

# HELLO March

2026



## EVANGEL NEWSLETTER

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## Worth A Watch



### Table of Contents

Pastor's Message	2-3
Worship Assistants	3
Calendar of Events	4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	5
Code Blue	6
Bible Study	7
Prayer List	7
Soup Sale	8
WELCA	9
Outreach	9
Events	10-12



## EGG HUNT

Saturday March 28th

10AM Sharp!

Rain or Shine

Evangelical Lutheran

Church of Durham

Bring your own basket!

1

# Pastor's Message

March 2026

Dear fellow Lenten pilgrims,

Personally, I'm ready for February to end. This winter's harsh snow and freezing temperatures have worn down both individuals and our church community. Thankfully, spring is on its way—even if a few wintry days still linger, signs of the new season are appearing. Longer daylight hours, warmer temperatures, and melting snow turning to rain signal the start of a promising growing season.

Lent, another marker of spring, takes its name from an old English word for the season. Although Lent is my favorite time in the church calendar, I admit that writing this letter fills me with mixed feelings. The sadness comes from knowing this will be my final Lenten journey with you, and I will certainly miss you. Yet, even as I recognize that our shared ministry has its limits, my sadness is outweighed by excitement and hope for your future and all that awaits in your ministry.

Although February was quite difficult, there were encouraging developments. Our Ash Wednesday services saw the highest attendance in years, and we welcomed two new families who are interested in becoming part of our worship community long term. Our soup-making event was especially fulfilling, drawing the largest number of volunteers we've seen in a while, and it was a success even with the snowy weather. Progress continues on the Annex project, with bid dates extended slightly; all bids are now in, confirming that the project is both realistic and achievable. Looking ahead, April promises not only Easter celebrations but also the groundbreaking for our new addition.

Another encouraging aspect has been collaborating with the leadership team at ELD. During our annual meeting, council elections were once again held, restoring the council to its full strength of nine members—an important step as the church continues its search for a new pastoral shepherd. However, their dedication and enthusiasm simply mirror the broader spirit of ministry within the entire congregation, which is especially evident during our Lenten journey.

This year, we will once again collaborate with our PALM sister churches for the Lenten season. Our Wednesdays will consist of shared soup suppers and devotional gatherings hosted at each participating church. The thematic focus this year centers on dialogues involving individuals around Jesus, offering opportunities to draw meaningful support and guidance as we seek to share God's message in our contemporary world. Details regarding the schedule for these gatherings are provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

(2. cont'd)

# Pastor's Message cont'd

In addition to our joint participation in Holy Week service opportunities with other churches, there is a significant new initiative this year: the Palisades Backpack food collection. This project addresses food insecurity among youth in the Palisades School system. We are partnering not only with PALM churches but also with several denominational congregations across the district to collect food items, which will be distributed to local youth on Maundy Thursday at the start of their extended spring break. The program's overall goal is to assemble more than 400 bags, each containing four breakfasts, four lunches, and four snacks. Durham Lutheran has committed to providing at least 50 of these bags. While this represents a considerable undertaking, I am confident in our ability to achieve it. This initiative aligns well with our Lenten journey, presenting a meaningful way for us to put our faith into action.

I invite you to join me on this Lenten journey, not only through weekly worship, participation in our Wednesday devotion, prayer, study sessions, and special worship during Holy Week, but also by focusing on the ministry opportunities that await us this spring and summer. Despite the cold, snowy darkness of recent months, we have experienced God's abundant blessings. Now is the perfect time to celebrate the ongoing blessings and opportunities just ahead of us.

See you in Church. Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman

## Worship Assistants

<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter</b>			
<b>Counting Team</b>	<b>Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
<b>Mar 1, 2026</b>	<b>Mark Harwick</b>	<b>Pat Zion</b>	Mark Harwick	L + E OBrien
<b>Mar 8, 2026</b>	<b>Wagner Family</b>	<b>Linda Sauter</b>		<b>Tucker W.</b>
<b>Mar 15, 2026</b>				
<b>Mar 22, 2026</b>				
<b>Mar 29, 2026</b>	<b>Miriam Anderson</b>		<b>Miriam Anderson</b>	

