



THE PROCLAMATION

JULY AUGUST 2018

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9

LIGHT OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERRY

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away;

see, everything has become new!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Greetings and peace to you all!

Recently I've been thinking about "how in Christ, there is a new creation!" I know I speak frequently about the workings of the United Proclamation of the Gospel, but I can't help projecting our shared ministry into St. Paul's vision of becoming a new creation!

Paul understood that through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, the "old ways" passed away and reconciliation and forgiveness provided new life to the human story. At this point in our journey together, some of our "old ways" have passed away, however, new life and new creations are abounding within our midst!

From a statistical point of view, the United Proclamation through the first six months of the year is averaging nearly 235 people hearing the word of the God proclaimed in their lives each week. Together we have nearly 60 children involved in Christian Education opportunities. Together we have more and more people hearing about God's Word for their lives through mid-week Bible Studies! These are all wonderful signs of new growth and new beginnings coming from a community of faith focused on proclaiming God's love to the world.

More and more fellowship opportunities are arising within our midst. Recently between the two nights of Iron Pigs baseball games, over 100 of us came together to enjoy spending time together. At our UPG golf outing this year we had over 50 people

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

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playing golf representing both campuses very well and at this point it appears that this was our most successful golf outing to date!

Our Vacation Bible School and our incredible pre-school are gearing up to spread the love of God with children in wonderful and profound ways!

All in all, I might suggest that there is quite a bit within our community to get excited about! Yet, it's not just about our internal ministries in this time and place is it?

Recently our Advocacy Ministry Team (St. Peter's) and our Social Ministry Team (Light of Christ) have come together to form the "God's Work Our Hands" ministry team. Already this ministry team is hard at work planning "God's Work Our Hands" day as a shared celebration on Sunday September 9, 2018! Without a doubt, the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter, the Food Bank, and New Bethany Ministries will all receive some much-needed assistance through this powerful ministry.

Recently on our Light of Christ campus, over \$32,000 was shared with benevolent causes beyond our walls by offering 10% of the sale price of our Locust Street property (formerly St. Matthew's) to worthy benevolent causes including the ELCA, the North East Pennsylvania Synod, the World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Immigration Services, United Lutheran Seminary and Diakon adoption services.

These highlight only a few of the multitude of exciting ministries that are happening right within our midst. In the course of any given month, nearly 130 various ministries occur within our community of faith!

Indeed St. Paul's sentiments about becoming a new creation in Christ apply to the happenings of the United Proclamation of the Gospel in Bethlehem.

My hope and prayer is that you too, can feel and experience all that God is doing within our community!

Peace and blessings,

PASTOR JERRY

Dear members of the UPG,

Message from

Deacon Linda

Each year a special assembly is called to bring together all pastors, rostered leaders and voting members from the congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The 2018 assembly was held at the Mohegan Sun Arena on June 8th-9th in Wilkes-Barre.

The theme of this year's Synod Assembly was "Sharing Ministries and Building Relationships." In addition to the business of electing voting members to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council, there was time built in to the schedule for voting members to participate in various service projects. Voting members were asked to bring peanut butter and jelly for a local food pantry and items for health care kits for Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Other hands-on service projects involved volunteers going off site to assemble school kits, interact with animals at a local SPCA, pack food packages for needy families, prepare Bear Creek Camp for campers, pack emergency kits for the Red Cross, paint a mural with neighborhood children, visit a nursing home, clean up a highway, serve a meal at a men's shelter, and walk for World Hunger.

We heard from a number of special speakers including Pastor President Gustavo Pascua, from the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay; Nick Kiger, associate director of ELCA Mission Support; the **REV. KURT**

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GARBE, Synod Liaison for Global Mission; Luke Swanson for Young Adults in Global Mission; the Rev. Mark Wimmer for Diakon Lutheran Social Ministry who announced Diakon's 150th anniversary; Lenna Harris for the Women of the ELCA; and Dan Scharnhorst, director of Bear Creek Camp, who brought his summer camping staff to be installed by Bishop Zeiser.

