirit led us to you, and we are forever thankful to be a part of your congregation.

Warmest Regards,

Mike and Kerri Rhine

- ♦ Frank and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on April 16. Also Frank will be 79 years old on April 28.

Thanks, Joanie (Mamma)
- ♦ Coffee Hours after church will begin on April 17th. If anyone is interested in contributing a snack, please contact Linda Sauter.
- ♦ The Williams Township Veterans Memorial Committee will again host a program honoring our fallen heroes and living veterans on Sunday, May 29 at 6 PM. If you know of any living veteran who at any time lived in Williams Township and whose name has not appeared in their annual bulletin, please contact Linda Heindel (200 Hexenkopf Rd., Easton 18042; 610-253-8951; or LHH2@lehigh.edu)

Looking Ahead to May and June ...

Confirmation - On Sunday, May 15, the Rite of Confirmation will be conferred on Matthew Mueller and Makenzie Naska. It is also the great Festival of Pentecost. Wear red!

Youth Service Project is being planned for Saturday, May 21st. Youth from Durham, Pleasant Valley, and Riegelsville will join to serve a meal to the homeless at Safe Harbor in Easton.

Spark Sunday School celebrates the end of the Sunday School year at 9 AM on Sunday, May 22, with games, prizes, and food. Spark Sunday School will resume again in September.

Earlier worship hour will start earlier in 2016! As of Sunday, May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend) worship will begin at 9:30 AM - trying to keep it "cooler."

Iron Pigs Congregational Outing - For Sunday, June 12, a 1:35 PM game, Ben Naska has reserved 50 seats at the \$10 group rate, which includes a game credit of \$2). Please reserve your ticket with Ben ASAP. This is a joint outing with the youth of other Palisades congregations.

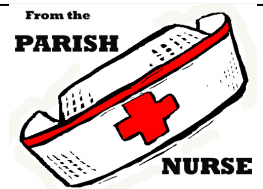


You are invited to Friday Night Dinner and a Movie at the Naska's -
99 Brownstone Road, Ottsville, PA 18942, 610-847-5853.

The scheduled dates are all at 6:00 PM:

April 29, May 20, June 24, July 29, and August 26

I attended a Parish Nursing conference on "Forgiveness", presented by Dr. Michael Barry, an author, graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, and presently Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia. He specializes in the connection between spirituality and health. He has served in the ministry for over twenty years and has been researching the link between forgiveness and health. His conclusions are based on credible research and his program has been proven to be helpful to his patients at Cancer Treatment Centers of America.



As Dr. Barry states, all religions value forgiveness, but Christianity requires it. Internalizing anger is destructive to our spiritual health and can destroy families, marriages, and even churches. It can also damage our physical health and he questioned if there is a link between unforgiveness and disease or between forgiveness and healing. After extensive research with physicians, research scientists, cancer specialists, and cancer patients, he made the startling discovery that the immune system and forgiveness are very much connected. Also concluded from this research was the belief that forgiveness has a positive impact upon families, marriages, society, faith communities as well as on physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Conversely, unforgiveness has a detrimental effect upon every aspect of one's life. Forgiveness does not come naturally. For most of us our response to those who hurt us is one of defensiveness, anger, indignation, or despair. Even when we want to forgive, many of us don't know where to start. Forgiving, though, can be one of the most rewarding, freeing experiences of one's life. Learning to forgive can positively impact physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health.

Dr. Barry has written several books, the latest "The Forgiveness Project" illustrates his most recent research work at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia. His program, known as "Release", provides resources and education that encourage healing through forgiveness and he presents his program for free throughout the country. For information visit www.ReleaseNow.org or call toll free at 877-896-3698.

God Bless You, Mary Hurley, RN



CARE -A-LOT

Care-A-Lot News

Ahhh, finally spring has arrived! We will enjoy more time playing outdoors after a cold winter at preschool. We look forward to more running, jumping, playing ball and climbing on the play equipment. Our jump ropes and bubbles are ready to go!

This month in Math we will expand our basic knowledge of numbers to make number sentences. This will include adding as well as subtracting to create these number sentences. Using classroom objects such as toys and blocks we will see how easy it is to add or make bigger as well as to subtract or take away to make smaller.

In Science we will study Life Cycles of different animals. First we will ask, "What is a life cycle?" Next, we will explore the different stages of life and development in animals. This will include large animals as well as insects. We will introduce the word, *metamorphosis* to view the changes some species go through during their life cycle. Our preschoolers will see first-hand the life cycle of the butterfly!

Our Christian theme for April is Renewal and Growth. We are born into God's family and we naturally grow in our faith. When we have done wrong and have sinned, God will forgive our sins when we repent and ask for his forgiveness!

Love,

Mrs. Pason, Mrs. Errico and Mrs. Hoffman

PRAYER

Please lift up in prayer the following ...



2016 “BOOK OF FAITH” CHALLENGE
To every adult member of ELC of Durham

Purpose: To increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world.

Here at ELC of Durham, our Care-A-Lot Preschool children, Spark Sunday School participants, and Confirmation class are all regularly engaged with the Bible and Bible stories. As a result, they are growing in faith and discipleship.

But, sadly, a very low percentage of adult worshipers are regularly engaged in Bible reading, reflection, and study. We can change this in 2016!

We are challenging YOU to pick at least one option below representing your commitment to engage with the Bible. Check one:

☐

I will read the Bible daily.

