

*The Messenger*  
*Duncansville Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*1200 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue*  
*Duncansville, PA 16635*

## **Change 2018**

Just before the winter snow began to fall, the Olson family was hit with the stark reality that our two vehicles would not pass inspection without having new tires installed. Off we went to our local tire store and found ourselves having 8 new tires installed and our budget taking a hit just before the holiday season.

I'm sure many of you can share similar stories where your budget was hit with a similar reality and different plans had to be made.

Over time, some changes are necessary for things to move forward in very good and healthy ways. Going back to the need of the new tires, stability on winter roads has been realized and improved safety for the Olson's and others has been the outcome thus far.

Here at Evangelical Duncansville, changes will be vital for us to move forward in healthy stable ways to ensure that God remains our focus and quality ministry our goal. Before my time here and since, we have struggled to meet the full amount of our annual budget. We have had a few good years, but 2017 has been extremely challenging. It is easy to blame the pastor or the economy or I can't afford to give more, but with reductions in giving comes the probability that ministry opportunities will suffer.

Considering such a reality, the following has become necessary:

- 1) For the past three years, investment dollars for outreach funded an intern in hopes of moving us toward calling another staff person for ministry. Unfortunately, our offerings have not grown toward that goal. As of mid-August, Vicar Kathleen Stump will be our last intern for the foreseeable future. Vicar Kathy has and continues to be a blessing beyond measure and if we had the resources available would be a wonderful addition to our ministry as a called pastor. Please know that having an intern over the past few years speaks highly of the work we do as a congregation. Seminary interns are placed in healthy congregations with leadership who has shown integrity in striving to promote quality ministry--that is all of us together in ministry.
- 2) Research indicates that a healthy congregation would have 1 pastor for every 100 in attendance. A pastor that attempts to care for more than the stated numbers is often destined for burnout and will become an unhealthy leader. Other factors including multiple traumas and incidents that cannot be discussed openly, further add to the need for additional help. In August, Vicar Kathy will end her internship with us and no replacement will be obtained. Fiscal responsibility is just

part of the reason for this decision. Together, we will need to seek ways to ensure that we remain faithful in our ability to reach a hurting world with the love of God through Christ Jesus.

- 3) As we move toward August, Vicar Kathy and I will be seeking out and training lay members of the church to become Eucharist ministers and assisting ministers for pastoral care and worship responsibilities to be expanded into the membership of the congregation. If you feel called to such a ministry, please let us know.
- 4) To make better use of worship resources and with the continued decline of attendance at 8:00 am and 10:45 am worship, consolidation of the two traditional liturgy services is being discussed. Church council has begun conversations about how best to proceed and is open to conversation about this subject, however with the two traditional liturgy services worshipping less than the encounter service the decision to consolidate makes sense. Your understanding will be greatly appreciated.
- 5) For the past several years, your cares and concerns about our shared ministry at DELC were handled by the Pastor/Parish team of Lloyd Sorge and Jim Dodge. I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude for the many hours they have spent caring for God's people at DELC. If you need assistance, please reach out to our new Pastor/Parish team of Chris Scordo and Jay Zimmerman. When you see Lloyd and Jim, thank them for their past service and welcome Chris and Jay into the role that God has placed before them.

Remember—this is not your church. Evangelical Lutheran belongs to God! With that said, God has entrusted me to be the called and ordained pastor to bring the ministry of Word and Sacrament to God's people. Further, God has entrusted you to be the ministers of the Gospel and to maintain the ministry that God gives to us to share in. You are responsible to fund God's ministry from what God has first given you—which is everything. God expects you to be at worship here in the church and to proclaim God's love in the world.

New tires—New year—New changes—New opportunities—Let us be the church, God's church!

Peace and Love

Pastor Jaime

## **\*\*Upcoming Lenten Schedule\*\***

### **Mardi Gras – Fat Tuesday Annual Pancake and Sausage Dinner**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6 PM in the Social Hall  
Doors B (elevator) and D will be open. Please see sign-up sheet.



