



THE PROCLAMATION

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

LIGHT OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access[b] to this grace in which we stand; and we[c] boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we[d] also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 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. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time(Kairos) Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5:1-8

Greetings and Peace to you!

Recently I was thinking about how important moments in time are. That moment when you met the person you love for the first time. The moment when



you met your child for the first time. The moment that you spent with a wonderful friend and everything in

the world seemed right. The moment that you absolutely knew in your heart that God was with you!

Often these moments in time provide us strength during times of trial. These moments in time may alter the course of our lives or change them in ways that we could not expect. These moments in time can leave lasting impressions and joy in our hearts and minds.

In the Bible moments in time are expressed in two ways. "Chronos" refers to time is measured in seconds, minutes, hours, and days. "Kairos" refers to the opportune, even royal time of God's action and activity. In the midst of our lives we often experience both kinds of time.

In the life of our community of faith, I believe we are living through a "Kairos" moment. This moment allows us to see

(Continued on page 2)

LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2020 Worthington Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Phone: 610-691-2321
FAX: 610-691-1506
Website:
messiahlutheran18017.org
Email: lightofchrist@rcn.com

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

474 Vine Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone: 610-867-0519
FAX: 610-867-1249
Website: stpetersbethlehem.org
Email:
church@stpetersbethlehem.org

Pastor Jerry's Cell phone number: 484-333-0433

Inside this Issue:

Pastor's Message	1
Lenten Worship	2
Deacon's Message	3
News in Congregation	4
Happening this Month	5
Social Ministry	8
Music Notes	9
Christian Education	9
MLCCC	11
Birthdays & Anniversaries	12
Synod News	13
Staff	15
Calendar	16

(Continued from page 1)

how God has acted in our past, what God is up to in our present time, and where God may be calling us to move.

During the upcoming season of Lent, I am excited with the mid-week Lenten opportunities that will be offered across the UPG. I thank **REV. RAY HITTINGER** and **REV. SANDY BIRCHMEIER** for working



LENT 2018 AT UPG

Wondering and Wandering to Unknown Ventures

Many of us have heard the following questions on long family trips – “Dad, where are we going?” “Mom, are we there, yet?” “How much longer is it going to take?”

Such questions have surely been pondered by many of our brothers and sisters of United Proclamation of the Gospel. For Messiah and St. Matthew’s congregations, the journey to merger has been long, lasting four years and resulting in the formation of Light of Christ Lutheran Church. Then, suddenly, a new level of consideration about co-operative ministry appeared with the proposal of United Proclamation of the Gospel (UPG) that added a new partner with the participation of St. Peter’s Congregation. For members of St. Peter’s, there have also been many changes and challenges since late summer that, to many, have seemed sudden and unexpected.

together to make this year’s Lenten journey a reality.

My hope and prayer is that you will read the article in this month’s edition of the newsletter and desire to be part of this moment in time within our community.

Peace and blessings
PJ

In some fashion or another, all of us who are now involved in the UPG, have been *Wondering and Wandering* in our spiritual response to the new challenges in mission and ministry, much of which will continue to unfold as time moves on.

With all that in mind, it seems appropriate to use the Season of Lent to connect with the revelations of God for our faith community by reflecting on the unique ministries of the three cooperating faith communities that form UPG, raising up biblical stories of *Wondering and Wandering*, and inviting each of our unique stories to enrich and help form a new identity as we journey into God’s future for us and the surrounding community.

Join us on the five Wednesdays that follow Ash Wednesday and precede Holy Week.

The schedule of this series is as follows:

- **February 21** – *The Call to “Go”* (Genesis 12:1-7)
- **February 28** – *Defining the Way* (Exodus 19:1-8a)
- **March 7** – *Jesus Maps our Destination* (John 14:1-6)
- **March 14** – *Obstacles on the Way* (Acts 8:1-8)
- **March 21** – *God’s People Proclaiming, Wherever they Go* (1 Peter 2:1-10)

(Continued on page 3)

When and Where? *Light of Christ Campus*, Wednesdays at 12:00 noon to 1:10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the basement level. Plan on street parking. Enter by the main entrance or the ramp entrance to the left of the main entrance. Fellowship Hall is accessible via steps to your left just inside the main entrance doors or the elevator located through the second set of doors leading to the narthex (gathering space outside the main sanctuary). The elevator is accessible also just inside the door at the end of the ramp.

St. Peter's Campus, Wednesdays at 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Social Room – Parking is available on the lot on the north side of the education building. Enter by way of the parking lot entrance at the rear of the education building. Turn left once inside the door and enter the Social Room via the short hallway.

What? Light soup and salad meal, devotions, and guided discussion. Volunteers are needed to bring a pot of soup or salad. More info to follow.

Who? All members of the congregations of UPG.



Dear members of the UPG,

When this newsletter arrives, Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent will be a short time away. Perhaps these comments will help to provide a more positive aspect to your Lenten observance instead of earlier traditions that seem somewhat negative.

Our guide for worship planning, Sundays and Seasons, mentions that some previous practices during Lent focused more exclusively on

one's sins and guilt or one's meditation on Christ's crucifixion and death. This article suggests replacing these negative Lenten observances with a "*restrained* celebration." The writer's opinion is that Lent should be a "high point of the church year for the faithful."

This "*restrained* celebration" is appropriate since Sundays in Lent are considered feast days. Our weekly celebration of Holy Communion always contains an element of celebration as it leads us with anticipation to the exuberant celebration of Easter. During Lent, let us celebrate the joy that emanates from "the foretaste of the feast to come."

Lent originated as a time for catechumens to prepare for baptism at Easter and their anticipation of a transformed life in Christ. That, in and of itself, was a reason for their celebration and it still is for each of us today. Let us remember with joy that in our baptism the water and the Word washed away our old self, gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and created us new beings in Christ.

Let us come faithfully to worship during this Lenten season to celebrate and thank God for all the means of grace that God showers on us through our baptism and in the Eucharistic meal. Our loving God wants nothing more than our love and praise in return and our willingness to share God's love with others through our words and in our deeds. May our Lenten journey strengthen us for loving service in the name of the triune God.

Yours in Christ,

DEACON LINDA MAULE

NEWS

From Our Congregations



We are saddened by the death of **ROBERT LOMAN** (Light of Christ) on December 15, 2017. Please remember his wife Pat and his family and friends during this difficult time.

We are also saddened by the death of **MARION REDLINE** (Light of Christ) on December 21, 2017. Please remember her daughter Susan Redline and family and friends during this difficult time.



Do you need a ride to attend worship or any other church activity? If so, contact one of the persons listed below:

February 4

Ted Terry—610-866-0359

February 11

George & Linda Baltz - 610-691-2994

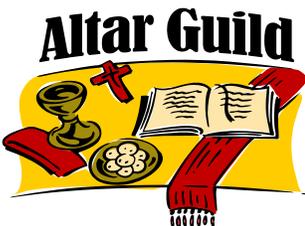
February 18

Bill & Donna Mackaravitz - 610-691-8338

February 25

Ted Terry—610-866-0359

ALTAR GUILD MEETING



The work of preparing our altar for worship at **LIGHT OF CHRIST** continues to be carried out by volunteers from the former Messiah and St. Matthew's congregations.

gation. We'll be meeting to organize for the new year right after the service on **FEBRUARY 18**, and we would welcome new members. We'll provide clear instructions and an experienced partner to work with, so don't hesitate just because you haven't served in this way before. If you have questions, call **SUSAN SCHELLENBERG** at 610-865-5522 or email stschellen@gmail.com



LWR RELIEF FARMERS MARKET COFFEE FOR SALE

Drink some good coffee and at the same time, help transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. That is what Lutheran World Relief Farmer's Market Coffee does. Farmers get a strong up-front price for their beans and a portion of the profit. In addition, \$.80 of each pound will go back into LWR projects to benefit more people around the world.

Price of each bag is \$7.00. Coffee will be available for sale at **ST. PETER'S** campus narthex after Sunday worship beginning February 11 and before Lenten mid-day worship in the fellowship hall at **LOC** beginning February 21. It will be available until all coffee is sold out. Payment by cash only please.

All money collected will purchase food items for children in our community through Back Pack buddies.



The next blood drive is scheduled for **MARCH 11** from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at **LIGHT OF CHRIST**.



Women's Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY in February 2018, will meet on Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 6 & 20**, meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the Social Room off the parking lot level on the **ST. PETER'S**

CAMPUS. All women are encouraged to come for a time of study, care, prayer, and some tea/coffee and snacks. During February, the study is written by Pastor Mark Allen Powell, a professor at Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He wrote many of the resources for the recent Bible study emphasis of the ELCA. Following the current Lectionary schedule, Dr. Powell uses the book of Mark for his study of how to interpret what we read in Scripture. This month the Bible study text is John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus' ministry. Looking at the context of the passage, other similar Old and New Testament Bible passages, Dr. Powell guides the participants in how to understand Scripture for our own lives in our own particular context.

Know there is always a chair waiting for you!
Come as soon as you can.

REMINDER: SNOW POLICY: If Bethlehem Area School District has a delay or school is closed, there will be no Bible Study that Tuesday. If you are unsure about a cancellation, call the church office (610-867-0519) and listen to the message on the answering machine.

BLANKET MAKING will resume in March on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Blanket Making happens in the Social Room off the parking lot level on



the **ST. PETER'S** campus. From 11:30 to 1:30 pm, all folks are welcome to help put together the Lutheran World Relief blankets. Supplies are being collected throughout the year. Items needed are: large 60 X 80 pieces of colorful fabric; embroidery floss of all colors, and YOU. Anyone can be of help making these blankets~people who can cut fabric, iron, use pins, or doing some seam sewing at home. No previous sewing knowledge or skills are required. On the job training is provided. Plan now on coming on **March 20**. New helping hands are always welcome.

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF "SUPER BOWL" SUNDAY!



This year we will be remembering those within the world who are more concerned about the monumental task of having enough food to survive the day than about who is playing in the Superbowl! At all of our worship celebrations the weekend of February 3, 4, 2018, we will be placing three boxes in the narthexes (lobbies) on both of our UPG Campus. One box will have the logo from the representative to the Super Bowl from the National Football Conference, one box will have the logo from the representative to the Super Bowl from the American Football Conference, and one box will have the logo of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. We are asking that you bring your free will offerings to worship on this day and place your offering in whatever team you are most supportive of on this monumental day! All proceeds from this offering will be forwarded to the World Hunger Appeal!

(Continued on page 6)

“BREWING THEOLOGY!” MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018



Join your friends for a wonderful discussion in a relaxing atmosphere with the ability to share in beverage and food! Brewing Theology is a night when sisters and brothers get together at TAPS located on 378 South of Bethlehem for informal discussions about faith and the world around us. This month we will come together on **February 5 at 6:00 PM** (though some of us are there earlier to eat) and share time of fellowship together. Our gathering normally lasts until approximately 8:00 PM. This is a great place to ask questions and simply process the world around us through a faith perspective!

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2018



A “Special Congregation Meeting” has been called for the people of **LIGHT OF CHRIST**. At this meeting we will be discussing and voting on the possible sale of “St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church.” Please plan to attend this important meeting, which will be held immediately after the 11:00 AM worship.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE! EVERY WEDNESDAY, 9:00 AM ON LIGHT OF CHRIST CAMPUS



Join us for a time of quilt making, blanket making, and various other ministries that assist not only our community of faith but the people who live among us in our communities! The **LIGHT OF CHRIST** Christian Service is filled

with good will, wonderful fellowship, and an incredible love of sharing our abundance with others! We gather together each Wednesday morning in the **LIGHT OF CHRIST** Fellowship Hall, please come out and join us!

UPG LADIES LUNCHEON. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 PALACE RESTAURANT, NOON



Come on out to the Palace Restaurant at noon on February 12, 2018 and join your sisters in Christ for a wonderful meal and an incredible opportunity for fellowship!

UPG MEN’S BREAKFAST. MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2018 ALACE RESTAURANT, 8:00 AM



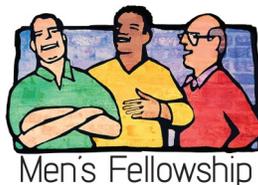
Come out to the Palace Restaurant at 8:00 AM on **FEBRUARY 26, 2018** and join your brothers in Christ for a wonderful meal and an incredible opportunity for fellowship!

UPG SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP



Every Saturday evening at 5:00 PM, we gather together on our **LIGHT OF CHRIST** Lutheran Church campus (2020 Worthington Ave.) to celebrate a worship experience with Holy Communion! Please consider joining us for this wonderful weekend opportunity!

UPG MEN’S FELLOWSHIP



Each Wednesday morning at 6:30 AM all men are invited to participate in our UPG Men's Fellowship

(Continued on page 7)

Group! Our group will be meeting in the Trauger Room on our **ST. PETER'S** Campus. Coffee is always brewing and our time together also includes an opportunity for mutual support and encouragement to one another.

STORIES OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY



Join us every Thursday morning at **9:00 AM (LIGHT OF CHRIST Campus Library)** or **6:30 PM** on our **ST. PETER'S Campus**

(Social Room) for Stories of Faith Bible Study **(Please note: there will be no evening Bible Study during the season of Lent.)** During this 90- minute session we will take a closer look at the Scripture assigned for the coming Sunday's worship experience and explore the questions and thoughts that you bring to these Scripture lessons! There is no prior Bible Study experience necessary to join this lively discussion, simply bring an open heart and willing ears and see where the Spirit will lead our discussion. Consider joining us!

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS



We are always looking for additional Thrift Shop Volunteers to help facilitate the South Bethlehem Thrift shop on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM (This month **FEBRUARY**

13 and **27**.) Please contact the UPG Executive Assistant (**KATHI RAPHAEL**) if you might be interested in helping with this important ministry!

UPG KNITTER'S GROUP



KNITTER'S GROUP

Join your sisters and brothers from across the UPG as we gather together on Monday **FEBRUARY 19** at 6:30 PM to knit bandages and various

other items that will be shared with people from across the globe in need of clean and warm items.

PASTORS AND GUARDIANS OF HOLY ISRAEL COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Each week, normally on Thursday evening and Saturday evening, the Pastors and Guardians of Holy Israel Community of faith meet on our **ST. PETER'S** campus. This community of faith which offers ministry in both Spanish and English has been meeting in our facilities and has truly been a blessing. Led by Pastors Victor and Marilyn Mendoza an enthusiastic community of between 50-60 people worshipping our Lord!



Lehigh Valley Christian Chinese Church

Every week the Lehigh Valley Christian Chinese Church offers an extension of their ministry on our St. Peter's campus. On Thursdays at noon Christian Chinese students from Lehigh University gather in our social room for Bible Study and on Friday evenings at 6:00 PM approximately 80 sisters and brothers in Christ gather to worship our Lord and share God's teaching.

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

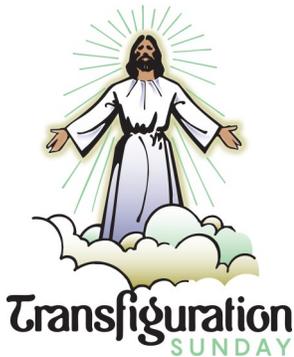
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 3, 4, 2018 – 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like

Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 10, 11, 2018 –
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2018 –
ASH WEDNESDAY**



Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come. Worship available at 6:30 AM in the **ST. PETER'S** Chapel. Noon on our **LIGHT OF CHRIST**

Campus and 7:00 PM in our **ST. PETER'S** Sanctuary.

**WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 17, 18, 2018 –
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**



In this first week of Lent, we hear the stories of how God has acted in our past. During our times of trial, God has been present. During our times of rejoicing, God has been present. Begin your Lenten walk with your sisters and brothers in Christ by hearing how God has impacted our community's in the past.

**WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 24, 25, 2018 –
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**



In the story of Exodus we hear how God accompanied Israel throughout their time in the desert. Hear again how God walks with us in those moments of our lives when we feel as if we are "wandering" in the deserts of life.



LIGHT OF CHRIST GIVING TREE

Thank you for the outpouring of response for the 2017 Giving Tree on the **LIGHT OF CHRIST** campus. All seventy-five tags were sponsored.

Thank you to **INGRID (BENGSTON) EBERLE** for providing the knitted outerwear that decorated

(Continued from page 8)

the tree and that now will help to keep many individuals warm during this cold winter.

LIGHT OF CHRIST GIVING TREE

KATHY COFFIN took delivered the knitted scarves, hats, and gloves to clients of the Food Pantry and New Bethany Ministries.

KAREN FAVINGER and **LINDA MAULE** delivered twenty gifts to the senior residents at Blough Nursing Home and **MATT PISZEL** and **LINDA MAULE** delivered nine very large bags of stuffed animals/ stuffed toys to the pediatric unit of St. Luke's Hospital.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR 2018

Our first Special Offering of the New Year will begin during Lent. Members of the UPG, including the children of the Sunday school, will help to support the ELCA Good Gifts program. In the past, our congregational offering has provided farming communities with chicks, piglets, and honey bees. We will be asking for similar support this year.

Please look for offering envelopes in the pew racks and make checks payable to Light of Christ or St. Peter's with Good Gifts on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

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** if you can volunteer(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.

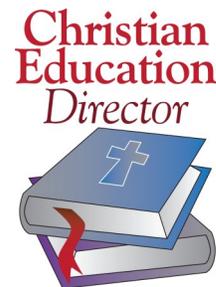


Please consider a short-term commitment to support the choir at **LIGHT OF CHRIST** as they pre-

pare music for the Sundays in Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals begin at 7:30 PM on Wednesday nights. No special requirements – just come and you will be made welcome.

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).



Dear mem- bers and friends,

What joyous Advent and Christmas seasons we experienced throughout the UPG! Our Sunday School classes celebrated the birth of Jesus with the gift of a beautiful Christmas star for each student made by **KATHY PELLETIERS**. Our classes celebrated Jesus' birth with birthday parties for Jesus, with special edible Christmas tree crafts, with the making of other special crafts and with learning new Christmas songs. Our children and youth par-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

ticipated in the 3:00 pm Christmas Eve service with the children of St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Our families sponsored a Christmas party for all of the participants of the Children's Christmas Eve Service. A highlight of this party was the visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to **TOM SEIFERT** and **LYNN MALOK** for this special visit.

Volunteers from the UPG donated food and gifts for families in need whose children attend the MLCCC. Hats and scarves from Our Giving Tree were also given to these children.

An evening of friends, jumping, pizza and cake for Jesus' birthday was held at SkyZone during the Christmas break from school for the children/youth of the UPG. Thank you to **TRACY HAAS** and **PASTOR JERRY** for making this event happen!!

I thank all of our Sunday School teachers for planning the special Advent and Christmas activities and all who helped in very generous and giving ways with the children and their families this Christmas season.

Our weekday preschool celebrated Jesus' birth in many ways, also. We recognized St. Nicholas Day, visited the Edgeboro Moravian Christmas Putz, held Christmas Chapel, made crafts reflective of Jesus' birth, learned new Christmas songs, had a birthday party for Jesus and were visited by Santa and Mrs. Claus who had a gift for every child!

During the month of February, you will see MLCCC volunteers selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Schoolhouse patterned quilt made by the quilters of our church. It was donated to us to help us raise much needed funds for our Scholarship Fund for the 2018-2019 school year. The quilt will be available to view also during the month of Febru-

ary. Thank you so very much to the women who sewed this to benefit the children. God Bless You!

Looking ahead to Messiah's Educational

Ministry's Events:

- **FEBRUARY 4TH** – Super Bowl Sunday – no confirmation class
- **FEBRUARY 11TH**- 8th /9th grade confirmation class 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the library
- **FEBRUARY** – Sunday School outreach project will begin. More information to come through the Sunday School.
- **MARCH 13, 2018** MLCCC's Friendly's Family Fun Night – 3099 William Penn Highway 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- **MARCH 25, 2018** Children's Worship and Lenten Fair 6:30 p.m.
- **MARCH 26, 2018** MLCCC Easter Chapel and Art Show 6:30 p.m.
- **APRIL 15, 2018** Lutheran Schools' Sunday and Light Luncheon to follow the 11:00 a.m. worship service
- **APRIL 8,15,22, 29 and May 6** – Spring Term for confirmation class.6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **May 8, 2018** MLCCC Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 11:30 a.m. – Library
- **MAY 20, 2018** Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch – following the 11:00 a.m. service.
- **June 3, 2018** Sunday School Closing Worship and Picnic on the Lawn
- **JULY 16-20, 2018** Vacation Bible School –

(Continued on page 11)

Wel- come!
Wel- come!
 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Child Center

We are **registering** children ages 2, 3, and 4 by October 1, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year! Spread the word and if you have a child or grandchild of this age and are looking for a preschool please arrange for a tour by calling the school number listed at the end of this article. It is a wonderful, nurturing, Christian preschool with caring, dedicated and creative teachers filled with the love of God!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

We will be participating in Read Across America Day on March 2nd (and other days that week) in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday with more Dr. Seuss stories, games, rhymes, crafts, guest readers and a birthday cake.

Lutheran Schools Week will be held April 9-13, 2018. A light lunch will be held following the 11:00 a.m. service on April 15, 2018 with school displays and children (Sunday School and MLCCC) singing during the service! We will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the MLCCC (MCC began at Messiah Lutheran Church in 1982) and the 30th year of service by Christina Fidmik!! Special activities for the children are planned throughout the week including guest readers. Plans are being made to have Messiah members read to the children.

The MLCCC will host Friendly's Night on March 13, 2018 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at 3099 William Penn Highway, Easton, PA. A percentage of all sales on the evening of March 6th will be donated to the MLCCC. Please consider enjoying an evening out for dinner/ice-cream with your friends and family and support the MLCCC!! Our popular Basket Raffle will be held. Proceeds will benefit our scholarship fund.

Currently we have designated all of our

scholarship money and are now starting to rebuild the fund for the 2018-2019 school year. We are asking for your help in donating items for our raffle. We have members who share their tickets to area sporting events, who donate Crayola and Just Born products and others who make items such as baby blankets and wreaths for us to raffle. If you have an item to share or would like to create a basket for us to raffle please see **LYNN TERRY**. We are thankful for your participation and help. Your support truly makes a difference in children's lives who are able to attend school at MLCCC through our scholarship funding.

Thank you for your assistance with the **Giant A+ School Rewards Program**. The cards that have been registered will earn points for the MLCCC until the end of March, 2018. We thank you and all of the MLCCC families and friends who are participating!!! Currently we have earned \$459.38.

Thank you to our **Thrivent** members who continue to designate their "**Choice Dollars**" to the Messiah Lutheran Church Child Center. We are greatly appreciative of these gifts which will be added to our scholarship fund. Thank you to Thrivent for their support of the MLCCC. Thank you, also, to the **individuals** who contributed to our **Scholarship Fund**. We are currently assisting families with these donations and continue to have requests for tuition assistance.

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK FAIR FOR THE MLCCC!

FEBRUARY 27, 2018 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Southmont Center
4445 Southmont Way
Easton, PA 18045

Join us for an evening of story time, crafts, scavenger hunt and books!

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of merchandise will go to the Messiah Lutheran Church Child Center's Educational Fund. We hope to see

(Continued from page 11)

you there as we begin our celebration of Read Across America with a Dr. Seuss theme. Books also make great gifts to include in a child's Easter basket. Easter is April 1st this year. Come and enjoy browsing for books for someone you love.

Peace! Joy!

LYNN TERRY

Christian Education Director/MLCCC Director
Lynnjt680@verizon.net
MLCCC (610)861-0645



- 1 Kristen Christian
Lorriene Hertzog
Eleanor Moyer
- 2 Arlene Davidson
- 3 Rebecca Neafcy
Alfred Tullock
- 4 Betty McAndrew
Cory Zrinski
Tony Favinger
Nancy Ryan
- 5 Tori Geiger
- 6 Theodore Birchmeier
- 7 Dylan Markwith
- 8 Melinda Cruz
Nelson Perez, Jr.
- 10 Margaret Sames
Tracy Haas
- 11 Donald T. Brosious
- 13 Kaylynn Schoenenberger

- 15 Frank Scheck
Marilyn Musgung
- 19 Trey Jeffery Griffis
Lee Sandra Kociolek
- 20 Breanna Frankenfield
Ann Marie Henshaw
Tyler O'Keefe
- 21 Geraldine Cutsler
- 22 Stacy Gerhard
Rebecca Jenkins
- 23 Laurie Cybuck
- 24 Stephen Granlund
William Seixas
Jan Kospiah
- 25 H. Richard Erney
- 26 Kristine Unger
Daniel R. Zrinski
Mike Finn
Samantha Haas
Joanne Seif
- 27 Shellie Twigg
Kole Hammersmith
- 28 Barbara Donnangelo
Grace Faust
Sharon Gombotz
Eileen Reitenauer
Scott Reitenauer



ST. PETER'S

- 6 Joshua & Cassandra Young
- 11 Allan & Jacquelyn Radtke

LIGHT OF CHRIST

- 26 Scott & Eileen Reitenauer

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A New Ministry Partnership



Joint choir under the direction of Geert Ruelens

On December 1, 2016, Nativity and St. Paul, Reading, entered into a ministry partnership when they agreed to share Geert Ruelens as their musician. On Monday evening, both choirs rehearse together; and in 2017 the two congregations joined in celebrating Epiphany and Ascension (to which they invited the community); and they worshiped together on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and for the Easter Vigil.

When Nativity's interim pastor, Cathy Feil, received a call, St. Paul and Nativity saw an opportunity to deepen their partnership. They entered into fruitful discussions about sharing a pastor, guided by the Holy Spirit and Associate of the Bishop, Rev. John C. Richter. On August 1 St. Paul's pastor, Carol B. Kehler, began serving also at Nativity after an agreement was reached to purchase time from St. Paul. On August 6, Pastor Richter offered prayers for the beginning of a new ministry at Nativity.

Congregational leaders join in Worship and Music Committee meetings as well as in a quarterly Council meeting to evaluate the ongoing partnership. Members have four weekly opportunities for Worship, two for Bible study, and share Eucharistic ministers. The congregations look forward to sharing both another Epiphany celebration as well as an Advent 4 service on December 24 (for which a bell choir will be formed).

Between Nativity and St. Paul, 74 families received a Thanksgiving basket containing a full meal, prayerfully offered by the congregations. As the congregations look to influence each other in the best of ways, St. Paul has adopted Nativity's yearly Women's Thankoffering and Nativity members have contributed food, clothing, and household donations to St. Paul's monthly Food Pantry. St. Paul and Nativity will continue trusting in God's guidance as they look to the future together.

Second Annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday, December 12, the synod support staff hosted the 2nd Annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Lunch. All NEPS congregations were encouraged to treat their parish secretaries to a time of fellowship and a catered lunch. The group had an opportunity to ask questions of



the synod's support staff, play some Christmas games, make new friends, and reconnect with old friends.

Talking About Racism

DOCUMENT

White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack (Peggy McIntosh)
[\[http://code.ucsd.edu/pcosman/Backpack.pdf\]](http://code.ucsd.edu/pcosman/Backpack.pdf)

This helpful document written by Peggy McIntosh in 1989 is still relevant today. It provides a way of thinking about the meaning of "white privilege" and is a good conversation starter for groups.

MOVIE - 13th

A description from Wikipedia: "13th is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the 'intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States.' It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime)."

This is a thought-provoking and disturbing film suitable for senior high youth and adults. A helpful study guide is available online at <http://influencefilmclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/13th-Discussion-Guide.pdf>.

ELCA Resources

The ELCA website (<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice>) has a variety of resources for addressing racism. Check out *Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church* and the other resources listed on this website.

Trinity, Bangor Utilizes Contemporary Artwork for Summer Worship



Photo by Larry Cory. Used with permission.

Trinity, Bangor worships in their air-conditioned fellowship hall during the warmer months. Although the chairs were set in semi-circular rows, similar to the pews in the main sanctuary upstairs, the background behind the altar was not very inspiring. The congregation's gaze fell upon rather ordinary windows and a painted wall.

So Pastor Larry Laine had an idea. Using his background in painting, and consulting with his daughter, Britta, who has a degree in painting from Boston University, he attempted to design a background that would enhance the spirituality of the worship space. In traditional church architecture this is called the reredos-- an ornamental screen with carvings, images, even statues which worshipers may contemplate during a service.

After numerous drafts, Pastor Laine settled on a floor-to-ceiling high and 12-foot wide piece of art that depicts the crucifix in a contemporary abstract painting. The negative space represents the cross, and the arm and head (made of wood) is the resurrected Christ. Red onyx was chosen for the body to show the warmth of the resurrection and to provide contrast for the colder background colors.

Pastor Laine also used his experience with woodworking to assemble the project. With the help of Trinity congregation member, Tom Marino, the piece of art was anchored to the wall where it will likely remain for the foreseeable future.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

STAFF OF LIGHT OF CHRIST & ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES (UPG)

LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2020 WORTHINGTON AVENUE

BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

PHONE: 610-691-2321

FAX: 610-691-1506

Website: messiahlutheran18017.org

Email: lightofchrist@rcn.com

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

474 VINE STREET

BETHLEHEM, PA 18015

PHONE: 610-867-0519

FAX: 610-867-1249

Website: stpetersbethlehem.org

Email: church@stpetersbethlehem.org

Pastor Jerry's Cell phone number: 484-333-0433

People of UPG (Light of Christ/St. Peter's)

Congregational councils

Mary Mann, Richard Elterich

Pastor Jerry Kulp

Rev. Edith B. Roberts

Rev. Eugene F. Sharkey

Kathi Raphael

Kenda Riley

Sandy Horwath

Deacon Linda Maule

Marisa Deschler

Anthony DeAngelis

Lynn Terry

Michel Lloyd

Oraine Roth

Al Radtke, Lisa Mantz

Ministers of God's Word

Responsible for Administration of God's Word

Congregational presidents for UPG

Senior Pastor of UPG

Pastor Emerita St. Peter's

Pastor Emeritus Messiah Lutheran Church

Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor

Ministry Coord/Campus Coord (St. Peter's)

Receptionist/Campus Coord (Light of Christ)

Minister of Music and Visitation (Light of Christ)

Organist and Choral Minister (St. Peter's)

Bell Choir Director (St. Peter's)

Christian Education Director

Minister of visitation coordinator

"Proclamation" Editor (oraine@verizon.net)

Custodians



