

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

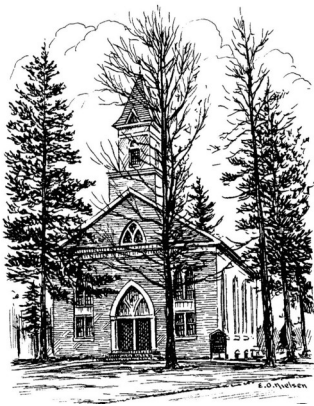
Phone: 610-346-8500 email: evangel@durhamlutheran.org

Web site: www.durhamlutheran.org

EVANGEL

JANUARY

2024



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Church of Durham**

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the way to God's love.~*

821 Durham Road
PO Box 100
Durham, PA 18039-0100
610-346-8500
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Reverend James Heckman,
Bridge Pastor
267-664-3160
pastor@durhamlutheran.org

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday:

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Thursday

11:00 AM -1:00 PM

Ken Anderson, Secretary
610-346-8500

Evangel@durhamlutheran.org

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Pastor's Message:

Dear Evangel Family,

As I prepared to write this letter, I took time to look back at my letter for January 2023. I talked about getting ready for the changes that a new year would bring, including the welcoming of your new pastor. Little did I realize that new pastor would be me and you did indeed welcome me warmly.

The other thing I did was to encourage you to adopt three resolutions for the new year. The first was to continue to be warm and welcoming. You have kept that resolution 100%. I look forward to it continuing into 2024.

The second was to increase your stewardship. Not just financially (which you have started to do), but also your time and talents for the ministry programs both here at Durham and with PALM. As with the first resolution, you have done this. We just celebrated our second year hosting the Live Nativity as well as the continued Confirmation Class with the PALM churches. I am looking forward to increased activities with PALM including a revitalized Vacation Church School and joint services in Lent. I also anticipate a deeper level of conversation about joint ministry in the future. I fully expect that there will be a joint council retreat in the spring to pursue this topic.

The third resolution was to take a look at the physical plant of Durham. We have also made progress with this resolution. We voted in December to replace the stair glide and we anticipate this being accomplished early in 2024. We have also established a Building Committee which is looking at what are the needs and how to deal with them. I anticipate definitive action from this committee will also be forth coming in early 2024.

As a whole, I could not be any happier about where the ministry of Evangelical Durham went in 2023 and I am extremely excited about what 2024 holds for us. In that light I would recommend the following resolutions for this year.

(Continued on Page 3)

Pastor's Message (Continued from page 2):

First, tackle the issue of children's ministry. While our Care-a-lot program is a great success (we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the school on June 30th), the Christian Education element is still having trouble recovering from Covid. One of the great joys has been seeing more families at Durham with Children. As we get more and more children the challenge becomes, how do we share our Christian faith with them? While I do not believe that the traditional Sunday School program from the 1960's still works, that does not mean there are not other ways to get the word out.

Second, I want to challenge us to grow our worship attendance. Of course, that can happen in two ways: it can be accomplished by your being there more often yourself, or by inviting others to come with you.

Third, to find a new opportunity to serve in the church. By far the greatest challenge to doing ministry is to get the volunteers needed to carry out the programs we undertake. Christian Education is a fitting example - unless we have adults willing to help, no plan will work. Whether it is something like serving on council or another committee to volunteering to help lead a Lemonade on the Lawn your help is needed. Remember attending worship is not just a matter of being there, but you are also encouraged to help lead worship as greeter, lector, usher, altar guild, choir member, or acolyte.

Finally, a personal goal for myself is to get an up-to-date church directory and then for me to visit all our families. This will not only help me to get to know you better, it will also allow me to pick your brain about the role that Evangelical Durham plays in your life, as well as any thoughts and suggestions you might have regarding the church's future. You can help me reach this goal by signing up on my visitation chart in the narthex of the church.

As I look ahead to the new year, I am filled with great joy and expectation. I believe things will be even more exciting in 2024. I am glad to be making the journey together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim Heckman

Pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham



Christmas

**For Healing of those in our Congregation:**

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Deb Carmichael; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Sue Kiry; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Regina Ward; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Rev. Dennis Durasoff

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

From Assumptions to Surprises

It's assumed that Mary rode on a donkey, but the Bible doesn't say she did.

It's assumed there was an innkeeper, but it doesn't mention one anywhere.

It's assumed there were three Magi, but it doesn't give a number of those who showed up.

It's assumed there was a star overhead when Jesus was born, but it doesn't say that either.

It's assumed that Jesus was born in a stable, but all it says is that He was laid in a manger - and that could've been any number of places.

Christmas comes with many assumptions—some helpful, some not so much. Spirituality also comes with many assumptions, and the ones that fail us are the ones we make about what it's supposed to look like, who is worthy for it to happen to, and what kind of outcome it's supposed to have for us. Assumptions like . . .

You should be more than you are now to be pleasing to God.

Your weaknesses are in the way of God's plan for your life.

Your lack of religious excitement disqualifies you from divine participation.

You're probably not doing it right.

Other spiritual people have something you don't have.

Our assumptions hinder our spiritual journey in all kinds of ways, and the antidote to assumption is surprise. The surprise of Christ's incarnation is that it happened in Mary's day as it is happening every day in your lack of resources, your overcrowded lodging, your unlit night sky, your humble surroundings.

It's a surprise that life can come through barren places.

It's a surprise that meek nobodies partake in divine plans.

It's a surprise that messengers are sent all along the hidden journey of life to let you know you are not alone.

It's a surprise that you will be given everything you need to accomplish what you've been asked to do.

It's a surprise that nothing can separate you from the love of God.

Nothing can separate you from love. Your assumptions believe there must be something that can . . . But surprise! Nothing can.

May you thank God with joyful surprise at how much you have assumed incorrectly.

By Scott Erikson

January Calendar		
Wednesday, January 3	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 4	9:00 AM 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 7:30 PM	Constitution Committee - Zoom Office hours Upper Bucks Conference Executive Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 7 Epiphany	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Monday, January 8	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 10	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Palm Meeting @ St. Luke's
Thursday, January 11	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, January 12	10:00 AM	WELCA Meeting & Lunch
Sunday, January 14 Baptism of our Lord	10:00 AM 5:30 PM	Communion Worship Confirmation Class @Trinity
Wednesday, January 17	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 18	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's Palm Leaders @ St. Luke's
Friday, January 19	9:00 AM 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	WELCA Soup Supper Make Soup Sell Soup - Take out only - \$8 per quart
Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Wednesday, January 24	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 25	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM After Worship 5:30 PM	Communion Worship Worship & Music committee Confirmation Class @Durham

Women of the ELCA

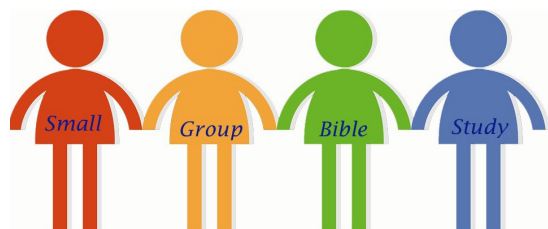
WELCA: On Dec. 10th, WELCA hosted our Christmas covered dish dinner. After we ate, those involved with the Live Nativity went out to the sheds to rehearse. Unfortunately it rained, but that didn't stop our performers from practicing.



Our next meeting will be Friday Jan. 12, 2024 at 10:00 am in the church. We will discuss our soup making, and what we would like to

accomplish in the coming year including whom we want to support financially. The program will be a Bible study taken from our WELCA Gather magazine which uses quilting as its analogy. After our meeting those who wish will have lunch together.

Soup Sale: Jan. 19, 2024 we will be making and selling vegetable beef, vegetable and cream of potato soup for \$8 per quart. We decided to do take out only. We will begin preparing vegetables around 9 am, and will sell soup from 4 pm to 7 pm.



Bible Study: The Adult Bible study meets on **Thursdays** from **1:00-3:00** at the home of **Kathy and Joe Hlavaty**. We will resume meeting on January 11, 2023. We will begin studying the Book of Genesis

Helen Dungan

Outreach

Food banks: Thanks to all who contributed to our collection for the food banks in December. **Please all who come to worship in person, bring something to share.** We are collecting personal care items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, and cleaning products such as detergent.

You can also sign up to donate a basket in memory or honor of a loved one. Thanks to Lee Ann Kressman for her basket on Christmas Eve given in celebration of Clayton Helfrich's sixteenth birthday.



American Red Cross

Outreach envelope: Our Outreach envelopes for January have been designated to go to the Red Cross,

Christmas gifts: A big thank you to Lynn Gaun for buying gifts for those in our community who can use some help this Christmas.

Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries

Reverse Advent: Please have your Reverse Advent calendar boxes in by January 7th So we can distribute to the food pantries. We will have a celebration dinner at St Peters at 5:00 PM on February 4th

Our next meeting is at 7:00 PM on January 10th at St' Luke's



Upper Bucks Conference



Meal Packing: On January 14, Little Zion is partnering with the Upper Bucks Conference to host a Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. We'll gather in Little Zion's sanctuary at 1:00 PM to briefly pray together and receive instructions, then move into the Fellowship Hall to pack 15,000 meals. We anticipate being done by 3:00 PM. We are able to have up to 50 volunteers, you can sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FACA62FA5F58-46265245-rise>



Iron Pigs: Save the date for the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs game on Sunday, June 23 at 1:35 PM! Tickets are just \$30. per person. We reserved the Picnic Patio, with an unlimited buffet for 2.5 hours and unlimited soft drinks until the middle of the 8th inning (see flyer on Page 9). There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Sign up is due in by the end of January.

