

Weekend of February 10 and 11, 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 websites at messiahlutheran18017.org and stpetersbethlehem.org and "like" us on Facebook!

Power of Transformation



For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Greetings and peace to you all!

As most of you already know, I consider myself first and foremost a beloved Child of God, then a husband, a father, a pastor and the list continues. Yet, somewhere in the identities I claim in my life is that of Philadelphia Eagles fan!

I really can't tell you when this identity came into place as my father was a Packers fan and my mother a Redskins fan but sometime in my youth I became an Eagles fan! I have joked often about my lot in life following the Eagles, I have engaged in verbal "jarring" with fans from other teams (particularly the Cowboys) but until this Sunday evening I guess I probably never really believed that I would be able to celebrate an Eagles Super Bowl victory!

Yet on this day, I share with all of you that I am even more profoundly proud to be an Eagles fan than ever before in my life! Not because they won on Sunday evening, but because of the myriad of confessions of faith made following the biggest game of any of these players' or coaches' careers. Many players seem to openly confess their Christian faith; sometimes I find their displays of faith to be disingenuous and self-serving and they can make me uncomfortable. Yet in the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl and particularly in its aftermath, I have found many of these players confessions of faith to be genuine and heartfelt.

Nick Foles, the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player, just two years earlier was sincerely contemplating quitting the game that he loved since the days of his youth. At that time, he was playing for the Los Angeles Rams (and not very well). He had experienced the many "highs" and "lows" of life in the NFL and he felt that he wanted to give up.

After the season, by his own admission, he spoke with his wife about giving up on the NFL and he prayed to God. Through the wilderness of his own doubts and fears he decided to give his old coach Andy Reid a call (who was now serving as the Kansas City Chiefs head coach.) Following that call, Nick signed a contract to be the backup quarterback for the Chiefs. As time moved forward he signed with the Eagles to be the backup quarterback for Carson Wentz and the rest is history.

Nick Foles was so open and honest with the media leading up to the Super Bowl that this story about him questioning whether he wanted to play football became a wonderful story. In the aftermath of the Super Bowl victory and being named Most Valuable Player a member of the media asked Nick about how he thought his story could impact other people in the world. The following quote is in response to this question.

Quote from Nick Foles after winning the Super Bowl and being named MVP:

"I think the big thing is don't be afraid to fail," Foles said. "In our society today, with Instagram and Twitter, it's a highlight. It's all the good things. When you look at it, you have a bad day, you think your life isn't as good, you're failing. Failure is a part of life. It's a part of building character and growing. Without failure, who would you be? I wouldn't be up here if I hadn't fallen thousands of times, made mistakes. We all are human. We all have weaknesses. Just being able to share that and be transparent."

"I know when people speak and share their weaknesses, I listen. Because I can (relate). I'm not perfect. I'm not Superman. We might be in the NFL and we might have just won the Super Bowl, but we all have daily struggles. That's where my faith comes in. That's where my family comes in. I think when you look at a struggle in your life, just know that it's an opportunity for your character to grow."

Faith has the power to transform us! Faith gives us the ability to have hope when it appears the odds in our daily life are stacked against us! Faith gives us the ability to face our fears of failure knowing that as God's beloved children, we will never be abandoned and will always be encouraged by our God to be the best child of God that we can be!

Yes, today as I write this I am still happy and proud to be an Eagles fan! Yet today, I am more profoundly proud that a brother in Christ used the stage provided by a secular world to promote the very thing that we proclaim every week in our worship!

May God continue to shine light into our lives through the witness and actions of our family!

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

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2018 IS ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. The UPG has three opportunities for worship on Ash Wednesday:

6:30 AM in our St. Peter's Chapel
Noon on our Light of Christ Campus
7:00 PM in our St. Peter's Sanctuary

LENTEN MID-WEEK 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 11-18

Sunday February 11 Transfiguration Day

9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
10:30 AM Sunday School (St. P)
11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
12:15 PM Congregational Meeting (LoC)
6:00 PM Confirmation Education (LoC)

Monday February 12

Newsletter Articles Due

8:00 AM Staff Meeting (St. P)
 Noon Ladies Luncheon (Palace Restaurant)
7:00 PM Dart Baseball All Star Game at City League Site

Tuesday February 13

10:00 AM Thrift Shop Volunteers
5:00 PM Diakon (St. P)
7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

February 14 ASH WEDNESDAY

6:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP (St. P Chapel)
9:00 AM Christian Service LoC
 Noon WORSHIP (LoC)
7:00 PM WORSHIP (St. P)

Thursday February 15

9:00 AM Bible Study (LoC)
 Noon LV Christian Chinese Church study

NO UPG Bible Study (St. P)

7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians Holy Israel worship (St. P)
7:00 PM **NEW!!** Alcoholics Anonymous (LoC)

Friday February 16

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

Saturday February 17

5:00 PM Worship (LoC)
7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians Holy Israel Worship (St. P)

Sunday February 18 1st Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
10:30 AM Sunday School (St. P)
11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
 Noon Altar Guild Meeting (LoC)
1:00 PM UPG Mutual Min (LoC)

Share yourself with others!



Blood Drive on March 11 at Light of Christ 8AM to Noon

Donors are asked to sign up in advance by calling the church office or contacting Kasey Bosco at 610-737-3807 (email: Jenae56@gmail.com). Some helpful tips:

- Please be sure to eat a hearty meal before you donate and include salty snacks if you can.
- Drink plenty of water as well.
- You can complete the donor history questionnaire in one of two ways:
 - Before your blood donation, you may complete the questionnaire online at www.GIVEaPINT.org/iScreen -or-
 - you may complete the questionnaire at the Blood Drive

These tips and others can be found in the **Healthy Donation Tips** pamphlets near the signup sheet in the LoC Narthex. Please feel free to take one.

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!



Share Your Cooking Skills on March 4 Residents of Victory House and daytime clients of New Bethany Ministries need meals prepared for them. Please consider being part of a team to cook an evening meal at Victory House for about 25 people. Members of the team provide and prepare the food. Please call 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.



***The UPG totals from
"Souper Bowl" Sunday are in!***



Eagles	393.95
World Hunger	210.01
Patriots	46.85
Grand total	\$650.81

The real winner is the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, which will receive the grand total of \$650.81. Thank you for your *Super Bowl*-sized generosity to people in need.

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 are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

Important Dates and Information



Light of Christ Special Congregational Meeting TODAY February 11

There will be a special congregational meeting **today** immediately following the 11AM worship. 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).

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.

Did You Know?...

Upcoming editions of *Pew News* will have a new article 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 Ascending".

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.

If you are admitted to the hospital, please let the church office know. Due to privacy regulations, hospitals are no longer permitted to automatically call the church when a person is admitted. A friend or family member may also call the church office on your behalf.





**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

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.

**UPG PUBLICATIONS
NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB**

The News

The following UPG documents are now available on the St. Peter's and Light of Christ websites:

- Monthly UPG Worship Ministers schedule
- Monthly UPG Calendar
- Monthly **Proclamation** newsletter
- Weekly **Pew News**

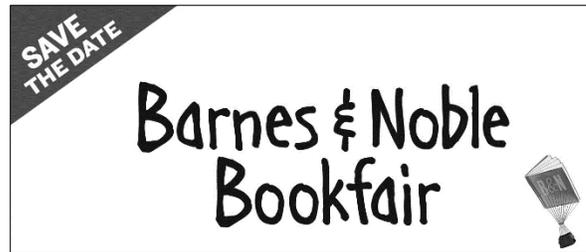
On the St. Peter's website, you can find these documents on the "Publications" tab; on the Light of Christ website, they're on the "Church News" tab.

Here are the web addresses for both websites.

<http://www.messiahlutheran18017.org/>

<http://stpetersbethlehem.org/>

Please visit the Barnes and Noble Bookfair from 5-7PM February 27, 2018 at the Easton PA store located at 4445 Southmont Way for the benefit of the MLCCC Preschool.



**Barnes & Noble
Bookfair**
supporting
**Messiah Lutheran
Church Child Center**
Tuesday Feb. 27, 2018 5-7 PM
Barnes & Noble
4445 Southmont Way Easton PA
Bookfair ID 12320453

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.*

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at Cafés owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.



To have your purchase benefit the school, please take the voucher (at left) with you to the store.

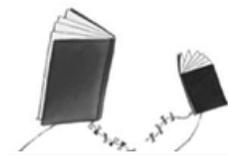
The voucher is good in-store on February 27 from 5-7PM. Feel free to make copies for friends or family to use!

You can also shop online from February 27 to March 4 using this Bookfair ID number: 12320453

Come celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday with the children of our Sunday and weekday schools. Easter is coming and books found in Easter baskets make great gifts for young children. Questions? Please call either church office or see Lynn Terry.

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from 2/27/18 to 3/4/18 by entering Bookfair ID 12320453 at checkout.



A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.



Brewing Theology met on February 5 for **great discussion**, food and... dessert to celebrate the **Eagles Super Bowl win!**



Editor's Note: Apologies that the St. Matthew's February birthdays were inadvertently not sent in for the February *Proclamation*. Please wish all these members a happy day!

Donna Fye	February	1
Lindsey Hunsicker	February	2
Lillian Yanzsa	February	2
Anthony Baggest	February	5
Mary Mann	February	5
Sherry Dancsecs	February	7
Deborah Gaydos	February	8
Brian Dancsecs	February	17
Trey Jeffery Griffis	February	19
Judy Young	February	21
Richard Hoffert	February	24

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