

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

OCTOBER:

Annabelle Fancher—Oct. 3
 Barbara Rivers—Oct. 14
 Marion Kachel—Oct. 17
 Helen Shupp—Oct. 17
 Marie Verville—Oct. 17
 Elsie Trout—Oct. 19
 George Grubb—Oct. 23
 Betty Sotzin—Oct. 31



WISHING YOU
 A HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY!

Coming up in NOVEMBER:

Elaine Gordon—Nov. 4
 Buddie Bannon—Nov. 10
 Bertha Rhode—Nov. 13
 Marie Brooks—Nov. 28

Did we miss anyone? If you are a “Senior” Member over age 55 and wish to be included on the birthday list, please call the church office at 610-856-7242.

PARISH REGISTER

Nothing to report

Vol. XXXIII
 No. 9

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OCTOBER 2014

The Parish Digest



From the Pastor:

“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

- Mother Theresa

³² *‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.— Luke 12:32-34*

CHURCH GIVING – Part 3 (The End of the Trilogy)

Or

What do you have to say about giving?

These last two months I have shared with you a little bit of my background when it comes to my understanding and practice of stewardship, as well as shared some of the reason why I believe the Church is the best and most worthy charitable organization on the planet.

However I thought it important to hear what you (the people of Robeson) have to say about stewardship, and to that end, I asked several members of the congregation to put together a stewardship statement formed around the basic question, “What does stewardship mean to me?”

(cont. p. 4)

A mailbox is located outside the church office for anyone who has written information for staff, chairpersons, preschool, or other leaders.

Rev. Michael Ware, Pastor

Home: 610-875-0015 Office: 610-856-7242

Office hours: Wednesday 9-12 and 1:30-3:00; Thurs. 9-12;

Day off: Monday;

Email address: revmikeware@gmail.com

Susan J. Creed, Minister of Christian Ed. —Home 610-779-0179

Office Hours: M-TH 1:00-4:00 610-856-7242

Email address: screed@dejazzd.com

Mark Lauer, Youth Ministry Leader—Home 610-286-0800

Office Hours: TH 10:00-1:00 610-856-7242

Email address: Mark.Lauer12@Houghton.edu

Louise Wilson, Minister of Music—Phone: 610-273-3911

Email address: weeziecow2@yahoo.com

Debbie DeMarco, Parish Secretary

Home: 610-856-7386 Office: 610-856-7242

Office Hours: M-TH 9-4; Friday 9-12:00

Email address: ddemarco@dejazzd.com

Linell McCormick, Office Assistant, T & Th, 12-4

Home: 610-775-2571 Email: lmm52@aol.com

Dale Creed, Maintenance Supervisor—M-Th mornings

Robin Werner, Sexton—Phone: 610-698-0688

Email: robinbaskets@aol.com

Christine Raines, Interim Preschool Director— Phone: 610-856-7613

Council Officers:

Chris Gerace, President

Craig Eppright, Secretary

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Bill Haney, Vice President

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Other Council Members:

Jane Meyers

Sue Besecker

Joy O'Donnell

Maggie Lauer (youth)

FROM OUR MAILBOX:

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP- St Benedict's Bereavement Support Group is for those grieving the death of a loved one. The group meets for five (5) consecutive weeks beginning Wednesday, October 1 from 6:30pm to 8pm in St Benedict's Meeting Room - 2020 Chestnut Hill Road, Mohnton (Plowville). It is free, non-denominational, open to all. To register or for more information call Judy Campion 610-775-7782 or parish office 610-856-1006.

We received the following personal invitation:

Shady Hollow is busily preparing for our Open House & Horse Show and we'd love it if you could invite your congregation to join us at our **Open House and Horse Show on Saturday and Sunday, Oct 18th and 19th, from 1:00-4:00 both days**. There will be food, fun, raffles, and an opportunity for our special needs students to "strut their stuff". All are welcome!

We're located at 959 E. Main Street in Birdsboro. For more information, please contact Michele Cooper at 610-582-4050 or visit <http://hugahorse.com>

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Laureldale invites you to

Hunsicker Memorial Organ Recital

Sunday, October 19, at 4:00 p.m.

Featuring

ANDREW SENN

Director of Music and Organist at

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia

Organ works of Bach, Reger, and Saint-Saens

Freewill offering

Reception following the recital in the social hall



RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES:

HELP YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:

Please bring in your used **ink cartridges** (any kind) and we will recycle them at Staples earning \$2 each for the church.

Cell phones, eyeglasses, good used clothing also continue to be collected for local ministries.

Paper Recycling Bins are located at the rear of Hoeffler Hall to accept your **newspaper, magazines, office paper, “junk” mail**, etc. Please no phone books, “trash” or cardboard. And please no plastic; take your paper out of the plastic bags before you throw it in the bin. Thanks for your help!

REDNER’S TAPES FUNDRAISER:

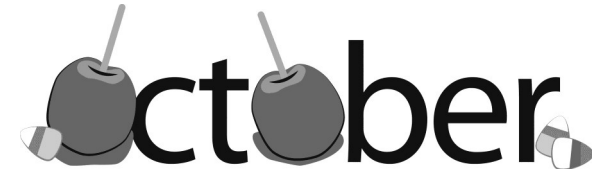
We continue to collect Redner’s receipts as an ongoing fundraiser and we are waiting for our next check. Thank you Marion Kachel for coordinating this effort and handling all the paperwork. Marion would like to thank everyone who participates and remind you to always use your gas card when making a purchase at Redners. **Receipts without the gas card number printed on them are invalid and will not be accepted by the store.** Please continue to save your Redner’s receipts and bring them to the church at your convenience. Boxes are located in the narthex and foyer. Again we remind you to make sure you use your Redner’s gas card when you make your purchase and then bring in your receipt—it’s that easy! And you’ll be helping your church.

