

## Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

### MARCH:

Russell McVaugh—March 3  
Louise Styer—March 13  
Bud Bowman—March 18  
Art Gordon—March 19  
Joe Smith—March 19  
Lois Beam—March 20  
Mim Spence—March 30

### APRIL:

Charlotte O'Neill—April 5  
Henry Smith—April 17  
Ethel Mason—April 27

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:

2/17/15—Mary Ruth Lauck, 87.

#### Membership Losses:

2/12/15—Katharine Marshall and sons Justin & Conner—removed at own request after moving to Georgia



### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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## The Parish Digest



### From the Pastor:

<sup>47</sup>(Jesus said) *Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.* <sup>48</sup>*I am the bread of life.* <sup>49</sup>*Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.* <sup>50</sup>*This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.* <sup>51</sup>*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.* <sup>52</sup>*The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'* <sup>53</sup>*So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.* <sup>54</sup>*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day;* <sup>55</sup>*for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.* <sup>56</sup>*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.* (John 6:47-56)

### Holy Communion – Rationale and Practical Application Part 2 (What is Holy Communion?)

What is it that you believe about Holy Communion? Do you think of it simply as a snack of bread and juice? Are we simply re-enacting a historical event so as not to forget the past? Do the words have any meaning? Is it really to be understood as Jesus flesh and blood, or is it all just a symbolic (continued 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**, Preschool Director— Phone: 610-856-7613;

Email: preschool610@dejazzd.com

Council Officers:

Chris Gerace, President

Rex Miller, Vice President

Karen Kercher, Secretary

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Craig Eppright

Joy O'Donnell

Sue Besecker

Abby Moore (youth)

Ed Haag

Julia Bond

LENTEN REMINDERS:

Lenten Supper Hosts: 6:00 p.m.

March 4—Choir/Worship and Music Committee

March 11—Christian Ed. Committee/ SCS Teachers

March 18—Finance Committee/ Gifts and Bequests

March 25—Social Ministry/ Youth/ Property Committees

All others attending the Lenten Suppers are please requested to bring a dessert to share.

The dinners precede “**The Science of Lent**” - **Lenten Services** in the church sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

**2015 Lenten Devotional Program - Seek God for the City**

Our Lenten Bible Study this year is a joint devotional study of "Seek God for the City: Prayers of Biblical Hope," available at our church for each family/member. Every Thursday during Lent, you are invited to join others at different hosting congregations of the Twin Valley Ministerium for a time of learning, prayer and fellowship. The schedule is as follows: (7-8 p.m. each Thursday)

02/26/2015 - Morgantown Community Church, 4221

Main St., Elverson PA 19520

03/05/2015 - Hopewell Christian Fellowship, 2286

Hopewell Rd., Elverson PA 19520

03/12/2015 - Conestoga Mennonite Church, 2779 Main

St., Morgantown PA 19543

03/19/2015 - Robeson Lutheran Church

03/26/2015 – TBA

It is our hope that you will join us in this new and exciting opportunity for spiritual growth!

**A LENTEN ENVELOPE** was included in the Lenten mailing. Please return it to the church anytime during the Lenten/Easter season. It is in place of the coin folder and box used in previous years. Envelopes are less expensive and easier to mail. Please use it as you did your folder for your cash or check.

# WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT Annual Lenten Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

8:00 A.M. at The Inn at Reading  
1040 Park Road  
Wyomissing PA 19610  
Cost - \$15.00

Please join us for an inspirational morning.

**Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. David Lose,**  
Newly called President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia

Everyone is invited! We hope you'll join us!  
Deadline for Reservations is March 18!

