

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham
"The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"
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EVANGEL



WINTER



December 2009 & January 2010

**Keeping it Simple for the Holidays -
We CAN be Really Ready to Receive God's Most Precious Gift**

Pastor David Deal

"... For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is Given ..."

Most years, the Christmas holiday is eagerly anticipated and passionately planned for. From late October through New Years we shop, decorate, bake, send cards, bask in the holiday music, and more. And we also tend to celebrate ourselves to a frazzle - missing the joy of the season.

2009 may be different for many of us, even most of us. The planning and decorations and gift-giving may have to be scaled back, We just don't have the money or economic confidence we may have had two or three or five or ten years ago. This could lead us to disappointment. But it doesn't have to. It **could** lead us to the scene of a gift we have never fully understood or appreciated. This Christmas, we may be more ready than ever before to receive the Christ child, born in a manger, to save the world from sin, sickness, and death, from poverty prejudice, and war.

I urge you to "make it simple" this year. Spend time with the Christmas Scriptures. Give thanks for the Savior with your family. Come together in Advent and Christmas worship with your church family. Emanuel (which means "God with us") has come to give us hope beyond our deepest fears. And we, God's people, in turn are commissioned to share this hope - just like the shepherds did - with the world.

Or course, we still hope to hear the Christmas music and share good holiday food and fellowship with family and friends. But at the center of our Christmas observances is the Christ born humbly in a Bethlehem manger to save us from our sins.

Making Christmas Simple and Spiritual: Give ELCA Good Gifts

ELCA Good Gifts, the giving catalog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, lifts up 65 gift ideas filled with meaning and love. ELCA Good Gifts are a special way you can help make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church while giving a gift to a friend, teacher, neighbor, or other loved one. ELCA Good Gifts catalogs are displayed in the narthex. Pick one up, or speak to Pastor Deal if you have any questions. You can find the ELCA Good Gifts catalog online at

<https://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=469>

See page 8 of this newsletter for some more eco- and people-friendly gift ideas.

**BIG NEWS in
December & January**

- December 6 - Christmas In-gathering of Gifts - see Outreach on page 3 for info
- December 13 - Reception of New Members - Annual Budget Meeting - Christmas Covered Dish Dinner
- December 18 - Care-A-Lot Christmas Play
- December 18 - Community Carol Sing @ 7:00 PM
- December 20—Children's Christmas Service @10:30
- Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve -Two services: 5:00 and 7:30 PM
- January 10 - BAPTISMS!
- January 20 - SOUP SUPPER

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From your COUNCIL PRESIDENT ...

As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who diligently worked with me to attain the goals that we planned for this past year. Our big project to replace the windows in our church is now underway. This project is one of many to reach our goal as a congregation of good stewardship in taking care of God's world by going green. You will be happy to know that the new insulation in our church ceiling and the energy saving light bulbs have made a distinct difference in our electric bill. Unfortunately, the electric company will be raising rates starting in the new year! The front of our church also will be getting a new, much needed face lift and will be more inviting for the upcoming holiday season and into the new year and beyond.

I have some good news to share about Job, the little black cat that was found stuck inside one of our church window wells and starving. He has made a full recovery. We now jokingly call him Lazarus! Thanks to the kindness of David and Linda Sauter and others taking care of him daily (which included several visits from a vet) he is well again.

Continued on Page 2

Congregational Highlights in December & January - (Christmas & Epiphany)

Sunday, December 13

- 10:30 AM - Advent Worship and Reception of New Members
- 11:30 - Congregational Meeting to approve the 2010 Budget
- 12:30 - Annual Congregational Christmas Covered Dish Dinner

Friday, December 18

- Care-A-Lot Community Day - Christmas Play & Last day of Preschool for 2009
- 7:00 PM Community Carol Sing

Sunday, December 20

Sunday School Christmas Service at 10:30 AM

Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 PM

Children's Christmas Eve Service (for families with young children)

Thursday, December 24 at 7:30 PM

Traditional Candlelight and Communion service with special choir selections

Sunday, December 27

No Sunday School!
10:30 AM Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 3

No Sunday School
10:30 AM -First Holy Communion of the New Year - Epiphany Celebration (the wise men and their gifts for the Christ child)

Sunday, January 10 - Baptism of our Lord

10:30 AM -Adult and youth baptisms

Council Corner, *continued*

So well, that a woman from Hilltown has adopted him after seeing our ad. Ironically, her black cat of 20 years died and she was looking to replace it. Everywhere she turned she seemed to be seeing the story of Job, and when she spied our ad to adopt "Job" fate stepped in. Job now has a new home and the woman is thrilled. Miracles do still happen!!

