

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

FEBRUARY:

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



Looking ahead to 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

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:

MEMBERSHIP LOSS:

1/14/16—Richard Kleinsmith transferred to Christ Lutheran Church in Grill.

REQUEST FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES:

We are always updating our email addresses for church members and friends who would like to receive reminders about upcoming events, closings during bad weather, and other pertinent information. Please send an email to Debbie at ddemarco@dejazzd.com and list your name in the subject. Thanks for helping us to improve our communication!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2—Office & Leadership Information
Page 3—February Services
Page 4-6—Pastor’s Letter
Page 7-8—February Commentary by Chris Gerace, President
Page 8—Youth Activities
Page 9—Congregational Meeting Results; Pre-school Board request
Page 10-11—Soup Sale
Page 12—Music Notes
Page 13—Spaghetti Dinner, Movie & Game Night
Page 14-15—Finances
Page 16—This & That
Page 17—Men’s Group; Robeson Robins; Zumba
Page 18—Ministering to Seniors
Page 19—Volunteer Opportunities
Page 20—Recycling; Community News, Bad Weather information
Page 21—Mailbox
Page 22—Veronica’s Youth Encounter Update #1
Page 23—Lutheran Marriage Encounter
Page 24—Parish Register; Birthdays; Emails

Annual Congregational Meeting after the 10:15 service: February 14 to accept the annual reports of the congregation.

The Parish Digest



From the Pastor:

¹*The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:*

²*For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight,*

³*for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity;*

⁴*to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young—*

⁵*let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill,*

⁶*to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.*

⁷*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;*

fools despise wisdom and instruction.

(Proverbs 1:1-7)

⁶*Train children in the right way,*

and when old, they will not stray.

(Proverbs 22:6)

Raising a Child in Faith Part 1

or

The Devastating Effect of Medieval Theology Leading to Modern Superstition

Pastor: “Why do you want to have your baby baptized?”

Parent: “So that they won’t go to Hell if they die.”

Sad to say, this is a typical opening conversation that takes place when I meet with parents in baptismal (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

Tyler Werner, Youth Ministry Leader—610-781-4004

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

Email address: twern9@gmail.com

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

Julia Bond, Secretary

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Walt Hamilton

Sue Besecker

Ed Haag

Maggie Lauer

Rex Miller, Vice President

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Joy O'Donnell

Abby Moore (youth)

Karen Kercher

YOUR CAR. YOUR MARRIAGE BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!



Attention Married Couples:
Have you signed up for your
spring Lutheran Marriage
Encounter Weekend? NOW

is the time to register for this opportunity to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage with all the joy and beauty God intended. Weekends run from Friday evening at 8 PM to Sunday afternoon around 4 PM.

THE 2016 PENNSYLVANIA SPRING WEEKENDS ARE:

- **APRIL 8-10, 2016** IN LANCASTER, PA, AT THE ALL NEW-
LY-RENOVATED HERITAGE HOTEL LANCASTER, HOME OF
THE UNIQUE TREE-HOUSE-INSPIRED RESTAURANT,
“LOXLEY’S”

April 22-24, 2016 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA, Happy Valley’s premier conference center located on a quiet hillside with views of Nittany Mountain

Registrations are also being accepted for the September 16-18, 2016 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA, in the Poconos and the October 21-23, 2016 Weekend at the beautiful Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee plus a contribution of whatever amount you wish to make near the end of the Weekend toward the continuation of the program.

To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check. **Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice.** For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.

Youth Encounter Mission Update #1

Hi everyone, greetings from the road. Things are moving so fast for our Captive Free West team. The team title might be a bit misleading since we have already been all over the map. I flew out from Harrisburg airport on December 27th to St. Paul, Minnesota. We started the team training the same day, but not before I insisted we stop for a Caribou Coffee on the way from the airport. By January 6th, team training was completed and we were headed to our first stop, a food-packing event in Marshall, Minnesota. From there, we drove six hours to Des Moines, Iowa for our first music event. Since then, we traveled all the way to Phoenix, Arizona via stops in eastern and western Kansas, and New Mexico, and then back eastward to St. Louis, Missouri. Next, we will travel south down to Texas, and then to... South Carolina! Are you dizzy yet? I am!

