

EVANGEL June 2025 NEWSLETTER

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham



821 Durham Rd.
Durham, PA 18039

PASTOR: REV. JAMES HECKMAN
PASTOR@DURHAMLUTHERAN.ORG

OFFICE: KAT WAGNER
EVANGEL@DURHAMLUTHERAN.ORG

267-664-3160

Office Hours:

Wednesdays 10am-2pm

Thursdays 10am-1pm

CONTACT
US

(610)-346-8500

Office Hours:

Mondays 1pm-3pm

Thursdays 9am-12pm

Together We Can!

Sign up to sponsor a newsletter! By sponsoring a newsletter, if interested, you could get to participate in the development of your newsletter! Nominate the member of the month, pick the theme, highlight your favorite ministry!

Table of Contents

Prayer Chain-----	2
Pastor's Message-----	3-4
Council Info-----	5
Worship Assistants-----	6
Member of the Month -----	6
Calendar of Events-----	7
Birthdays/Anniversaries-----	8
Graduates-----	9-10
WELCA-----	11
Bible Study-----	11
Outreach-----	11
Christian Education-----	12
Building Update and PALM-----	13
Fun Page-----	14

Prayer List



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Barbara Naska; 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; 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; Dennis Phillipps; 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

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

THANK
YOU

Many heartfelt thanks to the WELCA ladies who braved the inclement weather, to visit my home. It was so nice to greet you all, face to face, instead of over the internet. It was wonderful to share some tea and cookies and to enjoy each other's company. The pretty begonia gift has a special place on the back porch.

And a special thank you to Ken Anderson and his team of technical experts who always have the video available each Sunday morning. It was so exciting to watch my granddaughter sing with all her Care-A-Lot friends.

Our congregation is blessed to have so many people who share their time and talents to make our church a place of love and kindness.

I am grateful to you all, Cheryl Mesko

Pastor's Message

Dear sisters and brother in Christ,

As you are all aware, the life of a congregation goes far beyond a weekly Sunday morning worship. In just the passing of several weeks we can have births, baptisms, illness, hospital stays, death, funerals, First Communion, Affirmation of Baptisms (Confirmations), not to mention Bible Studies, Christian Education programs for young and old, service projects, food gathering, and so much more. When I look at the life of the church and all the variety of elements within the church it causes me to ask the question: **“How many members does it take to have a healthy congregation?”** Think about it with me: just to do one ordinary worship service on Sunday morning takes a village – the pastor, an organist, the ushers, the lay servers, the acolyte, the lector, greeters, counters, and now about that altar guild! But of course, we need all you, the people in the pews – you are the voices of the hymns, the sharer of the prayers, the partakers of the meal, the receiver of the Word, and the apostles who are called to carry that word out the doors and into the world. So, to answer the question of how many members does it take to have a healthy congregation, the answer is **ALL OF YOU**. In other words, a healthy congregation must rely on **all** its members.

But how many do we really need? According to Jewish tradition, you must have 10 men (families) to have a synagogue. This number comes from a simple mathematical formula – each family is expected to donate 10% of their income to the synagogue. These contributions add up to the 100% cost of hiring the Rabbi with a salary that equals the average income of the contributing families. Then the Rabbi is expected to donate 10% of his salary which then becomes the program money. While this is a great theory, the practical application often falls short of the ideal plan.

One could also make the argument that the church doesn't need to be that big to do the job, after all, Jesus started the whole thing with only 12 disciples (and one of them turned out to be not so good). However, we also know that there were far more than just the 12 guys; there were women who travel with them and help provide for them. There were also hundreds, if not thousands, who gathered to hear his teaching, experienced the miracles and shared in his picnic lunches.

Continued on next page...

Pastor's Message Cont'd...

