

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

Phone: 610-346-8500 e-mail: evangel@durhamlutheran.org

EVANGEL



2023

*Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Durham*

*~The church on the hill, lighting
the way to God's love.~*

821 Durham Road
PO Box 100

Durham, PA 18039-0100
610-346-8500

www.durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman,
Bridge Pastor
267-664-3160

bridgepastor.ELD@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday:

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Thursday 12:00-3:00 PM

Ken Anderson, Secretary
610-346-8500

Evangel@durhamlutheran.org

Worship in January...

**1st @10:30 AM - Name of
Our Lord**

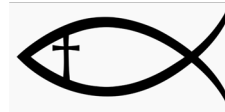
**8th @10:30 AM - The Bap-
tism of Our Lord /
The First Sunday after
the Epiphany**

**15th @10:30 AM - Second
Sunday after Epiphany**

**22nd @10:30 AM - AM -
Third Sunday after Epiph-
any**

**29th @10:30 AM - Fourth
Sunday after Epiphany**

EVANGEL



**January
2023**

Pastor's Message:

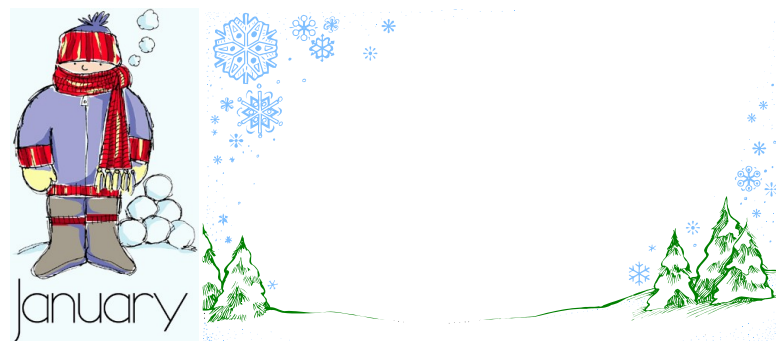
Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

This is usually the month when we look behind and ahead at the same time. It's like driving a car – we always want to keep our eyes on the road ahead, but we do occasionally need to take a peek in the rearview mirror. So here I go. Let me first take a glimpse in the rearview mirror of 2022.

As I look into the mirror there are two words which come to mind: CHANGE and ADJUSTMENT. These words not only fit my personal life, but also the life of ELD. In my personal life, change was manifested with my retirement from school bus driving, the retirement of my wife from her professional life, the marriage of our younger son and of course, my beginning a relationship with you here at Durham. The adjustments were not only about time and monetary concerns, but also a change in priorities for my wife and me.

For the church, the changes were getting used to a new pastor and the recognition that this new pastor was also temporary. It was also an adjustment of learning how to be the post-Covid Church – how do you do worship and what programs should be restarted, reformulated, or discarded. Maybe the biggest change was having to look ahead at your future and come to an understanding of who God is calling you to be in the years ahead. Thanks to Pastor Guider and the Transition Committee, this challenge was navigated with grace and insight.

(Continued on page 3)



Pastor's Message—Continued:

Having said that, at the beginning of every new year, there is the tradition of making resolutions. While it is true that the resolutions we make are often to undo bad habits we have, I would like to challenge ELD to make the following affirmative resolutions.

First, resolve to continue to be the warm, supportive, and loving church. This should be an easy one, because you already are.

Second, resolve to grow in your Christian stewardship. I'm not just talking about your financial giving (which is certainly important as you consider a full-time pastor, but also your support of social ministry programs and the time and talents given to the PALM ministries. I think all the churches will benefit and be stronger when you find ways to work together.

Third, resolve to take a serious look at some of the physical limitations which challenge your current building situation (ie. Handicapped bathroom on the main level, pastoral office space, classroom/meeting room, and a very tiny narthex.) It is obvious from the projects which you have undertaken in recent years (new ramp, new door and painting the church) that you recognize the importance the physical plant of a church has to do with the overall ministry of that church. I believe 2023 is a good time to take a serious look at how your current building might be limiting your future ministry.

As with all resolutions, some are harder to implement than others, but just because they may be a challenge, doesn't mean you shouldn't undertake them.

While I do pray that God blesses you with a new pastor in 2023, it will be my honor and pleasure to be with you until that blessed time and I believe it will be an exciting, hopefully and meaningful year for us all.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

Office Hours change



Pastor Jim's office hours will be changing in the new year. He will be in the office on Wednesdays from 10 to 1 pm and Thursdays from noon to 3 pm (instead of his Friday hours). As always, Pastor can be reached by text/phone at 267-664-3160 or email.

Council Members (council@durhamlutheran.org)

Member	Email	Phone
President - Scott Gaun	President@durhamlutheran.org	215-262-4170
Vice President - Val McGinn	VicePresident @durhamlutheran.org	610-847-6021
Secretary- Cathy Mueller	CouncilSecretary @durhamlutheran.org	732-208-0422
Treasurer- Becky Praster	Treasurer@durhamlutheran.org	703-819-3602
Financial Secretary- Kathy Hlavaty	FinancialSecretary @durhamlutheran.org	610-360-5756
Mark Harwick	mcharwick@gmail.com	908-297-5977
Barb Naska	btbnjnaska@epix.net	610-721-0301
Ken Anderson	kenanderson@ptd.net	610-349-4391



	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 (84 th)				
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				

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

ACOLYTES for JANUARY-

1/1	TBD
1/8	TBD
1/15	TBD
1/22	TBD
1/29	TBD

LECTORS for JANUARY

1/1	Cathy Mueller
1/8	Bea Von Watzdorf
1/15	TBDE
1/22	Ken Anderson
1/29	Joe Hlavaty

- ALTAR GUILD for January - Barb Naska & LeeAnn Kressman
- COUNCIL COUNTING TEAM for January - Mark Harwick & Val McGinn

The congregation gets thanks

Dear members of Durham Lutheran Church,
On behalf of my wife and myself, I want to thank you for so warmly welcoming us into the Durham family and especially for your extraordinarily generous gift. While I do pray that this new year will bring the anticipated beginning of a new era of your ministry with a new full-time pastor, I will count myself blessed to be your pastor in the meantime.

Feeling truly blessed,
Pastor Jim Heckman

Diana Streletz thanks the congregation for the generous Christmas gift.

Ken Anderson also thanks the congregation for the generous Christmas gift.



Check out the bulletin board for more letters of thanks from the near and far ministries we support.

Dear Pastor Heckman and Christ-Followers at Evangelical.

In this season of gratitude, I write to thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in the Durham area and beyond. Together with the Holy Spirit and the 143 congregations and ministries of SEPA Synod, you are a vital partner in spreading the love of Christ with neighbors near and far.

I especially thank you for and encourage your faithfulness in Mission Support offerings that strengthen our collective witness in the Greater Philadelphia region and around the world. The global pandemic has not stopped God's love! SEPA members have persevered in equipping leaders for the 21st century, engaging youth and young adults, addressing homelessness and food insecurity, embracing the LGBTQ community and refugees, ending racism and injustice, responding to disaster, and so much more!

Thanks be to God!
God bless your serving and generosity!

Rev. Julie Bergdahl
SEPA Generosity team member

PRAYERS

Please lift up in prayer the following:

For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Donnie Pyne; Linda Sauter; and Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Emma Brown; Ollie Butler; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Miriam Deal; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Penni Griffith; Alyse Mesko Hales; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Jane Litzenberger; Chelsea Marley; Lenny Marin; Jim McAnally; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Debra Patten; Jennifer Phelps; Dr. Larry Rakowski; Tom Ross; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Nancy Vetter; Linda Wilson, and Henry Wong.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor.

