

JANUARY 2026



EVANGEL NEWSLETTER

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CONTACT US



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately
following
worship
Sunday,

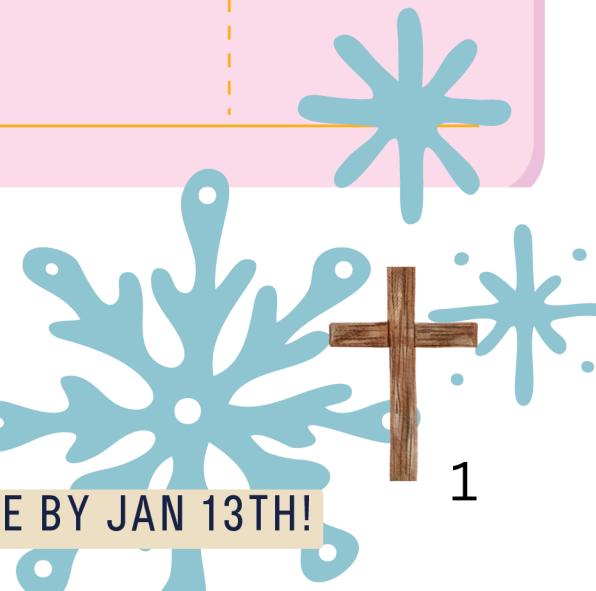


Feb. 15, 2026

SUBMISSIONS FOR ANUAL REPORT DUE TO OFFICE BY JAN 13TH!

Table of Contents

Pastor's Message	2-4
Worship Assistants	4
Calendar of Events	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries	6
WELCA	7
Bible Study	7
Outreach	7
Prayer List	8
Soup Sale	9
Committees	10
Reverse Advent	11
Fun Page	12



Pastor's Message January 2026

Happy New Year Durham Family!

As each new year approaches, people often reflect on how they might change their habits to enhance their lives. Common goals include losing weight, exercising more, quitting smoking, or dedicating extra time to reading—all aimed at improving personal well-being. However, beyond these typical resolutions, one could consider committing to attend church regularly, embracing new opportunities for service, participating in community projects, or simply setting aside thirty minutes daily for Bible reading and prayer.

Self-improvement is valuable, and the same applies to our faith community. With major changes coming to Durham Lutheran in 2026, I encourage you to consider resolutions that will strengthen and improve our congregation in the new year.

Consider these areas: 1) worship, 2) building support, 3) building use, and 4) church ministry involvement.

1. Worship Life – At Durham Lutheran, our weekly worship lies at the heart of everything we do as a community. Although attendance fluctuates, we are seeing overall growth. When more people fill the pews, everyone benefits and finds worship more meaningful. Our gatherings not only nourish us with Christ's body and blood but also strengthen our bonds as a family of faith.
2. Support for the new building – Progress on our addition continues smoothly. Both the Zoning and Planning Boards of Durham Township have granted us the necessary waivers and shown strong support for our project. Our construction documents are completed and have been submitted to four contractors, who are now preparing bids. These bids are due by January 30th, after which the building committee will review them in early February and present their recommendation to the Church Council at its February 10th meeting. The Congregation will receive an update during our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 15th. Once the contract goes to the General Contractor, our project will be scheduled into their timeline. Based on contractor feedback, completion is possible by the end of 2026 if there are no major delays. While funding for core construction is secured, we'll start a capital campaign for added features like office furniture, tables, chairs, kitchenette essentials, outdoor lighting, and other needs. If you would like to help organize this list or support fundraising, please get in touch. You are encouraged to contribute financially even if you don't wish to join the committee.

Pastor's Message cont'd

(2. cont'd) Patience will be essential as construction progresses. Some inconvenience is expected, including modifications to outdoor pathways and parking areas; however, access to the main church will remain available. Work in the Narthex will temporarily reduce its usable space, primarily on the left side. It is anticipated that most of this activity will take place over the summer, enabling continued use of the "outdoor narthex" for lemonade on the lawn, though its location may need to be adjusted.

