Weekend of March 17 and 18, 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!

LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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
Fellowship Hall – basement level	*Social Room – parking lot entrance*

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.

UNITED PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Holy Week WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 28, 2018	***Healing Worship***
7:00 PM	St. Paul's Fountain Hill
Thursday, March 29, 2018	***Maundy Thursday Worship***
Noon 7:00 PM	St. Peter's Campus Light of Christ Campus
Friday, March 30, 2018	***Good Friday Worship***
Noon 7:00 PM	Light of Christ Campus St. Peter's Campus
Saturday, March 31, 2018	***Great Easter Vigil***
7:00 PM	Light of Christ Campus
Sunday, April 1, 2018	***Day of Resurrection***
7:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	St. Peter's Campus St. Peter's Campus Light of Christ Campus
Saturday, April 7, 2018	***Easter Lessons and Hymns***
5:00 PM	Light of Christ Campus *(with Holy Communion)*
Sunday, April 8, 2018	***Easter Lessons and Hymns*** *(With Brass Choir)*
10:00 AM	Joint UPG Worship St. Peter's Campus UPG Town Hall Meeting to follow

SUNDAY APRIL 8, 2018

UPG JOINT WORSHIP AND TOWN HALL MEETING 10AM

St. Peter's Campus

Please join us for a very special UPG Joint Worship Service on April 8

- ***Easter Lessons and Favorite Easter Hymns***
- ***The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Zeiser, Bishop of the NE PA Synod, will preach***
- ***The Little Brass Band of the Lehigh Valley will play during worship***
- ***Joint UPG Worship at 10 AM***
- ***UPG Town Hall Meeting following worship***
- ***UPG Congregational Photo!***
- ***Luncheon after the Town Hall Meeting***

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

Each worship includes Holy Communion

1st 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 March 18-25, 2018

Sunday March 18 is the Fifth 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)
1:00 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting (LoC)
3:00 PM Youth Gathering Meeting (St. P)
7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Monday March 19

8:00 AM Staff Meeting (St. P)
6:30 PM Knitters' group (St. P)
7:00 PM Dart Baseball: St. Peter's @ Holy Cross, Salem UCC @ Messiah, St. Matthew's @ Trinity UCC

Tuesday March 20

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (St. P)
11:30 AM Blanket Making (St. P)
7:00 PM Congregational Council Meetings (LoC)
7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

Wednesday March 21

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

Thursday March 22

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 23

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

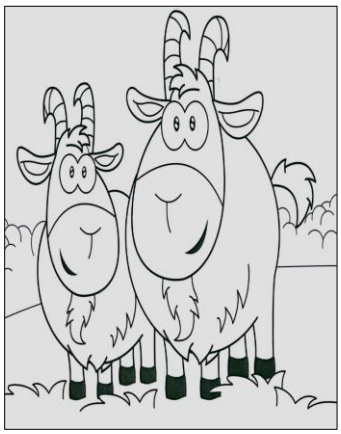
Saturday March 24

12 Noon The Mending Project
2:00 PM Wedding (St. P)
5:00 PM Worship (LoC)
7:00 PM Pastors and Guardians Holy Israel Worship (St. P)

Sunday March 25 is Palm Sunday

9:00 AM Worship (St. P)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
10:30 AM Sunday School (St. P)
11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
6:30 PM MLCCC Worship & Lenten Fair (LoC)
7:00 PM NO Narcotics Anon. tonight (LoC)

Share yourself with others!



ELCA GOOD GIFTS… and GOATS!

The UPG's Lenten project supports God's Global Barnyard, a program of ELCA World Hunger. This year's offering will provide farming families in developing countries with the **gift of goats.** Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition and, as goats increase in number, they can transform a community.

Please consider a contribution using the offering envelopes in the pew racks. If donating by check, please make it payable to "St. Peter's" or "Light of Christ" and please write "Good Gifts" on the memo line. **Thank you for your generosity!**

Hunger Knows No Season

The holidays are over, but the harsh weather and hunger are not finished yet!

The New Bethany Ministries Food Bank needs the following:

Food Items: Scalloped Potatoes, Instant Rice, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Canned Meats, Evaporated Milk, Canned Meals, Baby Formula and Breakfast Items.

Non-Food Items: Soap and Shampoo / Conditioner, Towels and Wash Cloths, Toothpaste, Feminine Hygiene Items, Ladies/Men's Underwear, Dishwashing Liquid, Laundry Detergent, Comet-type cleanser.

Please place your donations in the basket in the St. Peter's Social Room. Thank you!

Light of Christ Property Committee Work Day Mar 24

On Saturday, March 24 the Light of Christ Property Committee will hold a work day for outside work (weather permitting) -- inside if the weather is not so good!

Volunteers are needed for both outside and inside work that day. Please call Sandy at the LoC office if you're able to help.

St. Peters Concert Series Features Lehigh University Musicians

We once again welcome the **Lehigh University Soloists and Chamber Ensembles** to St. Peter's on Sunday, April 8th at 3 pm. Lehigh students will perform a wide variety of music ranging from Classical to Jazz. This concert showcases the many talents of our local Lehigh students.

The concert is free! A free-will offering will be received to support the concert series. This has become a popular concert. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music!

Meet the Staff of the UPG

This week we meet **Marisa Deshler**, Organist and Choral Music Minister at St. Peter's. Marisa tells us about her important roles in music ministry:

I have been the organist at St. Peter's for the past 17 years. During this time, I have been responsible for accompanying the choirs of St. Peter's and accompanying the congregational singing during worship services. I also provide the music for many weddings and funerals that have been held at St. Peter's.

In addition, seven years ago, I started a concert series at St. Peter's. We have had the opportunity to have many talented musicians share their gifts of music in our Nave.

Beginning in January 2018, I have added a new role at St. Peter's as the Vocal Choir Director. In this role, I direct the Senior Choir and work with the youth in Sunday School. I'm looking forward to the new musical opportunities offered in this role. I'm hoping to continue to develop the rich musical choral tradition at St. Peter's. I'm always looking for new choir members, so if you ever thought about it, now is the chance to "Join the Choir."

RECENTLY IN THE UPG

At the February 28 Lenten noontime gathering, 39 UPG members attended the discussions led by Pastor Sandy Birchmeier and Pastor Ray Hittinger.

Baptism of Alexander James Lehman on March 11 on the St. Peter's campus

His proud parents are Robert and Jennifer Lehman

Alexander James, we welcome you into the Lord's family!

Barnes and Noble Book Fair

The Child Center's first Barnes and Noble Book Fair was very successful. Thank you so very much to all who participated! Eighty people attended, more than fifteen of the books on our school wish list were purchased and we will receive $134.00 for educational supplies. Everyone enjoyed it so much that we will hold another Barnes and Noble Book Fair on December 7.

New sign for the new name: Light of Christ!

Many thanks to the property committee for their hard work to design, order & install it.

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

UPG volunteers provided and served dinner at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter on March 6.
Thank you for providing warm food and a warm welcome to persons in need.

Pastor Jerry at the MLCCC!

Pastor is reading to the children of the MLCCC (photo, right) and in the photo at left, "Going on a Bear Hunt ".

You can see by how attentive they are and by their smiling faces that they truly enjoy Pastor Jerry's visits.

He taught us a great new snowman joke today. His visits make us happy, both children and staff! Thank you, Pastor Jerry!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Members of Thrivent Financial may have Choice Dollars available that can be directed (donated) to our UPG member churches. 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!

Light of Christ members: When calling Thrivent please say either "Messiah Lutheran Church" or "St. Matthew's". Thrivent's system has not yet been updated with the Light of Christ name.

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.

Children's Worship & Lenten Fair on March 25 – All Ages Welcome!

The Children's Worship and Lenten Fair will be held at the LOC campus on March 25. Worship begins at 6:30p.m. in the sanctuary, then the fair continues in the fellowship hall with many crafts and activities.

All ages are welcome! Young children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets to hold their creations. Beverages, butterfly cookies, pretzel bites, fruit and more will be available to eat. We hope you can attend!

Did you know?...

There is a blanket-making ministry at St. Peter's that literally helps people around the world! Here is their story, with information provided by Elizabeth Elterich.

In 2015-2016, the St. Peter's blanket makers' group made about 12 quilts. Richard Elterich registered the quilts on the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) website to let them know the congregation of origin. The quilts would first go to the Church World Service Center (CWSC) in New Windsor, MD, an official distributor for LWR.

Elizabeth Elterich contacted Pr. Rebecca Knox from Reading, who was taking blankets from her own congregation to CWSC. Elizabeth gave the St. Peter's quilts to Pr. Knox and they were on their way.

Fast forward to November 2017. Elizabeth got an email from LWR saying the blankets had been distributed in India to persons whose lives have been affected by AIDS. They sent a picture (at right) of a young lady with a St. Peter's blanket folded on her lap. Not long after, a LWR printed brochure was distributed - the copy received at St. Peter's featured the same picture of the young lady from India. Some more St. Peter's blankets were also featured in that brochure.

Photo used with permission of Lutheran World Relief
Photo Credit: Carrie Taneyhill

The blanket makers' work continued and in September 2017, another 12 blankets from St. Peter's were given to the CWSC for distribution all around the world.

This is a wonderful, caring ministry that literally warms people in need. The women who have helped in making these blankets are Betty Ampietro, Janet Deegan, Elizabeth Elterich, Lucille Serman, Evelyn Smith, and Susan Swavely. Thank you all for sharing your time to care for others in need around the world. Learn more about the LWR quilts and blankets at:
https://lwr.org/faith-in-action/quilts-comfort-hospice-residents-india