So how many people does it take to be a healthy church? Maybe the key word in the question is the word “healthy”. Being a healthy church is not defined as a church that has no conflict or disagreements. That is an impossibility as the church is made up of sinners. A healthy church is a unified church. One in which we all work toward the same goal – proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in this place. Now be careful here – unified does not mean unanimity. We are going to have different views and approaches on carrying out our ministry, but that is good. There are those who talk about unity being represented by everyone singing the melody line in a hymn. I prefer to say that unity is represented by everyone singing the same hymn with all the parts together, blending in beautiful, harmonized song. The one truth is that it always sounds better with more voices.

The fact is that to be a healthy church we need to be a growing church. We need to grow for two reasons. First and foremost, because we have been charged in Matthew 28:19 to go and make disciples in all the world. Since we know the blessing of God's love for us, we are eager to share it with others. The second reason is the fact that if we aren't growing, we are dying. There is no such thing as being in a state of status quo.

I firmly believe that Durham Lutheran is in a time of growing, but that growth doesn't come without its growing pains. As we endeavor to grow our programming and outreach, the need for all hands to help becomes even more imperative. I want to challenge every member to think about what things they are doing to help support the congregation besides being in the pew on Sunday morning. The more hands there are, the easier it is to lift the load, and the heavier load which we can lift.

This past May I invite you to worship? emphasis has had some success with several visitors coming due to personal invitations from one of you. It may seem like a small number, but these are the kinds of baby steps which will grow into powerful movement forward. Please keep it up. Just because May is over doesn't mean that you stop inviting others. I look forward to a joyous summer of sharing God's message with the Durham family as we continue to be a healthy, growing congregation.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Jim Heckman

Your Current Church Council Current Church Committees

Cathy Mueller(President)
Jack Pyne(Treasurer)
Ken Anderson(Financial Secretary)
Rev. James Heckman (Pastor)
Bea von Watzdorf
Pat Zion
Elizabeth Roberts
Kathryn Wagner



Care-A-Lot Preschool Board
Worship and Music Committee
Building Committee
Finance Committee
Christian Education Committee
Stewardship Committee
Altar Guild
Hospitality Committee
Property Committee
Outreach
WELCA

Opportunities are available to you if you feel called to serve on ANY of these areas of need in our church



YOUR OPINION
MATTERS
JOIN HANDS
WITH US
AT CHURCH

Open Positions on Council

- 1- One year term
- 1- Two year term
- 1- Three year term



Each position is a great opportunity to serve and share your time and talent with the church!

June Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	Mark Harwick and Nancy Moskella				
Counting Team	Barb Naska, Val McGinn, Jack Pyne				
Date	Greeters	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte	Lemonade on the Lawn
Jun 1, 2025	Lilly O'Brien	Val McGinn			Mueller Family
Jun 8, 2025	Williams Family	Confirmands	Miriam & Confirmands	Lilly O'Brien	Williams/Roberts
Jun 15, 2025		Pat Zion			
Jun 22, 2025	Wagner Family	Bea VonWatzdorf		Tucker Wagner	Bea VonWatzdorf
Jun 29, 2025					



Member of the Month

Esther Crouse



Esther was born on February 20, 1934 and has been a cherished member of our Church for the past 70 years. She grew up at St. Luke's Ferndale and came to Durham to worship with her husband. To Esther, God feels like a caring God who always walks beside her. With God she is never alone. Over the years Esther has enjoyed seeing young families come to church and grow to be leaders of our congregation. Esther has a large family that she loves dearly. Her favorite verse is, "God be with you till we meet again" Psalm 51. In her prayers, Esther remembers people in need of help or struggling with problems and wars.

Esther's dedication to our church has been invaluable. She always felt so at home in the church kitchen. Together with WELCA, Esther started the soup supper project. In the month of June, let's join together with Esther's spirit of love for ELC of Durham.



Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter	9:15 AM 10:00 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library. Communion Worship
Monday, June 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, June 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, June 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Sunday, June 8 Pentecost	9:15 AM 10:00 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship
Monday, June 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 1:00 PM	Office Hours Christian Education Meeting
Thursday, June 12	9:30 AM 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	PALM Secretary meeting Office hours
Friday, June 13	11:30 AM Carpool	12pm Olive Garden WELCA Meeting
Sunday, June 15 The Holy Trinity	9:15 AM 10:00 AM	Adult Sunday School in Library Communion Worship @Durham
Monday, June 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, June 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:30-7:30pm	Pastor Office Hours WEDNESDAY SUNDAE KICK OFF
Thursday, June 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Sunday, June 22 Second Sunday after Pentecost	9:15 AM 10:00 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship ALTAR GUILD MEETING
Monday, June 23	1:00PM -3:00 PM	Office Hours
Wednesday, June 25	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:30-7:30 PM	Pastor Office Hours Wednesday Sundaes
Thursday, June 26	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Sunday, June 29 Third Sunday after Pentecost	9:15 AM 10:00 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship

Important Note



A paper copy of the church Calendar will be posted in the Narthex with a notes section to add events that you become aware of that others might want to attend such as 7 local events or funerals. Kat will check this frequently and hopefully this will help keep everyone up to date!

LET'S CELEBRATE

June	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
1	David Pyne		
2			Matthew Crouse
4			Kathy Haney
8	Makenzie Naska, Nathan Roberts		
10		Lynn & Tom Gaun (29)	
11		Lynn & Tim Lechlitter (37)	Chase Aquino
16	Lisa Crouse, Althea Crouse (91)		
17			Sara Aquino
21			Bethany Michl
22			Scott Lehr
24			Esther Crouse
25		Mary & Don Crouse (42)	
27	Barbara Altemus, Dane Reiman, Tucker Wagner		Caitlyn Pyne
29	Ben F. Naska		

Lemonade on the Lawn

After worship every Sunday!
Please sign up in the narthex





SAMANTHA MUELLER
WILSON AREA
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Proudly announcing Samantha Mueller's graduation with highest honors from Wilson Area High School on May 30th. Samantha is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Keyclub (service organization), Wilson Buddies and Future Business Leaders club. She also played on the Wilson Varsity Field Hockey and the WAHS Track and Field team. Outside of school, Sam played at the NJ Starz Field Hockey club, worked with the Wilson Youth Field Hockey Club and works at Salon Bronze.

Samantha is the daughter of Cathy and Chris Mueller and sister of Matthew. Here at ELCD, Samantha has helped during the service as a greeter, acolyte and lector. She has also worked with youth in Vacation Bible School and the community Easter Egg hunt, participated in the Living Nativity and enjoys the annual Caroling with our shut-ins. A favorite memory during her involvement at ELCD is her trip with area PALM youth to the Welcome Church in Philadelphia and the weekend sleep over retreat in NJ!

Samantha will be attending University of Tampa in the fall to study Biology for a pre-med track.



MATTHEW MUELLER
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Proudly announcing Matthew Mueller's graduation from Penn State University on May 9th. Matthew graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Environmental Engineering.

During his time at Penn State (University Park), Matthew was a member of the Penn State Synthetic Biology Club where he served as an executive board member. Matthew interned in 2 different Engineering companies during his college summers—PARSEC corp in West Lafayette, IN and Kawneer / Arconic EHS in Bloomsburg, Pa. During his time at Penn State, he met a great group of friends from all over the country and really enjoyed those Penn State Football games!

Matthew is the son of Cathy and Chris Mueller and brother of Samantha. Before going to Penn State, Matthew was an active member at ELCD and served as a council member for 2 years.

Matthew will be moving to Fishersville, VA (Shenandoah Valley) this summer to work at Innovative Refrigeration as a Compliance Engineer.

Continued... Congratulations

If you have a grad we may have missed we would love to feature them in the July/August Newsletter please contact the church office!

LEO GRZELKOWSKI MORAVIAN ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATE



Leo is graduating from middle school at Moravian Academy on June 4th. He'll be starting at Notre Dame High School in the fall. Leo really enjoys playing right defense on his travel soccer team and also is active in Lacrosse and plays the saxophone! He adores his dog, Lexi, and is very interested in criminal justice and entrepreneurship. Leo will be volunteering as a buddy at Camp Camelot in Allentown this summer!