I have a feeling these four months are going to go by very quickly. But whenever possible, I try to stop and reflect on all the young lives we are touching and sharing the Word of God with. So far, it has been an amazing and blessed journey. I wanted to again thank everyone from Robeson who helped support me with their e-mail addresses for my mission "kick-off." We have been posting updates on our team's Facebook page. To follow and support our team, please find us on www.youthencounter.org/team which has a link to our team's Facebook page. Prayers are also needed and very much appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.

-Veronica Gerace Jan 18, 2016.

BACKGROUND CHECKS:

REMINDER: Background checks are now necessary for volunteers working with children. These checks are free to volunteers. Please contact the church office for more information if you are currently volunteering or would like to become a volunteer here at Robeson. 610-856-7242

FEBRUARY SERVICES

February 7—**SOUPER BOWL & SCOUT SUNDAY**

7:45 & 10:15 **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS



Our Youth Group, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be holding soup kettles to collect money for the hungry in our community following the worship service on this day. They will also hold a soup lunch fundraiser

following the 10:15 service. You will receive soup, bread, dessert and a drink for \$7. All proceeds will go to the local food banks. Please plan to attend.



FEBRUARY 10—**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

Holy Communion and Distribution of Ashes at 3 & 7 p.m.



Check the special Lenten letters containing specific information about our weekly services and more!

FEBRUARY 14—7:45 & 10:15 Holy Communion; 9:00 SCS ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please plan to attend. Annual reports will be ready for pick-up by Sunday, February 7th in preparation for the meeting. Thank you!

FEBRUARY 17—LENTEN SERVICE; 7:00 p.m. TED Talk; Lenten Dinner provided by Outreach and Staff beginning at 6:00.

FEBRUARY 21—7:45 & 10:15 Worship; 9:00 SCS

FEBRUARY 17—LENTEN SERVICE; 7:00 p.m. TED Talk; Lenten Dinner provided by Worship and Music Committee, Choir and Praise Team beginning at 6:00.

FEBRUARY 28— 7:45 & 10:15 Praise Service with Laudate Praise Team; 9:00 SCS; Joyful Noise Offering for the Morgantown Food Bank.

planning. It is a response that continues to shock me no matter how often I hear it because it stands as strong proof of how the superstitions of the Medieval Era continue to find their way into the understandings of modern culture.

It's also shocking to me because it make me wonder just how it is that people envision the God that we Christians worship. Is this really the kind of God people think we worship; a God who condemns poor infants to the fires of Hell simply because they didn't live long enough to have a baptismal service? It makes me cringe! I am sure it's not a pleasant thought for the parents either; to consider their beloved child suffering damnation. That such thinking persists to today is terribly unfortunate.

However, to be fair, it is the Church's fault (the early church Fathers in particular) when it comes to this modern misconception. Indeed modern culture didn't just create this type of thinking, rather it stems from Church history.

While difficult to pinpoint the exact starting point of this subject, (and please understand there are many facets and background issues behind the information that follows which cannot be simplified into a brief article) it seems to be that:

Around the 4th Century (301ce-400ce) that the precise fate of unbaptized babies became a significant topic of theological discussion. Into this conversation stepped St. Augustine, a strong proponent of the concept of Original Sin (that we are all born fallen). He made the logical argument that if all babies are born stained by sin and if baptism is understood as necessary for salvation, then it must follow that unless baptized, even babies must go to hell. Of course St. Augustine was not totally heartless and he taught that Infants did not suffer the worst torments of hell, but instead found themselves only mildly uncomfortable.

