

The Parish Digest

FEBRUARY 2012

ROBESON EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3520 PLOW ROAD, MOHNTON, PA 19540

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February 2012

The Parish Digest



From the Pastor:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Matthew 2:1-2

In between the season of Christmas and Lent, we in the church have a special season of celebration known as Epiphany. Now the dictionary defines "epiphany" as a "revealing, manifestation, or unveiling." Thus, in the church, Epiphany is a season in which we begin to see the true reality of Jesus Christ as Lord over all creation. And as we hear it in our lessons following the Christmas season, the news which was once known only to Joseph and Mary, some shepherds and several magi of old, now begins to spread throughout the world.

We see in Epiphany that Jesus is "revealed" as the Son of God to the Magi, he is revealed as the beloved Son of God to John the Baptist and his disciples at the river Jordan and too the large crowds that came to be baptized as well. Jesus is steadily "revealed" at the wedding in Cana, (continued on p. 4)

2

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 and Thursday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:00;

Day off: Monday;

Email address: revmikeware@gmail.com

Rev. Luther Route', Associate Pastor

Home: 610-372-0536 Office: 610-856-7242

Email address: lroutte@verizon.net

Susan J. Creed, Minister of Christian Ed. —Home 610-777-8241

Office Hours: M-TH 1-4:00 610-856-7242

Email address: screed@dejazzd.com

Meghan Brown, Minister of Music—Home: 610-856-1577

Email address: MB687417@wcupa.edu

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

Donna Kleinsmith, Office Assistant—T & Th 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Email address: dkleinsmith@dejazzd.com

Dale Creed, Maintenance Supervisor—M-Th mornings

Keely Bailey, Sexton—Home: 610-856-5211

Donna Conte, Preschool Director

Office Hours: M, T, Th 1-3; F 9-12 610-856-7613

Council Officers:

Bob Lorah, President

Chris Leister, Secretary

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Roger Mauchline

Jane Meyers

Bill Haney

Joy O'Donnell

Diane Morlock, V. President

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Dick Kleinsmith

Stacia Gehman (youth)

Tyler Werner

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

FEBRUARY:

Eva March—February 16

Ron Ludwig—February 20

Jerry Ludwig—February 22

Barbara Harding—February 27



MARCH:

Russell McVaugh—March 3

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 GAINS:

12/24/11—Ben and Linell McCormick and daughters Erin and

Cara—Transfer from Grace Lutheran, Shillington

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: We will be making a new **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** the week after Easter (April 8). You will be notified of dates so that you can choose which would be most suitable for you and your family. We hope every member participates so that all members will have their pictures in the directory. Each member/family will receive an 8X10 photo free. More information will follow.

FROM OUR MAILBOX:

Bill Moore and family wish to thank the members of our church for the nice expressions of sympathy and for their thoughtfulness and generous contributions to Grace's memorial fund at the church. We appreciate this very much.

We received a nice thank you from the Friendship Fire Company for our donation of \$250 for 2011. "WE are strickly a volunteer fire company and must raise most of the funds to support our budget. It is because of people like you and your generosity that we are able to provide services to our community."

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..

You are cordially invited to the CASAVANT ORGAN Dedicatorial Service and Recital to be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sinking Spring on Sunday, February 12 at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, professor of music at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, recitalist. Hors d'oeuvre reception will follow in the social hall. A free-will offering will be received.



