

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

MAY:

Joy O'Donnell—May 6

JUNE:

Billie Bannon—June 14

Coming up in July:

Elsie Evans—July 4

Louise Wilson—July 12

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 Gains:

BAPTISMS:

3/6/16—Logan Christopher Gebhart, son of Jake and Alyce Gebhart.

WEDDING:

4/23/16—Tiffani Crass and Geoffrey Nagle

REQUEST FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES:

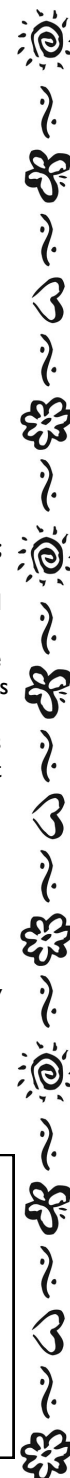
We are always updating our email addresses for church members and friends who would like to receive reminders about upcoming events, closings during bad weather, and other pertinent information. Please send an email to Debbie at ddemarco@dejazzd.com and list your name in the subject. Thanks for helping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



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2—Office & Leadership Information
Page 3—May & June Services
Page 4-7—Pastor's Letter
Page 7—Preschool News
Page 8—Pentecost; Retire Wisely
Page 9—Ice Cream Social Fund Raiser
Page 10-11—VBS
Page 12—Summer Activity Days for kids; Book Fair at Robeson
Page 13—Youth Fund Raiser; Game Night
Page 14-15—The Fire of the Season by Chris Gerace
Page 16-18—Finances
Page 19—This & That
Page 20—Men's Group; Robeson Robins; Quilting
Page 21—Ministering to Seniors
Page 22—Recycling; Redners Fudraiser
Page 23—Community News
Page 24—Birthdays; Parish Register

Please note:
The next Digest is the summer edition (July and August) so please plan ahead. Articles are due June 15.



The Parish Digest

From the Pastor:

⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons—¹⁰not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and robbers, or idolaters, since you would then need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother or sister who is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber. Do not even eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? ¹³God will judge those outside. 'Drive out the wicked person from among you.'

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

**To boycott, or not to boycott -
that is the question!**

Or

Painting a Target on Target.

Or

Tarring and Feathering the Tar Heel State

It must have been frustrating for the Apostle Paul as he tried his best to offer spiritual guidance to the church in Corinth. After all how could he make sure his message was clearly understood and that he had covered all his bases? Apparently it was a challenging task indeed as we see in the text example from 1st Corinthians that I have quoted. The first verse (verse 9) indicates that Paul had already written a letter to the church, (a letter we do not have in the Bible) and apparently there was some (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:

Joy O'Donnell

Sue Besecker

Ed Haag

Rex Miller, Vice President

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Maggie Lauer

Abby Moore (youth)

Karen Kercher

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.

THANK YOUS:

We received thank yous for the monetary donations given to the West Berks Mission District, St. Benedict's food bank, and the Twin Valley Food Bank for the proceeds from Souper Bowl Sunday and the Joyful Noise offering that month. Many of those served continue to be children and senior citizens. Thank you on behalf of them and all the people served.

VISITING ANGELS is now hiring caregivers to provide high quality homecare in our local area. Some of the responsibilities include assisting with walking and light exercise, planning and preparation of meals and clean-up, making beds, laundry, light housekeeping, assisting with bathing, dressing and grooming, running errands and going to appointments with clients. Applicants should have CNA/MA training or at least two years experience as a caregiver, strong work ethic, a valid driver's license, and clean criminal history. For more information or to apply call 610-898-7880 go to www.visitingangels.com/reading/home.

FAMILY PROMISE wants to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who has been helping with their ministry to homeless families since 2006. Please join them on Saturday, June 11 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. for a special Pastor and Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to be held at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, 250 Church Lane Road, Reading PA 19606. If it rains the event will be held indoors. This is a special time to celebrate the work of all who make Family Promise possible. Please RSVP to Bill Haney or call Debbie at the church office if you plan to attend. Reservations are due by June 1.



RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES:

HELP YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:

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

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

Paper Recycling Bins are located at the rear of Hoeffler Hall to accept your **newspaper, magazines, office paper, “junk” mail, and now phonebooks and cardboard (must be smashed flat).** Please no plastic; take your paper out of the plastic bags before you throw it in the bin. Thanks for your help!

REDNER'S TAPES FUNDRAISER:

We continue to collect Redner's receipts as an ongoing fundraiser and we have just received another check for \$128.66. 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!!!



