

Weekend of February 3 and 4, 2018

Bethlehem United Proclamation of the Gospel

Serving God's children who gather at:

***Light of Christ
Lutheran Church***

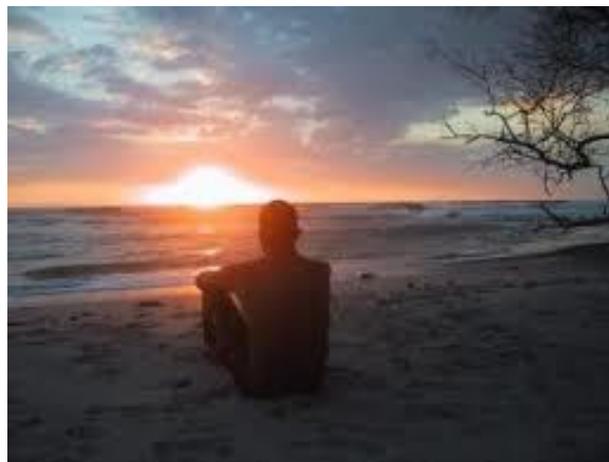


***St. Peter's Evangelical
Lutheran Church***

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!**



***'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and
your old men shall dream dreams.'***

Acts 2:17

Greetings and peace to you all!

Shirley and I just wanted to take a moment to say “Thank You!” Thank You for providing both of us with an opportunity to share in your walk of faith. Thank You for providing us with the resources and ability to enjoy a beautiful vacation. Thank You for being so gracious!

While we were on vacation I had an opportunity to read a wonderful book which addressed many of the issues facing the “church” in 2018. Over the course of the next few months, in one way or another, we will be talking about many of the opportunities available to us to continue sharing the “Good News” of God’s love with the world around us through our community of faith and through our individual lives. Today, however, I wanted to speak to you about something that I gave a great deal of thought to while I was relaxing on vacation.

Do you remember a day when in our lives we gave authority to Pastors, not simply because we liked them or didn’t like them, but because of the position the pastor held? I’m not talking about authority over simply “church things” like, how we should worship or how we should view Holy Communion, but authority that “moved us” to do things outside of the realm of “church”.

How vividly I recall a pastor sitting down and asking me to take a more active role during the season of Lent. Honestly, I don’t recall thinking of this discussion as a real conversation rather it felt to me more like it was a command because in my heart I believed “if the pastor thinks this is the right thing to do for me, then I should simply listen and do what the pastor is asking of me.”

Over the course of my 15 years of ordained ministry I am much more comfortable leading the community of faith from within her midst. I enjoy listening to varied opinions offered by various people, building consensus, and then moving towards the visions that are being presented by the congregational leadership. Of course, there have been moments in time when opportunities were presented that required more decisive actions of the church leadership and true “consensus building” was not possible. Such a time occurred in the summer of 2017 when we moved forward with the United Proclamation of the Gospel model of ministry.

While our congregational leadership was involved at a very early stage and while the information about the UPG flowed forward very quickly, due to time constraints it was nearly impossible to build true consensus on this matter. Yet on this day I am hoping that you might be willing to grant me both informal and formal authority to hopefully “move” you to action!

In my heart and my spirit, I truly believe that the concept of the UPG not only addresses “real world” issues facing our community of faith, but also allows for a bolder proclamation of God’s love for the world in which we live. This new way of thinking about church and living out our faith is not without compromises and concessions however. It will only be through shared dialogue and discussion that the vision of the UPG might be fully realized. In other words, the community of faith needs “your thoughts, opinions, and discipleship” to move forward!

Today, I implore you... please be part of this process! During the upcoming season of Lent, we will have the opportunity to openly share with our sisters and brothers in Christ from across the UPG those things about our faith, our church life, and God that have been important in our lives in the past. Together, we will share our feelings about how we feel God is working within this time and this place. Together, we might begin to envision a road of what God is calling us to be and to do as we move forward. I ask you again, please commit yourself: your time, your thoughts, your gifts to this opportunity.

Pastor Ray Hittinger and Pastor Sandy Birchmeier have planned a Lenten journey that I believe will help us in our shared journey! These opportunities will be held every Wednesday during Lent at the noon hour and in the evening to afford as many of our sisters and brothers in Christ the ability to actively participate in our Lenten journey. Our shared hope and desire is that many of you will find this time to be a holy time. A time filled with shared stories, a time filled with fellowship, and a time filled with God's Spirit.

May God walk with us all on our Lenten travels!

Peace and blessings,

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

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All members of the UPG are invited to journey through Lent together.



Let's journey through Lent Together...
“Wondering and Wandering to Unknown Ventures”
as we

<i>Raise Up</i> biblical stories of Wondering and Wandering	<i>Lift Up</i> the unique stories of each faith community that now forms the UPG	<i>Invite Each</i> unique story to help shape a new story of mission and ministry
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Join us each Wednesday of Lent *(Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21)*
for a light soup and salad meal, devotions, and guided discussion.

12:00 Noon – 1:10 PM Light of Christ Campus <i>Fellowship Hall – basement level</i>	6:00 – 7:15 PM St. Peter's Campus <i>Social Room – parking lot entrance</i>
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Dates and Bible Readings are:

- 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)

Light of Christ Campus: The Fellowship Hall is on the lower level. Plenty of on-street parking is available. Enter at the front door and walk down the stairs or use the ramp to take the elevator.

St. Peter's Campus: The Social Room is on the lower level. Enter by the doors at the lower end of the parking lot.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG February 4 -11

Sunday February 4 is the 5th Sunday after Epiphany “Souper Bowl” Sunday

9:00A – Worship (St. P)
9:30A – Sunday School (LoC)
10:30A - Sunday School (St. P)
11:00A – Worship (LoC)

Monday February 5

8:00A - UPG Staff Meeting (St. P)
6:00P - Brewing Theology (TAPS Restaurant, 378 S)
7:00P – Dart Baseball: East Hills @ St. Peter’s, Messiah @ Dryland and
St. Matthew’s @ Westside/Edgeboro

Tuesday February 6

7:00P – Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Wednesday February 7

6:30A – UPG Men’s Ministry (St. P)
9:00A – Christian Service (LoC)
6:30P—Holden Evening Prayer (St. P)
6:30P – Hand Bell Rehearsal (St. P)
7:30P – UPG Choir Rehearsals (St. P and LoC)

Thursday February 8

9:00A - UPG Bible Study (LoC)
Noon – LV Christian Chinese Church Study
6:30P - UPG Bible Study (St. P)
7:00P – **NEW!** Alcoholics Anonymous (LoC)
7:00P – PASTORS AND GUARDIANS OF HOLY ISRAEL worship (St. P)

Friday February 9

6:00P – LV Christian Chinese Church Worship (St. P)

Saturday February 10

5:00P – UPG Worship (LoC)
7:00P – PASTORS AND GUARDIANS OF HOLY ISRAEL Worship (St. P)

Sunday February 11

9:00A – Worship (St. P)
9:30A – Sunday School (LoC)
10:30A – Sunday School (St. P)
11:00A – Worship (LoC)
12:15P - Congregation Meeting (LoC)
6:00P - Confirmation Education (LoC)

Get-Well Card Shower for Jean Ocker

Many at St. Peter's will remember Jean Ocker, the long-time director of music. Jean's daughter reports that Jean fell recently and broke her shoulder. She does not need surgery but is currently in rehabilitation for the next week or so.

Her daughter said it would really lift her spirits to receive some get-well cards. Her address is: **Jean Ocker, 370 E. Curtin St., Bellefonte, PA 16823**
Thank you for keeping her in prayer and sending a card to cheer her!

Get Well
Soon!



Meet the Staff in the UPG

This week we meet Allan Radtke, this week's staff member in "Meet the Staff". Al is the custodian at St. Peter's; he describes the many facets of his work at the St. Peter's church and buildings:

Al Radtke: I've been a member of St. Peter's since 1995 and have served as custodian since 2007. I routinely clean, dust, mop floors, vacuum, and pick up trash, and whatever else is needed to keep our facility clean.

St. Peter's is a huge property, consisting of the main church and chapel, 8 bathrooms, 3 ½ kitchens, classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, the choir room, a gym, a social room, 5 stairways, and an elevator.

I also help to set up/clean up for many special events and ensure that the facilities are clean for things like funerals and weddings held here. I am also a member of the property committee and committed to our new UPG!

Share yourself with others!

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!

Support the MLCCC Pre School at Friendly's on March 13 !

The MLCCC Pre School 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 13th 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 and educational materials funds.

Also, each Sunday through March 11, 2018 **raffle tickets** will be sold in the narthex at LOC **for a beautiful Schoolhouse patterned quilt** (photo at left) made by our Christian Service Women for the support of the Child Center.

Proceeds from this sale will support our scholarship fund. Stop by to see it today! Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

There are some beautiful furniture additions in the Light of Christ narthex, a gift from St. Matthew's. This is a comfortable, welcoming space for visitors, members and small groups.



Important Dates and Information



Light of Christ Special Congregational Meeting on February 11

There will be a special congregational meeting for the members of Light of Christ Lutheran Church on February 11, 2018, immediately following worship at approximately 12:15 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on the sale of the property located at 521 E. Locust Street, Bethlehem PA (St. Matthew's Lutheran Church).

At the November 2017 Council meeting, a committee was formed to consider the disbursement of this property. The committee has made a recommendation regarding the sale of the property, and a vote by the congregation is required to approve the sale. There will be time for discussion then a vote will be taken on the sale of the St. Matthew's property.

The joining together of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Church has encountered some legal issues and the lawyer is continuing to work on resolving them. These issues will also be discussed on February 11.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.



Calvary Food Pantry Dates

The Calvary Food Pantry will be open from 9-11 AM on February 5 and 6, as well as on March 5 and 6. The food pantry is located at 111 Dewberry Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017.

This is a very important ministry to persons who do not have enough to eat. Please call the church office if you can help at the pantry or donate food to stock the shelves.

Did You Know?...

Upcoming editions of *Pew News* will have a new section called **"Did You Know?..."**

This new occasional column will feature items of special interest at the UPG churches that people may not know about. Upcoming articles will spotlight the St. Peter's Heritage Room and share the history of the Light of Christ sculpture "Christ Arising".

If you know of a topic that you think others would like to learn about, please contact Kathi Raphael, *Pew News* editor. She'll be glad to take photos and write the article with the info you share.



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If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you may have Choice Dollars available that can be directed (donated) to St. Peter's or Light of Christ.

A quick reminder that 2017 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2018. Choice Dollars that are not directed by that date will be lost.

To see if you have Choice Dollars to donate to the congregation call **1-800-847-4836**. Make the call today and help make more ministry happen!

Bulletin Sponsors are needed. The price for bulletins at both St. Peter's and Light of Christ is now \$20 per week. Please call the church office if you would like to sponsor a weekly bulletin.

Statements of Giving for Contributions Made in 2017

St. Peter's 2017 Statements of Giving that were not picked up at church were mailed January 30.

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

St. Matthew's 2017 Statements of Giving have been mailed.

Light of Christ & St. Peter's Lutheran Church

YOUTH ICE SKATING EVENT

FEBRUARY 18TH



Meet at the Steel Ice Center at 1:15pm.

Price Range \$6 - \$8 depending on group size.

Skate session 1:30-3:00pm. Skate rental included.

RSVP to Tracy Haas by February 14th at 610.841.8720