As time moved forward (some 800 years) theological discussion over the fate of unbaptized babies again came into vogue and in the 12th and 13th centuries' French theologian Peter Abelard and Dominican Friar St. Thomas Aquinas helped develop a new theory. They argued that deceased unbaptized babies were in an intermediate state of existence; not suffering the fires of hell, nor experiencing the full

FROM OUR MAILBOX:

Dear Friends at Robeson Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your cards, visits, communion, prayers, and other thoughtful acts of kindness toward me over the past year. I appreciate receiving the bulletins, digests, and tapes of the services. I have been at Mifflin Court in Shillington for one year. I enjoy my new home here but also look forward to seeing old friends. You are welcome to visit any time.

Sincerely, Charlotte O'Neill

A big thank you to all the choir members and those who offered special music over the holiday season, I t was a pure joy to hear the cantata with all the choir members and the special people who gave of their time on Christmas Eve. Also a big Thank you to their leader Louise Wilson, who spent many hours practicing for this special time in our church.
-Marion Kachel

Robeson Lutheran Church,

May the peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all through the year.

Thank you so much for all of your gifts! We feel so blessed and loved to be able to receive them! We know and celebrate that Christmas is the birthday of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and what a beautiful joy it was to have your gifts for my children on His birthday. We are so grateful! We hope your holiday was filled with joy also.

-Jordan, Arianna and Mrs. Rose

Dear Pastor Michael and Friends, It is rewarding to acknowledge your donation to Berks Women in Crisis! Your generous cash contribution from your "Joyful Noise" offering helps make a difference in the lives of people who are victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault. Your gift makes is possible to continue to provide life-saving, hope-giving services in spite of the state budget impasse. We can't do it without you! - Mary Kay Bernosky, Director



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!

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.

BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

We have an agreement with WFMZ-TV (channel 69) and WGAL (channel 8) to publicize information about the Sunday schedule when the weather is not favorable. The list of changes and closings usually streams across the bottom of the screen. Please watch channel 69 or 8 if you have questions about our schedule when the weather is questionable. If roads in your area are hazardous please use your own judgment and do not risk your life trying to get to church. Thank you.

THANK YOU: We received many Christmas cards from friends and members who were so appreciative of the cards, gifts, and caroling that they enjoyed this holiday season. We have also received deepest appreciations from the organizations that we helped such as Trucks for Maddox, Berks Encore (Thanksgiving offering), St. Benedict's Food Pantry, Shoeboxes, and Christmas stockings. Small gestures can make such a big difference in people's lives. Thank you all.

presence of God, but rather placed in a middle ground of natural happiness that they called “Limbo.”

(SIDE NOTE - Limbo is not to be confused with Purgatory which is defined as a time of purification for those who “die in God's grace and friendship, but are still imperfectly purified.” Though Purgatory is often thought of as a physical place, it is better understood as a process. Both concepts of Purgatory and Limbo, while likely meant as pastoral care opportunities, ended up being greatly abused for the sake of financial gain through the selling of indulgences from the 12th to the 16th century.)

Now neither Augustine's view (unbaptized babies go to Hell) nor the views of Abelard and Aquinas (unbaptized babies go to Limbo) were totally convincing to everyone; indeed many priests and church leaders believed a variety of positions on the fate of unbaptized babies. However, the popularity of their views grew significant enough to become the somewhat unofficial teachings of the Roman Catholic church and because of this, the idea of unbaptized babies going to Hell or Limbo traveled far and wide into the general culture. This is why to this very day, that there remain modern families who worry that if their babies die before they are baptized that the children will go to Hell or Limbo. (Note- Orthodox Christians and the later Protestant Christians rejected the concepts of Limbo and Purgatory)

Now, for what it's worth, and to be fair to modern Catholicism, Pope Benedict XVI (who personally rejected the theological concept of Limbo) authorized the Roman Catholic Church's International Theological Commission on April 22, 2007 to publish the document: “The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die without Being Baptized.” This document stated, amongst other things, that *The idea of Limbo, which the Church has used for many centuries to designate the destiny of infants who die without Baptism, has no clear foundation in revelation, even though it has long been used in traditional theological teaching. Moreover, the notion that infants who die without Baptism are deprived of*

the beatific vision (perfect salvation - ed.), which has for so long been regarded as the common doctrine of the Church, gives rise to numerous pastoral problems, so much so that many pastors of souls have asked for a deeper reflection on the ways of salvation."

