



WISHING YOU  
A HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!

**Happy Belated Birthday to:**  
September Birthdays:  
Hazel Griffith—September 2  
Bill Haney—September 14

Betty Zellner—September 25

**BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER: Happy Birthday!!!**

Annabelle Fancher—Oct. 3

Barbara Rivers—Oct. 14

Elsie Trout—Oct. 19—97th!

Mike Wisniewski—Oct. 27

Bonnie Eshelman—Oct. 28

Coming up in November:

Elaine Gordon—Nov. 4

Buddie Bannon—Nov. 10

Mary Muhlenberg—Nov. 17—92nd!

Marie Brooks—Nov. 28

Peggy Haag—Nov. 30

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:

We are sorry to report that we have lost two more of our senior members. We offer our prayers and sympathy for their families.

#### Deaths:

9/03/20—Charles Lauck, 95

9/06/20—Shirley Shirey, 95

## The Parish Digest

### PASTORAL REFLECTION



A number of years ago (a good number of years ago now), the first Sunday in October was celebrated as World Communion Sunday. Church attendance on that day spiked as people gathered to worship and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. It was an important occasion, for Christians around the world were participating in that event and because (in those days) it was one of the few times throughout the year for many that Holy Communion was offered.

The practice of having that sacrament offered more often or in some cases every Sunday has become more common in most congregations locally and around the world, so the idea of World Communion Sunday on one Sunday of the year has lost its significance. Every Sunday is in a sense world communion Sunday.

However, what we have experienced over the last six months is the absence of the sacrament of Holy Communion. Even though we have been able to worship together regularly each Sunday via Zoom, we have not been able to offer that sacrament of God’s presence in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Certainly God’s presence is with us in the words of scripture, hymns, sermons, and the prayers of our worship. God is not absent from our gatherings, but there has been a hunger expressed for that sacramental meal.

Over the past months we have been discussing that hunger and how to satisfy it in a way that everyone is included and has the opportunity to participate. So, on Reformation Sunday (October 25<sup>th</sup>) Holy Communion will be celebrated as a part of our 10:30 a.m. worship anniversary. Communion kits will be distributed to persons who desire to participate in that meal. They will be available for pick-up by those able to do that **at Robeson Church parking lot, Route 10, on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon and 6 to 8 p.m.** and (continued on page 4)

During Covid19 please call or email staff members.

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

**Louise Wilson**, Minister of Music—Phone: 610-273-3911

Email address: weeziecow2@yahoo.com

**Becka Malanios**, DCE

Office hours M-Th, 9-1

Phone- 610- 507- 3657 Email: [becka.malanios@gmail.com](mailto:becka.malanios@gmail.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

**Barbara Strough**, Sexton—Phone: 610-856-7784

Email: barbstrough@icloud.com

**Dale Creed**, Maintenance Man—Phone: 610-779-0179

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

Email: preschool610@dejazzd.com

Council Officers:

Mike Wisniewski, President

Wayne Kercher, Vice President

Jessica Shepherd, Secretary

\*Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

\*Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

\*Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

\*do not actually serve on council

Other Council Members:

Bill Beam

Ed Haag

Julia Bond

Walt Hamilton

Mary Karpa

Rex Miller

**RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**THE HOPE RESCUE MISSION** has a **collection container** on our back lot. “We accept men's, women's, and children's clothing and shoes, and pretty much any household goods that are sellable condition (toys, kitchen wares, home decor, etc.). Sellable condition for us means no rips, stains, broken or missing pieces, and generally working the way it is intended to work. We have a few more guidelines on our website - [www.hopeoutlet.org](http://www.hopeoutlet.org).” Please support the Hope Rescue Mission by bringing your donations to the little blue bin on our back parking lot. They will be appreciated and used to clothe the guests at the mission or sold at their stores to provide finances for the Mission.