That reminds me that Christmas will soon be here and that Jesus' birth is the greatest miracle of all! During these economic times, just remember that the best of gifts around a Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family and friends all wrapped up in each other! Just as an added tidbit, did you know that the abbreviation for Christmas originated with the Greeks? X the first letter of their word for Christ, turned "Christ's Mass" into Xmas.

We will try again this year to hold a community Christmas carol Sing on Friday evening, December 18th at 7:00p.m. in front of the nativity scene inside our wagon sheds. Join your neighbors and friends for old-fashioned Christmas Carols, hot chocolate, and cookies. More details to come soon.

The New Year brings new beginnings and new challenges. One challenge we need to overcome is how we are going to reach out into our community in actions to show our neighbors that we are the extension of God's light of love. Remember that we are "The Church on the Hill lighting the way to God's love!" Reach out and touch someone with kindness! I hope that all of you have a blessed holiday and the happiest New Year ever!

Love always,
Lynn Gaun, Council president

Council Highlights

- At the Special Congregational Meeting on November 15th, the congregation approved Council's recommendation that the bid of Paul Petty be accepted for the window replacement. The bid includes replacement of lower windows, painting of outside wood around the top and bottom windows and the front door archway, and repair of the front columns with a material called Azak, that will not absorb water.
- Council is considering various ideas for the use of some farmland behind the parsonage in Springtown that can no longer be farmed by the present tenant. A community garden was one suggestion.
- The copier machine in the Church Office is due to be replaced. Bids for purchase as well as lease are being solicited.



Christmas Poinsettias

It will soon be time to order Poinsettias to decorate our chancel for Christmas. Watch the Sunday bulletin for information. To order, you can sign up in the Narthex, or order by mail. The order forms will be available starting November 29. If you need information right away, please contact Sue Kehler by phone at 610-346-8900 or by e-mail at susannekehler@hotmail.com

This is the **LAST** mass-mailing of the **EVANGEL** Newsletter !

Starting in February 2010, we will NO LONGER MASS-MAIL the newsletter. THANK YOU to all the friends and family who have followed our congregation through the years via the newsletter mailings. Remember, you can follow us on our website, www.durhamlutheran.org, or on Facebook, where we have a Page (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham) as well as a Group (Durham Lutheran Facebook Faction.) You can even keep track of us on Twitter (Durham Lutheran)! If you would like to have the Evangel newsletter e-mailed to you, please e-mail the Church Office at evangel@durhamlutheran.org. Please drop us a note(PO Box 100, Durham PA 18039) if you would like to receive the newsletter via first class mail. The newsletter will only be **mailed by first class** to our homebound members and to those who specifically request it. Care-A-Lot families will now receive the newsletter in the child's cubby.

Happenings in the Life of the CHURCH ...

WELCA

During our November meeting we discussed 'thanksgiving' – cultivating an attitude of thanksgiving. It is easy, especially in our current trying economic times, to lose sight of how much we have to be thankful for, and how many people have blessed our lives. A family member, neighbor, teacher co-worker – we have all been blessed by the kindness, caring or example of someone. Reflect and give thanks for them and to them. We left with a homework assignment – to send a Thanksgiving card to at least one special person who has touched us,

We received a thank an honor certificate from Church World Service for our contributions to their blanket and tools program.

Our December meeting will be **Sunday December 13th** after church as we host the annual congregational covered dish Christmas dinner. Please join us and share good food, fellowship and some song as we sing a few Christmas carols. WELCA will supply the beverages, rolls and butter, you bring a dish and/or desert to share.

