

FEBRUARY

2026



EVANGEL NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL

CONGREGATIONAL

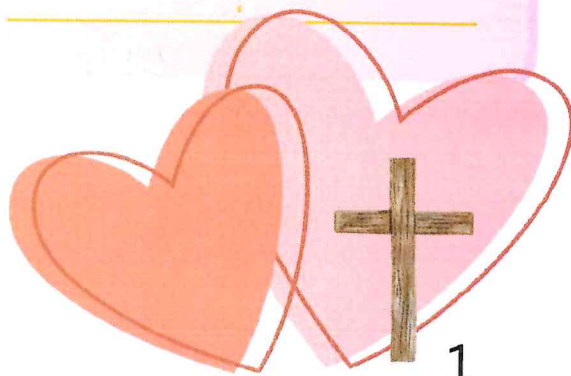
MEETING

Immediately
following
worship
Sunday,



Feb. 15, 2026

Inclement weather date Feb 22, 2026



Pastor's Message February 2026

Dear sisters and brothers of Christ,

Typically, I use the February newsletter to highlight the theme for Lent. Yet this year, what captures my interest is the Gospel theme assigned for the Sunday before Lent—the final Sunday after Epiphany known as The Transfiguration of Our Lord. This moment marked a pivotal shift in Jesus' ministry. Up until then, he concentrated on inviting his disciples and instructing them about discipleship. Following this event, Jesus resolutely turns toward Jerusalem, fully aware of the coming challenges at Calvary and the cross. As Jesus journeys closer to the crucifixion, his disciples continue their learning, but now they are also being prepared to step forward as witnesses to the world.

This year, as a congregation, it feels as though we are experiencing our own Mount of Transfiguration. Just as Jesus was joined by Moses and Elijah, we—today's disciples—are connected with the ministry of past prophets who have shaped Durham Lutheran's legacy. Our history, filled with love and richness, deserves to be honored and studied. However, much like the disciples who wished to preserve the past, there may be a desire to cling too tightly to what has come before. But that is not our calling. Like Peter, James, and John, we are meant to come down from the mountain, step into the world, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Much like the experience of the disciples, our collective journey will inevitably encounter various challenges and require us to pursue different directions at times. Nevertheless, this is an essential journey—one that should be embraced, as it reflects the ongoing mission and life of Jesus Christ that DLC is entrusted to continue here in Durham. While the congregation is undoubtedly warm and welcoming, it is important to remember our responsibility to be an inviting community. Relying solely on the hope that individuals will find us is insufficient; we are called to serve as witnesses, to share the narrative of Jesus Christ, and to proactively extend invitations to others to join us in service.

The church must remain dynamic; stagnation leads to decline. An unchanging community risks becoming obsolete. While there may be an inclination to preserve traditions from the past, it is with confidence in God's guidance that I anticipate many prosperous times ahead for DLC. In the coming months, we will collectively engage in a period of transition, encountering both opportunities and challenges as we explore new directions. Eventually, as our paths diverge, the core mission will persist, though there will be adjustments in leadership responsibilities.

Pastor's Message cont'd

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During this Lenten Season, our focus will be on the theme "All In." The example set by Jesus illustrates total commitment to the reign of God, demonstrating what it means to be fully invested and deeply dedicated. Christians are called to lead lives marked by commitment and care for others and the world, even when such actions may be misunderstood or undervalued by surrounding cultures. Before we can commit wholly, it is important to recognize that God has already demonstrated complete investment on behalf of humanity, exemplifying what it means to choose love without reservation. Throughout Lent, we acknowledge that God's commitment precedes ours, and we are encouraged to respond by fully embracing God's love. It will be this "all in" commitment which will guide us on our journey down the mountain and into our next mission field.