**HELP YOUR CHURCH:** Please bring in your used **ink cartridges** (any kind) and we will recycle them at Staples earning \$2 each for the church. **These are very much needed in order to get our \$40 worth of free supplies each month.**

**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 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.

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.

REMINDERS:

Just a reminder that while our building is closed we will not be able to schedule any events for building use by church groups, community groups, or individuals. Thanks for your understanding.

We are continuing to collect **Redners receipts**; you can mail them to the church or drop them safely in a container outdoors next to the church office. This month we received a check for \$190.86. Thank you to everyone who continues to save their tapes and to Diane Morlock for processing and submitting them!

**THE LITTLE LIBRARY** located next to the church and parsonage, continues to provide books for young and old. We are happy to provide reading material during the pandemic but want to remind everyone to sanitize your hands before and after using the little library. Stay safe!

COMMUNITY OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES:

Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation invites you to their weekly **DRIVE IN MOVIES!**

Where: Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, 402 Blue Mountain Road, Schuylkill Haven, PA

When: Saturday nights; gates open at 6:30 to walk the reservation, fish or bring your own picnic  
Movie starts at sundown

Cost: \$15 per car – pay at the gate or register at [hawkmountain.tentaroo.com/admin2/login](http://hawkmountain.tentaroo.com/admin2/login).

Now Showing: September 26 – Zootopia

October 3 – Grease

October 10 – Ghostbusters (1984)

October 17 – Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

October 24 – Trunk or Treat and Hocus Pocus

**HAY CREEK APPLE FESTIVAL**—October 10-11

Saturday 7 am to 5 pm and Sunday 7 am to 3 pm

The event will be held rain or shine.

Free Admission / Parking Donation Requested

**Connect with Us via Zoom**

**Sunday Worship, 10:30 am**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 7:30 pm**

**By Phone (Landline or Cell), please dial:**

1. +1 (929)-436-2866 This is a long distance call to New York  
U.S. Toll-free: (877) 853-5247 or (888) 788-0099 reserved for people who do not have a phone plan that covers the cost of long distance calls
2. When prompted, dial Meeting ID<sup>➤</sup>: 593 216 546#
3. When prompted, enter meeting password<sup>➤</sup>: 1224#
4. You now have joined the meeting.
5. You will be automatically muted. *Please remain muted, unless you want to speak.*  
To unmute, dial \*6. To mute again, dial \*6.
6. To leave the call, simply hang up.

**Video Conference:**

Download Zoom App

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID<sup>➤</sup>: 593 216 546

Password<sup>➤</sup>: 1224

- *If our Zoom session were to be compromised, we will abort and resume under a backup ID and Password. You would then need to join again with this information:*

*Backup Meeting ID: 273 659 803 Password: 1031*

on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon and on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at St. Luke's parking lot, 449 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. For those unable to come by for the pick-up, kits will be delivered to them at their request; or if that is not possible, you are invited to use your own bread and wine or juice. For those unable to attend worship on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the sacrament will be offered following our Wednesday evening gathering on October 28.

Holy Communion will be offered again as part of our worship on Christmas Eve. It is our hope that these opportunities to experience God's presence in the bread and wine/grape juice will help satisfy the hungering for that special food which God provides to strengthen our faith and to equip us for action.

May God continue to bless and guide us as we strive to be Christ's presence here in this place and beyond.

Pastors Bill, Burl, Rob Michael and Sonja

### Theologically Sound Flexibility on Holy Communion

As we look to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion together in the days ahead, it is our desire that everyone be able to participate. Though we are seeking to offer communion kits to each congregational family participating in the online Zoom worship, we recognize that there are a variety of reasons that this may not work for or cover all individuals who would be participating in our upcoming communion services. With this in mind, we also allow and encourage the use of your own personal supplies so that you may participate with us. Recognizing that some struggle with food allergies or lack easy access to grocery shopping, please know that any variety of fruit juices or bread types are welcomed to be used for the sake of participation as we believe that such items still reflect the spirit of the common earthly elements that Jesus used with his disciples at the Last Supper.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