MAY & JUNE SERVICES



MAY 1—HOLY COMMUNION - 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.
9:00 SCS

MAY 8—HOLY COMMUNION: 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.
9:00 SCS

Mother's Day—Flower Sale following both services

MAY 15—PENTECOST—Holy Communion 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.
9:00 SCS (Final Adult SCS class until September)

MAY 22—HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY; HOLY COMMUNION;
PRAISE SERVICE—7:45 & 10:15
Joyful Noise offering for our missionaries
9:00 SCS; Retirement Workshop in Hoeffler Hall

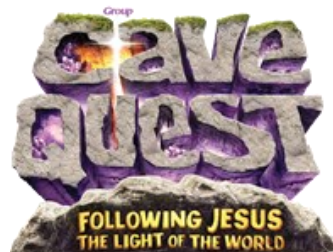
MAY 29—Worship Service—7:45 & 10:15 a.m.
9:00 Last day of SCS

JUNE 5—HOLY COMMUNION—9:00 a.m.
(Summer Schedule begins—one service; No SCS)

JUNE 12—HOLY COMMUNION—9:00 a.m.

JUNE 19—Worship—9:00 a.m.

JUNE 26—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUNDAY
PRAISE SERVICE—9:00 a.m.
Joyful Noise offering for the WBMD Food Pantry



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 20-24, 9-12
Activity Camp, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

misunderstanding in which the members at Corinth were perhaps overzealous in separating themselves from various sinners. To this Paul now writes back as if to say, *“Now, hold on a second, what I meant was that you should not associate with people who are brothers and sisters (i.e. fellow Christians in the church) who habitually and willfully commit such sin. I mean let’s face it, if you try to avoid ALL sinners, well then your only option is to somehow leave the world. No, what I am telling you is to remove those from among you who claim the name Christian, but in their actions and deeds reject the Christ.”*

Important Note: To understand the deeper context of the situation in Corinth, you should know that there was a philosophy going around in those days known as Dualism. In simplest terms, Dualism taught that the physical body and the soul/spirit of a person were totally separate from one another. Plato (a major proponent of Dualism) thought of the physical form as being of no real account, compared to the soul/spiritual form which was the true center of one’s being.

This Dualistic philosophy would later be interpreted by some to mean that you could do whatever you wanted with your physical body without it having effect on your soul/spiritual nature. This is what naturally leads to problems in Corinth as some dualistic Christians reason that they can have all the sex, alcohol, greed, and debauchery that they want, because while their physical body engages in sin, their souls/spiritual bodies are still saved through Jesus Christ.

Of course Paul strongly rejects this dualistic philosophy. He boldly shows the connection between the physical and the spiritual by reminding those who commit immorality that they are sinning in BOTH body and spirit (“do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?”). Paul also purposefully points out that Jesus himself became flesh (was born of the Virgin Mary) and physically went to the cross (suffered for US) to redeem us; which is in itself a very physical AND Spiritual act, the two of which cannot and should not be separated. Paul also combats dualism by lifting up the importance of the body as a metaphor for the church – saying that each of us are different parts of the



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 safer or more comfortable.

Home Visits—Our visitation team now trained to bring Holy Communion is visiting a number of our seniors and shut-ins and would be more than happy to visit others if invited. 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.)

If you have a need or request for any of the above ministries, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.

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

Men's Group

MEN'S
BREAKFASTS



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 Breakfasts are scheduled for **May 14 & June 11—in Hoeffer Hall** (please call the church office to verify location).

Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robeson Robins had to cancel their trip to the American Music Theater on May 17. There is also no meeting in June but mark your calendar for July 19—

Dinner at Red Lobster, details to follow. If you are 55 or over and able to attend Tuesday meetings/trips once a month please consider joining the group. Lots of effort goes into planning events and the Robins would love to have more people participate. Please call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about the Robeson Robins. The Robeson Robins want to thank all of you who supported their Mother's Day flower sale and their book table, the only fundraisers to cover expenses for their programs.



QUILT TILL YOU WILT every first Saturday of the month from 9-2. If you like to “quilt” which includes cutting, sewing, and knotting, then maybe Quilt Till You Wilt is for you. This is the group that makes the beautiful quilts that are displayed each year prior to sending them to the distribution center for Lutheran World Relief. Why not give it a try? Join the group on May 7 or June 4 or call Cindy Stewart for more information (610-856-7041).

body/church and each of are given different gifts that benefit the body/church, which is itself the “body of Christ.”

Now you may be wondering just what does all of this mess have to do with boycotts?

Well, the truth is that there is no Biblical command for Christians regarding the boycotting of stores or businesses; however, the notion that Christians should separate themselves from those places or people which stand against the body of Christ does certainly have biblical support (i.e. 1st Corinthians 5).

