

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

APRIL:

Charlotte O'Neill—April 5

Henry Smith—April 17

Ethel Mason—April 27



MAY:

Coming up in May:

Joy O'Donnell—May 6

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:

Death:

Joan Fredericks, former volunteer coordinator and faithful member of Robeson, passed away on February 15. A memorial service will be held here at Robeson on Wednesday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m. followed by burial in Robeson Cemetery.



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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The Parish Digest



From the Pastor:

From the Pastor:

On the day named after the sun, all who live in the city or countryside assemble in the same place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows. When the lector has finished, the president addresses us, admonishing us and exhorting us to imitate the splendid things we have heard. Then we all stand and pray and, as we said earlier, when we have finished praying, bread, wine and water are brought up. The president offers prayers of thanksgiving, according to his ability, and the people give their assent with an Amen. Next, the gifts over which the thanksgiving has been spoken are distributed, and each one shares in them, while they are also sent via the deacons to the absent brethren.
Apology of Justin Martyr (ca. 150)

At the outset we must again make the preliminary statement that we do not abolish the Mass, but religiously maintain and defend it. For among us masses are celebrated every Lord's Day and on the other festivals, in which the Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other like things.

(Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXIV,1)

(continued on page 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

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Email address: ddemarco@dejazzd.com

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

Home: 610-775-2571 Email: lmr52@aol.com

Dale Creed, Maintenance Supervisor—M-Th mornings

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

Email: robinbaskets@aol.com

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

Email: preschool610@dejazzd.com

Council Officers:

Chris Gerace, President

Karen Kercher, Secretary

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Craig Eppright

Sue Besecker

Ed Haag

Rex Miller, Vice President

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Joy O'Donnell

Abby Moore (youth)

Julia Bond

CAMP EVERGREEN.

Children's Bereavement Camp at Camp Fowler in Orefield,

PA is a program of the Lutheran Home Care and Hospice.

They invite children ages 8-16 who have experienced the

death of a loved one to attend Bereavement Camp

this camp free of charge on July 24-26. Through arts and crafts, physical activity, games, song and discussion, campers will learn new, healthy ways to cope with the strong feelings that often emerge after a significant loss. Campers will be in a safe place among professionals and trained volunteers who will provide companionship and guidance. Registration deadline for campers is June 26, 2015.

Please share this information with others in our community who may benefit from this camp.



ST. BENEDICT'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP is for those grieving the death of a loved one. The group offers an opportunity to come together to work through the grieving process with the help and support of others who have experienced this difficult journey. The group meets for 5 consecutive weeks beginning **April 8, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM** in the rectory meeting room at 2020 Chestnut Hill Rd, Mohnton (Plowville). It is free, non-denominational, and open to all. To register or call Judy Campion (610-775-7782) or the parish office (610-856-1006).



COMMUNITY NEWS:

Jewish and Christian *PERSPECTIVES ON CHARITY*
Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sinking Spring

Join us, for an enlightening discussion regarding Jewish and Christian perspectives on the subject of charity, as Pastor Richard Moore of St. John's Lutheran Church and Rabbi Brian Michelson of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom share their viewpoints. The event will be moderated by George Balchunas, a candidate in this year's Olivet Boys and Girls Club Kiss a Pig Fundraiser, followed by a brief presentation by an Olivet club representative.

Please come and support George in his efforts to raise funds for Olivet's great work.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations will be solicited and most welcome!

SPRING BAZAAR: Flea Market/Chinese Auction

Saturday, April 25th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Lots of food including our famous soups.
 St. James Lutheran Church,
 1337 Geigertown Road, Geigertown, PA
 19523

Bazaar For more information
 or to rent a table for \$10 call 610-582-8220.

CHICKEN BARBECUE
 Saturday, May 28, 11 a.m. \$9.00/ dinner
 Geigertown Fire Company
 3433 Hay Creek Road, Geigertown



APRIL SERVICES



APRIL 4: 5:30 **Holy Communion Service**

APRIL 5—7:45 & 10:15 **EASTER;**
Holy Communion

9:00 Easter Breakfast—all are invited!

