



THE PROCLAMATION

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6

LIGHT OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH



SUNDAY APRIL 8, 2018
UPG JOINT WORSHIP
AND TOWN HALL MEETING
10:00 AM
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 10:00 AM***
- ***UPG Town Hall Meeting following worship***
- ***UPG Congregational Photo!***
- ***Luncheon after the Town Hall Meeting***

**LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Bethlehem, PA 18017

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church@stpetersbethlehem.org

**Pastor Jerry's Cell phone
number: 484-333-0433**

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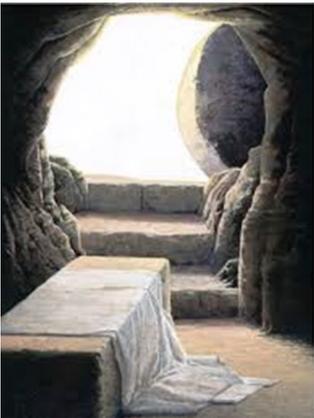
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PASTOR JERRY'S MESSAGE

*Christ is Risen! We stand at the empty tomb!
"Transformation! Each of us has been told by God
"You are my child!" This means that you and I share
along with Jesus a mission to share in God's desire in
this world to deliver a word of justice and mercy. This
means that you and I are invited into a ministry that
shares a word of forgiveness and a place of
"sanctuary" for those who need a respite. This means
that all of us get the opportunity to share a word of
"hope" and "peace" in a world that attempts to
"divide" and "conquer." Most of all it means that the
Creator of the Cosmos desires that we join in sharing
LOVE.*

*During this wonderful season of Lent may each of us
intentionally choose to allow our God to continue to
"Transform" our lives into the beautiful creation we
were each meant to be."*

Excerpt from Pastor's letter, March Proclamation



But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." Mark

16:6-7

Greetings and peace to you all!

I wanted to start this month's message with you, by reminding you where we left off last month. It's always a good thought to remember "where we have been, if we are hoping to know where we are going."

Since the last time you read our monthly newsletter, together we have experienced the season of Lent, a time of "Wondering and Wandering to Un-

known Ventures." On Ash Wednesday over 140 people from the United Proclamation of the Gospel gathered to recall the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Together we were reminded how God calls each of us to a time of self-reflection on our relationship with God. Each Wednesday of Lent over 70 people have been gathering on Wednesday at noon or 6:00 PM in order to reflect on how God has worked in the past lives of our communities of faith and our individual lives. Each Sunday of Lent over 200 people have heard the word of God proclaimed for their lives and have heard the stories of their sisters and brothers in Christ that were shared on Wednesdays. Indeed, we the people of the United Proclamation of the Gospel in Bethlehem have been on a Holy pilgrimage during this season of Lent and now we stand ever so close to walking with Jesus into the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Holy Week worships will be powerful and profound. Together we will hear the story told again of our Lord's passion and love for humanity and on "April Fool's Day," April 1, we will hear perhaps the greatest "April Fool's joke ever shared." He is not here! He has risen from the dead!

During this time of year, I always wonder in my own thoughts and in my own heart what it must have been like to be present in the empty tomb. The smells, the sights, the sheer "ridiculousness" of the event. I wonder "if I am called to walk with Jesus into the light of the world, what am I called to leave behind in the now-empty tomb?"

Imagine, Jesus had to leave His humanity behind the empty tomb, no longer bound by worldly narratives but freed in His resurrection. Jesus had to change His relationship with the disciples, with His friends, with His family in that empty tomb. No longer to interact with any of these people whom He loved in the manner in which He did just a week earlier. Yes, Jesus left a great deal behind in the empty tomb in order to bring about something entirely "new" and "brilliant" into being!

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Once again, you and I now hear the proclamation of this grand story shared once more! What a wonderful opportunity we have before us as we embrace the "Risen Christ!" I guess the question for me, for us, becomes "what are we willing to leave behind in the now-empty tomb?" Can we commit to leaving our personal pride and envy of other Christian organizations? Can we commit to leaving behind our own sins and the sins of those around us in the empty tomb? Can we commit to leaving behind our own desire and our own will for the road that we are travelling and allow the Spirit to lead us and guide us in new and powerful ways?

Our God and the world around us await our response. Only time will tell what we choose.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Will we accept the invitation to discipleship that the Resurrected Christ is hoping to see?

Peace and blessings to you all!

Pastor Jerry



Dear members of Light of Christ,

The two campuses of the UPG (Light of Christ and St. Peter's) sit on separate prominent corners in Bethlehem for all to see. Our buildings are not just worship spaces; our buildings and our members reach out to the community and beyond to provide many kinds of ministries. To be effective, these ministries need resources and volunteers.