(If you shop at Redners but don’t have a gas card, just ask for one. It’s free!)

Seniors and shut-ins: just send your receipts with any member of the visitation team or mail to the church office. Thank you!!!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

BREAKFASTS: Geigertown Fire Company—First Sunday; Brecknock Fire Company—Second Sunday; St. Benedict R.C.Church—Third Sunday; Joanna Furnace—Third Saturday, 7-11 a.m.; Union Lodge in Birdsboro Third Sunday, 7:30-11.



SERVICES & SPECIAL EVENTS

OCT. 4—5:30 Saturday Evening Communion

OCT. 5—7:45 & 10:15 Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS

OCT. 12—7:45 & 10:15 Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS

Kick-off for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project

OCT. 19—7:45 & 10:15 Worship

**Golden Age Sunday; Chicken Barbecue
9:00 SCS**

OCT. 26—7:45 & 10:15 REFORMATION SUNDAY;

Holy Communion

10:15 Confirmation & First Communion;

Third Graders receive Bibles

9:00 SCS



OTHER OCTOBER EVENTS:

October 1—Wednesday Community Church Night
with Teen Challenge 6:00-7:30 p.m.

October 5-12—Family Promise guests at Robeson

October 8—Bible Study begins, 1:00 p.m.

October 12—Kick-off for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
First Communion instruction after the 10:15 service

October 21—Friends Helping Friends at Boscovs

October 31—Trunk or Treat, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Here are some of the responses I have received so far:

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

To me, stewardship means caring. Caring for the family, caring for the environment, caring for the neighborhood, caring for our country, caring for the poor, caring for those without decent housing, caring for those in prison, caring for people with disabilities, caring for soldiers who sacrificed for our country, caring for our church, caring for all churches, caring for victims of disasters, caring for illegal aliens, caring for all those who seem to have no values except themselves, etc. The list can go on and on. Sometimes it seems overwhelming and we are tempted to say, "Not my Problem." That would be a mistake.

It should also be said that true caring involves doing what you can about the things that you care for.

There is a practical aspect of caring or stewardship. We know that families or societies where people care for one another are great places to live. People don't worry about stealing or cheating or intimidation. People are treated with respect. There is help when you need it. People are at peace and children are happy. We also see that where there is no caring, people are oppressed, mistreated, suspicious, in fear, etc. Life becomes a living hell. There are examples daily in the newspapers and elsewhere of these places and conditions.

Why should we care? We must care because God cares. You could say that the whole Bible has this theme and meaning.

The Holy Spirit tells us this also. We see this most clearly in the cross, where God actually hurts, even suffers, when we do not care for each other. Just as we might suffer when one of our children or loved one is harming themselves or others, so God, who is Infinite Love, suffers beyond our comprehension when we don't care about each other.

When we care and act on this caring, we are united with God.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for August:	\$19,903.00
Other Income:	\$ 1155.10(in/out)
Checks issued for August:	\$25,281.01
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 6,296.66
Checking balance as of 8/31/14	\$ 2,073.75
Unpaid Bills: Twin Valley School District	\$2,095.93
	(due 10/31/14)

In/Out accounts: \$ 251.49

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS: 7/31/14	\$ 28,494.40
Special funds received in August:	\$ 25.00
Heat fund contributions	\$ 1,624.06
BALANCES:	
Checking Account balance 8/31/14	\$ 21,157.74
TOTAL ASSETS: 7/31/14	\$ 21,157.74

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

"PENGUIN UPDATE"...The penguin infestation is a lot lighter than it was at the beginning of the summer. Thanks to you 3/4 of the penguins have returned to their home in Antarctica. So far you have contributed over \$10,000 of the \$13,690 needed to pay for the repairs to the heating system in the Christian Ed. wing. Thank you for your help and if you haven't had the chance to remove a penguin it's not too late!

Good News for Shut-in and Homebound members!

Over the last several months, Pastor Michael and the visitation committee have been hard at work restructuring the ministry of visitation here at Robeson. With 26 (and growing) different shut-in and homebound members to visit, it was quite the task, but thanks to Pastor Michael and close to a dozen volunteers, we have been able to put together a visitation schedule whereby everyone has been assigned a visitation team. Each team intends to visit with each member at least once a quarter. In addition to the visitation teams, Pastor Michael also hopes to be able to personally visit with each shut-in and homebound member up to twice a year. Another outgrowth of our visitation ministry planning is that Pastor Michael will be training all the teams so that they may offer Holy Communion during visits. With everything combined between the Pastor and visitation teams, it is our hope to visit with and bring Holy Communion to each shut-in and homebound member of Robeson up to 6 times a year. (For anyone interested in joining the visitation ministry, please feel free to contact Pastor Michael or call the church office 610-856-7242.)

RESULTS OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING of Sunday, September 21 following the 10:15 a.m. worship service:

The meeting was called to discuss and vote on the recommendation presented by the Property Committee and accepted by the Church Council to purchase two furnaces to heat the sanctuary. The recommended bid was from UGI, the company that just completed the heating repairs in the Christian Ed wing. The amount of the bid was \$6,995.