See you in Church.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman

Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	Barb and Ben Naska and Scott Gaun			
Counting Team	Miriam Anderson and Mark Harwick			
Date	Greeters	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte
Feb 1, 2026	Sign up in Narthex or email office Volunteers needed			
Feb 8, 2026				
Feb 15, 2026				
Feb 18, 2026				
Feb 22, 2026				

Church Calendar of Events-

Sunday, February 1 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM After Worship 5:00PM-7:00PM	Communion Worship Music and Worship Meeting Confirmation Class @ St Peter's Reigelsville
Wednesday, February 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, February 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's Building Committee Meeting
Sunday, February 8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Monday, February 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, February 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, February 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Sunday, February 15th Transfiguration of Our Lord	10:00 AM After Worship 5:00PM-7:00PM	Communion Worship Annual Congregational Meeting Confirmation Class @ St Luke Ferndale
Monday, February 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, February 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 12:30 PM 7:00 PM	Office Hours Mid-day Ash Wednesday Spoken Service Evening Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday, February 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, February 20	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home
Sunday, February 22 First Sunday in Lent	10:00 AM 5:00-7:00 PM	Communion Worship (Inclement weather date of Annual Meeting) Reverse Advent Covered Dish @ Durham
Monday, February 23	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, February 25	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at ELC of Durham
Thursday, February 26	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, February 28	9:00am Prep, 3-6pm Sale	SOUP SALE at Durham



Thursday Choir Rehearsals will resume on February 12 @ 10 a.m. for those of us who are retired. We also rehearse on Sunday morning before the service for those still in the work force. If you would like to join our choir, please give your email address to Carolyn for updates, and come sing with us!



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
22			Benjamin Miller
23		Victoria & Adam Phillips	
24	Frank Moskella, Jim Beerer		
26			Tom Gaun, Doug Litzenberger
27	Tanya Naska		
28	Grace Litzenberger, Rowan Froehlich		Nicole Crouse
29	Becky Harrison		

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!



Caroling



Many thanks to the many carolers who visited our home and entertained us with wonderful holiday music, accompanied by the harmonicist George Kreitz. It was so special to share your fellowship and the pretty white poinsettia was a lovely gift.
Love from Wayne and Cheryl Mesko

Thank You from the Altar Guild

The altar guild would like to thank all those who helped decorate and undecorate the Christmas tree this year. We had a good turnout including Bea von Watzdorf, Kathy and Joe Hlavaty, Cathy Mueller and Doris, her Mom, Joanne Antoni, Val McGinn, Mark Harwick, Nancy Moskella, Kathy Echer, and Helen Dungan. Ben Naska set up the outside manger, and David Sauter "walked the plank" and cleaned the hanging lights. Thanks also to everyone who purchased poinsettias and made the church look so beautiful!!!

-Miriam and Linda

Prayer List

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kathryn Wagner, 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; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; 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; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

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

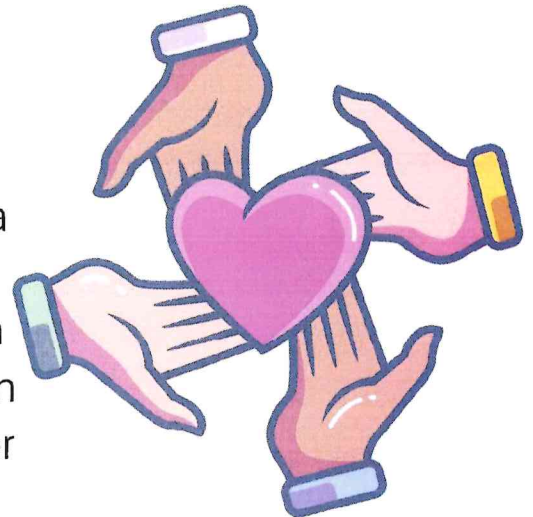
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The Adult Bible study meets on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 at the
Bible Study home of Kathy and Joe Hlavaty. We are continuing our study and
Helen Dungan discussion of the Gospel of Matthew. We invite you to join us.

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SUNDAY MARCH 8th

WE ARE HOSTING THE ANNUAL UPPER BUCKS
SPRNG SYNOD CONFERENCE

We are expecting around 60 people from
Lutheran churches across the Upper Bucks area
from 2-4pm on March 8th. We will need
volunteers to set up before the event and clean
up after the event, there will be a sign up sheet in
the Narthex if you would like to bring an appetizer



A big Thank You to everyone who helped with our January Soup Sale. More information will be in our March newsletter.