We welcome The Rev. Luther Martell to St. Matthew's Lutheran, Perkasie!

January 2024 Worship Assistants

Altar Guild			Val McGinn & LeAnn Kressman		
Communion / Counting Team			Bea von Watzdorf & Mark Harwick		
Date	Service	Greeter(s)	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte
1/7	Epiphany	Nancy Moskella	Tome Gaun	Mark Harwick	
1/14	Baptism of our Lord	Josephine Williams	Kristie Simmons	Mark Harwick	
1/21	Third Sunday of Epiphany	Miriam Anderson	Kathryn Wagner	Mark Harwick	Ben Williams
1/28	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	Josephine Williams	Pat Zion	Ben Williams (assistant)	Colton Wagner

We still need more Worship Assistants!

Reminder, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, please sign up there, or send an email with the role and date to evangel@durhamlutheran.org to be added to the list.



Something to Celebrate!



January	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
5	Joe Hlavaty		
9			Faye Gadwell, Conner Aquino
10			Austin Apgar, Joanne Apgar, Erika Trauger
12	Landon Helfrich		
15	Don Crouse, Kathy Hlavaty		
16	Jim Altemose (85 th)		
18	Rachel McAlister		
25	Audrey Bolesta		
26	Cora Gadwell, Paige Reiman		George Kreitz
27			Joe Hlavaty, Chris Apgar, Scott Apgar
28			Kenneth Crouse
29			Mark Harwick
30	Carolyn Williams		
31	Rachael Roney, Sharron Streletz		



Diana Streletz, Carolyn Williams and Ken Anderson send thanks to the congregation for the generous Christmas gifts.

We also received thank you notes from CWS, Project Easton, LWR and other charities for our generosity this year.

Care-A-Lot News:

We Wish everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year from the little Care-A-Lot friends.

JUNE
23



The Koinonia Conference
Upper Bucks Conference,
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod,
ELCA



LUTHERAN DAY WITH THE THE IRONPIGS

Coca-Cola Park

1050 Iron Pigs Way, Allentown, Pennsylvania, U.S

Gates open at 12:35 - Game time is at 1:35pm

Please join the Upper Bucks Lutheran Conference as we watch the Lehigh Valley IronPigs play against the Norfolk Tides! **Tickets are \$30 each.**

The ticket cost includes:

- * 2 1/2 hour all you can eat Buffett.
- * Unlimited Soft Drinks (only) through the middle of the 8th inning.
- * Seating with your fellow Lutherans at the Picnic Patio, along the Left Field Line.



A letter from Bishop Davenport:

Fun Page



I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M WEARING TO THE LIVING
ROOM NEW YEAR'S EVE.

I MIGHT NOT EVEN GO.



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start
in ten minutes."



WINTER SEASON

B H U W I S L E E T Y K S U H C I W Q V
F S E Z E E R F Y Z H A R E P M N L M R
M E S O O M C B A M I G R A T I O N S O
W V W B V Y L L O H D V H C J B W U H B
V Q E P P K B I P H E T G Q T N F Q A I
B I S W O N S D T I T N H X G I Y F U N
N K N R L F K R C B I A E V R I C O H O
D Z O S A E B A P E B R Y E X B B L V Q
T F W A R W J Z P R T O E R R I O S W O
Y O M N B I L Z E N S R S F R G B Y S W
P R A E E S Z I J A O U V A J E R P I M
S E N X A K N L B T R A C X O B E E X P
E T J E R D X B A I F R P T D D B P V V
R N W K E R B A V O L S E P H L H Y G E
V I O E F E K A V N G L V R U D O K H H
B W R K I I J M A Y T T N W Z W D C U I
L K P B N C I Z H S S U P N I U G N E P
V V E V O A Q A I O Z Y Q X D R I F T Y
U J Y H C L J M R E K A L F W O N S N O
U I B T I G X F O G F D R I C I C L E H

WORD LIST

ARCTIC
AURORA
BLIZZARD
CARIBOU
COLD
CONIFER
DRIFT
EVERGREEN

FIR
FREEZE
FROST
FROSTBITE
GLACIER
HARE
HIBERNATION
HOLLY

HUSKY
ICICLE
MIGRATION
MISTLETOE
MOOSE
PENGUIN
POLAR BEAR

REINDEER
ROBIN
SLEET
SNOW
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
WINTER

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DURHAM CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Name	Role	Phone	Email
COUNCIL			
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