3. Utilization of the new building – After finishing construction, our next task is to imagine how best to fill the space with meaningful programming. This doesn't just apply to the open area in the Annex but also to the opportunities now available in our basement, which will be freed up. For instance, ELD could serve as an emergency gathering point for local residents who lose power, especially since our new generator makes this viable. What other initiatives could we launch for seniors, families, or community service? Feel free to brainstorm and let your creativity guide you.

4. Increased involvement – Naturally, expanding our ministry and programs will require greater participation and leadership from everyone in the congregation. Although Durham may be a smaller community, you've consistently demonstrated remarkable strength. This year, one of our most significant initiatives is the discernment process for selecting your next pastoral shepherd. The council, call committee, and synod will greatly benefit from your input and support throughout this important journey. Start by supporting with prayer, and then seek out opportunities to actively engage in the process.

Another avenue for supporting the church is through volunteer service. The congregation continually seeks individuals to assist in various aspects of worship, including lay readers, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, counters, altar guild members, choir participants, acolytes, and those willing to help with coffee hour or lemonade on the lawn. Opportunities also exist to contribute to the leadership of EDL by serving on Council, where there are currently two vacancies, or by joining committees such as Finance, Christian Education, Worship & Music, Hospitality, Service, Stewardship, Building, Capital Campaign, or PALM planning.

(4. cont'd) Furthermore, financial contributions play a vital role in sustaining and expanding the church's ministry. With ongoing growth in programming and the process of calling a new pastor, financial responsibilities increase accordingly. Maintaining strong financial support throughout this year will be instrumental in demonstrating to prospective pastors the stability and commitment of our congregation.

Some of you may think resolutions are pointless, especially since, as Lutherans, we supposedly resist change. While it's true that not all resolutions are helpful, the history of ELD shows a strong willingness to embrace change. Consider the many transformations our congregation has undergone: originally, our church was a one floor open nave, lacking both balcony and organ. Later, a balcony was added, followed by the construction of a basement and bathrooms. The nave was eventually reconfigured, shifting from two aisles to one. Each change reflected our commitment to expanding ministry. Today, I sense that same drive as we look forward to building the Annex.

As we approach 2026, there are numerous factors to consider. While the resolutions you select may present challenges, they also offer opportunities to strengthen the Durham family. I encourage everyone to thoughtfully reflect on your goals and contributions for the upcoming year.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman

Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	LeeAnn Kressman and Linda Sauter			
Counting Team	Mark Harwick and Pat Zion			
Date	Greeters	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte
Jan 4, 2026	Bob Starling	Maggie Fischer		
Jan 11, 2026		Pat Zion		
Jan 18, 2026	Wagner Family	Kathryn Wagner		Tucker Wagner
Jan 25, 2026				
Feb 1, 2026				

Church Calendar of Events-

Thursday, January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR	No Office Hours
Friday, January 2	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Sunday, January 4 Epiphany	10:00 AM 5:00PM-7:00PM	Communion Worship Undecorating Church Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, January 5	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, January 7	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 8	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office Hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, January 9	10:00 AM	WELCA Meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home
Saturday, January 10		Faith AliveWorkshop Newtown, PA
Sunday, January 11 Baptism of Our Lord	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Monday, January 12	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, January 13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting Annual Reports Due!
Wednesday, January 14	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 15	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, January 17	9:00 AM 3:00 PM	Soup Preparation at Durham-Help Needed! Soup Sale at Durham- Take out Only
Sunday, January 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM 5:00PM-7:00PM	Communion Worship Confirmation Class @ St Peter's Riegelsville
Monday, January 19	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, January 21	10:00 PM - 2:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 22	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's PALM Meeting at Durham
Saturday, January 24	9:00 AM- 2:00 PM	Generosity Extravaganza Trinity Lansdale PA
Sunday, January 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Monday, January 26	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, January 28	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, January 29	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's



