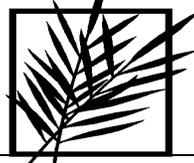


In March...

- **Thursday, March 1** - MLS at Trinity
- **Sunday, March 4** -Upper Bucks Conference Spring Assembly
- **Monday, March 5** at 10:30 AM - WELCA
- **Thursday, March 8**- MLS at St. Luke, Ferndale
- **Sunday, March 11** - Day-light Savings Time begins
- Church Council after Worship
- **Thursday, March 15**- MLS at Christ, Springtown
- **Thursday, March 22** MLS at St. Peter's, Riegelsville
- **Saturday, March 24** - Easter Egg Hunt
- **Sunday, March 25** Palm Sunday
- **Thursday, March 29** - 7 PM Worship at Trinity
- **Friday, March 30** 7 PM Worship here at Durham

Inside this issue:

Council President	2
Church Happenings	2 -3
March Worship - Assistants	4
March Birthdays & Anniv.	4
Easter Events	6,8
Prayer List	5
Care-A-Lot News	7
Soup	3
March Calendar	9



"Seeing Everything Through the Lens of the Cross"

Christian disciples ought always to have the cross of Jesus before us - but especially in this Lenten Season. Last week, our Palisades Cluster of Churches began a five Thursday evening schedule based on "Making Sense of the Cross" by Robert Lose. I think we all would agree that the cross is the central symbol of our faith. Yet, do we fully understand how the cross leads us?

The experience of Jesus' death on the cross can seem to be confusing, saddening, infuriating, fear-producing. We confess that Jesus died for us. But why did this innocent Son of God have to die such a cruel and horrible death? Why did God initiate it or allow it to happen? Couldn't God have just blotted out all sin and death without the cross?

I certainly do not have satisfactory answers for all these questions. But here are just a few ideas I want to share with you. Jesus' suffering and death seem to be an identification with our own humanity, our own suffering. Perhaps God willed Jesus to die for us because God loved us and understood our struggles. Many have said that if you want to understand God, you can't do it without the cross.

The cross is an unbelievable act of service and love. Jesus died because he loved us - so much. God cared about us so much that God died to bring us forgiveness and new life. God could have just used omnipotent power to make everything right. But God chose loving sacrifice to do it.

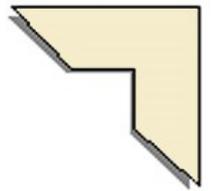
The cross sometimes seems hard to look on or think about. On the other hand, the cross is a beautiful image of perfect love. Martin Luther discovered a loving God on the cross, after a life-long struggle with an angry God. Luther wrote that everything we believe, everything we are, everything we do must be informed by the cross of Jesus.

I invite you to be near the cross throughout these 40 days, right through Holy Week.

~ **Pastor David Deal**

March Highlights:

- Lenten Midweek Series on Thursdays during Lent (see page 8)
- Soup Supper for the hungry on Wednesday, March 21 from 4-6:30 PM
- Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday Worship on March 25 at 10:30 AM
- Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday worship at Trinity, Pleasant Valley 7 PM
- Good Friday worship here at Durham at 7:00 PM.

Council Corner*From your Council President ...*

Hello All,

I would like to thank all of those who attended the congregational meeting for their time and efforts invested in our church community. A welcome to Kathy Hlavaty who was elected to Council and thank you to Beth Snyder and Mark Harwick for being our Synod delegates.

Finally, please be on the look out for the MAP assessment survey via the church email list.

Yours in Faith,

Mike Rhine

**= DON'T FORGET =
Daylight Savings Time
begins Sunday, March 11**



Helen Dungan

Our March meeting will be on Monday March 5th at 10:30 AM in the church

Our February meeting was cancelled; so we will have its program in March.

We will view and discuss the Rob Bell video from the Nooma series , "**Flame**," which asks the question "Could love be the most misunderstood and misused word in our vocabulary?"

During the business meeting we will organize the March soup supper and discuss alternative meeting times.

Outreach - Helen Dungan

Souper Bowl of Caring: Thanks to all who contributed; our window sills were full! We collected over 400 items. A big thank you to all who contributed and to Cheryl and Wayne Mesko, Matthew Mueller (and me) for bagging all the items. Another big thank you to the Meskos and Mark Harwick for delivering the food to the food banks.

Food baskets: On February 11th a food basket was placed on the altar by Helen Dungan in memory of Betty Fox and Wanda Hlavaty.

