

## CHRISTMAS SHARING

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



**JOYFUL NOISE:** On December 23, we will be taking an offering for Rudy Arceo and his family who lost everything in a fire on Thanksgiving Day. Rudy presented the program about snakes and other reptiles at our November Wednesday Community Night. He is a single dad with three young children. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



**ANGEL TREE:** This year's Angel Tree Project will be collecting presents, money gift cards, and stockings for children in need at the Twin Valley Elementary Schools through contact with staff at the schools. We are supporting these children and their parents to allow them to have a special Christmas not available without your support and generosity. As of this mailing only two cards remain on the tree. We thank everyone who has so generously contributed to making this year's Christmas a little happier for some children in our community.

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



**CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR CHILDREN** in need in our area—all stockings are in the process of being filled by our secret Santas.

Reminder: All gifts must be returned by Wednesday, December 13th to allow delivery to the families by Christmas.



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Christmas Cantata this year is called "Here We Come A'Caroling" created by Dale Mathews. It will be performed by the choir during the 9:00 a.m. church service on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> (one service only on this day.)

Each year as December rolls around, one of the first reminders that Christmastime is upon us is the music that fills the air! We can't help but join in as we sing songs of the season – songs that inspire the joy and spirit of Christmas, songs that will lead us in worship of the King – giving voice to the wonder surrounding the story of the birth of Christ.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

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

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

*There will be no 10:30 Holy Communion Service this year.*



## Wednesday Community Night DECEMBER 5, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Family-friendly Meal at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Pizza, Chicken Nuggets, Mac & Cheese,  
Meatball Sandwiches, & Salad**



**followed by:**  
**Christmas Family Bingo  
Christmas Sing-A-Long**



**Craft and Cookie decorating for Children**

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

Please call the church office to RSVP for meal; or email [screed@dejazzd.com](mailto:screed@dejazzd.com)



## CHURCH DECORATING

**Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.**

We are looking for a few strong men to help put up the Christmas trees and a few volunteers to hang the Chrismons (ornaments) when the men are finished. Please call the church office if you are able to help, even if this date doesn't work (we are flexible!).

**Christmas Caroling:  
Sunday, December 9,  
12:30-3:30 p.m.**



Caroling to  
Seniors and Shut-ins

Mark your calendar to join family and friends as Robeson Lutheran brings the sounds of Christmas to our sick and shut-ins on Sunday afternoon December 9<sup>th</sup>. A light lunch will be provided in the parlor following the 10:15 service.

We hope to leave the church by 12:30 to carol in order to be back at the church by 3:30. The more people we have the more groups we can form and our caroling will be meaningful and unhurried for our shut-ins. This event is for all ages, families are encouraged to go as a group. It is hoped that we can have enough people to make three groups of at least ten people per group.

There will be sign-up sheets in the old and new foyer. Please list your name and also if you would be willing to be a driver for this event and if you will be staying for lunch. **WE NEED MANY VOICES, YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG, AND IF YOU CAN PLAY A GUITAR OR OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TO ACCOMPANY US THAT WOULD MAKE THIS A SPECIAL VISIT FOR OUR INFIRMED MEMBERS.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Last minute articles for the December/January Digest will be accepted until December 3. Please note there will be no separate newsletter for January so please think ahead!

ANNUAL REPORTS from committees and organizations are due in the church office by Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.



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

AN ADVENT FILLED WITH HOPE

A CHRISTMAS FULL OF JOY AND  
PEACE

AND A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW  
YEAR



**PANCAKES AND  
PHOTOS WITH SANTA,  
sponsored by the board and  
staff of Robeson Lutheran  
Church and Preschool**

Join Santa for pancakes in Hoeffler Hall before he jumps on his sleigh and heads your way!

**Saturday, December 8, 9-11 a.m. in Hoeffler Hall**  
\$5 per person; \$20 per family maximum  
Pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
(picture included with admission)

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, bacon, beverages, and more!

Activities for the kids: Visiting Santa, coloring contest, crafts, give aways and more!

Limited seating so make your reservation today:  
[Preschool610@dejazzd.com](mailto:Preschool610@dejazzd.com); 610-856-7613

**PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS** will be held during the week of Christmas.  
December 19 – 4 year olds; MW Toddler  
December 20 – KP, TTh Toddler, 2 day 3's  
December 21 – 3 day 3's

RESERVATION FOR CAROLING  
December 9, after the 10:15 a.m. service

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending lunch: \_\_\_\_\_

Number caroling only: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by Sunday, Dec 5

**POINSETTIAS  
FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Christmas allows for many expressions of love. If you would like to remember someone special over the holidays, one way is to place a poinsettia in our church for the Christmas Eve Service. Poinsettia orders placed through the church office are due December 9. Cost is \$7.50 each. Money for plants should accompany the order; please use the form below. Those who wish to bring their own plants are also requested to fill out a form so recognition can be given.



**Poinsettia Order Form  
Deadline: December 9**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will bring a poinsettia for Christmas Eve.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please order \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) for us at \$7.50 each.

Plant(s) placed: (circle one)

IN MEMORY OF      IN HONOR OF      BY

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Give mine to shut-in

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:**

There is a variety of Advent devotionals available on the tables in the narthex and foyer. Please use this as part of your Advent readings as you reflect on Christ's presence in your life. Please call the church office (610-856-7242) if you would like to have it mailed to you.



**ADVENT OFFERING:** A special envelope for your Advent giving has been included in this mailing. Please fill this and return it to the church anytime during the Advent season.

**BAD WEATHER INFORMATION**

We have an agreement with WFMZ-TV (channel 69 to publicize information about the Sunday schedule when the weather is not favorable. The list of changes and closings usually streams across the bottom of the screen. Please watch channel 69 if you have questions about our schedule when the weather is questionable. Also, we will alert you on facebook if we will be cancelling. If roads in your area are hazardous please use your own judgment and do not risk your life trying to get to church. If you have an email address, please see that we have it so you can be alerted to closings through our email blast. Thank you.



**SPECIAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

After the 9:00 a.m. service (one service only due to the Christmas Cantata) on **December 16<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a brief, but important, congregational meeting.

At this meeting, a budget for 2019 will be voted upon. A copy of the budget has been included in this mailing; please bring it with you to the meeting if you have any questions or concerns. New council members will be elected. Please contact Chris Gerace or Pastor Michael if you are interested in serving on council.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

**RINGGOLD BAND  
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

At Schwarzwald Lutheran Church  
Sunday, December 2, 3:00 p.m.



Cost of admission: A new toy  
To benefit Exeter area food pantry families

Call 610-779-3480 for more information.

**Charlie Zahm in Concert  
And other favorite  
Songs of Christmas**



Friday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.  
at Alleghenyville Evangelical Lutheran Church

You are invited to this special concert of Christmas and Celtic music! Take some time during the busy holiday season to relax and enjoy the beautiful baritone voice and guitar of Mr. Charlie Zahm, accompanied by Mr. Tad Marks on the fiddle as they share the Songs of Christmas and other music.

\$10 Ticket; children 12 and under – free.  
Dessert bar by donation to support the 2019  
Mission Trips. For tickets call 610-914-0007  
Or email [a\\_knaugle@msn.com](mailto:a_knaugle@msn.com).



**Hodie**

Sunday, December 9  
at 4:00 p.m.  
St. John Baptist de la Salle,  
Shillington, PA

The Opus One Masterwork Chorus will collaborate with Berks Youth Chorus to present Vaughan Williams' Christmas cantata entitled Hodie. All local singers are encouraged to take part in this event. Please contact the director for details at 610-334-1188. Full orchestra accompaniment.  
\$20 ticket; \$5 students

**THE PRETZEL CITY CHORUS**  
Presents the Annual Christmas Show  
Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m.  
at Wilson West Middle School  
(450 Faust Road, off Green Valley Road).

The show will feature Christ Evangelical Free Church Band in **the Spirit of Christmas!**  
Tickets for reserved seating are \$15 and are available at the door.

The West Berks Mission District offers these  
***Alternative Gift Ideas for Christmas...***

*If you struggle to think of what to get for someone who has "everything" a charitable gift given in his or her name could be an amazing blessing to someone who has very little - a very meaningful gift indeed. Please consider making a donation to these local ministries:*

- ✦ ***The Lutheran Pantry***
- ✦ ***Common Ground Recovery Ministry***
- ✦ ***Hope's Table at Hope Lutheran in Reading***
- ✦ ***Wednesday's with Jesus at St. Paul's, Rdg***
- ✦ ***Family Promise of Berks County***
- ✦ ***GRIP Dreamer Scholarship Fund***

*For a more global perspective, you may wish to consider checking into the **ELCA's Good Gifts** opportunities at [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts) or call 1-800-638-3522 for a catalog.*

*Some possibilities include gifts of farm animals, mosquito nets, child immunizations, roof shingles, soccer balls, water wells, and microloans.*

***YOUR gift can make a difference!***



***Merry Christmas***