January	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
5	Joe Hlavaty		
9			Faye Gadwell, Conner Aquino
10			Austin Apgar, Joanne Apgar, Erika Trauger
12	Landon Helfrich		
15	Don Crouse, Kathy Hlavaty		
16	Jim Altemose		
18	Rachel McAlister		
25	Audrey Bolesta		
26	Cora Gadwell, Paige Reiman		George Kreitz
27			Joe Hlavaty, Chris Apgar, Scott Apgar
28			Kenneth Crouse
29			Mark Harwick
30	Carolyn Williams		
31	Rachael Roney, Sharron Streletz		

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





On Dec. 7th, WELCA hosted our Christmas covered dish dinner. After we ate, Cathy Mueller led us in reviewing and updating our Mission Site Profile which will be used by the Synod to aid us in the search for our new pastor.

WELCA's next meeting will be Friday Jan. 9, 2026 at 10:00 am at the home of Helen Dungan. We will be updated on our soup making, and discuss what we would like to accomplish in the coming year including whom we want to support financially. The program will be a Bible study taken from our WELCA Gather magazine discussing prayer. After our meeting those who wish will have lunch together.

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 will resume meeting on January 8, 2026. We will continue our study and discussion of the book Making Sense of Scripture.

Helen Dungan

Outreach

Food banks: Thanks to all who contributed to our collection for the food banks in December. Please all who come to worship in person, bring something to share. Upper Bucks requests coffee and personal care items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, and cleaning products such as detergent. Project is requesting cartons of milk – the kind you find on the shelves, not in the refrigerator, and cans of fruit cocktail.

You can also sign up to donate a basket in memory or honor of a loved one.

Outreach envelope: Our Outreach envelopes for January have been designated to go to AHUB (Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks). As you may have noticed, the weather has been very cold, so they have been open a lot.

Christmas gifts: A big thank you to Lynn Gaun for buying gifts for those in our community who can use some help this Christmas.

Prayer List



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty;

George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; 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; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Jami Silfies; Holly Snyder; 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: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Dennis Phillipps; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill



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

Care-A-Lot

Our wonderful teachers wrapped up 2025 with parent-teacher conferences and happy kids. Our class will grow by one student in 2026 and everyone is looking forward to more learning, growing and fun!



A Note from Council:

Council would like to sincerely thank the congregation for their enthusiastic support in our Mission Site Profile brainstorming session during the Christmas covered dish event. The MSP has been updated and is ready for your review. A physical copies of the updated MSP will be printed and available in the narthex Sunday Jan 4th. Please reach out to the church office for a digital copy if you are unable to come review a copy in person. Keep an eye out for an email from the office about a date for official congregational approval of the the MSP so that it can be posted to represent our church's search for a new pastor.

Soup Sale!

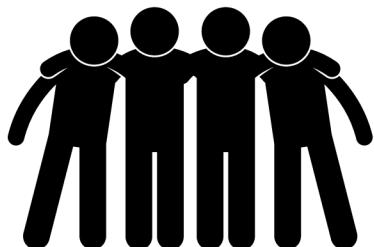
Saturday Jan 17th



Soup Prep

9am- Help needed, peeling and chopping vegetables. Bring your own peeler and knife if you wish otherwise we have some at the church.

All are welcome, for any amount of time. Help is so appreciated!



Bring a covered dish for a light luncheon as we fellowship while the soup is cooking.

Soup Sale 3pm- 6pm

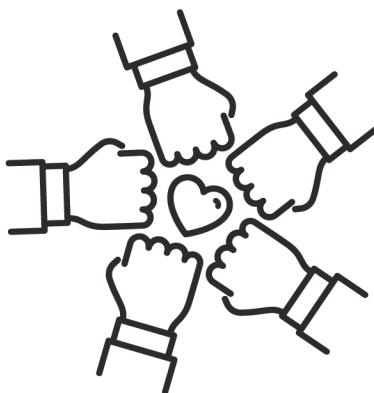
We also need help in the afternoon around 3 to start jarring and selling the soup and then cleaning up.