Please consider putting a food basket on the altar this Lenten season. We normally try to donate food baskets rather than flowers during Lent.

Food banks: We will be collecting **canned meats** for the food banks in March. A big thank you to George and Betty Krietz who donated a case of tuna which went out with the Souper Bowl of Caring food.

MARCH SOUP SUPPER IS WEDNESDAY March 21st

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 March 19th 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.

February Soup Report: We sold 87 quarts of cream of potato (16 on Sunday on sale for \$5.00). We sold 116 quarts of vegetable. We also served both soups at our Thursday Lenten service. 29 adults, and 2 kids ate in. We had tremendous help with this endeavor and want to thank everyone who participated. (Please forgive me if I miss anyone.)

The Kressmans for ordering all our vegetable and stock supplies and for donating the cabbage and carrots we used. **Springtown Meat** for donating the beef bones. **Dorothy Peterman** for paying for our beef. We didn't have a Beef Roast, so no leftovers to use. **Our bakers:** Miriam Anderson, Esther Couse, Helen Dungan, Lyn Gaun, Lois Miller, Dot Peterman, Barbara Naska, and Lynn Gaun for their donations of desserts and bread.

The Monday crew: Miriam Anderson, Helen Dungan, Mark Harwick, Val McGinn, Dot Peterman and Althea Crouse made the beef broth, peeled onions, washed jars, strained the broth, pulled the meat off the bones, and washed pots. These folks then came back in to chop the onions and celery so we could freeze it after the ice storm that cancelled our January soup sale.

The chief chefs, Mark Harwick (vegetable soup) Nancy Moskella (potato soup), and Esther Crouse (head chef).

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: Miriam Anderson, Joanne Antoni, Althea Crouse, Pastor Deal, Helen Dungan, Betty Jones, Cora and Tim Gadwell, Lynn and Tom Gaun, Kathy and Joe Hlavaty, George Krietz, Valerie McGinn, Nancy Moskella, Barbara and Ben Naska, Gladys Nicholas, Dot Peterman, Jack Pyne, Don and Geri Seipt, and Patricia Zion And a big thanks to our guest workers – Deborah Angstadt, and Lois Miller. **You folks are great!**

March Worship Assistants

* Indicates Communion	4*	11*	18*	25*	30 Good Friday
Youth Acolyte & Communion Asst.	Matthew Mueller	Grace Litzenberger	Conner Aquino	Nicholas Phillipps	Samantha Mueller
Greeter(s)	Pat Zion	Frank Mammana	Scott Gaun	Esther Crouse	Lynn and Tom Gaun
Lay Worship Assistant/ Lector	Linda Sauter	Kerri Rhine	Mark Harwick	Various Readers	
Council Communion Assistants	Ken Anderson Mike Rhine	Ken Anderson Mike Rhine	Ken Anderson Mike Rhine	Ken Anderson Mike Rhine	Ken Anderson Mike Rhine
Counters	Ken Anderson and Mike Rhine				
Head Usher	The Phillipps Family * denotes Communion will be served.				
Altar Guild	Serena Ashmore and Linda Sauter				

	March Birthdays		March Baptisms
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison	1	Mike Rhine, Jenny Moyer
6	Gladys Nicholas (84th)	4	Norma Rodenbach
7	Kenneth Crouse		
8	Alaina Apgar	8	Karen Bolesta
		12	Blake Rodd
11	Brittany Froehlich, Ella Rose Michl	15	Evelyn Newcomb
15	Samantha Mueller	17	Don Crouse
		23	Rachael Roney
		25	Althea Crouse
		28	Clayton Lechlitter
		29	Steven Streletz

PRAYER



Palisades High School Presents
"BEAUTY and THE BEAST"

BEAUTY *AND THE* BEAST

Friday, March 9 at 7 PM
Saturday, March 10 at 7 PM
Sunday, March 11 at 2 PM

Adults \$10, students/kids \$5
Tickets available at the door



Our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 24 and will begin promptly at 10 AM. We ask that the children bring their own baskets. It will be held rain or shine.

We are asking the congregation to please check out the Dollar Store as we need items such as crayons, coloring books, pencils, stuffed animals, erasers, books, games, etc.. for prizes, as we like all of the children to go home with a prize. We also ask for donations of small wrapped candy that will fit inside a plastic egg. No nut products please. As in the past our congregation has been very generous and we appreciate all that you do for our children and the children of the community.

