

## Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

### JANUARY:

12—Jerry Hoffert  
13—Dick Stufflet  
27—Sonja Gottshall

### FEBRUARY:

02—Jeanene Hill  
16—Eva March  
20—Ron Ludwig  
22—Jerry Ludwig  
27—Barbara Harding

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:

### NEW MEMBERS:

11/23/14—**Gregg and Stephanie Hauptert and daughter Emelia**—transfer from Allegheny Lutheran Church  
**Doreen Weinbel**—Affirmation of Faith  
**Larry Piet**—Associate Member

### FUNERAL:

11/08/14—**Glenn Beam, 83.**



WISHING YOU  
A HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!

Vol. XXXXIV  
No. 1

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DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015

## The Parish Digest



### From the Pastor:

*<sup>33</sup>When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. <sup>34</sup>The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*  
(Leviticus 19:33-34)

*<sup>1</sup>Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*  
(Hebrews 13:1-2)

*<sup>12</sup>Jesus said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*  
(Luke 14:12-14)

### RADICAL HOSPITALITY

or

### YOU DON’T KNOW JACK!

(but he is a pretty cool guy when you get to know him.)

As we steadily enter into the Year of our Lord 2015, I wanted to (continued on page 4)

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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: lmr52@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; Email: preschool610@dejazzd.com

Council Officers:

Chris Gerace, President

Bill Haney, Vice President

Craig Eppright, Secretary

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Jane Meyers

Joy O'Donnell

Sue Besecker

Maggie Lauer (youth)

**FROM OUR MAILBOX:**

**AN EVENING WITH SANTA**—December 17th, 6:30 p.m. at Green Hills Manor, 10 Tranquility Lane, Shillington PA 19607

Come see Santa arrive by Fire Truck! Listen as Santa reads some of his favorite Christmas stories by the fireplace. Sit on Santa's lap for a photo and tell him what you want to see under the tree this year. Then join us for cocoa, cookies and carols. All children leave with a little goody from Santa and his elves! Join us from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Attention Youth in Grades 5-12! You are invited:**

(Bowl-A-Thon is open to all ages...bring your family, bring some friends and bring your donations for an afternoon of bowling!)



### 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.

## DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: December 24

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Traditional Service with Cantata

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service



### DECEMBER 28: 7:45 & 10:15 Service of Lessons and Carols

9:00 SCS; Children's Christmas play rehearsal

10:15 Praise Service

### JANUARY 3: 5:30 Holy Communion Service

### JANUARY 4: Epiphany



#### One Service Only:

9:00 SCS – Children prepare for play

10:15 SCS Children's Christmas/Epiphany Play in Hoeffler Hall

A fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the service.

### JANUARY 11—7:45 & 10:15 Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS

### JANUARY 18—7:45 & 10:15 Worship; 9:00 SCS

### JANUARY 25—7:45 Worship Service; 9:00 SCS;

10:15 Praise Service with Laudate Praise Team

## OTHER JANUARY EVENTS

January 7—Wednesday Community Church Night featuring Compassion International; Dinner at 6:00; program at 6:30.

4 give you a heads up regarding what is going to become a particular focus for us here at Robeson for the new year, and that is, Radical Hospitality; which is to say: “How do we go about welcoming the stranger and visitor among us?” “In what ways do we offer comfort and care for those in our local and global community?” and perhaps most importantly, “How will our behavior towards others be shaped by our theology, confessions, and our understandings of how God behaves toward us?”

You see, most of us think of hospitality as a willingness to host, feed, or entertain friends, family, or guests. However the biblical concept of hospitality goes much deeper than that. Indeed, if one were to examine the Greek word which we translate into the English word “hospitality,” we would see that it is φιλόξενος (Philoxenos) – pronounced Fil-O-Zee-NOs and it is a combination of two important Greek words:

Φίλος (Philos) – from which we derive the concept of friendliness, affection, and familial love.

and

ξενος (Xenos) – from which we derive the concept of an alien, stranger, or immigrant.

In light of this reality, the biblical concept of hospitality goes much deeper than our English definition. Biblical hospitality is not just about entertaining, feeding, or hosting, those we are able to be comfortable with, but rather it is a lifestyle which seeks to treat the stranger, outsider, and those who may appear so different from ourselves as truly beloved members of our family. THAT is a huge difference between the Biblical understanding and our modern understanding, and that is why I would call it Radical Hospitality, to emphasize just how powerful the biblical model is.

That said, I would ask that you look again at the Bible passages at the beginning of this article and see the truly radical nature of our God when it comes to welcoming the stranger, opening our hearts to others, and looking for ways to be more inclusive of all God’s people. See how God encour-

## **Good News for Shut-in and Homebound members!**

As we stated in the last newsletter, Pastor Michael and the visitation team have put together a visitation schedule whereby each shut-in member has been assigned a visitation team. Each team intends to visit with each member at least once a quarter. The teams are being trained so that they may offer Holy Communion during visits. 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. 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. 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](mailto: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.



