

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
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 Web site: www.durhamlutheran.org



EVANGEL



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Church of Durham*

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to God's love.~*

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Rev. David M. Deal, Pastor
610-346-8314
Ann Wong, Secretary
610-346-6020

This Summer ...

**Sundays @ 10:30 - Worship
broadcast on Facebook Live**

**Sundays - June 28, August 2,
9, 16, 23, and 30 - at 6:30
PM, Outdoor Worship in the
Churchyard -
Bring your own chair, mask,
and hand sanitizer.**

**Tuesdays at 10 AM - Virtual
VBS via Facebook live -
check our website or Face-
book page for info about
supplies, etc.**

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SUMMER 2020

July - August

Summer of 2020 - A Summer Like No Other

As we approach this July and August, we are still adjusting and adapting our ministry during a COVID-19 pandemic. As is happening all around us, here at Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham we are learning and making progress. Let me share with you what the Church Council and I are proposing:

- **Outdoor Worship** Beginning on June 28, every Sunday evening at 6:30 we will gather for worship outside in the churchyard, through Labor Day weekend. Of course, outdoor worship is dependent on the weather. If it looks like rain on Sunday evening, information will be posted on our website, www.durhamlutheran.org; on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran; and on WFMZ, Service Electric Cable channel 69 StormCenter.

If you attend these outdoor services, please bring your own chair or blanket, a mask for each person, and hand sanitizer. Please do not come if you are sick, have recently been sick, or if you feel vulnerable. We trust each of you to use good judgment.

If all goes well throughout the Pennsylvania Green Phase, we plan to return to inside worship on Sunday, September 13.

Whether we worship outdoors, or when we're indoors, we'll continue to broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live, so that those who don't feel comfortable or are unable to venture out can still participate in the life of the church.

- **Virtual Vacation Bible School** - All children and their families are invited to join Pastor Deal, Yertle the Turtle, and "Flat Jesus" every Tuesday through September 1 at 10:00 AM. Our VBS broadcast will feature songs, Bible Stories, funnies, and other special suggested activities. Visit <https://durhamlutheran.org/virtual-vacation-bible-school/> for VVBS activity sheets.
- **Offering/Contributions** - You have been amazing, sending in offerings every week. This has enabled us to continue our ministry and pay all our bills. The Outreach envelope for July will again go to our local food banks. Their demand for food has gone up more than 40% as a result of unemployment and other negative consequences of COVID-19.

Continued next page

Pastor's Message Continued ...

- **COVID-19 Trask Force Coordination Team**

As we move toward in-person and inside worship again, there are many preparations that must be made. This is a reach out to you, if you would like to be part of such a team. Please call Pastor Deal at 610-346-8314 if interested.

~Pastor David Deal

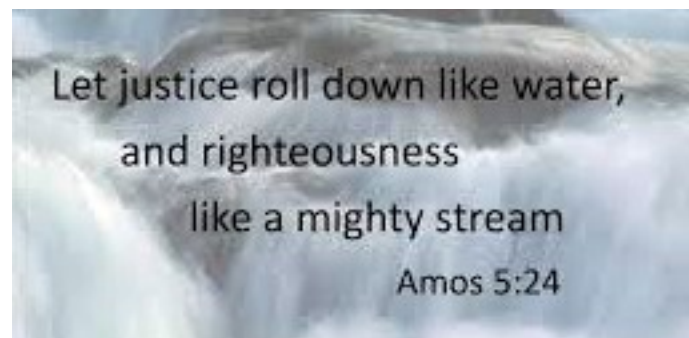
A Special Response from Pastor Deal

God's people do not agree on everything! That should not be a surprising statement. From the division among Moses and the Israelites, the disagreements between Peter and Paul, and the divisions Paul faced in the early churches, God's people have struggled to be faithful and to do God's will. No one faced more division or disagreement than Jesus as he ushered the Kingdom of God into a sinful world.

Therefore, it came as no surprise to me that there were differing reactions to my Pastoral Letter of June 2, relative to the President's actions on June 1 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington DC, and to my sermon on racism preached on June 14. THANK YOU to all who responded! Some agreed with my words; some agreed with some words, while disagreeing with others. And some strongly disagreed with me on the grounds that I was simply reacting out of a "political" position. I received all of your responses as sincere and legitimate.

I thought it might be helpful to share with all who are part of our ministry network the principles I strive to follow in my sermons, letters, etc. There are three main principles: **First** - the Living Word of God from scripture, especially the words of Jesus. **Second** - my baptismal promises which include a promise to work for justice and peace in the world. That baptismal promise about working for justice and peace is one that all who are baptized have made. **Third** - the ordination promises I made many years ago, which included a promise to give faithful witness in the world. I try as much as I am able to be guided by these principles.