We will be making Cream of Potato and Beef Vegetable. It will be take-out only again and selling it for \$10 a quart. Bring a qt jar and lid if you can please.

All proceeds will be going to food banks, meals on wheels and to world hunger.

Please Consider Joining Our Team!!

Openings:



Building Committee:

The building committee is in search of one or two additional members. Building experience not required- looking for someone who can contribute ideas to design, functionality and style as the building project progresses! See Pastor Jim

Christian Education Committee:

The Christian Education committee is in search of someone willing to help organize meeting dates, take meeting minutes and help with the logistics of the creative ideas the Christian Education committee has for the new year! If you are excited about faith enrichment activities and enjoy collaborating we are the team for you! See Kat Wagner

Finance Committee:

This valuable team helps our Church function in all ways! If you would help- they would love to have you! See Ken Anderson

Altar Guild:

This team is responsible for changing the colors of the church banners, setting up for worship, and more. If you love worship and want to be a part of the team that makes ELC of Durham worship so special see Miriam Anderson or Linda Sauter!

Additional openings available, if you feel called to help but these don't feel like the right fit, please contact the church office and we can help guide you!

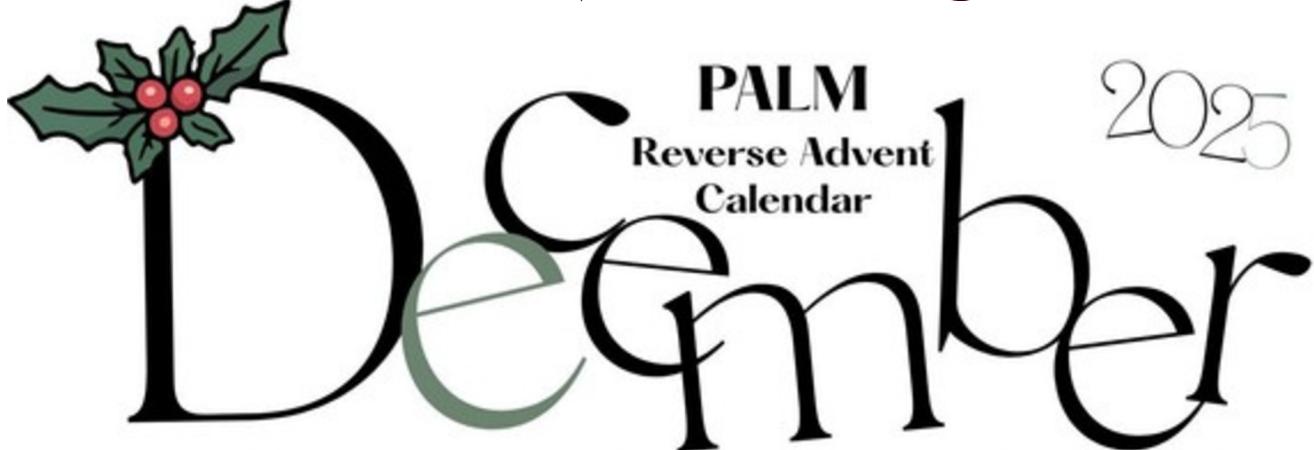
St Luke in Ferndale is in search of a Part-Time Organist/Pianist

For more info contact Pastor Bergen 610-847-5630

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Job Opening for an Organist/Pianist

Position:	Part-Time Organist/Pianist
Schedule:	10:00am Sundays and Special Events
Location:	Upper Bucks County
Compensation:	Per Service – Based on Experience

PALM Due by Jan 11th!