After depleting the monies from the PPP small business loan, our August finances were as follows:

#### AUGUST:

Balance Forward:	\$30,809.78
August Income:	\$13,164.04
In/Out Accounts:	\$ 1,060.00
August Expenses:	\$15,223.41
Net Income:	\$-1,140.84
Balance 9/1/20	\$29,330.41

#### Unpaid bills:

Synod Benevolence—\$3,000.00

In/Out Accounts Balance: \$395.00

-Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

### SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

#### Income:

Donations received in August	\$ 110.00
Donations to Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 800.00
Anniversary Book	\$ 40.00

#### Outflow:

Air conditioner loan (balance \$24,569)	\$ 520.50
Checking Account balance 8/31/20	\$48,189.72

-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. In addition to your regular giving you can now give to the Endowment Fund as well. You can continue to access the new site through our website, **[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 especially during this time when we are not able to attend services in person.

## FINANCES:

We would like to offer a word of thanks to all of you for your faithful and generous stewardship towards the ministries of Robeson. Such gracious support provides further opportunities for ministry to our congregation and community in these very challenging times.

If you are one of the many millions who shop on Amazon Smile (which makes a donation to your favorite charity for every purchase that you make), you can make Robeson Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mohnton PA your charity of choice and have an extra opportunity to support the ministry of our church as you do your online shopping. Charity Link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2029412>

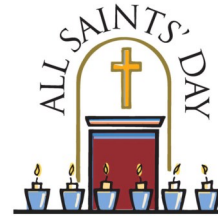
If you are a Boscov's shopper, please consider shopping at Boscov's during **Friends Helping Friends days** on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to receive discount prices on merchandise. A portion of the sale proceeds will go to our congregation; no coupon is needed this year. Our church is already registered so just mention Robeson Lutheran Church at the check-out!

Our local food banks are always in need of donations. Since our building is closed we are asking members to remember those in need of food during the upcoming holiday seasons by making a cash donation designated to the food bank. Checks can be made out to and mailed to the church but marked food bank in the memo line. Your donation, no matter what size, will be greatly appreciated.

Our thanks to those who continue to designate **Thrivent Choice dollars** to Robeson. Last month we received \$52 thanks to John Lauer and Chris Leister.

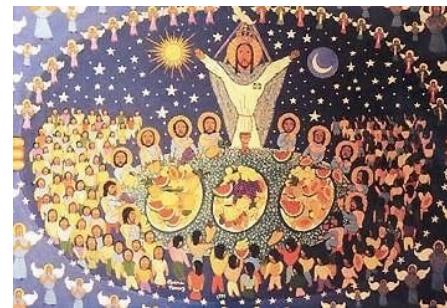
Although still in the early planning stages, we would like to do an **Angel Tree** again this year for at least one family who we have been supporting for several years. This family lost their mother in January of this year and I'm sure they will certainly appreciate knowing that we care about them. Please watch for further details about how you help.

## Sunday, November 1, is All Saints Sunday



If you have a loved one who died since November 2019 and who is not a member of Robeson, please contact Debbie at the church office to provide the name of your loved one. During our Zoom worship that day, we will recall all of our loved ones who died during the past year.

When you pick up your Communion kit, you will also receive a candle to use in your home during worship on All Saints Sunday.



## October Check In and Bible Study "Whose Supper is it anyway?"

Beginning Wednesday October 7 at 7:30 pm, Pastor Michael invites you to join with him for a multi-week Zoom

Bible Study on the topic of Holy Communion and the continuing conversation in the ELCA regarding, "Who is welcomed at the Lord's Table and why?"

This is an opportunity to discover more about the history, meaning, and purpose of Holy Communion, along with a chance to discuss issues such as frequency of Communion, styles of practice, Lutheran tradition, and theological insights.