Even so, the question of whether or not to boycott a store or brand is often a complex issue, particularly because of the ways in which boycotts are framed or practiced.

So for instance, if you have been watching the news lately, you may know that there is a boycott controversy between Target and the American Family Association due to Target's anti-discriminatory policy that, among other things, would allow for a man who self-identifies as a woman to use the women's bathroom.

(It should be noted that no one seems up in arms about a woman who self-identifies as a man going into the men's room – Thanks social double standard!)

Now, the fear/concern which has promoted the boycott according to the American Family Association is of course that a male sexual predator will use the gender “loophole” to enter into the women's bathroom in order to commit some horrendous act upon some woman or female child.

Unfortunately, the collateral damage of this boycott is that Transgender folks are caught up in the middle of it, and it unwittingly empowers the mythos that Trans-women (a transgender person who was assigned male at birth but whose gender identity is that of a woman) are likely sexual predators.

From a different angle, you may also be aware that the state of North Carolina is also facing business boycotts from various companies (Apple, Yahoo, Facebook, Levi Strauss, and others) and entertainment boycotts by celebrities

(Bruce Springsteen, Nick Jonas, Demi Lovato, and others) due to recent decisions from lawmakers there which would allow for open discrimination against the LGBT community.

With all this boycotting, it gets confusing and it makes me wonder, “Are Target stores in NC getting more or less business now?” I’m not sure.

What I am sure of is that both of these situations (Target and North Carolina) are complex cases that affect more than just the Transgender and LGBT community; they are cases that can ultimately affect all of us.

Because of that, and as Christians, there is much wisdom to be found in trying to seek out and understand what is really at the heart of the matter before entering into any boycott.

For instance, some basic questions to consider:

Is the boycott based on loving ones neighbor, or is it based in fearing the stranger?

Who truly benefits from the boycott and who will ultimately suffer because of it?

Is the boycott truly a moral action, or is it simply a political statement for someone’s personal gain?

Does the boycott encourage further conversation and seek compromise, or does it end conversation in entrenched narrowmindedness?

The true power of a boycott lies in the hope to bring about change that works for everyone (or at least the majority involved). That kind of change does not happen when boycotts are mean-spirited, based on fear mongering, full of uninformed rhetoric, or carelessly ignoring the possibility of collateral damage. Instead true change comes when a boycott encourages further conversation towards compromise, watches out for collateral damage, and seeks out equity rather than privilege.

(For example of peaceful protest boycotts, consider the

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 summer newsletter are due in the office by June 15.

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 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.

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS: 2/29/16	\$ 28,683.98
Special funds received in March	\$ 430.00
Flooring Fund Donations	\$ 2,528.00

OUTFLOW:

Microphone (microphone fund)	\$45.00
------------------------------	---------

Checking Account balance 3/31/16	\$ 31,340.98
----------------------------------	--------------

Special funds received in April	\$45.00
Flooring Fund Donations	\$15.00

OUTFLOW:

Community Activities Fund (Flat screen TV)	\$538.00
--	----------

Checking Account balance 4/30/16	\$30,860.98
----------------------------------	-------------

-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 March totaled \$1,393.00 Thanks to the following for making this possible:

Evelyn & Gerald Hoffert	Bonnie Lauer
Roger Mauchline	Nevin Moore
Dave Onushko	Carl Stewart
Wendy Yost	Betty Zellner
Anonymous donor	

Montgomery Bus Boycott or the Delano Grape Strike of 1960)

As I said, it's a complex world, and as Christians we don't get a free pass with always having easy choices to make.

To boycott or not to boycott, that is the question, and the answer is ultimately between you and the Lord. However, whether one chooses to boycott an issue or not, that should never prevent one from engaging in open conversation, otherwise we might miss out on the opportunity of reaching a better place through change or compromise.

Your brother in Christ,

PASTOR MICHAEL



Preschool News:

CLOSING PROGRAMS: The preschool will hold end of the year programs and graduation the week of May 23 at 9:30 a.m.. The Toddler Class will have a party on Monday, the Pre-K class will graduate on Tuesday, the 4's will hold their program on Wednesday, and the 3's party will be on Thursday. All are welcome to attend these programs.

SUMMER CAMP: June 6-10 & June 13-17—9 a.m.—12 noon. Week 1: SPACE; Week 2: UNDER THE SEA. Cost is \$75/week; available to children 3-6 (must be potty trained). Applications are available in our preschool office or by calling 610-856-7613. Camp is filling up quickly. Please call asap if you are interested.