The congregation voted unanimously to accept this bid.

We are truly alive! So it turns out that stewardship is the only way to live.
— R.M.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Being good stewards for our family has always meant tithing. That was easy working for a company for 34 years, with a great career and a steady paycheck. Then when your company is bought out, the tithe comes instead from an unemployment payment and severance pay. Yet we continued to tithe. Then I started a new career, with a reduced paycheck, and new challenges of unsteady paychecks. We gave as we earned. Finally able to tap into my pension from my previous employer, we are able to give again on a steady basis. And with God's help, the regular paycheck has gotten steady again.

Also, it is important to do your tithing first, from what you receive, rather than from what is left after the other bills are paid. Somehow when the extra big bills come in, there is always enough to pay them. The Lord provides – to God be the glory! We are blessed to be a blessing.
— J.L.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

I recognize God as the source of all and know that I will be held accountable for how I use the gifts he has entrusted to my care. As a steward of God I realize it is up to me to use my talents, abilities and my generosity with my giving, to show gratitude for the gifts I have been given. When I realize how generous God has been to me, I must respond by giving of my gifts to their full potential, using them to share with God, my church and others.
— J.O.

I want to thank the authors of these articles and those of you who have yet to be published in the newsletter for

- 6 taking the time to share with your brothers and sisters the importance of stewardship in your own lives.

If you would like to contribute a stewardship statement of your own, here are some questions you might find helpful as you put together a stewardship article.

What does the word stewardship mean to you?

Why is being a good steward important to you?

Why should good stewardship be important to others?

What blessings have you received that inspire your stewardship?

How has being a good steward been a blessing to you?

Please feel free to email your statements to myself at Revmikeware@gmail.com or to the church office ddemarco@dejazzd.com. Then keep an eye out for your article in an upcoming digest!

In closing I want to add that as part of our stewardship campaign for this Fall, we are going to re-introduce electronic giving under a new (and more cost efficient) program called:



It is my hope that many of you will join along with me and make electronic giving your preferred method for contributing to the church. It is simple and easy to sign up for, and it helps with better stewardship planning. More information will be coming to you this month, so keep on the lookout for it.

Until next time!

Your brother in Christ, **PASTOR MICHAEL**



MINISTRIES AVAILABLE TO OUR SENIORS, SHUT-INS, SICK, ETC.:

CD Ministry—CD's of the weekly services are being mailed out to all those senior, sick or and shut-in members who cannot attend church services.

Large Print Devotionals—these are the same as our small, daily devotionals but have larger print for those needing it.

Prayer Shawls—These are available for sick, hospitalized, shut-in or senior members who would like one. They are very comforting to those who have received them. Recipients do not need to be a member of Robeson so please take them for others who would like them.

Robeson Hammers—Helping members in need with minor repairs at home, mainly small projects that would make their homes more safe or comfortable.

Home Visits—Our visitation team is visiting a number of our seniors and would be more than happy to visit others if invited. If you would appreciate a visit please call the church office. If you have a need or request for any of the above ministries, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.

The **Berks County Area Agency on Aging** is available to help you over the phone. Please call their office at 610-478-6500 and a staff member will be able to explain available services, answer questions and provide information on programs and community resources for you, family members or anyone you know who is 60 years of age and older. Please don't hesitate to give them a call.

Men's Group

MEN'S
BREAKFAST



The men of Robeson Lutheran Church continue to meet for breakfast and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m. here in our own Hoeffer Hall. This is a great opportunity to get to know your brothers in Christ and learn more about your faith through brief bible study and mutual conversation. Come and see how the men of Robeson live out their discipleship. The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for **October 11** in Hoeffer Hall.

Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robins will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 21 beginning with lunch at noon. Please bring a covered dish to share for lunch. A program will be presented by the Rittenhouse Senior Living Center at 1:00 p.m. Please call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about the Robeson Robins.



The meeting in November will also be a regular lunch and program here at the church. Stay tuned for more details.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: Our thanks to those members/friends of the congregation who have designated Robeson Lutheran Church as the charity of choice for their Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have received a letter from Thrivent indicating that you are eligible for this plan, please consider our congregation as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. Gifts received during August totaled \$45 and were given by an anonymous donor. We thank him.



Church Council Concern

Folks, at the end of this year, three Council members will step down, leaving only three remaining Church Council members to begin the year 2015. We will have SIX openings to fill in the December congregational meeting. The six needed positions are:

<u># of Open Positions</u>	<u>Ending Month/Year</u>	<u>Duration</u>
2 Members	Dec 2015	1 Year
1 Members	Dec 2016	2 Years
3 Members	Dec 2017	3 Years

If we do not get new Council members, we might need to consider changing the church by-laws to have a ruling body of only three Council officers. Before we come to that bridge, if anyone has an inclination to serve on Church council for the first time (or again) please begin praying about it now and please see a member of Church Council, Church Staff or Pastor Michael. What a much-needed blessing it will be to have a full Council of nine members to begin the year 2015. Thanks for your consideration and concern.

Chris Gerace
Church Council President

Acknowledging Those Who Serve: Past, Present & Future

By Chris Gerace

When I joined Church Council in 2014, in an attempt to understand more of what goes on at committee meetings and to sort out some action items that carried over from 2013, I met with several of the church committees. To be specific, I attended a Property committee meeting, a Finance committee meeting and I met with some of the members of the Pre-school board. Surprisingly, I came away from those meetings with a lot more than I thought I would. What I learned from attending these meetings was that Robeson Church has some very talented and concerned individuals who are giving their time and talents to help our church despite any personal life issues or other issues going on in the world today.

When I met with members of the Pre-school board, I learned how many “extra hours” they put into running the Pre-school and I could “feel” their commitment to its ongoing success as a part of our Church body. When I met with the Finance committee, I could “hear” their genuine concern as they reviewed ongoing church budget issues, and as they discussed ways to increase the “Ins” and decrease the “Outs.” Then, when I met with Property committee, I must commend Bob Rivers for presiding over the committee, John Jarmoski for all the “ongoing” weekend landscaping work that he and his son perform, Dale Creed and Ben McCormick for fixing all the overhead fiberglass insulation in the Pre-school/Sunday school wing, Bob, Dale and Ben for sealing all the cracks in the parking lot over several weeks, (and the list of completed and upcoming work goes on) – all of it was done on their own time. I must also mention the ongoing property services we get year after year from Eshelman’s (snow removal) and Heilner’s (grass mowing). We are so blessed by all of these people giving of their time and talents in order to keep this church going.

THIS AND THAT AT ROBESON LUTHERAN:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! We have posted volunteer sheets on the white board in the new foyer. If you are willing to help during any of the services please sign up on this board. There are lists for acolytes, lectors, ushers, greeters, sound technicians, nursery attendants, worship assistants, and communion servers. We appreciate and need our volunteers!

ALTAR GUILD: Altar care volunteers are still needed for 2015. If you are willing to serve on altar care for a month with at least one other volunteer please call Marion Kachel (610-856-1683) or the church office.

REMINDERS:

Committee reports are due in the church office on the first Thursday of the month for the council meeting which will be held on the 2nd Thursday.

All Property concerns and requests should be brought to the attention of Dale Creed or the church office. Please do not take concerns directly to the Property Committee. Thanks for your help with this.

PARISH DIGEST DEADLINE: Articles for the next newsletter are due in the office by Oct. 15 for the Nov. Digest.

There are a few ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSOR openings this year so if you are interested please call the church office. Reminder: Altar flowers cost is \$33 and bulletins are \$25.

IMPORTANT:

- Any group or individual sponsoring special projects, collections, etc. please contact Bill Haney (Social Ministry) for coordination purposes and especially Debbie at the church office for advertising these events and projects.
- Any committee or group that has events etc. to advertise in the area papers should please copy to Linell at lmrm52@aol.com.



Robeson Lutheran Preschool

Preschool is back in session!

Please call the preschool office for availability of classes and more information (610-856-7613), or email

Preschool610@dejazzd.com. Please check out our website at www.robesonlutheranpreschool.org

VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED as DRIVERS to provide transportation to and from church for individuals who are currently unable to drive. This is especially important for the 5:30 Saturday evening communion service the first Saturday of each month. Please contact the church office at 610-856-7242 if you are willing to drive or if you would like a ride.

PROPERTY UPDATES:

The property committee would like to remind everyone to make sure that the doors are locked and closed properly and that the lights are turned out when you leave the building after meetings etc.

A BIG THANK YOU to Ben and Linell McCormick for the planting, mulching and daily watering of the flower beds next to the church and at the corner of Plow Road and Rt. 10. Thanks to others who have worked at planting, weeding, etc. over the summer months. What a difference it makes!

We especially want to thank Allen Heilner and his crew for the great job they do mowing and trimming from spring through fall.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A few more random stewardship examples... Greg Gehman has spent countless hours of his own time shopping for and cooking more meals for fund-raisers, bazaars, scout events, men's breakfasts and special events than I can count. I also recall the example that Susan Babyak set when she served on Church Council during her courageous battle, and Libby Repinski who continued to teach Sunday school, also while fighting cancer. These are only a few of the many examples of stewardship, past and present, that have kept this church alive and serving our community for 247 years.

Of all the people/groups I mentioned above, none of them are looking for any recognition, but I wanted to point out what I had discovered which is the true depth and breadth of stewardship that is at work within our church. Every person who worships here at Robeson Lutheran benefits from the efforts of our volunteers. But we also know that the work is never finished.

In order to keep our church going, we always need more volunteers. People get burned out or we just need new blood. Usually, newer committee members bring fresh talents, ideas and innovations. But as the saying goes, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." No words that I or anyone speak or write can truly move the volunteer. It is always between you and our Lord. If you have been called to serve, then you will answer the call. Perhaps you might pray on it. If you are unsure as to which committee or group you might want to serve, please ask a member of Church Staff or Church Council where we need help. Or you can review the sign-up sheets in the new foyer for Sunday service volunteers.

In the coming months, please pray and consider serving our Lord with your time and talents. Get in the game. Help spread the Faith and the Good News by keeping our church alive and thriving. God bless!

Caring Conversations – Results and Pastoral Thoughts (as promised!)

Over the course of several special meetings, known as Caring Conversations, I met with a total of 46 parishioners (16 Male and 30 Female) and these are some of the basic results of the survey as well as some thoughts from what I observe about the data.