Weekly topics are as follows:

- ◆ October 7 – Introduction and Communion as a Biblical Event
- ◆ October 14 – Communion as a Theological Event
- ◆ October 21 – Communion as a Practical Event
- ◆ October 28 – Communion as a Personal Event



**Youth and Young Adults Zoom  
Bible Study on the Gospel of  
Mark**  
(For 6th grade through College  
Level)

Meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays  
of the month from 6:00 — 7:00 pm.

October sessions will be held on October 7 and October 21  
where we will look at the 4<sup>th</sup> and then the 5<sup>th</sup> chapters  
of Mark's gospel.

Youth can join in anytime!

If you are interested in being part of this group,  
please email [revmikeware@gmail.com](mailto:revmikeware@gmail.com) for the Zoom  
meeting information.

**Sign Up Now for our Advent Workshop!**

***Ribbons of Hope***

**Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 pm via Zoom**

*And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has  
been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has  
been given to us. -Romans 5:5*



Each household which registers for the  
workshop will receive a complete kit  
to make this Advent wreath via Zoom.  
To register, simply call 610-856-7242  
or email the church office at  
[ddemarco@dejazzd.com](mailto:ddemarco@dejazzd.com) to provide  
your name and phone number.

serving in the ELCA in this area of Pennsylvania. This  
broadmindedness and progressiveness on the part of the  
congregation deserve congratulations. In 2017 with the help  
of Pastor Michael Ware, who accepted the call to Robeson in  
2010, the Church Council initiated the discernment process  
towards publicly welcoming the LGBTQ community  
through a Lutheran based Reconciling In Christ (RIC)  
initiative. RIC congregations publicly declare their welcome  
to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and  
affirm God's love for them. At the Pentecost service 2018  
Pastor Michael announced Robeson Lutheran Church  
became a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The Light on  
the Hill shines brighter as a beacon of hope to the hopeless  
and a refuge for those who have no place to turn. Positioned  
below the U.S. flag on the flagpole at the entrance to the  
church property, the Rainbow Flag flies proudly welcoming  
any and all people to Robeson. Lana Gerace designed the  
Reconciled in Christ logo seen on all Robeson Lutheran  
Church communications: embracing diversity, celebrating  
unity, welcoming all regardless of age, ability, ethnicity,  
gender identity, language, life circumstances, marital status,  
race, or sexual orientation.

In 2020 the church buzzed with activity during a  
typical week starting with Sunday Church and School  
services followed by the bustling of Preschool, Boy Scouts,  
Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Plowville Athletic Association  
practices, Twin Valley Soccer Association indoor practices,  
and cheerleading clinics. Having entered the Lenten season,  
the joy of the anticipated Easter celebration came face to face  
with the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic. On the Ides of  
March – yes – what an omen – the church closed its doors to  
the congregation and the community for physical worship  
and activities. Pastor Michael prepares full services each  
week for distribution to all members. The virtual services  
began on ZOOM in April with our friends at Grace, Holy  
Spirit, St. John, and St. Luke. What lies ahead? For  
Robeson The Light on the Hill still shines. Give us strength  
and guidance, Lord, to help us navigate these uncharted  
waters.

**Matthew 5:16: Let your light so shine before others, that  
they may see your good works and glorify your Father in  
heaven.**

Tales of the 1950s and 1960s abound with social activities planned by the Ladies Aid, chaired for decades by Florence McNeal. Florence broke the glass ceiling by her election to Church Council in 1967. Do you remember the Property Committee of the fabulous threesome who tackled every building problem – Bud Bowman, Jack McEwen, and Henry Smith? Did you know when Grace Moore played the organ she preferred to play barefoot? Read the book for more stories – 250 years of the tales of the people of Robeson Lutheran Church.

In an ecumenical gesture of good will, Robeson Lutheran Church opened its doors to St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church. For three years commencing October 1972 St. Benedict's Catholic Church shared our church building while they underwent construction of a new facility. This marks the beginning of a treasured friendship between the two congregations. Each year people from both churches gather together to celebrate a Thanksgiving Eve service.