LANDON HELFRICH PALISADES AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATE

Landon will attend Palisades High school and also study Machining at Upper Bucks Technical School with the dream of working at Strasburg Railroad upon completing High School!



CAITLIN PYNE KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Caitlin graduated from Kutztown University with a Bachelors Degree in Special Education. Caitlin is a singer and artist of many talents. In the fall, Caitlin will be starting her Masters Degree Program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)!

Care-A-Lot



Have a fun and safe summer from our Care-A-Lot friends!

We look forward to the start of another school year on September 9, 2025. We appreciate the love and support of our church and will have a wish list out soon.

Thank you!
Mrs. Lisa Miller



WELCA



For our rainy May meeting we visited with Cleo Eck, Cheryl Mesko, and Esther Crouse. We spent about an hour with each of them, and had a really nice time talking with and catching up with each of them. It was a little late when we finished, but a few of us went out to lunch and did some more talking.

Our June meeting will be on Friday June 13th at the Olive Garden. We will meet at the church parking lot at noon to carpool to the restaurant. Or go directly to Olive Garden for lunch at 12:30.

Helen Dungan

Food banks: Thanks to all who contributed to our May food collections. Especially the basket donated in honor of Esther Crouse by Nancy and Frank Moskella on Mother's Day; and the basket donated by Helen Dungan in memory of Mary Dungan on her 109th birthday.

The Lord's Pantry always has a need for coffee and we will again collect cake mixes, chunky chicken noodle soup and condiments for them. Project Easton requests 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. These last are given out to homeless people.

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.

Outreach envelope: Our Outreach envelopes for June will be for Tool Sunday in honor of our fathers and the money will go to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help those recovering from the massive fires and floods we have been experiencing.

Helen Dungan

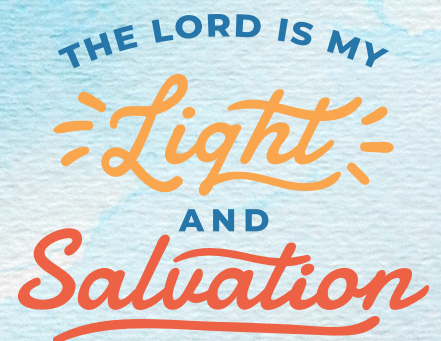


Outreach

Bible Study

The Adult Bible study meets on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 at the home of Kathy & Joe Hlavaty. We will finish our study of the different Christian denominations on June 5th and our last gathering before summer will include a picnic lunch. We will then recess for the summer. Adult Sunday School will also break for summer.

Helen Dungan



PSALM 27:1

Christian Education

Right Now Media
Available!



**NOTHIN' BETTER THAN
GOD AND ICECREAM**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF DURHAM

**WEDNESDAY
SUNDAES**



Every Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm
June 18-August 13



For more information, visit
WWW.DURHAMLUTHERAN.ORG

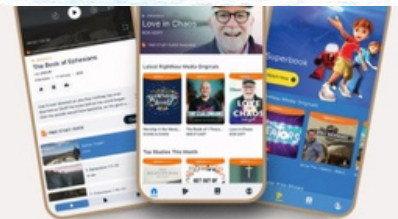
821 Durham Rd.
Durham, PA
Rain or Shine!

**HELP
wanted**

Sign up to help posted
in the Narthex

**SPREAD
the
WORD**

Next Christian
Ed Meeting:
June 11th at 1pm



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

Scan the QR code to
create your free account
and start browsing.



All are Welcome!

Thanks to EVERYONE who
participated in May I Invite
you to church!

Volunteers needed for VBS-

- Someone to help with registration table.
- Someone to run the computer during music sessions
- at least 4 class guides to lead the kids from session to session

Upcoming Dates:

- Wed June 18 @ 2pm
Decoration Prep
- Saturday June 21 @ 10am
Decoration Prep
- Wed July 9 @ 10am
Teacher Training
- Sunday July 13 @ 11am
All hands on deck
Decorate/prep Trinity!

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!