Top 6 results of what respondents value most about Robeson: Friendly (25), Communion for all (21), Open to new people (19), Caring for each other (17), Good pastoral ministry (16), Practical sermons (16).

Pastoral Opinion: I think this is a very fair assessment in my sense of the general disposition of the congregation as it relates to visitors and regular members. While I am certainly grateful that the pastoral ministry and sermons are appreciated, I think it is important to see in these results that the interactivity of the laity is a central and crucial part of what's cherished about our life together here at Robeson.

Top 6 results of respondents concerns about Robeson are as follows in descending order: Tired members and leaders (21), Music (18), Proper financial stewardship (17), Too Traditional (10), Directionless (8), Too Conservative (8). Pastoral Opinion: Again, I think this is a fair assessment of our struggles at Robeson. It is typical in the life of the church that it is often felt that the smaller percentage of people do the majority of the work (this unfortunately forgets that there are also many who are incredibly active doing faith-filled works outside the church facility such as visitation, volunteering, and charity work). The concerns regarding Music appear to be interconnected with the comments that we are too conservative and traditional, thus giving the sense of a desire for a more modern / contemporary style of music as well as worship. I think it is fair to say that proper financial stewardship speaks to concerns regarding both the decrease in giving which conflicts with a significantly sized budget, as well as concerns over where our money is going

There will be a variety of tavern games shown such as Captain's Mistress, Shut-the-Box, Muggins, Farkle and Mill game.

Wendy's interest lies with sewing and 18th century clothing. She will show her sewing trappings, including a lucet, her housewife sewing kit, and chatelaine. The evening will end with an 18th Century Fashion Show for both women and men's clothing. Outfits to be displayed will comprise of an English gown, fitted jackets, bed gown and Shortgown for the women and breeches, waistcoat, gentlemen's coat and frock for the men.

At the presentation's conclusion, guests are invited (and encouraged) to ask questions, take a closer look at the display, touch and feel the clothing and play a game or two!

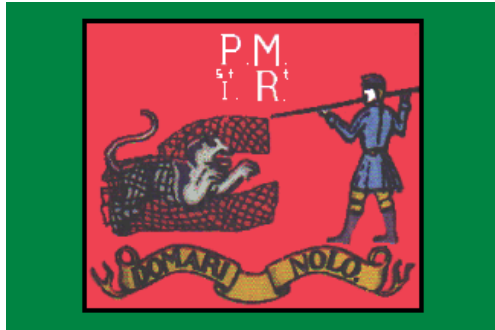
LEAVING A LEGACY THAT GOES BEYOND DEATH

When we recall the names of the faithful who have died, our minds are often filled with precious memories. In our thoughts we are reminded that we are their legacy, that is to say, much of what we have – in both material and non-material things – has been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered by those who come after us? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, please consider a charitable bequest to Robeson Lutheran Church. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation's ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Christians to worship, serve others, and continue the vital ministries of this church.

If you have questions about planned giving, you can talk to your personal financial advisor or speak to our congregational Thrivent representative John Lauer at his Morgantown office (610)-286-5986.

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY CHURCH NIGHT
NOVEMBER 5, 2014, 6:00-7:30 P.M.



The 1st Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line

Don and Wendy Yost are re-enactors portraying a rifleman and camp follower of the Revolutionary War. As members of the First Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line headquartered at Daniel Boone Homestead, Birdsboro PA they share an interest in American history. Don currently holds the position of Commander for the unit.

The evening will begin with Brunswick stew and crusty bread, a popular 18th century meal, served in colonial taverns and homes. The recipe used for the stew comes from “The Williamsburg Cookbook”, Chowning’s Tavern Brunswick Stew. If you are interested in making a pot of stew for the night, please contact Sue Creed for details.

Don will present a brief history of the First Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line. His discussion of camp life of a Revolutionary War Soldier will contain an impressive display of the flintlock rifle, musket, and accouterments. The camp life presentation will include personal gear and examples of military rations.

Camp life wasn’t “all work and no-play” as there was down time. Games were a source of entertainment to occupy the soldiers and camp followers. (continued on page 27)

(are we being good stewards?). As to the idea that we are directionless at Robeson, I would concur that it would likely be very difficult for most parishioners to particularly define where we are heading into the future. In the end, I feel this section will do well to be a focus area for the overall leadership of the congregation.

Respondents felt that our congregation is most attractive to these three groups: Seniors (40), Families (26), and Other Lutherans (25)

Respondents desire that we be more attractive to these three groups: Young Adults (29), Families (27), and Youth (20)
Pastoral Opinion: This area was not so surprising to me, in that this is the tendency of most mainline churches today.

The strong desire for youth and young families is for many people connected to an image of a thriving congregation (although this unfortunately discounts the extremely important role of the elderly faithful). Where things get complicated is that while churches desire these demographics, too few are equipped or prepared or willing to undergo the changes necessary to invite, welcome, and encourage young families and youth. This is not to say it is an impossibility, only that such ministries will demand of any congregation an increased level of patience and a willingness to accept and adapt to change.

Ten priorities respondents felt we need to have as a church in order to be attractive to those groups mentioned above are as follows: More people involved (31), Family friendly activities (28), More focus on growth – size (23), More generous with our talents (21), Visionary idea / plans (18), Focus on helping people grow (14), Less focus on tradition (11), Stronger friendships (11), More focus on growth – maturity (11), Better children and youth programs (10).

Pastoral Opinion: I think this is a very insightful listing pointing to the needs inherent to creating an attractive worship site for those we hope to reach. It is important to point out that most of these changes will require an increased involvement and flexibility of the laity in the life of the church.

- ¹² No visionary ideas or plans will have any effect if we lack the volunteers and support necessary to move forward in these areas.

Other issues...

Weekly communion – The data suggests that there was an overall openness in the majority of respondents for having communion more frequently. In responding to areas of concern, there would be the opportunity to consider further education about communion and possibly to discuss restructuring the setup and procedure of communion for the sake of concerns about time.

Becoming Reconciled in Christ (open to LGBT community) – Here it was pretty clear that the vast majority of respondents (40) were very much in favor of welcoming in the LGBT community to Robeson just as they are. Further education opportunities in this area would again be extremely important.

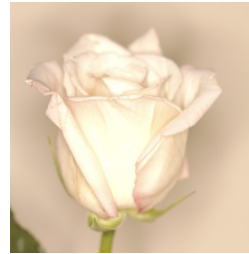
Alcohol Policy – There was more of an even split regarding those who would maintain the current policy and those willing to open it up. Further education would be absolutely necessary before any changes.

Prayer / Devotional life – While the majority of respondents are praying over meals and before bed the rest of the data points to a strong need for further development in this area of Christian discipline.

In closing I want to stress that the Pastoral Opinion is merely the sharing of some thoughts about what I see in the data. I am still currently in the process of gathering a group together for further examination of the data and for the purposes of visioning and planning. If you would have an interest in joining this group, please see me.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Michael

ALL SAINTS' CELEBRATION—November 2



Each year the church remembers with thanksgiving the lives and witness of those believers who have gone on ahead of us to be in the Church Triumphant. We especially give thanks for those members who have died since the 1st of November, 2013.

In addition to lighting a candle and remembering in prayer those members of Robeson Lutheran Church who have died in the past year, there will again be an opportunity to memorialize all your loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant. You may purchase a rose for the cross by ordering one (or more) by October 19th through the church office. The name of the person(s) being memorialized (not the donor) will be in the bulletin that weekend. The cost of each rose is \$3. You may take home your rose(s) after the 10:15 a.m. service that day. Use the blank below for this purpose and turn it in by October 19 in an envelope marked 'ROSES'.

ROSES FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Name(s) for Memorial List _____

Name of Donor _____

of Roses Desired _____ X \$3.00 = _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

CRAFTERS:

We are still accepting crafters for our annual bazaar. Set up time will be Friday, October 31st between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Saturday morning after 6:00 a.m. There will be no setting up Friday afternoon. Stand holders may park in the lower lot below the church next to the cemetery.

If you have any questions, please call **Cindy Stewart at 610.856.7041**. Sign up forms are available in the church office. Call or email Debbie at 610-856-7242; ddemarco@dejazzd.com.

Please return your sign-up no later than October 19, 2014. All space requests must include a completed form and check made out to Robeson Lutheran Church.

RAFFLE BASKETS:

We are still accepting new items for the raffle baskets:

Wine Basket

Bottle of wine
Cheese and Crackers
Small cutting board

Coffee Basket

Regular and Decaf coffees
Coffee Mugs
Dunking Cookies

Jams and Jellies
Crossword Puzzle Book
Sudoku Puzzle Book

Bath Basket

Bubbles
Scrubby for washing
Lotions
Hand towel and Washcloth
Soap
Candle

Italian Basket

Cook Book
Pasta, Sauces
Bread Sticks
Olive Oil, Spices

Baby Basket

Various baby items

Movie Basket

Popcorn
DVD
Various Candies
Some Type of Drink
Individual Bags of Snacks

Tea Basket

Various Teas
Jams and Jellies
Dunking Cookies
Cake or Cookies (small individually wrapped)
Crossword Puzzle Book
Sudoku Puzzle Book

Game Basket

Different Board Games
Card Games
Regular Cards
Popcorn

Christmas Basket

Candle
Ornament
Balls

Candy

Chocolate Basket

Various Chocolates

More about E-giving at Robeson:

We are pleased to announce that our church has partnered with my Eoffering in order to provide you with the convenience of online contribution. Eoffering is offered by the same company that issues our offering envelopes. Online contribution refers to a process much like online bill pay, whereby donors opt to have their financial contributions to the church withdrawn directly from their credit, debit, checking or savings account in lieu of bringing cash or paper checks each Sunday. Some people have expressed concern that they would not have an envelope to place in the offering plate and they might feel awkward at that time. A card will be available in the pew rack which you may place in the offering plate if you'd like. It says simply that you are an e-giver or that you give monthly.

Many people are worried about the security of their financial data, especially with the headlines about identity theft. Rest assured that we chose my Eoffering in part because of their strict security measures. They have passed all the required tests to be fully compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards. This means that they are using the latest technologies available to protect against would-be data thieves. They have processed electronic donations for many churches in the United States and we feel comfortable in the security their service provides.

My Eoffering has designed a secure, web-based platform in which donors may privately and prayerfully make one-time or recurring donations. Prayerful consideration of giving to God first enables you to witness a powerful sense of stewardship. You can customize a completely individual method of giving, based on how and when you receive your income—whether it be weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or semi-monthly. By setting up recurring donations to be automatically debited from your account, it allows the church to better plan budgets and expenditures and provides a more accu-

rate financial forecast. It also enables you to stay on the path of your contribution goals by ensuring that even if you are unable to attend church on a particular Sunday, you needn't worry about remembering to make that contribution the following week. With more consistent stewardship, our church is able to focus more on the ministry of God.

