

## Easter Weekend 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](http://messiahlutheran18017.org) and [stpetersbethlehem.org](http://stpetersbethlehem.org) and "like" us on Facebook!**

### **Walking with the Resurrected Christ**



*"... And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

***Matthew 28:20b***

Christ is indeed Risen! Today marks the beginning of our new life in Christ! Today marks the fulfillment of our shared Lenten journey! I thought it would be fun to "turn around" and see where we have journeyed.

You might recall that our Lenten journey began with an acknowledgement of our own sinfulness and a request for repentance from our loving God on Ash Wednesday. On that day, together we prayed that God would guide us through our Lenten journey and accompany us throughout those forty days as we committed ourselves to be open to what God was saying.

In the weeks following, we asked you to leave behind your grief and mourning, to leave behind your guilt and harsh memories, to leave behind those things that would keep you from feeling God's presence in our journey. We spoke about the "flies in the ointment", the issues in our shared lives that brought us back to difficult memories. We spoke about those times in our lives when we felt as though God has forgotten about us, only to realize that God had always been walking beside us in ways that we couldn't see initially. Together we spoke about those places in our lives that were holy for us, but at some point, underwent radical shifts and how God worked through those times. In all these reflections, in all these discussions, we were intentionally getting to know our sisters and brothers in Christ from around the United Proclamation of the Gospel on deeper and more profound levels.

This past week, together, we have witnessed Jesus being a servant to all by washing the feet of His disciples; we have seen with our own eyes how Jesus instituted the Holy Meal that we celebrate each week. We have stood by and heard with our hearts the story of our Lord's human betrayal and the gory process of His mortal death. Together we have kept watch with our Lord as He lay DEAD in the tomb! Yet on this day... On this day, together we celebrate Christ's victory over death!

Our Lenten journey in many ways parallels the journey that Christ took with the original disciples! For all of these "ordinary" people, the time spent with Jesus challenged the lives as they understood their life! All these disciples were asked by Christ "to leave things behind!" All these disciples were challenged by Jesus' teachings that God forever loves them, that God would never abandon them, and that God would always walk beside them!

Now we stand in the light of the empty tomb! Yet we do not stand alone in this light! Now we stand in this light with our family, sisters and brothers who have walked this pilgrimage with us! Now we stand in this light knowing that we are united with one another through the very Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior! Now we stand in this light with the sure and certain knowledge that our God walks beside us!

While the world around us aches in agony over the divisions found within this world, while the world around us wrestles with "white vs. black", "liberal vs. conservative", "Christian vs. Muslim," we stand with God with a certainty that in our understanding of Christ's resurrection that the ground at the base of the cross is level and all are invited to participate, and all are welcome! We can find a centerground of peace in understanding that our human diversity only gives us a larger picture of the incredible beauty and power of our Almighty God!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! And in my own mind's eye, our God is anxiously awaiting where this new family forged together during Lent of 2018 will be walking in the future! Together, hand in hand, with God leading and guiding, the future is bright indeed! Amen.

Peace and blessings to you! PJ

## Easter Worship Opportunities

Saturday, March 31, 2018	<i>Great Easter Vigil</i>
7:00 PM	Light of Christ Campus
Sunday, April 1, 2018	<i>Day of Resurrection</i>
7:00 AM	St. Peter's Campus
9:00 AM	St. Peter's Campus
11:00 AM	Light of Christ Campus
Saturday, April 7, 2018	<i>Easter Lessons and Hymns</i>
5:00 PM	Light of Christ Campus <i>(with Holy Communion)</i>
Sunday, April 8, 2018	<i>Easter Lessons and Hymns</i> <i>(With Brass Choir)</i>
10:00 AM	Joint UPG Worship St. Peter's Campus UPG Town Hall Meeting to follow



***Easter Hats from the MLCCC Easter Parade!***



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 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 (child care will be provided)***
- ***UPG Congregational Photo!***
- ***Luncheon after the Town Hall Meeting***



