



### **"The World is About to Turn"**

The title above is from a hymn in our ELW hymnbook by Rory Cooney - ELW #723. Boy, don't we feel that way after a divisive election, in a world that is filled with fear, anger, uncertainty, hunger, violence, and even hopelessness. Cooney's hymn is a reminder that for God, "...the world is about to turn ..." Yes, a new Church Year begins on November 27, and the Season of Advent is here. But it's about a whole lot more than our church calendar.

The Prophet Isaiah, St. Paul, James, and the Gospel of Matthew will shout to us that in the midst of wilderness and wickedness, fear and unrest, illness and death, God is doing a new thing. "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1) A little child, a savior, is about to be born. And he, Jesus, brings hope, peace, righteousness, and salvation to our world.

We probably say this every year. But don't we really need this message this Christmas? Don't we need the assurance of Christ in our lives and world? Yes, we do! And this message will be proclaimed every week in the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please, let us all be present to hear the Good News together.

*~ Pastor David Deal*

- **Saturday, December 3**  
Community Holiday Dinner
- **Monday, December 5**  
Church Council Meeting
- **Sunday, December 11-**  
Budget Meeting, Congregational Dinner; Confirmation Caroling
- **Friday, December 16-** Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John UCC
- **Sunday, December 18-** Children's Christmas Program, Caroling to Homebound
- **Saturday, December 24 -**  
5:00 PM - Children's Service, 7:30 PM Candlelight Communion
- **Sunday, December 25-** No Sunday School, 10:30 AM Christmas Communion
- **Sunday, January 1—**NO Sunday School, 10:30 AM Communion

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### **Announcing the Baptism of Rowan Paige Froehlich**

*Daughter of Brittany and Dan Froehlich*

Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 10:30 AM



**Sundays of Advent - 11/27, 12/4, 12/11 at 10:30 AM - Expectation, Preparation, Rejoicing**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - 12/18 - 10:30 AM** - Children and Youth present "From Heaven Above" a special Christmas Service one week before Christmas Day

**Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24 - 5:00 PM** - "An ABC Christmas" Annual Service for families with young children.

**7:30 PM** - Candlelight Communion Service with Adult Choir

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25** - 10:30 AM Christmas Day Communion - No Sunday School

**New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 2017** - "The Name of Jesus" 10:30 AM Holy Communion - No Sunday School



## Council Corner

### From your Council President ...

#### *Some highlights of our November council meeting:*

**Sound system** – After receiving the bids for the sound system, Council agreed to contact Mike Abbott from Coopersburg to upgrade and replace the old sound system with new microphones and a new amplifier and all the needed accessories. Mike's estimate was \$5,805.00. The sound system and labor will be paid for with the donations made to the Memorial Fund by family and friends of the late Harold Nicholas. Since the estimate came in over \$5,000, Council needs to bring it to the Congregation for approval. On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> the Congregation will be asked to accept and approve the proposal for the installation of the sound system so we can move forward with Mike and begin the necessary work so that the new system will be completed for the children's Christmas Program on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Air conditioning** – Council has received three bids for the air conditioning of the sanctuary and for the office. Cooper Mechanical, Inc., Ottsville – Sanctuary & Office \$17,885; Good, Inc., Souderton – Sanctuary \$12,450 Office \$4,237; Hannabery HVAC, Allentown – Sanctuary \$10,908 Office - \$4,167. After discussion and guidance from Dave Sauter, Council agreed to accept the proposal for the sanctuary from Hannabery HVAC as they were the ones that installed the air conditioning in the social hall (Care-a-Lot room). Council also discussed the air conditioning for the office and it was agreed that instead of a heat pump for the office we would look into a regular wall air conditioner for that space and also the parsonage. Again, this will have to be approved by the congregation before we move ahead. It will be on the agenda for open discussion and any questions at the congregational budget meeting scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank Maggie Fischer and Bob Starling for acquiring the information about the heat pumps and for Dave Sauter who followed up and made the necessary contacts for the bids.

Council also approved the quote from R.D. Yerger for \$2,050 to replace the needed gutters and down spouts with leaf relief gutter guards. By doing this we hope it will relieve the water issue that we have during heavy rains with water coming down the stairway in the social room.

