

hello  
NOVEMBER

2025



821 Durham Rd.  
Durham, PA 18039

## EVANGEL NEWSLETTER

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Thursdays 10am-1pm

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Wednesdays 10:00am-12pm

Thursdays 10am-1pm

CONTACT US

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

-Hebrews 10:24-25



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Congratulations  
**Joe and Gaye**



# Pastor's Message

**November 2025**

Dear Durham Church Family,

I would like to begin by acknowledging this anniversary. Four years ago, I assumed the role of worship leader at Durham following Pastor Deal's retirement. At that time, it was anticipated that a new pastor would be called and I would transition to retirement, serving only as needed on Sundays. However, circumstances have unfolded differently, and now, four years later, we continue our shared mission—preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and working to proclaim this good news throughout the Durham community.

While I have grown to care deeply for each of you and truly enjoyed our time working together, I recognize that Durham Lutheran's ministry must move forward with new pastoral leadership, which means my tenure here is coming to a close. The upcoming 13 months are vital for determining your ministry's future path, and it will require the full involvement of everyone in the congregation to ensure a smooth transition and a vibrant beginning to your next chapter.

Although the council will be responsible for most of the initial tasks, it is essential to foster an environment of support and encouragement. Prospective pastors assess various factors when considering joining a congregation; however, one consistently influential aspect is the average weekly worship attendance and overall experience. In today's digital landscape, candidates can easily review our services online at any time. A worship setting with only a few visible attendees does not create a favorable impression. Therefore, I recommend that all members consider sitting closer to the front of the church to ensure visibility on camera. Presenting a consistently well-attended service enhances the appeal of our congregation.

Other factors are also considered by prospective candidates when reviewing your documentation. One such factor is the budget, as well as the extent of congregational support for that budget. Typically, pastors prefer to serve in churches where financial contributions are stable or increasing. Unfortunately, to date in 2025, our giving has fallen short of 2024 levels by several thousand dollars. This negative trend may not inspire confidence in potential candidates.

Continued on next page

# Pastor's Message cont'd

An additional area to highlight as a strength is lay leadership. Although we are fortunate to have several dedicated lay leaders, there remains a need for greater participation. Currently, our council is operating with one fewer member than stipulated by our constitution, resulting in an increased workload for existing members. However, leadership extends beyond council service; it encompasses volunteering in various capacities, such as greeting on Sunday mornings, ushering, assisting with communion, singing in the choir, serving as a lector, or inviting others to participate in worship. I encourage all individuals to consider identifying at least one new way in which they can contribute to the continued support and growth of ministry at Durham.

As we enter the month of November and reflect on Thanksgiving, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate in worship at Durham. I am committed to working alongside you in the coming year as we prepare for this significant transition toward a promising future. Let us pray for the Spirit's guidance during our time together.

See you in Church.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman



## Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter			
Counting Team	Kathy Hlavaty, Barb Naska, and Nancy Moskella			
Date	Greeters	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte
Nov 2, 2025	Wagner Family	Kat Wagner	Mark Harwick	Oaklee Wagner
Nov 9, 2025	Lynn Gaun			
Nov 16, 2025				
Nov 23, 2025				
Nov 30, 2025		Bea vonWatzdorf		Leo G

# Church Calendar of Events-

<b>Sunday, November 2</b> All Saints Sunday	<b>10:00 AM</b> 1:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Living Nativity Full Rehearsal at Trinity
Monday, November 3	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, November 4	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 5	9:30 AM-12:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim
Thursday, November 6	10:00 AM 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 12:00 PM-2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Office Hours Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's! PALM Planning Meeting at Trinity
<b>Sunday, November 9</b> 22nd Sunday After Pentecost	<b>10:00 AM</b> 5:00 PM- 7:30 PM	<b>Communion Worship PALM PULPIT EXCHANGE</b> Confirmation Class at Trinity
Monday, November 10	7:00 PM- 8:00PM	RightNow Media Watch Party
Wednesday, November 12	10:00 AM-2:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Pastor out of Office attending Bishop Convocation
Thursday, November 13	10:00 AM 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 12:00 PM- 2:00 PM 8:00 PM	Pastor out of Office attending Bishop Convocation Choir Rehearsal Admin Office Hours Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's Living Nativity Choir Rehearsal
Friday, November 14	10:00 AM	WELCA
<b>Sunday, November 16</b> 13th Sunday After Pentecost	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:30 AM 5:00 PM- 7:30 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Music and Worship Committee Meeting Confirmation Class at St. Peter's Riegelsville
Monday, November 17	1:00PM -3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, November 18	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 19	9:30 AM-12:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim
Thursday, November 20	10:00 AM 10:00 AM- 11:00 PM 12:00 PM- 2:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Office Hours Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's
Saturday, November 22	5:00 PM	Living Nativity Full Rehearsal with Choir at Trinity
<b>Sunday, November 23</b> Christ the King Sunday	<b>10:00 AM</b> <b>After Worship</b> 12:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> <b>Durham Dialogue</b> Living Nativity Choir Rehearsal at Trinity
Monday, November 24	1:00-3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, November 25	9:30 AM-12:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, November 26		Office Closed
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving	Office Closed
<b>Sunday, November 30</b> First Sunday of Advent	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Communion Worship</b>