Recognizing the theological and pastoral problem with these Medieval views, the Roman Catholic church (thanks to Pope Benedict XVI) did ultimately take an official step to address the issue, but as it is with many things in the church, it takes a long time to dispel old understandings in light of new knowledge and revelation.

With all that said, it is my first hope in sharing this knowledge with you that it will not only enlighten you, but also give you the insight to see how Christianity is more than a Religion (a dogmatic set of rules and rituals) but it is primarily a Faith (a changing and growing experience through revelation from God).

My second hope is that you will appreciate the fact that we in the Lutheran church do not baptize babies because we fear for their mortal souls, but rather because it is a mark and reminder of the fact that GOD ALREADY LOVES THEM!!!

And this is why in those tragic cases of miscarriages, still-births, and infant deaths that, in the midst of deep grief, we nevertheless remain confident that such children are truly in the heavenly presence of God who knew them before they were even born (Jeremiah 1:5) and who always welcomes them with open arms (Matthew 19:14).

Hindsight being 20/20, it could be that we would find ourselves in an overall better place theologically today if our ancestors would have pushed more for Baptism (infant or otherwise) to be seen as a gift from a loving God rather than focus on it as a strict requirement for personal salvation.

Yet the good news remains....we are all still learning.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Michael

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. 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.

VOLUNTEER SHEETS FOR THE SUNDAY SERVICES are posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. Please stop by and sign up where you are able.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Since Robeson Lutheran no longer has a team to Relay for Life, we are inviting you to join or support the team of one of our members Amy Kunkel. If you'd like to join Amy's team please email her at Zadlogk@gmail.com and let her know or call the church office for more information.



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. **Money for heat is now available to those who qualify.**

February Commentary (Hey, that rhymes!)

By Chris Gerace, Church Council President

“We try harder!” That is the advertising slogan formerly used by the Avis Rental Car Company. The slogan was introduced in 1962 to acknowledge that Avis (at that time) was the *second* largest rental car company in America (after Hertz), but also to leverage that status, by promising they will work *harder* to please their customers. This slogan became so successful for Avis, that they used it for fifty years, and now the slogan has become a phrase in pop culture. But what about us Lutherans? Do *we*... try harder?

Please allow me to “shift gears” on you, to a seemingly unrelated topic. On January 17th, I was taking my daughter Lana back to Art College, but we had to stop at the Elverson Wal-Mart before the long drive. As we neared the turn-in, I started feeling bad for whatever group of students had scheduled a fund-raising car wash on such a dreary day – even snow flurries were falling. But as I made my turn into the parking area, I saw that the folks waving the signs at passing motorists... were not students running a car wash fund-raiser. They were adult “Christians” holding giant signs with graphic color photos of aborted fetuses and pro-life slogans on them. Needless to say, that the sight of these folks and their signs sparked a father-daughter conversation. But what Lana and I ultimately discussed was how the secular world, specifically teens and young adults in Lana’s generation, viewed Christians overall.

The church season of Epiphany celebrates the time when Jesus is revealed to all nations (symbolized by the Magi) and it reveals Jesus as the “Light of the World.” Epiphany comes at a time when our new calendar year is young, and we have just made our “resolutions.” Perhaps we could give some thought to our Christianity, and how we are going to let our “light” shine in the coming year. And by that I don’t mean the “smiley sunshiny happy-happy” way, but in the “how we

carry ourselves as Christians throughout the year” way. I mean, how will others perceive *our* Christianity in the secular world?