Some miscellaneous items that were discussed and approved where installing a pan under the air conditioning unit in the kitchen ceiling which is required at a cost of \$619.77. Also, new garage doors have been installed at the parsonage.

Have you noticed the front of the church has been power washed? Thank you Dave Sauter for doing this. Some repairs to the wood and painting are also needed but it has been put on hold until spring of 2017.

If you haven't already, please pick up a copy of the proposed 2017 budget which can be found in the narthex. Our budget meeting is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> immediately following our Christmas covered dish dinner.

**Next Council Meeting: 12/5 - 6:30 p.m. (dinner supplied by Serena Ashmore)**

**Agenda Items due to Barb by Friday, 12/2 – Reports in mailboxes by Sunday, 12/4**

**Council duties for December: Barb Naska & Ken Anderson**

**January Council Meeting: January 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 PM (dinner supplied by Barb Naska)**

**Agenda Items due to Barb by Friday, January 6th – Reports in mailboxes by Sunday, January 8th**

**Council duties for January: Beth Snyder & Cathy Mueller**

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year to you and your family!

God's Blessings,

Barb Naska, Council President

We began our November meeting wrapping five boxes and packing them with Thanksgiving Dinners. Then we put together 11 personal care kits. The Upper Bucks Conference gathering of WELCA collected items for the kits, and we supplied what was missing. After our work session, Bonnie de Portillo led us in devotions and we shared things we were thankful for. Then some went on to deliver the Thanksgiving Dinners.



On **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**, following the budget meeting, WELCA will host our annual Christmas covered dish dinner. Please join us for a time of fellowship and good food. We will supply the beverages, rolls & butter; you bring a dish and/or dessert to share. The tables will be decorated with poinsettias which will be given to our shut-in members.

Our January meeting will be held Monday January 9, 2016 at 1:30 in the church fellowship hall . The main order of business is the January Soup Supper.

### **January Soup supper:**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 18th    **Time:** 4:00 to 6:30 PM

**Soups:** vegetable beef and potato.

**Price:** Quart of soup - \$7.00 (if you can, please bring your own container.)

**Eat-In** (includes soup, bread, beverage and dessert) - \$7.00 for adults; \$3.00 for kids 6-16; 5 and under free

**Please join us** at 9:00 a.m. **Wednesday** morning to chat, peel potatoes, chop vegetables and prepare the soups. We have BASKETS of potatoes to peel as well as other vegetables so there is lots of opportunity to chat.

We also have tables to set up and take down, bread and desserts to bake, pots and dishes to wash, and soup to serve, There is plenty of work and we need lots of helpers. Around 3:30, we need volunteers to help with serving and dishwashing; and around 6:30 we need helpers to take down the tables and put the chairs away.

**Monday** we will be cooking bones for the beef broth; help is needed around 5 PM for straining the broth, and washing pots. If you can help Monday evening, please let Helen Dungan know.

And remember, ***ALL proceeds are donated to hunger causes.***



## **THANK YOU ...**

- ◆ To Althea Crouse, for organizing our Sunday morning and special worship greeters. For many years, Althea has made sure that there is a friendly face to greet you as you enter the sanctuary and hand you a bulletin. Bonnie dePortillo will be taking over this task from Althea—thank you in advance for your cooperation as she schedules our greeters.
  - ◆ To everyone for all of their prayers and cards during Myron Kressman's illness and death. It was greatly appreciated. God bless and thank you from the whole family—Lee Ann; Laura, Davey, and boys; Rachael, Joel, and boys.
  - ◆ for all the prayers and monetary gifts that were received for Barbara & Ben Naska's daughter and grandchildren in Florida. Becky, Amanda, and Chad lost their home during hurricane Matthew, and had been separated since the storm, living with friends who took them in. They finally were able to find an apartment that was affordable and moved in the weekend of November 19th. We are so happy that they are back together and will be spending Thanksgiving at the new apartment. God is Good! Thank you again for your gifts and all your prayers. Keep praying for them!
- ~ Barb & Ben Naska

**December Worship Assistants**

	<b>4*</b>	<b>11*</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24*</b> Christmas Eve	<b>25*</b>
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Grace Litzenberger	Samantha Mueller	Nicholas Phillipps	Matthew Mueller	Conner Aquino
Greeter(s)	Ben Naska, Sr.	Val McGinn	Jayne and Jim Miller	5 PM Aquino Family 7:30 PM Lois & Jim Altemose	Linda Sauter
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	Maggie Fischer	Bob Starling	Kids	7:30 PM - Young Adults	TBA
Council Communion Assistants	Ken Anderson Barbara Naska	Ken Anderson Barbara Naska		7:30 PM –Lynn Gaun, Beth Snyder, Ken Anderson Barbara Naska	Helen Dungan, Cheryl Mesko
Counters	Ken Anderson, Barb Naska   12/25 Helen Dungan, Cheryl Mesko				
Head Usher	Helen Dungan				
Altar Guild	Val McGinn and Linda Sauter				

\* Indicates Communion will be served

	<b>December Birthdays</b>		<b>December Anniversaries</b>		<b>December Baptisms</b>
2	Clayton Leichliter	8	Dianna and Peter Streletz (26th)	1	Kerri Rhine
14	Victoria Phillipps Benjamin Williams			2	Blake Trauger
19	Bob Starling	21	Kathy and Joe Hlavaty (42nd)	6	Brian Ashmore, Sr.
20	Valerie McGinn	26	Cheryl and Wayne Mesko 40th)	8	Brendan Snyder
23	Clayton Helfrich	28	Jayne and Jim Miller (48th)	9	Lois Altemose
27	Gerry Seipt (89th)	29	Lois and Jim Altemose (43rd)	10	Jocelyn Frey Hunter Frey
30	George Kreitz	30	Gerry and Don Seipt (66th) Laura and Dave Helfrich (10th)	11	Alex Crouse
31	Jenny Moyer			15	Lee Ann Kressman
				18	Ken Anderson
				23	Coraline Trauger
				29	Matthew Mueller

Other December baptisms, exact date unknown: Nancy Fox, Cheryl Mesko, and Cathy Mueller

# January Worship Assistants

	1*	8	15*	22	29
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Jack Pyne	Charlotte Humphreys	Grace Litzenberger	Hunter Aquino	Nicholas Phillipps
Greeter(s)	Helen Dungan	Virginia Hager	Althea Crouse	Bonnie Pyne dePortillo	Frank Mammana
Lay Worship Asst./Lector	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Council Communion Assistants	Beth Snyder & Cathy Mueller		Beth Snyder & Cathy Mueller		
Counters	Beth Snyder & Cathy Mueller				
Head Usher	David Sauter				
Altar Guild	Miriam Anderson and Dot Peterman				
* Indicates Communion will be served					

	January Birthdays		January Anniversaries		January Baptisms
1	Ruth Behm (96th)	8	Betty and Leo Fox (68th)	6	Kaitlin Jensen
5	Joe Hlavaty			9	Faye Gadwell Conner Aquino
12	Landon Helfrich			10	Austin Apgar, Joanne Apgar, Erika Trauger
14	Joann Thaler			26	George Kreitz
15	Don Crouse, Kathy Hlavaty			27	Joe Hlavaty, Chris Apgar, Scott Apgar
16	Jim Altemose			28	Kenneth Crouse
18	Rachel Crouse			29	Mark Harwick
25	Audrey Bolesta				
26	Kathy Ecker, Cora Gadwell				
30	Carolyn Williams				
31	Rachael Roney Sharron Streletz				
Other January baptisms, exact date unknown: Victoria Phillipps, Peter Miller					

**Christmas giving:** On Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will dedicate our donations of personal care kits and children's gifts. The gifts will not be delivered on the fourth, so if you cannot get them here by then, bring them later.

## Outreach - Helen Dungan

Each personal care kit contains:

- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.)
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

The personal care kits will go to Lutheran Disaster Relief for those forced from their homes and into shelters. Hurricane Matthew has depleted their supplies.