Nov	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
4	Mary Couse, Rev. James Heckman		
6			Grace Litzenberger
8	Serena Ashmore		
9	Lynn Gaun		
10	Martin Luther, Nicholas Phillips		
12	Tom Gaun, Mark Harwick, Matthew Mueller, Cathy Mueller, Edna Still		
19	Hans Rilling	Miriam & Ken Anderson (42)	
21	Ken Anderson		
22			Bob Fox
23	Faye Gadwell		Addyson Mammana
24	Chase Aquino		Paula Eck
25	Dan Froehlich	Cathy & Chris Mueller	Helen Dungan, Cheryl Eck
29			Bruce Crouse
30			Kathy Hlavaty

# THANK YOU

Mark Harwick for delivering food to the Easton food bank and keeping up on their needs; and for all the work he does overseeing the upkeep of our church building.

Pastor Jim's smiling welcome before worship every Sunday!

Diane for keeping our church tidy and clean!

Joanie's care and effort for those on our prayer list

Carolyn Williams for inviting me to come to "bring a friend to Church"! I came and I haven't left! Leslie Patience

Val McGinn and Kris Simmons for their help with preschool

Jim Miller and the finance committee for managing our material wealth so we can build the annex to better meet our community needs

Kat who helps keep us organized

All the soup makers and helpers! Thanks for feeding us and our community.

Leslie Patience for providing refreshment after church.

Ken's technical talent and time he gives to the church!

Miriam's beautiful landscaping of our church

Helen for your dedication to giving to the community and those in need

Lee Ann Kressman for donating food for our soups

Carolyn Williams who provides beautiful music that speaks to each subject of our worship on any given Sunday

Jim Beerer our building committee chair for keeping the process moving and investigating all issues as they come up

Ken Anderson for handling our technology every Sunday along with his work on church finance.

Miriam Anderson for keeping our church grounds planted, watered and weeded; and for sharing her produce with the food banks, and helping deliver food to them

All the church counters who help with this important task!

Kat Wagner for all that she does



# THANK YOU

For the true feeling of family within our church

Kathy & Joe Hlavaty for their care for those in need through Meals on Wheels, and visiting our members who are alone.

Linda Sauter for her work with Altar Guild, and her willingness to lector whenever needed

Miriam Anderson for her beautifying our church property with flowers, wreaths etc.

Joan Mammana for her work on our prayer lists

Cathy Mueller for her enthusiastic leadership particularly her concern about homebound visitation

Mark Harwick who always shows up for everyone, will go above and beyond. This church and I are very lucky to have him -Kathy

George Krietz for his help making and delivering soup each winter.

Our church council led by Cathy Mueller for steering the ship

Kat Wagner for Wednesday Sundaes and all the programs she does for our children

Leslie Patience for supplying us with beverages and treats after church every winter Sunday.

Lyn Gaun who handles our Christmas gifts, arranges our funeral luncheons, and is aware and ready to respond to those in need.

Barbara and Ben Naska for their care for the needy; Ben frequently brings hungry folks home for dinner and then takes them to a shelter for the night.

The entire church family for always supporting each other!



Blessed  
TO HAVE  
You ♥



WELCA met Friday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Our program was a discussion the Gather Magazine's study "Money: What Do You Treasure?" We read the story of Solomon and some of the proverbs dealing with treasure. One of the facts the writer shared was that more than 2,000 Bible passages refer to money and possessions; the word prayer is mentioned only 254 times. We obviously need to be cautioned not to love money more than God. Our next discussion will deal with stewardship – how do we tend to our treasure.

During our business meeting we discussed visiting our homebound members. We decided to recommend that the congregations – NOTE, not - just WELCA members - form teams of 2 people who would volunteer to visit a homebound member each month. One of our mostly homebound members who we felt we wanted to visit was Gladys Nicholas. So, our November meeting will be held at the home of Gladys Nicholas on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will carpool from the church parking lot, leaving at 10 a.m. Business to be discussed includes making plans for our Christmas activities. After our meeting we will take Gladys out for lunch. -Helen Dungan

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## **Bible Study**

The Adult Bible study's meeting time has changed to 12-2 o'clock on Thursdays. We are still meeting at the home of Kathy and Joe Hlavaty. In November, we will be finishing our discussion of the ELCA's social statement Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All. Beginning in mid-November, we will begin a new study "Making Sense of the Scriptures." Our discussions are lively, and we invite you to join us.  
Helen Dungan



# Outreach

**A Woman's Place:** Thanks to all who contributed to our window sill collections, and for your donations in our Outreach envelopes for A Woman's Place. They provide services to individuals experiencing domestic violence and their families.

**Outreach envelope:** Our Outreach envelopes for November will be given to Samaritan's Purse, to help in their Christian Ministry to those struck by disasters both in our country and around the world.