We will decorate our tables with poinsettias which will then be distributed to our shutin members.

Our January meeting will be **Saturday January 16th at 9:30 a.m.** Pastor will lead us in a discussion / study on making sense of suffering. Hostess is Esther Crouse. ~Helen Dungan



Outreach

Food: Thanks to all who have contributed food baskets; we would like to have a basket on the altar each Sunday during Advent. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. As you shop please pick up an extra item to contribute to the food banks; there is a large basket in the narthex for your donations.

Easton's November wish list includes canned fruit, canned soup, juice, saltine cracker, ground coffee, cereal and pasta sauce. The Lord's Pantry also requests canned meats, paper products and personal care items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste.

I deliver to the Easton food bank; and I no longer do it while they are serving people. The lines are out the hallway and into the parking lot. There really is a critical need for help.

Birthday party: If you are free on Wednesday afternoon Jan. 9th join us as we celebrate Helen Nicholas' birthday. She is the oldest member of our congregation. We will visit her at Gracedale and sing Happy Birthday and share some ice-cream cake. The party is set for 2:00 PM and we can carpool.

Caroling: After church on Sunday December 13th we will be visiting our shut-in members at Saucon Manor; we will give them poinsettias from WELCA and sing some carols. We are leaving after the congregational covered dish supper and plan to be back at the church before dark. We will again do a major 'hymning' during Lent to our shut-ins. December 13th is a 'mini' caroling just to share a little music and fun. If you don't want to sing, you can wash dishes!

Souper Bowl of Caring: We will again be collecting soup on Super Bowl Sunday; this is a really neat way to do some good while enjoying football's Super Bowl. More details in the February newsletter.

Library - We have put some good Christmas reading on the window sills in church. For the youngest – *Jesus God's Son Is Born* and *The gift of Christmas*. For older children there are a number of Arch Books including *The Baby God Promised*, which is told in rhyme, *The Story of Silent Night*, *The Christmas Gifts That Didn't Need Wrapping*, and *Tomahawks and Trombones* (which tells the story of the sound of the Moravian Trombone Choir scared the Indians who were planning to attack them on Christmas Eve in 1755.) For the grownups, there is Peter Marshall's *Let's Keep Christmas*, celebrating the real meaning of Christmas; Leo Buscaglia's *Seven Stories of Christmas Love*, which shares seven holiday episodes from his life and W. Robert McClelland's *The Scandal and the Star*, a devotional book which strives to "free the birth of Christ from sentimental and seasonal stereotypes." Please take a book home to read and share – just sign the card in the back of the book and leave it on the window sill. Return it when you are finished.

Reminder ...

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 13 AFTER THE 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE TO APPROVE THE 2010 BUDGET.





January Soup Supper

Date: Wednesday, January 20

Time: 4:00 to 6:30 PM

Soups: Vegetable Beef and Potato

Price: Quart = \$5.00

(please bring your own container; we have some quart jars but not enough for everyone)

Eat In: (includes soup, bread, beverage and dessert) - \$6.00 for adults; \$3.00 for kids 6-12; 5 and under free.

January is our most labor intensive soup preparation as we have BASKETS of potatoes to peel. We also have onions, celery & carrots to prepare, tables to set up, bread and desserts to bake, pots and dishes to wash, soup to serve -- lots of work needing lots of helpers.

On Monday we will be cooking bones for the beef broth; after 5 PM help is needed straining the broth, and washing pots. One or two assistants would be greatly appreciated with this. Food prep begins at 9 AM on Wednesday. An evening shift for serving & dishwashing begins around 3:30; taking down the tables and putting chairs away begins around 6:30.

Please, please help!