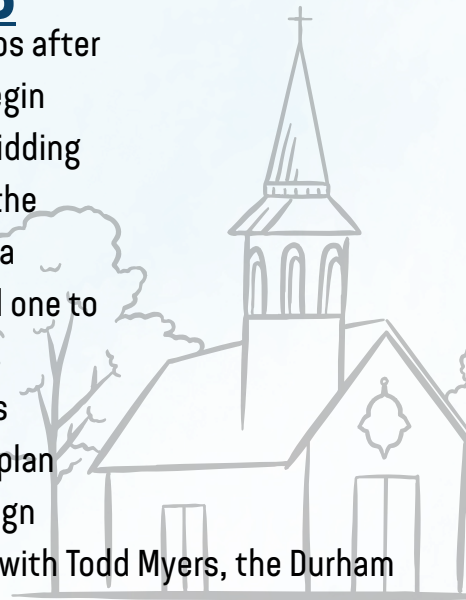
*3 year olds will require a parent or guardian to remain with the child at all times

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

Donations Requested : Mini Water bottles, Transportation
decor loan(tires, traffic cones)

Building Committee Update- June 2025

The Building Committee met on April 24th with the architect to review the next steps after the vote on Palm Sunday. The overall design was approved, and the architect will begin working on the contract documents (which will be used to put the project out for bidding to contractors). The hope is to have the contract documents ready for approval at the end of the summer or early September. Once approved, they can be put out for bid (a 30 day process). Once we get the bids back the Building Committee will recommend one to the Council for their approval. Once the contract is issued, the timeline becomes dependent on when the contractor can begin their work. There are still some details needed to be worked out as we finalize the interior floor plans, especially the floor plan for Care-a-lot on the second floor and the office space on the first floor. These design features will be firmed up over the next couple of weeks. There was also a meeting with Todd Myers, the Durham Township Code Officer, to review several items:



- a sketch plan needs to be prepared for review by the township engineer. Cowan Assoc. will provide this.
- Parking will be reviewed but does not appear to be an issue.
- Water management is critical given the status of existing water shed (EV-HQ) and the federal protections afforded Cooks creek. Water retention and property grading appears to be of little concern given the elevations.
- a copy of the septic permit was provided
- the township requires an application review fee of \$1,000, and an escrow fee of \$6,000 in order for the construction process to move forward. These fees are in the process of being paid.

A reminder that questions, ideas, or concerns are always welcome. Please share them with any of the Building Committee members, or put a note into the box in the narthex.

PALISADES AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES **PALM**

As we are working towards planning with the PALM community for the future, we need your input to share with the larger PALM group regarding various topics. Our first question that is being asked of all the PALM congregations is the following:

If we need to share pastoral resources in the future, what would our congregation prefer regarding Sunday Worship:

1) Does our congregation feel it is more important to have a Pastor present in person each week, which might mean changing your worship time?

OR

2) Would we be willing to occasionally have a pastor present virtually to consecrate the elements and preach the sermon?

Please share with us your preference. We will be gathering all responses in person at church (with a voting box) and also via electronic polling. We will use this input to shape the future of the PALM parish and to help prepare our congregation with the proper technology and upgrades to our building for the future. Our congregational preference for this specific question, will be shared at the next PALM leadership meeting in early June.

13

Any questions, please reach out to me or any council members.

Thank you- Cathy Mueller

FUN PAGE



Christian Summer Bucket List

- 1.) Family Church- Cookout, sit outside, read the Bible. Church in nature
- 2.) Send a letter or a card to someone to tell them you are thinking of them or drop off a few cards at your local hospital or senior center
- 3.) Volunteer at or participate in VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- 4.) Invite a friend to Church with you!
- 5.) Set aside time for intentional prayer or follow a summer devotional.
- 6.) Attend a church fellowship event!
- 7.) Donate a food basket to church
- 8.) Find a new and different way to show love to those important to you.
- 9.) Plant some flowers or even a tree
- 10.) Set a goal for random acts of kindness!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



NICE WORK



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