FEBRUARY SERVICES & EVENTS



February 4—5:30 p.m. **Saturday Evening
Communion Service**

February 5— 7:45 & 10:15 **Holy Communion**

Scout Sunday

Super Bowl Luncheon & Offering

9:00 SCS



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

11:30—**Annual Congregational Meeting**



February 15—6-8 **Captive Free** (see special article on page 7)

February 19—7:45 & 10:15 **Transfiguration Sunday
Installation of Visitation Teams**

& Temple Talk

9:00 SCS—Lenten Kick-off for K-7th grades



February 22—3:00 & 7:00 **Ash Wednesday Services
Holy Communion**

February 26—7:45 & 10:15 **Worship**

9:00 SCS; Acolyte Training

11:40 **Healing Service**



February 29—12:00 noon—Lenten Bible Study begins

6:00 **Lenten Supper and Service**

(continued from page 1)

at the synagogue in Nazareth, on the shores of Lake Gennesaret and finally on the mountaintop; proclaiming good news to the poor and oppressed and later being transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Thus to young and old, rich and poor, wise and foolish, to those living in the highest places and to those living below, the truth of who Jesus really is begins to spread. And this Epiphany “revealing” continues on today and reaches across time, so that we as the Church may see the truth of the Christ before us as we gather together each Lord’s Day around the Word and Sacraments. And in that truth, in that revelation, we are forever drawn to our calling to come and see, to come and follow, and then to go and tell others.

And so in this season of Epiphany, consider the many ways in which the truth of Jesus Christ has been revealed to you, and then ask yourself, “How is my life, how is my walk as a Christian, helping to reveal the Lordship of Jesus Christ to those around me?”

With that in mind, may God bless you in this season of Epiphany, and may the revelation of Jesus Christ inspire you to hope, boldness, and confidence, that you might be a light to the world, illuminating all those around you with the full love of God.

Your brother in Christ,

PASTOR MICHAEL

BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

In case of inclement weather please tune in to WEEU Radio or WFMZ TV to see if church services and/or events have been cancelled. It is our policy that if Twin Valley Schools are cancelled due to bad weather then all church activities for that evening are also cancelled.

Please remember that if you are without heat and/or electric, you are welcome to stay at the church (if there is electric here). We also have hot showers! Just call first to check.

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.

We now have a recycling container near our dumpster at the outside door to Hoeffler Hall. If you empty cans or bottles at the church please put them in the red containers found around the church or directly in the recycling container instead of the trash. (Please do not bring your cans and bottles from home to be recycled—we are paying for this container.)

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: Our thanks to those members 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. This month’s contributions were from:

Harvey Martin
David Onushko

Thank you!



TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for December:	\$25,406.10	
Other Income:	\$ 1,680.31	(in/out)
Checks issued for December:	\$40,021.48	
Checking balance brought forth:	\$16,646.65	
Checking balance as of 12/31/2011	\$ 3,785.72	
Unpaid Bills:	none	
Balance of \$3,785.72 includes in/out carry over: \$1,442.96 and payroll taxes \$2,234.02.		

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

TOTAL ASSETS:	11/30/11	\$100,361.94
Special funds received in December:		928.00
Outflow:		
Improvement Fund—Parsonage chimney liner		\$1450.00
TOTAL ASSETS:	12/31/2011	\$99,837.94

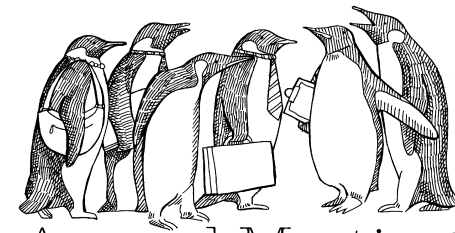
-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

"DIGEST" DEADLINE

Please publicize your group's/committee's activities and ministries by having your next newsletter article in to the office by February 15 for the March Digest. Thank you.

REMINDER: 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSOR openings: Please check the schedule page for any openings and if you are interested please call Donna at the church office. Reminder: Altar flowers cost is \$33 and bulletins are \$25.

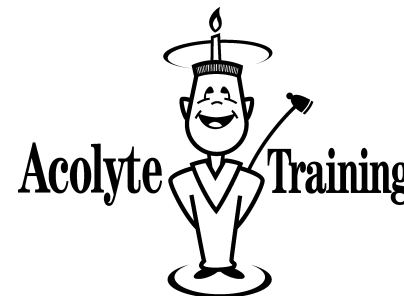


Annual Meeting

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 12, after the 10:15 a.m. service

At this meeting the reports from committees and organizations within the church will be approved. Annual reports can be picked up at the church anytime after a week prior to the meeting. If you would like an Annual Report but you are unable to pick one up, please call the church office and we will be happy to mail or deliver one to you.



