

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

JULY:

Elsie Evans—July 4—Happy 90th Elsie!!! (it's not too late to send a card to Elsie at: 101 Inspiration Blvd, Freedom 307, Reading, PA 19607)
 Robin Werner—July 11
 Louise Wilson—July 12

AUGUST:

Janet Haney—August 15
 Bill Wilson—August 15
 Evelyn Hoffert—August 24



WISHING YOU
 A HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY!

COMING UP IN SEPT:

Hazel Griffith—September 2
 Bill Haney—Sept. 14
 Ada Peters—Sept. 18
 Betty Zellner—Sept. 25

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:

MEMBERSHIP LOSSES:

Death:

Lois Shaw—6/7/18

Transfers:

6/18—Craig, Eileen and Matt Eppright—King of Glory
 Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, VA



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

Vol. XXXXVII
 No. 7

July/August 2018

The Parish Digest



From the Pastor:

17"Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:17-21)

Literalism, Nationalism, and Politicism: The struggle of Christianity in the United States.

Or

Did Christendom make Christians dumb?
 Part 2 - Nationalism

The intersection of Christianity and Nationalism has always been a bit of a complicated subject to discuss in the United States because of significant inconsistencies between what the U.S. Constitution says; the first amendment in particular; and what many self-proclaimed Christians tend to believe and actually practice when it comes to their day to day citizenship.

I think it fair to say that the very heart and root of the problem can be summed up in the phrase that is commonly repeated within various circles of Christianity; the phrase:

"America is a Christian Nation!"

Before looking at the various errors in such a statement, let us first consider all the things that quite often lead people to this conclusion.

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HELP NEEDED:

The Property Committee is down to 3 members. They are looking for talented men and women to join the committee. Please see Bob Rivers or call the church office if you are interested or would like more information!

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

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)

**WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
FROM OUR ENVELOPE COMPANY CONCERNING
OUR E-GIVING:**

myEoffering Update Outline

Dear myEoffering customer:

Network changes and updates have affected your myEoffering donations. myEoffering has informed all partners of the following changes necessary to reinstitute its complete usage.

Note: Only ACH/Direct deposit is currently functional, until we get authorization from the bank, no credit cards can be processed at this time. Credit card functionality should be operational in 1-2 business days.

On June 8th myEoffering underwent an upgrade to product functionality and server size. This process created a software compatibility issue that required the myEoffering to temporarily freeze its regularly scheduled transactions.

Issues arising from the update:

Unable to make scheduled transactions from June 8th to July 9th 2018.

Due to donor encryptions we are unable to automatically process scheduled transactions.

Previous users must sign in and create their giving frequency.

Steps for new members to sign up for myEoffering (this is if they didn't have an account previously):

Go to members.myeoffering.com

Click the "Register" button

Follow instructions on screen

Steps for members to recreate their donations:

Go to members.myeoffering.com

Click "Forgot Password?" in the top right

Follow instructions to reset password

Sign in and follow instructions for setting up a "wallet" and new recurring donation

New password must contain at least 7 characters including 1 upper case, 1 lower case, 1 symbol, and 1 number.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

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

Support our Friends and Neighbors:

St. Benedict Annual Summer Festival & Chicken BBQ & Fireworks

Saturday, August 4th, 11 a.m.—10 p.m.

Dinners—12 noon until 7 p.m. \$10.00 each

Festival with many activities for the whole family and fireworks at dusk. See you at the festival!

CHURCH AT LARGE EVENTS:

Reformation Lutheran Church, Reiffton, invites you to:
God's Work, Our Hands BLOCK PARTY on Sunday, September 9th.

9 a.m. Celebratory Worship

10:30 a.m.—2 p.m. Block Party

11:00 a.m.—Community Unity 5K Run
& Free 1/2 mile Kids Run

11-2—Kauffman's Chicken BBQ Dinner (\$9)

For Tickets call 610-779-0534

BACK TO SCHOOL GIVE-AWAY!

At Grace Lutheran Church, 33 S. 11th St., Reading PA
Last year 240 students were provided with school supplies and backpacks. 130 students received socks and underwear. 132 community neighbors received a hot meal and a bag stuffed with clothing.

Donations of clothing (new socks, underwear; new or gently used coats and school clothing), bookbags, and school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, tablets, rulers, glue sticks, construction paper, safety scissors, pencil boxes or bags, small packs of tissues, colored pencils, highlighters, calculators, etc.) are needed. Deadline for donations is Sunday, August 5. (We will also be collecting for Robeson Elementary Children—all donations will be shared appropriately.)



SUMMER SERVICES

Every Sunday: Children's SCS is held during the worship services.