December Worship Assistants



	6	13	20	24	27
Acolyte	Alaina Apgar	Michaela Segreaves	Morgan Segreaves	Scott Lehr, Corinne Ashmore, and Sharron Streletz	Steven Streletz
Greeter(s)	Nancy Moskella	Dianna Streletz & Family	Virginia Hager	5 PM - Aquino Family 7:30 PM - Lois & Jim Altemose	Carole Ulmer
Lector	Tom Gaun	Gladys Nicholas	---	Jessica Lehr	College Students TBA
Communion Asst.	Lynn Gaun, Norma Fox	Lynn Gaun, Norma Fox	Lynn Gaun, Norma Fox	Lynn Gaun, Norma Fox, Scott Lehr, Corinne Ashmore, and Sharron Streletz	
Altar Guild	Serena Ashmore and Barb Naska				
Head Usher	Cheryl Mesko				
Counters	Lynn Gaun and Norma Fox				



January Worship Assistants

	3	10	17	24	31
Acolyte	Corinne Ashmore	Alaina Apgar	Michaela Segreaves	Morgan Segreaves	Sharron Streletz
Greeter(s)	Linda & David Sauter	Betty Fox	Karen Rilling	Miriam & Becca Anderson	Cathy Mueller
Lector	Mark Harwick	Barb Naska	Joe Hlavaty	Linda Sauter	Beth Ross
Communion Asst.	Cheryl Mesko, Barb Naska.		Cheryl Mesko, Barb Naska,		
Altar Guild	Nancy Moskella and Mary Crouse				
Head Usher	David Sauter				
Counters	Cheryl Mesko and Barb Naska				

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

	Birthdays	Anniversaries
2	Clayton Leichter	
8	Morgan Segreaves	Dianna & Peter Streletz (19th)
9	Helen E. Nicholas (98th!) *	
19	Dorothy Metzgar (95th!) *	
20	Valerie McGinne	Evelyn & Bob Newcomb (58th)
21	Felix Grzymala Irene Fox (90th!) *	Kathy & Joe Hlavaty (35th)
26		Cheryl & Wayne Mesko (33rd)
27	Gerry Seipt	
28		Jayne & Jim Miller
29		Lois & Jim Altemose (36th)
30	George Kreitz	Gerry & Don Seipt (59th)

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	Ruth Behm (89th) *	
5	Joe Hlavaty	
7	George Fox (92nd) *	
8		Betty & Leo Fox (61st)
14	JoAnn Thaler Don Crouse	
15	Kathy Hlavaty	
16	Jim Altemose	
18	Rachel Crouse	
21	Josh Frey	
31	Sharron Streletz	

* The birthdays of our oldest members and those who are homebound are marked with an asterisk. Please help give them a card shower by sending them a greeting on their birthday. Please check the Calendar on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex to be sure your special days are accurately recorded. Be sure to write in your birthday and anniversary if they are not there!



A LITTLE HUMOR ...

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.



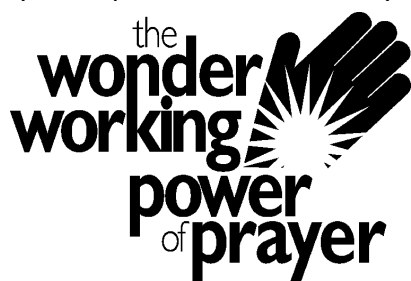
"You created us, O Maker of heaven and earth; you created us equal before you. And just as all of us have sinned and fallen short of your glory, so did you send your Son to die for all of us, that we and all of creation might be redeemed and restored to right relationship with you and with each other. Thank you for your grace that reaches out to all of us, sinners and redeemed, before you."

PRAYER



Lord, hear our prayers.

Please speak to the pastor before the service if you have someone you would like him to lift up in prayer. To place someone on the Prayer List, call the Church Office. For urgent prayer needs, start the Prayer Chain by calling Virginia Hager. Please make updates to Prayer List in the Narthex on the condition of anyone you've placed on the list. If you are on the Prayer List and are ready to be removed, please let us know!



Please lift up in prayer the following:

FOR HEALING for those members who are being diagnosed, are ill, or are facing surgery/hospitalization.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: including Clay Butler: Army/Iraq and Jimmy Apgar in Afghanistan

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY who need support.

FOR THE HOMEBOUND: For those who are unable to attend church.

OR JOY AND THANKSGIVING: Congratulations to Rachael Kressman and Joel Roney, as well as Jessica Fisher and Alan Johnson, both couples engaged to be married!

FOR THE GRIEVING: those who have lost loved ones during the past year.

Prayers for those with whom our church has a special relationship: our Prayer Partners, Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church in Camden, NJ — our Companion Synod, the North East Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. *Please offer a special prayer for the people of the Holy Land on the 9th day of this and every month.*

Rediscovering the Book of Faith



On January 24th and 31st, and February 7th (with February 14th as a weather make-up date) we will hold a new short course on introducing the Bible to all of us. This is a three-session course to be taught by the pastor as part of our Book of Faith initiative. In this course we will learn what the Bible is, how it came to be, and what it means for our lives.

As a result of conversations with some of you in October, it was determined that Sundays after worship would be the best time for this introductory course. We will begin on January 24, 2010. Coffee will be on downstairs, just bring a bag lunch. Plan to spend 60-90 minutes together each week.

Later next year, after this initial course, we hope to offer other Bible Studies at the church as well as in the homes of church members. And we will share information with those who are interested about individual Bible reading plans and on-line resources. In this way, we can all become better grounded in the Bible, the Book of Faith.



Care-A-Lot News

In December we will celebrate the amazing birth of Jesus and learn about faith and giving. We also will look for signs of winter's arrival and that of the New Year. We will review numbers and spend a lot of time preparing for our community Christmas play and celebration on December 18 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Marissa's mom, Mrs. Fiorino, will be leading us in our recycling and fundraising projects. We have carried over our recycling project from last year. Simply bring in your used cell phones and ink/toner cartridges to Care-A-Lot to recycle. Look for the box to collect these items located on top of the children's coat rack. The children are still learning to "Make A Difference" in their environment by recycling. We also are collecting box tops for our local elementary schools and any type of juice pouches (Minute Maid brand, Honest Kids, etc.).

In January of 2010, we will focus on diversity and tolerance with the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will say goodbye to the "Sea" and introduce the "Sky" and its related science concepts about air. We have a community ice skating trip planned for January 29 at the Bethlehem Municipal Ice Rink.

Happy holidays to you all!

Love, Mrs. Heinemann, Mrs. Hower, & Mrs. Prudish



Are you looking for Christmas gifts that are environmentally friendly, Fair Trade, or economically supportive of developing countries?

Check out these websites:

<http://worldofgood.ebay.com>

Features products that are people-positive, eco-positive, animal-friendly, and/or support a cause.

<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>

Your fair trade purchase of handmade jewelry, home decor and gifts helps improve the lives of thousands of artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

<http://www.shopcardsandgifts.unicefusa.org/>

You can help bring hope, health, and happiness to children around the world with your purchase of UNICEF cards and gifts.

thegreatergood.org

Through this site you can link to stores that sell gifts to support hunger & poverty; literacy & education; the environment, animal rescue, breast cancer, and children's health.

[www/iqive.com](http://www.iqive.com)

Register here and a portion of your online purchases from participating merchants will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

<http://www.lwr.org/coffee/>

Buy delicious Fair Trade Coffee, and more of the money you spend will go to farmers.

Winter Weather Update from Care-A-Lot

In case of inclement weather, if there are school delays and/or closing for the Wilson Area School District due to inclement weather, Care-A-Lot families will receive an e-mail from Kathy Heinemann by 8 AM with information about whether preschool will be held. Parents can also request to be notified by telephone. Please make sure that all of your pertinent phone numbers, including those of any caregivers who may be watching or transporting your child, are on record and correct.

School closing information can be found at these sources:

Channel 69 TV Storm Center

FM Radio Stations:

WAEB 104.1; HAWK 99.9;

WLEV 100.7; and WCTO 96.1

AM Radio Stations:

WEST 1400; WAEB 790; and

WEEX 1230



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Numbers Quiz Answers

1. 24 Hours in a Day
2. 26 Letters of the Alphabet
3. 7 Days of the Week
4. 7 Wonders of the World
5. 12 Apostles of Jesus
6. 12 Signs of the Zodiac
7. 66 Books of the Bible
8. 52 Cards in a Deck (With Out Jacks)
9. 13 Stripes in the US Flag
10. 18 Holes on a Golf Course
11. 39 Books of the Old Testament
12. 5 Toes on a Foot
13. 90 Degrees in a Right Angle
14. 3 Blind Mice (See How They Run)
15. 3 Wheels on a Tricycle
16. 12 Months in a Year
17. 13 = Unlucky For Some
18. 8 Tentacles on an Octopus
19. 29 Days in February in a Leap Year
20. 27 Books in the New Testament
21. 365 Days in a Year
22. 13 Loaves in a Baker's Dozen
23. 52 Weeks in a Year
24. 9 Lives of a Cat (Job!)
25. 60 Minutes in an Hour
26. 23 Pairs of Chromosomes in the Human Body
27. 64 Squares on a Chess Board
28. 1000 Years in a Millennium
29. 76 Trombones in the Big Parade
30. 57 Heinz Varieties
31. 9 Planets in the Solar System
32. 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
33. 4 Gospels in the New Testament
34. 1000 Words that a Picture is Worth
35. 5280 Feet in a Mile



Stewardship

It Takes ALL the Saints!

A special synod-wide appeal of our SEPA Synod is underway to defray the nearly \$300,000 deficit in congregational mission support this year. Remember, ours and every congregation play a part in

proclaiming the Gospel not just in our congregation and community, but across our Synod territory and for future generations.

What is the Need? Less than \$2000 for each of the 177 congregations of the Synod.

How can I help? Individual members of the congregation are asked to give as they are able to join in meeting this common challenge.

There are two ways you can respond: 1. Special "It Takes ALL the Saints" cards and envelopes will be available on Sunday mornings in December for your use. Mail your contribution directly to the Synod Office in a return envelope. NOTE: This contribution will not appear on your financial statement from our church. 2. Use one of the yellow "Benevolence" envelopes in your 2009 offering envelop box. Put it in the offering plate, and Ben Naska, our treasurer, will send one check to the Synod. Contributions made this way will show up in your annual giving statement.



Simply Giving

Getting hand cramps from writing checks?

Feeling sorry for our volunteer counters?



Here's a little help. Some of our members use the Vance "Simply Giving" program to safely and automatically transfer their regular offering into the church's bank account on a monthly basis. If you are interested, see Ken Anderson for more information and assistance with the paperwork. Alternatively, you could also check with your bank, almost all banks offer a similar service.

Thrivent Choice



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Where Values Thrive.

Starting this Spring, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will introduce a new program called Thrivent Choice. Under this new program, eligible members will be able to direct funds - on average between \$25 and \$100 - to the local charitable institution of their choice. Members will also be able to vote on the allocation of funds among several national charities.

Are you a Thrivent member? Thrivent members will be eligible to direct Thrivent charitable trust fund grants to the Lutheran organization of their choice - **this includes congregations, hint hint!** Thrivent Choice replaces the "Care in Congregations" and "GivingPlus" programs for 2010.

For more information, see your Thrivent representative or go online at www.thrivent.com/ThriventChoiceInfo. Please note this is not related to the "Simply Giving" program.

Mission to Mexico



As many of you know, Rachel and I travel every year with the Discovery Service Project group. We have made several self-enriching trips, where we were able to help those who truly needed assistance. Our next trip for 2010, we will be travelling to Cozumel Mexico. We will be building an all purpose community center/ Hurricane shelter.

This project involves the first stage of the construction of an all-purpose building. This all purpose building will provide for after school aid to young people, and an area of study and vocation training activities for the neighborhood. The youth will have an option for activities that will pull them away from negative youth activities, such as drugs. The completed building will also be used as a refuge in times of hurricanes for the people living in the low-income areas of Cozumel, who, in times of heavy raining, are flooded.

Discovery Service hopes to complete this project in seven weeks. Rachel and I will be participating week 2: January 2 - 9. Once again we look forward to providing for those who are much less fortunate than we are. Participating in these projects have been very self enriching to both Rachel & I, and the gratitude of the people we serve, is always very overwhelming. We have been able to learn so much about other cultures, and we have been able to witness first hand, how low-income individuals are rich in other ways! A learning experience for us on so many levels.