Please Detach and Mail Form with your Remittance

2015 Lenten Prayer Breakfast  
March 25, 2015  
Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Congregation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number attending the Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount enclosed (\$15.00 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to and mail to:  
West Berks Mission District  
1015 Windsor Street  
Reading, PA 19604

## MARCH SERVICES

MARCH 1: 7:45 & 10:15 Holy Communion Service; 9:00 SCS

MARCH 7: 5:30 Holy Communion Service

MARCH 8—7:45 & 10:15 Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS

MARCH 15—7:45 & 10:15 Worship Services; 9:00 SCS

MARCH 22— 7:45 & 10:15 Praise Service with Laudate Praise Team; 9:00 SCS; Joyful Noise Offering for Habitat for Humanity.

MARCH 29—7:45 & 10:15 Palm Sunday;  
Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS



### Lenten Schedule:

March 4, 11, 18 & 25:

6:00 p.m. – Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. – “The Science of Lent” - Lenten Service in the church sanctuary

### Holy Week:

April 2, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion

April 3, 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 4, 2:00 p.m. Egg Hunt (for ages toddler through 6th grade)

April 4, 5:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Holy Communion Service



**Easter Services**—April 5, 7:45 & 10:15  
**9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast**—all are invited!  
(no SCS)



gesture? What is it?

To answer this it is helpful to once again consider the words of institution:

“Our LORD Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he also took the cup after the supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them and said, “Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

As you see, it is with these words and actions that Christ himself instituted the Lord’s Supper and He is very clear on the fact that He is fully present (that is, bodily, not just “spiritually” or metaphorically) whenever the Lord’s Supper is observed according to His command and promise. Notice that Jesus does not say “this bread symbolizes my flesh and this wine symbolizes my blood,” he says, “it *is* my flesh, and it *is* my blood.”

This ultimately became a central point of conflict between early Lutherans who believed in the Full Presence of Christ in the meal and other reformers who saw the meal rather as a symbolic gesture. It was in keeping with our Catholic roots, that we Lutherans stood behind the scriptures and gave particular emphasis to Christ’s words. And so it is that we continue to believe today that the Lord’s Supper is what Christ’s word says it is: his new covenant, his word of forgiveness, a promise in his body and blood that faith can trust confidently in any circumstance, regardless of the supposed unworthiness or misuse of any participant. “For as Christ’s lips speak and say, so it is” (Large Catechism V.14).

It is as Martin Luther memorably wrote on one occasion:

*“Where His Word is torn away from the Supper and mere bread and wine are made of it, then I grant that they may make a parish fair or carnival of it. ... We know, however, that it is the Lord’s Supper, in name and reality, not the supper of Christians. For the Lord not only instituted it, but also pre-*

## SYNOD NEWS:

### Sharing Life: A Ministry of St. Mark, Allentown

Sharing Life is the brain child of Sue Krasley of St. Mark, who worked at the now closed Allentown State Hospital. She was concerned about individuals losing relationships that were forged with peers through years of being hospitalized.

Over the last four years her simple idea of serving a monthly meal and providing fellowship opportunities has grown into offering a luncheon, fellowship, and entertainment, as well as providing other craft activities throughout each month.

The first event was attended by nine people, including staff. This past December, attendance at the Christmas event grew to approximately 150 people. As numbers have increased, so has the diversity of those attending. They now include not only people formerly served by ASH, but also community members and those with Intellectual Distinctions.

Former Pastor John Brndjar helped get this ministry off the ground by encouraging Sue’s idea; and today current Pastor Gary Langensiepen enthusiastically offers his support as well. Because of St. Mark’s willingness to take a risk, they not only are serving food; but they offer acceptance, an opportunity to form new friendships, and a warm welcome to a faith based community.

### Twelfth Night-Collaboration Might

It’s been 33 years and counting that Christ Lutheran Church on Hamilton Street in Allentown has presented their Twelfth Night pageant to the community. “Each year gets better,” say guests exiting one of six full-to-capacity performances. “We try to attend every year,” say others. “This is our Christmas.”

The sanctuary is decorated as a 16th century manor. At the invitation of the Lord and Lady, the pageantry begins. Processions of Boar’s Head and Plum Pudding; Swan and Peacock; dancers and acrobats; and the Holy Family replete with angels, shepherds and wisemen enter in the most elaborate of costumes.