# Church Calendar of Events-

<b>Sunday, March 1</b> Second Sunday in Lent	<b>10:00 AM</b> 5:00-7:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	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
<b>Sunday, March 8</b> Third Sunday in Lent Daylight SavingsTime- Spring Forward	<b>10:00 AM</b> 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 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
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home
<b>Sunday, March 15</b> Fourth Sunday in Lent	<b>10:00 AM</b> 5:00PM-7:00PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 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
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller
<b>Sunday, March 22</b> Fifth Sunday in Lent	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Communion Worship</b>
Monday, March 23	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 25	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Upper Tinicum
Thursday, March 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, March 28	10:00 AM Sharp	Easter Egg Hunt
<b>Sunday, March 29</b> Palm Sunday	<b>10:00 AM</b> After Worship 5:00-7:00 PM	<b>Communion Worship</b> Durham Dialogue & Backpack Meal Kit Packing Confirmation Class @ St Peter's Riegelsville
Monday, March 30	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours

# MARCH



March	Birthdays	Anniversaries	Baptisms
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		
8			Karen Bolesta
9		Clayton & Darby Leichliter	
10	Pat Zion		
11	Brittany Froehlich, Ella Rose Michl		Suzane Maurer
15	Samantha Mueller		
17			Don Crouse
23			Rachael Roney
25	Oluchi Ngoka		
28			Clayton Leichliter
29			Steven Streletz
30	Tom Praster		

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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





## Altar Guild

Altar Guild will be selling flowers again to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day. The order form is not ready yet but as soon as it is we will send the form out and have it available at church. If you have any questions, please call me 610-724-7779 or e-mail at [crslgrdns@verizon.net](mailto:crslgrdns@verizon.net). Miriam Anderson

## Code Blue Volunteering.

The Upper Bucks Code Blue ministry of Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) provides a warm bed and hot meal to our unhoused neighbors in Upper Bucks County on cold winter nights from November 15 to April 15 when the projected low temperature on a given night reaches 26 degrees or lower. Our Code Blue Shelter is located on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge in downtown Quakertown. Approximately 90 volunteers are needed from area churches and the community to effectively run this program. (We especially need male and female volunteers who can serve during our second overnight shift from 2:00-7:00 AM.)

George mentioned at one of our services that our church used to volunteer with Code Blue, I reached out to them to see if they are open to volunteers...

A Message from Rev. David Heckler who oversees Code Blue!-

Yes, yes, we still need volunteers-- especially for our first and second overnight shifts (8:00 PM-2:00 AM and 2:00-7:00 AM). We've been running this season with barely 65 volunteers when we really should be working with 90-100; and to date, we've been open 48 nights-- and that's not counting seven nights in which we partnered with Quakertown Community Outreach to put our 10-13 nightly guests up in local motels because of the recent snowstorm and the Christmas holiday. Our training these days consists of "shadowing" our more experienced volunteers for various shifts and reviewing the Volunteer Handbook.

### Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) Code Blue Homeless Shelter Program 2025-2026

AHUB is a non-profit organization which serves the needs of the homeless of the Quakertown, Pennridge, and Palisades areas. One program under AHUB is a volunteer-staffed community ministry called **Upper Bucks Code Blue**, which provides a warm bed and hot meal to the homeless of Upper Bucks County on cold winter nights from November 15 to April 15 when the temperature is 26 degrees or lower. The homeless shelter is located on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge in downtown Quakertown. Approximately 90 volunteers are needed from area churches and the community to effectively run this program. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions described below, complete the volunteer registration on the front page of this document, and return it to us at [upperbuckscodeblue@gmail.com](mailto:upperbuckscodeblue@gmail.com).

Volunteer Position	Description	Shift
Shelter Admissions	Welcome, interview, orient, and complete intake forms for the homeless guests. Specific training required.	8:00-11:00 pm
Shift #1 Supervision	Prepare dorms for homeless guests and supervise homeless guests.	8:00-11:00 pm
Shift #2 Supervision	Supervise homeless guests.	8:00-11:00 pm
Morning Aide	Do a thorough cleaning of the shelter. Directions, masks, gloves, cleaning chemicals/equip. supplied.	6:30-8:30 am
Meal preparation	Provide a hot evening meal (casserole, pasta, soup, etc.) for 8-10 people and deliver to the shelter between 8:00 - 8:15 pm, one time per month.	8:00-8:15 pm

If you would like to volunteer in this vital ministry to those in need in our community, please fill in the other side of this sheet and return it to us at [upperbuckscodeblue@gmail.com](mailto:upperbuckscodeblue@gmail.com).

### AHUB/Code Blue Homeless Shelter Program: New Volunteer Registration Form 2025-2026

Please complete all the requested information.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Nickname	Preferred Title					
Street Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code	Church/Community Affiliation					
Home Phone	Cell Phone	E-Mail Address	Employer	Work Phone					
Emergency Contact Name	Contact Relationship	Emergency Contact Phone #	Home Street/Corner (if different from above)	Home Phone/Work Cell No.					
Please indicate which duties you want and what days you can perform them. Use X for any duty you will do, and SX for the duty you prefer.									
Shelter Admissions	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Night	SA	T	W	TH	F	SA	Sa
Morning Aide	6:30 am - 8:30 am	Morning	MA	T	W	TH	F	SA	Sa
Meal Preparation	Nov. 15 - April 15	(one meal/month)	MP	T	W	TH	F	SA	Sa

Our Volunteer Training "walk-through" in order to thoroughly understand the details of the position. All first-time and admissions volunteers will receive training on the distribution of supplies so all can help with this duty as needed.

Please scan and email this form back to us at [upperbuckscodeblue@gmail.com](mailto:upperbuckscodeblue@gmail.com), and email a copy to Lori Farrell at [lfarrell97@verizon.net](mailto:lfarrell97@verizon.net). Thank!

Registration forms available in the narthex, the church office is happy to help you scan in your forms and get connected with the right people at

AHUB!



Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks

# 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; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Barea Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplín; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; 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; Cheryl Mesko

**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](mailto:joanmammana@icloud.com)**

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



Helen Dungan

## **Soup**

Saturday Feb. 28, 2026 we will be making chicken noodle, chicken corn, and cream of broccoli soup. It will be take-out only. We added chicken corn soup because we harvested a lot of corn this year. We will begin preparing vegetables around 9 am, and begin selling soup around 3 pm. Finishing at 6 pm.

Soup will be sold for \$10 per quart. All take out. Please plan on coming to help.

Helen Dungan



# **Soup Sale!**

**Saturday Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**



## **Soup Prep**

**Vegetables  
prepared starting  
at 9am**

**All are Welcome to help for any  
amount of time!**

We were able to make our January soups, Cream of Potato and Beef Vegetable, as planned. The weather did not follow the forecast as we received 4" of snow while we were making the soup. We are very thankful that everyone made it home safely. A big "thank you" to Helen Dungan, Joanne Antoni, Lynn & Tom Gaun, Mark Harwick, Linda & Pastor Heckman, Kathy & Joe Hlavarty, Val & Paul McGinn, Nancy Moskella, Kris & Wess Simmons, Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller & her mother, Debbie (Ed's niece) Maggie Fischer & Bob Starling, Dawn Margeson and Ken Anderson for peeling & chopping vegetable, cooking & jarring soup and cleanup! George Kreitz outdid himself in soup sales by selling 91 Qts. Cathy Mueller & mom helped him deliver the soup on Monday after the roads were a little better.

We sold 85 qts of Cream of Potato Soup and 132 qts of Beef Vegetable Soup. Because Springfield Meat Company donated beef bones and Frigid Freeze Locker donated beef for the beef vegetable soup and Thrivent gave us a gift card, we did not have any expenses for the soups. Profit of \$2,170 plus \$25 donation for total of \$2,195. We will be dividing the money after February's soup sale at our March WELCA meeting.

We also sold \$131 of baked goods that went to our Capital Campaign.  
Miriam Anderson



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

**Cream of Broccoli**  
**Chicken Noodle**  
**Chicken Corn**

**(Bring your own jar if you have one)**

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

# Outreach

**Outreach envelope:** Our Outreach envelopes for March have been designated to go to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help those suffering from disasters both here and around the world.

**Food banks:** Thanks to all who contributed to our collection for the food banks in February.

**Food baskets:** Helen Dungan donated a food basket in memory of her father William Dungan. 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.

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.



## WELCA

WELCA's February meeting was held at Helen Dungan's home, and we were joined by Barb Mesko via phone. Our topic was praying for and being conscious of the land God created. Miriam Anderson updated us on the February soup plans; we will be pulling meat off the bones on Friday afternoon, and chopping vegetables on Saturday.