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.

ages His people to broaden their horizons, and yes, even to step beyond their comfort zones; in order that they may more fully live out what it means to be children of God and blaze brightly as His light to the world.

In closing, I want to invite you to consider being part of the further conversations, Bible studies, and outreach events that will be happening this coming year as we further explore and seek to practice this biblical concept of Radical Hospitality here at Robeson.

And just as a teaser, here are just a couple of the things that I am already very excited about teaching and/or discussing together with you at Robeson in 2015 as part of Radical Hospitality:

Taking a deeper look at our practice and theology of Holy Communion here at Robeson so that we may encourage better understanding and more participation by ALL God's people.

Doing a Bible study on the topic of Homosexuality and exploring the various interpretations and views of both traditional and modern biblical scholarship.

Working with congregational leadership in further shaping church policy and ecumenical relations so as to increase our connectivity with the local community and other churches in the area.

Again, it is my hope that you will seek to be part of the conversations, studies, and outreach events of 2015, and that you will also look for ways in which you can help to inspire your brothers and sisters here at Robeson to grow together in showing God's Radical Hospitality to all.

Your brother in Christ,

**PASTOR MICHAEL**

## SURVIVING CONSTANT CHANGE

By Chris Gerace

So, I blinked and a year went by. 2014 was a year of much change in our church, certainly enough to keep the Church Council busy. Our biggest challenges were the heating issues with the Sunday School/Preschool wing, and then the heaters for the Sanctuary. But as this church has witnessed year after year, the Lord was at work within us and we (amazingly) resolved those challenges. Personally, I exalted in more results of the Lord's work when we were able to fill most of the Church Council positions starting in 2015. Huzzah!

This year was a year of many triumphs, especially in our church missions and events. We had one of the most successful bazaars in recent years, our shut-in visitations are thriving, we've had very successful fund-raisers (chicken barbecue, Boscov's to name a few) and we've received a lot of generous benevolence (coming from Robeson Pre-school and church members) to keep the church running. I attended the December Youth committee meeting and was amazed at how many successful youth events we hosted in 2014. Altogether, I reflect on how busy our church is all the time, to be able to deal with the "curve balls" of change and to continue to serve our community for over 247 years.

I revel in the fact that we have current members who have attended Robeson Lutheran their entire lives and can remember back as far as 60-70 years. I wonder what challenges our members faced as the community, the nation, and the world *changed* over the decades. It is easy to conclude *today*, that not much changed back in those days, when there was just the quiet, simple country life surrounding our church. But I would guess that the Battle of Gettysburg caused some local unrest at the time. And the first time noisy automobiles started driving past the church on Route 10 must have raised a ruckus, disrupting the solemnity of the worship service. In

## 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 Hoeffler 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 **January 10—in**



**Hoeffler Hall!**

## Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robins will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20 beginning with lunch at noon. Please bring a covered dish to share for lunch. The program presented by John Lauer will begin at 1:00 p.m. John has a gift for everyone so please join him as he talks about Thrivent Financial and how he might be of assistance to you or your family. 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 October and November total \$2500. Thanks to:

Marie Brooks	Marion Kachel
John Lauer	Claire Sniegoski
Jeffrey Vollenweider	Anonymous
Evelyn Hoffert	Jerry Hoffert
Roger Mauchline	

- 18 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 January 15 for the February 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](mailto:lmrm52@aol.com).

short, the church has constantly been dealing with change – and surviving.

Some might say that in this age of fast-moving technology, we have so much more to worry about than the pace of change back in, say, 1840(?). Although others argue that it is always the “current generation” that thinks they have the most difficult challenges when dealing with change. Not to disregard either viewpoint, we do live in a rapidly changing world and there are many challenges coming our way, if not already on our doorstep.

For Christian churches at large, there is the growing concern for loss of membership, loss of the younger generation to the secular world, loss of the belief in the way of Christ - as the path to Salvation. One way we at Robeson Lutheran can meet those challenges is to continue to serve our community, perhaps by innovative methods and using technology to our advantage to let our hospitality be more widely known. Certainly with social media and news vehicles (newspapers, local TV stations, etc.) we have more opportunities to let the community know about our missions and what we are offering to the community. But, as always, we have to walk the talk.

In our hearts, we have to keep the way of Christ at the center, reaching out to everyone as Jesus did in the Gospel lessons. We already decree that “all are welcome” at our table, we just need to get that good news out to the community, louder, farther and more often. Let us not succumb to the secular world that runs sports leagues on Sundays, gives only negative press to Christianity and offers no hope for Salvation to our younger generation. Let us be extreme in our missions, forthcoming with our hospitality and welcoming to the ever-changing world of today. Let us all make sure that our Light shines bright in 2015! God bless.





