

## Happy Birthday to our Seniors!



### BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL:

Charlotte O'Neill—April 5—thanks to all of you who sent a card for Charlotte's 89th birthday. If you missed it, and would like to send one, her address is: Mifflin Court, Rm. 316, Shillington, PA 19607

Dale Creed—April 30

### Coming up in May:

Joy O'Donnell—May 6

Mae Habecker—May 8

Lois Shaw—May 14



WISHING YOU  
A HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!

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:

### FUNERALS:

3/4/18—Peter Witycyak Sr., 89. Funeral: 3/9/18 at Kuhn Funeral Home, Pastor Michael Ware Officiating; Interment in Pleasant View Cemetery.

3/20/18—Paul L. March, 75. Funeral: 3/26/18 at Robeson Lutheran Church, Pastor Michael Ware Officiating; Interment in Robeson Cemetery.

Vol. XXXXVII  
No. 4

April 2018

## The Parish Digest

### From the Pastor:



*<sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.* (Galatians 3:27-29)

### Clarifying our Reconciling Or

### Reconciled In Christ is not just for the LGBT community

Recently I was asked to give some further detail about what it means to be a RIC congregation and who it benefits besides the LGBT community. To answer, while it is true that the Reconciling movement has a strong focus on the LGBT community, the reality is that being RIC actually speaks to a variety of issues outside of human sexuality. Below are two welcoming statements from two different congregations that are RIC that help serve as a way of explaining.

#### Example 1:

We, the members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, (Hamden, CT) joyfully affirm that every individual person is a child of God. We recognize that we are called to be one body with many members, and that all are necessary for the health and well-being of the body. (cont. on page 4)



### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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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 1:30-4:00 610-856-7242

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

**Julia Bond, Preschool Manager**— Phone: 610-856-7613;

Email: preschool610@dejazzd.com

Council Officers: Chris Gerace, President

Julia Bond, Vice President

Jessica Shepherd, Secretary

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Amanda Baylor

Ed Haag

Wayne Kercher

Walt Hamilton

Mike Wisniewski

Karen Kercher

Ava Gerace (youth)

## From Our Mailbox:

Knights of Columbus

St. Benedict Council #14654

Dear Reverend Ware:

Please find enclosed a small token of our appreciation for our gratitude for the use of your facility for our annual Youth Free Throw Contest. It is with great pleasure that the Knights of Columbus provide these events as a part of our support for the youth in the United States of America.

May God continue to shine down on you and your church.

Respectfully,

Matthew Clayton, Financial Secretary

St. Benedict Conference

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Dear Members of Robeson Ev. Lutheran Church:

The members of our chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are sincerely grateful for your donation in the amount of \$101.50. It will be used to continue the work of assisting the poor and needy in our community by providing food and shelter for God's poor in Berks County. It is our prayer that God continues to bless all of you as you share with us in this ministry to help the less fortunate.

Thank you and God bless you,

Carol Nygard, Chapter President



Do we have your **EMAIL ADDRESS?**

If not, please send it to dde-marco@dejazzd.com with your name in the subject. We are presently updating our email list in order to notify our mem-

bers of any cancelations, send out reminders, and alert you of changes. Your help will be appreciated!

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

BERKS ENCORE is offering **FREE EXERCISE CLASSES** to everyone over the age of 60 through June 30th! This is a great opportunity for new members to try classes without spending a penny out of pocket. All classes are held at Grace Lutheran Church, 30 Liberty Street, Shillington, PA

Every Monday: 9:15 Yoga; 1:00 Tai Chi

Every Tuesday: 11:00 Sit and Get Fit

Every Wednesday: 9:00 Pilates      11:00 Zumba  
1:00 FABS (Flexibility, Aerobics, Balance & Strength)

First Friday of month: 10:30 Line Dancing

Check out their website at [www.BerksEncore.org](http://www.BerksEncore.org) for more information.

**CAMP CONNECT:** Free Bereavement Camp for children and teens ages 6-16 who have experienced the death of someone close to them.

June 25-28, Temple/Muhlenberg area

August 6-9, Rt. 10 between Flying Hills and Morgantown

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

To register or for more information call Rodney Good at 610-987-8630 or email [campconnect@berksiu.org](mailto:campconnect@berksiu.org) with questions or to get an application.

## ENGAGING GENERATIONS THROUGH GENEROSITY:

An interactive workshop experience for church leaders will be held on Saturday, April 21 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel; continental breakfast included.

