

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



**December  
2020**

## "Will Christ come for Christmas in 2020?"

Christmas will be different in so many ways this year. The pandemic is still with us and is spiking. People have been sickened, have died, or are grieving. Jobs have been lost or scaled back. Our kids are struggling with school in ways they could have never anticipated. We will not be able to gather and celebrate as we have during Christmas past. Still, life is continuing, if in new ways.

And earlier this year, a child was born to Kristi Lee and Dane Reiman- Dane Charles Reiman. This newborn son brought joy and hope to the Reiman family in the midst of all the challenges the virus has placed before us. 2,000 years ago, the world was filled with sicknesses of various kinds, a very low human life expectancy, hunger and poverty, a worldwide Roman government which cared little for the real needs of its subjects, division between classes, races, and religions. Into this world of the 1st century, a baby was born to Mary and Joseph- his name was Jesus and he promised hope to his parents and to the world. He came to bring salvation and justice and peace. This Jesus will come to us in 2020 with the promise of "peace on earth and goodwill among all." Yes- Christ will come to us in 2020! And we will worship him!

~ *Pastor David Deal*

### In December ...

- **Sunday, December 6** - Second Sunday of Advent
- **Sunday, December 13** - Third Sunday of Advent  
Congregational Budget
- **Monday, December 14** - Council Meeting 7pm
- **Sunday December 20** - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
11:30am "Caroling" in the parking lot
- **Thursday December 24** - Christmas Eve Service  
4:30pm
- **Sunday December 27** - First Sunday of Christmas

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# EVANGEL



**2020**

***ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DURHAM***

***November 29, 2020 - January 5, 2021***

We will celebrate the birth of Christ this year, despite it being the year of a worldwide pandemic along with handwashing, masks, social distancing, curtailing of family plans, EMANUEL, CHRIST WITH US, HAS NOT CHANGED!

Below is what The Church Council has scheduled  
for the upcoming season:

- Very regretfully, our last indoor in-person worship service will be Sunday, November 29. This is the 1st Sunday of Advent and Holy Communion will be celebrated.
- Worship on December 6, 13, 20 and 27 will be virtual- via Facebook live, at 10:30AM each Sunday- from the church sanctuary.
- A virtual Christmas Eve Service (from inside the sanctuary) will be broadcast at 4:30PM on December 24. The Service will include Christmas carols, the reading of the Christmas Story, and prayers. The service will end with "Silent Night". Please pick a special candle for you to have available in your living or dining room. We can dim the church or our homes and sing together.
- Christmas Decorations: Thanks to some very faithful volunteers, we will put up many of the decorations we have come to expect each Christmas. An Advent Wreath will be displayed on the floor in front of the chancel. Greens will also be attached outside to our ramp railings. (cont.)

GOD HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING- COMING TO EARTH AS THE CHRISTCHILD, to forgive us, save us, and empower us to do God's work. What then can we give this Christmas 2020?

We will attempt to reach out to individuals and for families who are really struggling with bills, food shortages, gifts for their kids, etc. This year with the help of our "GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND", we will purchase gift cards from places like Walmart or Giant to help our neighbors out. Please know that during the last year, our "GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND" has increased substantially. We have the funds to help. We need you to point out persons who need help. Once again, Lynn Gaun is coordinating this effort. Please call her ASAP if you know of someone who could use the help. Her telephone # is 610-749-0217.

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**ELC of DURHAM MEMBER** recently honored:

**Silas Rodenbach** who served in the U.S. Army for 3 years during the Korean War was awarded the Ambassador for Peace Medal. (from Korean War) This surprise presentation was made to Silas on November 6th at the Fullerton American Legion. The honor was facilitated by Senator Pat Toomey. CONGRATULATIONS SILAS FROM ALL OF US FOR THIS HONOR. AND THANKS AGAIN FOR YOR SERVICE.

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**Memorial Gifts**



*Gifts to the church in memory of Elfreide Marschewski in the amount of \$475 were received from: Marianne & James McCallister; Mary & Don Crouse; Barb & Ben Naska; Marion Kram; Lillian & Walter Schubert and Michelle Cunningham; Mark Harwick; Roger & Carol Vonah; Ken & Virginia Hager; and Dorothy Peterman. An additional gift to the church in memory of Gerry Seipt in the amount of \$100 was received from: Jayne & Jim Miller. Also a gift to the church in memory of Rudolf von Watzdorf in the amount of \$100 was received from: Jayne & Jim Miller.*

	December BIRTHDAYS		December ANNIVERSARIES		December BAPTISMS
				1	Kerri Rhine
2	Clayton Leichliter			2	Blake Trauger
				4	Rowan Froehlich
				6	Brian Ashmore Sr.
		8	Dianna & Peter Streletz (30)	8	Brendan Snyder
				9	Lois Altemose
				10	Jocelyn Frey, Hunter Frey
				11	Alex Crouse
14	Victoria Phillipps, Benjamin Williams			15	Lee Ann Kressman
19	Bob Starling			18	Ken Anderson
20	Val McGinn	21	Kathy & Joe Hlavaty (46)		
23	Scott Gaun, Clayton Helfrich	26	Cheryl & Wayne Mesko (44)	23	Coraline Trauger
29	Leo Grzelkowski	28	Jayne & Jim Miller (52)	29	Matthew Mueller
30	George Kreitz	30	Laura & Dave Helfrich (14)		

### ***Council Corner***

*Hello from Council! Council is happy to report we are no longer looking for someone to fill the secretary position. We have hired and are training a young woman by the name of Jessica Mette. She will also be helping with our Sunday School broadcast on Facebook as well as our virtual Sunday service.*

*Merry Christmas and may God's face shine light upon everyone this holiday season !!!*

## **PRAYER**

### **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; Phyllis Lanshe; Silas Rodenbach; Hal Taylor; and Carolyn Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss.