Please think & pray for Discovery Service during the weeks of Dec 26th - Feb 6th, as the various groups travel & work. Your support is always appreciated. This truly is a wonderful experience of learning about another culture & witnessing the meaning of Christian service.

Sincerely,
Mary & Rachel Crouse

At our 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 13th, we will receive by transfer and affirmation of Baptism: Mrs. and Mrs. Michael and Marion Kempf and their son, Maximilian; Mrs. and Mrs. Chris and Cathy Mueller, and their children Matthew and Samantha; and Mike Iron, Shannon Radlach, and Errika Radlach. Please be present to meet and welcome them at worship, and afterwards at our Christmas Covered Dish Dinner after the Budget Meeting, which immediately follows worship.



Susan Ernst, a member of our Care-A-Lot family, passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Susan's mother, Mrs. Alice Moninghoff, would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers, cards, and notes Susan received over the past four years as she battled with cancer. Both Susan and her family were very touched by everyone's support and concern.



Entered the
Church Triumphant

FREE MEDICAL & DENTAL PROGRAMS

The Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic is a free clinic located at St. John the Baptist Parish, 4050 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA. Anyone is eligible who lives within the service area, has no insurance, and meets the financial requirements. It is for adults and children.

The clinic in Ottsville is open the first Monday of the month from 3-5 pm and the second, third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 9:30-11 am. Call 215-345-2260, select #2, to make an appointment at either Ottsville or Doylestown.

Free dental care is also available for those who qualify. Dental care is provided for adults only at local volunteer dentist's offices. You must first go to Doylestown for an appointment with a dental coordinator and for a dental exam by a dentist. You will then get an appointment at a dentist's office for treatment.



December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Advent</p>		1 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	2 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 7 PM Choir	3 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	4 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day	5
6 Second Sunday in Advent Christmas Ingathering 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School, Confirmation 10:30 AM Holy Communion noon - Church Council Meeting	7 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales	8 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles 10 AM Ladies Bible Study	9 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 7 PM Choir	10 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	11 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day	12
13 Third Sunday in Advent 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion -new members 11:30 - 2010 Budget Meeting noon - Christmas Covered Dish	14 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales	15 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	16 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 7 PM Choir	17 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	18 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day Christmas Play 7 PM Community Carol Sing	19 9 AM - Decoration of church for Christmas Services
20 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School 10:30 AM - Sunday School Christ- mas Service - Holy Communion	21 St. Thomas Apos- tle No Preschool	22 10 AM Ladies Bi- ble Study No Preschool	23 No Preschool	24 Christmas Eve 5 PM Children's Service 7:30 PM Candle- light Communion	25 Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day	26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
27 John, Apostle & Evangelist First Sunday of Christmas No Sunday School 10:30 AM - Service of Lessons and Carols	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs No Preschool	29 No Preschool	30 No Preschool	31 New Year's Eve No Preschool		

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day No Preschool	2
3 Second Sunday of Christmas NO Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion – celebrating Epiphany of our Lord	4 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales	5 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	6 EPIPHANY 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 7 PM Choir	7 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	8 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day	9 9:30 AM WELCA
10 Baptism of our Lord 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School Confirmation 10:30 AM Service of the Word – Baptism of Children and Adult	11 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales	12 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles 10 AM Ladies Bible Study	13 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 7 PM Choir	14 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	15 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day	16
17 Second Sunday After Epiphany 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School Confirmation 10:30 AM Holy Communion	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Preschool	19 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	20 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 4 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Choir	21 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	22 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day	23
24 Third Sunday After Epiphany 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School Confirmation 10:30 AM Service of the Word Book of Faith class after worship	25 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales	26 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles 10 AM Ladies Bible Study	27 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Blue Whales 7 PM Choir	28 9—11:30 AM Care-A-Lot Green Turtles	29 9 AM—12 noon Care-A-Lot Community Day	30
31 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany 9:15 AM SPARKS Sunday School Confirmation 10:30 AM Service of the Word Book of Faith class after worship	