APRIL 12—7:45 & 10:15 **Holy Communion**; 9:00 SCS

APRIL 19—7:45 & 10:15 **Worship**; 9:00 SCS

APRIL 26— 7:45 & 10:15 **Praise Service** with Laudate Praise Team; 9:00 SCS; Joyful Noise Offering for Shady Hollow Assisted Riding



APRIL EVENTS

APRIL 4—Egg Hunt at 2:00 p.m.

APRIL 15—BIBLE STUDY
 1:00-2:30 and 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Come out and join the group as we discover what the Bible actually says about Homosexuality. (See the article on page 6 for more information.)

APRIL 16—7:00 Service Project Meeting with members of St. Benedict's at St. Benedict R.C.C., Chestnut Hill Road.

APRIL 23—7:00 Planning meeting for Plowville Community Day—all interested people should attend; your input is welcome and needed.

Holy Communion – Rationale and Practical Application

Part 3

(How Often Shall We Do This?)

Top 5 Typical Concerns Regarding Weekly Communion

- It will make the Communion meal less special.
- It makes the service run longer.
- It is a lot of work to set everything up.
- It goes against our (congregational) tradition.
- It is too Catholic.

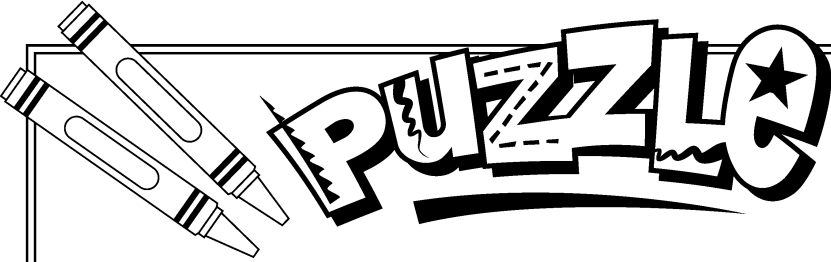
Whenever the topic comes up about the idea of weekly communion, it never fails that the above concerns get voiced. The first thing that I tend to notice as a Pastor is that **NONE** of these are Biblical or Theological concerns, but rather are more like a personal concern to the individual.

What a lot of people do not know is that many of these concerns are based in a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of history and tradition that occurred as Lutherans transitioned from Europe to America.

You see, as the number of Lutheran congregations began to grow in the United States (many of them founded by lay ministers) there were not enough ordained clergy to go around so that each congregation could celebrate Holy Communion on a weekly basis (as had been the tradition of Lutherans in Europe).

Due to a shortage of ordained Lutheran pastors, the churches would rely on circuit preachers (often traveling by horse) to preach and provide the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion whenever they could attend. This in turn created the scenario whereby some congregations would only receive the Holy Communion once a month, or four times a year, or even less. What started as an unfortunate side-effect of not having enough clergy developed into a regular practice of infrequent Holy Communion.

For those few times when congregations did celebrate Holy Communion, it was definitely a major event, but the side-effect of this experience was that over time, the “specialness” of the meal was soon connected to the frequency (or lack



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

5 who was R aised	8 R ight hand	6 T o life
3 d i E d	4 m o R e than that	7 I s at the
2 J e S us who	11 i nt E rceding	9 O f God
12 f or U s	1 C hrist	10 a nd is also

... ¹ _____ ² _____ ³ _____

⁴ _____, ⁵ _____

_____ ⁶ _____ ⁷ _____

_____ ⁸ _____

⁶ _____ ¹⁰ _____

¹¹ _____ ¹² _____ *Romans 8:34, NIV*

RESURRECTION

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

thereof) of receiving it, rather than the actual character of the meal itself. This attitude and practice soon became the “Tradition” of many Lutheran churches in America, and because of that, conversation regarding communion on a weekly basis often gets stalled in the midst of personal concerns of violating tradition or spoiling the practice.

In seeking to answer people’s concerns regarding weekly communion I would like to first put forward a response to the Top 5 Concerns, and then offer up some Spiritual and Theological food for thought:

Top 5 Theological Responses Regarding Weekly Communion

1. Holy Communion is ALWAYS special because of its nature as God’s Meal given for you. In it you receive the full presence of Christ, the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life, and fellowship with all the Saints who have gone before us.
2. There are ways of doing Holy Communion that can cut back on the time it takes, and there are ways of being patient and engaged in worship without worrying about later appointments.
3. Set-up can always be stream-lined and simplified.
4. Weekly Communion is part of Lutheran Tradition and Ancient Christian Tradition.
5. Weekly Communion is not owned by any one denomination; rather it is an opportunity for all God’s people to celebrate His gifts for us.