I strive not to be chiefly influenced by the values of the world, by any political leader or party, or by what might further my success or popularity. I am not always right. I may not have al-



ways been faithful to my baptismal and ordination promises. But I try!!! I hope these words have helped all of you understand me - your pastor - a little better. And I hope we can continue to have dialog about the church and the world. Again, thank you for the interest shown by phone calls and e-mails. May God bless us all!

PRAYER *Please lift up in prayer the following:*

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Norma Fox; Virginia Hager; George Kreitz; Dean Litzenberger; Alison Rhine and Family; Silas Rodenbach; Hal Taylor; and Carolyn Williams.

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Brian Ashmore, Jr.; Lynn Bailey; Reta Bieber; Jason Bigley; Julia Bizon; Marci Boettger; Karen Bolesta; Kelly Bordelon; Frannie Brooks; Jorge Ann Brown; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Gregory Chubrik; Josie Crown; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Ken Garey; Oswin Gaun; Candie Gimbar; Florence Gonzalez; Randy Hack; Douglas Harris; Bob Helm; Kathy J.; Paige Jipner; Virginia Johnson; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Jean Kaki; Martine King; Priscilla Kinter; Kara Kline; Aleena Lang; Joanne Dehel Lavin; Macey Litz; Barbara Lynch; Mike Manfra; Chelsea Marley; Warren & Pat Merkhams; Andrea Miller; Janet Murray; Jeff Musgnung; Steven Neff; Kyle Newman; Clint O'Connor; David Parker; Lisa Pezzino; Donnie Pyne; Sarah Rhine; Jill Roland; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; David Sebring; Laurel Sheetz; Gary Shollenberger; Donna Storm; Alex Trebek; Alex Ulrey; Rudolf von Watzdorf; Michelle Woodruff; and Sandra Zimmerman. ALSO, Laura, Kelly, Charlie D., Charlie L., and Jane.

For those who are Homebound: Cleo and Ken Eck; and Elfriede Marschewski.

For the Grieving: The families of Alex Kaki; Gerry Seipt; Manfred Marschewski; and Helen Ballek.

For those in Health Care: Including Sara Aquino, Debbie Angstadt; Kendell Beerer, Mary Crouse, Sara Deal Den Herder, Mary Erceg; Faye Gadwell; Morgan Litz; Tanya Naska; Kristi Lee Reiman; Linda Sauter, and Sharron Streletz.



New Babies: Thanksgiving for the birth of Colten James Hutchison to Corinne Ashmore and PJ Hutchison, and prayers for Rachel (Crouse) and Jim McAlister as they await the birth of their second child.

August 30 - Season of the Church

First Reading - Jeremiah 15:15-24

Psalm 26:1-8

Second Reading - Romans 12:9-21

Gospel - Matthew 16:21-28

Questions and Reflections: Isn't it strange that soon after Jesus talks about building the church on Peter's confession of faith, Peter is challenging a centerpiece of Jesus' mission. That centerpiece is suffering for the sake of the world. This is the ultimate purpose of Jesus' ministry. We, too, all struggle with the concept of suffering for the sake of each other and for the world. Today, can we truly grapple with the wonderful power of suffering - not as a negative force, but as a positive force for healing?

Summer Worship & Study Resources *Continued ...***August 2 - Season of the Church**

First Reading - Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:89-14-21

Second Reading - Romans 9:1-5 Gospel - Matthew 14:13-21

Questions and Reflections: Many in the world today lack adequate food and water. We read about Jesus' great miracle of feeding in Matthew. We, too, are called to share our loaves and fishes to address our neighbors' needs. But could Jesus' miracle of feeding be about more than physical food? Could it be that our Lord has beautiful spiritual food for us, with lots of leftovers?

August 9 - Season of the Church

First Reading - 1 Kings 10:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading - Romans 10:5-15 Gospel - Matthew 14:22-33

Questions and Reflections: Jesus saves his followers from a great storm on the sea. There are many storms in the world today - hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, a pandemic, storms of fear and doubt. Just as Jesus brought his disciples "peace" from a storm, can't Jesus bring calm to us in any of our difficulties?

August 16 - Season of the Church

First Reading - Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67

Second Reading - Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Gospel - Matthew 15:21-28

Questions and Reflections: A Canaanite woman, a non-Jew, an outsider comes to Jesus, pleading for her demon-possessed daughter. At first, Jesus seems to be reluctant, but the woman's persistence moves Jesus to bring healing help. Aren't we too quick sometimes to limit those we will care about? To label some as undeserving outsiders? Yet, in God's kingdom, there are no outsiders. As Jesus' disciples, our mission extends to all!