Additional speakers included Bishop Zeiser and synod vice-president Barbara Belon. The bulletin of reports listed newly ordained pastors, those who were received from other synods or who transferred to other synods, deaths, and pastoral changes. Written reports were also received from various synod ministry teams, support committees, the candidacy committee, campus ministry, and other agencies and institutions. Voting members to the assembly approved the compensation guidelines for pastors, rostered leaders and the synod budget.

Another special moment for the assembly was to participate in the reception of the Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church as a member church of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Their church is in Knauers, Pennsylvania, on the synod territory.

We saw video reflections from five pastors who are celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry. When you get an opportunity to speak to the **REV. RAYMOND HITTINGER**, offer him your congratulations for his 50 years of faithful ministry. Please also congratulate **PASTOR JERRY KULP** for his 15-year anniversary of ordination.

Last, but not least: a very important part of the synod assembly is worship. Yours truly sang in the choir for the Festival Communion service where I met a voting member from the Lutheran Church in my hometown of Honesdale. I haven't returned to Honesdale in many years so I enjoyed

a nostalgia trip with my new friend. Talk about building relationships – that was amazing!

This is what the synod and our churches are all about: sharing ministries to deepen relationships, witnessing to each other and the community around us that God loves us and wants us to share that love. Plans are in progress for **GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS DAY** on **SEPTEMBER 9TH** when we, as the United Proclamation of the Gospel, will offer various service projects for everyone's participation. By supporting the theme of the Synod Assembly, we will be "Sharing Ministries and Building Relationships."

Yours in Christ,

DEACON LINDA MAULE

NEWS

From Our Congregations



The wedding of **JENNIFER BURGERT** and **ANNESSA JENKINS** was celebrated at **St. Peter's** on June 2, 2018.



EVA OLIVIA DICKSON, daughter of Gary and Jessica Dickson, was baptized at **St. Peter's** on June 17.

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- "If you limit your actions in life to things that nobody can possibly find fault with, you will not do much." —Lewis Carroll

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

- July 1—Ted Terry (610-866-0359)
- July 8—George & Linda Baltz (610-691-2994)
- July 15—Ted Terry (610-866-0359)
- July 22—George & Linda Baltz (610-691-2994)
- July 29—Ted Terry (610-866-0359)

- August 5—George & Linda Baltz (610-691-2994)
- August 12—Ted Terry (610-866-0359)
- August 19—George & Linda Baltz (610-691-2994)
- August 26—Ted Terry (610-866-0359)

UPG JOINT WORSHIP! SUNDAY JULY 15, 2018 8:00 AM



Some of our most powerful worship celebrations have occurred during times when our campuses came together and worshipped God together! Our next joint worship celebration will occur on our **Light of Christ Campus at 8:00 AM on July 15!** Come

and celebrate our unity.

“BREWING THEOLOGY!” TUESDAY JULY 10 AND TUESDAY AUGUST 14, 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 for informal discussions about faith and the world around us. The next two months we will

come together on **TUESDAY JULY 10** and August 14 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 PM. This is a great place to ask questions and simply process the world around us through a faith perspective and all are invited to be part of this powerful ministry! In July and August we'll meet at TAPS Restaurant on Route 309.

STORIES OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY



Join us every Thursday morning at 9:00 AM in our **Light of Christ** Campus Narthex 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!

PASTORS AND GUARDIANS OF HOLY ISRAEL COMMUNITY OF FAITH

During the summer months, PGHI will be meeting on Tuesday evening, Saturday evening, and Sunday afternoon 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!

• *“To fly the American flag, then to cheat another citizen — or anyone else — is to make a mockery of patriotism. A true patriot will be a person of integrity and honesty, a quite trustworthy American.” —Charles Ferrell*

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**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY IN JULY~
JUST ONCE!
PLEASE NOTE: NO BIBLE STUDY SES-
SION ON TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018**



Women's Bible study will meet on Tuesday, July 17, from 9:30 to 11 AM in the Social Room on the **St. Peter's** Campus. (Enter off the parking lot at the "back" door and ring the St. Peter's

doorbell for entry.) The women are waiting for you to arrive!!

