

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*

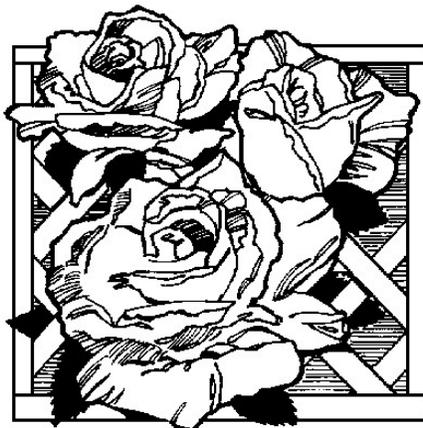
*"The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"*

821 Durham Road - P.O. Box 100 - Durham, PA 18039-0100

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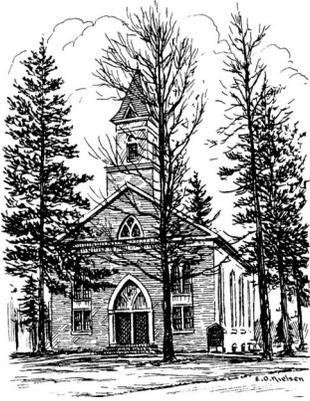
Web site: [www.durhamlutheran.org](http://www.durhamlutheran.org)

EVANGEL



MAY

2024



**Evangelical Lutheran  
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  
[www.durhamlutheran.org](http://www.durhamlutheran.org)

Reverend James Heckman,  
Pastor  
267-664-3160

[pastor@durhamlutheran.org](mailto: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](mailto:Evangel@durhamlutheran.org)

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# EVANGEL



APRIL  
2024

## *Pastor's Message:*

Dear Evangel Family,

I am writing this letter early in the month as Linda and I will be away at the end of the month. We will be cruising the Colombia & Snake Rivers in Oregon and Washington. I am also writing this article early as there are some reflections regarding Holy Week and Easter which I want to share with you while they are still fresh in my mind.

First let me say what a wonderful Lent, Holy Week and Easter season we had. I was so proud of Evangelical Durham and our representation at the Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers and Devotions. While the soups and the fellowship were wonderful, I was also very pleased with the discussions which followed. Our conversations regarding "Change" were very appropriate.

Holy Week began with a real bang as we had a full church and a wonderful celebration of the Palms. Holy Week continued with a new experience for Durham, the Seder Supper/Service. I want to thank all those who helped prepare, set up and clean up after the event. We had about thirty-five people, and it was a moving and educational experience. Hopefully this gave everyone a little different perspective of what Jesus and his disciples experienced that first Last Supper. On Thursday we welcomed our brothers and sisters from St. Luke's, Ferndale and Trinity, Pleasant Valley in a service of Holy Communion which concluded with the Stripping of the Altar and the reading of Psalm 22 in darkness, reflecting on the suffering and agony that awaited Jesus that night. Friday night the same three churches gathered together at Trinity for a Good Friday Litany journeying through the Passion recorded in John's Gospel. While the overall attendance was down, Durham was well represented. My hope is that next year Durham will host Good Friday and either St. Luke's or Trinity will host Maundy Thursday.

Easter Day was truly inspirational. It began for about seventy folks at Sky Island overlooking the Delaware River. The sunrise was breathtaking, and the weather was perfect. We then gathered at Church with a very full house. The energy was great, the music was wonderful, and the children were delightful. It served as a reminder for all of us that while we don't think we have any children in our church, there are quite a few and that bodes very well for our future. I am very excited to get to work with the Christian Education Committee to develop some new programing for the children later this year.

