

# *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](mailto:evangel@durhamlutheran.org)

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

# EVANGEL



# 2025



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 23RD

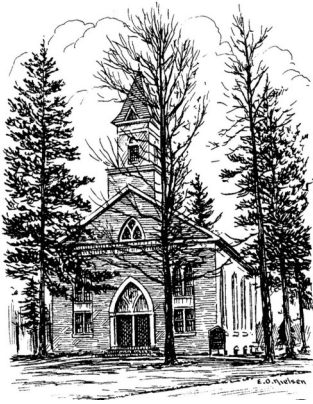
There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately after the worship service on February 23, 2025. On the agenda for the Feb. 23rd meeting will be a review of our church annual report, approval of the meeting minutes from the previous two congregational meetings and a brief discussion to update you on PALM and our building committee work. Please note that all congregational meeting material will be in the annual report which will be printed and available to you in the narthex on Sunday Feb. 9, 2025. Diligent efforts have been made in the building committee to bring you the most up-to-date plans of the potential new annex building and while we remain dedicated to the transparency of this project, we will not be able to present the formal plans for the proposed annex or vote on the funding as originally planned. Please look forward to another congregational meeting in the coming months to continue this process. Your participation in the meeting is very important; questions are welcome and appreciated as we navigate this process and care for this Church and our congregational needs.



### Bonnie Pyne DePortillo



Bonnie was born on September 14th and has been a member for the past four years after growing up at St. Peters and later a local Baptist Church. She came to find our church after attending vacation bible school and coming back to visit. Sitting in church at Durham the open arms of our congregation that I know and love wrapped around her. Bonnie travels to church from New Jersey and loves our church and congregation so much. You can almost always count on seeing her smiling face in the back pew. To Bonnie, God feels like a best friend, someone that is always there for her to talk to. She feels joy in attending church and bible study and she loved her years of teaching Sunday School. Bonnie's favorite hymn is "Jesus Loves Me" and to know Bonnie is to love her! She is so kind, has great stories about her life to tell and her love for Jesus and ELC of Durham is infectious. :)



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PO Box 100

Durham, PA 18039-0100  
610-346-8500

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Reverend James Heckman,  
Pastor  
267-664-3160

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

Pastor and Admin's  
Office Hours:

Wednesday:  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Thursday  
10:00 AM -1:00 PM

Kathryn Wagner,  
Administrative Assistant  
610-346-8500

Additional Admin Office Hours:  
Monday: 1:00-3:00PM

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

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*Pastor's Message:*

Dear sisters and brother in Christ,  
Please read my entire letter.

Yesterday as I was working on my letter, my attention was caught by the news article about the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's sermon on Tuesday at the National Cathedral's interfaith Service of Prayer for the Nation. At the end of her sermon, she addressed the President and Vice President with the following statement: *"Millions have put their trust in you. And as you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now."*

In this statement I was reminded of what every disciple of Christ is called to have as a central tenant of faith and life action, that is, to be a people of mercy, grace, forgiveness, empathy and compassion. And I was inspired by her example and reminded of what my job is as a Minister of Word and Sacrament; to proclaim, remind, encourage and exhort that behavior from all who claim to be children of God.

Sadly, the response which Bishop Budde received from the President was anything but Christian. While he has every right to disagree with her, I found his offensive, condescending and degrading comments not only unchristian, but certainly not appropriate from our President. His criticism of her and his call for her to apologize have caused many of his followers to call for her removal from office, her deportation (although she is not an immigrant), and even some threatening of her life. All this has come from our President who says he believes in God, even selling his own "God Bless the USA" Bibles. Yet when it came time to take his oath of office, he wasn't able to put his hand on the Bible.

I'm sure that some of you are very upset with me right now for writing this letter, and that is your right. But I am not writing it to bash the President. I am writing to help us all remember that while we are all now living in the United States of America with Donald Trump as our President, we are more importantly children of God who believe and proclaim that Christ is our King and while we live in this governmental state, our lives are to be lived with a Christ-like character and behavior, guided by the rules of love, compassion and forgiveness exercised by Christ action on the cross for us.

Again let me quote Bishop Budde from her response to this situation on NPR.

*"I don't hate the president, and I pray for him," Budde said. "I don't feel there's a need to apologize for a request for mercy. I regret that it was something that has caused the kind of response that it has, in the sense that it actually confirmed the very thing that I was speaking of earlier, which is our tendency to jump to*

(Pastor's Message Cont'd on page 4)



(Pastor's Message Cont'd)

*outrage and not speak to one another with respect," she continued. "But no, I won't, I won't apologize for what I said."*

I unapologetically share her feelings and will continue to preach a Gospel of mercy, compassion and forgiveness, fully recognizing that it may indeed cause some to feel I have stepped into a political realm where you don't think I belong. But I do believe that we live in God's kingdom and that all of God's children deserve life, health and human dignity and we should all speak out against any infringement of God's law of love. For me, this will always be first and foremost, one nation under God.

For those of you who are upset with me, please talk to me about it. Complaining to your neighbor about it will not help us move forward. I am more than happy to talk.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman



**Choir Practice**

**MID-WEEK  
CHOIR REHEARSAL  
WILL RESUME ON  
Wednesdays at 10am  
Starting February 19th  
to prepare for Lent and  
Easter**



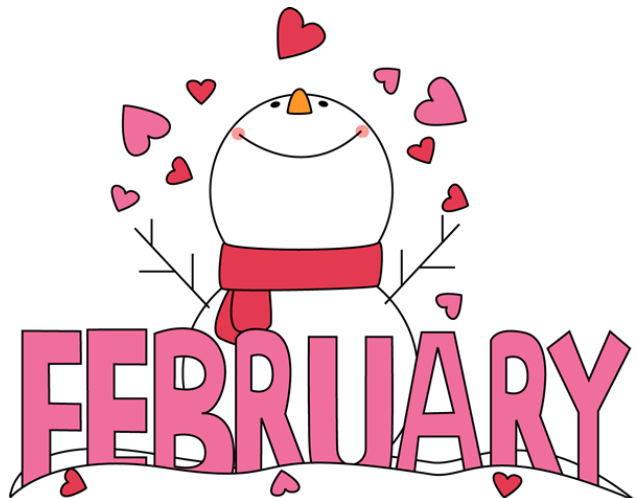
**CALL**



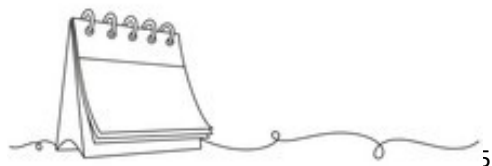
**CHAIN**

ELC of Durham wants to make sure we are staying in contact with our members! Recent funeral announcements and winter storms have brought to our attention the members who are not connected via our email, website or social media pathways. We currently have a list of people who have requested the newsletter be mailed to their homes, this is where the call list will begin to be generated from. If you would like to receive a call from the church about time sensitive information please let us know by calling the church at 610-346-8500 and leaving a voicemail with the best phone number to reach you.

Thank You!



<b>Sunday, February 2</b> Presentation of Our Lord	9:15 AM <b>10:00 AM</b> 5:00PM-7:00PM	Adult Sunday school in the library. <b>Communion Worship</b> Confirmation Class @ Trinity Pleasant Valley
Monday, February 3	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:30-7:30PM	Admin Office Hours Kids Club
Wednesday, February 5	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, February 6	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, February 8	9:00 AM- 2:00PM	Confirmation/Youth Retreat Christ Pipersville
<b>Sunday, February 9</b> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	9:15 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	Adult Sunday school in the library <b>Communion Worship</b> After Worship Info Session
Monday, February 10	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:30-7:30pm	Admin Office Hours Kids Club
Tuesday, February 11	7:00PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 12	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 1:30 PM	Office Hours Christian Education Meeting
Thursday, February 13	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's PALM Cluster meeting @ Durham
<b>Sunday, February 16th</b> Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	9:15 AM <b>10:00 AM</b> After Worship 12:00 PM 5:00PM-7:00PM	Adult Sunday School in Library <b>Communion Worship</b> Altar Guild Meeting Mental Health Series- Rev. Sue Howes Confirmation Class @ Durham