JULY 1 & 8—9:00 a.m.—**Holy Communion**

JULY 15—9:00 a.m.—**Worship**

JULY 22—9:00 a.m.—**Hymn Sing**

JULY 29—9:00 a.m.—**Worship; Youth Sunday; Joyful Noise Offering for Bookbag Project** (see page 10)

Pastor Michael will hold his **Sermon Discussion Series** during the month of August (four weeks). More information about this will follow. Hope you can join us.

AUGUST 5—9:00 a.m.—**Holy Communion**

AUGUST 12—9:00 a.m.—**Holy Communion**

AUGUST 19—9:00 a.m.—**Worship**

AUGUST 26—9:00 a.m.—**Worship; Joyful Noise Offering for Safe Berks**

SEPTEMBER 2—9:00 a.m.—**Holy Communion**

10:30 a.m. **Church Picnic; God's Work Our Hands Project**

SEPTEMBER 9—**8:00 a.m.—Worship at Joanna Furnace**

(Pastor Michael and Robeson Lutheran will be hosting the service there; free admission and parking on the premises for those attending the service only. Please join us there!)

10:15 a.m.—Holy Communion (at Robeson Lutheran)

There is a strong held belief that the Founding Fathers were all Bible toting, God-fearing, Christian believers.

The national motto of the United States, also printed on all of our money, is, "In God We Trust."

The Pledge of Allegiance includes the words, "One Nation under God."

Almost every U.S. president has been a self-professed Christian. *Notable exceptions are Abraham Lincoln (possibly a Theist or Rationalist) and Thomas Jefferson (a self-proclaimed deist who rejected the Triune nature of God and the divinity of Christ).*

Jesus was an American! *(Okay, I admit that this is just a little joke by me - but considering how some people act, it's as if they really seem to believe this - TV preachers and politicians especially).*

Now let's examine the background or history of these statements.

The founding fathers, many by their own published writings, would not fit under the category of Christian due to many beliefs at direct odds with Trinitarian Orthodox Christianity. That many of them believed in a god (deism) is very true, but several (Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Paine, Madison) either denied Jesus' divinity, the triune God, or Jesus' Messiahship, and this typically puts one well outside of the faith of Christendom. *(Note - the modern push to Christianize all the founding fathers is often lead by Evangelicals, not historians and researchers).*

While it is true that the motto of the U.S. and the same motto printed on our money states, "In God We Trust" there are some things to note.

While the motto had shown up on coinage during the Civil War thanks to the direction of a Pennsylvania minister, the motto of the US, and its official placement on paper currency, did not become officially recognized until July 30,



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 have been emptied. We will continue to accept your **newspaper, magazines, office paper, "junk" mail, and cereal type boxes smashed flat.** 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. Since we started collecting Redners's tapes in 2014 to date (3 1/2 years) we have taken in almost \$4000.00! Keep up the good work and keep saving those tapes; it's a big help for our church!

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!

A big thank you to Marion for adding up all those tapes and sending them in on a regular basis!



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.

1956 when President Eisenhower signed it into law as a reaction to the Cold War and fear of "Godless Communism."

Also to be found on U.S. currency are the deistic religious symbols of the Egyptian pyramid and the "All Seeing Eye."

The words, "One Nation under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance on June 14, 1954 (Flag Day) by President Eisenhower. Though the actual Pledge of Allegiance was written by a Baptist minister in 1892, there was no reference to God at all in its original form.

("I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.")

That the majority of Presidents elected were self-professing Christians in a nation predominately populated by Christians of various stripes should be of no real surprise.

In putting all this together, the point is that America was not designed as a specifically Christian Nation; instead it is a nation that is made up of people's from various tribes, languages, faiths, and creeds. While there are those who argue that the founding fathers implied Christianity as the religion of the new world, nevertheless neither the Bill of Rights nor the rest of the U.S. Constitution posits Christianity as the religion of the land, but instead protects the free practice of all religion.

The modern push to incorporate the language of "God" into the Pledge and onto U.S. Currency is noble in its respect to a belief in a divine creator, but is by no means a specifically Christian idea. Likewise the use of the Bible to swear upon during court proceedings or the placing of the Ten Commandments in courthouses is typically more connected to tradition (we've always done it this way) than to promoting religious expression. (Note: the Supreme Court has ordered Ten Commandment displays removed from government property on numerous occasions.)

In the end, one of the things I love most about this country is that it protects my religious freedom as a Christian, even as it protects the freedom of others who are not Christians.

Unfortunately, where I have often seen things get problematic is when well-meaning Christians seek to turn our democracy into a theocracy. Such Christians are convinced that a truly Christian nation can be created by legislation, and so they demand their own version of morality, they seek privilege and political power, and often without realizing it, become the new face of Caesar.

Likewise a problem can arise when people, who have bought into the notion of America as a Christian nation, begin to confuse priorities; offering their worship towards the symbols of the state and proclaim their allegiance to the country instead of the creator.

What happens when modern Christianity forgets that there is a difference between Caesar and God?

What happens when modern Christianity is “of the world” instead of “in the world?”

What happens is that we lose our identity as people of God. We worry more about consolidation of personal power, wealth, and fame, than reaching out to the needy or showing mercy to the neighbor. We forget that we are Christians first and Americans second; and instead confuse religious zealotry with patriotic fervor.

Jesus' simple wisdom to “*Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's,*” offers us the room to be both solid citizens and faithful believers. Yet it also helps us to recognize that there will be times when our Christian faith will challenge our national pride; and in such times may it be that we make the right decision - following after the Cross, in the footsteps of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
PASTOR MICHAEL

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. (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 Breakfasts are scheduled for **August 11 at 7:30 a.m. in Hoeffler Hall and September 8 at Joanna Furnace.**

Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robeson Robins will be meeting for dinner on July 17, at 12 noon at Red Lobster. If you plan to join the group on that day please make your reservation with Billie by calling 610-401-8496.



On August 21 the Robesons will celebrate Everybody's Birthday with the Boomadeers! The fun begins with a covered dish lunch at 12:00 noon (please bring a dish/dessert to share). All those 50 and over are invited!

Call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about serving on the Robeson's planning board or joining 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 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).

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 the church office or Bob Rivers, chairman of Property Committee.

PARISH DIGEST DEADLINE: Articles for the September newsletter are due in the office by August 19.

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 the church office for coordination purposes and 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.



Symbolism of the Rainbow

It has become common practice for congregations that become Reconciled in Christ to display the Rainbow in various places on their property. Some may have a rainbow flag on the front lawn while others will place rainbow decals on various entrances to the church; all of these are a shorthand way of saying "All are welcome here."

Why the rainbow?

The rainbow has a beautiful history in the evolution of our faith. In the ancient world, long before the natural sciences revealed rainbows as a refraction of light through particulates of water, rainbows were awe inspiring celestial miracles serving as a powerful symbol and reminder of God's grace.

You might recall, in that most ancient of narratives from Genesis, how in the aftermath of the great flood and the sparing of Noah and his family, God made a covenantal promise never to destroy life like that again. The rainbow was the sign of God's covenant with us, a promise of mercy, and to this very day rainbows remind the faithful that God's grace and mercy abounds.

It is no wonder, then, that when the LGBTQ+ movement was looking for a symbol to speak with power about an extravagant welcome and love – the rainbow was a natural fit. Not just a reminder of God's grace and mercy, it also served as a reminder that where there is variety, there is great beauty. We are not all of the same stripe and color – and that is a good thing!

The rainbow, whether on a flag, sticker, banner, poster, or hanging in the sky, is a reminder to God's people of God's great mercy and of His love towards all creation in its beautiful diversity. It is a sign of invitation, of welcome, and it is a gift for us all.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018

Robeson Lutheran is still on schedule to be part of National Night Out celebrations here at the church. This event is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The goal of this evening is to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

National project coordinator, Matt Peskin said, “ This is a night for our nation to stand together and promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen.

To celebrate this event Robeson Lutheran is hosting an evening of information, entertainment and a gathering of Plowville and surrounding area residents on the parking lot of the church from 6:00-8:00. Area businesses, emergency responders, community outreach groups, etc. will be setting up displays/demonstrations/handouts on the parking lot to let those attending know what is available to help serve and support the community in many different ways.

There will also be food, entertainment, and games. This event is for all ages! Please put the date of August 7 on your calendar and plan to attend an evening with neighbors and friends as we celebrate the goodness of our community.



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 181.00 thanks to John and Bonnie Lauer.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance Forward: \$3,444.54
 May Income: \$23,828.01
 May Expenses: \$22,748.21
 Balance 5/31/18 \$4,524.34
 June Income: \$11,575.43
Transfer from Special Funds: \$2,000.00
 Expenses for June: \$17,506.04
 Balance 6/30/18 \$591.73
 Unpaid Bills: Synod \$500; World Hunger \$216
 -Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

Income:

Donations received in May: \$ 401.00

Outflow:

Charitable Outreach \$200.00
 Checking Account balance 5/31/18 \$27,066.89
 -Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP FOR E-GIVING. E-giving is an ongoing service offered here at Robeson Lutheran but regretfully the site has been down for the past month. We have been reassured that it will be up and running shortly. We apologize for this major inconvenience at a time when we are encouraging our members to use e-giving. Hopefully in the near future, you will again be able to 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.