☐

I will participate ONLINE in Bible reading and reflection.

☐

I will participate in a Bible Study, either Sunday mornings or a weekday morning or afternoon session.

Please give us your NAME

It has been customary to list busy-ness, fear, confusion, etc. as reasons for not reading the Bible. None of these need deter you. The congregation will provide guidance, suggested reading plans and resources to help you get started. Let’s meet and beat the “Book of Faith” Challenge!

EASTER Greetings ...

Easter is early this year, and in many places across this church trees will still be bare and fields barren. It might even snow. But on Easter morning we will gather to greet the risen Son and give thanks to God for the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

Two things come to mind this Easter when there is still only the hint of spring: Jesus' words to his disciples just before his crucifixion and a hymn.

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus was talking about his death, but he was also assuring his disciples and us that death is not the end, that, though it might seem impossible and even terrifying to step into the void, God brings life out of death.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green. (ELW #379)*

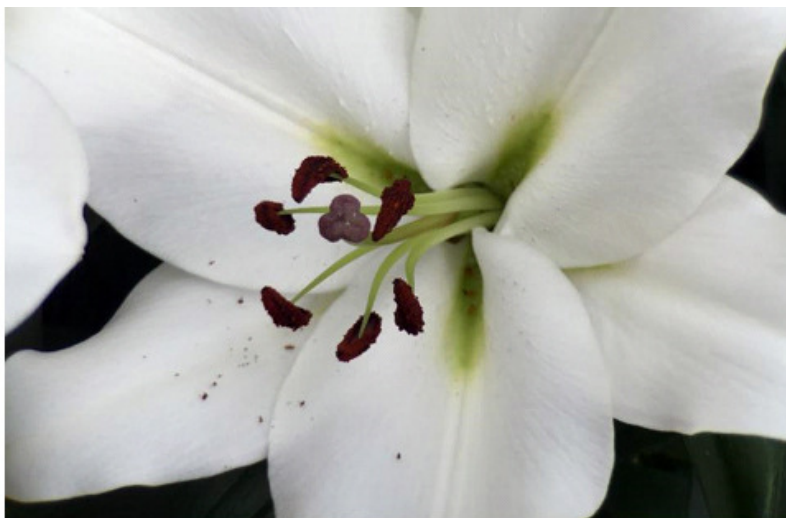
The tune is actually a French Christmas carol. How perfect that, in the bleak midwinter, the promise of spring was planted.

St. Paul wrote, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" We have already fallen into the earth and died. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." We will not remain alone. We will bear fruit.

The seed has been planted in all the barren places in the world and in our lives. That gives us the power and the hope – especially in the face of our brokenness – to see life where the world only sees death ... in refugee camps and hospice units, in parched earth and in floods, in oppression and denied justice we are bold to confess. Now the green blade rises. Now love lives again. Now love comes again like wheat arising green.

Christ is risen.

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Prayers and
Best Wishes
for a
Blessed Easter
Season

Bishop
Clairz Burkat
and the
SEPA Synod
Staff

"Our Lord has written the promise of the
resurrection, not in books alone, but
in every leaf in springtime."

Martin Luther

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE U.S. SPRING STORMS

MARCH 2016

www.ELCA.org/disaster

Torrential rainfall, reaching more than 2 feet in some areas, is setting records in the South, especially Louisiana and Texas. River flooding has reached historic levels, affecting streets and highways, damaging or destroying homes, causing thousands to evacuate, and leaving at least five dead. More storms are predicted across the Midwest and throughout the South in the days and weeks ahead.

Through congregations, synods and disaster affiliate organizations, Lutheran Disaster Response is working to assist those who have been affected by the flooding. Lutheran Disaster Response's coordinators are present, working with local community leaders and

officials to begin planning the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts.

We know that the road to recovery is long, and we will be there to assist those who have been affected through every phase of this disaster recovery process. Your gifts are needed to begin relief efforts.

Gifts designated for "U.S. Spring Storms" will be used in full (100 percent) until the response is complete to assist those impacted. Because of your generous offerings of prayer and financial support, the ELCA walks alongside disaster survivors. Thank you!

Yes, I want to help!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. Spring Storms* \$ _____ DDG0074

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response, U.S.: *Where Needed Most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email Address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

write "U.S. Spring Storms" or "Lutheran Disaster Response, U.S."
on your check's memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS (610-346-8500) <i>David M. Deal, Pastor: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings</i> <i>Ann Wong, Secretary - Tuesday and Thursday afternoons</i>						
3 Second Sunday of Easter 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion Noon - Easter Hymning to Homebound	4 6:30 PM Church Council	5 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	6 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir	7 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	1	2 Pastor's Day Off
10 Third Sunday of Easter 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion 3 PM - Palisades Luther Cluster Meeting, Pipersville	11 2:00 PM WELCA Pastor Deal attends "Reset 2016" continuing education program at CrossRoads Camp in Port Murray, NJ 4/11-13	12 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	13 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir	14 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	15	16 Pastor's Day Off
17 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion	18 Pastor Deal on 2 day vacation to Maryland 4/18-19	19 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 7 PM Finance Mtg.	20 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir	21 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	22	23 Passover
24 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Communion Homebound	25 St. Mark, Evangelist	26 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	27 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 6:30 PM Choir	28 9 AM - 12:30 PM Care-A-Lot	29	30 Pastor's Day Off

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



April

2016