The second thing I would ask for you to consider as part of this topic is this:

IF we truly believe in the Lord’s presence in the Holy Communion and that he instituted this meal for the benefit of all,

and

IF we truly believe that all people should be welcome to receive it as per our Lord’s command,

and

IF we truly believe that a person could be brought into the

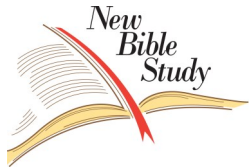
faith through receiving the Holy Communion,
then

WHY would we not want to make communion a weekly option so that any potential guests, seekers, visitors, and brothers and sisters might have the opportunity to experience the radical hospitality of our Lord?

Having looked at issues of Frequency regarding Holy Communion, I invite you to stay tuned for part 4 in next month's Digest as we look at the question, "Who should come to the Lord's Table?"

May God bless you my friends!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Michael



Have you Signed up for Pastor Michael's next Bible Study? If not, do so today. Sign up sheets are in the narthex and foyer or call the church office (610-856-7242).

What does the Bible really say about Homosexuality?

Beginning in April, Pastor Michael is going to lead a bible study looking at the issue of biblical interpretation regarding the topic of Homosexuality. This will be a prime opportunity to examine more deeply the various proof-texts that have often been the focus of conversation, and to get beyond the standard bumper sticker theology and political propaganda that often clouds the issue.

Please be aware that this is a Mature-themed study and so terminology regarding sex and sexuality will be part of the discussion.

The Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, April 15, 1:00-2:30 and 6:00-7:30. Join us at whichever time fits your schedule.

CHURCH CAMP:

Have you ever considered attending a church camp? Our synod has a great camp, Bear Creek Camp, and applications are now being taken to attend sessions this summer. Following is an article written by one of our young church members. Hopefully it will inspire you to check out Bear Creek Camp.

BEAR CREEK CAMP by David Seel



My name is David Seel. This past summer I went to Bear Creek Camp. Bear Creek Camp is a Lutheran camp in the Poconos. I stayed at Bear Creek Camp for a week. The counselors were a lot of fun! We did many great activities such as kayaking, ziplining, swimming, camping and even had a dance! We also learned about God's love for us.

The food at Bear Creek Camp was really good! We got to go to the canteen after lunch. This is where we could buy treats – candy and soda.

There's a big lake at Bear Creek Camp. I went swimming every day. My favorite thing to do at the lake was to kayak. There was also a high ropes course near the lake. I was able to go on the zipline!

The week went by very quickly! I met a lot of cool friends and had a fun counselor. My mom went to Bear Creek Camp for many years when she was younger. My grandmother also went to Bear Creek Camp, but then it was called Camp Miller. I enjoyed Bear Creek Camp so much and I can't wait to go back next summer!

(Stop by the church office for more information about Bear Creek Camp.)

EMPTY EASTER TOMB Sunday School Project



A lot of time and effort was put into constructing "The Empty Tomb" for Easter by our elementary Sunday School classes. Chris and Crystal Leister made the frame with some guidance from Bill Haney. The Leisters then helped the children paper mache the tomb, which was a bit of a messy project, but fun. From there the teachers – Roseann Jarmoski, Heather Vallet, Julie Bond, Marie Carpenter, Beckey Seel and Corrine Gebhart lead the group in painting the scenery and also in making characters to be placed around the tomb. The students seemed to have a good time each week adding new dimensions to the scenery. Please be sure to check out the handiwork of our adult leaders and the children of the Sunday School in the new foyer.

WORSHIP NOTES:



Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

At Robeson, we celebrate the fact that Jesus welcomes all people to receive him at Holy Communion. In order to better facilitate this full invitation from the Christ, and as an ongoing part of our radical hospitality to visitors and guests, we will no longer be using wine for Holy Communion, but will rather seek to use grape juice. This is significant because it helps to avoid confusion and accidents, and more importantly it helps to reflect the strong desire we have at Robeson that all people may freely receive the Lord in both kinds.