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 4 AND UP:

Pastor Michael will be training acolytes on February 26 at 9:00 a.m. If you would consider serving as an acolyte, please contact the church office and sign up for this training. We are in need of acolytes for both the 7:45 & 10:15 services. Current

acolytes are encouraged to attend as a refresher course. (Snow date: March 4)



CONGRATULATIONS to our members, Josh Jarmoski and Nick Gordon who obtained the rank of Eagle Scout in our own Troop 543 here at Robeson Lutheran.

We would also like to thank Josh for the great job he did on his Eagle Scout project which was renovating and replacing the pew card/pencil holders to better accommodate the cards and envelopes. Thank you Josh for a job well done!!!



FEBRUARY 1- 5:30-7:30 p.m.

PIZZA MAKING DEMONSTRATION

By Sal Russo, owner of LaCantina



Followed by
a Power Point Presentation
On the Culture of Italy
By Alessandro Russo

Kids will have the opportunity to help Sal make pizzas for our meal.

A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses. Salad toppings are still needed; please contact Sue Creed.

SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON—
sponsored by PlowShares

Sunday, February 5, immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service. Everyone is invited to stay for a lunch of soup (all kinds!), bread, dessert and drink. Donation \$5. All proceeds will go to help feed the hungry in our local community. Please come out and support this event, the PlowShare children are counting on you!



Donations of soup are still needed so if you like to cook, please call Crystal Leister (610-286-0896), Keely Bailey (610-856-5211) or the church office.

Men's Group

The men of Robeson Lutheran Church continue to meet for breakfast and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month at 7:30a.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 February 11.



"Robeson Hammers"
Helping Members in need
with Minor Repairs at Home

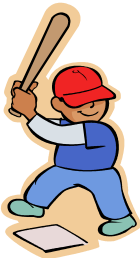
The Robeson Hammers group is presently assisting members of our congregation with minor repairs and small projects that make their homes safer and more comfortable. We are in need of more volunteers to help with this much appreciated ministry to assist members with minor repairs in their home. We are especially in need of someone who can repair small engines such as lawn mowers and someone who is comfortable doing small electrical projects. Please call Bill Haney at 610-404-1108 if you are willing to volunteer.

We would also like to know of anyone needing this kind of assistance. If you can use some help please do not hesitate to give us a call! Please contact Bill Haney 610-404-1108, John Lauer 610-286-0800, Charlotte Gehman 610-286-7338, or the church office to volunteer or to arrange for some help.



Robeson Robins Senior Group Calendar

The next meeting will be February 21 and will feature a soup luncheon followed by everyone's favorite Bingo! Please bring a small crock pot of soup to share and be ready to share your recipe as well! What better way to spend a cold, February afternoon! Mark your calendars now. All "seniors" 55 and older are invited!



BASEBALL CLINIC

to be held at Robeson Lutheran Church
on Saturday, February 18, 2012

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – ages 8 and under
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon – ages 9 and up

This clinic is for all children/youth ages 6 through 12 and their parent(s) who enjoy baseball and would like to learn more about the proper fundamentals of pitching, catching and batting. Please call the church office at 610-856-7242 to register or email dde-marco@dejazzd.com with child's name, age and contact information. Ex-Phillie Rich Gaynor will lead the clinic.

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.

Robeson Hammers—Helping members in need with minor repairs at home, mainly small projects that would make their homes more safe or comfortable.



Captive Free Family Night

Wednesday,
Feb. 15th 6-8PM

As a preview to their WBMD weekend at Allegheny Lutheran (Feb. 17-18), the East Coast Captive Free team will present a family night music worship program in Hoeffler Hall, hosted by Robeson Senior Youth. Captive Free will lead the worship in the form of music, skits and testimonials.