**For Healing of Friends and Family:** Phyllis Allebach; Brian Ashmore, Jr.; Lynn Bailey; Donna Bergstresser; Reta Bieber; Jason Bigley; Julia Bizon; Karen Bolesta; Kelly Bordelon; Phyllis Boyer; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Josie Crawn; DeLorenzo Family; Robert & Helen Eby; Nancy Edelen; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Ken Garey; Candie Gimbar; Florence Gonzalez; Bob Helm; Kathy J.; Paige Jipner; Virginia Johnson; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Jean Kaki; Jane Kemmerer; Martine King; Priscilla Kinter; Joanne Dehel Lavin; Macey Litz; Barbara Lynch; Chelsea Marley; Warren & Pat Merkham; Andrea Miller; Steven Neff; Clint O'Connor; Jeff Petrino; Lisa Pezzino; Les Pross; Donnie Pyne; Letitia Reidinger; Jill Roland; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; David Sebring; Laurel Sheetz; Gary Shollenberger; Erma Starling; Donna Storm; Alex Ulrey; Michelle Woodruff. ALSO, Laura, Kelly, Charlie D., Charlie L., and Jane.

**For those who are Homebound:** Cleo and Ken Eck.

**For the Grieving:** The families of Lea Kneebone; Sarah Rhine; Gerry Seipt; Manfred & Elfriede Marschewski; Rudolf von Watzdorf; and Duane Lehr.

**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.

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

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



## WELCA

Because the church is closing to in person activities for December, WELCA will not be meeting. Our November meeting was attended by socially distanced and masked folks who shared some of their coping measures. I read a devotion based on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm which emphasized that it is God who leads us by still waters and God who gives us green pastures to lay in, He restores our souls – even when we walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, God is with us. So hold on to that promise and share it. Pastor Dave offered some practical advice – Pray, exercise, get enough sleep, and keep in touch with people. The last can be a ministry; even if you are not going out, you can call someone and share some time with them.

Helen Dungan

## Outreach

Thank you for all who contributed to our collection for World Hunger in November. Our December Outreach Collection will go to help the homeless. The Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter at 501 West Broad Street, Quakertown, will be open this season when the temperatures are 26 degrees and below. The season is November 15 to April 15. Because of the COVID pandemic extraordinary measures, procedures and policies have been developed to assure the safe opening of the shelter and social distancing. Guests will be screened for COVID. Partitions will separate volunteers from guests and guests from each other in the dorms, there will be dividers where food is prepared, and the shelter will be sanitized. These are just a few of the new measures in place. The shelter not only needs financial help, but also volunteers to help. Those to prepare meals in the evening and morning, and an unrelated male and female volunteer to spend the night at the shelter. Pastor Dave has done this, so if you are interested, please speak to him.



Helen Dungan

December "Outreach" offering will be designated for A.H.U.B. (Advocates for Homeless in Upper Bucks). A Code Blue Shelter for the homeless on cold nights has been operating for several years. We have supported this ministry in the past with \$\$\$ and volunteers. Amazingly, this shelter will be operating this winter. With the help of the government "Cares Act" grant, the shelter has significantly renovated their location (Masonic Lodge in Quakertown). PPE equipment, disinfectant cleaning products, clear plastic barriers and shielding, remote thermostats, and disposable food service resources will be made available this winter. Beds and serving areas will be properly distanced. And A.H.U.B. is working with Bucks County's Department of Health and Housing to make sure guests suspected of being infected with COVID can be placed in another setting away from the shelter.

Unfortunately, the Cares and other grants used to make the shelter safe have all but run out. A.H.U.B. needs contributions for this winter's expenses. And so, we have decided to give as we have in the past. PLEASE BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR DECEMBER "OUTREACH" ENVELOPE!

The Naska's will set up our outdoor Nativity Creche. Two new Christmas trees will be up in the usual place to the right and left of the chancel. Thank You Miriam Anderson for arranging for these new trees. POINSETTIAS (white and red) will be purchased now and displayed in the sanctuary until the end of the Christmas Season.

- ORNAMENTS: If you would like to have one ornament special to you or your family, we would like to hang those ornaments on the new trees along with the traditional Chrismons. If you do not have a church key, please call Pastor Deal or one of the Council Members to arrange for your ornament to be delivered.
- CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVENT: Sunday, December 20, 11:30AM from The Church Parking Lot. Carols will be played by Carolyn from inside the church building and broadcast to your car radio- FM 88.5. We will go car by car and distribute carol sheets to you so we can all sing together safely from inside our cars.

This is not how we planned to celebrate these holy days in 2020. But in the interest of special caution, to love and protect one another, these are the decisions we have made. BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL from The Church Council and Staff of ELC of Durham.