PlowShares Service Project Group God's work, Our Hands



The PlowShares Service Project Club will be on hiatus during the months of April and May. Watch future Digests for more information of upcoming events.

Please help spread the word. This is a community service project youth group. We are looking for youth from the community who would like to make a difference in our own community and the world. We would love to hear your suggestions on how our group can reach out to others in need. Although designed for youth in grades 5-12, younger youth may accompany their parents and help with the projects as well. PlowShares is always looking for adults to help on a monthly basis. To volunteer or for more information contact the church office, staff member or Bonnie Lauer at BonnieLeeL@windstream.net or 610-286-0800.

Plowshares will be coordinating the service project portion of the Community Day being planned for a Saturday this summer. We are hoping to provide a service for the Plowville community. One suggestion would be a clean-up, painting etc. at the church, pavilion, playground, and ball-field areas. This event is still in the planning stages. The first meeting will be held on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Hoeffler Hall so please come out and offer your help and suggestions.

YOUTH NEWS:

April Senior Youth Event: Lock In on April 17 beginning at 6:00 p.m. until Saturday at 8:00 a.m. There will be laser tag, movies, games and more! Please plan to join us and bring a friend.

We still have some "tickets" for the HOAGIE SALE for Weaver Orchard's delicious sandwiches. Stop by the church office or see Mark Lauer to purchase a sandwich coupon. Cost is \$5 and they never expire! The youth appreciate your support as they raise funds for the upcoming National Youth Event in July!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT, FUNDRAISER, AND SOCIAL EVENT being planned for Plowville Community!



Please come to the meeting on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. to help plan the vision and the strategy for holding a community event here in Plowville! We would love to involve the entire community. Plowshares Service Project Group will coordinate the service project. Thrivent Action Teams will supply us with a Community Impact Card with \$250 in seed money to help cover some of the project costs. We also hope to hold a fundraiser to replace the flooring in Hoeffler Hall where many community activities are held. Finally, we would like to hold some fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Please bring your ideas to the meeting. It is our hope that every group is represented.

FUNDRAISERS:

REDNER RECEIPTS: This is an ongoing fundraiser and we are happy to report that since the middle of last year we were able to raise over \$1,000. Keep saving those receipts and place them in the containers in the foyer or narthex. Thank you to Marion Kachel for tallying the receipts and coordinating this fundraiser. See the article on page 18 for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Robins will hold their annual fundraising **Plant Sale on Mother's Day, May 10th!**

SOUP SALE RESULTS: THANK YOU!!! The outreach committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make our soup and bake sale a huge success. From those folks who made a lot of delicious soup and baked goods, to those who purchased items from us, we say "thank you." It is always a lot of work, but the rewards are great. We raised \$1050.00 to be used toward fuel for the church. And we sold \$189.00 in baked goods. Everyone is generous when we have a special need and we can always count on you.



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, and now phonebooks and cardboard (must be smashed flat)**. 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.

“SON SPARK LABS”

Vacation Bible School 2015

June 22 – 26 are the dates for fun and learning about “God’s Plan 4U”=Jesus. This year’s Bible School will explore God’s life-changing plan from Creation to the present and on into the future. Students will discover that God loves them and that through Jesus they are members of God’s family.

Each session focuses on one aspect of God’s plan for you which is Jesus. Young scientists will participate in experiments and hands-on activities that help them get to know Jesus and God’s plan of salvation. The following questions will be examined:

- Who made the world and who made me?
- What happens when I do wrong things?
- What is God like?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- So...now what do I do?

The daily outline will include a large group opening except for preschool. This will be held in Hoeffler hall this year to allow the students more room to sing, dance and move around. There will again be centers for Kindergarten through 6th grade. These will include: Bible Story, Science, Music and Snack, Crafts and Recreation. The preschool will again be in a self-contained area in the upper level of the education wing of the building.

It’s not too early to consider where you as a parent could help with the facilitating of this year’s program. It takes many people to make this venture run smoothly. There are positions for center teachers, helpers, group leaders, kitchen staff, etc. A list will be posted in the May DIGEST for you to sign-up. There will also be a registration form in the next DIGEST. Any correspondence concerning Vacation Bible School can be sent to Sue Creed at screed@dejazzd.com. This time will be here before we know it. Mark the dates on your calendar today!!