The vision of the 1970s for Robeson focused on the construction of an education and administrative wing to further meet the needs of the expanding congregation. Completed in 1977, this wing extends to the rear of the main church. The church also hired a Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. The 1980s brought the erection of a pavilion to enhance the Wesley Updike Memorial Field. From the 1980s through the 2000s the playground beside the parsonage and in front of the pavilion underwent several renovations. The Robeson Lutheran Preschool opened in 1987. A mammoth expansion project occurred in 1998. The addition extends to the side of the main church toward the parsonage. The upper floor houses administrative offices while the lower level provides a huge multipurpose fellowship hall that doubles as a gymnasium, a separate commercial kitchen, youth room, storage areas, and wheelchair accessible bathrooms.

Robeson exemplified progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; in 2003 they called Pastor Sue Fox, a woman, previously serving as interim, and in 2008 the church hired Associate Pastor Luther Route, an African American. Although these references to her gender and his racial ancestry scream irrelevance to their skills as ministers, it bears mention because of the gender bias and rarity of pastors of color



### **NO SHOPPING PASS IS NEEDED!**

Shop in store or online and receive 20% off almost everything you purchase.

(Some departments offer only a 10% discount and some exclusions do apply.)

In addition to your savings, Bosco's will donate 5% of your total purchase price to Robeson Lutheran Church, just specify our church at check-out as your designated non-profit. Thank you for your support!



### **Be part of the Reading-Berks 39<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 11**

**Walkers:** Join us for this year's Virtual Walk and Walk anytime on October 11. Get a small group

together and walk around your church, your neighborhood or your home. Be safe and help feed the hungry!

**Donors:** Help end hunger by donating toward a walker, a team, or the event in general.

75% of the money raised will support Church World Service's mission to feed hungry people around the world by helping them develop self-sustaining methods of growing crops and raising livestock. 25% of the money raised will go to Helping Harvest (formerly the Greater Berks Food Bank) which provides food locally for those in need.

***Go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa) to sign up to be a walker or to make a donation.***

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT:

The council met via Zoom on July 30 and September 10 and discussed a variety of topics. At the special July 30th meeting it was agreed that Robeson would accept the recommendation by the Discernment Committee that all five congregations would commit to the online worship service and refrain from in-person worship through the end of this calendar year.

Topics covered at the September meeting included the best way to hold a December congregational meeting to pass the 2021 budget and elect new council members. Finances were discussed and costs have been cut by paying salaried personnel on an hourly basis. All of the PPP loan has been used. The preschool will be holding online classes through December. Pastor Michael is recuperating from his pacemaker surgery but was happy to report that his wires are still functioning well and his health seems very good. Next scheduled meeting will be on Oct. 8.

### NEP Synod Assembly 2020 A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18

Friday evening, October 23 &  
Saturday morning and afternoon,  
October 24



We Are Church  
Together  
NEPA Synod Assembly 2020

Watch the Assembly Online

Registration for voting members closes on October 1. However, even if you didn't register as a voting member, you can still watch all the proceedings, including the election of a new bishop. The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. For "visitors" - those who simply wish to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

**The information you need to watch the assembly will be posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org).**

the one shed became the staging area for the array of food brought by the parishioners. A bandstand located in the area of the current parking lot always featured local bands playing for the listening pleasure of the attendees as well as dancing and the ever-popular cake walks! (Aside – For those who remember lifelong members, twins Harold and Herbert Huyett born in 1908, did you know as young men they helped plow Morgantown Road from Reading to Morgantown? This not only helped travel and commerce but also cleared the way for parishioners to attend church in the 1920s and 1930s. What makes this so special to mention it in church history? They used horse power; horses dragged heavy logs as a type of plow to clear the roads!). As automobiles replaced horse drawn carriages, demolition of two of the three horse sheds occurred before 1940. However, June 4, 1940, brought the conversion of the last shed into the home for the church sexton, Walter Ludwig, and his family.