## 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](http://www.robesonlutheranchurch.org) and look for the “Donate Now” button.**

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in our Opportunities for Giving this Christmas season. We are happy to report that: 85 Shoeboxes were sent to Operation Christmas Child for distribution to children around the world this Christmas.

A carload of trucks were delivered to the Children’s Home in Reading as part of the Trucks for Maddox project.

All the families on the Angel Tree will be having a much merrier Christmas thanks to the generosity of those who took tags and provided gifts.

Many new and gently used coats were delivered to the children in the Reading Elementary School just in time for the cold weather.

## TREASURER’S REPORT:

Income for November:	\$ 24,915.25	
Other Income:	\$ 1,268.43	(in/out)
Checks issued for November:	\$ 24,687.22	
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 69.97	
Checking balance as of 11/30/14	\$ 1,566.43	
Unpaid Bills:	NONE	

In/Out accounts: \$ 491.49

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

## SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS: 10/31/14	\$ 16,434.80
Special funds received in November	\$ 482.00
Heat fund contributions in November	\$ 1,427.00
Furnace Fund	\$ 210.00
OUTFLOW:	
Improvement Fund (cap doors)	\$ 450.00
BALANCES:	
Checking Account balance 11/30/14	\$ 18,076.80

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

## JOYFUL NOISE OFFERINGS:

November—Berks Women In Crisis \$136.43





### ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR:

Our annual bazaar is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It involves many hours of hard work to make this a huge success. **Our thanks to Cindy and Carl Stewart for once again taking charge of the bazaar.** Thanks also to Chris Gerace and his kitchen crew, Marion Kachel and Judy Mountz and the members of the Outreach Committee who made the raffle baskets and took charge of the white elephant table, all those who worked at the bazaar manning the church tables, those who donated baked goods and white elephant items, and those who helped with set-up and tear-down. It couldn't happen without all of you!

Totals for this year's bazaar:

\$411.00—Baked goods

\$535.00—Crafters

\$754.40—Kitchen (included \$250 donation of start-up funds from Thrivent Financial—Thank you!)

\$720.35—White elephant

\$608.00—Basket raffle

**TOTAL: \$3,028.75**

Cindy and Carl Stewart will be stepping down as coordinators for the bazaar in 2015. We are presently looking for someone to take over this responsibility beginning with contacting our vendors in June. Other responsibilities would be collecting the vendor registrations and mapping out the floor plan, setting up the tables, and organizing the food stand, bake stand etc. For more information please contact the church office. This could be a role for more than one person... perhaps a committee could be formed? Please let us know if you have any interest in helping with this. This is more than a fundraiser, it is a time of fellowship and mutual ministry. Please help us keep it going.

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND our next  
Wednesday Community Church Night:**



**COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL  
JANUARY 7, 2015, 6:00-7:30 P.M.**

In 1952, when Reverend Everett Swanson was on a preaching tour in South Korea, he witnessed the extreme poverty of so many of Korea's war orphans, that he was moved to establish Compassion International to help impoverished children around the world. Today, Compassion International ministers to over 1.5 million children in 26 countries throughout Africa, Central America and Asia. CI partners with local churches, parents and community to provide a Christ-centered guidance and financial assistance to these children, to nurture both their spiritual and physical health. Please come out on Wednesday, January 7th to hear about the mission and successes of Compassion International from several of our young church members who sponsor a Compassion Child (Including the Robeson Senior Youth group). Enjoy a prepared meal beginning at 6PM before the presentation. A free will offering will be taken to offset the meal costs. Donations of desserts are always appreciated. Thank you!

## PlowShares Service Project Group God's work, Our Hands



The December project for our Community Service club for youth in grades 5-12 was making and decorating cookies as they learned about "GIVING." The treats will be given to others—in particular those who are experiencing difficult times and could use some extra cheer this holiday season. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8 at 6pm. The theme will be WARMTH - with projects that will bring warm & cozy good feelings to others. It will be a busy month as we will start a 1.) Cozy Collection - of socks, gloves, hats, scarves. All attending are asked to bring something to get it started and we will set up signs & a bin for the rest of the community to contribute to. Next 2.) we will plan The SOUPer Bowl of Caring annual collection and lunch on 2/1 to raise money for the area food banks. And finally, 3.) knotting/tying fleece blankets for kids in national disaster preparedness camps held by Camp Noah. Middle & High School youth in our congregation AND community are invited to participate!!! Adults interested in helping would be very much appreciated!

### YOUTH NEWS:

Youth Christmas Play: Jan. 4th 10:15 service. Mom is ready to cancel Christmas! Under the stress of all the preparations, she banishes the kids from the kitchen. Left on their own, they set out to prepare for the Christmas pageant. When mom unwittingly stumbles onto the scene of the performance, the beautifully simple truth of Jesus' birth emerges from the humor and pushes her holiday worries aside. Try as you might, you can't cancel Christmas!

