

EVANGEL *May*



2025



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

“The Church on the hill, lighting the way to God’s love.”

Address: 821 Durham Rd. , Durham PA 18039

P.O. Box 100

Contact: +610-346-8500

Website: www.durhamlutheran.org

Pastor:

Rev. James Heckman

267-664-3160

pastor@durhamlutheran.org

Wednesday:

10am-2pm

Thursday:

10am-1pm

*let's
connect*

Admin Assistant:

Kathryn Wagner

evangel@durhamlutheran.org

Monday:

1pm-3pm

Wednesday:

10am-2pm

Thursday:

10am-1pm



“MAY I invite you to Church?”

• A Christian Education Committee Initiative

Can we fill the pews this month with friends and neighbors? The Bible encourages us to evangelize and spread the Word of God daily! This month, the Christian Education Committee would like to focus on reaching all we can with spiritual nourishment. Please share kindness and an invitation to our church with anyone you feel called to reach out to; friends, neighbors and strangers.
ALL are welcome!



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Members of the Month

Joe and Kathy Hlavaty

Joe and Kathy on their
50th Wedding
anniversary!



Kathy was baptized and raised here at Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham. When Joe married Kathy he joined the church and has been a member for the past 50 years of their marriage! To Kathy, God feels like love and Joe feels God's love through every member of our congregation. Kathy finds joy in her family, her church family, and sewing. Joe finds joy in watching his grandchildren grow into good Christians. Kathy devoted many years of her life to nurturing young children as a teacher of our Care-A-lot Program and it continues to be a big piece of her heart. Her favorite hymn is "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Joe and Kathy open their home to our church's adult bible study group every week and they pray for many things including peace for people and spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical healing for all. They want our church family to know how much they love you and appreciate all of your support. Personally, Kathy's open arms and Joe's warm smile were the first to make my family feel at home here at ELC of Durham. Joe and Kathy's wedding bands are engraved with the inscription, "To Serve HIM As One." So, in this month of May as we invite our friends and neighbors to church I wanted our members of the month to be the team whose genuine kindness we can all look up to. Please join me this month in sharing God and the Hlavaty's love for us all with each other and our community.

Dear sisters and brother in Christ,

As I write this letter, I am reflecting on a meaningful and blessed Holy Week and Easter Day celebration. Additionally, I am recovering from spending three days with my grandchildren, which was enjoyable but not entirely restful. Now that I am back, I look forward to continuing our work here at Durham. Allow me to share several thoughts with you.

Firstly, I wish to convey my appreciation to everyone who contributed to making our Lenten journey, Holy Week pilgrimage, and Easter Celebration a joyous occasion. I would particularly like to express my gratitude to Kat, Carolyn, and Diana (our dedicated staff) for their exceptional service beyond the call of duty. Additionally, I extend my thanks to the choir, altar guild, counters, ushers, greeters, youth helpers, the council, and all others who put forth effort to ensure each event was meaningful.

Secondly, I extend my condolences to Pope Francis and the entire Roman Catholic Church on the passing of the “People’s Pope.” Pope Francis was a significant advocate for the marginalized, and his influence will be greatly missed. We pray that God’s guiding Spirit will be with the Conclave as they select a new Pope.

Third, as you are all aware, a special congregational meeting was held on Palm Sunday to vote on the construction of an Annex building for the church. The meeting was well-attended, and the discussion was thorough, passionate, and encompassed various issues, concerns, hopes, and expectations. Ultimately, the vote resulted in 30 in favor of building a two-story Annex, with the second floor dedicated to Care-a-lot, and 22 opposed. Although I was uncertain about the outcome of the vote, I remain committed to guiding Evangelical Durham forward in ministry. Here are several observations regarding this decision.

- a) It is accurate to state that there were strong emotions regarding the vote. However, we collectively acknowledged that the decision made on April 13, 2025, would have a substantial impact on the future of the Durham Lutheran ministry.
- b) While the majority was evident (57.7%), it was clear that numerous questions, issues, and concerns exist, which I acknowledge as legitimate. A significant number of concerns pertained to the future continuity of the church if approximately 50% of our endowment funds were allocated to constructing the Annex. Despite this concern, the positive aspect is that over one million dollars in endowment funds will remain available for future ministry development after the construction, alongside having an expanded, upgraded facility that facilitates new and expanding ministries within the community.
- c) This point is for those who did not support the addition and may have left the meeting with negative feelings towards the church, its leadership, and me. I acknowledge your dedication to this church, which is why your continued participation in addressing challenges and asking questions is important. Please do not let your dissatisfaction with this vote cause you to disengage from the church. Doing so could contribute to declining involvement. As mentioned on the day of the vote, “if attendance every Sunday matched that of Palm Sunday and Easter, there would be no question regarding the need or feasibility for an addition.” I maintain this viewpoint. I encourage you to attend services, engage in the process, and consider taking on leadership roles to support the growth of the church.

d) To maintain openness and transparency, we will provide a monthly update in the newsletter regarding the building process, including responses to any inquiries submitted in the “Question Box” located in the Narthex. The box will remain there for ongoing use. Please note that questions will only be addressed if they are accompanied by the sender’s name. Alternatively, you may direct your questions to me or to members of the Council or Building Committee, and we will address them accordingly.

