

Weekend of March 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 websites at messiahlutheran18017.org and stpetersbethlehem.org and "like" us on Facebook!

Defining the Way or "the fly in the ointment."



And all the people responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded."

Exodus 19:8a

Greetings and peace to you all!

As we continue in our Lenten pilgrimage, our mid-week worship focused on a moment in time when the people of Israel were told by God that indeed THEY would be priests to the nations of the world! Mind you, the people did not request this honor from God. The people did not petition the heavenly court to obtain this title. In fact, in many ways on a personal level, I really wonder whether the plurality of the people of Israel even desired this title. Yet, regardless of what the people “thought” they wanted, God’s desire for the Israelites became the “fly in the ointment” of their human desires.

Yes indeed, as a Lutheran Christian who has walked on this beautiful earth for the last five decades I can attest to the many times in my own life and the life of the world around me when God’s desires and God’s teachings become the “fly in the ointment” of human desire.

At one time in time in the Lutheran tradition in America, Holy Communion was only celebrated annually or quarterly. This human tradition was challenged by reading and understanding Holy Scripture which shared that “every time the disciples came together” they celebrated in the Lord’s Supper. Indeed, while in the year of our Lord 2018 Holy Communion has become part and parcel of our regular worship, for the generations of Lutherans who endured the transition in the 1970’s and 1980’s this provided quite a challenge. God’s desire for this meal of unity, grace, mercy and love stood in opposition to many people’s human tradition.

Today, young girls and women are rightly told that they can fully participate in the life of the church. All are welcome to hold positions of leadership during our worship celebrations. People are not excluded from the rosters of the ordained leadership of the ELCA based on gender any longer. However, in the 1950’s and 1960’s, this was not true in the Lutheran Church. During this time in the life of our church God was working through the people of God’s church to inspire such change, to share that indeed the ground at the base of the cross is level and that all people are welcome.

While even these transitions have a long way to go to be truly inclusive, I would confess to you that in many regards the Lutheran Church is more closely affiliated with some major components of Christ’s teaching than at any other time in history.

Yet these changes which have occurred in our past and are now readily accepted within our midst were at one time almost “revolutionary” when they were introduced. Our collective memories tend to gloss over the number of people who left communities of faith because we “devalued” Holy Communion by offering it with more frequency. We may no longer recall the harsh words exchanged or the anger shared about our church allowing women to serve as pastors. Through it all God walked with us and never left our side and today these once “revolutionary views” are the established “norms” of our communities.

This week our mid-week studies focused on times such as these in our past. As one of my brothers in Christ so eloquently shared during our time together “Just because God calls us into a new way of living and thinking doesn’t mean that the road will be easy.” Indeed, this statement rang true in my ears.

While the destination of our Lenten pilgrimage is still unknown, for myself, it has been a comfort and a true joy to walk alongside so many faithful people. To my colleagues, Rev. Ray Hittinger and Rev. Sandy Birchmeier who have so wonderfully designed and implemented this journey, to the people who have been organizing and preparing our food and the space we utilize and to the 70 or so people who have joined us on our journey together my heart rejoices and gives thanks to God!

I continue to invite you to join us in our journey! Feel free to come and walk beside us on Wednesdays at noon on our Light of Christ campus or at 6:00pm on our St. Peter's campus. Our time together is wonderful and provides both insightful conversation and time to share in fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

For now, may each person reading this reflection be filled with the hope and the promise of God's abiding presence and love during our Lenten pilgrimage.

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. Join us each Wednesday of Lent for a light meal, devotions and guided discussion.

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

Dates and Bible Readings are:

- 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.*



St. Peters Concert Series Features "Music Among Friends" on Sunday, March 11

Come and join us for a fun afternoon of music by some of the Lehigh Valley's top musicians on Sunday, March 11 at 3 p.m.

Under the direction of Lucille Kincaid, singers and instrumentalists, including Wendy Borst, will perform alone and together in a wide variety of styles, including classical, sacred, and Broadway.

The concert is free! A free-will offering will be received to support the concert series. We hope to see you there.



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.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG

March 4-11, 2018

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)

Monday March 5

- 8:00 AM Staff Meeting (St. P)
- 6:00 PM Brewing Theology (Taps Restaurant, Rt. 378S)
- 7:00 PM Dart Baseball: St. Matthew's @ St. Peter's, Messiah BYE

Tuesday March 6

- 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (St. P)
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Wednesday March 7

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

Thursday March 8

- 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 9

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

Saturday March 10

- 9:00 AM Thrivent Meeting (St. P)
- 5:00 PM Worship (LoC)
- 7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians Holy Israel Worship (St. P)

Sunday March 11 is the Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Blood Drive (LoC)
- 9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
- 10:30 AM Sunday School (St. P)
- 11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
- 3:00 PM St. Peter's Concert Series
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Share yourself with others!



Calvary Food Pantry Dates

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

This is a very important ministry for persons who do not have enough to eat. Please call the church office if you can help at the pantry; food donations are needed, too.

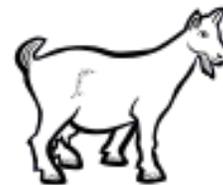


Blood Drive on March 11 at Light of Christ 8AM to Noon

- Please sign up by calling Kasey Bosco at 610-737-3807.
- Please eat a hearty meal before you donate & include salty snacks if you can.
- Drink plenty of water as well.
- Complete the donor history questionnaire either before your blood donation at www.GIVEaPINT.org/iScreen or at the Blood Drive.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS... and GOATS!

The UPG's Lenten project supports 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**. Goats



are considered **superheroes** of the barnyard; they can go where other animals can't and can survive in some of the 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.

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 can help at bingo that night, please call either church office or call Evelyn Smith from St. Peter's. Thank you!

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 for all 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.



Men's Breakfast on February 26 at the Palace Restaurant
18 men enjoyed fellowship and breakfast – great turnout!
Next month's meeting will be in the banquet room because the group has grown!

Meet the Staff of the UPG

“Meet the Staff” shares information on staff members and their roles at St. Peter’s, Light of Christ and within the UPG.

This week’s staff member is **Kenda Riley**, Ministry Coordinator / Campus Coordinator for St. Peter’s. Kenda tells us about the many things she does in her role:

The role of the Ministry Coordinator/Campus Coordinator is multifaceted. I serve as the General Operations Manager for the various ministries of the church. I am a resource for personnel, equipment and funding for many of the events/ministries that occur in our community of faith.



If you have an idea for an event or a ministry and need help getting it started I would be the person to contact. Things like the Sock Hop and Breakfast with Santa are events that others in the community run but I help to coordinate various aspects of the event.

Additionally, I facilitate fundraising projects for our youth gathering participants including the gift card program and the golf outing. With the formation of the UPG my role has also expanded to include overseeing building needs and maintenance. Please feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts or ideas you might have as we work together to share the Good News!



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

Donations of plastic eggs and wrapped candy are needed for the Egg 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.**

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!

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.


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