Will they see us as standoff-ish? Extremists? Exclusive? Hypocrites? Divided? Judgmental? Or will they be able to walk away with the perception that we are kind? Welcoming? Caring? Understanding? Helpful? Loving? Does that sound too challenging? Nah! Because, that is exactly how Jesus wants us to be in our personal mission as Christians. Representing Christianity is not being able to quote Scripture; it is *walking the walk*, welcoming everyone, shrugging off the negative, showing humility, reaching out to help, and sharing our Witness through our daily conversations and actions.

It is truly down to each of us as individual Christians - not just as Lutherans (as I purposely mentioned above), because the secular world often lumps all Christians together. So it is up to each of us to resolve to be a better representative of Jesus in the new year, both to the secular world, and to each other. And to borrow a now retired slogan: yes, we can “try harder.” We must! We have to try harder every day of our lives because we will never be Number One. Jesus is Number One. God bless.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY: (& early March)

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—February 7

Tyler and the youth will coordinate this event

SPAGHETTI DINNER & GAME NIGHT—February 12

(this event is for everyone; youth are encouraged to come out and join the fun!)

Youth Committee Meeting—February 21

YOUTH LOCK-IN—February 26-27

WMBD BOWL-A-THON—March 6

Bowl for 2 hours, snack and drink for \$15 sponsorship. See Tyler for more information.



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 **February 13—in Hoeffer Hall!**

Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robins will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16 beginning with lunch at noon. Please bring a covered dish to share for lunch. A program presented by Encore titled “Clearing Out the Cobwebs” will begin immediately after lunch.

New members and guests are always welcome!

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



ZUMBA!!



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO while getting some exercise at the same time? Julie Rodeck may have the answer for you! Zumba continues to be held here in the old hall

Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. Cost is \$30 for the six-week session; or if you prefer to drop in, \$7 per class.

THIS AND THAT AT ROBESON LUTHERAN:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! We have posted volunteer sheets on the bulletin board in the new foyer. If you are willing to help during any of the worship 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 2016. 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 Feb. 15 for the March 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.

RESULTS OF DECEMBER'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:



The 2016 proposed budget was accepted unanimously.

The following people were elected to church council:

Karen Kercher (3 year term)

Rex Miller (3 year term)

Maggie Lauer (3 year term)

Walt Hamilton (1 year term)

Abby Moore (1 year term—youth on council)

A discussion led by Pastor Michael about having alcohol on the premises followed the meeting. There was no vote at this time.

It was pointed out that in accordance with our by-laws any group or individual wishing to rent the hall and bring alcohol would first have to have council approval.

Further investigation of the church's insurance policy and state law pertaining to alcohol on the premises would have to be done.

Some concerns voiced included:

- the church's legal responsibilities
- Additional insurance charges
- Purchasing a day policy from the state
- Hard liquor or just beer?
- Rental charge of \$200 and \$100 deposit might have to be raised due to new flooring (this is considered a nontaxable donation)
- Need a simple rental policy; this is good enough right now
- Many people don't want to rent a hall for special occasions where there is no alcohol

PRESCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED: The preschool is looking for church members to serve on the board beginning 2016-2017 school year. Meetings are held in the evening to accommodate those who work. Please contact the preschool if you are willing to service (610-856-7613).



Soup Sale 2016

The Outreach Committee is holding its Annual Soup Sale on March 6, 2016. We are asking help from the congregation in making the soups.

We are looking for the following soups: Chili, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Rice, Beef Vegetable, Vegetarian Vegetable, Turkey Vegetable

Chowder, Bean, Ham & Bean and Tortellini. We are also looking for whatever your favorite soup is. The greater the variety the better. We are asking for 6 quarts of soup minimum.

Please notify Judy Mountz at 717-445-6130 by February 27th if you are interested in making a soup for the sale. We have the quart containers and will be handing them out after church on February 28th, the Sunday before the sale. We ask that the soup be delivered to the church on Saturday morning before 12 noon March 5th. We will have coolers to keep them in until Sunday.

We will also accept orders for the soup. There will be an order form in the bulletin for you to submit. The price is \$7.00 per quart.