While I wish I could end my letter here, there was one thing that happened during Holy Week which really caused me great concern and I feel compelled to share my concern with you. It was during Holy Week that former President Trump decided to start selling

(Continued on Page 3)

*Pastor's Message (Continued from page 2):*

Bibles. While that in and of itself reeked of hypocrisy (claiming it was his favorite book which he reads all the time), what took my concern to a whole other level was when Mr. Trump claimed that he was like Jesus, in that "he was being crucified for our sake". Now I know that some of you have voted for him and may be considering voting for him in the future, and I know that there are some who feel that pastors should keep their noses out of politics. However, my concern here is not about politics or policies. My concern here is that this man is a blasphemer, (blasphemy, in a religious sense, refers to great disrespect shown to God or to something holy, or to something said or done that shows this kind of disrespect) and I cannot keep silent. For him to claim that he is a Christian is a bit of a challenge in and of itself. If he really read the Bible as much as he claims, and if he really understood the sacrificial nature of what Jesus did for us, his language and criticism toward others would be very different. I will be the first to admit that Mr. Trump is not the first politician who has claimed to be religious and does not really live up to the claim, but he is the first who compared himself to Jesus and even implied that he was the new savior. It is my hope and prayer that if you are considering voting for him, you take prayerful consideration of his heretical statements and reconsider your support.

While I am sure that some of you might want to have some discussion regarding my letter, I am going to host a "Faith Conversation" gathering following worship on May 5<sup>th</sup>. As before, this will be a time of open conversation and sharing. It is important that we as Children of God discuss these issues and speak out against those who profess them.

I want to share with you a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from a speech he gave on February 10, 1966 following the church bombing in Birmingham Alabama. Dr. King said: *"It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation, not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people who would bomb a church in Birmingham, Alabama but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say wait on time. Somewhere we must come to see the human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability."* I believe it is well past the time of silent waiting. Now is the time when I feel that as a Christian, I must speak out. I hope you will join me in the conversations.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman  
Pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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### First Quarter Attendance

Month	2023			2024						
	In per-son	Online	Total	In per-son	Online	Total	In Per-son	% +/-	Total # +/-	% +/-
January	40	13	52	40	15	55	0	1%	3	5%
February	40	13	53	44	14	58	4	9%	5	8%
March	41	9	50	58	9	67	17	29%	17	26%

NOTE: Holy week was in April last year and March this year.

# PRAYER



## CONCERNS

### For Healing of those in our Congregation:

James Altemose; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Joe Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; 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; Stephen Bizon; Sherri Breithoff; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Barea Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplín; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Connie Rugen; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; Laurel Sheetz; Kay Stokes; Russ Trauger; Annette von Watzdorf; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Regina Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Josephine Yeisley & Wayne Yeisley.

### For those who are Homebound:

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

### For families and friends grieving the loss of:

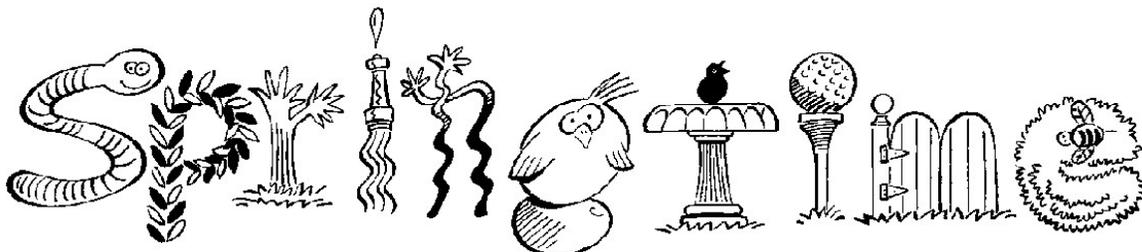
Ronald Fox, Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Kenneth Eck, Jean Pratt, Charles Reiman

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: [joanmammana@icloud.com](mailto:joanmammana@icloud.com)

## May 2024 Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	Nancy Moskella & Becky Praster
Communion / Counting Team	Bea von Watzdorf & Cathy Mueller

Date	Service	Greeter(s)	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte
5/5/2024	6 Easter	Josephine Williams	Becky Praster		Landon Helfrich
5/12/2024	7 Easter			Mark Harwick	
5/19/2024	Pentecost	Leo Grzelkowski	Bea von Watzdorf		Ben Williams
5/26/2024	Holy Trinity			Mark Harwick	