Youth Team Meeting: Jan. 8th 6-7pm.  
Senior Youth Lock-In: Jan. 16th 5pm - 8am  
Junior Youth Night, Laser Tag: Jan. 23rd 6:30pm - 8pm  
The youth group's hoagie sale fundraiser will be starting back up in January.

### 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.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESSES:**

For those of you who plan to send Christmas cards or other greetings to our shut-ins and those in the military, we have two changes of address:

Dick Stufflet  
Hampton Ridge, Room 509  
94 Stevens Road  
Toms River, NJ 08755

Dusty, Kayla and MacKenzie Lawrey  
48 Madrid Circle  
Santa Rita, GU 96915

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

It is with deep appreciation that I say thank you to all who helped to make the Advent workshop in Sunday School a success and an enjoyable event for our elementary children. The leaders for the crafts were Roseann Jarmoski and Bill Haney, but many parents and teachers offered their talents to make the morning events come together.

The same can be said of the Wednesday Church Night – St. Nicholas Event. The organizers were Greg Gehman (chef); Cookie Onushko, Bonnie Lauer and Karen Kercher (crafts); Claire Sniegowski and Annaleis Visser (decorators); Tom Schlata (St. Nicholas); Pastor Sonja (informational speaker); Ruth Kenndey, Herta Chomyts, Julie Bond and Sylvia Wilson (German food preparers); Pastor Michael (sound set-up). Everyone in attendance had a part in that they provided dessert for the meal and also everyone helped to make crafts for our shut-ins.

Ministry of this nature where each one uses his/her God given talents is what the church is all about. Helping the young with projects and serving the shut-ins with our concern and sharing fellowship with our friends and neighbors is a great witness to the love of God active in the community of Robeson Lutheran Church. May we continue to work together in this spirit to bring light and life to the world in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. God's peace to all.

Sue Creed – Director of Christian Ed.



A tremendous **THANK YOU** to the preschool, membership, and friends of Robeson Lutheran Church, who have so generously given to our heating projects. As of this writing, the Penguins who invaded our Sanctuary have all been sent packing back to Antarctica (completely paying for our re-piping and maintenance project) and the two new furnaces for the sanctuary are also paid in full. Truly we are a blessed congregation here at Robeson with such good and generous stewards; so again, **THANK YOU!**



## **CULTURE SHOCK** **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The adult discussion class has just begun a study by Chip Ingram, senior pastor of Ventura Christian Church, Los Gatos, CA. Pastor Ingram has a very easy to listen to style of teaching and presents topics with many examples from daily life. In this material controversial issues are looked at and then follow-up discussion allows for the exchange of ideas among class members. A few of the topics are: What ever happened to right and wrong; understanding abortion today; The church and the environment and more. This study will help you learn how to respond with love when you have to address these issues either to others or in self-reflection. In the process you'll discover the power of bringing light – not heat – to the core issues at the heart of society today. The group meets in the new parlor off the new foyer. Please feel free to get a cup of coffee and join the group. You need not say anything or you can add to the conversation.

**COFFEE STATION:** Have you noticed that our upstairs coffee pots have been replaced by two brand new Keurig brewing systems? Thanks to John Lauer, one of our Thrivent Financial associates for our congregation, and the Lauer Family for the donation of the Keurigs and the first month's coffee supply. There are also hot chocolate and tea cups available. Each cup is brewed fresh so we never have stale or wasted drinks. Help yourself anytime you are here at the church. Donations are appreciated; a container is located on the table.



## **Robeson Preschool**



The Holiday season is upon us and the children are busy practicing for the Christmas Programs to be held on Wednesday, December 17 (Pre-K), Thursday, December 18 (3's) and Friday, December 19 (4's) all starting at 9:30 a.m. It is a fun time of year and we would love to have you

join us at any of these programs.

The preschool would like to thank:

- Plow Farms for their donation of Christmas trees for the classrooms
- Geigertown Fire Company for coming to the preschool during fire safety week
- Elverson/Morgantown Lions Club for doing vision screenings on all preschoolers

Robeson Lutheran Preschool is having a holiday fundraiser at Five Below! It will be held from December 14 through December 20 at Five Below in Exeter Commons and Berkshire Mall locations...just in time for stocking stuffers! Please use the form in this newsletter and hand it in at the checkout. 10% of your purchase will come back to our preschool. Thanks for your support.

**Mark your calendar:** 2015-2016 Preschool Registration  
February 3 & 4, 9-12 —Current students  
Week of February 9th—Church members; families of former students  
Week of February 17th—open to the public

**MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVE** will be here at Robeson Lutheran Church on January 15 from 9-6. Call the preschool office if you'd like to make an appointment (610-856-7613) or just show up during these hours.