For the grieving:

Wanda Altemose; LaDonna Gibbs; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lisa Pezzino; Donald Seipt; Jeffrey Tapler

PRAYER



If you want to add someone to the prayer list or correct or update it, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: yakkity-yak7@gmail.com.

Bible Study



The Adult Bible study resumes meeting on January 4th and subsequent **Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 at the home of Joe and Kathy Hlavaty**. We are studying the Gospel of John. Please feel free to join us.

Care-A-Lot



Students of Care-A-Lot felt blessed to be a part of this year's ELC of Durham Life Nativity. They were adorable angels. We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2023



Council and Staff Updates

A special **Thank You** to Beth Snyder for her many years of faithful service as our Treasurer / Bookkeeper. Beth is going to use the new free time to spend more time with her family and grandkids. We wish her lots of joy in both her home and work life. Come back and visit us often!

Thanks also to Becky Praster, who has graciously agreed to take on the Treasurer role from Beth.

Please welcome our new part time bookkeeper, Tara Gomez. She is currently working with Beth to transition the bookkeeping role. You can reach here at bookkeeper@durhamlutheran.org.



SOUP



We decided to resume making soup. We will begin by only making one soup for takeout and not eating in. We will make our two most popular soups; Cream of Broccoli in January and Chicken noodle in February. We will be using both glass jars and plastic containers. The plastic containers are good for those who want to freeze some soup.

- On **Friday** January 13th (snow date January 20th) we will meet at church at 9:00 am. to prepare and jar the soup. Soup will be available for sale from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- We need volunteers to clean and chop broccoli and onions, to make the soup, to jar the cooled soup, to sell the soup, and to clean up.

WELCA

On Sunday **January 8, 2023** Lynn Gaun will share a history of Evangelical Lutheran Church through the perspective of the women's organizations. We have minute books from 1883 on! We will offer light refreshments after church and begin our program around noon.

Outreach



Food banks: We are collecting cleaning products – both personal (soap, shampoo, deodorant etc.) and household (laundry detergent, dish soap etc.) Feeding America, who supplies the Easton foodbank, and Philabundance who supplies the Upper Bucks foodbank only supply food. The Easton foodbank has also requested peanut butter and jelly.

See Helen if you would like to donate a basket in memory or honor of a loved one.

Outreach envelope: Our Outreach envelopes for January have again been designated to help the homeless. Our gifts will be given to The Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter at 501 West Broad Street, Quakertown. The shelter, will be open from November 15 to April 15 when the temperatures are 26 degrees and below.

Thank you,
Helen Dungan



By the Way: Five churches create a live Nativity (From the 12/5/22 edition of the Bucks County Herald)



By Kathryn Finegan Clark:

Live Nativity scenes are popping up all over the globe. Even for those of the most hardened of hearts the living reminder of Christ's birth can create a moment of reverence and peace – the simplicity, the power, the sheer joy of the birth of a child.

Members of the five churches belonging to the Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries have joined hands – and talents and energies—to create a live Nativity this Christmas season.

Fortunately, they have the perfect natural backdrop – the 200-year-old wagon sheds that are part of the Durham Lutheran Church complex high above the Durham Valley.

That's why I was walking toward the make-do stable with the Angel Gabriel (aka Joe Hlavaty) and Mary (aka Becky Praster) one cold December morning. We wanted to check it out before the Nativity scene is set up.

Instead of staging just one scene, parts of the ancient Biblical story will be depicted in individual sheds as the story progresses, "There will be a narrator," Praster said, "and each successive scene will be spotlighted."

The event will offer two shows, beginning at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m, this Saturday. Participating churches in addition to Durham are St. Peter's in Riegelsville, St. Luke's in Ferndale, Upper Tinicum in Upper Black Eddy and Trinity in Pleasant Valley.

Pastor Bradley Gow of St. Peter's said the five congregations are small and are trying to work together. "We've all faced a lot of challenges, especially during COVID," he said, "and we're trying to share resources and move forward."

Pastor James Heckman, who is bridge pastor at Durham, said, "Despite a shortage of full-time pastors, we have done a lot of joint things, such as combined confirmation classes and youth socials."

Trinity Lutheran sponsored a summer Bible school and picnic for all five churches. Now Durham is hosting the live Nativity, and the other churches will each take on future events.

Lynn Gaun, who is coordinating the Nativity, said gathering actors, costumes and props and putting them all together takes a couple months.

She said the cast will be a mixture of adults and children. In the past, she said, the church has done some live Nativities but only with children as actors.

Tom Praster, Gaun said, will be in charge of getting the animals from Last Chance Ranch in Richland Township. It's his wife, Becky, who will play the part of Mary. The Rev. Gow will be Joseph.

Shepherds will be Jim Altemose, Clayton Helfrich and Landon Helfrich. Serving as the three wisemen will be Walt Gaibler, Matt Mueller and Jim Nilsen. Ben Naska will play the innkeeper's role.

Mark Harwick will play Isaiah and Susanne Mauer will be an angel. Gaun said there also will be "a multitude of little angels" from the Durham church's Care-A-Lot Preschool. The church choir will also participate.

Gaun said she is expecting a big turnout from the five churches. There is no charge for the event although free will donations will be accepted and are earmarked for Last Chance Ranch, a nonprofit organization in Richland Township that rescues and rehabilitates horses and other domestic animals.

Gaun also said warm hats, mittens and gloves will be collected and donated to the Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks in Quakertown.

kathyclark817@gmail.com

Generosity and Vitality in the **NOW** Normal

A Stewardship Extravaganza

January 21, 2023 | Trinity, Lansdale



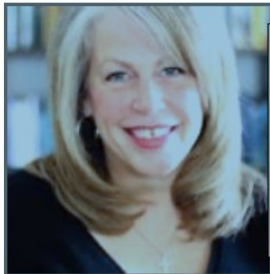
An in-person learning and fellowship opportunity.

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch provided

Cost: \$40 per person. SEPA/NEPA Seminarians and first-call pastors FREE!

Get full information at <https://ministrylink.org/2023-generosity-extravaganza/>

Our Keynote Speaker



Louise Johnson

Keynote: "Serving the Living God Who Loves to Overcome the Impossible"

Workshops include:

Growing Giving in Your Congregation

The Nones: Where They Came From, Who They Are and Where They Are Going

Cultivating Generosity and Vitality Through Storytelling

Giving: A Key to Vitality and Transformation

Re-vitalizing Urban and Other Struggling Congregations ...and more!

Presented by the Southeastern PA and Northeastern PA Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and generous sponsors.

January 2023 Calendar:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023	10:30 AM	Name of Jesus: Savior, Christ, Lord
Wednesday, January 4, 2023	1:00 PM	Bible study Resumes @Kathy & Joe Hlavaty's
Friday, January 6, 2023	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ church
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023	10:30 AM	The Baptism of Our Lord / The First Sunday after the Epiphany Deadline for Reverse Advent boxes
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023	12:00 PM	Presentation by Lynn Gaun on Church women's organization history.
Sunday, January 8, 2023	5:00 PM	Confirmation Class at Trinity, Pleasant Valley
Monday, January 9, 2023	7:00 PM	Church Council meeting
Friday, January 13, 2023	9:00 AM 3:00 - 7:00 PM	Cream of Broccoli Soup Prep Soup on sale for takeout
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023	10:30 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany
Wednesday, January 18, 2023	7:00 PM	PALM meeting at Upper Tinicum Lutheran Church
Saturday, January 21, 2023	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Generosity And Vitality In The NOW Normal @ Trinity Landsale https://ministrylink.org/2023-generosity-extravaganza/
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023	10:30 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany <i>Deadline for February Newsletter</i>
Tuesday January 24, 2023	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023	10:30 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany <i>Deadline for Annual report Submission</i>