The Wm. Allen High School Dancers twirl, the City of Bethlehem Bagpipe Band pipes, the Lehigh Parkettes tumble, all to the grand music of a 40-voice choir and 20-piece orchestra. Finally a procession of saints including Joan of Arc and her knights, Saint Nicholas, Dr. Martin and Katie Luther, and others celebrate the Christ of Christmas who has come for all peoples.

Christ’s Twelfth Night was begun by Eleanor D. Kramp, and continues as a memorial to her research and motivation. There are approximately 200 volunteers, half from Christ Church and the rest from the community. Family and friends are recruited for various roles: choir, crew, or kitchen workers who prepare two meals for the cast between the two Saturday and Sunday performances.

## FROM OUR MAILBOX:

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 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.



### Bereavement Camp

PEDALS, PIPES AND PIZZA—Introducing Young People to the Pipe Organ, March 28, 9 a.m.-noon at Maiden Creek Church, 261 Main Street, Blandon. \$5 registration at the door, ages 5 and up. Participants will get a “behind the scenes” tour of how the organ works, get a chance to play it themselves, and then eat pizza! Students currently taking piano lessons are encouraged to bring a piece to play on the organ. No musical experience necessary, just come for the fun! For more information call Kimberly Ayrton at 610-914-2128. This event is sponsored by the Reading Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



*parens and gives it Himself, and is Himself cook, butler, food, and drink.”*

For many of us today it is easy to get caught up in our traditions regarding which type of elements we use and by what method we practice communion, however, it is my deep hope that we will seek to focus on and find deeper meaning and connection to God by considering just what Holy Communion really is; the partaking of Jesus Full Presence into our lives so that in Him, and He in us, we feel the connection of the deep love our God has for us all.

Having looked at why we do Holy Communion and what it is, I invite you to stay tuned for part 3 in next month's Digest as we look at the question, “How often shall we do this?”

May God bless you my friends!

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

### Plan now to attend Pastor Michael's next Bible Study:

#### **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.*

Sign-up sheets will be made available in the beginning of March to determine which afternoon and evening times work best for people.

## Sunday School Happenings During Lent



There are two events happening during Lent that will involve all the elementary children of the Sunday School. During the first fifteen minutes of each SCS hour the children will be working on a miniature tomb using paper

mache and making characters and scenery out of clothes pins and other materials. This will be on display in the new foyer so that all can watch the progress of this project.

### On Palm Sunday, March 29

the children's choir from Sunday School will sing a song that tells the story of Palm Sunday to the tune of "She'll Be Comin' Round The Mountain." This will be performed during the 10:15 worship service. There are also plans in the works to have the children join a "Palm Sunday" parade. More details will follow concerning this venture.



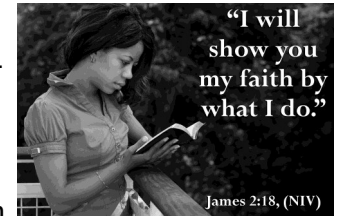
**HOSANNA!**

**Remember Lent is for children as well as adults.** Please plan to attend mid-week Lenten services and pre-service meals on Wednesdays beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Service begins at 7:00.)

**Lenten**  
SERVICES

### THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS!

What's your passion? Thrivent Action Teams are a new way for Thrivent Members, their friends, family, and church community to get involved to make a difference in a congregation or within the community. The project should bring people together for a one-time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days.



A Thrivent member identifies an unmet need and then completes an online application at [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam). Once approved, the member will soon receive an action kit in the mail. It comes with T-shirts, signage, and other resources to make your event a success and you will also receive a Community Impact Card with \$250 in seed money to help cover some of the project costs. The idea is to inspire more people to take action and together make an even bigger impact.

In 2014, we were able to make a difference through our Chicken Barbecue, Bazaar, and Trucks for Maddox. We also supported Special Olympics at their fundraiser auction. Please consider using this opportunity to make a difference in our church or community. Any member can do it!