# MAY EVENTS

Wednesday, May 1	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours (Pastor off)
Thursday, May 2	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours (Pastor off) Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, May 3 - Saturday, May 4		SEPA Synod Assembly Christ Pipersville Book & Rummage Sale
<b>Sunday, May 5</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter	<b>10:00 AM</b>  5:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> <i>Faith Conversations after Worship</i> Confirmation Class at Durham (LAST CLASS OF YEAR)
Monday, May 6	7:00 PM	PALM Meeting @ Upper Tincum
Wednesday, May 8	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM 12:00 PM 12:30 - 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Christian Education meeting VBS Meeting @ Trinity
Thursday, May 9	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
<b>Sunday, May 12</b> Seventh Sunday of Easter	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Communion Worship</b> <i>Mother's Day</i>
Monday, May 13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 15	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM 12:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, May 16	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
<b>Saturday, May 18</b>	<b>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>PALM Council Members Retreat</b> Church Mutual Insurance audit
<b>Sunday, May 19</b> Pentecost	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Communion Worship</b> AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION Landon Helfrich & Leo Grzelkowski
Wednesday, May 22	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM 12:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, May 23	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's Care-A-Lot Preschool Graduation
<b>Sunday, May 26</b> Trinity Sunday	<b>10:00 AM</b> 12:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Memorial Day service in the cemetery
Wednesday, May 29	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 12:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, May 30	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

## Christian Education Council Commentary

Hello Durham Family! Happy May! Services since the last newsletter have been so exciting for me to see the number of children that attended church on Palm Sunday, Easter, and Care-A-lot Sunday. Care-A-Lot Sunday alone had more than 25 children in attendance! They are here, in our community and just waiting for the right opportunity to be welcomed at church. As one of those families with children who found ourselves in search of a church to call home this time last year, I can't thank this congregation enough for how welcome and comfortable we immediately felt here at Evangelical Durham. Keep up the good work!

Our **Christian education committee** will be having our first meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested in attending or have any ideas for children's programs we would love to hear them. If you can't make it to the meeting and have an idea, please email me at [HumbleAcresFarmPA@gmail.com](mailto:HumbleAcresFarmPA@gmail.com).



I would also like to remind you of the upcoming **Care-A-Lot 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> at the service followed by a catered picnic. Registration for the event can be found on the Care-A-Lot tab of the church's website. Be sure to click on the QR Code to register by June 9<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has contact information for teachers of previous years or knows of more alumni, please forward their info to Kathy Hlavaty.



Lastly, don't forget- **Vacation Bible school** this summer will be hosted by Trinity in Pleasant Valley the week of July 15-19<sup>th</sup> from 9am-Noon with a closing cookout the evening of July 19<sup>th</sup>. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Enjoy your day and God Bless.

Kathryn Wagner

### Care-A-Lot Sunday





WELCA will hold its May meeting on Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. We will meet at the home of Kathy Hlavaty. Our program is a Bible study from Gather Magazine with the theme Crafted in Christ. The examples used to illustrate the study are **quilts**. Kathy is going to share her quilts with us and share their stories. During our business meeting we will distribute the funds raised by our soup sales.

**THE UPPER BUCKS WELCA CONFERENCE GATHERING** was held at Durham on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Our topic was human trafficking. Our speaker was Tina Tranauskas from Worthwhile Wear, a local organization established to help victims of sexual trafficking. They offer classroom experiences to help participants connect with services available to them and get help to break free. They also offer a residential program called the Well. This offers sanctuary, support services and educational opportunities. To support their activities and offer job opportunities and training to their participants, they have two thrift stores. Our in-kind gifts were items for the stores.

Helen Dungan



## Act Challenge 2024

Starting May 1, the miles that you bike, walk, run, swim, or kayak can support survivors of human trafficking. This event is free to join! Sign up as an individual or as part of a team here:  
<https://charity.pledgeit.org/manage/t/tpwPzfuhr>



## Bible Study

The Adult Bible study meets on **Thursdays** from **1:00-3:00** at the home of **Kathy & Joe Hlavaty**. We will move from Genesis to Exodus as we follow Abraham's descendants as they become the nation of Israel.

Helen Dungan

## Outreach

**Food banks:** Thanks to all who contributed to our April food collections. We will collect personal care items, maybe emphasizing women's needs as we celebrate Mother's Day. And Upper Bucks food bank can always use coffee, while Easton can always use jelly. **Please all who come to worship in person, bring something to share.** You can also sign up to donate a food basket in memory or honor of a loved one.

**Health kits:** Thanks to all who donated health kits to Lutheran World Relief. These will be collected at the Synod Assemble at Franconia in May, and shipped to LWR's warehouse in Maryland.

**Outreach envelope:** Our Outreach envelopes for May will be for Blanket Sunday.

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## Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries

May	"Blessings by the Box" Christ, Pipersville is collecting funds to provide blessing boxes for needy families of Palisades children over the summer.
May 6	PALM activities planning meeting
May 18	Cluster Church Council joint retreat to explore cooperative ministry and shared leadership from 9 am- 12 pm lead by Rev. Penman.
June 30	Care-A-Lot Sunday & 40th anniversary celebration.

## Upper Bucks Conference



**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. There may be additional seats available, stay tuned! Final Payment is due before May 1.

## SEPA Synod

The **Annual Assembly** is May 3-4. Please pray for our representatives Helen Dungan and Ken Anderson as well as the assembly as they elect a new Bishop.

Penn Live Arts invites churches in Philadelphia — particularly Center City, West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia — to join in the **"Toll the Bell"** project to collectively ring their bells or other sonic devices at noon on Friday, June 7 for 10.6 minutes to represent 106 people killed by a firearm in the U.S. every day.

## SEPa Women Of The ELCA 2024 Convention

### "Love One Another with the Promise of God's Justice"



Hebrews 10:24-25 ~ "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."

Saturday, June 1, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. Registration

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church • 1000 W Main Street • Lansdale, PA • 19446 •  
Phone: (215) 368-1710

## Something to Celebrate!



May	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
4	Sara Aquino		
5	Hunter Aquino		
6		Kris & Wes Simmons	
9		Barbara and Ben Naska Sr (54)	
21	Joe Aquino		Jim Altemose
22			Dianna Streletz
23	Bethany Michl		
24	Brian Ashmore, Sr.		
25	Joel Roney	Sara and Joe Aquino (22)	
26		Kristy Lee and Dane Reiman (12)	
27		Maggie Fischer and Bob Star- ling (46)	

## *Something to be Thankful for!*

The Allentown Rescue Mission sent thanks for our gift of \$935.

Emmanuel , Souderton achieved the milestone of "Handing UP' **575, 000** meals since their ministry was started during Covid.

# Fun Page

*Some Bulletin Bloopers for other churches*

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Jones to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.

The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our bell choir practice.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

On Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the expense of a new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will please come forward to get a piece of paper.

Janet Smith has volunteered to strip and refinish the communion table in the sanctuary.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth With Joy".

The visiting monster today is Rev. Jack Bains.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I upped My Pledge---- Up Yours."

Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

If you need to heave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our congregation.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.

The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.



# COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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EXCITING MUSIC  
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JOIN US FOR THE  
CLOSING CEREMONY  
FRIDAY JULY 19  
6PM HOTDOGS  
6:30PM PROGRAM BEGINS  
FOLLOWED BY A CAMPFIRE  
AND S'MORES

**MONDAY JULY 15 -**  
**FRIDAY JULY 19**  
**9AM - 12PM**

**LOCATED AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2170 ROUTE 212 COOPERSBURG**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK @TRINITYPV**  
**OR CALL 610-346-7282**



**SCAN HERE TO  
REGISTER!**



