Happy Birthday to our Seniors!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS: Charlotte O'Neill—April 5 Henry Smith—April 17 Ethel Mason—April 27 Dale Creed—April 30

Coming up in May: Joy O'Donnell—May 6

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:

Nothing to report



Do we have your **EMAIL ADDRESS**? If not, please send it to ddemarco@dejazzd.com with your name in the subject.

☀The Parish Digest

From the Pastor: ²⁶Consider vour own call. brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were pow-

erful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise: God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

(I Corinthians I:26-31)

But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

(Psalm 3:3)

"Just Who Do You Think You Are?" Or

"We're Not Worthy? We're Not Worthy? We're Not Worthy?"

It began as a skit on Saturday Night Live and then was turned into two feature length films dubbed, "Wayne's World" and "Wayne's World 2." In both the skit and the movies, Mike Meyers and Dana Carvey respectively play the beloved Wayne Campbell and Garth Algar who host their own public access show called (you guessed it) "Wayne's World." On said show the duo (continued on p. 4)



Vol. XXXXVI

No. 4

Page 6- Workshop; Easter Brunch Page 7— Egg Hunt; **Easter Flowers** Page 8— Community Egg

Hunt: VBS Page 9—Thank yous

Page 10—Youth **Fund Raisers** Page II—Game Night; Preschool Registration; Youth Activities

Page 12— Charitable Bequest; Thrivent Choice Dollars

Page 13— Treasurer's Report;

Important E-giving Alert Page 14—This &

That Page 15-Men's Group; Robeson

Robins; Quilting; Medical equipment to loan

Page 16— Ministering to Seniors

Page 17— Recycling; Redners; Breakfasts

Page 18-19-Community Events; Thrivent wkshps. Page 20—

Birthdays; Email request

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: lmrm52@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

Rex Miller, Vice President
Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary Other Council Members:

Joy O'Donnell

Mike Wisniewski Abby Moore (youth)
Ed Haag Karen Kercher

Talking to Your Son About Growing Up—Tuesday, April 18, 6-8 p.m. at Crowne Plaza, Papermill Road, Wyomissing. Reading Health System invites you to BOYS TO MEN, a special event designed for boys 9 to 13 years of age and a parent or caregiver. Boys to Men provides a venue for parents, caregivers, and sons to learn about the physical and emotional changes that occur in the male body during puberty. This program offers age-appropriate information to prepare young boys for what lies ahead. Presenter: Lee Radosh, MD. Registration required, call 484-628-4357.



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

UPCOMING THRIVENT WORKSHOPS:

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS? On Palm Sunday, April 9th (see article on page 6) It will be held here at Robeson in the adult Sunday School class (the old parlor) at 9 a.m. Please RSVP to John by April 2 if you plan to attend.

Economic Update: Workshop will be held here at Robeson Lutheran on May 21. When it comes to your investments, do you wonder if you could be doing better? What about economic headlines—should you react to them or stay the course? While many financial firms see money as a goal, we see it as a tool to help the people, causes and communities you hold close to your heart. Space is limited so please RSVP to John Lauer to reserve your spot.

John Wm. Lauer, CLTC®, FIC, Financial Associate, Thrivent Financial®+ Office: 610-286-5986

Cell: 610-213-4596

Email: <u>John.Lauer@Thrivent.com</u> https://connect.thrivent.com/john-lauer 18

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Twin Valley High School presents "**42nd Street**" on the weekend of April 7-9, with a senior citizens performance on Wednesday, April 5 by reservation only. The breakfast will begin at 7:45 a.m. followed by the performance at 9:15 a.m. Cost is only \$5 which includes breakfast and show. Tickets must be preordered on a first come basis by emailing or calling Mrs. Weaver at nweaver@tvsd.org or 484-336-9173.

Zerbe Nursing Center needs your help!

The residents at the Zerbe Nursing Center are very busy doing many activities. We need volunteers to assist our residents with fun activities. No pushing wheelchairs or lifting, only fun and easy volunteering! Come as often as you like or just once in a while, it's up to you. Your rewards will be smiles, friendships, and many blessings. Please call Cheryl or Ilsa at 717-445-8734 to help with:

Bingo—Monday and Friday, 2-3 p.m. Help with number recognition, placing chips on cards, and to holler "bingo." **Servers**—help serve up cake and other goodies at monthly birthday parties and other special parties. Birthday parties are the second Thursday of the month from 2-3 p.m.

Friendly Visitors—come visit a resident and make new friends. Come at your convenience to talk, read, or play games.

Flag Retirement—Bring your old flags

On April 15th, 10:00 till noon, Excelsior Royal Arch Chapter #237, Reading Commandery #9 Knights Templar, the Boy Scouts and veterans groups will host a dignified flag retirement ceremony for damaged or soiled US flags. It will be held at the Masonic Center, behind the Reading Hospital, GPS location 300 South 7th Avenue, West Reading PA. Please attend, or give flags needing retirement to Mike Wisniewski for proper disposal (flags can be dropped off at the church for pick up by Mike). The ceremony is open to all.

APRIL SERVICES

<u>APRIL 2</u>—7:45 & 10:15 **Holy Communion**; 9:00 SCS

<u>APRIL 9</u>—**PALM SUNDAY**—7:45 & 10:15 **Holy Communion**; 9:00 SCS

APRIL 16—EASTER—7:45 & 10:15 Worship; 9:00 Easter Brunch

<u>APRIL 23</u>—7:45 & 10:15 Praise Service; 9:00 SCS Joyful Noise offering for Shady Hollow Stables

<u>APRIL 30</u>—7:45 & 10:15 Worship; Youth Services; 9:00 SCS

LENTEN SERVICE:

Lenten Supper in Hoeffer Hall (**please bring a dessert to share**) followed by the Lenten Service in the sanctuary focusing on Luther's Small Catechism as listed.

<u>April 5</u>: 6:00 p.m. – Supper provided by Christ. Ed. & SCS staff 7:00 p.m. – Baptism

MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 13th at 6:00 p.m. in Hoeffer

Hall. We will be doing something different this year. Since Maundy Thursday is the day of the Last Supper, we will be having a meal together that evening as part of our Maundy Thursday Service. We will gather in Hoeffer Hall no later than 6 p.m. so we can begin our prayers and meal together. Everyone is asked to please bring a pot luck dish (meats, sides, casseroles, sandwiches, salads, desserts—whatever you choose to share with those attending.) The service will continue with Holy Communion and the final message from Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICES on March 14 at 3 & 7 p.m. The worship area is gradually darkened during the service to symbolize the waning life of Jesus and the declining loyalty of his disciples on this day.

interview all sorts of people from famous models to popular musicians (giving Hollywood an opportunity for unlimited cameos) and upon meeting someone that they both idolize, the two are quick to stand up and start bowing to their guest, or to get down and grovel before them, while both yell, "We're not worthy, we're not worthy, we're not worthy!"

Naturally on Saturday Night Live and in the movies, it is meant as a hyperbolic comical behavior reflecting Wayne and Garth's deep admiration for their guest: however, I would suggest that in Christian circles, we too tend to elicit a similar behavior; in this case towards God: yet rather than being comical, it is something that tends to be preventative. It is a behavior (and a way of thinking) that prevents us from appreciating our true value and worth; and in such a way, it often affects our willingness to serve others or to use our gifts in the building up of the body of Christ.

In the hopes of responding to this behavior/mentality, I would like to take a moment and consider what it mean to be worthy as a Christian?

Well, to begin with, it certainly cannot have ANY-THING to do with our own spiritual PERFECTION seeing as none of us is able to maintain that for more than a few minutes (at best) at a time. Heck, if we're honest, even on Sunday morning after worship, most of us have likely sinned and fallen short before we have gotten into the parking lot.

Yet, if our worth is not determined by our own spiritual perfection, then where does our true worth come from?

Well, that is actually a pretty easy question; our

WORTH is based on God's Love and Grace!

And guess what? If that is what we Christians really and truly believe (Spoiler alert: It is.) then suddenly everything is opened up to us. No longer does our Sin or some twisted medieval concept of humility that was beaten into us as children (a.k.a. "Don't be too proud of yourself!") give us an excuse, or beat us down, so that we feel the need to avoid our God given responsibilities and callings.

In fact, because God loves us so much and values us so much (refer to the Bible for thousands of examples of this) we can be assured that we ARE worthy to participate in



RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES:

HELP YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:
Please bring in your year. Please bring in your used ink cartridges (any kind) and we will recycle them at Staples earning \$2 each GOD'S for the church.

Cell phones, eveglasses, and hearing aid batteries also continue to be collected for local ministries.

Paper Recycling Bins are located at the rear of Hoeffer 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!

Please note, we no longer are collecting clothing for Steeple to People. We encourage you to continue to donate your good, used clothing to Steeple to People in Honey Brook or the Reusit Shop or Goodwill in Morgantown. Thank you!

OUR ONGOING FUNDRAISER:

REDNER'S RECEIPTS. We continue to collect Redner's receipts as an ongoing fundraiser and have just received another check for \$\$135.57! 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.

UPDATE ON CARDS: As most of you probably know, Redner's has changed their cards, so it is very important that you get your new one immediately, You will need to show them your old card to get the new one; or if you don't yet have one just ask for a card—it's free!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

BREAKFASTS: Geigertown Fire Company—First Sunday; Brecknock Fire Company—Second Sunday; Joanna Furnace—Third Saturday, 7-11 a.m.



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.

worship, and to receive the Sacraments, and to use our gifts for the building up of the body of Christ.

So please, take some time to consider this, and remember that in Jesus Christ; through God's deep love for us; with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; in the waters of our baptism; at the Lord's Holy Supper; and in receiving God's forgiveness for our sin, we have every reason to lift our heads up and declare, "We are worthy, we are worthy!"

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Michael



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENING

APRIL 9 (Palm Sunday) John Lauer will conduct a Thrivent information presentation on Thrivent Action Teams. There will be information on what is involved in setting up an Action Team, What can BE Used as an Action Event, Who Can Do This, etc. If you are a current member of Thrivent, an associate member or are considering becoming a member please plan to join us from 9:00 - 10:00 in the old parlor to learn more about this opportunity. Please RSVP to Sue Creed screed@dejazzd.com by April 2 if you plan to attend.



PLEASE JOIN US on Easter, April 16 at 9:00 a.m. for an Easter brunch in Hoeffer Hall.

We are applying for funding through a Thrivent Action Team but are asking members to please prepare some hot foods like egg casseroles, sausage, bacon, ham, potatoes, whatever you would like to have served at the brunch. Funds will be available to pay for the ingredients and other food items and drinks. Please sign up if you are willing to prepare some food. Use the form below or call or email Debbie at 610-856-7242 or ddemarco@dejazzd.com. Thank you!

Easter Brunch: Sunday, April 16 at 9:00 a.m.					
I will preparebrunch. (meat, potatoes, egg casseroles, etc.)	for the				
Name:					
Phone/Email:					

Men's Group

The men of Robeson Lutheran Church continue to meet for breakfast and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month at 7:30 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 Breakfast is scheduled for March 11 at 7:30 a.m. in Hoeffer Hall.

Robeson Robins Senior Group

The April meeting will be breakfast and the Twin Valley play, "42nd Street" on April 5th. This event is by reservation only.



If you are 55 or over and able to attend Tuesday meetings/trips once a month please consider joining the group. Please call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about the Robeson Robins.

QUILT TILL YOU WILT every first Saturday of the month from 9-2. If you like to "quilt" which includes cutting, sewing, and knotting, (no experience necessary) then maybe Quilt Till You Wilt is for you. More sewers, quilters, knotters are need-



ed. If you would like to try this art, please feel free to join the group on the first Saturday or call Cindy Stewart for more information (610-856-7041).

OUILTING GROUP

DID YOU KNOW? We have wheelchairs, potty chairs, shower chairs, canes, crutches, and walkers to loan out to anyone who might need one for a time.

THIS AND THAT AT ROBESON LUTHERAN:



<u>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!</u> 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, worship

assistants, and communion servers. We appreciate and need our volunteers!

<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>: Altar care volunteers are still needed for 2017. 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.

<u>PARISH DIGEST DEADLINE</u>: Articles for the May newsletter are due in the office by April 17.

<u>ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSORS:</u> 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.



COMMUNITY EGG HUNT Saturday, April 15, 2:00 p.m.

If you would like to donate candy or money for this event, please drop off your donation at the church office at your convenience. All donations are greatly appreciated.

I will donate:	\$	money to buy candy, prizes.				
		_ candy		pla	astic eggs	
Name:						
Phone or emai	il:					
EASTER F REMINDER: Easter! We ar for \$9.00 each ing! If you ha order a plant a the church off Orders are due	It's not to re offering ijust in tinve not made as a memor ice along v	oo late to delilies, dafted me for East le your restal or gift, with paym	fodils, to ster give servation, please ent as s	tulips or lying or spon but we mail you soon as po	hyacinths oring plant ould like t ur order to ossible.	;- 0
EAS	TER FLO	OWER F Cost \$9.00 ea		RVATIO	N	
Please order _	plant	(s) for me	;_			
LILY DAI	FFODIL (please ci			HYACIN ints)	NTH	1
IN MEMORY		BY or ease circle		HONOR	OF	
Ву						

) will pick up

) give to shut-in



COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 15, 2:00 p.m.

at Robeson Lutheran Church playground & baseball field (meet under the pavilion)

Preschool children thru 6th grade!
Games, prizes, and photos with the Easter Bunny to follow in Hoeffer Hall.



VBS Save the dates!



Dates: June 12 – 16, 18

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Ages: 3 year old (potty trained) through 6th grade Helpers are needed for: preschool area, crafts,

music, etc.

Activity Camp – Mon – Thursday Noon (Lunch) – 2:30 p.m.

Look for reservation forms and more information in the next Digest. Invite your friends and neighbors!

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for February: \$ 14,925.37

Other Income: \$ 1,940.62 (in/out)

Checks issued for February: \$24,010.19
Checking balance brought forth: \$447.52
Transfer from Special funds \$10,000.00
Reimbursement to Special funds \$2,500.00
Checking balance as of 2/28/17 \$803.32

Unpaid Bills:

Synod—\$500.00 World Hunger—\$316.00 WBMD—\$250.00 I/O Accounts—\$1,510.02 Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

Special funds received in February \$ 745.00 Checking Account balance 1/31/17 18,855.76

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

An important announcement about E-giving!



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP FOR

E-GIVING. We would like to remind those who are using E-giving to please go to the site and check your number of donations. Some members have noticed that their giving had stopped due to their number of donations having been reached. You now have the option to enter 999 to keep your giving going indefinitely until you choose to stop giving. E-giving is an ongoing service offered here at Robeson Lutheran. You can sign up on our church website at www.robesonlutheranchurch.org and look for the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you for considering this giving opportunity that allows you to be good stewards of God's gifts even when you are unable to attend services.

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.



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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. In February we received \$482. Thank you Roger Mauchline.



SOUP SALE THANKS...

A Big Thank You to all who made soup and baked goods for the Soup Sale on March 19. Thanks also to all those who bought soup and desserts and supported the sale! Because of all of you, over \$1400 was raised for the ministries here at Robeson.

A special thank you to the members of the Outreach Committee who coordinated this event and made soup and baked goods as well. Great job!

RELAY FOR LIFE...

Thank you to everyone who supported my Daniel Boone Relay For Life Team --- TeAmy --- by purchasing daffodils during the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days Campaign. For the first time this year, Daffodil Days was a Relay for Life team fundraiser, and my team did very well thanks to support from people like you. The daffodil is the flower of hope and during Daffodil Days, it also symbolizes hope for cancer patients and their families. Funds raised are used toward cancer awareness and the fight against this disease.

Relay For Life of Daniel Boone will be held on Saturday, May 20th on the Daniel Boone H.S. athletic field. The event begins with the Opening Ceremony at 12:00 Noon and continues all day. It is not too late to register as a member of TeAmy and join us to Relay. If you are interested, you may register online or call me for more information...484-333-2179.

Again, thank you for your support! Amy Kunkel



THE SENIOR YOUTH GROUP is holding the following fundraisers to help cover their costs to attend the 2018 national youth event in Houston, Texas. Contact Tyler at twern9@gmail.com to support fundraisers or with any questions.

- Sandwich Tickets: The youth have restocked sandwich tickets and are ready for new and old customers to purchase some to be used for the delicious hoagies at Weaver's Orchard. Cost is \$5 and they never expire! See Tyler Werner or stop by the church office during the Week to purchase tickets.
- Giant gift cards—Do you do your grocery shopping at Giant or would you like to start doing so? If your answer to this question is yes then this is the fundraiser for you! The youth group is selling Giant gift cards that you can use to buy your groceries (or give as gifts to others) and they will receive 5%. If only 10 members purchased \$100 worth of gift cards each week, we would receive \$50 a week or \$2,500 each year—free and clear profit! There is no extra money from your pocket. Please sign up with Tyler or call the church office to purchase cards. Thanks to those who continue to purchase cards to support our youth. Contact Tyler at twern9@gmail.com for more information. Thank you!

In addition to their appreciation for your support of their ongoing fundraisers, the youth would like to thank everyone who sponsored those who bowled at the Bowl-a-thon for the West Berks Mission District. All proceeds went to the District's Youth Program.



ROBESON FAMILY AND FRIENDS GAME NIGHT: Our next game night will be held on Friday, April 7 from 6-8 p.m. Please note that the game night has been moved to a week earlier due to Holy Week.

These evenings of fun and games

have been enjoyed by those who have been coming and new people are always appreciated! 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!

Robeson Preschool



2017-2018 Preschool Registration The preschool registration is now open to the public. Please call the preschool office at 610-856-7613 for more information

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL:

April 1—Senior Youth Activity Day, for all youth in 7-12 grades; friends welcome; 12 –10 p.m.

Youth Laser Tag (all ages welcome) 3:30-5:00 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken as usual at this event in support of our youth program.

April 15—Community Egg Hunt sponsored by the Senior Youth Group; 2:00 p.m.

April 30th—Youth Sunday