**Caroling:** After church on Sunday December 18th (weather permitting) we will go caroling to our shut-in members. We will begin at the Dungan's and share a light lunch before heading on to our next stop. Please join us – all ages and singing levels are welcome. **You do NOT have to be a great singer to share the music of Christmas.**

### Food Banks:

**December – personal care items** (these were requested by the Easton Food Bank.)

**January - soup** in preparation for Souper Bowl of Caring.

However, **everything** is welcome. If you find something on sale at a really good price, please donate it. Both food banks appreciate all donations.

**Food baskets:** The following food baskets were placed on the altar during November, November 6<sup>th</sup> - the Mueller family in honor of Matthew and Cathy's birthdays.

November 13<sup>th</sup> - by Barbara and Ben Naska in honor of grandson Chad's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

November 20<sup>th</sup> – by Ken and Miriam Andersons in memory of Paul Musser

November 27<sup>th</sup> - by Helen Dungan in memory of Nancy Fox and Myron Kressman.

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with a food basket, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex; include your dedication. If you do the shopping yourself, any nonperishable item is appreciated. Alternatively, I can do the shopping. Minimum price is \$25 (the cost of altar flowers.)

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** On Super Bowl Sunday, we will again be collecting cans of soup for the food banks. More details in the February newsletter.

**ALTAR GUILD** – On Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM we will be cleaning and preparing the sanctuary for the Children's Program on the 18<sup>th</sup> and for our Christmas Eve services. Trees will be put up and decorated. The light fixtures in the sanctuary will be cleaned, so we are asking for some masculine bodies to help Dave Sauter with this project. Any questions, contact Barb Naska 610-847-5853.



Christmas flowers will be sold again this year to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Flowers will not be delivered to the church until Friday, December 23. All flowers that are ordered can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service on Saturday. See the order form enclosed to order your flowers. Again, it is on a first come first serve basis, so get your orders to Victoria Phillipps as soon as possible.

## Care-A-Lot News



In December we will be exploring the similarities and differences of all of the Holidays celebrated around the world. We will learn the story of Jesus and Christmas. We will have a Christmas Party on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a viewing of a Christmas favorite; "The Pokey Little Puppy's Christmas". The story tells the true meaning of Christmas. We are looking for someone who might volunteer to play "SANTA" for us on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. You'd need to have your own suit and it would require a 30 minute commitment to talk with the children about what they want for Christmas and listen to several songs. If you know anyone who can help us with us, please contact me at 484-894-0585. Thanks. We will also have the photographer coming on December 6<sup>th</sup> to take our pictures. The school will be closed on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, for the Christmas holiday. Classes will resume on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In January we have many activities planned which include: Pajama Day, Teddy Bear Day, Mr. Yuk Day with a play and Dinosaur Day. We will have Parent-Teacher Conferences on the morning of January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9-12:30, with no regular classes on that day. We will have evening Parent-Teacher Conferences on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:30 pm. We will have classes on that day.

Please continue to put in your Giant Rewards 11-digit number, if you have not already done so. The program runs until the end of March and will benefit the Kathy Hlavaty Scholarship Fund. If you need help adding your number, please write down your number with your name and phone number and put it in the Care-A-Lot mailbox. Thank you for your help.

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

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## PRAYER

Don't forget—the FREE Annual Community Holiday Dinner is Saturday, December 3, from 2-7:00 PM at the Riegelsville Fire House. FREE tickets are available from Joe Hlavaty. THANK YOU to Lois Altemose, Joe Hlavaty, and all who helped and participated in the Annual Community Holiday Dinner and the bake sales that raised funds for it. See you again next year!



## Palisades Cluster of Lutheran Churches

The next meeting of the Palisades Cluster is January 8<sup>th</sup> at Christ Lutheran, Springtown at 2:00. We will continue discussing the purpose and future of our cluster.



## Community Blood Drive Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 7pm

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



To sign up go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) sponsor code Riegelsville  
Or 1-800- redcross — Eligibility questions call 1-866-236-3276  
**GIVE A MEANINGFUL GIFT THIS HOLIDAY—DONATE BLOOD!**



\$200 was received in memory of Rev. Oliver Melchior from his family. Memorial gifts in the amount of \$150 were received in honor of Nancy Fox from Barbara and Ben Naska, Darlene Durns, and Joy and Richard Krager. Memorial Gifts in the amount of \$105 in memory of Myron Kressman were received from Barbara and Ben Naska, Mimi and Fred Foerster, and Joan and Frank Mammana. THANK YOU!

**Christmas Flowers** It is time to order Poinsettias and Cyclamen to decorate our chancel for Christmas. Orders will be taken until December 18. Please remember to include your phone number. You can sign up for flowers on the sheet in the Narthex, or you can order by mail. Make checks payable to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham. To order by mail, fill out the chart below. Place your payment in an envelope—clearly marked Christmas Flowers -- and put it into the offering plate or mail to: Victoria Phillipps, 100 Meadows Lane, Riegelsville, PA 18077. Flowers will be delivered on Friday, December 23. Any questions, please contact Victoria at 610-346-1996.



NAME			Phone Number	
Quantity	Plant Description	Price	Total Amount	In Honor/In Memory of
	Red Poinsettia 6.5"	\$7.00		
	White Poinsettia 6.5"	\$7.00		
	Cyclamen (red, white, pink) 4.5"	\$7.00		
	Grand Total			

## **God's Work. Our Hands. - Pastor David Deal**

Our ministries of compassion for Advent and Christmas: As we have received the greatest gift of all, we share the Good News, our time, talents, possessions, and love with those who need these gifts, near and far.

- Free Community Dinner—Saturday, December 3 at the Riegelsville Fire House. Seatings are between 2:00 and 7:00 PM. Get your FREE tickets from Joe Hlavaty.
- ELCA World Hunger Appeal—Domestic and international efforts to feed the hungry, help them with water and food, agricultural projects, and respond after natural disasters or after displacement due to violence or war. Use your “Thanksgiving” envelope in your 2016 envelope packet to contribute to the Hunger Appeal.
- “Personal Care Kits” for Lutheran Disaster Response—See the listing of items and instructions for assembling kits on page 6. Bring your kits for dedication on December 4. Contact Helen Dungan with questions.
- Christmas gifts for struggling families in our area. If you would like to contribute, speak to Lynn Gaun, who is coordinating this effort (610-749-0217).
- Youth Caroling on Sunday, December 11, in the evening. The youth of ELC of Durham, TLC of Pleasant Valley, and St. Peter’s in Riegelsville will join together to go caroling in Riegelsville,
- Caroling to the Homebound—Sunday, December 18 after morning worship. This ministry is sponsored by the Outreach Committee under the leadership of Helen Dungan. Speak to Helen if you would like to participate (610-346-8829).
- Ministry with the Homeless—AHUB (Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks) - Code Blue began operations on November 15 this year and will continue through April 15 of next year. Volunteers are still needed—drivers, overnight hosts, receptionists, meal providers, and more. Speak to Pastor Deal if you’re willing to help.