MUSIC NOTES:

Spring is finally here as we have warmer weather and we see Robins all over, as well as the wild geese flying over our homes. Our Senior Choir has been getting ready for our spring services coming up on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. We have been learning an Easter medley called, "Easter Fantasia" by Mark Hayes. This is a medley of three songs, Christ Arose, Easter Hymn, and Hymn to Joy. We asked that the congregation join in singing on the verses of "Hymn to Joy."

On Palm Sunday, the Children's Choir is singing a song about "Riding on a Donkey," to the tune of "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain When She Comes." These are children from the SCS classes led by Karen Kercher and Sue Creed.

We have gathered together people for our Senior Choir to sing, and I would like to mention their names:

Cookie Onushko	Betty Zellner	Karen Kercher
Dot Gibney	Carol Gerace	Ava Gerace
Chris Gerace	Larry Piet	Rex Miller
John Jarmoski	Tyler Werner	Walt Hamilton

A special solo "The Holy City" by F.E. Weatherly and Stephen Adams, will be sung by Barbara Strough during the prelude on Palm Sunday.

Our Praise Team, "Laudate," meaning praise, has been doing very well singing for the worship services on the 4th Sunday of every month. We are happy to have a new member, Cookie Onushko, to join. I hear there's another person thinking about joining as well. We are always happy to have new members. Please just speak to one of our members or see me, Louise Wilson.

Members of our Praise Team "Laudate":

Chris Gerace	Tyler Werner	John Jarmoski
Karen Kercher	Cookie Onushko	Louise Wilson
Maggie Lauer		



Visitation Team bringing communion to shut-ins

Members of our Visitation Team have now been trained to bring Holy Communion to our shut-ins. 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. If you would like a visit, and have not yet been visited by a member of our team, please feel free to contact Pastor Michael or call the church office 610-856-7242.)

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.

VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE MEALS: If you would be willing to make a meal or even to buy a meal for a family who is struggling due to health issues please call the church office (610-856-7242) or email Debbie at ddemarco@dejazzd.com and we will put you on the schedule. This can make such a big difference to someone who is sick and to their caregivers who are already doing so much.



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has been preparing meals for our shut-ins. You can't imagine how much this is appreciated by the entire family.



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.

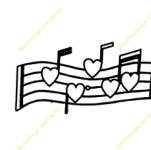
Home Visits—Our visitation team is visiting a number of our seniors and would be more than happy to visit others if invited. If you would appreciate a visit please call the church office. If you have a need or request for any of the above ministries, please call the church office and we will be happy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

Thanks to our congregation for all their support. It is always good to hear if they like the music. We try to keep it spiritual and uplifting.

We are here to serve the Lord and the people in our congregation. Always "Sing from your heart,"

Louise Wilson,
Minister of Music



IT'S ZUMBA TIME!

Come join the party! Every Wednesday from 9:30am-10:30am. Zumba with Julie Rodeck. Come see what the fuss is all about and dance your way to fitness! Join us for a latin inspired, calorie burning workout, that doesn't feel like you're working out! Beginners are encouraged to try it out! Everyone is welcome. I am offering one free class to new students! No excuses! 6 week session \$30 for 6 classes, or \$7 per class for walk-ins.

PLEASE SHARE THIS: FOR THOSE WHO LIVE OUT OF THE AREA...IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE COSTS AND SAVE TREES we would like to send envelopes only to those (living out of the area) who request them. We will keep your envelope number on file and credit your giving throughout the year. You would be able to mail a check, or use the pew envelopes when worshipping with us. Thank you for your help.

New Ramblings from the Council President

By Chris Gerace

Dictionary.com defines “Ecumenism” as a movement promoting cooperation and better understanding among different religious groups or denominations. What a great concept. It started with Protestant churches in the 1800s. My hat is off to whoever thought up the idea, because we need ecumenism today more than ever. Even Martin Luther did not want to splinter Christians into the (hundreds? thousands?) of different denominations that exist today. Luther was looking for reform, repair, putting Christian leaders back on the path of Christ. So, when Pastor Michael brought before Council a proposal - that the Twin Valley Ministerium wanted to order and distribute a unified Lenten devotional for all the participating churches, I was excited.