FEBRUARY CALENDAR CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# FEBRUARY CALENDAR CONT'D



<b>Monday, February 17th</b>	<b>11:00 AM- 1:00 PM</b> 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:30-7:30PM	<b>Messy Church</b> Admin Office Hours Kids Club
Wednesday, February 19	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 10:00 AM	Office Hours Mid-week Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 20	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, February 22	9:30 AM- 12:00 PM  9AM Prep 3PM-5PM Sale	SEPA Gathering of Church Council Leaders at Reformation Lutheran Church, Philadelphia Soup Sale
<b>Sunday, February 23</b> Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	9:15 AM <b>10:00 AM</b> After Worship 5:00 PM	Adult Sunday school in the library <b>Communion Worship</b> <b>Congregational Meeting</b> Reverse Advent Covered Dish @ St. Lukes
Monday, February 24	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:30-7:30PM	Admin Office Hours Kids Club
Wednesday, February 26	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 10:00 AM	Office Hours Mid-week Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 27	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

## February 2025 Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Becky Praster
Communion Team	Kat Wagner and Cathy Mueller
Counting Team	Mark Harwick, Linda Sauter, Leann Kressman

Date	Greeter	Acolyte	Lector	Head Usher
2/2	Kat and Oaklee Wagner		Kris Simmons	
2/9	Ben & Josephine Williams		Kathryn Wagner	
2/16	O'Brien Family		Mary Crouse	
2/23	Ben & Josephine Williams	Lilly O'Brien	Pat Zion	

# SAVE THE DATE

2025

Upper Bucks Conference Annual Assembly March 9, 2025 2-4pm

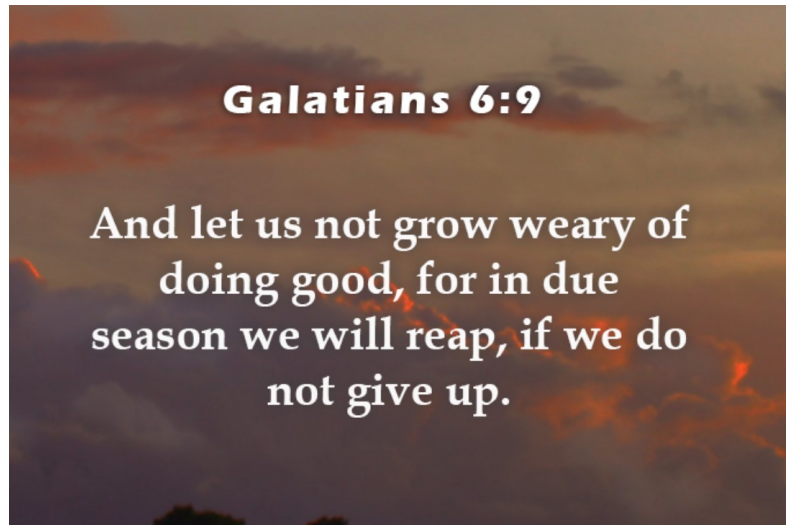
Mid-week Lenten soup suppers See PALM flyer

Iron Pigs Game April 27, 2025 1-3pm



## Christian Education

**NEXT CHRISTIAN ED MEETING**  
Wednesday February 12 @ 1:30



### Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE! We would love to have you! You can find the flyers for many of our Christian Education Programs at the end of this newsletter but here is a list of upcoming events!**

February 8, 2025

9am-2pm Confirmation/Youth Event at Christ Pipersville Ages 5th grade and up invited

February 10th, 17th, 24th

6:30-7:30pm Kids Club at Church Ages 2nd grade- 5th grade invited

February 16, 2025

12 pm Mental Health Series talk with Rev. Sue Howes

February 17, 2025

11am-1pm Messy Church: Built On Solid Ground of Christ



WELCA's January meeting began with detailed planning for our January soup sale, Mark Harwick joined us for this. The meeting continued with a Bible study

from Gather Magazine, and ended with lunch at the Riegelsville Inn. Our February Meeting will be Friday Feb. 14, 2025 at 10 a.m. Miriam Anderson will lead us in the Winter/Spring Gather Bible study on Faithfulness. This session highlights Ruth and Naomi. We will make final plans for Saturday's soup sale which will be held on Feb. 15th, weather permitting.