Signing up will be as simple as going to our church website and clicking on the Donated Now button. You'll register an account and within minutes you will be giving your first online donation.

We invite you try electronic contributions and we hope you find it very convenient. You can use any computer or mobile device to donate electronically. Or, if you don't have access to a computer but would still like your offerings to be deducted from your account, sign up forms will be available in the church office.

As always, thank you for your generous sharing of treasures in the spirit and practice of stewardship.

May God Bless You!

Finance Committee of Robeson Lutheran Church



Egiving will be available at Robeson by the end of October. Watch for more details!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHURCH BAZAAR

November 1st

7:30 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

We are asking for the support of all our members to make this year's bazaar a success. We will need volunteers to work at the stands and for clean-up the day of the bazaar. We will also need baked goods, white elephant items (gently used, no clothing); the Men's Group has graciously agreed to run the food stand and is asking for your help with items for the kitchen (Please see and use the form below) Also, anyone interested in renting a table, tables are available thru 10/19—please call Cindy Stewart or the church office. Please bring your good, gently used items for the white elephant table to the church anytime during the two weeks prior to the bazaar. If you need to bring them earlier or need pick up please contact Marion Kachel (610-856-1683). Questions? call Cindy Stewart at 610-856-7041.

BAZAAR DONATION FORM—November 1

_____ baked goods
 _____ hot dogs _____ sloppy joes
 _____ egg casserole _____ turkey barbecue
 _____ soup (kind) _____
 _____ money for food items: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

() Yes, I am willing to work at the bazaar!

() I am available to help clean-up after the bazaar

Please place form in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Or if you prefer, call Cindy (610-856-7041) or the church office (610-856-7242).

HALLOWEEN TRUNK AND TREAT:



**Plowshares ask for your help to
"Let Your Light Shine"**

In addition to all the fun, everyone is asked to "let your light shine" and bring something to donate to the food pantry.

Any non-perishable food item is acceptable such as cereal, peanut butter, soup, pasta, spaghetti sauce, fruits, vegetables, canned meats, etc.

Look for the trunk sponsored by "PlowShares", the youth service project club, which is restarting with this kickoff event and pick up information about the group.

The annual pumpkin carving competition for kids, youth and adults will also be held. Bring your carved pumpkin, everyone can vote for their three favorites and prizes will be awarded at the end of the event!!



**Reading-Berks
CROP Hunger Walk
on Sunday, October 12th
at Gring's Mill Recreation Area.
Registration begins at 12:30 PM
Walk starts at 1:30 PM**

All ages are welcome! Choose from a 1, 3 or 5-mile path. Collect money from sponsors to help fight hunger both locally, through the Greater Berks Food Bank, and globally, through Church World Service. Raise \$100 to receive a Walk T-Shirt! Come have a great time for a great cause!

If you are interested in attending, please contact Mark Lauer at the church office to get more info and your envelope for sponsor donations.

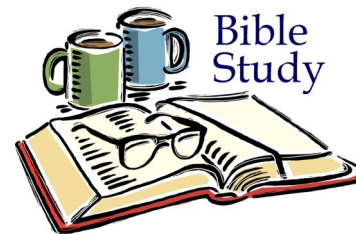


Operation Christmas Child

We are looking for people to collect and donate gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our kick-off date will be October 12th and we

will continue collecting boxes up until our deadline on November 23rd. Some ideas for the kinds of gifts to fill the shoe boxes with are small toys, school supplies, hygiene products, socks and hats, or a hand written letter. Please leave out food, war related items, liquids, and items that could easily break.

Bible Study - Whose Supper is it anyway?



Beginning Wednesday October 8th at 1pm, Pastor Michael invites you to join with him in a multi-week bible study on the topic of Holy Communion and the current conversation in the ELCA regarding, "Who is welcomed at the Lord's Table and why?"

This is an opportunity for all disciples at Robeson to discover more about the history, meaning, and purpose of Holy Communion, along with a chance to discuss issues such as frequency of Communion, styles of practice, Lutheran tradition, and theological insights.

For those who cannot attend Wednesday Bible Study at 1pm, please let Pastor Michael know if you are interested in the topic, and he will seek to work out an evening gathering time for Bible Study as well.

FALL 2014
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

It's not too late to join one of our classes!

Adult Discussion Class
“YOU LOST ME”

Do you like to share your ideas and opinions with others in the area of issues that relate to children and families? The discussion group will be using the material “You Lost Me” as their initial topic. Through DVD and follow up questions the pressing faith issues of today are explored with the hope of building up the next generation of Christ followers. The session titles are: Overprotective; Shallow; Antiscience; Repressive; Exclusive; and Doubtless. This group is open to parents, grandparents and anyone interested in helping youth connect with the church. The group will meet in the new parlor just off the foyer beginning on **Sunday, September 21**.

Bible Study Class
**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES –
 THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH**

Jesus said to his disciples right before his ascension, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Who were the next generation of apostles who followed Jesus’ instructions? We will examine the teachings, travels, and turmoil faced by the 1st century church leaders. Linell McCormick will lead this journey through the Book of Acts and the Letters of Paul and his assistants. **Join us September 14 for Rally Day (and each Sunday morning thereafter) at 9:00 in the old parlor.** We will learn, laugh, snack, and socialize; all adults are welcome.