In fact, Church Council was unanimous in taking advantage of an ecumenical opportunity in our community. We all advocated Robeson Church ordering the devotionals in a show of support for Christian unity. Every effort to work together as Christians helps because too much of the time we are divided. We can be divided at the national level, the community level and even within our own hearts. Allow me to take a short drive through “Negative Town.”

I recently learned just how difficult ecumenical work is. The differences between beliefs and “agendas” in any Ministerium can be challenging and even disheartening. But the efforts must be continued, the focus must remain on what Christian principles we *do* agree on, and on trying to build upon those common factors. Within our own mission district, I have experienced separatist attitudes and a lack of willingness to come together on some youth events. Of course I realized that this was due to individual personalities, and not the fault of our mission district leaders. Even within my own heart, I sometimes lost sight of ecumenism. I might have seen someone on Sunday morning and thought “She

Men’s Group

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 April 11.



Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robins will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 21 beginning at 12 noon with a covered dish luncheon. Following lunch, the group will enjoy a program at 1:00 presented by the Sheriff of Berks County. Next month the Robins travel to the Bird in Hand Dinner Theater to see Joshua for President. Cost is \$57, please see Billie asap if you are interested in attending.

Please call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about the Robeson Robins.



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. Contributions received in February total \$250.00, thanks to our contributors:

Chris Gerace	Betty Zellner
Nevin Moore	Ronald Moore
Barbara Strough	Robert Strough

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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 April 15 for the May Digest.

ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSORS: Please check with Linell in the church office for any openings. 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.

never smiles or says hello, not a very friendly person.” Or I might have thought, “There’s so and so. I can only take *him* in small doses.” Or “Here comes that person. Do they ever stop talking?” Attention readers; we are now leaving “Negative Town.”

Simply by being a petty human, I lost sight of the invaluable importance of Christian unity. I don’t know what is going on in “that person’s” life; they may be living with overwhelming problems. That “so and so” might have endured a huge tragedy in their past, and has emerged a stronger Christian. The “yakker” over there might never have the negative perceptions about people that I have. I realized that I need to focus on *why we are all here* at church on Sunday. We must keep reminding ourselves of our common bond; we are here to worship and follow our Lord. What a beautiful thing. Nowadays, you might see me walking down the side aisle before service, smiling like the village idiot... because I am thankful for every person who attends our services. We are always stronger when we are unified in our Christianity. To me, Sunday service is a celebration of our faith.

As for those few individuals in our sister churches, I realize that I am not solving anything by complaining about their lack of cooperation. Instead, I must focus on all of the good events that the West Berks Mission District schedules throughout the year. We as a church (and as Christian parents!) should make our best efforts to participate in WBMD events. Thus, our participation builds on our common faith and makes us even stronger. All Christians should seize these opportunities to share and show our common faith through group service actions.

Lastly, I reiterate my joy at our church being part of a Ministerium. Pastor Michael and the other leaders successfully coordinated Lenten prayer services this year, which is a big step in the right direction. Let us all reflect on our own ecumenism. Let’s continue to do all those things that we do so

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well, within our church, in our community, and in our mission district. I never tire of saying that we are “The Light on the Hill” – so let’s get out there and shine brighter than ever. God bless!

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.



**THANK YOU TO THOSE
WHO HAVE SIGNED UP
FOR E-GIVING.**

E-giving will be an ongoing service offered here at Robeson Lutheran. You may sign up at any time. If you would like more information please contact the church office. To sign up just visit our church website at

www.robesonlutheranchurch.org and look for the “Donate Now” button.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Income for February:	\$ 13,540.88
Other Income:	\$ 1,421.00 (in/out)
Checks issued for February:	\$ 25,197.37
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 251.68
Transfer from Gifts & Bequests	\$ 10,000.00
Checking balance as of 2/28/15	\$ 2.75
Unpaid Bills:	
West Berks Mission District	\$250.00
Synod Benevolence	\$500.00
World Hunger	\$758.00
Souper Bowl Offering	\$630.00

In/Out accounts: \$1,431.00

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS: 1/31/15	\$ 20,920.74
Special funds received in February	\$ 20.00
BALANCES:	
Checking Account balance 2/28/15	\$ 20,938.74
Gifts and Bequests Fund Balance	\$372,609.00
Withdrawn for General Fund	\$ 10,000.00

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds