

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*  
 "The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"  
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# EVANGEL



**November  
2020**

## "Blessed are We!"

On November 1, All Saints Day, our Gospel Reading was from Matthew 5; 1-12. These are Jesus' Sermon on the Mount words as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. They were words delivered by our Lord from a mountain to his followers and to crowds below. Over and over again, Jesus repeated "Blessed are..." "Blessed are the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart" and more. Confusingly, he was blessing those who were struggling in so many ways.

Jesus' words were words of hope to the poor and working class folk, to folk oppressed by the Roman government, to folk whose life spans were very short, to folk who were reviled and persecuted for doing the right things. It's hard to imagine that people like these could be considered "blessed". Yet Jesus pronounces them "blessed".

As we continue to struggle through a pandemic, as we remain physically isolated from one another, as we are troubled by division in our culture and nation, as we grieve for disruptions in God's natural creation, it's hard for us to accept that we are "blessed". Yet, in faith, the gospel declares that we are. God has blessed us in baptism by his loving and powerful eternal presence, even when life is difficult. That's why we can be encouraged by Jesus "blessed" words. That's why we can thank God for our blessedness!

~ *Pastor David Deal*

### In November ...

- **Sunday, November 1** - All Saints Day
- **Sunday, November 8** - Honor Veterans
- **Sunday, November 15** - Sunday Worship
- **Monday November 16** - Council Meeting 7:00
- **Tuesday November 17** - Finance Committee 7:30
- **Sunday November 22** - Christ the King - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - Virtual
- **Sunday November 29** - 1st Sunday in Advent

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# EVANGEL



**2020**

## Looking Ahead.....

### As we continue to re-imagine the church's life in new ways

As each week goes by, God's people at ELC of Durham are discovering new ideas for worship and ministry. We are planning new experiences for all of us.

- **All Saints Day, November 1:** Falls on Sunday this year, Holy Communion/Celebration of Saints past and present/Special Prayers
- **Veterans Sunday, November 8:** At worship we will honor and remember all those we know and love who have served their country in the military. Our observance on Sunday November 8th will be three days before November 11th, Veteran's Day.
- **Thanksgiving Service:** An ecumenical service jointly presented by Christ Lutheran, Springtown; Salem United Methodist, Springtown; Trinity Lutheran, Pleasant Valley; Jerusalem Lutheran, Sellersville (newly asked to join us this year); and ELC of Durham. The service will be virtual with scriptures, prayers, meditations and music from representatives of each congregation. Pieces will be videotaped from each church's location and then spliced together into a service, approximately 60 minutes in length. The service will be finished and ready to view on November 22nd. If you lack internet, we don't want to leave you out. We will contact you and let you know how and where you can hear the service.
- 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.



## Memorial Gifts

Additional gifts to the church in memory of Gerry Seipt in the amount of \$200 were received from: Ben and Barbara Naska; Helen Dungan; Gladys Nicholas; and Loretta Heck.

## Veterans - Celebration and Remembrance

*James H. Altemose - US Army Reserves - 1958-1964*

*Austin Apgar - Newly Enlisted in the US Army*

*Edward J. Ballek - US Army, Battery C, 75th Gun Battalion - 1948-1954*

*Ron Everitt - Specialist F-4, US Army - 1970-1972*

*Leo P. Fox - (Deceased) US Navy, Ship's Cook Class 3 - 1944-1946*

*Robert Fox - US Army*

*Scott Gaun - Senior Airman, US Air Force - 1984-1988*

*Gene Gribbin - (Deceased) Sergeant, US Army - 1950-1952*

*Michael Hesser - Sergeant, US Marine Corps - 2010-2014*

*David H. Holland - (Deceased) US Marine Corps - Killed in action 1967*

*Myron Kressman - (Deceased) US Army - 1969-1971*

*W. Robert Litzenberger - (Deceased) Corporal, US Army - 1950-1952*

*John Luther - (Deceased) Private, US Army 351st Infantry, 88th Division, KIA Italy 1944*

*Paul McGinn - Specialist 4, US Army - 1970's*

*Wayne Mesko - Staff Sergeant, US Air Force, 99th Bomb Wing - 1966-1970*

*James Miller - US Navy - 1965-1968*

*Robert J Newcomb - (Deceased) Corporal, US Army, Medical Technician - 1951-1953*

*Harold E. Nicholas - (Deceased) Corporal, US Army, 2nd Armored Division - 1951-1953*

*David Pyne - Petty Officer 2nd Class E-4, US Navy, USS Gettysburg - 1994-1998*

*Blake Rodd - US Army - 2010-2014*

*Silas Rodenbach - US Army - 1952-1954*

*Christopher S Seifert - (Deceased) Captain, US Army, 101st Airborne, KIA 2003*

*Hal Taylor - Lieutenant, US Navy, Field Intelligence - 1966-1969*

*Edward H Xander - Corporal, US Marine Corps - 1955-1959*

	November BIRTHDAYS		November ANNIVERSARIES		November BAPTISMS
4	Mary Couse, Laura De Walt				
				6	Grace Litzenberger
8	Serena Ashmore				
9	Lynn Gaun				
10	MARTIN LUTHER, Nicholas Phillips, Brendan Snyder				
12	Tom Gaun, Mark Harwick, Matthew Mueller, Cathy Mueller				
18	Chad Harrison			16	Marion Kempf
19	Hans Rilling	19	Miriam & Ken Anderson		
21	Ken Anderson			22	Bob Fox
23	Faye Gadwell			23	Addyson Mammana
24	Chase Aquino			24	Paula Eck
25	Dan Froehlich	25	Cathy & Chris Mueller	25	Helen Dungan, Cheryl Eck
				29	Bruce Crouse, Dean Litzenberger
				30	Kathy Hlavaty, Jordyn Trauger

### ***Council Corner***

*Hello from Council! Council is still looking for a secretary, we've had a couple inquiries but nothing substantial.*

*Council is working on the logistics for a Christmas Eve service. The 2019 audit was completed by Ben Naska and Victoria Phillipps along with Beth (Treasurer), and was a success. The plan is to get the 2020 audit done early in 2021. The annual fire inspection was completed also.*

*Happy Thanksgiving from everyone on Council!*

## **PRAYER**

**Please lift up in prayer the following ...**

**For Healing of those in our Congregation:** Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Esther Crouse; Norma Fox; Faye Gadwell; Virginia Hager; Betty & George Kreitz; Silas Rodenbach; Dave Sauter; 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; Phyllis Boyer; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Gregory Chubrik; Josie Crown; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Ken Garey; Candie Gimbar; Florence Gonzalez; Douglas Harris; Bob Helm; Kathy J.; Paige Jipner; Virginia Johnson; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Jean Kaki; Jane Kemmerer; Martine King; Priscilla Kinter; Kara Kline; Aleena Lang; Joanne Dehel Lavin; Macey Litz; Barbara Lynch; Mike Manfra; Chelsea Marley; Warren & Pat Merckham; Andrea Miller; Janet Murray; Jeff Musnung; Steven Neff; Kyle Newman; David Parker; Jeff Petrino; Lisa Pezzino; Les Pross; Donnie Pyne; Sarah Rhine; Jill Roland; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; David Sebring; Laurel Sheetz; Gary Shollenberger; Donna Storm; Alex Ulrey; Michelle Woodruff. 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 Lea Kneebone; Gerry Seipt; Manfred Marschewski; Helen Ballek; Rudolf von Watzdorf.

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

**Essential Food Workers:** Bethany Michl, Trauger's Farm

**Essential Postal Workers:** Andrea Fox & Dawn Margeson



## WELCA

We will meet on Friday November 13th, at one o'clock in the church fellowship hall. We will wear masks and sit 6 feet apart. There will be no refreshments. We are going to talk about COPING during these trying days of 2020. You can bring a Bible verse that has comforted you and share some of your experiences. Hopefully we will both laugh and offer support to one another. All women are invited to attend.

Helen Dungan

### Designation of November "Outreach" Offering:

It has been a regular tradition here at ELC of Durham to give to ELCA World Hunger Appeal in the month of November. These funds respond to hunger in the United States and around the world. The appeal does not just distribute food, it also helps people become self-sufficient in growing crops, fish farming, water wells, etc. In other words, the World Hunger Appeal addresses both short term needs to respond to the hungry and long term causes of hunger (like poverty, drought, flooding and political unrest). Please be generous with your November "Outreach" offering.



## Outreach

**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod:** Thank you to everyone who donated towards our Synod's assistance endeavors. The need for help and information just keeps increasing, and the Synod is trying to help fill these needs for all of our churches.

We normally celebrate Harvest Home in November. As we cannot do that this year, Council has decided to designate our Outreach donations for November to **World Hunger**. As we give thanks for all we have been given, we can help feed the hungry here and around the world.

**This is a breakdown as to what we have contributed through our Outreach envelopes these last few months:**

May – Food banks - \$2,310.00

June - Lutheran Church's Coronavirus assistance campaign - \$1,265.00

July & August – Food banks - \$910.00/July - \$840.00/August

September – Lutheran Disaster Relief - \$900.00

Thank you all for your generosity,

Helen Dungan

## What about Christmas??

Ideas are percolating and coming together:

- New indoor Christmas trees will be put up early.
- You can contribute a personal/family ornament to be hung on the tree.
- We will celebrate Christmas on every Sunday in December with carols and combined Advent/Christmas message.
- Our outdoor Nativity Creche will go up early this year.
- **Christmas Caroling Event!!** Arrangements have been made to broadcast Christmas carols through our radios on Sunday, December 20 (after worship). We can all be gathered inside our cars and we can sing along. Again, more details to follow soon.
- **Christmas Eve Indoor Service!!** Cathy Mueller is asking you indicate your desire to attend such a service. How many would come? We must keep the number of people under 60 to maintain safe social distancing. By next month's newsletter we will have a final report for you on Christmas Eve.