**Halloween Trunk and Treat Party:
 Friday, October 31st, 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Oct 31: This year our annual Halloween party will be a TRUNK OR TREAT in the church parking lot on Halloween night. A **Trunk or Treat** is a Halloween event that is often church- or community-sponsored. People gather and park their cars in a large parking lot. They open their trunks, or the backs of their vehicles, and decorate them. Then they pass out candy from their trunks. Each individual/family brings their own treats but we are also looking for donations of treats to refill vehicles as they run out. The event provides a safe family environment for trick or treaters and we are hoping for your support. We will have food, games, and trunk or treating for church members and the local community. We'll even be giving out prizes in various categories, including Best Decorated Car! Please sign up below to register your vehicle or to donate for this event.

HALLOWEEN DONATIONS
For Friday, October 31, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

I/We will participate in the Trunk or Treat: _____

I/We will donate: _____ candy for the Trunks

_____ dozen cupcakes _____ dozen doughnuts

_____ dozen cookies _____ brownies

_____ drink (please specify) _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Monetary donations to help defray cost of candy would also be greatly appreciated. Amount donated: _____

FAMILY PROMISE:

We will be hosting Family Promise guests for our second week this year beginning Sunday, October 5th through Sunday, October 12. This is an opportunity for members at Robeson to volunteer assistance to less fortunate families seeking return from being homeless to employment and self sufficiency. Please consider using your time to volunteer in this ministry as we continue to provide housing, meals and support for our Family Promise guests. **We are especially in need of overnight hosts, both male and female.** A sign-up calendar is posted in the new foyer for overnight hosts and meal hosts to fill in volunteer dates.

Please complete and deposit small sign-up sheets in the foyer box for those willing to: set-up and clean up facilities, assist with laundry, donate supplies, or assist coordinators. Questions? Call the church office at 610-856-7242; See Bill Haney, coordinator; John Lauer, overnight; Jane Meyers, meals; Janet Haney.



WANTED: Gently used (or new) coats, hats, mittens in all sizes, infant through adult, boys and girls, men and women. One of our members who teaches in the Reading School District will be in charge of distributing them to her students and their families. If she has enough she will share them with other teachers in her building. Last year one of the little girls who received a coat from our church told her teacher that she slept in it every night because there was no heat in her house. Fall is here and many of us are shopping for new coats etc. so please consider sharing your gently used outgrown or unwanted items with these families. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.



Teen Challenge at Robeson Lutheran Church

OCT. WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY CHURCH NIGHT
Features A Special Evening with Teen Challenge
October 1, 6-7:30 p.m.

Please come out and support our Berks County division of Teen Challenge, Rehrersburg.

Join us for a special choral concert and testimonials from young men who have recovered from life-controlling addictions through the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Senior Youth is sponsoring the event which will begin at 6PM with a savory pizza and salad meal from Paolo's. Please bring a dessert to share. A free will offering will be taken for Teen Challenge (the youth are paying for the meal).

This is one night you won't want to miss as we will hear the results of the Lord's work through the awesome efforts of Teen Challenge: "Rekindling Hope, Renewing Life, Restoring Families."

Please feel free to attend even if you did not RSVP.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

will be offered October 12 following the 10:15 worship service for any child in 3rd grade and above who would like to receive the sacrament. Even though communion is a sacrament, which means we are commanded by Christ to receive the elements (bread and wine) as often as possible and as a free gift, the Lutheran Church encourages children to be taught the Lutheran understanding of communion. Any parent having a child in this age group and desiring the instruction is asked to contact the church office to register. Any questions may be addressed to Pastor Michael or Sue Creed.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (NRSV) BIBLES will be presented on Reformation Sunday, October 26th, to 3rd graders and older students who have not received a Bible from the church. The ELCA recognizes this version as the official translation of the Bible. The students will be given a version that is appropriate for their stage of reading and understanding. Parents of 3rd graders are asked to call the church office or email screed@dejazzd.com to be sure your child is on our list of recipients.



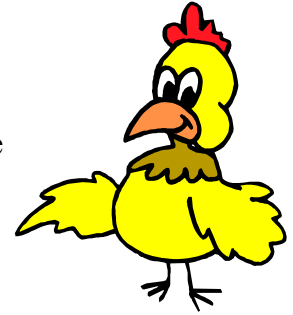
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!



"Fall Back Sunday" is November 2, and we all "gain" an extra hour of sleep. When you retire Saturday evening, November 1, remember to set your clocks back one hour so you will be on time for worship and Sunday School the next day.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!!

Our **Annual Chicken BBQ** will be held on October 19th from 11:30-1:00. Donation is still only \$8.00 and includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter. Baked goods will also be sold. Tickets are available from any Outreach committee member (Judy, Barbara, Diane, Carol, Janet and Marion) and Debbie in the church office. Donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated as well. This year all the money raised will be going into the general fund to cover expenses such as heating, electric, etc. at Robeson. Thank you for your support!



-Outreach Committee

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS: October 21, 2014

The Outreach Committee is selling 25% off coupons for \$5. All \$5 goes to the ministries of our church. Plan now to shop at Boscovs on this date! You could save lots of money and help our church at the same time. See any Outreach Committee member or the church office staff to purchase a coupon up to 10/21.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISERS!