

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Billie Bannon—June 14

Ed Haag—June 14

Coming up in July: JULY:

Elsie Evans—July 4

Louise Wilson—July 12

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 new to report

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

Happy Father's Day—June 18th!



Vol. XXXXVI
No. 6

JUNE 2017

The Parish Digest From the Pastor:



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¹*The plans of the mind belong to mortals, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.*

²*All one’s ways may be pure in one’s own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.*

³*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*

(Proverbs 16:1-3)

In his distinguished thirty-seven-year medical career, Dr. Evan O’Neill Kane would perform nearly four thousand appendectomies, yet one procedure in particular would be considered historic for two reasons.

The first reason is that it would be the first major surgery performed under local anesthesia. You see, Dr. Kane had been a crusader against the many hazards of general anesthesia, and contended that local application was far safer.

Yet, because of his new idea, Dr. Kane had great difficulty finding a volunteer for the surgery. Many were squeamish at the thought of being awake during their own surgery, while others were fearful that the anesthesia might wear off too soon.

Eventually, Dr. Kane did find a volunteer for the surgery and on February 15, 1921, the historic operation occurred. The 60 year old patient received a local anesthetic and Dr. Kane went ahead and dissected the superficial tissues in order to locate the appendix. Upon reaching the appendix, Dr. Kane (continued on page 4)

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: lmr52@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

Synod news

Council Officers:

Chris Gerace, President

Rex Miller, Vice President

Julia Bond, Secretary

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

Synod news

JUNE SERVICES & ACTIVITIES**JUNE 4—PENTECOST, THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT****9:00 a.m. Holy Communion***(First Sunday of Summer Schedule—
one service at 9:00 a.m.)*

Fifty days after Easter, the disciples were hiding in fear in Jerusalem when, suddenly, there was the rush of a mighty wind and tongues of fire descended on them. They were empowered to leave the locked room where they were and go out into the crowded streets of Jerusalem and proclaim in all the languages of the pilgrims gathered there that “Jesus, who has been crucified, has been raised from the dead.” (Acts 2) Thus the church was born, and we have been celebrating that birth ever since on the 50th day after Easter. This year will be no different.

The color of the day is RED. To highlight the day, we will adorn the nave with red geraniums and we ask that you wear something red if possible.

Because Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church Year (besides Christmas and Easter), the Holy Communion will be celebrated as a high festival on that day. Come, share the Spirit!

JUNE 11—9:00 a.m.— Holy Communion;**JUNE 18—9:00 a.m.—VBS SUNDAY; Father’s Day**

This year the closing program will be held on Sunday morning at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The worship service will center on what happened at VBS during the week, including songs, a skit and a child-friendly worship format (liturgy). The entire family can be part of the closing celebration. This will be followed by an ice cream social.

**JUNE 25—9:00 a.m.— Praise Service**

Joyful Noise offering for our missionaries (Hearts and Hands scheduled for June was switched with missionaries)

skillfully excised the organ and concluded the surgery (and all of this in about 30 minutes). Throughout the procedure, the patient complained of only minor discomfort (the local anesthetic had performed well), and following a brief recovery, the patient was released from the hospital two days later.

By the way, the second reason the surgery was historic is because of the patient, it was Dr. Kane himself. Dr. Kane was so committed to his beliefs that he performed his own appendix surgery; using only mirrors to guide him.

Friends of Christ, it takes real commitment whenever we attempt to try something new, or whenever we put our beliefs to the test. As Christians our commitment to growing in faith, living out our discipleship, offering service to others, and celebrating worship is essential if we are to be the people who God has called us to be.

To that end, I am ever so thankful that at Robeson Lutheran Church, we have committed ourselves to certain beliefs and ideals as God's people:

- The belief that working together makes us stronger.
- The belief that welcoming in new people and ideas broadens our horizons.
- The belief that trying new things bring opportunities for growth.
- The belief that you are never too old to learn something new.
- The belief that everyone has something to offer for the common good.
- The belief that God's grace is sufficient in offering forgiveness, providing for our needs, and creating hope for the days ahead.

May we at Robeson continue in our bold commitment to our beliefs, just as Dr. Kane did, and be ready to put it all on the line as God continues to move us into the future.

Your brother in Christ,
PASTOR MICHAEL

From our Mailbox:

May 16, 2017

We wanted to take a moment and thank you. Thank you for what you did in my past, allowing us to share with this congregation, being a part of this mission trip, giving my family and I encouraging words and doing what you do for God's kingdom. We look forward to sharing all that God is doing when we return. We pray that we serve God in a way that makes you proud...though we realize that God is one ultimate audience and one to give Glory!

Excited by all God is doing,

Kinney's

Herb, Colleen, Elaina, Joseph, and Kevin

P.S. Kevin said to tell Cookie thank you for the puppy.

May 8, 2017

Dear Rev. Ware,

I would like to thank you for your \$261.70 donation. With your support we are able to continue our work with our Habitat Home Buyers as they work toward having strength, stability, and self-reliance. To date, Habitat for Humanity of Berks County has completed a combination of over 60 new builds and renovations allowing families to experience homeownership while making a difference in our community. HFHBC is expanding its mission into "cluster" building projects, with the goal of changing lives and transforming communities. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Timothy J. Daley

May 14, 2017

Dear Members of Robeson Lutheran Church:

The members of our chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are sincerely grateful for your donation in the amount of \$200 to the food bank at St. Benedict's. We will use the donation to continue the work of helping God's poor in Berks County by providing food. It is our prayer that God continues to bless all of you as you have helped those that are the face of God.

Thank you and God bless you, Carol Nygard, President



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, and hearing aid batteries 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, 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!

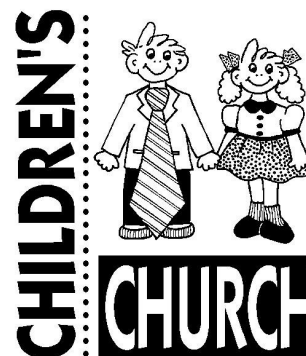
OUR ONGOING FUNDRAISER:

REDNER'S RECEIPTS. We continue to collect Redner's receipts as an ongoing fundraiser. We have just received another check for \$143.23. 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. If you don't yet have a card just ask for one—it's free!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

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



IT'S BACK....

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TO BEGIN JUNE 4 AT 9:00a.m.

Bible stories for our children are an important part of any Christian Education program. They are the building blocks for all future learning. To this end we will be teaching bible stories during the worship hour for children 3 years old – 6th grade. This is totally at the discretion of parents, whether to have their children involved. The schedule will be as follows: Communion Sundays: Children's Church will begin following opening announcements until the Prayer of the Church (No Children's Talk on these Sunday's)

Non-communion Sundays: Children will leave following the Children's Talk and not return until the end of worship.

We need volunteer leaders to make this successful. If you could volunteer for one week please talk with Sue Creed or email: screed@dejazzd.com. Material will be provided.



CHICKEN BARBECUE FUNDRAISER

sponsored by our Boy Scout Troop 543 will be held on Sunday, June 11. 11 am. —3:00 p.m. at the

Caernarvon Township Building (the old fire hall) in Morgantown. Preorder 1/2 chicken, chips, pie and drink for \$9 by calling Joe Vidzicki at 610-413-2723. This is a major fundraiser for the troop and they appreciate your support!



VBS

Dates: **June 12 – 16, 18**

Time: **9:00 a.m. - Noon**

Ages: 3 year old (potty trained) thru 6th grade

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

Vacation Bible School is less than two weeks away. The dates are June 12-16 (9:00- noon) and 18th (VBS Sunday). MAKER FUN FACTORY is the title of this year's curriculum. Children will learn they were created by God and built for a purpose through various activities and stories. The ages for participating are 3 year old (potty trained) – 6th grade. Preschool (3 year old – Pre-K) will meet in the rooms in the upper level of the preschool area of the building. For all other children there will be centers to rotate between in the downstairs area of the church. These include: Science, Cinema, Snack, Crafts, Recreation and Bible Discovery. A new format will be used this year for the end of the week. Children will attend class all week including a regular day on Friday. We will then gather on Sunday, June 18th, to celebrate our closing program for Bible School during our worship service. This will include songs from VBS, a skit focused on the VBS theme, a child-friendly liturgy and an ice cream social to end the morning. This should allow children to attend the closing with their families.

If you have not yet registered your child, please do so asap by filling out a form (available at the church) or calling Sue at the church office (610-856-7242). Hope to see you for a week of fun, learning and excitement!



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.

Men's Group

MEN'S
BREAKFAST



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 **June 10 at 7:30 a.m. in Hoeffer Hall.**

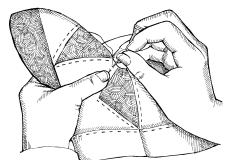
Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robeson Robins will be taking a break in June but will meet again in July to attend The Music Man at the Ephrata Playhouse. Please contact Billie at 610-401-8496 if you plan to attend.

If you are 55 or over and able to attend Tuesday meetings/trips once a month please consider joining the group. Call Billie 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 needed. 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).



QUILTING 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. Please call the church office (610-856-7242) to make arrangements for pick-up of items.