WELCA Region 7 Spiritual Gathering -- Helen Dungan

The Region 7 Gathering is a retreat held every three years in the year after the [WELCA](#) Triennial. It is within driving distance and offers a wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually and connect with other women in our region. The theme this year is We Are an Offering; and the focus is on our creative gifts. **I went to this three years ago and it was well worth the trip. I am planning on attending this one.**

Date: is April 27 to April 29, 2018

Place: Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is located on 48 picturesque and tranquil wooded acres at 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT

Time: Registration for the event begins at 3 PM on Friday, April 27th with dinner at 5 PM. The gathering will formally open at 6:15 PM.

(continued on page 7...)



Care-A-Lot News -- Linda Reinbold

Many thanks to all the members of Durham who supported our Bake Sale by either baking or purchasing. With the generous baking help of Rachel Roney, we made \$400.

In March, we will be wearing the green and hunting for the leprechaun and his pot of gold. We'll also have our Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary on Feb. 27th. We'll be closed for Easter Break on Wednesday and Thursday, March 28th and 29th.

We'll have class again during the preparation for the March Soup Supper. The children really enjoyed the change of moving to the stage area and sharing the room with the Soup Helpers.

Pastor Deal will share our theme of Easter/The Butterfly/Renewal with the children on Wednesdays. Please check out our Easter display on the tree in the hallway with our butterflies and bunnies.

March is the final month for collecting Giant A+ Rewards. When we get the total we'll share it with you. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Registration for 2018-2019 has begun for our Preschool (3-4 year olds) and Pre-K (4-5 year olds) classes. For information and to schedule a visit contact Linda Reinbold at 484-894-0585.

We're all looking forward to the first day of SPRING!!!

Theme: We Are an Offering. "All that we have ... All that we are ... All that we hope to be ... We Are An Offering" is based on 1 Peter 4: 10-11.

Speakers and workshops include Keynoter and Preacher, Bishop Wilma Kucharek of the Slovak-Zion Synod; and "Poetry as a Spiritual Practice" led by Rev. Marie Jerge. There will also be fleece blankets to tie.

COST: \$275.00 per person (Includes registration fee, 2 over nights, & 6 meals)

Registration forms will be posted on the church bulletin board. ; Registration deadline is March 31, 2018.

In-kind gifts will be collected for the Prudence Crandall Center, a domestic violence shelter and organization in New Britain, CT. You are invited to bring new bath towels and facecloths as well as new socks and underwear in any size from infant/toddler to adult (men and women). They will also be collecting new bath-size bars of soap (4-5 oz.) for Lutheran World Relief.

For more information see the Region 7 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RegionSevenWomenOfTheElca/>

WELCA Region 7 Spiritual Gathering cont'd



REGION 7 SPIRITUAL GATHERING—APRIL 27-29, 2018
Holy Family Conference and Retreat Center
303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

*Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others.
Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace.
1 Peter 4:10-11*



Palisades Cluster MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

"MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS" by David Lose

Thursdays Evenings during Lent

March 1, 8, 15, and 22 -- 6:30-8:00 PM

Beginning with a light supper at 6:30 PM

Program to begin between 7:00 and 7:15 PM

"Making Sense of the Cross" invites us to 'listen in' on an open conversation about the cross. As we view some brief DV snippets each week, we will be encouraged to think about and experience the cross and its meaning for our lives. The cross may challenge us, present difficult questions for us, change some of the pre-conceptions of our faith. But hopefully, in the end, you will be able to find words of grace and renewal in response to what Jesus did on the cross.

Host Churches

March 1 - Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley

March 8 - St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ferndale

March 15 - Christ Lutheran Church, Springtown

March 22 - St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Riegelsville

Easter Flowers

The 2018 prices of Easter flowers are as follows:

Mums – random colors	\$7	Tulips – random colors	\$8
Lilies – white	\$7	Daffodils	\$8



Place your check and order form in the offering plate, or mail to Victoria Phillipps (100 Meadows Lane, Riegelsville 18077). The deadline to order flower is Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday). Any questions, contact Victoria.

Name and Phone Number:				
# of Mums	\$		# of Tulips	\$
# of Lilies	\$		# of Daffodils	\$
Total # of Plants	\$			
In Memory or in Honor of (Please circle one):				

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



2018