The event is free and geared to Christians of all ages. (There will be a free will offering to support the Captive Free team mission). Captive Free and Youth Encounter merchandise will also be available as part of their mission funding.

There will also be fellowship time so that everyone can meet with the team members. If you are able to bring a snack item to share during this time please call Chris Gerace (610-404-4070) or hand in the form below. Thanks for your help with this!

Donation of snacks would be appreciated:

Name: _____ Phone: _____
I will bring: _____ chips _____ pretzels _____ cookies
_____ cupcakes/brownies _____ other snacks
_____ drinks (specify: _____)

PLOWSHARES

(for grades 3-12 and adults)

The Plowshares group will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring with a quarters collection using mini M&M tubes to save the quarters in. Call it "Show you care with quarters" All money is to be turned in on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, when we will have our Soup Kitchen Luncheon. All money raised will go to local food pantries.

SR. HIGH YOUTH EVENTS:

Jan 26th - 7-11PM Winter Jam Festival, Reading Sovereign Center (depart at 4PM)

Jan. 27-28, 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. Lock-In chaperoned by Pastor Michael, and Jen and Andy Powell.

Feb 15th - 6-8PM Captive Free Family Night hosted by Robeson Senior Youth

Feb 17-18—Captive Free overnight at Allegheny Lutheran

Robeson Lutheran Preschool



Pre-Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be upon us shortly. Pre-registration is for families who have children currently enrolled, previously had a child attend the school, and for family members of the church. We have set aside two days for pre-registration; they are Monday & Tuesday, January 30th & 31st

from 9-12. You can do early registration from these dates until February 20 when registration opens to the public. Please call the preschool office at 610-856-7613 with any questions.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: When is the last time the two of you did something just for your relationship? Make 2012 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday



night at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The **2012 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends** are: **March 16-18 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College PA** (peaceful resort located in the center of the state), **Apr. 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA** (a lovely hotel featuring king beds and in-room hot tubs--1 hour north of Pittsburgh), **September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA** (a 1917 Manor with beautiful modern retreat center in the Allegheny National Forest -- 20 miles southeast of Warren, PA), and **October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA** (in the beautiful Pocono Mountains just off Interstate 80 -- 2 hrs. north of Philadelphia.) Registrations are limited, so choose your Weekend, and sign up today to ensure your first choice. If a conflict arises, you may transfer your registration to any other Weekend that has openings. To sign up, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and register using your credit card. Or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724 -325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.

VERONICA'S UPDATE #10:

Hello Church Family,

It was so nice to be home for Christmas holiday and to get to see everyone. Thanks again to everyone who came out to support the spaghetti lunch fund-raiser. I was humbled and blessed by all the time and work given by those to make it happen – especially, Mr. Gehman, Meghan Brown, the Roberson Senior Youth, the Leister family, and my family.

I returned to St. Paul Jan 2nd, and Max and I met our new teammates Kevin, Dan and Marcus. I am now the only female on the Central Plains team.

My new teammates are pretty great. If I had to get put on a team with four guys, I doubt I could have done better. They have been aptly warned to take good care of me, but they insist they're more worried about taking care of themselves, since they think I can hold my own pretty well.

When we played our first event after only a few practices, the event went unbelievably well. We thank our Lord for helping out with that. Last week we got stuck in Ottumwa, Iowa for an extra day, due to ferocious winds. But our host families were eager for us to stay the extra day. Now we are back on the road, “trudging across the tundra, mile after mile,” to new experiences on our musical ministry to spread the Word of Christ. Thank you again for your prayers and support!

God bless,
Veronica (Jan 18th, 2012)

Sponsors can directly send a tax-deductible donation to support Veronica's one year mission at:

<http://www.youthencounter.org/veronicagerace>



LENTEN KICKOFF IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

February 19

LENT There will be a special program to begin the Lenten season for our Kindergarten through 7th grade students on Sunday, February 19. The morning will consist of an introduction to the season of Lent. Two craft projects will be made and a pancake breakfast will be prepared by the 6th and 7th grade class for the Kindergarten – 5th grade classes. We will also “bury the Alleluia” on this Sunday. This is a practice in the liturgy that we not use the word Alleluia until Easter Sunday, because of the solemnity of the Lenten season.