OPENINGS are still available for the 2016-2017 school year. Please call the preschool office for more information 610-856-7613.

PENTECOST, THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

May 15, 2016

Fifty days after Easter, the disciples were hiding in fear in Jerusalem when, suddenly, there was the rush of a mighty wind and tongues of fire descended on them. They were empowered to leave the locked room where they were and go out into the crowded streets of Jerusalem and proclaim in all the languages of the pilgrims gathered there that "Jesus, who has been crucified, has been raised from the dead." (Acts 2) Thus the church was born, and we have been celebrating that birth ever since on the 50th day after Easter. This year will be no different.

The color of the day is RED. To highlight the day, we will adorn the nave with red geraniums and we ask that you wear something red if possible.

Because Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church Year (besides Christmas and Easter), the Holy Communion will be celebrated as a high festival on that day. Come, share the Spirit!

YOU'RE INVITED: Please join us for a special event!
RETIRE WISELY presented by John Lauer

Get important financial strategies from a membership organization of Christians that's been helping members be wise with money and live generously for more than 100 years. Hosted by Thrivent Financial representative John Wm. Lauer, FIC, CLTC.

The program will be held on **Sunday morning, May 22** between the two worship services from 9:00- 10:00 since adult Sunday School will end the week before on Pentecost, May 15. The topic will be Retire Wisely. It is hoped that many who are thinking about retirement or who have just entered the retirement years will plan to attend. There will be refreshments and a one hour presentation. Please RSVP to John at John.Lauer@Thrivent.com or call 610-286-5986.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for March:	\$20,189.94
Other Income:	\$ 1,238.32 (in/out)
Checks issued for March:	\$ 26,591.95
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 163.69
Transfer from Thrivent Funds	\$ 5,000.00
Checking balance as of 3/31/16	\$ 411.49

Unpaid Bills:

None

In/Out accounts: \$15.00

Income for April:	\$17,665.35
Other Income:	\$ 759.04(in/out)
Checks issued for April:	\$ 18,276.31
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 411.49
Checking balance as of 4/30/16	\$ -956.40

Unpaid Bills:

Synod Benevolence	\$ 500.00
World Hunger	\$ 242.00
West Berks Mission District	\$ 250.00
Shady Hollow Assisted Riding	\$ 254.04

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Recent graduates: Please alert the church office if you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year. We would like to list your information in the summer newsletter. Thanks for your help!

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.



ROBESON LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
invites you to an

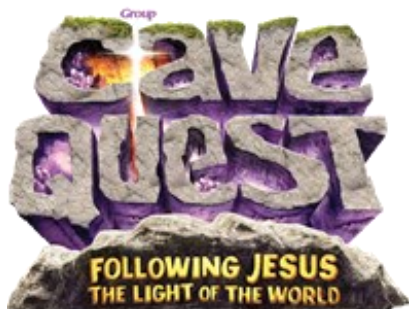
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
FUND RAISER**
on **May 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Donation: \$5.00 per person
children 3 and under are free

Includes sundaes made with Turkey Hill Ice Cream, drinks and snacks. Raffle baskets will be available. Volunteers are part of a Thrivent Action Team (Thank you John Lauer, Thrivent Financial Advisor, for your help with this!) The Ice Cream Social is the final fundraiser for Hoeffler Hall flooring. Your support will be greatly appreciated!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Date: June 20-24

Time: 9:00—Noon



Ages: 3 year olds (potty trained)
thru 6th grade



12:30-2:00 **Activity Camp**
for 1st thru 6th grade

Back in 2010, when I was teaching my own job to a Brazilian team that would ultimately replace me, I befriended a 6' 6" tower of a young man, twenty years younger than I - his name was Felipe. Felipe had a young wife and a dog, and was raised Catholic. His wife was a practicing Christian, but Felipe was a practicing atheist. We became close friends and we are still good friends today. I spent about one year trying to buy [for Felipe] a version of "Mere Christianity" translated into Portuguese - to prove to Felipe that God exists. Between the two of us, I don't think we were ever able to obtain that book. But I never gave up on Felipe. Then in 2015, Felipe and his wife were blessed with their first child; a baby girl. I waited a few months for this miracle to sink in. Then one day, when replying to his e-mail, I added a line to the end of my note. It read: "P.S. Can you see God now?" My next reply from Felipe contained only three words: "Yes. Thank you."