Do you know there are funds available for members of both congregations to use for activities and projects - for outreach to the community? Do you know these funds are free? Do you know we are not accessing these funds to their fullest extent?

These funds are provided by Thrivent Financial to members who own qualifying products and who apply to use these funds in support of an educational event, a fundraiser or a hands-on event. This is known as a Thrivent Action Team.

Thrivent members can access \$250 in start up funds for a project or activity two times per year. If you are a Thrivent member, you are encouraged to access these funds. They are there for you to use to support ministries - they cost you nothing.

At a recent breakfast meeting on St. Peter's campus, Thrivent members of the UPG gathered to brainstorm ideas for Action Teams and ways to support Thrivent members who wish to sponsor an activity or a project. Accessing Thrivent funds strengthens our ministries and helps us do "God's work with our hands."

Making application for a Thrivent Action Team is very easy and help is readily available. If you have an idea for a project, please speak to a Thrivent congregational advocate (**KATHY COFFIN** or **LINDA MAULE** at LoC's campus and **BARBARA TAYLOR** or **KENDA RILEY** at St. Peter's campus). You will receive all the help you need to make your project a reality. Please let us hear from you.

The United Proclamation of the Gospel is called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ here in Bethlehem and beyond. Our two congregations are united in so many wonderful ways. We are the beloved children of God, freed by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Together, with the support of Thrivent Action Teams, we will strengthen our ministries and continue to be the presence in our community that God intends us to be.

Easter blessings,

Deacon Linda Maule

NEWS

From Our Congregations



ALEXANDER JAMES LEHMAN, was baptized at St. Peter's on March 11, 2018. His parents are Robert David Lehman, III and Jennifer Lynn Lehman



RONALD DANYI passed away on Feb. 28, 2018. Ronald's funeral was held at Light of Christ on March 5, 2018. Ronald Danyi's wife is Jennifer Danyi. Keep Ronald's wife and family in your prayers during this time.



JOSEPH MARTINEZ and **SILINA HUERTAS** were united in marriage on March 3, at Light of Christ.



The real estate closing for the St. Matthew's property was delayed because an underground oil tank needed to be removed. The tank was removed and remediation completed on Friday, March 9. The settlement should take place by mid-April.



Do you need a ride to attend worship or any other church activity? If so, contact one of the persons listed here:

April 1—Bill & Donna

Mackaravitz

April 8—Ted Terry

April 15—George & Linda Baltz

April 22—Bill & Donna Mackaravitz

April 29—Ted Terry



ST. PETERS CONCERT SERIES FEATURES LEHIGH UNIVERSITY MUSICIANS



St. Peter's Concert Series continues on April 8th at 3:00 pm. We once again welcome the Lehigh University Soloists and Chamber Ensembles to St. Peter's. Lehigh students will perform a wide variety of music ranging from Classical to Jazz. This concert show cases the many talents of our local Lehigh students. This has become a popular concert. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music. This is a free concert. A free will offering will be taken at the door. All are welcome.

UPG SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP



Every Saturday evening at 5:00 PM we gather together on our **Light of Christ Lutheran Church** campus (2020 Worthington Ave.) to celebrate worship with Holy

Communion! Please consider joining us for this wonderful weekend opportunity!

**“BREWING THEOLOGY!” MONDAY,
APRIL 9, 2018**



Join your friends for a wonderful discussion in a relaxing atmosphere with the ability to share in beverage and food! Brewing Theology is a night when sisters and brothers get together at **Stefano’s Restaurant located**

at 2970 Linden Street, Bethlehem, for informal discussions about faith and the world around us. This month we will come together on **April 9, 2018 at 6:00 PM** (though some of us are there earlier to eat) and share time of fellowship together. Our gathering normally lasts until approximately 8:00 PM. This is a great place to ask questions and simply process the world around us through a faith perspective!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE! EVERY WEDNESDAY, 9:00 AM ON LIGHT OF CHRIST CAMPUS



Join us for a time of quilt making, blanket making, and various other ministries that assist not only our community of faith but the people who live among us in our communities! The Light of Christ Christian Service is filled with good will, wonderful fellowship, and an incredible

love of sharing our abundance with others! We gather together each Wednesday morning in the Light of Christ Fellowship Hall. Please come out and join us! (tentative for April 4, please check with the Light of Christ office).

**UPG LADIES LUNCHEON. MONDAY,
APRIL 9, 2018 PALACE
RESTAURANT, NOON**



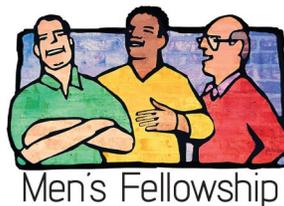
Come on out to the Palace Restaurant at noon on April 9, 2018 and join your sisters in Christ for a wonderful meal and an incredible opportunity for fellowship!

**UPG MEN’S BREAKFAST. MONDAY,
APRIL 30, 2018 PALACE RESTAURANT,
8:00 AM**



Come out to the Palace Restaurant at 8:00 AM on April 30, 2018 and join your brothers in Christ for a wonderful meal and an incredible opportunity for fellowship!

UPG MEN’S FELLOWSHIP



Each Wednesday morning at 6:30 AM all men are invited to participate in our UPG Men's Fellowship Group! Our group will be meeting in the Trauger Room on our **St. Peter’s** Campus. Coffee is always brewing and our time together also includes an opportunity for mutual support and encouragement to one another.

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

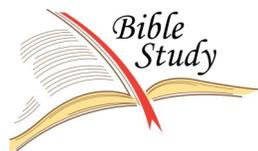


We are always looking for additional Thrift Shop Volunteers to help facilitate the South Bethlehem Thrift shop on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM (This

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month **APRIL 10** and **24**) Please contact the UPG Executive Assistant (*Kathi Raphael*) if you might be interested in helping with this important ministry!

STORIES OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY



Join us every Thursday morning at 9:00 AM (**Light of Christ** Campus Library) or 6:30 PM on our **St. Peter's** Campus (Social Room) for Stories of Faith Bible

Study. During this 90-minute session we will take a closer look at the Scripture assigned for the coming weekend worship celebrations and explore the questions and thoughts that you bring to these Scripture lessons! There is no prior Bible Study experience necessary to join this lively discussion, simply bring an open heart and willing ears and see where the Spirit will lead our discussion. Consider joining us!

UPG KNITTER GROUP



KNITTER'S GROUP

Monday evening, April 16th, anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting or other handiwork, is welcome at **St. Peter's** Campus in the UCF room on Level I. Come to

the front door on Vine St. or the Parking Lot Social Room door and ring the Church Doorbell for entrance. From 6:30 to 8:00 PM, hands and fingers will be busy on projects. There will be some conversation, the sharing of patterns, supplies, and ideas, and a closing prayer for those receiving the handmade items. **ALL are WELCOME!!**

PASTORS AND GUARDIANS OF HOLY ISRAEL COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Each week, normally on Thursday evening and Saturday evening, the Pastors and Guardians of Holy Israel Community of faith meet on our St. Peter's campus. This community of faith, which offers ministry in both Spanish and English, has been meeting in our facilities and has truly been a blessing. Led by Pastors Victor and Marilyn Mendoza an enthusiastic community of between 50-60 people worshipping our Lord!



Lehigh Valley Christian Chinese Church

Every week the Lehigh Valley Christian Chinese Church offers an extension of their ministry on our **St. Peter's** campus. On Thursdays at noon Christian Chinese students from Lehigh University gather in our social room for Bible Study and on Friday evenings at 6:00 PM. Approximately 80 sisters and brothers in Christ gather to worship our Lord and share God's teaching.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



On Tuesday, April 3rd & 17th, the Women's Bible Study group will gather in **St. Peter's** Campus Social Room off the parking lot, from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This month's focus

will be on the story of the Prodigal Son. The study writer, Dr. Mark Allan Powell, will guide a discussion of understanding the multiple meanings different people and cultures find in that familiar story. What new learning might you find by joining with other women to study this frequently-told story?

Plan now to continue your Easter faith wanderings with other women searching for new meaning in the Scriptures. The coffee/tea pots will be ready as will some healthy snacks and treats.

Blanket Making



Tuesday, April 17th, folks will gather on the **St. Peter's** campus to make some new Lutheran World Relief Blankets. Blanket Making happens from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The 60" x 80" layered blankets provide children and adults around the world with warmth, protection, privacy, and the assurance that others care about their plight, whether

that be natural disaster survival, fleeing war/poverty/abuse, or severe, life-threatening illnesses like AIDS. There are some pictures (look in Social Room and some Bulletin Boards) of some of the previously-made St. Peter's blankets in the lap of a young woman in India who has AIDS. No sewing skills are needed, just the desire to help, use of a scissors, ironing, or knotting threads. There is a task for everyone who can participate. Feel free to bring a lunch or a snack if you'd like. Coffee and tea will be ready!!



SATURDAY MARCH 31, 2018 (7:00 PM EASTER VIGIL AT LIGHT OF CHRIST)



SUNDAY APRIL 1, 2018 (7:00 AM ST. PETER'S, 9:00

AM ST. PETER'S, 11:00 AM LIGHT OF CHRIST)

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Mark's gospel ends abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. Corinthians and Acts fill out the story by telling of appearances of the risen Christ. Peter says we "ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." And so do we, in a foretaste of the mountaintop feast where death will be no more.

SATURDAY APRIL 7, 2018 (5:00 PM LIGHT OF CHRIST) and SUNDAY APRIL 8, 2018 (JOINT UPG WORSHIP 10:00 AM, ST. PETER'S CAMPUS)

Always one of Pastor Jerry's favorite Worship Celebrations, on this day we recall some of the passages of Jesus' passion and resurrection in Holy Scripture and lift up our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God! This year will be a truly joyful experience as the "Little Brass Band from Allentown" will be joining our worship, **THE REV. DR. SAMUEL R. ZEISER**, bishop of the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod will be sharing the "Good News" with all of us, and **PASTOR JERRY** and **TONY VILLANI** will be offering uplifting musical reflections. Immediately following our worship, we will be taking our first ever United Proclamation of the Gospel Community Picture in the sanctuary of our St. Peter's Campus. Following our worship, we will adjourn to the St. Peter's social room to hold a "UPG Town Hall Meeting" which will be followed by a luncheon. This will truly be a memorable day and we hope that you are able to experience this day with us!

Mark's gospel ends abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. Corinthians and Acts fill out the story by telling of appearances of the risen Christ. Peter says we "ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." And so do we, in a foretaste of the mountaintop feast where death will be no more.

**Saturday April 14, 2018 (5:00 PM
Light of Christ) and
Sunday April 15, 2018 (9:00 AM at St.
Peter's and 11:00AM at Light of
Christ)**

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

**SATURDAY APRIL 21, 2018 (5PM LIGHT
OF CHRIST) and
SUNDAY APRIL 22, 2018 (9:00 AM AT
ST. PETER'S and 11:00 AM AT LIGHT OF
CHRIST)**

The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of

sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need

**SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018 (5PM LIGHT
OF CHRIST) and
Sunday April 29, 2018 (9:00 AM at St.
Peter's and 11:00 AM at Light of
Christ)**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**Christian
Education
Director**



Dear friends,

He is Risen Indeed!! Alleluia!! Happy Easter to all of you!!

On April 1st we will be celebrating Easter. Please know that through our weekday and Sunday Schools, 80 children and youth have learned this Lenten Season of Jesus' great love for them. This is due to the dedication of our Sunday School teachers, weekday teachers and Pastor Jerry who share Jesus' love with our children and youth.

If you live with one of these children, then you know of what I am writing. If you do not, I would like to share some examples:

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Our grandson who attends the MLCCC has learned many prayers from his weekday teachers and loves to lead the prayers at our family dinners. He is four years old and the youngest member of our family. He confidently leads us in spoken and sung prayers. Parents of children at the Child Center relate stories to me that their children share with them of the time they spend with Pastor Jerry at preschool. At our recent Barnes and Noble night, one small child in our Sunday School could not wait to find her teacher there. Our children and youth look forward to weekday and Sunday School where they feel the love of God through their teachers and friends. God Bless each one of them. They are making a difference in the lives of our children and youth. Thanks Be to God!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

Our Sunday School, along with all of the members of the UPG, have been collecting offerings for the ELCA's Good Gifts Program. Our Sunday School will continue to collect offerings throughout the remainder of our school year and during our VBS program to support the purchase of goats for farming families in developing countries. From our Pew News article, we learn that "Goats are considered the super heroes of the barnyard. This is because they can walk where other animals cannot and they can survive in harsh environments. Fresh milk from a goat can support daily nutrition for children and their families." To support this ministry, please write a check to Light of Christ or St. Peter's and write Good Gifts on the memo line. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

The Educational Ministry Committee would like to thank our Sunday School teachers for their dedicated teaching of our children and youth. We will do this with a thank you brunch to be held in the fellowship hall on May 20, 2018 following the 11:00 a.m. service. This event is not included in our Sunday School budget and we rely solely upon donations to cover our expenses. Monetary donations can be put in the marked envelope (found on the long table in the narthex on April 22nd) and placed in the offering plate. A donation envelope will be sent home with our Sunday School students. Food donations of fruit, salads and breakfast/dessert cakes will also be graciously accepted.

Thank you to all of our teachers for their love and devotion to our Sunday School students.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Our confirmation students continue their break from their weekly classes until we will begin our spring term on April 8, 2018. **Please remember that attendance at church and Sunday School is required throughout the year, even when we are not having confirmation classes.** Classes will be held on April 8, 15 and 29, 2018 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the library of **Light of Christ.**

On April 22, 2018 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. our confirmation students will be attending Con-

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firmation Day at the Lutheran Center with **PASTOR JERRY, SHIRLEY, and MRS. TERRY.** We will be participating in a program called "Faith Knows No Borders." The afternoon will be experiential with international food, games, worship and action rooms. Youth from throughout our synod will be participating. We will learn about our Synod's Global Companions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday - **No Sunday School this day!**
- April 8, 2018 10:00 a.m. Joint Worship at St. Peter's. **No Sunday School this day!**
- April 15, 2018 Lutheran Schools' Sunday recognized in worship this day and with a Luncheon following worship in the fellowship hall (see MLCCC article for more info)
- April 22, 2018 "Faith Knows No Borders" Confirmation Program 3:00-7:00 pm. Lutheran Center
- May 6, 2018 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting in the Youth Room
- May 20, 2018 12:30 Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch - fellowship hall
- June 3, 2018 Sunday School Closing Worship and Picnic/Festival on the Lawn
- July 16-20, 2018 VBS 9:00 a.m. - noon - Concordia Press's "Splash Canyon - God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride." Registra-

tion and Volunteers forms will be available in May.



News From Our Preschool

Wow!! As I am writing this newsletter article we are preparing for another Friendly's Family Fun Night and Basket Raffle. Due to your generous support and that of our preschool families we have 28 baskets/items to raffle and from the Christian Service ladies a beautiful School House patterned queen sized quilt! We also just received a quilted table runner which matches the school house quilt! We will use the proceeds from this fund raiser to provide tuition assistance to children in need and to purchase educational materials. We are looking forward to a fun night of ice cream and friends!!

Recent highlights include our book fair at Barnes and Noble, beautiful school photos by Christmas City Studios, a fun school spirit day where we wore the color red to show our school spirit and the Holy Spirit in our lives, Easter Chapel and Art Show, our Easter Hat Parade and our participation in LOC's Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt. The month of Easter is always a very happy time in the life of a church school!!! Thank you to all who made these events possible for our children and their families.

We are looking forward to celebrating our

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Lutheran Preschool's 10th Anniversary with you on April 15, 2018. Lutheran Schools Week will be held April 9-13, 2018. A light lunch will be held following the 11:00a.m. service on April 15, 2018 with school displays and children (Sunday School and MLCCC) singing during the service! We will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the MLCCC (MCC began at Messiah Lutheran Church in 1982) and the 30th year of service by Christina Fidmikk! Special activities for the children are planned throughout the week including guest readers. Plans are being made to have Messiah members read to the children.

Our first Barnes and Noble book fair was very successful. Thank you 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 be holding another book fair at Barnes and Noble in early December.

Registration is well underway for our 2018-2019 school year. We offer: Small Class Sizes, Chapel Program, Child-Centered Curriculum, Experienced and Dedicated Staff, Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, Indoor Gym and Outdoor Play Space, Neighborhood Preschool, Friends!

Please find our Preschool and Sunday School and Youth Group on Facebook for

photos of our recent events: **Messiah Lutheran Church Child Center and Messiah Lutheran Church Youth.** Also check out photos in this newsletter on page 17.

Happy Easter!

Lynn Terry

Christian Education Director/MLCCC Director
Lynnjt680@verizon.net
MLCCC (610)861-0645



ELCA GOOD GIFTS

If you haven't done so already, please participate in this special offering. We need your help to raise funds for God's Global Barnyard, a program of ELCA Good Gifts. This year we intend to provide goats for farmers in developing countries. Each goat costs \$50. Please be as generous as you can and our combined support will make a difference.

Offering envelopes are in the pew racks; please make checks payable to Light of Christ or St. Peter's with Good Gifts on the memo line. Thank you for supporting farming communities in need.



**BINGO AT CEDARBROOK
ON APRIL 10 – VOLUNTEERS
AND PRIZES NEEDED**

It's time for our Bingo Party at Cedarbrook on Delaware Avenue in Fountain Hill – April 10 at 6:15

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PM. 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!

HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON



The holidays are over, but the harsh weather and hunger are not finished yet! The New Bethany Ministries Food Bank is in need of the following:

FOOD ITEMS

- * Scalloped Potatoes
- * Instant Rice
- * Pasta
- * Tomato Sauce
- * Canned Meats
- * Canned Meals
- * Evaporated Milk
- * Baby Formula
- * Breakfast Items

NON-FOOD ITEMS

- * Soap
- * Sham-poo/Conditioner
- * Towels & Wash Clothes
- * Toothpaste
- * Feminine Hygiene Items
- * Ladies/Men's Underwear
- * Dish Washing
- * Liquid
- * Laundry Detergent
- * Comet Type Cleanser

Please place gifts in the basket in St. Peter's Social Room.



Thank you, members of Light of Christ congregation, for your gift of \$62.50.

Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope.

Gratefully yours,
Julia Menzo, Director of Community Outreach

Pastor Jerry and Light of Christ Congregation,

So very grateful for your kindness.

Thank you for the special baptism service for Luke and Lily. Our family appreciates the warm welcoming and personalized service. It was a lovely day for all!

Thank you also for the very thoughtful prayer blankets/cloths. They will be loved and snuggled by Luke and Lily, and we will be sure to remind them of the special meaning they have.

With thanks,
Jessica & Eric Booser
(Claire & Luke)

With sincere Thanks from St. Luke's Pediatric Team,

Thank you so much for thinking of our patients here on the Pediatric Unit at St. Luke's University Health Network. Your kindness and generosity continues to bring many smiles to our patients here on our pediatric unit.

Thank you again,
The Pediatric Team

Dear Friends from Light of Christ Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for the donation of food during the 2017 holiday season. These items were distributed through our Food Pantry which served 227 families in January, composed of 336 adults, 280 children, and 101 seniors.

The Northeast Ministry is a community with many needs and your donation helps Northeast Ministry work toward meeting those needs. We look forward to another year of serving our community and are so grateful to have caring friends like you that help make our work possible.

Wishing you a happy, healthy New Year!
Sincerely,
Ann C. Gibson
Assistant Executive Director



- 1 Andrew Rupp
Jennifer Kaltreider
Helen Klotz
- 2 Shauna Rose Abrantes
Tyler Jones
- 3 Leslie Holzinger
- 3 Mary Padjen
- 4 Roger Douglas
Joanne Stathos
Lisa Zarzecki
- 5 Kimberly Frankenfield
Harriet Tonkins
Michael Harding
Barbara Holler
Karen Schoch
- 6 John Markwith
- 7 Frederick Kunkle
Patricia Little
- 7 Ratanaphorn Sarver
Deborah Casey
- 9 Jennifer Musselman
Scott Olenwine
Sarah Casey
Joan Neff
- 11 Hunter Edelman
Elijah Kolman
Sharon Heidecker
- 12 Allan Radtke
Ella Joann Baltz
- 14 Talia Lehr
- 15 Madison Wolfinger
- 16 Jean Ocker
Rick Hasonich
- 17 Kai Landskron
Marilyn Halteman
- 18 Barbara Dravec
Sandra Kimmel
- 19 Micah Kolman
Pat Sabatino
Geraldine Welton
- 20 Sherry Allender

- Susan DeAngelis
Gail E. Rolls
Mildred Wescoe
Richard Wescoe
- 21 Dylan Hasonich
- 22 Marisa Deshler
Carolyn Folmer
- 23 Peyton Kuklantz
Vanessa Diaz
- 24 Zoraida Diaz
Deserae Jimenez
Patricia Lowman
- 25 Stephen Peek
Robert Simons
- 26 David Casey
Charles Crisafi
Martha Paar
Fiona Rae Zahm
- 28 Bryan Frankenfield
Brandon Bradfield
Anna Marie Dreher
Judith Gubish
Doris Hetzel
- 29 Benjamin Fistner
Eric Hepler
- 30 Sarah Elterich



- 4 Gerard & Barbara Clavens
- 6 Lou & Barbara Dravec
- 13 Cathleen & John Rush
- 25 Donald T. & Carole R. Brosious
- 28 Charles E. & Mary Mann
- 29 Harold & Carla Dudeck, Jr.
- 30 Mike & Jean Finn
William & MaryLou Seixas

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Major Anniversaries Celebration on May 8

On May 8 at the Lutheran Center, the following will be honored for their years of service. There is a worship service at 11:00 AM (open to anyone) and then a luncheon for the deans and honorees.

15 Years Dawn R Richie
Gerald (Jerry) S Kulp
Jira A Albers
Louise N Johnson
Michael W Ware
Ryan M Hersch
Susan M Horst

25 Years Diane M LaFauci
Phyllis A Pelletier
Phyllis M Hammel
Scott W Lingenfelter
Deacon Beverly Eiche Kriner

40 Years Carl W Filer
David A Searing
E Wayne Dreyman
Harold L Hand Jr
Jay R Wetzel
Jimmy L Werley
Lee A Diefenderfer
Raymond J Hand
Virginia M Biniek
Werner M Koch
Deacon Jane M Elliott

50 Years David F Hill
George G Kinney
Lynn H Rothrock
Raymond C Hittinger
Richard A Mowery

(continued on the next page)

Chili Cook-Off in Catasauqua



It was pastor versus pastor on the evening before the Super Bowl in Catasauqua, which is home to two ELCA congregations that are actively working toward a generous Lutheran presence in the borough located in the synod's Northern Lehigh Mission District. Pastor Brian Riedy of Holy Trinity Memorial (trained chef and former restaurant owner) and Pastor Scott Paradise of Saint Paul's (just a guy with a chili recipe) brought their best efforts to a chili cook-off to benefit the Catasauqua Food Bank. This organization serves an average of 463 individuals per month and is run entirely by volunteers, including the two pastors, who help unload the larger deliveries each month.

Chili lovers gave donations for chilis, pulled pork, beef brisket, and baked goods prepared by members of the two congregations and the community. These were available throughout the two-hour event. But, the big money came from votes for the best pastor's chili. With a \$2 minimum vote, congregants and community members selected the best pastor's chili by tasting the two chilis and putting money in the basket of the pastor whose chili they liked best. While one of the pastors went home with bragging rights for a year and a genuine plastic medal, the true winners were the clients of the Catasauqua Food Bank.

The event, which is expected to become an annual tradition, raised a total of \$915. A generous Catasauqua Lutheran supplemented that amount with an \$85 donation to bring the total to an even \$1,000. A Thrivent Financial action team grant helped assure that 100% of the funds raised went to the food bank. The congregants and community members who participated were so generous that a significant amount of food remained at the end of the night. This was enjoyed the next day as clients of Haven House in Allentown watched the Super Bowl.

Anniversaries (continued)

55 Years Charles J Orem
Donald C Simmons
J Robert Kehrli
Joseph W Hager

60 Years Carl R Schmoyer
E Frederick Holst
George E Hein Jr
Kenneth M Trexler
Lars B Staaby
Paul H Spohn
Rodger A Krause
William W J Ennis
Sr. Millicent J Drake

65 Years Marvin E Dewalt
Theodore C Schlack

70 Years Paul T Manrodt



NEPA Synod Assembly 2018

**Assembly 2018
June 8-9**

**Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza
Wilkes-Barre, PA**

**Theme - "Sharing Ministries,
Building Relationships"**

Plan now to attend. Information will be posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org) as it becomes available.

Holy Trinity, Kingston Becomes a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Holy Trinity, Kingston has become a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, making it the only Lutheran church in Luzerne county to do so. This policy welcomes all people to Holy Trinity, regardless of their ability, age, ethnicity, financial situation, gender identity, life circumstances, race, or sexual orientation.

Holy Trinity has always welcomed a variety of people; but after several congregation members asked about seeking the designation, the church began a long look at the proposal. Church members had questions. They discussed the idea at Bible studies, other events, and informally; and the church leaders took classes about the issue. The goal was to avoid surprising people with a change, and to give them an opportunity to learn and think about the issue.

At the most recent Annual Meeting, a unanimous decision was made to adopt the policy and to seek the Reconciling in Christ designation. "In the end, I think we were able to successfully address all the questions and let people understand that this is welcoming, and what we're called to do as Christians," says Pr. Paul Metzloff.

"I think it's an excellent program," said Cheryl DeHaut, a member of a church committee that researched the idea and brought it to the rest of the congregation for a vote. "If people are looking for a church, regardless of denomination, and they see we are part of Reconciling in Christ, maybe they'll come check it out. We're a small congregational family. We want people to feel welcome. We'd like some more members, and we want to be welcoming to everyone.

[Much of this article is taken from one written by Bill Wellock for The Citizens' Voice.]

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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

STAFF OF LIGHT OF CHRIST & ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES (UPG)

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FAX: 610-867-1249

Website: stpetersbethlehem.org

Email: church@stpetersbethlehem.org

Pastor Jerry's Cell phone number: 484-333-0433

People of UPG (Light of Christ/St. Peter's)

Congregational Councils

Mary Mann, Richard Elterich

Pastor Jerry Kulp

Rev. Edith B. Roberts

Rev. Eugene F. Sharkey

Kathi Raphael

Kenda Riley

Sandy Horwath

Deacon Linda Maule

Marisa Deschler

Anthony DeAngelis

Lynn Terry

Michel Lloyd

Oraine Roth

Al Radtke, Lisa Mantz

Ministers of God's Word

Responsible for Administration of God's Word

Congregational Presidents for UPG

Senior Pastor of UPG

Pastor Emerita St. Peter's

Pastor Emeritus Messiah Lutheran Church

Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor

Ministry Coord/Campus Coord (St. Peter's)

Receptionist/Campus Coord (Light of Christ)

Minister of Music and Visitation (Light of Christ)

Organist and Choral Minister (St. Peter's)

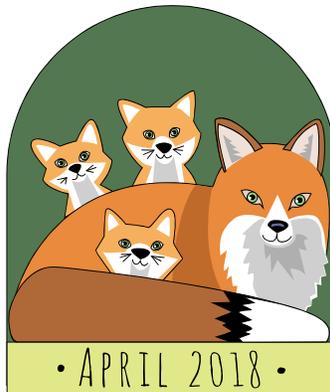
Bell Choir Director (St. Peter's)

Christian Education Director

Minister of Visitation coordinator

"Proclamation" Editor (oraine@verizon.net)

Custodians



PICTURES FROM MLCCC



Pastor Jerry going on Bear Hunt with the children of the MLCCC



Will and Mikey reading to the MLCCC



Our Youth Sunday school class



RESURRECTION HOPE


 Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.
 

Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

2+2 = ___ united	2x3 = ___ death	7+6 = ___ resurrection
3x3 = ___ certainly	18-16 = ___ have	4-1 = ___ been
0+1 = ___ if	2x4 = ___ we	13-1 = ___ him
2+3 = ___ in	20-6 = ___ like	2+5 = ___ his
2x5 = ___ be	8+3 = ___ with	

"For 1 we 2 3 4
 with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,
8 will 9 also 10 united
11 12 in a 13
14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

- "The resurrection ... was only the beginning of a great, grand and vast outreach that has never ended and will not end until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again."—A.W. Tozer
- "It is the hour to rend thy chains, the blossom time of souls." —Katherine Lee Bates
- "Easter is the soul's first taste of spring." —Richelle Goodrich
- "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, and nothing is so gentle as true strength." —St. Francis de Sales
- "The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears." —Native American proverb

OUR TRUE POWER SOURCE

The story is told of someone who plugged a power strip into itself and then couldn't understand why the system wouldn't turn on! We get a kick out of such tales, yet how often do we try to "power" our own lives? We frequently think we need to be the source of our own strength, joy, peace, energy and wisdom.

Jesus doesn't teach us to find life within ourselves — or in any human being or earthly circumstance, object or philosophy. Rather, calling himself the good shepherd, Jesus says, "I have come that [my sheep] may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

We don't access that abundant life by "plugging into" ourselves. Instead, Jesus invites us to plug into his power — and joy, peace, hope, truth — through prayer and Scripture, worship and service, fellowship with other Christians and the beauty of God's world.

WHY WE NEED EASTER

No one is exempt from tragedy or disappointment — even God was not exempt. Jesus offered no immunity, no way out of the unfairness, but rather a way through it to the other side. Just as Good Friday demolished the instinctive belief that this life is supposed to be fair, Easter Sunday followed with its startling clue to the riddle of the universe. Out of the darkness, a bright light shone. ...

The cross of Christ may have overcome evil, but it did not overcome unfairness. For that, Easter is required, a bright clue that someday God will restore all physical reality to its proper place. —Philip Yancey, *Disappointment With God*

CHANGE AGENTS

A cartoon depicts a man at a podium firing up a crowd. "Who wants change?" he shouts. You can almost hear the excitement and urgency. "We do!" the listeners cry, all raising their hands.

But the next frame features a follow-up question:

"Who wants to change?" The audience is silent and somber, with their hands down.

The gospel Jesus announced and lived out promises monumental change: life instead of death, healing from sickness, hope to replace despair, peace and justice instead of war and oppression. Although God could wave his hand and make the world perfect, he chooses to work through humans. That means we must be willing to change too.

Change can be scary, but God's newness will so transform the world — and us — that we'll never miss our old, broken reality.—Heidi Mann

OF PIZZA AND SIN

Whenever I'm in Chicago, I feel driven, as if by unseen forces, into a deep-dish-pizza restaurant. My recent visit was no exception. As soon as I stepped off the plane, the cravings began. Soon I was in a pizzeria, awaiting a handmade pie with giddy anticipation. It was a sad scene. I was dining alone, so there was no pretext of community; I was just there to gorge myself.

And that's precisely what I did. After a few slices, I hit a wall but consumed one more. One too many, it turned out. While maneuvering away from the table, I realized: Deep-dish is a lot like sin. Both start with bliss but end in misery. Both take you further than you wanted to go, faster than you wanted to get there. And both require confession. So that's what I'm doing here. I hope you'll absolve me. Next time, I'll try to eat less. —Drew Dyck, *Church Humor Newsletter* (October 10, 2017), *CTPastors.com*. Used with permission.



There's a Place for You!