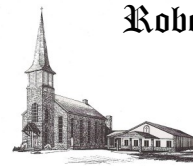
Cataclysmic changes rocked Robeson Lutheran Church in the decade of the 1950s. The Union Church dissolved in 1956 with the Reformed congregation leaving the building taking with them their friendship, energy, enthusiasm, and financial contributions. Without their Reformed counterparts, the Lutherans faced the daunting task of completing the work alone as well as financing the church renovations begun in 1951. Remember: the Lutherans had to refund the Reformed \$5,000 for their equity in the building. (Some of the updates included replacing the weathervane with the Cross that still graces the top of the steeple and an indoor water closet – sink and toilet! Yes, the outhouses located behind the horsesheds/sexton's home finally met their demise!) Except during the first years as The Forest Church, Robeson existed as a part of a Union Church with the Reformed congregation and additionally shared pastors with the Allegheny Parish 1898-1920, Shillington Parish 1920-1934, and Robeson Parish 1934-1959. In 1959 Robeson Lutheran Church called its own pastor, hired an organist, and charted its own course for the first time since 1808! Furthermore, the congregation voted in 1959 to construct a sandstone parsonage for their very own minister – Pastor George Spieker. This home sits on the site of the former sexton's home that had originally been a horse shed!



Township. At first the new arrivals homeschooled their children, but realistically, the priorities for these families focused on survival – building a home, clearing the land, planting, hunting, food preparation, and making clothing - not education. Once sufficient numbers of people arrived in the area to sustain a school and schoolmaster, education shifted to the domain of the church. Records indicate that Plow comprised the oldest German Lutheran school in Robeson Township. German Lutherans brought pastors and teachers when they immigrated to America. The children learned Christian principles as well as the three Rs – reading, (w)riting, and (a)rithmetic – in German! Luther’s influence on education in Germany crossed the Atlantic and established firm footing in Berks County. German hymn books, German prayer books, and German sermons perpetuated the use of the German language much longer than other immigrant groups in southeastern Pennsylvania.

With the church in need of significant repairs and an expanding congregation, the Union of the Lutherans and Reformed voted in 1887 to build a new church, the Third Church. The herculean task of constructing our present church began in earnest in 1888. At least 2000 tons of locally extracted sandstone create the exterior of the main church. When clearing the land for farming in Robeson Township, sandstone often became the building material of farmhouses and barns with the remainder visible in the fencerows. Some current members know that their relatives used their farm horses and wagons to carry sandstone from their property to the church site. The four stone walls of the church measure 30 inches in thickness. Support for the slate roof comes from 5 roof trusses and both end walls. The load bearing rests entirely on the walls. The stone landing at the top of the steps leading into the front entrance of the church measures 8 ft. by 4 ft. by 9 in. thick and weighs about 3500 pounds. Without modern heavy equipment how did they build the church? Hand power (no electricity), horse power, the erection of long ramps, the use of block and tackle, and ropes pulled by horses combined to move and lift the massive sandstones and wood.

Further developments on the grounds include the construction of three wooden horse sheds circa 1900. During the strawberry festivals, church picnics, and carnivals



**Robeson Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**1770-2020**

**Celebrating 250 Years!**

**“Keep the Light Shining”  
Capital Campaign & Anniversary Celebration  
Update**



As you are aware, church council decided to postpone our 250th Anniversary Celebrations until next year. Due to the fact that our building continues to be closed, the financial strain on members and area businesses, and the inability of members to see the anniversary book first hand, it was felt that we should provide more time to allow our members to participate in the anniversary book.

With this in mind, we are also extending the opportunity to support our “Keep the Light Shining” Endowment Anniversary Campaign through October 2021. It is with great gratitude that we celebrate all that has been given in support of this campaign up to this point. Because of you we are able to strengthen the congregational endowment that supports the future needs of our church. Each generous and loving gift will sustain the wonderful ministry that this congregation does in the local community, and indeed to the world. All gifts are important and will be greatly appreciated and received with thanksgiving to the glory of God.

**Clarification regarding our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book**

Lucille Freeman who works with Reick’s Printing, is the person in charge of the 250th Anniversary book containing your personal pages and those of area businesses in addition to a brief history of our church. Work continues on this book and the deadline has been extended until sometime in 2021. She is still working with members who would like to purchase and create their own page / advertisement with pictures or a caption for the anniversary book. Please contact Lucille if interested: **610-856-7349 or 484-219-0596; Email: [lfreeman@riecksprinting.com](mailto:lfreeman@riecksprinting.com)**

All active members will receive a copy of this book free of charge as part of our anniversary celebration next year.

**ROBESON EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**A 250 year walk through the pages of history,**  
**people, & their faith**  
**1770-2020**  
**“The Light on the Hill”**

Compiled by Linell McCormick

Member Linell McCormick compiled this 206 page comprehensive history of Robeson Lutheran Church spanning 250 years after researching church and historical documents and corresponding with members and friends of Robeson Lutheran Church. This intense 5-month project came at the request of the Synod to submit histories of the member churches by September 1, 2020. The shelter in place and other lifestyle restrictions in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic provided the time and opportunity to write the book.

Member Lucille Freeman supervises the publication of this paperback book through Rieck's Printing. Purchase of the book begins immediately through the month of October 2020. Please send a check for \$15 per book made payable to Robeson Lutheran Church. This price covers the cost of mailing for those who prefer delivery to their home address. Reminders will appear weekly in the newsletters from Pastor Michael. The book should be in your hands by Thanksgiving! You may consider giving copies to family members for Christmas.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This \$15 purchase buys a history book of the church. This in no way competes with or takes the place of the anniversary book arranged by Lucille who has processed and will continue to accept orders for 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, or full page spreads for the separate anniversary book to be distributed to all active members in October 2021.

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History of Robeson Lutheran Church Order Form  
 (deadline for orders October 31)

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Books \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract of History Book of Robeson Lutheran Church**  
**A 250 Year Walk through the pages of history,**  
**people, & their faith**

Traveling south on Route 10 from Reading toward Morgantown, rounding a curve in Plowville and starting the ascent of the road, one suddenly sees the large red sandstone church standing prominently on the hilltop. Wait! GPS will direct people here. The history of the church represents the people as well as the place of worship. Tell the readers about the people.

Practicing German Lutheran families in Robeson Township began worshipping in private homes circa 1767 – **250 years after** Martin Luther nailed (or not) the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, October 31, 1517. In 1767 the family of William Penn (founder of Pennsylvania – Penn’s Woods) deeded the property to erect a church “for a place of worship for a Lutheran congregation.” Official recognition of the assembled congregation occurred in 1770 – **250 years ago** for Robeson Lutheran Church and **250 years after** Luther burned the papal bull condemning his “errors” in November 1520. Constructed of logs from the surrounding woodlands, the congregants and travelers aptly named this First Church, The Forest. This eight-sided log church served the German Lutheran community until 1811 when a larger sandstone structure, the Second Church, replaced the log edifice. By 1811, the community referred to the church as Plow Church, again a fitting moniker for the predominantly farming families the church served. A few years earlier in 1808 German Reformed families had approached the Lutherans about organizing a joint Sunday School that met weekly until 1922. (Read the book to learn the embarrassing story of the Reformed taking the Lutherans to Berks County Court in 1922!) The Lutherans and Reformed held a lottery in 1810 to fund the construction of the sandstone church as well as a school. The people entrusted the churches to educate their young at this time. Martin Luther had advocated the publication of Bibles in the language of the people and the church’s responsibility for the religious education of the people. In order to read the Bible, a person had to be able to read! Fast forward two hundred years from Luther to the German settlements in Robeson