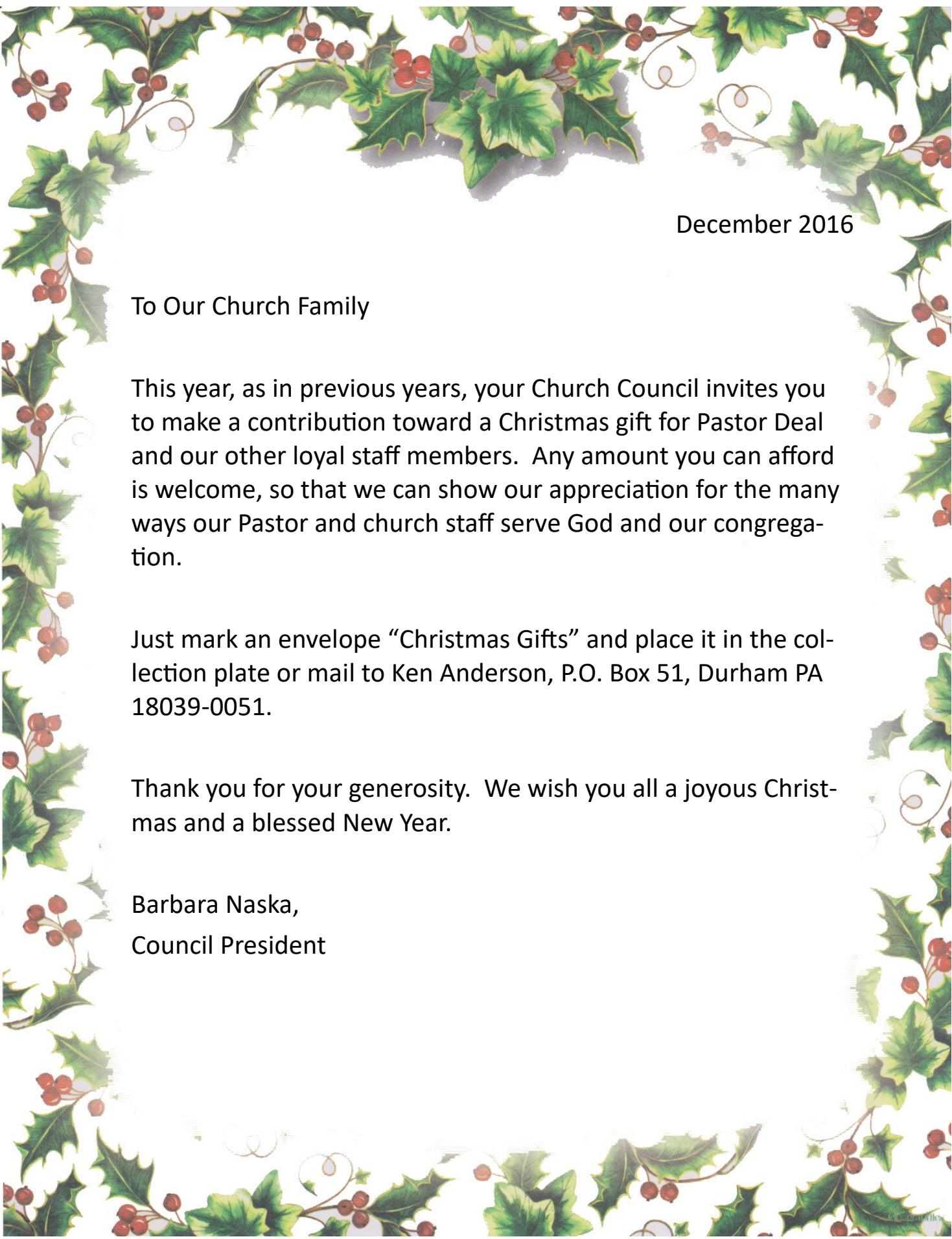
**THE REFORMATION CONTINUES**—God’s Holy Spirit is moving the church in wonderful ways!

In the Tuesday, November 1, 2016 (All Saints Day) edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer, this headline was printed: “Marking Reformation, Pontiff Calls for Unity.” Pope Francis was in Lund, Sweden with leaders of the Lutheran World Federation. An Ecumenical Prayer Service was held on October 31, Reformation Day, at which the Pope urged Catholics and Lutherans to forgive the “errors” of the past and forge a future together. This was a major way the Pope marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It is the first time a Pope and commemorated the anniversary of Martin Luther’s powerful revolt against the abuses of the church in 1517.



Pope Francis quoted Luther, and praised him for having restored the centrality of scripture to the church. Pope Francis and the Lutheran Federation President, Bishop Munib Younan, drew sustained applause when they signed a joint declaration pledging to improve relations through dialog, while working together to heal conflicts, welcome refugees, and care for the planet. The goal of the theological dialog was to bring Catholics and Lutherans together at the communion table.

**See what marvelous things God is doing in his church!**



December 2016

## To Our Church Family

This year, as in previous years, your Church Council invites you to make a contribution toward a Christmas gift for Pastor Deal and our other loyal staff members. Any amount you can afford is welcome, so that we can show our appreciation for the many ways our Pastor and church staff serve God and our congregation.

Just mark an envelope "Christmas Gifts" and place it in the collection plate or mail to Ken Anderson, P.O. Box 51, Durham PA 18039-0051.

Thank you for your generosity. We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Barbara Naska,  
Council President

December 2016

# *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*

*"The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"*  
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Web site: [www.durhamlutheran.org](http://www.durhamlutheran.org)



# *EVANGEL*

