

In April

- **Sunday, April** - Palm Sunday
- Facebook Live Worship at
10:30 - Palms in Parking Lot
 - **Holy Thursday, April 9** at 7
PM Facebook Live with Pastor
Donna Deal
 - **Good Friday, April 10** at 7 PM
Facebook Live with Pastor
David Deal
 - **Sunday, April 12** - Easter
Facebook Live Worship at
10:40 AM with Pastors David
and Donna Deal
- Hour of Prayer - Everyday be-
tween 7 and 8 PM !!!**

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Coronavirus Edition

**"GOD IS WITH US! GOD WILL GIVE US HOPE!
GOD WILL GIVE NEW LIFE!"**

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46

"I am the resurrection and the life, (Jesus said), those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who believes in me will never die..." John 11:25-26, read in your Bible all of John 1-45

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am glad to be able to communicate with you in this Easter newsletter. I wish I could be physically with you. But we are still bound together by Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit.

About three months ago, a brand new virus began to infect the world, causing a pandemic. Many have been infected, and thousands have died. All of this has drastically changed our lives. We are confined to our homes, urged to practice social distancing, wash our hands, and only venture out for food, medicine, or other essential activities.

I don't think any of us have experienced anything like this in our lives. Some of us have been cut back at our jobs, furloughed, or laid off. Others of us worry about ourselves, our families, and our neighbors. It is easy to focus on sickness and death, while forgetting that God created us for LIFE and LIFE ABUNDANT. It is easy to forget that Christ came to bring us NEW LIFE, even LIFE AFTER DEATH. We need to be reminded of what we confess in our faith every time we say the creeds, as in these words from the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe in God the Father almighty ...

I believe in Jesus Christ his only son ...

I believe in the Holy spirit ... the communion of saints ... the resurrection of the body, ... and LIFE everlasting."

Jesus experienced life and death during his earthly ministry, before the cross. His friend Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, suddenly took ill and died. This family had been strong supporters of Jesus and his disciples. Mary and Martha were paralyzed by grief, bereft of hope. Lazarus had died before Jesus could get to his hometown of Bethany. In fact, Lazarus had already been in his tomb for four days. Jesus came and found great sorrow. He himself "wept" for his friend. Jesus was

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Pastor's Letter *Continued*

questioned by Lazarus' sisters as to why he couldn't have arrived sooner to heal their brother. But Jesus was not focused only on a death, but on life.

Jesus went to Lazarus' tomb, reeking of the smell of death. He shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus rose, came out to rejoin his family and community. It was an unbelievable event that brought hope again to all who witnessed it.

As we approach a very different kind of Easter in 2020, I want to challenge you to remember one thing that is not different. Jesus Christ came to bring the world Resurrection and Life, even Life after death. Christ is with the Church all over the world. He is present with us in our homes. He is with the sick and dying. Can we believe this together during this pandemic?

Jesus asked Martha if she believed that Jesus was the Resurrection and the Life -- if she believed that Jesus could be LIFE even for dead Lazarus. Even in the midst of her doubt and despair, Martha said to Jesus: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Unlike any other time in our earthly lives, we are faced with the difficult decision to say, "Yes, Lord, we believe." We may not be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter as we have for generations. But the message of this holiest of seasons is the same. It is about hope, life, new life, Resurrection.

Let us encourage each other with a Resurrection faith - by phone, text, e-mail, etc. And let us pray for LIFE throughout the world. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

~ Pastor David Deal

APRIL 2020 Ministry on Facebook LIVE

Because of the novel coronavirus, Covid-19, all public gatherings are prohibited through the end of April. We have canceled all worship and other church activities at our building. But that doesn't mean that our ministry as the Church, the Body of Christ, has been suspended. We will be worshipping via Facebook Live, and holding meetings via Skype when possible.

To view our Facebook Live worship, go to <https://www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran>. All the Facebook Live videos are available for viewing at any time. If you're watching live, please feel free to interact with each other in the comments. Facebook Live Worship:

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday - 10:30 AM Pastor Dave

Thursday, April 9 - Holy Thursday - 7 PM - Pastor Donna

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday - 7 PM - Pastor Dave

Easter Sunday, April 12 - Resurrection - 10:30 AM - Pastors Donna and Dave

Every Tuesday at 10 AM - Whirl for Kids and Parents - Pastor Dave

~ ALSO join in each evening from 7-8 PM for our Hour of Prayer. Each of us prays in our own home, but we are all praying together! (Not on Facebook Live)

WELCA - Helen Dungan

Meetings: Our March meeting was cancelled. We will reschedule our luncheon and talk by Becky Praster later in the year.