Using Barna research insights, you can uncover what Christians really think and feel about generosity...and why it matters to you. Sign up for a workshop by visiting [generosityworkshop.com](http://generosityworkshop.com).

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



## SERVICES

**Every Sunday:** 9:00 SCS for 7th grade through Adults  
Children's SCS is held during the worship services.

APRIL 1—7:45 & 10:15 a.m.—**EASTER SERVICES**  
9:00 a.m. Easter Brunch

APRIL 8—7:45 & 10:15 a.m.—Holy Communion

APRIL 15—7:45 & 10:15 a.m.—Worship

APRIL 22—7:45 & 10:15 a.m.—Praise Service  
Joyful Noise offering for Shady Hollow Riding

APRIL 29—7:45 & 10:15 a.m.—Youth Sunday (10:15)



Whatever your race, ethnicity or heritage; Whether you are married, divorced, widowed, or single; Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;

Whether you are gay or straight, lesbian or bisexual, transgender or questioning; Whether you have spent a night in prison or have never gotten a parking ticket; Whether you work full time, part-time, are retired, or searching for a job; Whether you are financially challenged or don't have to worry about money; Whether you are pre-school, in school, or done with all that; Whether you are young in body, mind or spirit, or feeling your age; Whether your belief is strong, wavering, or non-existent; Whether you are comfortable sitting in a pew, need to stand, or enjoy boisterous participation.

We love you for every aspect of who you are. We welcome all people to join us in the wonder of the journey of faith and service.

*Example 2:*

Who is welcome here at Augsburg Lutheran Church?

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black or White...

If you are male or female or transgender...

If you are three days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old...

If you've never stepped foot in a church; or if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, agnostic, atheist, or are a lifelong Lutheran...

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered...

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer...

If you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Socialist, or not registered to vote...

If you have, or had, addictions, phobias, regrets, or a criminal record...

If you own your home, rent, live with your parents, or are homeless...

If you are fully-abled, disabled or a person of differing abilities...

You are welcome here at Augsburg Lutheran Church!

## West Berks Mission District invites you to attend



**Monday - Friday June 25 - 29**

**from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Camp is being offered to all children in the  
WBMD who have completed grades K – 6.**

It is being held at **Allegheny Lutheran Church,**  
1327 Alleghenyville Road (Rte 568) in Knauers, 19540

**Cost is just \$30 for the week!**

(Scholarships available)

## Bear Creek Camp

is coming HERE to help us explore, celebrate  
and grow in God's creation! **COME! Meet**  
new friends! Learn new songs! Learn more  
about our awesome God! Have LOTS of fun!  
**Register TODAY!!!**

Registration forms are available in our church office or  
check the WBMD website at

[www.westberksmissiondistrict.org](http://www.westberksmissiondistrict.org) Please contact Dawn at  
610-375-8303 for more information or to arrange transporta-  
tion for your child.



### 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Paper Recycling Bins** located at the rear of Hoeffler Hall are currently overflowing. The company has been sold and they will be replacing the bins in the not too distant future. We apologize for this inconvenience and ask for your patience. We hope to have our new bins before the next newsletter goes out and will keep you updated on its status. We will continue to accept your **newspaper, magazines, office paper, “junk” mail, and cereal type boxes smashed flat but will no longer accept phonebooks and cardboard**. Please no plastic; take your paper out of the plastic bags before you throw it in the bin. Thanks for your help!

**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.

#### OUR ONGOING FUNDRAISER:

**REDNER'S RECEIPTS.** We continue to collect Redner's receipts as an ongoing fundraiser. We are waiting for another check to arrive this week or next. 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!**

In a world where we are blessed with so much diversity, sometimes it is easy to let differences become a breeding ground for division, discrimination, and even threats of eternal damnation. Christ calls us to a higher calling; that we should love our neighbors as ourselves, love and pray for our enemies, and love another as He first loved us.

In seeking to express such holy love, an important “first order of business” is an open invitation to relationship. Thus to be Reconciling In Christ is to be open, welcoming, and affirming, not only to the LGBT community, but indeed to all groups and communities, including those who have felt left out of society, or have been disenfranchised by the church.

That said, if we at Robeson do discern a path towards becoming a RIC congregation, we will also have the need and opportunity to create our own welcoming statement. This, in turn, will offer us the chance to target the various groups and needs within our own community so that we can more personally and more actively welcome and invite God's people into the fellowship of Christ here at Robeson.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Michael



IN CHRIST GOD WAS  
RECONCILING THE  
WORLD TO HIMSELF.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS:

**Tarzan, the Musical at TVHS**

Presented by the students  
including our own youth Ava Gerace and Leah Karwic,  
and Sam Karwic, stage crew

**April 12, 13, and 14 at 7 p.m. and April 15 at 2 p.m.**  
**Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7 for students.**

By reservation, there is a High Tea in the Jungle, with brunch, games, photos and a play ticket on April 15 at 11 a.m.  
Adult \$20, Child \$15—please call 610-286-8634 or email JeMiller@tvsd.org.



**OPUS ONE CONCERT**  
**“Sounds of the Spirit”**  
featuring ECHO  
(a selected ensemble)

**To be held here at Robeson Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, May 20, at 2:00 p.m.**

Repertoire:

“Kyrie” section from Musikalische Exequien - H. Schutz  
Cherubic Hymn—D. Bortniansky  
Geistliches Lied, Op. 30—J. Brahms  
9 Tunes for Archbishop Parker’s Psalter—T. Tallis  
Somewhere—L. Bernstein  
Selections from Lux Aeterna—M. Lauridsen  
Antiphone from 5 Mystical Songs—R. Vaughan Williams  
Canticum domino canticum novum—A. Part

Tickets for the event are \$10 pre-purchased; \$15 at the door; \$5 for students. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets ahead should call 610-655-5649 or email OpusOneChamberChoir@gmail.com, or buy online at www.OpusOneChamberChoir.com



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. (usually here in Hoeffler 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 **April 14 at 7:30 a.m. in Hoeffler Hall.**

## Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robeson Robins will be traveling to the Twin Valley High School play on Wednesday, April 11. This event is by reservation only. Their next regular meeting will be held on May 15 beginning with a covered dish luncheon at 12 noon followed by a program presented by Berks Encore about Arthritis. We all have it, come to the meeting and find out more about living with it.

The Robins always welcome new members so if you are 50 or over and able to attend Tuesday meetings/trips once a month please consider joining the group. Programs and trips are planned by the Robeson Robins Board. There are several openings on the board at the present. Call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about serving on the board or joining the Robeson Robins.



QUILTING GROUP

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

## YOUTH NEWS:



The Senior Youth are very excited about their upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this June. They continue to hold fundraisers to help cover costs for the trip. These include Weaver's coupons for sale for

\$5 for a small sandwich of your choice, and also GIANT Gift Cards in different amounts. They appreciate your continued support!

A big thank you to everyone who donated to the WBMD Bowling Fund Raiser. All monies raised were used to finance the Bear Creek Camp Campership Program. Our youth enjoyed making new friends and raising funds together to support this program at our church sponsored camp.

The youth would also like to thank everyone who supported the 2018 Community Egg Hunt. They couldn't do it without your contributions of candy and money. A special thank you to the Preschool who provided and coordinated the inside activities and food this year. It was a very successful event! Thank you also to Thrivent for the Action Team support.

Robeson Preschool

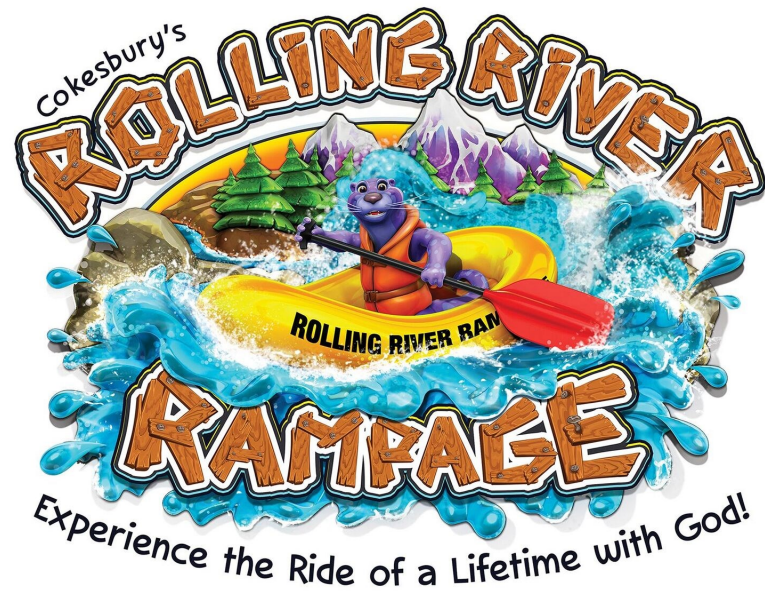
## ROBESON LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



### 2018-2019 Preschool Registration

The preschool registration is now open to the public and classes are filling up fast. Please call the preschool office at 610-856-7613 for more information.

The preschool will be holding its Ice Cream Social Fundraiser in May, watch for details in the next newsletter.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – 2018**  
**“Rolling River Rampage”**

June 18-24

9:00 a.m.—Noon

3year olds (potty trained)- 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Activity Camp, Noon-2:00 for K-6th grade

Register today by calling the church office at 610-856-7242; email [Screed@dejazzd.com](mailto:Screed@dejazzd.com), or stop by the foyer and pick up a registration form.



**PLAY GROUP:** at Robeson Lutheran Church in Hoeffler Hall, Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Bring your child/children for an opportunity to interact with other families in the community for an informal open-play experience. For more information, or to check for cancellations and special events, please join their Facebook page "Robeson Township Play Group". The group is still in need of some gently used toys. Thank you.

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 always needed. 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 May newsletter are due in the office by April 16.

ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSORS: Please check with Linell in the church office for any openings. Reminder: **Altar flowers cost is now \$38** 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](mailto:lmrm52@aol.com).





## 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. This month we have received \$934 thanks to:

Marie Brooks	Debra DeMarco	Evelyn Hoffert
Gerald Hoffert	Marion Kachel	Nevin Moore
William Kennedy	Roger Mauchline	Gerald Ludwig



## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT to be held in Plowville, PA!**

Robeson Lutheran Church and Preschool will host a community National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, 6-8 p.m. The purpose of this event is to bring the members of the community, its businesses, and emergency personnel together to meet, greet, eat and solidify their partnerships. We are looking for groups or individuals to participate in the evenings activities. We are especially looking for people to provide 45 minute slots of entertainment. If you or someone you know would be interested or would like more information, please pass names and contact information to Sue Creed or Debbie DeMarco at the church office, 610-856-7242; or email Sue at [screed@dejazzd.com](mailto:screed@dejazzd.com).

THINK AHEAD: How can you help organize a fund-raising event and receive \$250 in start up funds? It's easy if you form a **Thrivent Action Team**! If you would like more information about forming a team for a fundraiser in our church or your community please contact John Lauer (610-286-5986 ) or the church office (610-856-7242).



**Soup**

## SOUP SALE THANK YOU!!

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for your support of the Soup Sale on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to everyone who bought soup and desserts. We extend a special thank you to those who baked and especially to those who made the wonderful homemade soups. The fundraiser was a huge success and raised over \$1200! The committee reserved \$200 for future expenses such as postage, and donated \$1059.50 to the general fund. Thank you, Outreach Committee, for a job well done!!

## THANK YOU!

Our congregation is the best! When times are tough, and needs are great, you always seem to come through. It seems no matter what the need, there is always someone there to help in some way. Just mention a family in need, and in a few days we have enough donations for five families. We could not hold the nice events like the Easter Brunch, the Egg Hunt, or the Maundy Thursday Supper (to name just a few) without the many hands that provide food, set-up, and clean-up. Each week our services depend on you, our worship volunteers. When our heating bills mounted this winter, you gave the extra funds to help pay them. Our steeple was damaged by wind, and already you are responding with funds to help with repairs. And beyond all that you make this church a friendly, and welcoming place to worship.

You are amazing, thank you, and God bless you!

**PLEASE NOTE:** You will be receiving a letter in the mail (maybe you have already received it). Included in the letter is a form to be filled out by each member of the family. Two forms have been mailed to each address but additional copies are available in the church office. Thank you!

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for February:	\$ 17,180.43
Other Income:	\$ 1,391.23(in/out)
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 356.59
Transferred from Gifts & Bequests	\$ 15,000.00
Checks issued for February:	\$ 25,161.67
Transferred to Special Funds:	\$ 5,000.00
Checking balance as of 2/28/2018	\$ 3,766.58

Unpaid Bills: None

In/Out Accounts: \$56.00

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

## SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

### Income:

Donations received in February \$ 1117.00

### Outflow:

Transfer to Special Funds (repayment of loan) \$5,000.00  
1/2 down payment for new flooring \$1117.50

Checking Account balance 2/28/18 \$24,561.42

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP FOR E-GIVING. We would like to remind those who are using E-giving that 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](http://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.