

CHRISTMAS SHARING

We have many opportunities to give this Christmas ...please choose those that you would like to support and give from your heart.



JOYFUL NOISE: On Christmas Day, December 25, a Joyful Noise offering will be taken for St. Benedict's Food Bank (the local distribution center of our Berks Food Bank network). Please consider a gift of coins, cash, or checks (made out to our church), as the kettles are passed.

ANGEL TREE: This year's Angel Tree Project will be collecting presents, money gift cards, and stockings for children in need at the Twin Valley Elementary Schools through contact with staff at the schools. We are supporting these children and their parents to allow them to have a special Christmas not available without your support and generosity.

The Angel tree is decorated with *gift ideas* given to us by the children and school staff. You can help by selecting one or more gift cards to provide wrapped presents, money gift cards for local families, and stuffed stockings during this Christmas season.

MONEY GIFT CARDS are needed allowing families to purchase meal supplies and /or holiday gifts at local stores. Any gift card amount will be greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR CHILDREN in need in our area—a suggested list of “stocking stuffer items” is included for children in our immediate community. Grab a stocking to fill off the table next to the Angel Tree. They will be distributed through our local schools.

Please fill out the necessary information found on the Angel Tree table in the new foyer when taking cards, stockings, or providing money gift cards.

All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 11th to allow delivery to the school before Christmas break.

ROBESON'S THIRD ANNUAL TRUCKS FOR MADDOX: Trucks are collected for disadvantaged children as a memorial to Maddox, who died in a tragic accident at the Pittsburgh Zoo. One of our members, Susan Rhode, who is also a close friend of Maddox's family is coordinating the collection at Robeson. A donation box is available in the new foyer during the month of November for your new and unopened toy trucks. Questions can be directed to Susan at 267-446-9576.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Christmas Cantata this year is called “The Promise of A King,” written by Lloyd Larson and Joseph M. Martin. It will be performed by the choir during the 10:15 church service on Sunday, December 18th (one service only on this day.)

Old testament prophets foretold of the promised Messiah who would be sent by God to earth. Those awaiting the fulfillment of that prophecy believed this promised one would come with power and might to conquer and assume a kingly throne. God's plan though was that the promised king would take the form of a baby and change the world not with might, but by the power of love.

As the Christmas promise is fulfilled again in the hearts of those who hear its ageless message through these words and music, we pray that it will renew your hope for a bright future of God's making. “Joy to the World! The Lord has come. Let earth receive her King!”

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:



The 6:00 p.m. service will be family-oriented. For safety reasons, glow sticks will be used in place of candles for this service.

The 8:00 p.m. service will feature special Christmas music and readings.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10:30 p.m.



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
9:00 Service of Lessons & Carols
(one service only)



MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY PROGRAM

Sunday, January 8th at 10:15 a.m.

(7:45 a.m. – Traditional Holy Communion Service)

This year narrators will again read the nativity story from Mark and the Epiphany story from Matthew as youth and adults dramatize the stories. There will also be opportunity to sing various Christmas songs. It's not too late to volunteer to be part of this service for both children and adults. Talk with Sue Creed to give glory to God with your talents. There will be one or two limited rehearsals between Christmas and New Year's Day.



Wednesday Community Night DECEMBER 7, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

St. Nicholas Celebration

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Please join friends and families from the preschool/church for a fun-filled evening to help celebrate the Advent/Christmas season at Robeson Lutheran Church and Preschool.

In order to help the children understand St. Nicholas a bit better each person attending this event is asked to bring a \$3.00 or less wrapped gift. These will be put in a large gift box when you arrive and we will do something special with the gifts at the end of the evening.

The evening will include:

6:00—Meal: taco/fajita bar, pizza and hot dogs

6:45 – St. Nicholas - skit by preschool/church staff followed by a craft and making a "dessert Santa", and a visit from St. Nicholas!

Please call the church office to RSVP for meal; or email screed@dejazzd.com

Please bring a dessert to share. A free-will offering will be taken to cover costs of the evening and future community nights.



CHURCH DECORATING

Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to come out and help decorate our church for Christmas. Men are encouraged to help following breakfast!

Christmas Caroling:

**Sunday, December 11,
12:30-3:30 p.m.**



**Caroling to
Seniors and Shut-ins**

Mark your calendar to join family and friends as Robeson Lutheran brings the sounds of Christmas to our sick and shut-ins on Sunday afternoon December 11th. A light lunch will be provided in Hoeffler Hall following the 10:15 service and congregational meeting so that those wishing to carol will not have to run home and back again. We hope to leave the church by 12:30 to carol in order to be back at the church by 3:30. The more people we have the more groups we can form and our caroling will be meaningful and unhurried for our shut-ins. This event is for all ages, families are encouraged to go as a group. It is hoped that we can have enough people to make three groups of at least ten people per group. There will be sign-up sheets in the old and new foyer. Please list your name and also if you would be willing to be a driver for this event and if you will be staying for lunch. **WE NEED MANY VOICES, YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG, AND IF YOU CAN PLAY A GUITAR OR OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TO ACCOMPANY US THAT WOULD MAKE THIS A SPECIAL VISIT FOR OUR INFIRMED MEMBERS.**

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS will be held during the week of Christmas.

December 19 – Pre-K & 4 year olds program

December 20 – 3 year olds

December 21 – 4 year olds



THE STAFF AND COUNCIL OF
ROBESON LUTHERAN CHURCH AND
THEIR FAMILIES WISH YOU ALL...

AN ADVENT FILLED WITH HOPE

A CHRISTMAS FULL OF JOY AND
PEACE

AND A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR

ANNUAL REPORTS from committees and organizations are due in the church office no later than January 3 so that they can be ready for distribution prior to the annual meeting in February.




ROBESON ROBINS CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held at the Reading Country Club on December 13 at 12:00 noon. Please call Billie Bannon to make your reservation (610-401-8496).

ROBESON FAMILY AND FRIENDS GAME NIGHT: Take a break from the busy December schedule. Come to Hoeffler Hall Friday, **December 9 from 6 to 8 PM** for a fun-filled game night with your family and friends. All ages are 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 and relax.

PLEASE NOTE: Last minute articles for the December/January Digest will be accepted until November 30th. Please note there will be no separate newsletter for January so please think ahead!

BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DISCUSSION

The adult Sunday School class will get into the spirit of the Advent/Christmas season by showing a DVD titled “Cross Examination” on Sunday, December 4th. A follow-up discussion will be held on December 11th during the Sunday School hour. The theme of the video centers around how we look at the virgin birth of Christ and how that might play out in our world today. Chris Gerace will lead the showing of the video and also the follow-up discussion. If you have any questions about what to expect please talk with Chris or Sue Creed. This may be a spark to put you in the contemplative/expectant mood of this very special season of the church year. The class meets in the upstairs hall of the education building the last room on the right.

YOUTH EVENTS:

November 26 - SENIOR YOUTH ACTIVITY
DAY: 12 noon until 10:00 p.m.
Youth in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend and bring a friend!

December 10 – LASER TAG for youth of all ages, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – please register with Tyler at twern9@gmail.com

December 11 – CAROLING to Shut-ins