August 23 - Season of the Church

First Reading - Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138

Second Reading - Romans 12:1-8 Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20

Questions and Reflections: Peter has often been called the "rock" among Jesus' followers. But if we read more carefully today's Gospel, we may discover that the rock is not simply Peter. It is confession of faith in the Lord. Aren't we also gifted with the rock of faith as a result of our baptism? Aren't we, too, capable of being Jesus' powerful church in an often shaky world?

*Continued on page 7***Outreach**

Helen Dungan We will collect money for ProJeCt Easton and The Lord's pantry in our outreach envelopes this summer. We are still trying to help those who are struggling in these challenging times.

We also ask your prayers for all of us as we try to balance our economic and health needs. Wear your masks!

If we can safely meet later this summer, we will try to do so.

As of now we are waiting. We'll be in touch to determine when - or if - there is a good time.



Helen Dungan

ENJOY YOUR**Summer****Memorial Gifts**

Gifts to the church in memory of Manfred Marschewski totaling \$600 were given by: Lilian and Walter Schubert; Marion and Lori Kram, Ben and Barbara Naska, Don and Gerry Seipt; Walter and Rose Camorski; Helen Dungan, Bea vonWatzdorf; Maggie Fischer; Dot Peterman, Mariann and James McCallister; Joseph Serrill; Mark Harwick; and the North Penn Pigeon Club.

Please excuse any spelling errors.



Summer Worship & Study Resources

Especially for those without Internet access

July 5 - Season of the Church

First Reading - Zachariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14

Second Reading - Romans 7:15-25a Gospel - Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Questions and Reflections: There are two kinds of yokes - the yokes we put on ourselves (like worry, fear, hatred; i.e. the yokes of sin) or the yoke Jesus gives us (grace, forgiveness, and love). Can we choose to put on Jesus' yoke? If so, we will find rest!

July 12 - Season of the Church

First Reading - Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:1-13

Second Reading - Romans 8:1-11 Gospel - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Questions and Reflections: As we look outside at the natural growth all around, we are reminded of the growth God has for us. God is showering us with seeds of faith. But sometimes, we may allow weeds and rocks and other enemies of spiritual growth to keep us from growing. Can you recognize God's good seeds in your life? Will you allow God to grow your faith?

July 19 - Season of the Church

First Reading - Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17

Second Reading - Romans 8:12-15 Gospel - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Questions and Reflections: Our readings for today remind us that good and evil are present in the world. They have both been present from the beginning. They are like good wheat and weeds growing together. Aren't there both weeds and wheat within us? Yet, we can trust in God's promises of judgment and forgiveness to bring a harvest of life for the good.

July 26- Season of the Church

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136

Second Reading - Romans 8:26-39 Gospel - Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Questions and Reflections: It is so easy to get distracted by the "shiny objects" in the world that can lead us astray, like money, things, power, success. God shows us unbelievable treasures that are worth everything to us. The greatest treasure is Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, and who will always be with us. Nothing is worth pursuing more than Jesus.

Continued on page 6

CELEBRATIONS

	JULY			AUGUST		
	Birthday	Anniversary	Baptism	Birthday	Anniversary	Baptism
1			Gladys Nicholas			
2			Alyse Mesko Hale			
3	Linda Sauter, Brandon Rodd			Peter Streletz		
4	Becca Anderson					
5						Rita Mesko
6		Virginia & Ken Hager (#57)				
7			Norma Fox	Joan Mammana		
8				Paul McGinn, Alex Crouse		
10				E. Marschewski #87 Addyson Mammana Jacob Roney		
11	Donna Deal, Sarah Deal					
12	David Helfrich					
13	Linda Czeck					
15						Sarah Deal
16	Jim Humphreys , Kristy-Lee Reiman					
19	Joe Erceg (B)			Karen Beerer		
20		Beth & Luke Snyder #6				
21	Benjamin T. Naska, Dawn Durns (B)	Brian & Serena Ashmore #30	Dawn Durns, Ben T. Naska			
22		Ken & Cleo Eck #59				
23	Jocelyn Frey		Ryan Fox			Peter Streletz
24				Kendall Beerer		
28		Karen & Jim Beerer #30		Adam Phillipps		Adam Phillipps
29				David Sauter Landon Frey		Mary Erceg
30	Corinne Ashmore, Mary Erceg			Lynn Leichliter, Helen Dungan		
31	Adam Phillipps				Ed & Kathy Haney	