### With thanks:



Charlotte O'Neill thanks everyone who sent her get well cards during her recuperation last fall. Charlotte appreciates the prayers, Christmas cards, visits and communion from Pastor Michael and other members of the congregation. She enjoys her new residence at Mifflin Court and welcomes visitors.



#### 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.

## *Family Promise Ministry*

### *Sunday, March 22nd to 29th, 2015*

*Mark your calendar and support our guests!!*

Robeson Church will be hosting Family Promise guests for our first week this year beginning **Sunday, March 22nd through Sunday, March 29th**. Please join members of Robeson Church to volunteer assistance to less fortunate families seeking return from being homeless to employment and self-sufficiency. Consider using your time to volunteer in this ministry as we continue to provide housing, meals and support for our Family Promise guests.

You are encouraged to speak with anyone who has volunteered at Robeson to hear the satisfaction of caring and feeling of compassion for the families in need.

The second week for Family Promise guests will be the week of September 20th to 27th.

**A sign-up calendar and volunteer sheets will be posted in the new foyer beginning in early March for all volunteers.**

We are in need of volunteers for the following:

**Prepare & Host evening meal - Overnight Hosts**  
**Set-up & Clean-Up facilities - Assist with Laundry**  
**Donate Supplies - Assist Coordinators**

*\*One male and one female is needed each overnight.*  
*\*Set-up will be in the old social hall immediately following the 10:45 service on March 22nd.*

Questions? Contact the Church Office (610-856-7242)  
 Bill Haney, Coordinator      Jane Meyers, Meals  
 John Lauer, Overnight      Janet Haney

**Please Volunteer to Support Family Promise**

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



The PlowShares Service Project Club will meet on Thurs, March 12 at 6pm. The theme this month is FEED. The group will prepare food which can be delivered to those experiencing a difficult time. Do you know of

someone who could benefit from a meal delivery ? Please let the church office or Bonnie Lauer know! We want to FEED others with food and caring to nourish them, body and soul.

PlowShares is looking for one or two adults to serve at the March 12 program by leading or assisting the youth in preparing a simple dish. To volunteer or for more information contact the church office, staff member or Bonnie Lauer at [BonnieLeeL@windstream.net](mailto:BonnieLeeL@windstream.net) or 620-286-0800.

### YOUTH NEWS:

March Senior Youth Event: Ice Skating at Body Zone, Sunday, March 15th 1:30pm - 4:30pm. The senior youth group will be headed up to the Body Zone in Reading for an afternoon of ice skating. We will be leaving from the church at 1:30 and will have two hours to skate before returning around 4:30. Please bring \$6 to cover a portion of the cost. If you have a friend who would like to join, feel free to invite them along!

Annual Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 4th 2pm. The senior youth will again sponsor the annual Easter egg hunt on the Sat. before Easter for children (Toddlers to 6th Grade). Join us as we cheer on the kids as they search for eggs hidden on the playground and ball field. Call Mark to volunteer!

The "ticket" HOAGIE SALE for Weaver Orchard's delicious sandwiches continues until all the tickets are sold so please consider supporting this fundraiser. Stop by the church office or see Mark Lauer to purchase a sandwich coupon. Cost is \$5 and they never expire!

The next Youth Team Meeting: March 5, 6:00 p.m.



### **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](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.



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.



# ministering TO *Seniors*

## 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.



## Soup & Desserts

**Soup and baked goods sale:**  
Sunday, March 15, 9 am to 2 pm.

The outreach committee will be having their soup and baked goods sale again this year. Last year we raised over \$700.00 and it was a huge success. The money goes to the general fund for current expenses. If you would like to help by making soup or baking, it would be greatly appreciated. Soups to make are bean, chili, chicken noodle, veg. Vegetarian, veg beef, and Turkey chowder (Barb Strough has a great recipe for this and she would share it with anyone who would like to make it). If we have enough soup, we would like to open it to the community, and advertise it as such. If you make soup, please let us know by the first week in March what kind you would be making. We will provide the containers for the soup.