Helen Dungan

**Soup** Saturday Feb. 22, 2025 we will be making chicken noodle and cream of broccoli soup. It will be take-out only. We will begin preparing vegetables around 9 am, and begin selling soup around 3 pm. Finishing at 5 pm. Soup will be sold for \$10 per quart. Please plan on coming to help.

Helen Dungan

**Bible Study** The Adult Bible study meets on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 at the home of Kathy and Joe Hlavaty. We are continuing our study and discussion of the Gospel of Luke. We invite you to join us.

Helen Dungan





# Outreach

**Food banks:** Thanks to all who contributed to our collection for the food banks in January.

**Food baskets:** A special thank you to the family of Landon Helfrich who donated a food basket in honor of his fourteenth Birthday.

This is a nice way to celebrate or remember a loved one, so please think about also donating a food basket. You can do the shopping yourself or delegate the task to Helen Dungan. We ask for \$20 minimum.

Please all who come to worship in person, bring something to share. We will continue to collect personal care items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, and cleaning products such as detergent for the Upper Bucks food bank. Easton has requested spaghetti and pancake mix which they are short on. They also minister to the homeless in Easton, and request travel size personal care items. (Because these people live out of their backpacks, they cannot handle large size containers.) Project Easton makes up kits of needed items to give to them. However, ALL donations are appreciated.

**Outreach envelope:** Our Outreach envelopes for February have been designated to Allentown Rescue Mission



**Prayer list:** 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: [joanmammana@icloud.com](mailto:joanmammana@icloud.com).

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

David Antoni; Esther Crouse; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Joanne

**For Healing of Friends and Family:**

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Clay Butler; Doris Calverley; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; David Davis; Nancy Edelen; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Jason Gourley; Rev. Bradley Gow; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Krista Heyer; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplín; Mary Lily; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Leslie Patience; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

**For those who are Homebound:**

James Altemose; Cleo Eck; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller

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

Fred Foerster; Norma Fox ;Kenneth Hager; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander; Bobby Ziegenfuss



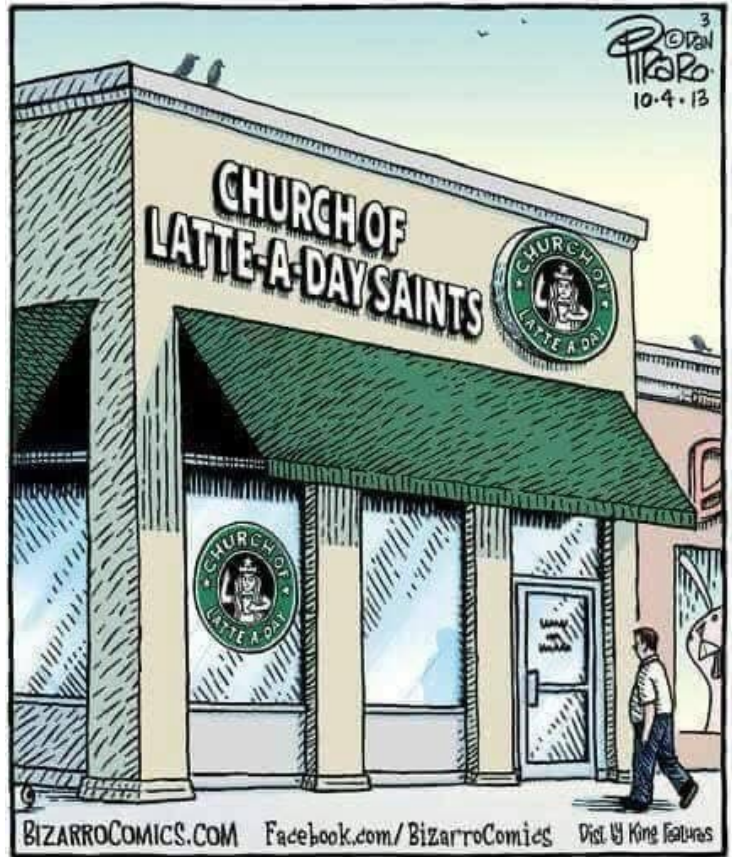
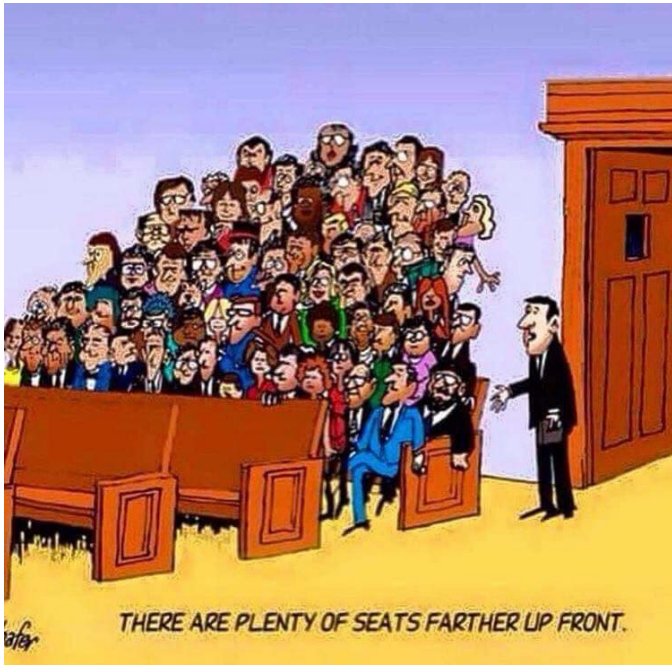


# February



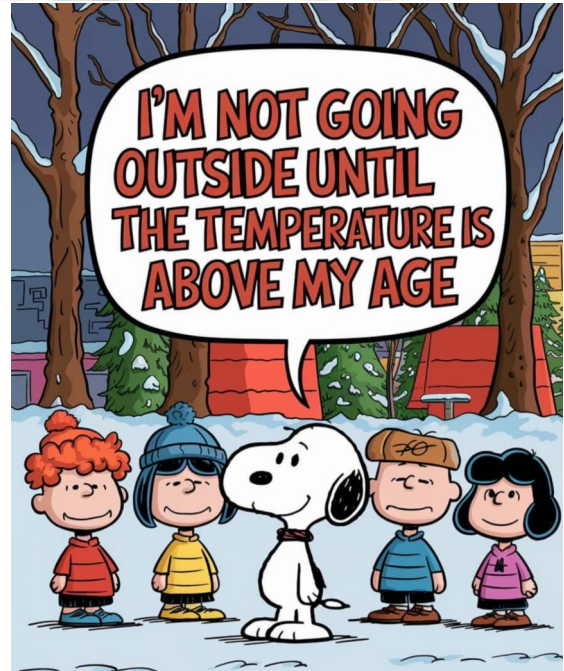
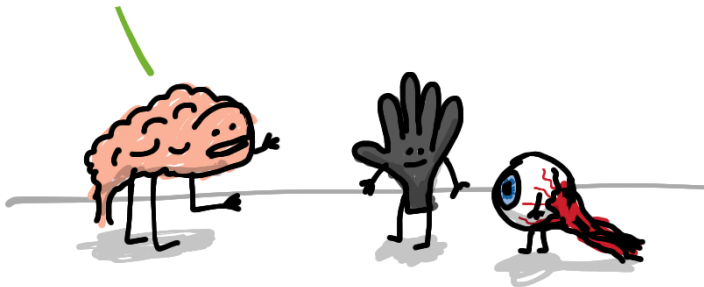
February	Birthdays	Anniversaries	Baptisms
2	Amanda Frey		
4			Laura DeWalt
5	Laura Helfrich		
7	Dianna Streletz		
8	Diane DeWalt		
9			Serena Ashmore
10	Wayne Mesko		
12	Steven Streletz		
13	Miriam Anderson		
16	Kathy Haney		
19			Kathleen Miller
20	Esther Crouse		
22			Benjamin Miller
23		Victoria & Adam Phillips (23)	
24	Frank Moskella, Jim Beer		
26			Tom Gaun, Doug Litzenberger
27	Tanya Naska		
28	Grace Litzenberger, Rowan Froehlich		Nicole Crouse
29	Becky Harrison		

# FUN PAGE



## 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-20

YOU EVER THINK WE SHOULD FIGURE OUT A WAY TO WORK TOGETHER?



### CHRISTIAN WAYS TO CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY TOGETHER

- 1.) Family Prayer time
- 2.) Write a Love letter to God
- 3.) Pick a few bible verses out for each other
- 4.) Find a recipe for a meal from the Bible and cook together!
- 5.) Meal-talk focused on what God has done in your relationship

# PALM

*Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries*

## Lenten

SOUP SUPPERS



**MARCH 12**  
St. Peter's Riegelsville  
305 Delaware Rd  
Riegelsville, PA

**MARCH 19**  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of Durham  
821 Durham Rd  
Durham, PA

**MARCH 26**  
Upper Tincum  
Lutheran Church  
188 Upper Tincum  
Church Rd  
Upper Black Eddy, PA

**APRIL 2**  
St. Luke Lutheran Church  
470 Church Hill Rd  
Ferndale, PA

**APRIL 9**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
2170 Route 212  
Coopersburg, PA

*All suppers will be from 6 - 7:30 pm*

### REVERSE ADVENT UPDATE

We collected 19 Reverse Advent Bundles !

The PALM mission is to promote collaborative ministry and to share the Good News of God's love.



# FLYERS: SOUP SALE



Saturday, February 22, 2025  
4:00 – 6:00 PM  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

**Cream of Broccoli  
Chicken Noodle**  
TAKE-OUT ONLY

**\$10 per quart**  
(Bring your own jar if you have one!)



Join us for an evening of fun and laughter!  
Snacks and drinks will provided. Invite your friends and bring the whole family - the more, the merrier!

**February 21, 2025 6 - 8 pm**



Enjoy board games, card games and puzzles. Feel free to bring a family-friendly game!

Trinity Lutheran Church  
2170 Route 212  
Coopersburg, PA 18036  
office@trinitypv.org



## Board Game Day of Play!

**Sunday February 2nd 1 to 330 PM**

Join us for a **FREE** Community Event!  
Challenge your neighbors to a board game, card game, or dice game!  
Variety of games available to play.

**ALL AGES WELCOME! Come and have some fun!**



This Event Is Hosted By:  
St. Luke's Youth Group  
470 Church Hill Rd.  
Kintnersville, Pa 18930  
ferndalestlukes@gmail.com



**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
DROP OFF DONATIONS  
PLAY A GAME OR TWO  
PURCHASE BAKED GOODS

## SOUPER BOWL and Baked Goods Sale!

Saturday, February 8th, 2025 10am-2pm

St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
305 Delaware Road, Riegelsville

Come pick up quarts of homemade soup and a variety of baked goods in time for your Super Bowl celebration, or to simply enjoy a warm winter meal!

\*\*Snow date Sunday, February 9th 12pm-3pm\*\*



# KIDS CLUB

Kids in  
Grades 2-5  
welcome

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF DURHAM  
821 Durham Rd. Durham PA  
Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-7:30pm

TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL  
[Evangel@durhamlutheran.org](mailto:Evangel@durhamlutheran.org)



## Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham's Mental Health Series

We are thrilled to invite

**Rev. Sue Conrad Howes**  
Staff Chaplain  
St. Luke's Penn Foundation

To church on Feb 16, 2025  
Light refreshments will be served after  
service followed by a discussion on  
"Support Surrounding Mental Illness:  
How can we help?"  
at 12pm



If you have any questions or would like to sign up the  
bring a refreshment please contact Kat at  
[evangel@durhamlutheran.org](mailto:evangel@durhamlutheran.org)

## MESSY CHURCH



Monday-February 17, 2025

President's Day  
**11AM-1PM**  
Games, Crafts and Fellowship

**This is a FREE EVENT!! Fun for all ages. We hope to provide an enjoyable opportunity for families to experience Church and the love of God in a new way!**  
Contact Kat for more info or to sign up to bring a dish, [evangel@durhamlutheran.org](mailto:evangel@durhamlutheran.org)

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of Durham

821 Durham Rd. Durham PA 18039