NOONTIME LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

February 29

Pastor Route' will offer a noontime bible study for the five Wednesdays of Lent beginning February 29th. The first session will have some type of “Lenten food”. The group will decide at the first session what our future meals will include. This is open to all people of **ALL AGES.** The emphasis is on the theme “This Way to Easter”. Please invite friends and neighbors to attend this study.

DVD LIBRARY EXPANDED

Several new items have been added to our video library over the past year. Perhaps the most exciting item is a **VeggieTales collection of 30 DVDs** on 10 discs. These can be used by teachers, group leaders, preschool teachers, etc. We also have the complete collection of the **Nooma DVD series** by Rob Bell. This series is aimed at senior high and above. Some of life's toughest issues are presented in modern “parable” format in these 10-14 minute DVDs. They provide a great way to start meaningful discussions in your groups.

All DVDs are kept in the church office in order to keep track of their whereabouts. Anyone is welcome to borrow a DVD/VHS from the collection. Please see Sue Creed or stop by the church office and take a look at what is available.

OUTREACH NEWS:



Those of you who attended the Wednesday Church Night in January were able to meet one of our new missionaries, Kristen Opalinski.. Kristen gave a short presentation prior to the Pretzel City concert. Kristen works with the LUSCA, Lutheran Communion in South Africa and has returned there for another year of ministry. When her mission work there is over, she has promised to return to Robeson and tell us her story.

Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson, our other missionaries, could not be with us at Christmas but they did send us their Christmas letter which we would like to share with you:

Dear Friends and Family,

A wonderful year indeed. It has been marked by so many blessings and so much excitement. Our daughter Laura, married James Wu on July 3rd in New York City! What a wonderful joining together of Tanzanian, American, and Taiwanese cultures. The whole family was then blessed by traveling to Taiwan for a warm and wondrous reception in Taipei.

In and around the planning and celebration of a marriage, Mark and Linda have continued to serve in Tanzania. Mark continues to lead the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre into new ground as one of the premier health institutions in the country. Highlights have included introducing telemedicine ultrasounds and being approved to start a Surgical Residency. Linda is coordinating the thirty some visiting doctors and students who move through Selian and ALMC plus using her spiritual formation training to assist in the Sexual Abuse and Rape Centre at the hospital. A recent Cancer Conference in Cairo let me speak on the international stage while Linda managed to visit Tahrir Square!

Our kids have been incredible in their scope. (cont. on page 11)

(continued from page 10) Laura finished her Masters of Science in Public Health at Johns Hopkins where Linda and I met, and so her graduation was especially fun. She and James are settled in New York City where she has just been employed by the city Health Department and James is about to begin an MBA at Columbia.

Sarah completed her year's Fulbright Scholarship in Cape Town in June and got back to the US in time for her sister's wedding. Now she is off to Paris for a post Fulbright Fellowship with UNESCO doing research on gender violence.

The youngest, Katherine, is just finished with a semester abroad, where else, in Africa – in the country of Senegal. After Christmas she returns to Brown in Providence for the end of her third year.

We feel particularly blessed to be together as a family this Christmas Season. We have not been together in Tanzania for two years and this year, all of us have been able to come together to share, to laugh, to remember, and to worship the Babe, the Holy Child.

Blessings,

Mark and Linda



Kristen's address is: Kristen Opalinski
c/o LUCSA
P.O. Box 7170
Bonaero Park 1622
South Africa

Email: Studio33designs@yahoo.com

Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson—Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania in health ministry. Contact: Mark and Linda Jacobson

Box 937
Arusha, Tanzania

Email: mjacobson@habari.co.tz
lindawjacobson@gmail.com