We will not meet in April. At this moment, we are not scheduling our May meeting. When things return to normal, we will announce our schedule.

We have not met to distribute our soup funds. We may have a brief meeting to do this after church once church services resume.

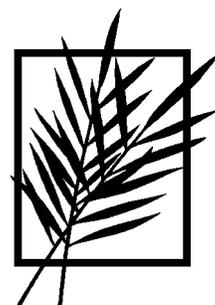
The **Upper Bucks Spring Gathering** has been postponed – until Fall or next Spring. **SEPA WELCA's** annual convention, which is scheduled for June, will also probably be postponed.

Outreach - Helen Dungan

Food ministry: We were supposed to be collecting paper products in March; there were none. Hopefully when we resume our church services, we can collect these items for the food banks. .

Hymning: We will not be Easter hymning as it is not safe to visit our shut-ins.

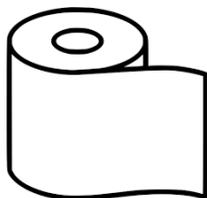
PALM SUNDAY - Our Eco-Palms have arrived! They were ordered long before we even heard of Coronavirus. Since we can't have church on Palm Sunday, we are making the Eco-Palms available for drive-by pick up. The palms, along with the readings for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, will be in the church parking lot on Sunday April 5 after 12 noon. If it rains, you can find them in the horse sheds. You can also put any fresh greens on your door, as Pastor Donna has suggested on our Facebook page.



THANK YOU!!! Thank you to all who have mailed in your offering. Your faithfulness is overwhelming! Members of the Church Council are scheduled to come in and count offering every two weeks until the Pandemic crisis is over and church can meet again.

For those who are able to send in Offering, ***this month's Outreach Envelope offering is designated to Care-A-Lot Preschool.***

HELP IS AVAILABLE! Members of the Church Council and others in the congregation have volunteered to help those who might need assistance with grocery shopping. If you need help, please call Pastor Deal at 610-346-8314 and he will connect you with someone willing to help.



TOILET PAPER IS AVAILABLE - A 24 roll package of toilet paper has been donated to the church and is at Pastor Deal's home. Please call him if you or anyone you know needs toilet paper.



Care-A-Lot News



As of the writing of this article, Governor Wolfe has declared that all Pennsylvania schools will remain closed indefinitely, as President Trump has extended the social distancing guidelines through the end of April. Care-A-Lot has sent curriculum home with the children through April 7th.

Our previously scheduled April events include celebrating Easter and Earth Day. We'll also have a new "Special Day—Rainbow Day". We had Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for April 23rd, but we will re-schedule them for a later date. Care-A-Lot Sunday, which was scheduled for May 3rd, is also likely to be postponed.

Registration for 2020-2021 continues. I encourage new parents to schedule a visit to the school with their child during school hours to see "what happens" in person. Please let me know if you know of anyone who would like to schedule a visit. I can be reached at 484-894-0585.

	April Birthdays		April Anniversaries		April Baptisms
7	Becky Praster				
12	Barbara Altemus	9		1	Hal Taylor
13	Phyllis Lanshe, Kevin Bolesta, Ben Naska, Sr.	12	Barbara and Mike Altemus (34th)	3	Rachel Crouse, Sam Rhine
14	Joshua Roney	16	Joan and Frank Mammana (54th)	4	Dave Helfrich
19	Matthew Crouse			6	Chris Fox, Ben J. Naska
				8	Samantha Mueller
20	Karen Rilling			9	Diane DeWalt
21	Jayne Miller, Chris Apgar			10	Becca Anderson
26	Robert Ziegenfuss			18	Laura Helfrich
27	Nancy Moskella			19	Cleo Eck
28	Frank Mammana (83), Tim Gadwell			24	Landon Helfrich
30	Alison and Emerson Rhine			27	Clayton Helfrich, Landon Frey
				40	Ella Rose Michl
			* Also baptized in April, exact date unknown: Nicholas Phillipps		

PRAYER

In addition to our regular prayer list, we ask that you please pray for the following:

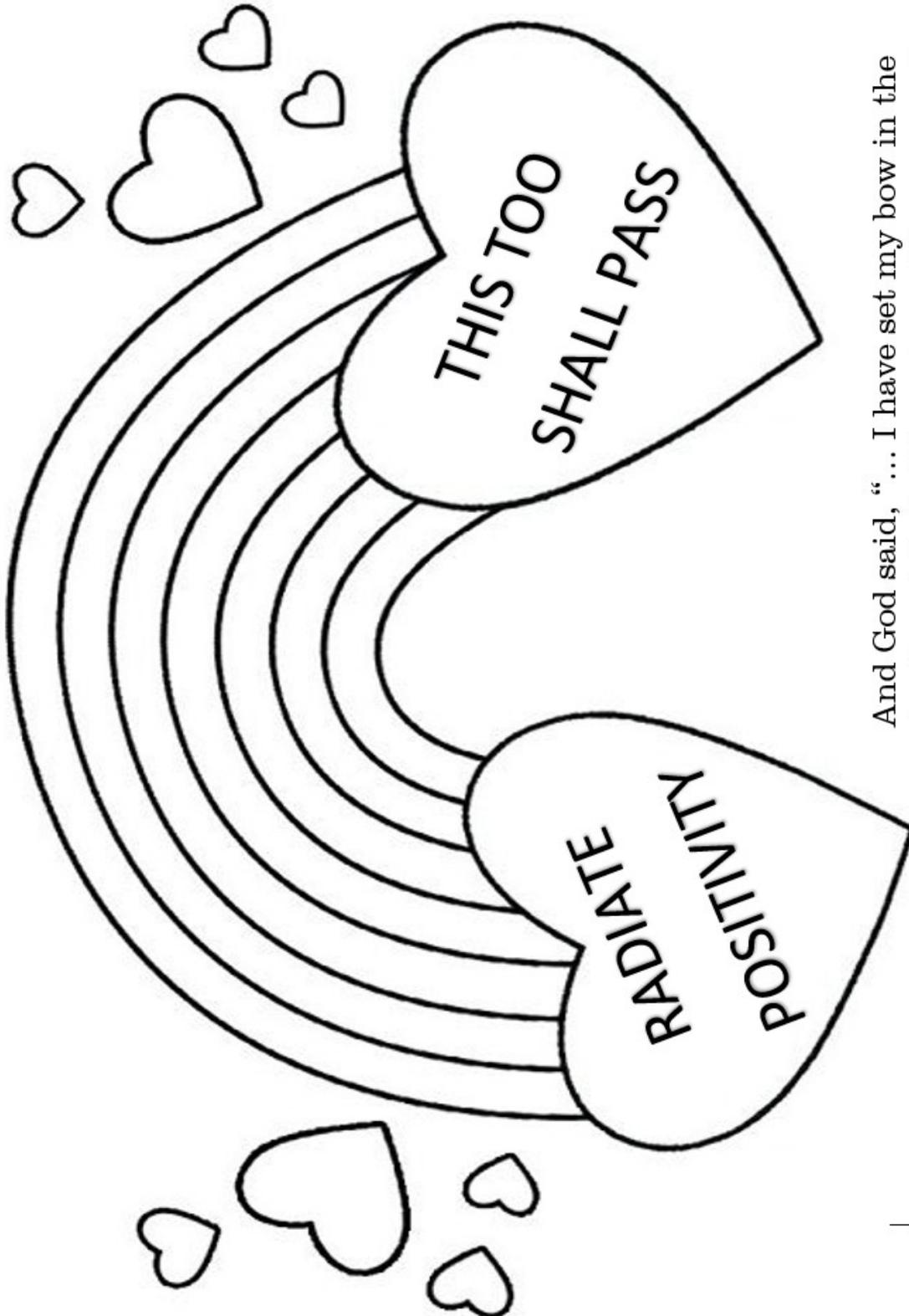
- For all those who are infected with the novel coronavirus or who are in quarantine and their families. (marked with an asterisk* in our prayer list)
- For the families of those whose loved ones have died as a result of this virus.
- For Medical Professionals, First Responders, and other workers in the medical field who are bravely tending to the sick; especially those in our congregation - Sara Aquino, Mary Crouse, Linda Sauter, and Sharron Streletz.
- For the homeless, imprisoned, and those in nursing homes or assisted living facilities who are especially vulnerable; especially Elfriede Marschewski.
- For all National and International World and Political leaders that they may do everything they can for the safety and care of people.
- For ALL of us, so that we lead our lives in obedience to directions from medical and scientific experts, so that we can care for ourselves and our neighbors.

Please join us in our HOUR of PRAYER - Please pray at home for all God's children everyday between 7 and 8 PM.



SIGNS OF HOPE and LOVE

Here in the US and around the world, rainbows and hearts have been appearing on doors, windows, and sidewalks. People in the midst of a pandemic crisis are signaling to their neighbors that they care, and that there is HOPE that we will make it through this crisis - together. There are many ways to share these symbols, from painting, to chalk, crayons, and tissue paper. If you'd like to participate, below is a sheet you and your kids can color in and post in your window or on your door as a sign of hope, love, and fellowship.



And God said, "... I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

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