**Food banks:** Because of the current budget problems, food banks are worried about having enough to feed a growing number of people in need. **As we celebrate All Saint's Sunday, please remember a loved one with food for the hungry.**

Upper Bucks was out of coffee and juice when I visited them. They were also low on cake mixes, with the holidays coming, they wanted folks to be able to bake something special. They also can use laundry detergent and personal care items.

Project Easton requested sugar, other condiments, snack bars, and personal care items. With the current situation, however, I think all donations will be appreciated. If you buy something on sale, please pick up an extra one for the food banks.

**Christmas:** Lynn Gaun requests names of people whom we want to help this Christmas. She also is requesting help in delivering these gifts.

**Prayer List:** Pastor wants to reorganize the prayer list so it is more up to date. Names requested to be added to the prayer list will be removed after 3 months unless you request to have them kept on. You will need to notify the church office if you want your prayer request to remain for another 3 months.

**For Healing of those in our Congregation:** Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss; Pat Zion

**For Healing of Friends and Family:** Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Al Boorse; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Dennis Phillipps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Jami Silfies; Holly Snyder; Jeff Starling; Debbie Statler; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

**For those who are Homebound:** James Altemose; Jayne Miller.

**For families and friends grieving the loss of:** Stephen Bizon; Mary Budd; Doris Calverley; Althea Crouse; Cleo Eck; Fred Foerster; Norma Fox; Jason Gourley; Kenneth Hager; Vivian Harwick; Julio Limontour; Frank Mammana; Patrick McNaulty; Renate Michener; Nancy Morris; Silas Rodenbach; Ed Ruisz; Bart Shaw; Andy Wong; 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](mailto:joanmammana@icloud.com)

# ELCD Friendly Visitors

**What is the Friendly Visitor group?** This is a group that visits our shut- in members. Visit times are flexible and can be in a group, individual or even phone calls. The time commitment is also flexible as visits could be quarterly, monthly, bi-weekly or whenever you are available.

**Are up able to join our Friendly Visitor group?** If so, just fill out the sign up sheet at church!



## Meals on Wheels



If anyone needs Meals on Wheels assistance, the Upper Bucks contact is Deanna 215-262-4761. Meals are prepared at McCafferty's in Doylestown and delivered to those in need.

## Financial Notes:

Here is our giving status as of the end of the Third Quarter on 9/30/2025:

### Regular Giving:

We have received \$65,801.60 of our goal of \$102,000 for Regular Giving.

### Mission Support:

We have received \$4,111 of our goal of \$10,000 for Mission Support.

Please consider helping meet our commitments to fund both the congregation and the wider church mission if you have not done so already.

Thanks!

.Ken Anderson  
Financial Secretary

## RightNow Media

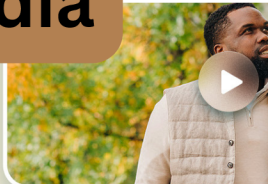
rightnow MEDIA

### Happy Fall

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

**Get Free Access**

**CLICK HERE**



## Watch Party

Meet at the church for this informal fellowship opportunity, popcorn and a RightNow Media episode!

This is a great chance to get familiar with the Rightnow Media content without having to download anything!

**Monday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**7pm-8pm**

**Showing: "Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life"**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham**

**Invites you to our**

**Pray-ground**

**DEDICATION SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 16, 2025 AT 10AM**



We invite you to join us as we celebrate and honor the youngest members of our church family. During this special service, we will prayerfully dedicate our new “Pray-ground” –a space designed to help children feel at home in God’s house and grow in faith and fellowship.

821 Durham Rd. Durham PA

**All are welcome!**



# PALISADES AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



A network of moms living in the Christian faith helping each other & moms of any faith.

## Christian Moms In Action Group

*Not all mom's have a village...LETS BE THE VILLAGE.... Let's build each other up...Lets support each other.*

Walk & Talks, Accountability Gathering, Playdates, Bible Study, Baby Showers, Fundraising, Skill Swaps, & More!

No monthly meetings, just meet ups, emails, phone calls, and gatherings when things need to happen.

A group of Mothers who want to do right by God. Whether that is bringing our families to church, volunteering and doing God's work with our hands, or learning and growing our own relationship with Christ with other women who have the same beliefs.

Email: [AngelworksCMS@gmail.com](mailto:AngelworksCMS@gmail.com) OR call/text 484-767-4886 for more information or to join us!

FACEBOOK GROUP!

GOOGLE CHAT!

GROUP TEXT!

Moms IN  
ACTION

Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries presents

# A Living NATIVITY

Join us for an exciting Christmas experience celebrating the birth of Jesus with actors, music, and live animals

**Saturday, December 6th**  
Performances at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm

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

Contact 610-346-7282 for more information

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene at the bottom of the poster, featuring two camels, a cow, a sheep, and two figures with staffs.

## At Trinity

### Choir Rehearsal Dates:

Thurs 11/13 8pm

Sunday 11/23 12pm

### Full Rehearsal Dates:

11/2, 1pm Choir, Costumes,  
Run through

11/22 5pm Full Rehearsal  
with choir.

## At Durham

### Children's Orchestra:

Does your child have an instrument and want to play songs with our children's orchestra in between living nativity showings?

Rehearsals Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>,  
23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am