SUMMER EXERCISE PROGRAM

led by Amy Schade:

Amy is back with her summer session in Hoeffer Hall,

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-7:30

p.m. June through late August. Those who take this class love it, so why not give it a try? Cost is \$70 for the whole 3 months (minus a few days for vacation time). If you are interested please send a check to Amy Schade at 2678 Plow Road, Birdsboro PA 19508.

For more information, call Amy at 610-582-9044.

WBMD SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS:

- West Berks Mission District **BEAR CREEK DAY CAMP**, Monday-Friday, June 26-30, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For K-6 at Allegheny Lutheran Church in Knauers (Rt. 568 & 625). **Cost is just \$25 for the week and includes lunch and lots of activities!** Registration forms are available in this Digest.
- **FAMILY FUN DAY at FRENCH CREEK!**
Wednesday, July 26th, beginning at 10:30 a.m.
Meet at the pool parking lot at 10:30 a.m. The Naturalist will lead some activities for us including a nature walk. We'll have some VBS type activities with a Bible Story, craft and games in the pavilion. Then we'll have hotdogs, chips and watermelon for lunch and spend the afternoon swimming in the huge pool!
Cost is \$10 per person/ maximum \$30 per family
Wear sneakers and bring your swimsuit and a towel. Plan to have FUN! Registration forms are available in the church office or call Dawn for more information (610-375-8303).
- **MUSIC CAMP**—August 7 – 11, 2017 9:30 am – 12 noon at Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing, for youth who have completed grades 1-6. Show on Friday at 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to come and enjoy the show! Ice cream social will follow.



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 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!



CAR WASH

at Sonic in Morgantown
July 1st, 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

Please come out and support this Senior Youth Fundraiser!

THIS AND THAT AT ROBESON LUTHERAN:



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! 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!

ALTAR GUILD: 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.

PARISH DIGEST DEADLINE: Articles for the July/August Summer newsletter are due in the office by June 19.

ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSORS: 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.



A BIG THANKS to Allen Heilner and his men for again mowing our grass around the church and parsonage. Allen continues to donate his mowers and manpower to keep our church property looking nice and trimmed. We appreciate this generous contribution and say THANK YOU ALLEN!!

Have you noticed how beautiful the flower beds look around the church again this year? If not, please stop and take a moment to take in the beauty and think about this wonderful contribution by Ben McCormick. What a blessing he is. He buys all the plants, and then plants, mulches, and waters them, and weeds the beds. So when you see Ben and Linell tell them THANKS and how much you appreciate how nice our church flowerbeds look.

These people are sure a blessing to our church and the community.

THE HOLY SPACE OF LOVE

An ancient story is told of two brothers who shared grain fields and a mill and, at day's end, equally divided the results of their labor. But the unmarried farmer felt that his brother, with a family to support, should have a greater share. So each night, under cover of darkness, he added some of his grain to his brother's. Meanwhile, the married brother was concerned that his single brother would have no children to care for him in his old age. So each night he, too, added to his brother's granary. One night, the selfless brothers ran into each other. Grasping what was going on, they laughed and embraced. Rabbinic legend holds that on that spot — where love was freely shared — God decided his Temple should be built. Wherever people act in sacrificial love, the space between them is holy.



ROBESON FAMILY AND FRIENDS GAME NIGHT: Our next game night will be held on Friday, June 9, from 6-8 p.m.

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!

SR. YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE:

Our Senior Youth will be helping with VBS and Activity Camp. We will also be holding a car wash at Sonic on July 1st. Please see or email Tyler to sign up to help with these events. Success depends on YOU!

Grace Lutheran Church, Shillington invites you to:

DANCING FOR THE WILD

A Fun-filled Intergenerational Dance
Saturday, June 10, 2017 from 6-9 p.m.

Adults \$5 Children \$3

Professional DJ, Photo Booth,

Food, Drinks, Snacks for sale

All are welcome

All proceeds benefit the African Wildlife Foundation's Say No Campaign to end elephant and rhino poaching. For more information about poaching and the Say No Campaign, visit the AWF website at awf.org. Call 610-777-7885 for more information.

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.



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. We received \$126 in April, thanks to John Lauer and Dorothy Martin.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for April:	\$ 24,660.37
Other Income:	\$ 1,412.12 (in/out)
Checks issued for April:	\$ 25,569.27
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 18.99
Checking balance as of 4/30/17	\$ 522.21

Unpaid Bills: None
I/O Accounts: \$563.14

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

Special funds received in April	\$ 105.00
Church Directory	\$ 650.00
Checking Account balance 4/30/17	\$19,500.15

-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.