This year's [Easter] sermon discussion series aligned with, and fortified our ongoing message of "radical hospitality" - guiding us to reach out and invite folks to the Lord's Table. Be it people we work with, people we meet while food shopping, or people we meet at the summer carnival, or people we help on a service project; we are called to be Christians of action and Christians "in action." As our church year unfolds, each time you see the word Pentecost on your Sunday Bulletin, be reminded of our Christian mission in this physical world. Take every opportunity to share our radical hospitality, and the Good News of our Faith. May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn bright in you this Pentecost season. God bless!



The Fire of the Season

Commentary by Chris Gerace

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Regarding Pentecost, when I read Acts 2, Verse 3 [*Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*] - I notice that the next verse does not state "...and they were all burned." No, the next verse reads like this: [*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*] Wow! This is such a significant moment in the story of our Faith.

That said, did you ever wonder why the church season of Pentecost is seven months long? When we wear red and celebrate the high festival of Pentecost, it's not just the one day we are meant to observe, because Pentecost Sunday marks a "launch point" for our own Christian mission. Did you read that right? Oh, yes. Pentecost is where "the Man upstairs" tells us that it is time for us to go to work. The season of Pentecost is not the time to set the cruise control, and "chillax" through late spring and summer, and then look forward to Rally Day, then onward to Reformation Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, and then (yay!) Advent begins and soon we'll be celebrating the birth of Jesus again... Stop! Wait!

The message shared on Pentecost Sunday, is that the Holy Spirit seeks to "set our hearts on fire" so, that we may burn with a passion to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Out there... in the physical world... just as people have done for over 2,000 years. It's done by "word of mouth" folks. It's done face to face, one to one. And it is the fire of the Holy Spirit on our tongues, when we engage people in our secular world with the Good News. We should never keep our Faith to ourselves.

VBS 2016: Send your kids on an over-the-top underground adventure!

At Cave Quest VBS, kids explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love. Cave Quest VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life! Please mark the date on your calendar. The fun starts at 9:00AM and will end at 12:00. There will be an activity camp from 12:30-2:00 Monday-Thursday for those who completed Kindergarten through 6th grade.

A Registration form is included in this newsletter. Please use one form per child and make copies as needed. If you have questions, please contact Sue Creed in the Robeson Church office, 610-856-7242.

Help from parents, teen siblings and grandparents is always appreciated. If you are willing to be part of "The Team", please email Sue Creed at screed@dejazzd.com We will need craft helpers, group leaders to take classes to various centers, preschool helpers and scenery/foyer decorators. Clearances are needed for all volunteers but can be done online for free.

July Activities for 1st through 6th graders

Are your children looking for a morning of activities when the month of July comes around? I would like to offer 3 or 4 weeks of activities on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Currently I am planning to have a morning of yoga, Zumba, music and possibly art or sports. Along with an hour of these activities there would be a lesson focused on hunger, serving others, etc. If this is something your child/children would be interested in please contact me via email at screed@dejazzd.com or call me at the church office at 610-856-7242.

God's Peace,
Sue Creed



Our church is having a Book Fair!

Do you have what you need to keep your kids busy this summer? Stop by our Book Fair and shop award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for babies to ten-year-olds. Save up to 15% plus free shipping on all Book Fair titles.

Stop by the new foyer between May 29 and June 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids.

Our Book Fair is sponsored by Sparkhouse Family, an imprint of Sparkhouse, that is committed to telling stories that help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage. The books will include some Sparkhouse Family favorite titles, like The Spark Story Bible, as well as books and Bibles from their much-anticipated Frolic series, which combines child development principles and faith concepts to help little ones take their first steps in faith.

Youth Fundraiser:



The senior youth group is holding a “ticket” HOAGIE SALE for Weaver Orchard’s delicious sandwiches.

Please consider supporting this fundraiser as the youth begin to raise funds in order to attend the next national youth event to be held in Houston, Texas in 2018. Stop by the church office or see Tyler Werner to purchase a sandwich coupon. Cost is \$5 and they never expire! We thank Maggie Lauer who has formed a Thrivent Action Team to help with this fundraiser and Thrivent Financial for providing the funding, shirts and other supplies.

The next Youth Committee Meeting: May 15 after the 10:15 service. The youth will be enjoying another Youth Fellowship Lab on Saturday, May 21 from 12 noon until 10 p.m. Please join the youth from Robeson Lutheran and bring some friends! There will be lots to do and fun for everyone. See Tyler for details.

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).



ROBESON FAMILY AND FRIENDS GAME NIGHT:

The next game night will be held on Friday, May 13 from 6-8 p.m. Those who have been coming out are having a great time but the more the merrier! Everyone is welcome however, an adult must accompany children under age 12. Bring your family, bring a guest, bring a snack to share, bring your favorite game to play, or just bring yourself!