

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



**January
2021**

"CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WILL SHINE IN EVERY DARKNESS"

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

We have all experienced the year 2020 as a year filled with darkness- the darkness of disease, the darkness of division, the darkness of disconnection, even the darkness of despair. We've longed for a pronouncement of light ahead, light at the end of this long dark tunnel.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the people of Israel and people of the world lived in the darkness of Roman oppression, the darkness of sin, and the darkness of death. They hoped and prayed for the light of salvation. God delivered -- with the birth of a tiny vulnerable child, who nevertheless delivered the light of forgiveness, the light of love, and the light of eternal life.

At the end of 2020, impatiently waiting for a new and much different 2021, we too may have missed the light of Christ which has never stopped shining upon us. We too will be forgiven, healed, and blessed with new life in the year ahead. Christ has never stopped shining on us and on the world.

~ *Pastor David Deal*

In January...

- **Sunday, January 3** - Second Sunday of Christmas
- **Sunday, January 10** - Sunday Worship
- **Monday, January 18** - Council Meeting 7pm
- **Sunday, January 17** - Sunday Worship
- **Sunday, January 24** - Sunday Worship
- **Sunday, January 31** - Sunday Worship

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EVANGEL



2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY 2021

- Livestreamed worship will continue to be provided every Sunday at 10:30 A.M.
- On January 3, we will continue to celebrate Christmas, with a focus on John 1:1-18. The message in word and song will be on the Light and Life God has gifted to us.
- On January 10, the focus will be on the gift of Baptism, with all the sacrament's promises. All who watch our broadcast this Sunday will be invited to affirm their Baptism.
- Our weekly "Whirl" Sunday School Virtual broadcasts will continue each week. The new Broadcasts will be posted each weekend.
- FEEDING THE HUNGRY: We may not be able to host community soup suppers this winter, but we will continue to reach out to our neighbors who need food. Our local food pantries are being overwhelmed. So we urge you to generously contribute with your January and February "Outreach" offerings. These offerings will be sent to "The Lords Pantry" in Ottsville and Project of Easton.

GRATITUDE LIST FOR 2020

As we begin a New Year of 2021, it would be helpful to look back to all our challenges in 2020. The church had to try ways to be church in brand new ways. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham was able to rise up to these challenges. Because of You, we were able to worship, teach, pray and serve. And we will continue to adapt in 2021.

THANK YOU TO STAFF - Carolyn Williams, Dianna Streletz, Ann Wong, Scott Gaun and our new secretary in training, Jessica Mette who provided bulletins, newsletters, E-mails, etc. Our staff served way beyond the usual call of duty.

THANK YOU TO LEADERSHIP - Church Council members who hold meetings (sometimes indoors, sometimes outdoor, sometimes virtual) and kept our ministry active in new ways. THANK YOU to Scott Gaun, Val McGinn, Cathy Mueller, Kathy Hlavaty, Beth Snyder, Serena Ashmore, Tom Guan, Mark Harwick and Matthew Mueller.

(cont. on next page)



Memorial Gifts

Gifts were given to the church in the memory of Elfreide Marschewski in the amount of \$300. A gift was given to the church in the memory of Gerry Seipt in the amount of \$250. An additional gift was given in the memory of Manfred & Elfreide Marschewski in the amount of \$100.



	January BIRTHDAYS		January ANNIVERSARIES		January BAPTISMS
5	Joe Hlavaty			6	Kaitlin Jensen
				9	Faye Gadwell, Conner Aquino
				10	Austin Apgar, Joanne Apgar, Erika Trauger
12	Landon Helfrich				
15	Don Crouse, Kathy Hlavaty				
16	Jim Altemose (82 nd)				
18	Rachel (Crouse) McAlister				
25	Audrey Bolesta				
26	Cora Gadwell, Paige Reiman			26	George Kreitz
				27	Joe Hlavaty, Chris Apgar, Scott Apgar
				28	Kenneth Crouse
				29	Mark Harwick
30	Carolyn Williams				
31	Rachael Roney, Sharron Streletz				

Council Corner

Hello from Council! This has been a very challenging year for council. Between our in person, virtual special meetings and our coordination with everything else because of the pandemic.

Hopefully 2021 will bring us all back together and worshipping in person! Have a great New Year everyone!

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; Ray 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 Merckham; Andrea Miller; Steven Neff; Clint O'Connor; Jeff Petruno; Lisa Pezzino; Les Pross; Donnie Pyne; Letitia Reidinger; Jill Roland; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; David Sebring; Laurel Sheetz; Gary Shollenberger; Erma Starling; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; 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

WELCA will not be meeting in January. We hope to meet as soon as the church is open again.

Soup

We will not be making soup in January or February. We will see whether it will be possible to do it in the Spring.

Helen Dungan



Outreach

Thank you for all who contributed to our collection to help the homeless by supporting the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter. Of outreach collection for January and February will support our two local food banks - Project Easton and the Upper Bucks Food bank.

Helen Dungan

THANK YOU TO THE ALTAR GUILD - who continued to change colors, provide oil for the candles, and supplies for the communions we offered.

THANK YOU TO KEN ANDERSON - a really BIG THANK YOU - for providing, purchasing, and setting up equipment for all our worship broadcasts.

THANK YOU TO those who read lessons or sang solos (working with Carolyn) at our worship services.

THANK YOU TO those who delivered offering envelopes, devotional booklets, food or gifts to any who needed these items.

THANK YOU TO our Prayer Chain under the leadership of Joan Mammana, who prayed and prayed and prayed for the sick, the lonely, the grieving - without stop.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU - who generously gave financially to maintain our ministry-- almost without a hitch. We were able to pay all bills. And we were able to reach out with special offerings to Disaster Relief, World Hunger, Food Pantries, our SEPA Synod, the Homeless, and individual neighbors in need. As a congregation we shared nearly \$20,000 with our fellow human beings in need in 2020.

THANK YOU from Dianna Streletz to the generous and thoughtful congregation who gave me a Christmas Bonus for my extra cleaning of the church!

THANK YOU from Scott Gaun to the church council for the gift I received for doing the Bulletin and Newsletter for the last 3 months, I am beyond grateful.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to everyone who contributed to the Good Neighbor fund this past year or so. Because of your generosity we were able to make Christmas a little bit more special for 12 needy families. I have always felt that our little church is a church with a BIG heart, and this year as usual has proved it once again. May God Bless you and yours in the new year. Love always, Lynn Gaun.

What a gratitude list! Even in 2020, we have much to be thankful for. See how God has used our time, talent, and treasure to do God's work in amazing ways!