Because of the bad weather for our January soup, she and Mark Harwick were at Church on the following Monday to sell and distribute soup as we did not have church on Sunday.

Our March meeting will be Friday Mar 13, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the home of Helen Dungan. This will be a work meeting; we will be working on updating the church directory. We want to be sure we have your correct phone number, email address and that you haven't moved.

Helen Dungan



We kicked off Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers here on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. These evenings are a great time of reflection, fellowship, and delicious homemade soups- Please consider joining us!

# Lenten Soup Suppers

This year's theme is : *Conversations with Jesus*

<p><b>February 25</b></p>	
<p><b>March 4</b></p>	<p><b>St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>          470 Church Hill Rd, Ferndale, PA, 18921          Topic: <i>And Nicodemus</i></p>
<p><b>March 11</b></p>	<p><b>Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>          2170 Route 212, Coopersburg, PA, 18036          Topic: <i>And the Samaritan Woman</i></p>
<p><b>March 18</b></p>	<p><b>St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>          305 Delaware Rd, Riegelsville, PA, 18077          Topic: <i>And the Man Who Received His Sight</i></p>
<p><b>March 25</b></p>	<p><b>Upper Tincum Lutheran Church</b>          188 Upper Tincum Church Rd, Upper Black Eddy, PA, 18972          Topic: <i>And Lazarus' Family</i></p>

**Soup Supper**  
**6:00 - 6:45 pm**



**Devotions**  
**6:45 - 7:30 pm**

# PALMI

## Holy Week

MARCH 29- APRIL 5



### Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

10:00 AM

Worship + Outreach

ELC of Durham



### Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

5:30-7:30 PM

Dinner + Worship

ELC of Durham

7:00 PM

Worship Service

Christ Pipersville

7:30 PM

Worship Service

St Peter's

Rieglesville



### Good Friday

April 3, 2026

12:00 PM

Worship Service

Christ Pipersville

3:00 PM

Stations

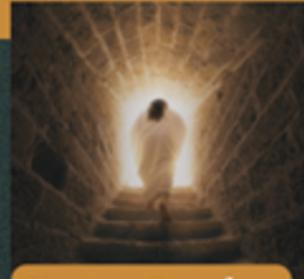
of the Cross

St Luke Ferndale

7:00 PM

Worship Service

Trinity Lutheran



### Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

6:30 AM

Sunrise Service

Sky Island B&B

57 Red Cliff Rd.

Upper Black Eddy

10:00 AM

Worship Service

ELC of Durham



JOIN US FOR OUR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

LEARN MORE AT [DURHAMLUTHERAN.ORG](http://DURHAMLUTHERAN.ORG)





# Backpack Meal Kits!

Together with PALM we hope to collect food and assemble backpack meal kits to be distributed families who need food assistance over Easter break.

Visit food collection poster in Narthex  
Assembling kits after worship on PALM  
Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>!

Families can pick up kits on  
Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at  
the Palisades Middle School



Support  
a local  
girl  
scout!  
Sales  
end  
March  
22nd

My name is Mackenzie, I'm a Brownie Girl Scout!

We will deliver to you!

Troop 02390

**\$6 PER BOX**

Gluten Free \$7

Order online or call/text my mom  
Rachel: 484-951-8912

12

Cookie Name	Description
Adventurefuls <sup>®</sup>	Indulgent brownie-inspired cookies with caramel flavored crème and a hint of sea salt
ExploreMores <sup>®</sup>	Rocky road ice cream inspired cookies filled with flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond crème
Lemonades <sup>®</sup>	Savory slices of shortbread with a refreshingly tangy lemon flavored icing
Trefoils <sup>®</sup>	Levitic shortbread cookies inspired by the original Girl Scout recipe
Thin Mints <sup>®</sup>	Crispy chocolate wafers dipped in a mist chocolate coating
Peanut Butter Patties <sup>®</sup>	Crispy cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolatey coating
Caramel deLites <sup>®</sup>	Crispy cookies topped with caramel, toasted coconut, and chocolate stripes
Peanut Butter Sandwich <sup>®</sup>	Crisp and crunchy oatmeal cookies with creamy peanut butter filling
Caramel Chocolate Chip <sup>®</sup>	Caramel, semi-sweet chocolate chips, and a hint of sea salt in a delicious cookie* <small>*limited availability</small>