Our Soup sale on February 28 will be Cream of Broccoli and Chicken Noodle and will be \$10/Qt. We will begin preparing the vegetables at 9:00, lunch around noon and then start to jar and selling the soups around 3 to 6. Clean up runs from 3 to 7ish, the more people, the less time it will take. If you have any time on Saturday to help it would be greatly appreciated. You do not have to work the full day, come when you can.

All soup proceeds goes to help our 2 food banks, Meals on Wheels and world hunger. We are asking our bakers to donate goodies again and the money raised will go towards our capital campaign for the building fund..

Soup Sale!

Saturday Feb 28th



**Clean up 3pm-
7pm-ish**

Soup Prep

Vegetables prepared starting at 9am All are Welcome to help for any amount of time!

Soup Sale

**3pm- 6pm
\$10/ QT**

**Cream of Broccoli
Chicken Noodle
Chicken Corn**

(Bring your own jar if you have one)



Outreach

Outreach envelope: Allentown Rescue Mission

Food banks: Thanks to all who contributed to our reverse Advent collection. We collected 21 Reverse Advent collections consisting of 18 boxes and 3 sets of gift cards! Thank you Miriam for bringing all the donations to the food banks! Miriam delivered 276lbs of supplies and \$150 in gift cards to Project Easton. As well as, 316.4lbs of supplies and \$150 in gift cards to the Lord's Pantry!

Needs this Month:

- Project Easton- Shelf stable milk QT size, fruit cocktail, red kidney beans, canned potatoes, body wash, shampoo
- Lord's Pantry- Cream of mushroom soup, canned chicken, chunky soups, snacks, coffee, ramen noodles any flavor

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. Project Easton also requests travel size personal care items to help in their service to homeless people (Because these people live out of their backpacks, they cannot handle large size containers.) ALL donations are appreciated. If you have

a buy one get one free coupon, buy one and donate one.

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

WELCA



WELCA's January meeting was held at Helen Dungan's home, and we were joined by Cheryl Mesko via phone. Our topic was prayer, and we shared some real needs for prayer; and the comfort of knowing that people are praying for us. Miriam Anderson updated us on the January soup sale; we will be pulling meat off the bones on Friday afternoon, and chopping vegetables on Saturday. We discussed distributing WELCA's money donations; deciding to donate \$700 to Southeast Pa's WELCA and \$700 to the church's building capital campaign. We had a bake sale while selling soup, but the weather was not cooperative. We decided to have a spaghetti dinner in March with the proceeds going to the capital campaign. We also discussed trying to institute a ministry of taking people to appointments who could not drive. The idea was to have a contact person who anyone needing a ride could call; and that person would contact one of the available volunteers This would be a church ministry, not limited to WELCA.

Our February meeting will be Friday Feb. 20, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the home of Helen Dungan. We will continue our discussion on praying.

Helen Dungan

PALISADES AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

PALM

Reverse Advent Covered dish

Every year the PALM churches join together for a dinner in celebration of the blessing we share through the reverse Advent giving.

This year we are hosting!

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 5-7pm



Events at St. Peter's Riegelsville- continuing through February!



ZUMBA kids

ALL WE NEED IS A BEAT

Grab your friends and move like no one's watching! zumba® kids is the dance-fitness party where we play it loud and rock with friends to our own rules.


Jaimie 'Maimie' Asay
Licensed Instructor
ZumbaWithMaimie@gmail.com

\$5/child


January 2026, every Thursday, 6-7 pm at
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 Delaware Rd, Riegelsville, PA 18077

zumba.com/kids

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JAN. 28  **6:30 PM**

KICK UP YOUR HEELS WITH LINE DANCE



with
Jamie Mendez

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Join our hour-long, high-energy line dance classes and move to the beat with confidence and joy!

- \$15 per person; cash, Zelle or Venmo accepted. Zelle 1-908-283-6666, or Venmo jamiemendez33
- Pre-registration ENCOURAGED! Call 484-632-2897 or email stpetersriegelsville@gmail.com to register.
- Wear sneakers or comfy boots (low heels will be more comfortable) and dress in layers, as you will get warm! Ages 12 and up. **BEGINNER FRIENDLY!!!**

305 Delaware Road, Riegelsville

St Luke Ferndale



PALM Ash Wednesday Services Flyer coming soon. Waiting on confirmation of times from other PALM Churches