

Weekend of February 24 and 25, 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!

The Call to "GO!"



1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "**Go** from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12: 1-2

Greetings and peace to you all!

Having made the world and seen it succumb to violence and sin in the first eleven chapters of Genesis, in Genesis 12 God suddenly zeroes in on one couple -- Sarah and Abraham. We are no longer looking at the huge canvas of the whole world, but at a tiny corner of it. Calling him to leave all that he knows for an unknown land, God makes three big promises to Abraham whom God has chosen: descendants, land, and blessing.

Some friends of mine from seminary used to get very angry with God over this passage suggesting that "it was as if God chose a favored child over all the other children." This is what we refer to as "election" in theological terms and it is something that many of us wrestle with. Yet what is often missed in the story of Abraham is the plain and simple fact that God chooses to "Bless the world through blessing Abraham and Sarah."

This past Wednesday marked a moment in history when our Lord has blessed many of our sisters and brothers in Christ by bringing us together to reflect on God's call to Abraham to "Go" and see what we might be able to glean from this story in our situation of coming together as the United Proclamation of the Gospel. In all, 71 people from our community gathered on Wednesday and my hope and prayer is that as the season continues more of you might be able to join us.

During our time together, we reflected on moments in time in which we as individuals and as communities felt God's presence moving within our midst. From hearing stories about how God worked to form the people of St. Peter's in 1862, to the movement of people of St. Matthew's in the middle of the 20th century, to the mission development site that became Messiah Lutheran Church in the post-World War II era, it was apparent that God has called our congregations to "Go" in the past. What was also very apparent in our shared time together was that God was working within the midst of our individual communities of faith in very similar ways!

Participants shared how they felt welcomed and received within the community, how each community of faith conducted ministries that impacted the community surrounding the church edifice, and how within the community people felt cared for and loved. Interestingly, each community of faith also had a strength of being able to worship in various formats and structures and each community has felt God's presence moving through worship among the people.

As Christian Lutherans we confess that as God's children living in this world each one of us and each community of faith subscribes at least partially to God's call to Abraham in that we are "blessed by God to be a blessing to others!"

My hope and prayer as we head into this weekend is that each one of us may truly feel "blessed by God" and that we in turn would become the "blessing to others" in the world we live in .

For now, peace and blessings to you!

PJ

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
---	--	---

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>
--	--

Dates and Bible Readings are:

- 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 to the lower level.

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

UPG Worship Opportunities During Lent

Wednesday	Noon	Light of Christ Campus	Light Meal, Devotions and Discussion
Wednesday	6:00 PM	St. Peter's Campus	Light Meal, Devotions and Discussion
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

Please note: *Holden Evening Prayer on the St. Peter's Campus will resume after Easter.*

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG February 25-March 4

Sunday February 25 is the Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
- 9:00 AM Council Installation (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
- 10:30 AM Sunday School (St. P)
- 11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
- 11:00 AM Council Installation LoC
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Monday February 26

- 8:00 AM Staff Meeting (St. P)
- 8:00 AM UPG Men's Breakfast (Palace Restaurant)
- 7:00 PM Dart Baseball: Christ UCC @ St. Peter's, Messiah @ Salem Lutheran and St. Matthew's @ Bethany UCC

Tuesday February 27

- 10:00 AM Thrift Shop Volunteers
- 5-7 PM MLCCC Night, Barnes & Noble, Southmont
- 7:00 PM Worship and Music (St. P)
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Wednesday February 28

- 6:30 AM Men's Fellowship (St. P)
- 9:00 AM Christian Service (LoC)
- Noon LENTEN WORSHIP (LoC)
- Noon AARP Tax Prep (St. P)
- 5:00 PM Diakon (St. P-Trauger)
- 6:00 PM LENTEN WORSHIP (St. P)
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsals – both campuses

Thursday March 1

- 9:00 AM Bible Study (LoC)
- Noon LV Christian Chinese Church study
- NO Evening UPG Bible Study (St. P)
- 7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians Holy Israel worship (St. P)
- 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (LoC)

Friday March 2

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

Saturday March 3

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

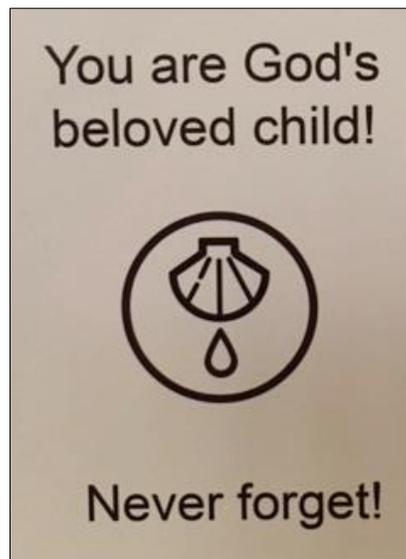
Sunday March 4 is the Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
- 10:30 AM Sunday School (St. P)
- 11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
- 6:00 PM Victory House (cook dinner)
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Recently in the UPG



In his sermon last weekend, Pastor Jerry explained the Lenten “Spirit Detector” and shared the message below!



Share yourself with others!

ELCA GOOD GIFTS... and GOATS!



The UPG is sponsoring a Lenten project to support God’s Global Barnyard, a program of ELCA World Hunger. Our offering this year will provide farming families in developing countries with the **gift of goats**. These nimble animals are considered to be the **superheroes** of the barnyard. Goats can go where other animals can’t and are able to survive in some of the world’s harshest environments. Fresh milk from a goat will provide daily nutrition for children and their families and, as goats increase in number, they can transform a community.

Please consider making a contribution; offering envelopes are found in the pew racks. If donating by check, please make the check payable to “St. Peter’s or “Light of Christ” and please write “Good Gifts” on the memo line. **Thank you** for your generosity.

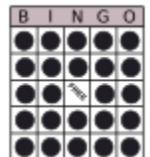


Calvary Food Pantry Dates

The Calvary Food Pantry will be open from 9-11 AM 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 some food.

Bingo at Cedarbrook April 10 – Volunteers and Prizes Needed



It’s time for our Bingo Party at Cedarbrook on Delaware Avenue in Fountain Hill – April 10 at 6:15PM. The residents really look forward to our visits. **ALL are welcome to help!**

Please donate prizes of jewelry, perfume, lotion, cards, small bags of chips, pretzels, crackers or cookies (*no candy please*). Prizes can be dropped off in either church office with a note “Cedarbrook Bingo”.

If you’d like to help at bingo that night, please call either church office or call Evelyn Smith from St. Peter’s. Thank you!

Meet the Staff of the UPG



This week, please meet **Sandy Horwath, Campus Coordinator for Light of Christ**. Sandy performs many tasks for the congregation and Pastor Jerry, including:

- Take care of all the needs of our church office starting with our parishioners, ordering supplies, to keep it running smoothly.
 - Church register: add new members, births, deaths, confirmed, baptized.
 - Tend to the needs of people on the phone, to the people ringing the doorbell with a need.
 - Handle all packages delivered to the church or the MLCCC.
 - Handle and reply to all church mail and emails.
- Record communion attendance in our software.
 - Prepare and print weekly worship bulletin.
 - Provide hymn list to the Saturday night pianist.
 - Keep calendar for the church office for people using the building.
 - Post office for postage stamps, also, to mail weekly shut-in bulletins.
 - Help to run, collate and mail newsletter.
 - Send bulletins to supply pastors or organists.
 - Take inserts to florist for Sunday worship.
 - Make large-print bulletins for Sunday worship.

Sandy is responsible for these tasks plus many more; her most important responsibility is making sure that the church is prepared and accessible for all to worship. If there is anything that she can do to help you, please feel free to call her or stop by the church office.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Thrivent Action Teams Planning Breakfast All in the UPG are invited!

You are invited! Come to the St. Peter's Social Room at 9 AM on Saturday, March 10, (March 17 is the bad weather back-up day) to help choose Thrivent Action Teams projects for 2018.

Is there a project you would love to see happen in the community? In the congregation? This is our chance to choose ministries and to set up Thrivent Action Teams to make them happen.

We'll share cake and coffee, brainstorm and leave at the end of an hour or so with our plans for projects for the year. All who are interested in thinking up exciting new ministries are welcome – you don't have to be a Thrivent member to attend! There is important work to do and the funding to do it is available. Mark your calendar for March 10 and come be part of the excitement!



EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST!

The Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on **March 31, 2018** at the Light of Christ campus!
Details below!



What: Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Where: Light of Christ Fellowship Hall

When: Saturday March 31, 2018 Breakfast is 8-9AM; the Easter Egg Hunt begins at 9AM.

Who: For the Breakfast – all are welcome - church neighbors, members, friends!
For the Easter Egg Hunt – children ages 10 and under are invited.

Cost: The breakfast and the Egg Hunt are free! Please bring a donation of non-perishable food for the Calvary Food Bank.

All are welcome! Just let us know how many will attend by March 24.

Please reply to Tina Piscitello at 610-657-5366 (text or call), by email at tlp3672@gmail.com or sign up on either campus.

Donations of plastic eggs and wrapped candy are needed for the hunt. No hard or very chewy candy please!! Please place donations in the red basket in the Light of Christ narthex. Each child will receive a special treat in place of a prize this year, so we are not asking for donations of prizes.

Our youth will fill the eggs on March 30, 2018 at 10AM in the Light of Christ Fellowship Hall.

Any questions? Please call either church office.

This event is sponsored in part by THRIVENT FINANCIAL.



Attention Weekly UPG Bakers!

UPG weekly bakers' kits are now available in the narthex of St. Peter's and at the church office at the LoC campus. The "Bakers' Bags" are there now for all the weeks up until Easter Sunday.



Please watch the monthly newsletter or weekly e-mails for your designated week to bake. You may pick up a kit at either campus and bring it back on your assigned week. For more information, please contact Shirley Kulp or any member of the UPG church staff.



Friendly's Family Fun Night is March 13!

Join the MLCCC Pre School for Friendly's Night on March 13 from 5-8PM at 3099 William Penn Highway, Easton, PA.

Enjoy dinner out or ice cream and support the MLCCC! A percentage of all sales that evening will benefit our scholarship and educational materials funds. Our popular Basket Raffle will be held as well!

Also, each Sunday through March 11, 2018 **raffle tickets** will be sold in the LoC narthex for a beautiful **Schoolhouse patterned quilt** (photo above) made by our Christian Service Women to support the Child Center scholarship fund. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Lehigh Valley Health Network
A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Presents:

Stepping Stones

A Grief Care Program for Children & Families
(Ages 6 – 15)

Where: LVHN Hospice Offices
2024 Lehigh St.
Allentown, PA 18103

When: March 7, 14, 21, & 28

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Free!

Register at 610-402-7481

Did you know?...

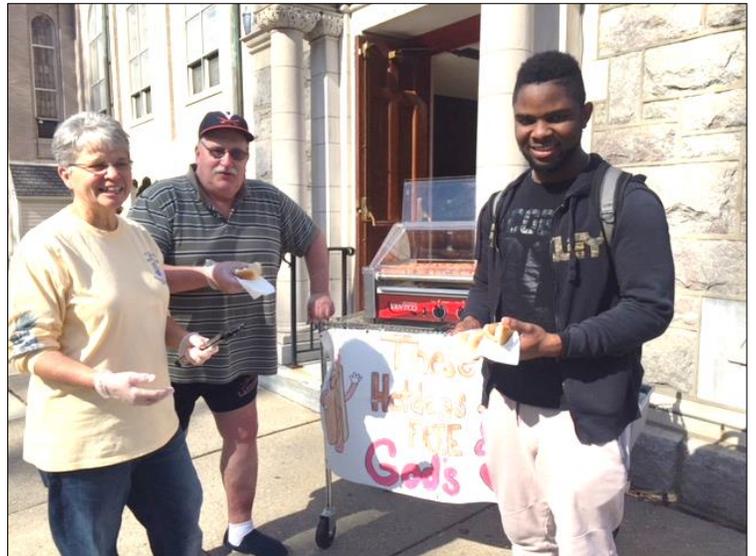
...There is a weekly ministry at St. Peter's called "The Hot Dog Listening Post".

Every week when classes are in session, St. Peter's serves up free hot dogs to Lehigh University students and neighbors walking by.

Students get a bite to eat on their way to class and, more importantly, a listening and caring ear.

Look for them on Wednesdays around noon at the corner of Packer and Vine.

The ministry is spearheaded by Kenda Riley; regular volunteers are Elizabeth Elterich & Bruce Billiard.



SAVE
THE DATE

Barnes & Noble Bookfair



Please visit the Barnes and Noble Bookfair from 5-7PM February 27, 2018 at the Easton PA store (4445 Southmont Way) to benefit 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 the purchase benefit the school, please take the voucher (at left) with you to the store.

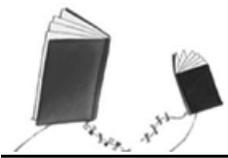
The voucher is good in-store on February 27 from 5-7PM. Feel free to make copies for friends or family to use!

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.

Save the date! UPG Golf Outing June 23, 2018



Join the UPG at the Whitetail Golf Club on June 23, 2018.

\$85 per golfer includes golf, hot dogs, dinner and beverages.
Four-person scramble format with 1PM start.

Foursomes are welcome (also threesomes, twosomes and onesomes!)

More info to follow – Please mark your calendar and Save The Date!



UPG Phantoms Hockey Event
PPL Center - April 14 @ 7:05 PM
Tickets \$20 per person

Please pay when you sign up, either cash or check. Checks can be made payable to **Light of Christ with a note “Phantoms Hockey” on the memo line.**

Payments can be dropped off at either church office. Any questions, please call either church office.



Join the UPG for Iron Pigs Baseball
June 14 and 15 at 7:05 PM
Tickets \$11 per person



Enjoy Iron Pigs Baseball with the UPG on two nights in June!
Payment due by May 15, either cash or check, for the game on June 14 or June 15.

- Checks for June 14 can be made payable to Light of Christ
- Checks for June 15 can be made **payable to St. Peter’s**

Please write a **note “Iron Pigs Baseball” on the memo** line. Payments can be dropped off at either church office. Questions? Please call the church office.