

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*  
 "The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"  
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"God's Work - Our Hands" ...  
*and Ears and Feet, and Prayers, and Offerings, and Masks, too!!!*

For several years no, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and all its congregations have observed the second Sunday of September as "God's Work - Our Hands" Sunday. We and other congregations have packed food, made school kits, and helped with lots of projects to reach out to neighbors in need, both near and far.

This year, though, is different. We are unable to gather or congregate with other fellow Christians to work together as we have in the past. But that doesn't mean we won't observe this special Sunday in 2020.

On **Sunday, September 13, at 10:30 AM**, we will come back together in our beautiful sanctuary for worship and prayer. As far as outreach and service, Pastor Deal, Helen Dungan, and others are exploring various possibilities for participating in projects either as individuals or in small groups. We'll keep you informed as details become available.

Meanwhile, I can't wait to see those of you who come to worship on September 13 at 10:30 AM. For those who don't feel safe attending in person, we will continue to broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live.

~ *Pastor David Deal*

**PS See page 6 for information about how we plan to safely worship together in person.**

**In September ...**

- **Every Sunday in September** - Facebook Live Worship Broadcast at 10:30 AM
- **Sunday, September 13** - we resume in-person, inside worship at the church at 10:30 AM
- **Sunday, September 13 - God's Work Our Hands Sunday**, see page 4 for details
- **Tuesday, September 15** - Ann's last day

# EVANGEL



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**So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye!**

Sadly, my twentieth year as Church Secretary here at Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham will be my last. My husband and I have purchased a second home in California, in order to be closer to our kids as they start their families. For the first few years we will be bi-coastal, spending the winters in California and the summers in Durham. It has been a tremendous blessing to serve this congregation. I have learned from and been moved by your deep faith, your generosity, and your deep spirit of service. I will miss you all! Please keep in touch, and come visit!  
 ~Ann

## What will September 202 be Like???

- Beginning on September 13 at 10:30 AM, we will return to indoor, in-person worship, with special guidelines that can be found on pages 6-7.
- Our Facebook Live Broadcasts of the 10:30 AM worship service will continue from inside the church sanctuary for those who do not feel comfortable coming to worship in person.
- Plans are being made for a Virtual Sunday School broadcast each week, beginning the second or third week of September. Families with kids - watch for more details soon. Materials will be mailed to each Sunday School household.
- Plans are being made for some form of Confirmation learning with the youth of ELC Durham, Trinity (Pastor Donna Deal), and St. Peter's (Pastor Bradley Gow.)
- We hope to resume in-person Small Group Bible Study in our fellowship hall some time in September. More details will be shared soon.

## CARE-A-Lot News



There is sad news to report regarding Care-A-Lot Preschool. Our preschool will not be able to hold classes during this 2020-2021 school year. Our wonderfully dedicated Director, Linda Reinbold, cited the difficulties of Covid-19 State Regulations making it nearly impossible for kids to thrive and grow in the limited space we have under social distancing guidelines.

Both Linda and our able Assistant Teacher, Samantha O'Brien, informed the School Board that they will not be returning. The Church Council then voted not to hold preschool this academic year. We may be able to re-start the preschool in the future - depending on the pandemic and other factors. The Council expressed our appreciation to Care-A-Lot staff with gifts of thanks.

For nearly 40 years, Care-A-Lot has helped hundreds of children grow in body, mind, and spirit. This year, we must take a pause. But with God's help, we may be able to resume the preschool in the future.



WELCA is not planning to meet in September. If the inside gatherings at church work out okay, we will try to have a socially distanced gathering in October. We would also like to remember our shut in members and those who are basically shut in for safety sake.

## Outreach

**Food ministry:** Thanks to everyone who donated money to our two local food banks in July and August. The need is great and you all stepped up. Thank you.