 PALM
Reverse Advent
Calendar
2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Diapers Baby Wipes	1 Baby Formula Infant Cereal	2 Grape &/Or Apple Juice Juice Boxes	3 Baby Shampoo Baby Lotion	4 Jello & Pudding Packs Gatorade	5 Individual Snack Crackers Peanut Butter	6 Canned Meats (Chicken, Ham, Beef) Chunky Soups
7 Pasta Sauce Pasta	8 Coffee & Tea Bags Cereal or Oatmeal	9 Canned Fish (Tuna & Salmon) Rice/Noodles	10 Canned Vegetables Canned Fruit	11 Cake, Dessert & Brownie Mix Packaged Cookies	12 Paper Towels Napkins	13 Salt & Pepper Sugar
14 Spices Olive/ Veg. Oil	15 Liquid Hand Soap Dish Detergent	16 Disinfectant Wipes Hand Sanitizer	17 Ketchup & Mustard BBQ Sauce	18 Shampoo Conditioner	19 Laundry Detergent Bar Soap	20 Toilet Paper Tissues
21 Toothbrush & Toothpaste Mouth Wash	22 Shaving Cream/ Deodorant Women's Deodorant	23 Band-Aids Feminine Products	24 Candy or a Special Treat			



Let's help fill the shelves of the local food banks again this holiday season.

We have several levels of giving again this year including donating \$25 gift cards. These gift cards are used to purchase any items of need that are not collected through donations. A \$25 gift per week (or 1 item daily) is appreciated, but please choose the level of giving that is best suited to your budget. You can also mix and match food boxes and gift cards and you can choose your own item for giving each day. We just ask that if you choose your own item that you pack your box/bag with 25 items if you are able.

Please fill your bags/boxes and bring them to your church by the end of the year.

Please No Glass or Breakable Bottles/Containers

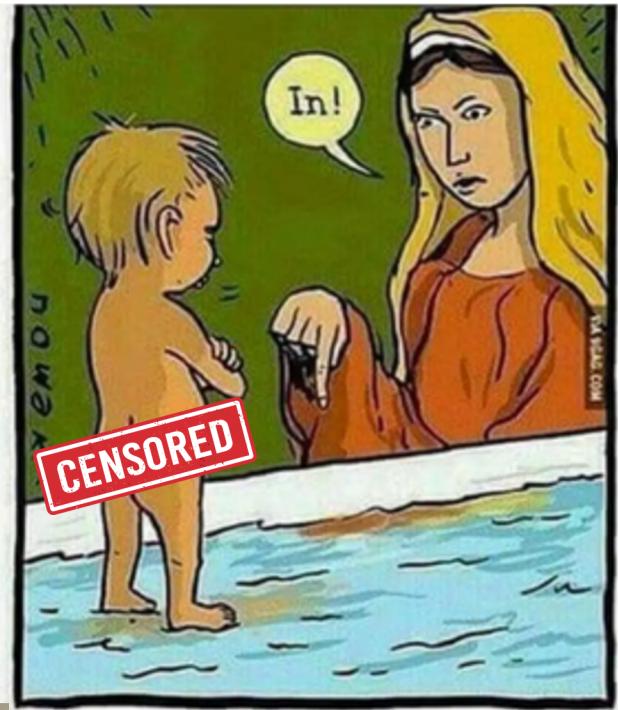
Tis the Season for Sharing



Walking by Faith... Tripping constantly

ABC's of Christmas by
Linda Heckman

- A = Angel
- B = Bethlehem
- C = Census
- D = Donkey
- E = Exalted
- F = Family
- G = Good News
- H = Hope
- I = Imagine
- J = Joy
- K = King
- L = Love
- M = Manger
- N = Noel
- O = Offerings of Magi
- P = Peace
- Q = Quiet
- R = Revealed
- S = Star
- T = Table
- U = Unity
- V = Vulnerable
- W = Wonder
- X = Xmas (Greek letter for
Christ)
- Y = You
- Z = Zeal



Baby Jesus at bath time