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).



Little Free Library Comes to Plowville!

Take some time this month to check out the new addition to our church property. Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team seed money Bonnie Lauer initiated the project and recruited the carpentry and design skills of Greg Gehman and the decorating and consultant skills of Charlotte Gehman! You will find the green and white little house on a post over by the landscaped

area between the church offices and the parsonage. Just what is a Little Free Library? Let me share this from their website (www.littlefreelibrary.org)--

Little Free Library is a worldwide nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. The library operates 24/7 and is overseen by a 'Steward'. Anyone-children, youth, young at heart, middle aged, old-may take a book or bring a book to share. The more the merrier! If you take a book (or two) from a Library, you do not need to return that exact book. However, in order to keep the Little Library full of good choices for the whole neighborhood, the next time you swing by the Library bring a few books to share. Little Library book exchanges function on the honor system; everyone contributes to ensure there are always quality books inside. This way, we all win!

Bonnie Lauer is serving as Steward of this LFL and you can contact her if you have questions or want to get involved. Email: bonnieleelauer@gmail.com or phone 610-304-2228 text or call. Thank you to the staff at Robeson Lutheran Church for embracing this idea and allowing its instillation on the church property. We have an ideal (cont. on page 10)

location here for a little free library and hopefully it will be enjoyed by church members, preschool families, sport teams, clubs and community members.

The library has been installed and is ready for business.

If anyone has books (children, youth, adult) you would like to donate to keep the library full please mark them LFL and leave in church office. Any excess will be delivered to The Tree House in Philadelphia.

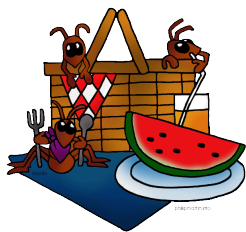
BOOKBAGS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AT ROBESON ELEMENTARY & READING SCHOOLS

In addition to the Joyful Noise offering in July, we will again be collecting book bags and school supplies for the local children who we helped through the Angel Tree and Stockings at Christmas and other children in need. Please drop your donations off at the church by no later than August 5.

Items needed include:

Crayons	Pencil box or bag	Primer tablets
backpack/bookbag	#2 pencils	glue sticks
Construction paper	safety scissors	Erasers
small packs of tissues		Rulers

(Other acceptable items listed on page 18.)



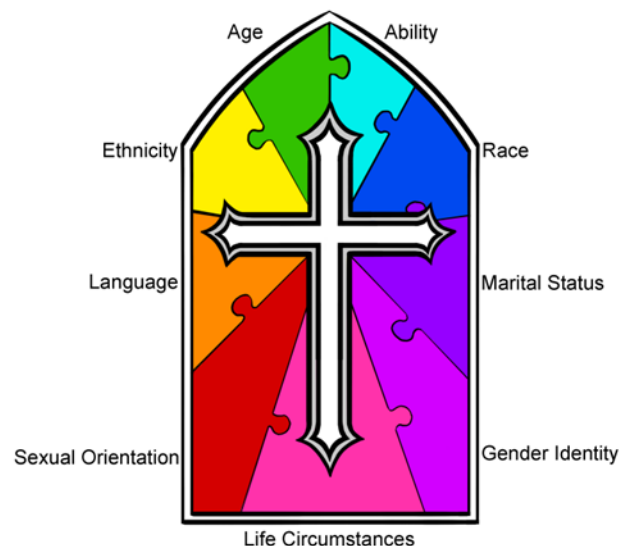
CHURCH PICNIC! We will once again be holding our annual picnic at the pavilion on Sunday, September 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service. Mark your calendar and plan to join your friends for a meal and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share. Hamburgers, hot

dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. Beer and wine are permitted for those over 21 who wish to bring some to enjoy during the picnic. Visitors/guests are always welcome! We are planning another God's Work Our Hands Project; details to be announced. See you at the picnic.

Robeson Evangelical Lutheran Church

"The Light on the Hill"

Embracing Diversity. Celebrating Unity. Welcoming All.



Our Reconciled in Christ Logo: (this is the excellent work of Lana Gerace—Thank You Lana!!)

Now that we are a Reconciled in Christ congregation, it was agreed to create a logo that will visually express our radical hospitality and gracious welcome to all people who, for various reasons, have not always felt so welcome or appreciated in the body of Christ.

What is the meaning of the image?

The rainbow of colors is a reminder of God's love for all people. Each colored section represents a life situation that sometimes presents a challenge for individuals and communities. Even so, the pieces are interlocked as a reminder of our need for one another. The pieces join together to reveal a completed image of a stained glass window in which the cross of Jesus Christ is the center; touching upon the lives of all!