**Lutheran Disaster Response:** In September we will be collecting money for Lutheran Disaster Response. Their goal is to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Realizing that every disaster is a local phenomenon, LCR works with local agencies and churches to help. Unlike the first responders, they are there for the long haul. We have been devastated this past year with the Coronavirus, wildfires, tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes and other needs here and around the world. We hope that our donations will assist them to help those who have suffered so much.



*Continued on page 4*

## Special Outreach Offering for September 202 - Lutheran Disaster Response

COVID-19 has shaken our world, upended lives and cost many people their health, their livelihoods, and in some cases their loved ones. For survivors of other disasters, COVID-19 is making things even more difficult. Suddenly, volunteer efforts have become more complicated, news coverage that usually drives support is limited, and economic challenges are mounting.

Yet ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response continues to work during this time. Whether tornadoes in Tennessee and Georgia, flooding in the Midwest, wildfires in California, or hurricanes in the Gulf states, LDR is providing supplies and the beginning of recovery.

This year, Lutheran Disaster Response needs our support more than ever. Will you make a donation to LDR, using the September Outreach envelop from your envelope packet? God's Work - Our Gifts CAN help those faced with disaster!

**FLU SHOT CLINIC -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - a Flu shot clinic for our greater community will be held at **Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley on Sunday October 11, from 10:30 AM until noon**. All are welcome; social distancing protocols will be observed, please wear a mask!

	September BIRTHDAYS		September ANNIVERSARIES		September BAPTISMS
5	Bruce Crouse, Brielle Reiman				
7	Jim Miller				
9	Stan Czeck, Joanne Ziegenfuss			10	Ben F. Naska, Annabel Williams
12	Bob Fox, Barb Naska				
14	Dot Peterman, Bonnie Pyne DePortillo	14	Karen & Hans Rilling (57th)		
15	Laura Pyne			17	Hunter Aquino
				20	Michael Altemus
		21	Nancy & Frank Moskella (46)	21	Makenzie Naska
22	Don Seipt (92)				
24	Katie Aquino, Mary Ellen Jonczyk		Rachael & Joel Roney (9th)		
25	Mike Rhine	26	Tanya & Ben Naska (21st)		
27	Jack Pyne			27	Nancy Moskella
28	Maggie Fischer			29	Rory, Billy McMullen
30	Roger Wolfe			30	Barbara Altemus

# PRAYER

### God's Work Our Hands

For God's Work Our Hands Sunday this year, the Upper Bucks Conference is asking for volunteers to assist Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton in their E-meal ministry. Over the past 5 months they have been supplying carry-out meals to those in need. They have 2 shifts each Monday through Saturday. One is from 9:30-11 AM for set up and packaging; the other is from 10:30-1:15 for distribution and breakdown. We can also form a team of 4-10 people to volunteer as a group. For more information see their website <https://www.emmanuelchurch.net/> They are also going to take this ministry to the Hope Festival at Franconia Mennonite Church on September 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM. They will be distributing 1,000 meals to neighbors in need, and have a table telling about this ministry. Again, they could use volunteers, and you can get more information on their webpage.



**God's work.**  
Our hands.



### Memorial Gifts

**Gifts to the church in memory of Gerry Seipt** in the amount of \$3,045 were received from: Michael & Kerri Rhine, Mary Haas, Cathy Mueller, Jessica & Brian Sherwood, Timothy & Jane Lick, Nancy & Jim Bellis, Linda & Gary Reinbold, Fred & Mimi Foerster, Lois & Jim Altemose, Davie & Joanne Gary, Jean Sattler, Wayne & Judy Paulus, Wayne & Cheryl Mesko, Frank & Joan Mammana, Silas Rodenbach, Virginia & Kenneth Hager, Shirley Keene, Brooke & Michael Lerch, Nancy & Paul Hlavaty, Dorothy Peterman, Esther Crouse, Ruther Fulmer & Betty Barlieb, Arthur & Nancy Nesbitt, Ken & Miriam Anderson, Cleo & Ken Eck, Mark Harwick, Donald Seipt, Paul & Val McGinn, Robert E. Taylor, Horace Backus, Northampton-Monroe Country Farm Bureau, Althea Crouse, Caroline Eichner, Nancy & Frank Moskella, David & Arlene Koch, Sandra Leidich, James & Gail Brewster.

*(Please excuse spelling errors!)*

## Return to In-Person/Indoor Worship at our Church Building

Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 AM

We have been guided in our planning as a Church Council and as a Safety Coordination Team by the following principles:

- 1) That our first priority is for the safety of our worshipping community, families, and people in the community we may see. In other words: **We will love our neighbors as we love ourselves!**
- 2) That we will be guided by the requirements or recommendations of state officials and medical/health experts.

**In other words, as a church community, we will do everything we can to protect and save lives. Our way forward has been guided by faithfulness to the signs of the times, then conservatively crafting an appropriate response. We hope all of you will appreciate our carefulness.**

As we return, here are some things to keep in mind ...

### Whether to come to in-person worship or not -

**If you are not feeling well** - have a fever or any other symptoms of illness - **do not come!**

You should not feel pressured to return! If you are over 65, have a compromised immune system, have been exposed to COVID-19, or have other underlying conditions that may make you more vulnerable, you may choose not to come for in-person worship. That decision is entirely up to you, we will continue with our online 10:30 AM Facebook Live Sunday Worship Broadcast every week, even when we have in-person worship.

### What to expect when you return -

Please socially distance in the parking lot, staying at least 6 feet away from other individuals and family units.

A mask will be required. If for some reason you forget or don't have a mask, we will provide one for you to wear to worship.

Seating will be designated according to social distancing guidelines, with at least six feet in front, behind, and on either side of you.

Volunteers from the church will direct you inside and to your seat. One side of the outer ramp will be for entrance only, the other for exit. Folks will be seated first at the front of the sanctuary, gradually working back to the rear. We will use every pew, but in a way that still is consistent with social distancing. You will be ushered out after worship, with the back pews leaving first and the front pews leaving last.

There will be no or very limited touching of objects or people within the sanctuary. A table in the narthex will hold non-reusable bulletins for you to pick up in a sanitized container. There will be another container for your offering, as well as hand sanitizer, wipes, disinfectant spray, and paper towels. We will not be using hymnals.

There will be no handshakes or other touching, including at the Sharing of the Peace.

There will be NO SINGING, either by the Congregation or the Choir. Our Organist/Choir Director will play for us and also organize soloists to sing special music or the hymns.

The length of worship will be shorter than what we're used to, about 30-45 minutes. For the foreseeable future there will be no Coffee Hours or other fellowship events. You are encouraged to exit the building when directed, which will be immediately after the Postlude.

## Return to In-Person/Indoor Worship at our Church Building *continued*

### Some other words about the new worship service

We expect that we will be able to seat up to 60 worshipers following strict social distance guidelines. You will be seated with your entire immediate family, with a distance of 6 feet between your family and other worshipers.

There will be online sign-up for weekly worship attendance to ensure that we don't exceed 60 worshipers. An email from the Church Council will explain the sign-up procedure. If you don't have or use the Internet, please notify the church office or a friend who can sign you up online of your intent to attend worship each week.

We will be keeping track of who attends worship each week for contact tracing purposes should we need it.

Our custodian will be cleaning and disinfecting our worship space every week.

Please note that Communion, Baptism, Confirmation, and other special services are not planned for September. We are carefully investigating how we can conduct such worship services safely.

**If infection statistics spike in Pennsylvania, especially in Bucks County, we will have to return to online Facebook Live worship only.**

For six months now the Church of Jesus Christ has been challenged by the coronavirus pandemic. We have been slowly living into a new normal - continuing to be a faithful church, but in new ways. It will be good to be with each other inside our beautiful church building, even if in a different way.

Everybody please stay safe!!!

## **Change of Address ...**

### **Rhine Family's New Address:**

**24 Longview Dr.  
Peterborough, NH 03458**

### **Ann Wong's California Address: (from October 5)**

**42 Via San Marco  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**

