

Weekend of January 13 and 14, 2018

Bethlehem United Proclamation of the Gospel

Serving God's children who gather at:

***Light of Christ
Lutheran Church***



***St. Peter's Evangelical
Lutheran Church***

Pew News!

Whether a first-time guest with us or a life-long member, Pew News

is a weekly publication for the family of Christ who gather at

Bethlehem United Proclamation of the Gospel!

**Check out our web sites at messiahlutheran18017.org or stpetersbethlehem.org
and "like" us on Facebook!**



Greetings and peace to you all!

Over the course of this past week I've had an opportunity to speak to many people, both inside our community of faith and outside our community of faith about God, faith, and the church. I found people's questions and thoughts very interesting as it seems that with the new year many people must be thinking about their personal faith.

From members within the community there was a distinct sense of lamenting. People seemed to be longing for the day when the church seemed to fill their needs. They longed for the day when the church was not only responsive to their pastoral needs but could almost anticipate their needs before they did. There was a longing for the day of a "fuller" and "larger" church. A couple of people shared with me "that's when the church was really the church."

For people I talked to from outside the community of faith there was an almost "disdain" towards people inside the "church." For many of these people there was a belief in God, a belief in Jesus, but they saw no benefits of being part of a community of faith. In fact in several instances these people shared with me that the "church" has hurt them in the past. The "church" judged them, spoke poorly of them or people they loved, or put the "church's" interest ahead of needs of the community which the "church" is supposed to serve.

On a side note, I was a little surprised by the very strong emotions in both groups of people. Emotions ranging from anger to apathy.

I share this information with all of you to let you see and hear what people are saying about organized religion, about God, and about our community of faith. My intent is not to embarrass or try to employ guilt, rather to simply place some of the "stumbling blocks" of faith in the "light of day." It isn't until we "name" these issues and "speak to these issues" that we can hope to begin healing with our sisters and brothers in Christ within our community of faith about the issues that cause them concern. It isn't until we "name" these issues and "speak to these issues" that we can hope to attract more disciples for Jesus Christ into our community of faith.

Today I come to each person reading this reflection to ask for your help. How can we help God become more relevant and therefore more important in the lives of people both inside and outside our community of faith? If you have any thoughts on this topic or if you have any thoughts on how we can help "heal" those who feel wounded, I would appreciate an email to pastor.jerry.kulp@gmail.com or a phone call at the office.

Together, we can share God's love! Together, we can make a difference.

Peace and blessings for now

PJ

Four UPG Worship Opportunities Every Week

Wednesday 6:30 PM	St. Peter's Campus	Holden Evening Prayer
Saturday 5:00 PM	Light of Christ Campus	Worship
Sunday 9:00 AM	St. Peter's Campus	Worship
Sunday 11:00 AM	Light of Christ Campus	Worship
<i>Each worship includes Holy Communion</i>		
1 st Wednesday 10:30AM	St. Peter's Campus	Healing Worship

Chime Choir



Ring in the New Year - Volunteers are needed for positions in the chime choir on the Light of Christ campus. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for 45-50 min. and share our music in worship a number of times throughout the year. Please contact Linda Maule (610-691-2321).



THIS WEEK IN THE UPG

Sunday January 14 through Sunday January 21

Sunday January 14, 2018 The Baptism of our Lord

9:00 AM	Worship (St. P)
9:30 AM	Sunday School (LoC)
10:30 AM	Sunday School (St. P)
11:00 AM	Worship (LoC)
1:00 PM	Youth Gathering Meeting (St. P)
6:00 PM	Confirmation Education (LoC)

Monday January 15, 2018 **Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

6:30 PM	UPG Knitter's Group (St. P)
6:30 PM	UPG Mutual Ministry Team
7:00 PM	Dart Baseball: St. Peter's at Schoenersville, St. Stephens at Messiah and St. Matthew's at Fritz Wesleyan

Tuesday January 16, 2018

- 8:00 AM UPG Staff Meeting (LoC)
- 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (St. P)
- 6:00 PM Exec. Council Meeting (LoC)
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)
- 7:00 PM Congregational Council Meetings (LoC)

Wednesday January 17, 2018

- 6:30 AM UPG Men's Ministry (St. P)
- 9:00 AM Christian Service (LoC)
- 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer (St. P)
- 6:30 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal (St. P)
- 7:30 PM UPG Choir Rehearsals (St. P and LoC)

Thursday January 18, 2018

- 9:00 AM UPG Bible Study (LoC)
- 12:00 Noon Lehigh Valley Chinese Christian Church Study (St. P)
- 6:30 PM UPG Bible Study (St. P)
- 7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians of Holy Israel Worship (St. P)

Friday January 19, 2018

- 6:00 PM Lehigh Valley Christian Chinese Church Worship (St. P)

Saturday January 20, 2018

- 5:00 PM UPG Saturday Evening Worship (LoC)
- 7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians of Holy Israel Worship (St. P)

Sunday January 21, 2018

- 9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
- 10:30 AM Annual Congregation Meeting (St. P)
- 11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Education(LoC)

Meet the Staff in the UPG

This week we meet **Lynn Terry** who has two roles at Light of Christ, as **Christian Education Director and Director of the MLCCC school**. She tells us about these important education roles:



The major role of the Christian Education Director and the role of the director of the MLCCC is to share the love of God with all of the children and families who enter our doors.

As the Christian Education Director I oversee the Sunday School program, the confirmation program, the Bible program, First Holy Communion classes, special programs of the Sunday School including Rally Day, the Children's Christmas Eve Service, the Lenten Fair, the closing of Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. Within each of these areas there are many responsibilities and many people who work with me to proclaim the love of God to children and their families. Since August of 2017 I have been working with Pastor Jerry to extend children's ministry to include the children of the UPG.

As the MLCCC Director I oversee the daily operations of our preschool program, which includes but is not limited to leading staff meetings, submitting payroll, billing, ordering, teacher training, special programs, working with the school board and this year teaching our three year old class. I have brought a chapel program to the preschool which includes teaching Bible stories, songs and prayers twice a month to all classes. Three times a year families and friends are invited to a special chapel program held in our sanctuary.

Through all of this work God's Love and Word is my guide. It is my goal for all of God's children to know and experience His love through the children's ministry of our church.

Share yourself with others!



Share Your Cooking Skills - Residents of Victory House and daytime clients of New Bethany Ministries need meals prepared for them. Please consider becoming part of a cooking team to provide the evening meal at Victory House for approximately 25-28 people on the first Sunday night of every other month (next opportunity is March 4th). Members of the teams provide and prepare the food. Please contact Linda Maule (610-691-2321).

On the third Thursday of every month, please consider volunteering with others to prepare the noon meal at New Bethany. Food is provided; only preparation and serving help is needed. Please contact Marilyn Musgnung (610-691-1314) if you can volunteer. **Thank you** for helping to feed the hungry.

Items to Note

St. Peter's Annual Meeting is January 21

St. Peter's annual meeting will be held on January 21 following the 9AM worship. Please sign up to bring some snacks for after the meeting – sign up sheet is in the Social Room.

St. Peter's Property Committee Meeting on January 14

Ron Frankenfield is planning a property meeting on January 14, 2018 immediately following the 9:00 AM worship service to discuss repairs that need to be done for 2018.



St. Matthew's Wedding Anniversaries

For former members of St. Matthews, if you would like your wedding anniversary recognized in the monthly Proclamation newsletter, please notify the church office of the names, month and date. We'll place the information in the church's anniversary records. Thank you!

St. Peter's 2017 Statements of Giving

St. Peter's Statements of Giving (for contributions made in 2017) will be produced in January 2018 after all contributions have been entered. Statements are produced for persons who request them, and for persons who received them in prior years.

The statements will be set out for pickup at the church; statements which have not been picked up by February 4 will be mailed out. If you would like to receive a statement for 2017 giving, please contact the church office.