### **Ash Wednesday Breakfast—February 14, 2018**

7 AM at Allegheny Creamery and Crepes  
Breakfast and Ashes to Go!

RSVP by Sunday February 11—695-0508.

### **Ash Wednesday Worship—February 14, 2018**

Noon and 7 PM

Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Doors A, B (elevator) and E will be opened



### **Wednesdays of Lent**

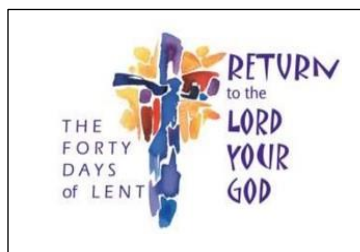
February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14 & 21@ 7PM

Adults in the Chapel

Children and Youth in the Family Life Center

Refreshments to follow for all in the Family Life Center

Doors B (elevator), C and D will be opened





**If you are attending the ELCA Gathering in Houston, please plan on attending the following:**

Gathering Meeting in the Family Life Center—Enter door D

Sunday, February 25

3 to 7 PM—Dinner included!



**Fostering Support Meeting**

Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 6 PM

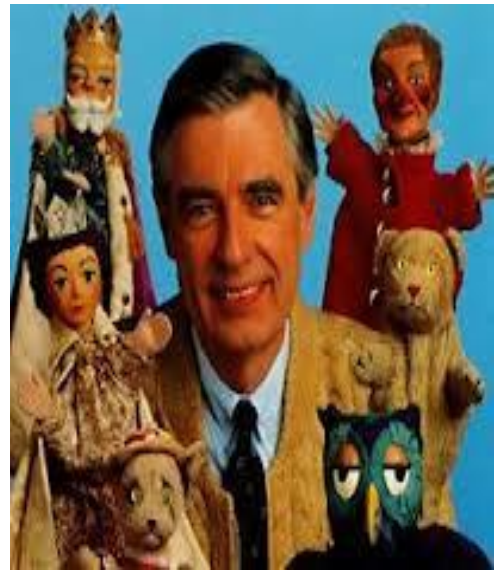
Family Life Center—Enter door D

This first meeting is to gather with those who have and who are currently fostering children in their homes. Bring the kiddos and we'll have our game room staffed while adults have time to talk about the possibilities.

Refreshments will be served.

From the Seminarian's Desk ...

“So, let's make the most of this beautiful day...  
Since we're together we might as well say:  
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?  
Won't you be my neighbor?  
Won't you please... Won't you please?  
Please won't you be...my neighbor?”



As I pondered what to share with you in this quarter's newsletter, the words sung by Fred Rogers' "Won't You Be My Neighbor" crept into my thoughts and I began humming. I had not thought of that tune for quite some time but its words and meaning resonated with me this morning. The reason? In part, because of the 10/5 Rule I shared with you during my sermon on Sunday (if you missed it, please ask me about it!) and how it has opened my heart to what it means to be present wherever my feet take me. During one of my journeys, I was introduced to a neighbor, a member of the community, someone I had never met before. Over the course of an hour, this neighbor introduced herself and her faith. As she spoke about her faith, she glowed as she reflected on the importance of her faith as part of her daily life. I asked questions and, in doing so, learned not only about her faith but my faith as well – even finding things in common. This back and forth sharing, learning and understanding each other is a form of dialogue...something that sometimes gets lost as we hurry in and out of worship on Sundays.

Dialogue is not limited to time or place. Dialogue occurs every day when we interact with others – with our families, with our neighbors, with our co-workers and members of the community when we meet each other at weddings and funerals, school functions and charity fundraising events, and even at the grocery store. We talk to each other, sharing back and forth; we get to know one another and, with that, understand each other.

This is how we find out that we have some things in common – likes and dislikes, histories, and beliefs.

This is how we help one another.

This is how we celebrate together.

This is how we mourn together.

This is how we share our frustrations with one another and lift up one another.

This is how we become friends.

God has created a diverse community filled with people of many backgrounds – be it faith, gender, race, culture, age, or life experience. As Christian members of this community we are called to a discipleship exemplified by Jesus Christ. For us, then, we are called to see others through the lens of Christ. This means it is important that we respect not only one another, but our neighbors too. It is important that we recognize each person as a distinct and unique identity, talk to them and learn about their faiths while sharing the beauty of our faith; listen to the story of their life's journey and share ours; ask them about their joys and sorrows, celebrations, fears, doubts and hopes and tell them about ours. The reality of today's world calls us to focus our attention on ways in which we can live together, with mutual respect and understanding.

Vicar Kathy Stump

**CONFIRMATION 2018—Duncansville Evangelical Lutheran Church**

To be confirmed into membership at DELC, the following requirements have been designed to accommodate the busy lives of families. With that said, the following are expected without excuse and after the requirements are met, the candidate upon council approval will become a confirmed member of the congregation.

**Requirements:**

Year one Confirmation Camp held annually at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown.

Year two Confirmation Camp held annually at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown.

If your youth would like to attend an additional year, that is permitted.

The candidate will attend a church sponsored servant event connected to the larger church. Possibilities include the ELCA National Youth Gathering, Servant event in a major city—the past has included NYC, Washington DC, etc.

The candidate will actively participate in the life of DELC including regular attendance at worship and by participation at other opportunities of service, worship, study, etc.

The candidate will create a final project in the following manner. A written statement of faith, an artistic story board presentation of faith, a media driven faith story, or other ways in which the life of the individual has changed or grown over time.

Upon completion of the above, the candidate shall be approved by council and confirmed into the life of the church.

Confirmed candidates of the congregation upon graduation of high school may apply for the Guy Wilt Scholarship and be awarded a scholarship according to meeting the criteria of the program. Confirmation Camp 2018

**Camp Sequanota, Jennerstown**

**June 17-22**

Go to Sequanota.Com and create a parent portal for camp registration. Please do not send or pay money to the camp. DELC will pay half the cost of camp and the other half can be given to DELC and a check to camp in the full amount will be sent through DELC. If you need financial assistance, contact Pr. Jaime

Upon registration, please notify Pastor Jaime that your youth has been register for camp.

Thank you,

Pr. Jaime



## EASTER FLOWERS

*Order your Easter Flowers today!*

*Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018*

*Easter Lilies* \$10.00

*Yellow or Purple Mums* \$10.00

*Pink or Lavender Tulips* \$12.00

*Blue Hydrangea* \$20.00

*Pink Azaleas* \$25.00

*Yellow Daffodils* \$10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Mum \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea \_\_\_\_\_ Azaleas \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In loving honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Total for potted plants \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations for additional Easter decorations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Garden donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For inclusion in the Easter Worship folders, please order by Sunday March 25th, 2017.

Thank you!



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Don Miller  
Dennis Zeiss
- 2 Jacob Wilt
- 4 Raymond Woomer
- 5 Terry Drass  
Barbara Lamberson
- 6 Jen Smith
- 8 Elizabeth Hoerath
- 9 Nancy Slippey
- 10 Tobin Civils  
Hannah Civils  
Macie Klingeman  
Christian Amato
- 12 Ryann Pope  
Sebastian Kane
- 13 Heather Dean  
Sherri Lynch
- 14 Geff Blackburn, Jr
- 16 Tiffany Price
- 18 Jane'e Price  
Jaden Mauk

- 19 Sydney Bard
- 20 Cristy Detrick  
Ella Rose Hunter
- 22 Benjamin K. Detrick
- 23 Jean Hower
- 24 Michael Perrin  
Barbara Spicher
- 25 Bryan Saylor
- 26 Helen Benson Liebegott
- 27 Bill Adams  
Kathy Long  
Harry Greenleaf  
Emma Sease
- 28 Noah Goar
- 29 Stephanie Price
- 30 David Hunter



## DELC Investment Information

February 2018

The investment accounts that DELC holds are mainly from the Guy Wilt Estate inheritance. Guy Wilt generously provided DELC funds through investments that he had accumulated over the years. The Wells Fargo investments are from the original inheritance and the Compushare investments are funds that were discovered a few years later. The Thrivent investments are now considered Wilt Funds as well. We decided to have the income and dividends from the Wells Fargo investments automatically transferred to the Thrivent account to spread out the investment risk over multiple investments and investors.

Guy Wilt provided instructions as to the use of the funds he generously gave to DELC. The breakdown of how the funds are to be used is:

50% Building Items

25% Outreach

25% Youth

According to the guidelines the funds are only to be used for these items and they are not to be used for any other operating costs in the annual budget that are the congregation's responsibility. Under these guidelines we were able to take the Youth Activities costs under the Learning and Youth section of annual budget and the Outreach costs under the Witness section of annual budget and use the Wilt Funds. The Building designation is for large items comparable to what we use the Heritage for Tomorrow funds. Normal annual maintenance items are to be paid for through congregation giving.

As a congregation we agree to an annual operating budget. This is a commitment that we as a congregation will provide enough in giving to cover the costs in the budget. We have been in an overall deficit since before the end of 2001. At the end of 2016 we were the closest we have been to eliminating the deficit when we had it reduced to <\$9,214>. Included below is a chart of the deficit from 2001 to 2017. We received the Wilt funds in 2009 and were able to reduce the budget by the Youth and Outreach costs. You can see that we started to move in the direction of reducing the deficit and have had more positive years than negative. However, the negative years tend to offset our positive years.

Hopefully this information is helpful to see the financial status of DELC. Although it appears we have a large amount of funds the funds are designated to specific non-budget items.

Please feel free to contact Jay Zimmerman or me with any questions you may have.

Peace,

Chris Scordo

Duncansville Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Schedule of Investment Monthly Balances  
 From December 31, 2017 through Present

<b>Investment Accounts</b>	<b>12/31/2017</b>	
<b>Guy Wilt Accounts</b>		
Wells Fargo Investments	552,433.66	
Compshare Investments	291,176.18	
<b>Total Guy Wilt</b>	<b>843,609.84</b>	
<b>Thrivent Accounts</b>		
Money Market Investments	4,219.91	
Income Fund Investments	185,135.33	
<b>Total Thrivent</b>	<b>189,355.24</b>	
<b>Mission Plus Account</b>		
DEMAND Investments	3,302.92	
<b>Certificate of Deposits</b>		
<b>First Commonwealth Bank CDs</b>		
5905	4,429.00	
6126	2,112.50	
<b>First National Bank CDs</b>		
297	1,007.19	
1156	1,006.85	
2772	1,032.61	
<b>Total Bank CDs</b>	<b>9,588.15</b>	
<b>Overall Invested Funds</b>	<b>1,045,856.15</b>	

**Annual Results and Ongoing Overall Deficit**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Overall</b>
2002		<33,319>
2003	5,222	<28,096>
2004	4,258	<23,838>
2005	<1,677>	<25,515>
2006	<6,775>	<32,290>
2007	3,467	<28,823>
2008	<8,929>	<37,752>
2009	8,490	<29,262>
2010	9,310	<19,952>
2011	<22,652>	<42,603>
2012	5,241	<37,362>
2013	<5,516>	<42,879>
2014	15,015	<27,863>
2015	16,910	<10,953>
2016	1,740	<9,214>
2017	<16,409>	<25,622>

July 12 thru 15, 2018



# BUTTONWOOD CAMPGROUND

— Reserve today! —

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Caregiver \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(select all that apply)

Youth staying in cabin with adult leaders \_\_\_\_\_ @ 50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes housing, food and activities-camperships available)

Youth staying with parents in Tents/Cabins/Recreational Vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ @ 25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes food and activities)

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ 25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes food and activities)

Please RSVP by June 30, 2018

Buttonwood Campground, 1515 E River Rd., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Visit their website at <https://buttonwoodcamp.com/>

DUNCANSVILLE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1200 4<sup>TH</sup> Avenue  
Duncansville, PA 16635

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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