We would also be grateful for any baked goods that you would like to make and donate. Please call Judy or Marion and let them know what you will be baking.

Thrivent Financial will be providing a generous donation of \$250.00 to cover costs of supplies.

For those who would like to preorder some of our delicious soup, please place your order by calling Judy Mountz at 1-717-445-6130 or Marion Kachel at 610-856-1683. We will be taking preorders until March 8th. Cost of soup is \$7 per quart.





**REMINDER:** It's not too late to order your flowers for Easter! We are offering lilies, daffodils, tulips or hyacinths for \$9.00 each...just in time for Easter giving or spring planting! If you have not made your reservation but would like to order a plant as a memorial or gift, please mail your order to the church office along with payment as soon as possible. Orders are due in the church office by March 23.



**EGG HUNT:**  
Saturday,  
April 4,  
2:00 p.m.

We will be having our annual Easter egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter for children (Toddlers to 6th Grade). Join us as we cheer on the kids as they search for eggs hidden on the playground and ball field. There will also be snacks and games after the hunt, down in Hoeffler Hall. And the Easter Bunny may even make an appearance. The senior youth invite you to join the fun and bring your friends!

If you would like to donate candy or money for this event, please drop off your donation at the church office at your convenience. All donations are greatly appreciated.



**RESERVE THE DATES!**  
**Vacation Bible School** dates this year will be **June 22-26**. Plans are also underway to offer an Activity Camp from 12:30-2:00 this same week.

**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 March 14.



**Robeson Robins Senior Group**

The Robins will not have a regular meeting in March. Instead they will be going to see "Footloose" at Twin Valley High School on Wednesday, March 18. The day will begin with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed by the play. Cost is just \$5.00 for both. Please contact Billie asap to make your reservation. Please call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about the Robeson Robins.



**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:** Please be reminded that you have until March 31 to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars from last year. 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 January total \$351.00, thanks to our contributors:

- Chris Gerace
- John Lauer
- Greg Gehman
- Harvey Martin

- 14 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 March 16 for the April 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).

**Robeson Preschool**



February was a busy month of registration for the next school year. If you are considering having your child attend Robeson Lutheran Preschool in 2015-16 please stop by the preschool office for a registration form asap. Classes for toddlers through Pre-K are filling up quickly. Toddlers must be 2 by September 30, 2015 and do not need to be potty trained. All other students must be potty trained.

In March, the Berks County Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services will come to our preschool to do Hearing Screenings for ages 3-5 years.

**Open Board Positions 2015-2016**

The Robeson Lutheran Preschool Board is looking to fill some positions for next year. We are especially looking for people who have a background in human resources, fundraising and legal and financial. If interested, please contact Christine or Dyanne at the office (610-856-7613).



**ZUMBA®**  
**FITNESS**

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 begins March 4th. \$30 for 6 classes, or \$7 walk-ins.

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

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.

## TREASURER’S REPORT:

Income for January:	\$ 14,231.79
Other Income:	\$ 404.68 (in/out)
Checks issued for January:	\$ 16,683.11
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 1,811.29
Transfer from Special Funds	\$ 200.00
Checking balance as of 1/31/15	\$ 251.68
Unpaid Bills:	
West Berks Mission District	\$250.00
Synod Benevolence	\$500.00
World Hunger	\$184.20
Disaster Relief	\$210.48

In/Out accounts: \$ 404.68

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

## SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS: 12/31/14	\$ 21,067.74
Special funds received in January	\$ 65.00
Transfer to General Fund	\$ 200.00
OUTFLOW:	
General Fund	\$ 200.00
BALANCES:	
Checking Account balance 1/31/15	\$ 20,920.74
Gifts and Bequests Fund Balance	\$373,839.00

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds