

Weekend of January 20 and 21, 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!**

*Faith
Family
Friends*

Greetings and peace to you all!

For this week's edition of the "Pew News" I wanted to share with you two unsolicited writings submitted by two members of our community of faith. I hope you find their words and thoughts to be as powerful for your faith journey as I found them to be for my own.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Jerry

Some People Say!

Some people say: "What can I possibly give to the church?" Even an empty glass is full of air. Try giving of yourself. See where our God takes you. God never called anybody to sit on the bench. God will never call you to do something you cannot do.

Some people say: "I do not need the church." But, the church needs you. Our God gave you a gift and a certain talent to go along with it. Use it and see what happens. You may surprise yourself.

Some people say: "I don't have the patience needed to do that for the church." Through perseverance even the snail reached the ark. You would be surprised what you can do for our God if you put your mind to it as long as it is our Lord and you working together.

Some people say: "I am not qualified to do that for the church." God does not call the qualified. God qualifies the called. God would never send you into uncharted waters without a map and a way to see you safely through it.

Some people say: "Why should I read the Bible? I know all about God." Mark Twain quipped, "It's not the parts of the Bible I don't understand that disturb me, rather it's the parts of the Bible that I do understand that disturb me." The Bible is God's word and truth. Who can know all about God? You can live five lifetimes and still not scratch the surface. As for myself, each day God opens new doors to me and is revealed to me in new and exciting ways.

Some people say: "God gave us free will so we can do what we want to." A theology professor was asked what he thought of God giving free will to humanity. "It's the ulcer in God's own stomach," was his reply. If at midnight tonight God decreed that all evil be stamped out in the universe, how many of us would still be here at 12:01?

God is invested in the process of healing the wounds that have come from our own choices, and does this by entering into the suffering process with us in order to lift us out of it. You say where? How? When? And the answer is the cross.

Some people say: "The merging of St. Matthew's and Messiah will never work." Our God never closes one door without opening another. May we look with great expectation and eagerness and thanksgiving for the new door of opportunities our Lord has opened to us. The possibilities are endless, and so should our eagerness be to fully participate in them.

Some people say: “Why doesn’t God first come down to earth and make His existence known to us? Letting everyone know who God is and what God is like?” Our Lord already did that 2000 years ago in the form of Jesus Christ. He came to be like us, so we may see the invisible God through God’s visible Son. Our Lord became human to go through the same things we do. To live, to suffer, to die for the forgiveness of all our sins. So, in the end, we may cheerfully go to God’s House with many rooms in the sky.

Some people say: “There is no God. I cannot see the Lord or touch my God.” I would like to ask those people to take a look around them at God’s creation: a universe that is laid out in perfection and to this day is still growing. An Earth that has air, water, food, everything we could possibly want or need to survive. Have you ever looked at the inside of a flower? How intricate, how precise, perfection untold. After doing so, if you still do not believe there is a God, then you are blind in one eye and cannot see out of the other.

So be of good heart, believe in the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and you will be utterly amazed at what happens in your life with God at your side to lead you and guide you through the ups and downs, the twists and turns of life just knowing that with God at your side, there is nothing that is impossible. Amen.

From a member of Light of Christ

Dear Pastor, UPG Council & Members,

I just wanted to write a letter thanking you for your prayers, support, and action in forming! Even though there were 3 different churches that came together, we are all 1 united family.

Our history and memories are all different and unique, which I hold very dear to my heart, but my heart has grown since the formation of our community of faith has joined. I can only speak for myself, there have been changes or challenges, some good, some bad, and some indifferent. We all have our own faith walk, which will alter as we continue to move forward. I have been to events that have been sponsored by St. Peter’s, Light of Christ, and the UPG and have witnessed my family expand (in what I call, my brothers and sisters!)

I do miss some familiar faces when attending service at Light of Christ, but as I worship there, I am blessed by new faces that share with me the joy and celebration of Christ! My children have been able to meet new faces and share new experiences that they may not have been able to if we as a community of faith stayed within our own 4 walls. I have met new brothers and sisters during the mid-week Bible studies that have “opened up” and shared their experiences with my family, as I have too. Watching my family enjoy the community with new members, creating new memories, bring a smile to my heart. These opportunities are present today, and my hope is that they continue.

I am looking forward to this journey as a member of the UPG discovering the many God sightings in Bethlehem and beyond. I may not know where we are heading, how we will get there, nor what

the end result may be, but I do know I am enjoying this journey together. I know I will experience some sorrow, frustrations, and challenges, but I am trying to stay focused on the endless possibilities that can occur if I give the Spirit a chance to work with and through me. Thanks for commitment and time!

***Sincerely, your brother in Christ,
From a St. Peter's member***

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 minutes and share our music in worship a number of times throughout the year. Please contact Linda Maule at 610-691-2321.



UPG News



Originally from St. Matthew's, this beautiful sculpture of Christ Ascending was placed in the narthex at Light of Christ last weekend.

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who painted the narthex and helped with the sculpture.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG – January 21 through 28

Sunday January 21, 2018

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

Monday January 22, 2018

- 7:00 PM Dart Baseball: Trinity UCC at St. Peter's, Messiah at St. Paul's and St. Matthew's @ Holy Trinity

Tuesday January 23, 2018

- 10:00 AM South Side Thrift Shop Volunteers
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Wednesday January 24, 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 25, 2018

- NO UPG Bible Study (LoC)**
- 12:00 Noon Lehigh Valley Chinese Christian Church Study (St. P)
- NO UPG Bible Study This Evening**
- 7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians of Holy Israel Worship (St. P)

Friday January 26, 2018

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

Saturday January 27, 2018

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

Sunday January 28, 2018

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

Meet the Staff in the UPG

This week we introduce Tony DeAngelis in our “Meet the Staff” article.

Tony is the director of the Chancel Ringers bell choir at St. Peter’s. He tells us about his important role in the beautiful music at St. Peter’s:



I have enjoyed being the Chancel Ringer's Director for the last 17 years. I also played the chimes and hand bells before becoming the Director. The Chancel Ringers have had the opportunity to ring for two weddings, played in our own concert and were part of Marisa's Concert Series, as well as ringing during St. Peter's Worship Services.

I played the saxophone for 40 years in various bands. I gave clarinet and saxophone lessons as well. Music has always been a part of my life. Either playing, directing or just listening to my favorite songs.

I am looking forward to 2018 and all that brings.

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 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.

Backpack Buddies Pantry Please support our young neighbors in need with food donations to the Backpack Buddies program.

The following food items are needed:



- Boxes of cereal (small individual serving boxes are great!)
- Individual containers of pudding and jello
- Snack crackers with cheese or peanut butter
- Packets of tuna or chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly

Also, microwaveable individual containers – preferably short, squat containers that are hard to tip. Favorites are individual containers of noodles, ravioli and Spaghetti-O's.

Donations can be placed in the shopping cart just outside the St. Peter's narthex. Thank you!

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.



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!

Statements of Giving for Contributions Made in 2017

St. Peter's Statements of Giving have been produced for persons who have requested them, and for persons who received them in prior years. The statements are now available 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.

Messiah 2017 Statements of Giving are available now in the Light of Christ narthex.

St. Matthew's 2017 Statements of Giving are being prepared; when ready, they will also be available in the Light of Christ narthex.