**THIS WEEK IN THE UPG**

**April 1-8, 2018**

*Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*

**Sunday April 1 is Easter Sunday**

- 7:00 AM Easter Worship (St. P)
- 9:00 AM Easter Worship (St. P)
- 11:00 AM Easter Worship (LoC)
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous(LoC)

**Monday April 2**

**CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

- 7:00 PM Dart Baseball: St. Peter's @ Christ Lutheran, Messiah @ Bath Lutheran and Schoenersville @ LoC

**Tuesday April 3**

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

**Wednesday April 4**

- 9:00 AM Christian Serv (LoC – tentative)
- Noon AARP Tax Prep (St. P)
- NO Healing Worship Today
- 5:00 PM Diakon (St. P – Trauger)
- 7:30 PM NO Choir Rehearsal at St. P
- 8:00 PM LoC Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday April 5**

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

**Friday April 6**

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

**Saturday April 7**

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

**Sunday April 8**

- No LOC Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Joint UPG Worship (St. P)
- 11:00 AM UPG Town Hall Mtg. (St. P)
- 12 Noon UPG Luncheon (St. P)
- 3:00 PM St. Peter's Concert Series
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Education (LoC)
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (LoC)

# Share yourself with others!

## Bingo at Cedarbrook on April 10 – Volunteers & Prizes Needed



It's time for Bingo 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** perfume, lotion and cards. Small bags of chips, pretzels, crackers or cookies are especially welcome (*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 Evelyn Smith from St. Peter's. Thank you!



## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

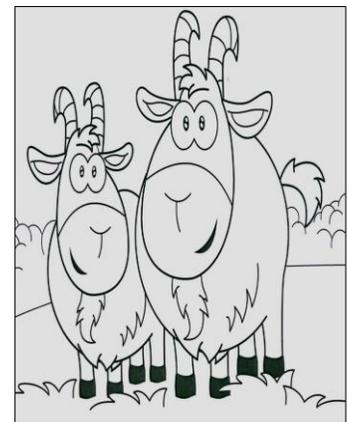
**The concert is free!** A free-will offering will be received to support the concert series. This has become a popular concert. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music!

## 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!**



## Calvary Food Pantry Dates

The Calvary Food Pantry will be open from 9-11 AM on April 2 and 3, as well as May 7 and 8. The food pantry is located at 111 Dewberry Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017.

If you know someone in need, please share the pantry information with them. And please bring donations to church to help stock the Pantry's shelves.

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

Please sign up on either campus, and 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.

## Meet the Staff of the UPG

This week we meet Tony DeAngelis in "Meet the Staff". Tony is the director of the Chancel Ringers bell choir at St. Peter's. He tells us about his important role in the beautiful music at St. Peter's:



I have enjoyed being the Chancel Ringer's Director for the last 17 years. I also played the chimes and hand bells before becoming the Director. The Chancel Ringers have had the opportunity to ring for two weddings, played in our own concert and were part of Marisa's Concert Series, as well as ringing during St. Peter's worship services.

I played the saxophone for 40 years in various bands. I gave clarinet and saxophone lessons as well. Music has always been a part of my life. Either playing, directing or just listening to my favorite songs.

I am looking forward to 2018 and all that brings.



## RECENTLY IN THE UPG

**Scott Rawhouser and Kimberly Kroninger were married at St. Peter's on March 24.**

**With our prayers and best wishes for a long and happy life together!**

### ***BEHIND THE SCENES...***

there are teams of **dedicated volunteers** who collate, fold and prepare bulletins every week for worship at St. Peter's and at Light of Christ. Shown at right are the volunteers who put together bulletins at St. Peter's for Holy Week through April 8 – **over 800 bulletins!**

**Many thanks** to Mary Bender, Dolores Kennedy, Connie Litrenta, Pat Little, Liz Slivko and Evelyn Smith (*not pictured*).



*Children/Family Worship and Lenten Fair 2018!*



**Students and adults had a great time at the 2018 Lenten Fair with crafts, snacks, games and lots of fun.**