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

How often have you said or heard this prayer said? Did you know this prayer was part of a Psalm? Have you ever used these words when you couldn't find your own words? This verse will be the focus of the July Bible study session. The author of the summer sessions is **PASTOR ANNA MADSEN**, a widow following a car accident that killed her husband/pastor, and mother of their son disabled by the accident, and a daughter. Pr. Anna has opened a retreat center in MN and writes a blog (omgcenter.com) as she continues her faith journey. Pr. Anna leads us through how we pray, why we pray, and how we might improve our prayer life.

Prayer is our conversation with God, yet sometimes feels uncomfortable for us, not knowing what words to use or how to say to God what is on our hearts. Pr. Anna helps guide us to find a sense of ease and the "right" words as we pray. Come, be part of this conversation.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BLANKET MAKING

Lutheran World Relief Blanket Making will happen on Tuesday, **JULY 17TH**, from 11:30 AM to 1:30



PM, in the Social Room on the **St. Peter's** Campus. (Enter from the parking lot "back" door, ring the church doorbell and enter when you hear the 'click'!!)

This is a project that helps those around the world in need of warmth, privacy, and/or comfort know that people somewhere care enough, love enough to make these easy to do blankets. The good news is that with the UPG in action, the combined supplies for blanket making will all be at St. Peter's campus and so more blankets can be made. With more supplies and more hands there will be more blankets!! Remember, if you can use a scissors, iron fabric, or tie knots, you can be of help making blankets. Bring along a snack or your lunch and be ready to make some beautiful blankets.

FOOD INSECURITY

Many people are very faithful in bringing items for the Back Pack Buddies program that is run by St. Paul's Lutheran in Fountain Hill. Each week volunteers fill backpacks with the donations. Backpacks are then given out at Fountain Hill Elementary students who otherwise might not have food over the weekend~~known as Food Insecurity. During the summer months please continue to bring your food offerings and place them in the **NEW BETHANY FOOD BANK** laundry baskets throughout the **St. Peter's** campus building. We are called to care for those who are hungry, so as each of us contributes, many will have food.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS DAY



Please save this date – Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 9!** This special Sunday is our opportunity to "share ministries and build relationships." The GWOH Team

(God's Work. Our Hands Team) has planned an exciting day for all ages.

Following the **9:30 AM** at **St. Peter's** worship service with a Blessing of the Hands, we will participate in various projects. As projects conclude, volunteers can enjoy a fellowship luncheon.

These are some of the hands-on and fundraising projects we are planning:

- Assemble socks and underwear for the men and women of the Bethlehem shelter
- hold a car wash for freewill donations (recipient TBD)
- make greeting cards for homebound members
- make tied blankets for Lutheran World Relief
- collect winter coats (men's, women's, children's)
- clean a cemetery
- hold a bake sale (recipient TBD)
- provide a fellowship luncheon for volunteers

If you have additional ideas or can apply for a Thrivent Action Team to provide seed money for projects, please contact **LOIS RITCHIE** at **St. Peter's** or **LINDA MAULE** at **Light of Christ**.

**PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE –
SEPTEMBER 9! AND VOLUNTEER!!**

MUSIC MINISTRY



During July, August, and September, we will continue to sing favorite hymns during worship. If you worship at

Light of Christ, we will sing a favorite hymn before worship begins as well as during the service. Come and sing God's praises with us.

- "Prayer is where the action is." —John Wesley
- "Always be a little kinder than necessary." — J.M. Barrie

**Christian
Education
Director**



Join Us On Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LightofChristLutheranChurchYouth/>

Dear friends,

Please accept my sincere thank you for your loving, creative and most kind expressions of appreciation and thankfulness shown to me at the conclusion of our Sunday School year on the **Light of Christ** campus! Your expressions of kindness reflect your love of God and participation in our ministry to children, youth and their families through our Sunday School and weekday school programs. I am extremely blessed to serve with you and our children, youth and families. Please thank your children for me for their hand flowers and kind words that were formed into a beautiful bouquet. Thank you so very much for all of your gifts and mostly for your dedication to children and youth, your friendship, your love of God and His people!! I thank God for you as we go forward in our ministry together sharing God's love and Word through the United Proclamation of the Gospel.

Dear friends, have you felt it? Have you seen it? The Holy Spirit is among us in a way we have never experienced before in our individual congregations! We have a renewed energy in our worship experiences with the people of the United Proclamation of the Gospel and Pastor Jerry! This energy is not only experienced during our worship but is carrying through each week. Come to worship and experience the Holy Spirit working among us. Children are asking to attend church with their families, new liturgies and hymns are being sung.

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New friendships are being formed. Pastor Jerry communicates the love of God through his sermons each week! Let your heart and soul be touched by our gracious and loving God through participation in worship and service. I pray you, too, will feel the Holy Spirit among us!



As I am writing this article plans are coming together for this summer's VBS at our **Light of Christ** campus. VBS is just around the corner! Bring your children to Concordia Publishing House's "Splash Canyon – God's Promise On Life's Wild Ride!" the week of July 16-20, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

VBS at Light of Christ is always a spirit-filled, fast paced week full of inspiration, fun, friends, games and healthy, delicious snacks. Enrollment information was distributed to our Sunday School, MLCCC families, and on our **St. Peter's** campus and to the congregation of St. Paul's Fountain Hill. Volunteer and registration forms are on the table in the LOC narthex and can also be found on LOC's website.

Please join us as we are in need of additional teachers and assistants to bring this program to all who want to come!! At the time of the deadline for this newsletter we have the following staff:

Our VBS Staff as of June 18, 2018

ROSALIE ADDUCIE, TAYLOR BAGGEST, MATTHEW BLEIER, HANNAH BOSCO, LAUREN BURIAN, KAREN FAVINGER, TRACY HAAS,

MICHELLE HARVEY, JENNIFER and RYAN GRUBE, CHRIS KNAUSS, LISA MANTZ, KATHY, LARISSA and WILLIAM PELLETIERS, JANE SHOLLENBERGER, JEAN FINN, KATHY COFFIN, HAILLEY MARTIN, FRANCESCA PISCITELLO, BELLA AND ANTONIO WEAVER, JILLIAN WEIERBACH

Staff Oasis: **BETTE KOVACH.** We are in need of additional help in this area. Volunteers donate food for the staff break time.

VBS Luncheon – **LAUREN BURIAN and JANE SHOLLENBERGER**

We also welcome more volunteers to help with the lunch as well.

The important dates for VBS:

- July 16-20, 2018 9:00 a.m.- noon VBS
- July 19, 2018 noon – VBS staff luncheon—old fellowship hall
- July 21, 2017 5:00 p.m. VBS closing worship and ice cream party – sanctuary and fellowship hall

Items needed for this year's VBS to be borrowed and returned are the following: **stuffed animals: ducks, donkeys, bobcats, deer, river otters; oars, rafts, life jackets.**

Sunday School students, members and friends are once again encouraged to send postcards to the **Light of Christ** campus in care of Mrs. Terry when they travel this summer. The cards will be displayed on Rally Day when we highlight the places, people and animals of God's world. **RALLY DAY WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2018.**

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• "Breathe a prayer of gratitude. And give those you love an extra measure of affection. Life is fleeting, and love is precious. Cherish both."
—Galen Guengerich

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[modal=composer&ref=page_homepage_panel](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChildCenter/?modal=composer&ref=page_homepage_panel)

Registration is well underway for our 2018-2019 school year. We have classes for children who will be 2, 3, or 4 by October 1, 2018. We offer early morning care from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m., classes from 9:00-11:30a.m. and extended care from 11:30-3:00 p.m. Please call me at 610-861-0645 to arrange a tour of our school or to receive information concerning enrollment.

Please help us spread the word of this wonderful, nurturing preschool for young children held in a secure environment where the love of God is also taught through songs, stories, play and prayers.

We have been working to spread the word of our preschool through the use of an advertising flyer which is currently being created with our input by the staff of The Working Dog Press. We are looking forward to its completion. The staff of Lehigh Rug Service professionally cleaned our new preschool carpets which had some stains accumulate this past school year. They look brand new again!!

Our preschool Open House is scheduled for August 6, 2018 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Please let anyone know who is looking for a quality, Christian preschool for their child.

We look forward to seeing many of our preschoolers at VBS this summer!!

Love and peace,

LYNN TERRY

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

JERUSALEM SINGERS IN WORSHIP ON JULY 29



On Sunday, July 29, the Jerusalem Singers will offer songs of praise during worship at 8:00 AM at **Light of Christ** and at 10:00 AM at **St. Peter's**. The Jerusalem Singers are a non-profit group dedicated to public service and the performance of traditional and contemporary classical music with Christian texts.

For 23 years the Jerusalem Singers have partnered with New Bethany Ministries. Members are asked to bring non-perishable foods or cash donations to worship that day for the New Bethany food pantry.

After each Sunday worship the singers load donated items into their cars. New Bethany eagerly awaits each Monday delivery - donations to the food bank drop in the summer months but hunger takes no vacation and the needs are great.

Please help by bringing non-perishable foods to worship on July 29. Then enjoy the music and know that your donations will help hungry people in our community!



1 Mackenzie Fantasia
John Wirth
Karen Bellman
Alex Dalla Piazza

2 Annessa Jenkins

3 Amy Csaszar
Marcus Johnson
Sandra Bird
Kelly Danyi
Alonza Piscitello
Jack Reichel
Debra Rodriguez

4 Elizabeth Elterich
Johanna Landskron
Gene Luff

5 Patrick Ladd

6 Julie Konjoian
Glen Lehr

8 Terry Jean Fistner
Tiana Peiffer

8 Kristen Fricke
Kali Johanson-Lang

9 Mildred Ault
Robert Harvey
Rev. Raymond Hittinger

10 Savannah Cutsler
Austin Holmes
William Mackaravitz
Carol Weidner

11 Owen Johnson
Jean Finn
Helga Rimonneau

12 Joan Glancy
Ian Andrew Baltz

13 Richard Clay
Andrew Taylor

14 Donald Snider
Jennifer Grube
Rev. Gene Sharkey

15 Gina Nichol

16 Travis R. Frankenfield
Gidget Pratt
Gian Seixas
Adam Taylor
Dianne Bradford

17 Marlene Hottle

18 Ronald Carr
Lindsay Csaszar

19 Michael Horwath
Anthony N. DeAngelis Jr
Beverly E. Krenos
Joyce Mingora
Judy Meixell
Nathan Righi
Jason Sharkey

20 Mildred Casey

21 Tami Holmes
Kailyn Seixas
Judith Hlavinka

22 George Kummer III
Tia Plummer
Richard Snyder
Kathryn Coffin
Carl Duser
Elizabeth Hall
Frances Kaffine
Rev. Catherine Ziel

23 Leona Besecker
Cailey Sanchez

24 Jack DaSilva
Jaden Peiffer
Elizabeth Slivko
Mandy Hasonich

25 Sophia DaSilva
Honor Fulop
Ronald Horwath
Judith Innes

26 Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Jon Terry

26 Emma Zahm

27 McKayla Carroll
Rev. Gerald Kulp
Emily Wargo

28 Alaina Jacavage
Gabriel Jacavage
Donna Lynn Kuklantz
Jessica Lehr
Stacy Mark

29 Ann Marie Demyan
Wendy Wargo
Jared Weierbach

30 Connor Hasonich
Lynn Malok
Joshua Weierbach

31 Elizabeth Ampietro



August

BIRTHDAYS

Jacqueline Groff
Cheryl Moyer
Kainen Rahill
2 Richard Hero
Haven Peiffer
Judy Scheck
Laurie Vona
William Emerick
Ryan Maule
Justine Singer
3 Cynthia Kemp
Charles E. Mann
4 Susan Martrich
Kelly Miller
5 Emily Ladd
James Meixell
6 Alicia Cressman
John Faulch
Louise Fielding
Maybelline Jimenez
7 Kathleen Stephen
9 Sherry Horwath
Diane Liros
10 Susan Swavely
11 Jeramy Csaszar
Hans Keller
12 Peter Terry
13 Elizabeth Albors
Alyssa Boger
Norah Edelman
Cassandra Fantasia
Christopher Fistner
Brian Dravecz
Emily Liros
Hannah Nolan
14 Katie Dalla Piazza
Lou Dravecz
Linda Maule
Ramona Santos
Robert Snow
15 Patricia Reichel
James Zarzecki

16 Glenn A. Breidenbach
17 Richard Glancy Jr.
David Myers Sr.
19 Daniel Groff
Jeffrey Hasonich
Jonathan Weierbach
20 Charles Hinkel
Pauline Kalynych
Barbara Clavens
Camryn Hasonich
21 Ava Frankenfield
Linda Hunsicker
Amos Kunkle
Emma Grace Valish
22 Julie Montesano
Lorenzo Piscitello
Nancy Seidenberger
23 Judi Shelly
Annette Jones
Aleta Unger
24 Kimberly Pentland
25 Tracie J. Drayton
Morgan Seixas
Jayden Dancsecs
Robert Stier
Sammy (Victor) Albors
Tara Carroll
James Elterich
Justin Ford
Elizabeth Harvey
28 Nancy Bellman
Keith Cacciatore
29 Jordan Haas
30 Zechariah Kolman
Karen VanGorden
Cheryl Fenicle
31 Cory Musselman
Ryan Taylor
Joshua Brandle
Marlane Hasonich
Christopher Knauss
Beverly Surovi
Wendy Varga



- 4 Jeffrey & Julie Scheck
- 6 Basuki & Tuty Setio
- 9 Bruce & Sally Billiard
- 9 Lisa & Nelson Perez
- 19 Gary & Gail E. Rolls
- 20 Frederick & Beverly Kunkle
Daniel R. & Linda M. Zrinski
- 21 Patrick & Beth Fuchs
Robert & Diane Voron
- 23 Joseph & Carol Derham
- 24 Herbert & Lyndell Boger Jr.
- 26 Robert & Joan Warnke
- 29 Elizabeth & Doug Miller
- 30 Glenn A. & Maryanne Breidenbach
Edward & Patricia Little



- 1 Mark & Wendy Wargo
- 3 Keith & Susan McKellin
- 11 Rev. George & Becky Spieker
- 13 Anthony & Sharon Strobel
- 14 Michael & Alison Taylor
- 17 Justin & Rebecca Miller
David & Rosemary Myers Sr.
- 18 Marisa & Peter Deshler
Frank & Judy Scheck
Harry & Patricia Schoenberger
- 20 Keith Ricks & Robert Bleier
Douglas & Diane Smith
- 23 Bryan T. & Debbie Green
- 24 Melanie & Scott Olenwine
- 25 Julie & Carl Montesano



In the Mailbag!

We want to thank you for all your kind thoughts prayers, and concerns you have sent to us at this time. We appreciate you kindness and caring.

God Bless,
Judy & Frank Scheck

To Pastor Jerry and Shirley and to all the congregational members of St. Peter's,

That wonderful farewell you gave us will be remembered forever. Your love for us and our musical talents touched us deeply and created a very moving emotional experience for Mirta and me.

As "Miss Liz" said in her card, we will always be a part of the St. Peter's family. We miss all of you and will keep in touch when we are settled in our new home.

In Christ's love,
Herb and Mirta Heffner

To my church family,

A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Jerry for the visits and beautiful graveside service he did for my mother, Betty Eisenhard.

Also thank you all for the prayers, cards, and flowers upon the death of my mother.

Sandy Horwath

Dear Light of Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in April 2018. Acts 6 tells the story of the birth and expansion of the church at Pentecost. When the disciples were increasing in number, they selected from among themselves people full of the Spirit and of wisdom, and appointed them to feed people who were hungry. They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

With your generosity to ELCA World Hunger, you stand full of the Spirit and of wisdom in the

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church's 2,000 year tradition of varying for neighbors in need. Thankyou for your strong commitment to this signature ministry of the church. Receive in return our prayers for your ministry and our hands stretched out to you in blessing. Together we can go further; together we will be transformed in the Spirit and in relationship with each other. Our partners, and communities around the world.

Until all are fed,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and
Disaster Appeal



Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the generous donation of canned goods and non-perishable items to the Northeast Ministry Food Pantry. We appreciate your generosity.

During the month of April, the pantry served 196 families, consisting of 273 adults, 224 children and 114 senior citizens. Families accessing the pantry receive items such as canned goods and non-perishables, as well as refrigerated items such as fresh eggs, juice, produce, and lunch meats.

We are so grateful to have your ongoing support because without your generosity, Northeast Ministry would be unable to provide the programs and serviced that are so important to our clients. Thank you for investing in the children and families of the Marvin-Pembroke community!

Sincerely,
Paula A. Johnson
Executive Director
Northeast Ministry

+++++

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

“What a wonderful thing is the mail,” someone has said, “capable of conveying across continents a warm human hand-clasp.” I remember the excitement of getting an “aerogram” from a grade-school pen pal in

Sweden, or a letter from Mom when I was in college. How different from the instantaneous, typed messages we send today.

Can you imagine, then, how meaningful the letters of Paul, Peter and other apostles were to early Christians? Painstakingly handwritten, carefully delivered by a courier or friend — so different from emails, texts and even postal delivery! Think how elated the recipients must have been to read warm greetings, news from afar, teachings, even reprimands — and then words such as these: “My love be with you all in Christ Jesus” (1 Corinthians 16:24, ESV).

The next time you read or hear a New Testament letter, imagine a time when such communication was rare and precious. Hear the writer’s words — which are also God’s words to you — from that perspective, and hold them fast.—Heidi Mann

- “He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”—St. Basil
- “To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.”—Eleanor Roosevelt
- “If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.”—Frank A. Clark
- “I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.”—Michael Jordan
- “Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths.” —Etty Hillesum

SINK OR SWIM?



People’s stories about learning to swim often sound like this: “My dad tossed me into the water. I didn’t have a choice — I flailed around until I found myself swimming!”

But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story: “Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank.” But then he goes on: “So my father jumped in with me.”

The storyteller’s wisdom shines in his application: “God doesn’t toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life.”

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Assembly 2018 Sharing Ministries - Building Relationships

Churchwide Ministries



Pastor President Gustavo Gómez Pascua from our companion church, Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida, in Argentina and Uruguay addressed the Assembly on Friday.

He shared some of the topics and concerns trending in his church. Many were similar to the challenges faced by congregations of the ELCA.

Pastor President Pascua brought along his guitar; and on several occasions, he led the Assembly in songs used by congregations in his church.



Nick Kiger, ELCA Associate Director for Mission Support, brought greetings on behalf of Presiding Bishop

Elizabeth Eaton. He shared two videos: "2017 in Review" and "We Are Lutheran" (available on the synod website: godslove.org).

NEPA Synod Ministries



The Assembly was delighted to receive the **Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church** as a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In 1978, Saint Simeon's Lutheran Church in

Philadelphia sponsored the first Hmong family from Laos to the Greater Philadelphia area. In February of 1996, the Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church was established. When all of its members relocated and settled within Berks & Lancaster counties, the church found a new home at Allegheny, Knauers in 2012.

Bishop Zeiser welcomed Pr. ShongChai Hang, congregational president Cheng Lo, vice president Kai Lee, and other congregational representatives to come forward for the official vote by the Assembly.

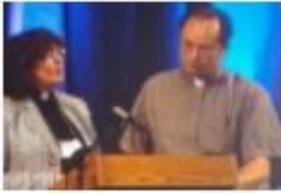
On Saturday the **Bear Creek Camp Summer Staff** was

installed. Under the leadership of director Dan Scharnhorst, the summer camp program has dramatically increased in numbers; and the Assembly warmly applauded both Dan and the dedicated young people who will staff the camp.



During worship at the Assembly, offerings were collected in support of **Young Adults in Global Ministry** (\$2,859.92) and the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal** (\$2,547).

Ministry Displays, Workshops, and Service Projects



Delegates were invited to experience the Assembly theme, "Sharing Ministries and Building Relationships," in four different ways: (1) by visiting Bear Creek Camp, (2) by participating in one of several local service projects, (3) by visiting the ministry display tables, and (4) by attending one of the workshops. Two extended blocks of time were available on Friday for these experiences.



Bear Creek Camp. Delegates who chose to visit Bear Creek Camp could help prepare the camp for the upcoming summer program, could participate in a Hunger Walk, or could simply spend time enjoying the beautiful setting.



Local Service Projects. There were about a dozen opportunities to engage in a service project to benefit the Wilkes-Barre community. These included packing food for the hungry, filling backpacks for children, materials for disaster relief, a highway cleanup, helping children create a mural, and helping at the SPCA.



Ministry Display Tables and Workshops. There was a wide assortment of ministry displays, as well as workshops on "Pastoral Care Providers," "Faith Facing Racism and Religious Prejudice: Sharing Hopes and Strategies," and "ELCA Inter-religious Commitments -- Review and Response."



More information and pictures are available on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/highlights-assembly-2018>. **Assembly 2019 will be a one-day event on June 1 at Genetti's Ballrooms in Hazleton.** This is being done to keep down costs for congregations in anticipation of a three-day assembly at the Kalahari Resort on June 4-6, 2020 when the synod will elect a new bishop.

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Congregational Councils	Responsible for Administration of God's Word
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Pastor Jerry Kulp	Senior Pastor of UPG
Rev. Edith B. Roberts	Pastor Emerita St. Peter's
Rev. Eugene F. Sharkey	Pastor Emeritus Messiah Lutheran Church
Kathi Raphael	Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor
Kenda Riley	Ministry Coord/Campus Coord (St. Peter's)
Sandy Horwath	Receptionist/Campus Coord (Light of Christ)
Deacon Linda Maule	Minister of Music and Visitation (Light of Christ)
Marisa Deschler	Organist and Choral Minister (St. Peter's)
Lynn Terry	Christian Education Director
Michel Lloyd	Minister of Visitation coordinator
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Al Radtke	Custodian
Lisa Mantz	Office Assistant, Custodian (Light of Christ)





A PRAYER FOR THE 4TH

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right. —Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate

HARVEST TIME!

With harvest underway or imminent, fields of ripe grain, tall cornstalks and soybeans turning brown recall Jesus' words to the disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38, ESV).

Nowadays farmers use fewer laborers and bigger machines than in decades past. But what about harvests of faith? Leading people to know God's love can't be done "mechanically." Studies show that newspaper ads or door-hangers left anonymously are less effective at bringing people to church than a warm personal invite.

Right after urging his disciples to pray for harvest workers — in a classic instance of "You might be God's answer to your own prayer!" — Jesus sends them out as those very laborers! How will they work the harvest? Not by guilting people into faith. Not by pronouncing judgment or biblical law. But by using Jesus' authority to counter evil, illness and brokenness among those they befriend.

Ponder and pray about where Jesus is sending you as his laborer to cultivate and reap Christian faith and assurance of God's love.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

On Good Friday 2017, Jeannie Gaffigan, a writer and producer, wife of comedian Jim Gaffigan and a mother of five, learned she had an apple-sized tumor on her brain stem. As a Christian, she knew she needed God's help to face the ordeal — and knew she still had "a lot of work" to do for him. On Easter Monday, the benign mass was removed during a nine-hour operation.

A year earlier, the Gaffigans won a Christopher Award for positive contributions to media. The award's inscription — "Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness" — now has new meaning for Jeannie. "There's an urgency to do things that may be smaller, like lighting one candle, [rather] than these ambitious, huge goals of doing major shows in order to change the world," she says. "We all want to light a thousand candles, but there's that one candle that's right in front of you that God is presenting for you. Open up your eyes and look at it and light it."

LESSONS FROM A FARMER

Summer often reminds pastor Walter Wangerin Jr. of his father-in-law, a farmer. Farmers, he writes, remember "that we belong to the earth, and the earth belongs to God." Recalling his father-in-law working the fields, he states, "Surely I don't suppose that we shall live by the horse again, but I plead that we live on this earth with reverence."

Because God gave people "dominion" over creation (see Genesis 1:28), we are "God's emblem within the universe, God's signature upon the work he had accomplished," Wangerin writes. "We were placed here to serve God by serving the earth and so to be served by it."

Who demonstrates that better than a farmer nurturing soil and seeds to yield abundant harvest? "By his reverential stance," Wangerin concludes, "the farmer calls again for honor to God and kindness to creation, that we dress and till and keep it rightly."—based on *Measuring the Days*