We are also asking for baked goods to sell along with the soup. Anyone willing to provide baked goods would be greatly appreciated. We also ask that they be delivered on Saturday before the sale.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for December:	\$27,243.67
Other Income:	\$ 898.10 (in/out)
Checks issued for December:	\$22,032.16
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 4,934.98
Checking balance as of 12/31/15	\$11,044.59

Unpaid Bills: None

In/Out accounts: None

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS: 11/30/15	\$22,489.43
Special funds received in December	\$ 595.00
Flooring Fund Donations	\$ 3,115.00
BALANCES:	
Checking Account balance 12/31/15	\$ 26,221.68

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

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. The contributions to Robeson Lutheran for the month of December totaled \$410.00 Thanks to the following for making this possible:

Christine Heilner Jeffrey Vollenweider

Think ahead: How can you help organize a fund-raising event and receive \$250 in start up funds? It's easy if you form a **Thrivent Action Team!** If you would like more information about forming a team for a fundraiser in our church or your community please contact John Lauer (610-286-5986) or the church office (610-856-7242).

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 giving opportunity.

SOUP ORDER FORM

(pick up **Sunday, March 6**, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.)

\$7.00 per quart

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to order the following soup(s):

_____ Bean soup

_____ Ham and Bean

_____ Tortellini

_____ Chili

_____ Chicken Noodle

_____ Chicken Rice

_____ Vegetarian Vegetable

_____ Vegetable Beef

_____ Turkey Vegetable Chowder

Total number of quarts ordered: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ (\$7 each)

Come prepared to purchase some delicious desserts as well. Your order is greatly appreciated! See you on the 6th of March!

MUSIC NOTES:

My article this month is actually about December's activities and services.

Our Christmas Cantata performed on Sunday, December 20th was amazing. We hope everyone enjoyed the singing and understood the meaning of the cantata. Every song was presented as a gift to the newborn savior, Jesus Christ.

What Can I Give Him, Our Song and Our Heart.

I would like to thank everyone who participated and gave of their talents. It was truly amazing to have a full choir, men, women and young folks! They were very committed and I was so proud of them and loved working with them. I pray that I can call on these people again for next year's cantata.

This year we changed things around a little bit for our services. We did the cantata on the Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Eve at the 8 p.m. service we had special music. Trumpeter Vince Moore played carols during the prelude. Maggie and Mary Lauer played the piano and the flute. Lindsay Eshelman sang a beautiful Christmas medley, as well as Russ Schade who sang a beautiful rendition of "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire." Shane Nieffer played Joe to the World on her flute during the offering, Chris Gerace sang a duet with his daughter Ava. Veronica Gerace accompanied her sister Hedy while she sang a carol. Tyler Werner finished with "O Holy Night."

I think everyone enjoyed all the Christmas music. Our Praise Team "Laudate" played for the worship service on December 27th. They played sacred and secular music. In February I will be getting ready for Lent. I am hoping to have a choir to sing on Easter Sunday. We would practice after the late church services.

Sing from your heart and worship the Lord,
Louise Wilson, Music Director



DINNER, MOVIE AND GAME NIGHT!

Robeson Lutheran Preschool will be hosting a **Valentines Day Family Spaghetti Dinner** to be held cooperatively with the monthly Family Game Night on **Friday, February 12th** from 6-8.



Spaghetti Dinner



There will be dinner, desserts, family games, and we will be showing Disney's **Lady and the Tramp** during the dinner, beginning at 6:30.

Those wishing to play games following their meal are invited upstairs to the foyer and parlors.

The preschool will be raffling off various themed baskets donated by each classroom.

Feel free to bring game or dessert along to share if you wish. **The cost for the dinner will be \$5 for each individual or \$20 for a family of 4 or more.** All proceeds will go toward the Hoeffler Hall flooring project. Spend a LOVEly evening out with your family and support our efforts to get the flooring project underway.

Anyone interested in helping out with this event should contact Corrine Gebhart at gebbycds@yahoo.com.

This event is being sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team.