Fourthly, I regret to inform you that two members of the Council, Karen Beerer and Dave Sauter, have resigned. I would like to publicly express our gratitude for their years of dedication and leadership. Consequently, the Council will be seeking to fill these two unexpired terms. I request that you pray for the Council during this search and consider accepting one of these leadership roles if approached. Strong leadership is essential for our congregation as we continue to advance in ministry together.

Fifth, I’d like to remind you that Sunday, May 4th will be our second PALM Pulpit Exchange, following the event held last November. While I cannot disclose the name of the visitor, I can confirm that it will not be myself nor Pastor Caron, who was present in November. Therefore, it will either be Pastor Bergen, Pastor Gow, or Pastor Harkness. We hope to have a full church to extend a warm welcome to our guest.

Finally, building a brick-and-mortar structure is only half the task. The other crucial part is determining which ministries will open in Durham with the new facility, especially with a new pastoral guide. In June, I will be halfway through my three-year contract, and it’s time for serious discussions about what will happen starting in 2027. I will recommend that the Council establish a new call committee in the fall to address this matter.

As you can see things may take a pause, but there is still much work to be done. I continue to look forward to working with you on this glorious endeavor.

See you all in church.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman

May Worship Assistants



Worship Assistants				
Altar Guild		Linda Sauter and Scott Gaun		
Counting Team		Kathy Hlavaty, Miriam Anderson, and Pat Zion		
Date	Greeter	Acolyte	Lector	Head Usher
5/4	Ben & Josephine W.	Lilly O'Brien		
5/11	Wagner Family	Oaklee Wagner	Mark Harwick	Mark Harwick
5/18	Lilly O'Brien			
5/25	Ben & Josephine W.			

Calendar of Events May 2025

Thursday, May 1	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, May 3	11:30 AM- 1 PM	Mother's Day Tea @ Trinity RSVP req'd
Sunday, May 4 Third Sunday of Easter PALM Pulpit Exchange	9:15 AM 10:00 AM After Worship 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM	Adult Sunday school in the library. Communion Worship Kids Choir Rehearsal Confirmation @ St. Peter's Riegelsville
Monday, May 5	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, May 7	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 10:00 AM	Office Hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 8	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 PALM Planning Meeting @ Upper Tinicum
Saturday, May 10	10:00 AM	VBS Decorating Meeting at Trinity
Sunday, May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter	9:15 AM 10:00 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship
Monday, May 12	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, May 13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 14	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, May 15	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
Friday, May 16	10:00 AM	WELCA Meeting
Sunday, May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter Care-A-Lot Sunday	9:15 AM 10:00 AM After Worship 5:00 - 7:00 PM	Adult Sunday School in Library Communion Worship @ Durham Kids Choir Rehearsal Confirmation @ St. Luke's Ferndale
Monday, May 19	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, May 21	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 1:30 PM 10:00 AM	Admin Office Hours Christian Education Meeting Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 22	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
Sunday, May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter Baptism	9:15 AM 10:00 AM After Worship	Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship Kids Choir Rehearsal
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day	No Office Hours
Wednesday, May 28	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 10:00 AM	Office Hours Mid-week Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 29	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
Friday, May 30		"Ponder Anew" SEPA Synod Assembly @ Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale
Saturday, May 31		"Ponder Anew" SEPA Synod Assembly @ Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale

MAY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND BAPTISMS			
May	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
4	Sara Aquino		
5	Hunter Aquino		
6		Kris & Wes Simmons	
9		Barbara and Ben Naska Sr (55)	
10			Patricia Zion
12			Jack Pyne
13	Chris Mueller		
19	Annabel Williams		
21	Joe Aquino		Jim Altemose
22			Dianna Streletz
23	Bethany Michl		
24	Brian Ashmore, Sr.		
25	Joel Roney	Sara and Joe Aquino (23)	
26		Kristy Lee and Dane Reiman (13)	
27		Maggie Fischer and Bob Starling (47)	
31			Leo Grzelkowski

Confirmation

SUPPORT
Our confirmation kids supporting kids in need!
Way to go Josephine! We are so proud of you!



Josephine Williams in our confirmation class has partnered with "Cradles to Crayons" and the other PALM churches to run a children's outreach program and they are asking for donations! Josephine says, "The purpose of this drive is to give kids toys and clothes who need them and can't buy them themselves so then they can have high quality clothes that will last."

Accepted Items Include:

- Clothing (new or gently used), children and adult sizes
- NEW socks and underwear
- Pajamas (new or gently used)
- Winter coats, hats, gloves/mittens
- Sweatshirts/hoodies and sweatpants
- Shoes, boots, and sneakers (toddler sizes 4-13 and adult sizes 1-10)
- Books (ages 0-12)
- NEW arts, crafts, and school supplies
- NEW hygiene items
- Diapers, pull-ups, and diaper wipes



DEADLINE MAY 18th


Christian Education

The Christian Education committee remains dedicated to sharing the Word of God with our congregation in unique and accessible ways. With that in mind we have a gift to share with you! Right Now Media is an app that can be downloaded to any smart phone, tablet, firetv, or roku device that will provide every family in our church free access to a huge library of biblical content that can grow their faith and strengthen their walk with God.

We hope you feel encouraged to check out the new app and invite friends, family and neighbors to our church so that they might enjoy this gift as well.

Emailed invitations to join Right Now Media will be sent out on Sunday May 4, 2025. If you do not receive the email invitation or would like help getting the app on a device please contact Kat Wagner.






Bible Studies

A Gift for You

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church.

Get Free Access SUNDAY MAY 4th!

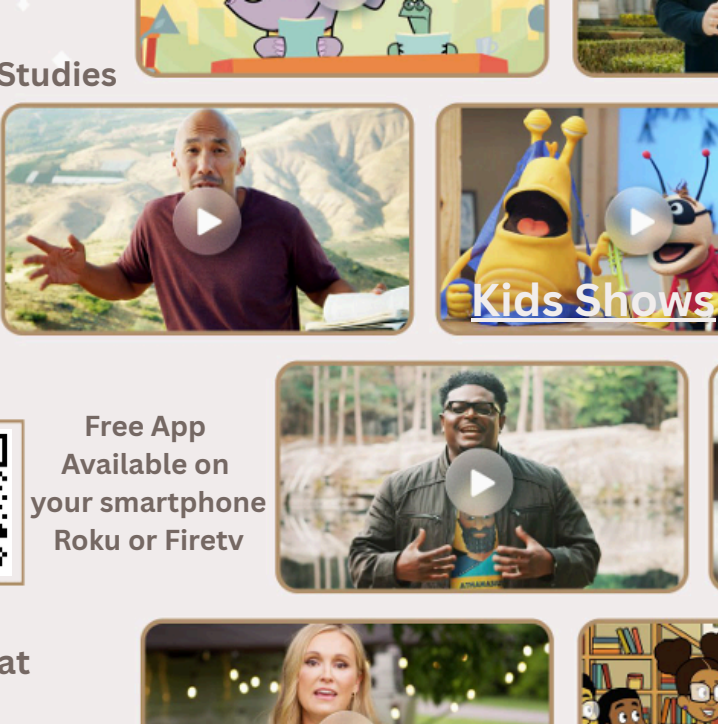
1. Check your email for the invite from RightNow Media.
2. Or scan the QR code here:



Free App Available on your smartphone Roku or Firetv

Kids Shows

If you have any questions, See Kat



Care-A-Lot

Care-A-Lot Sunday : May 18th!

Last day of School : May 22nd!

Registration is still open for the Fall of 2025 school year with only a few spots remaining!

Contact lisa-care-a-lot@durhamlutheran.org



Outreach

By Helen Dungan



Outreach envelope: Our Outreach envelopes for May are for blankets for Lutheran World Relief.

Food Banks: Thanks to all who contributed to our collection for the food banks in April. We donated 164 pounds of food to the Project Easton foodbank, and 151 pounds to the The Lord's Pantry food bank. **The Lord's Pantry** has requested: coffee, cake mixes, chunky chicken noodle soup, and condiments such as pickles and salad dressings. **Project Easton** is requesting spaghetti, boxes of pancake mix, canned peaches, chicken noodle soup, and snack bars (like granola, breakfast bars, crackers etc.), and small size personal care items.

All donations are appreciated!

Food baskets: If you have someone you want to remember or honor, this is a wonderful way to do it. You can do the shopping yourself or delegate the task to Helen Dungan. We ask for a \$20 minimum.

Bible Study



Small Group Bible Study

The Adult Bible study meets on **Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 at the home of Kathy and Joe Hlavaty**. We are discussing the different denominations of Christianity - what makes us the same, what makes us different? We invite you to join us.

Helen Dungan

Building Committee

Church Annex Addition Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the proposal for the addition of a two-story annex to our beloved church has passed the voting stage. While the decision was not unanimous, we want to assure all members of our community that every opinion was heard and valued during this process. We know and appreciate the love you have for our church and the vote reflects the diverse perspectives within it. While there were differing views, the majority supported the annex addition, recognizing the benefits it will bring to our congregation.

The process of adding the annex is ongoing, and we are committed to maintaining transparency throughout every phase. We understand the importance of keeping everyone updated and involved in this significant project. We will hold regular meetings and provide updates through newsletters and our website. We will keep the community informed about the progress, timelines, and any developments that occur along the way.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the vote and shared their thoughts. Your engagement and dedication are what make our community strong and vibrant. We look forward to embarking on this journey together and enhancing our church facilities for the benefit of all.



WELCA's April meeting began by dispersing the proceeds from our soup suppers. Our income was:
January soup supper-\$2075.00 February soup supper-\$2405.00 Total from soup suppers \$4480.00

The money was distributed as follows:

Lord's Pantry Ottsville ---- \$1140

ProJeCt Easton foodbank - \$1140

Meals on Wheels --- \$1100.00

ELC World Hunger ---- \$1100.00

We decided that our May meeting 's program would be to visit some WELCA members who cannot attend our meetings anymore. Our March program was the Gather Bible study on Psalm 22 – the Psalm we read each good Friday where David cries out “My God Why Have You Forsaken Me.” We will continue to collect Personal Care Kits in May. These will be delivered to the Synod Convention on Friday May 30, 2025. See attached instructions.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ☐ **ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- ☐ **TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ☐ **ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ☐ **ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ☐ **ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

** Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

HOW TO PACK YOUR PERSONAL CARE KITS

- Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.

Prayer Requests

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

For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; David Sauter; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Clay Butler; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Davis; Nancy Edelen; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Jason Gourley; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Krista Heyer; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Stacy Mechum; Nancy Morris; Bradley Mundt; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Leslie Patience; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; 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; Jayne Miller.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Doris Calverley; Fred Foerster; Norma Fox ;Kenneth Hager; Vivian Harwick; Frank Mammana; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss



PALM: Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries



The PALM group continues to be active. The six churches involved are Christ Lutheran in Pipersville, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham, St. Luke's Lutheran in Ferndale, St. Peter's Lutheran in Riegelsville, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Coopersburg and Upper Tincum Lutheran in Upper Tincum.

For several years, there have been shared activities between some members of the PALM congregations including Crop Walk, Lenten services, Live Nativity Program, Confirmation Classes and Vacation Bible School. In 2024, each of the PALM congregational leaders started to look at what more our PALM group could do in order to help all the congregations grow while serving the PALM community in a better way....how can we come together in a way to share resources in a more formalized structure that will help us to share God's Word, mission and outreach for the entire PALM community.

What have we done so far? The council leaders of all the PALM group (PALM Leaders) have been meeting on a regular basis to brainstorm options of becoming a PALM Parish. Committees were formed from this team that include Mission Statement, Program/Activities, Rostered Staff, Administrative Staff, Finance and Communication. Each team has met separately to focus on their specific areas and brainstorm how we can work together as a parish in the future by sharing resources while also keeping existing congregations, buildings and any traditions that the individual congregations want to maintain. Our goal is not to close congregations but to strengthen our ministry in the community.

What are the next steps? We will continue to meet on a regular basis and will work as a team to also gather feedback from all the members of the PALM community church. This is a process that does take time, but we are all committed to gathering all PALM members' input as to what a future PALM parish could look like.



*Mother's Day
Tea Party*

**Saturday, May 3
11:30am – 2 pm**

RSVP: office@trinitypv.org
or sign up in the narthex
Trinity Lutheran Church
2170 Route 212
Coopersburg, PA



Community Vacation Bible School
Hosted by: Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries

ROAD TRIP
ON THE GO WITH GOD

JULY 14 - 18
9AM - 12PM
AGES 3* THROUGH
COMPLETED 5TH GRADE

Scan the QR code
to Register!

*3 year olds will require a parent or guardian to remain with the child at all times

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
2170 Route 212, Coopersburg, PA 18036



St Luke Lutheran Church
470 Church Hill Rd. Kintnersville, Pa 18930
www.stlukeferndalepa.com

**Rummage
Sale**

**Friday May 2nd
830 am to 8 pm**
&
**Saturday May 3rd
830 am to 2 pm**

Most items are not price marked. Pay what you can
LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE & A BAKE SALE

Join Us!

Sale