



THE PROCLAMATION

NOVEMBER 2018

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

LIGHT OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Greetings and peace to you all!

A little over a year ago, we the people of the United Proclamation of the Gospel in Bethlehem, came together to launch a new kind of ministry among us. Together we have brought three different and unique congregations bound together by our common core beliefs that our unity in Christ is greater than any differences we may have. Over the course of our time together we have had great moments of joy and exhilaration as we have shared resources, people, talents, and gifts with one another. We have also had our share of trials as we have learned to adapt to thinking about "church" in a different way and have learned to accept each other's traditions with respect and dignity.

Approximately five months ago, we the people of the United Proclamation of the Gospel in Bethlehem, participated in a questionnaire that was designed to encourage individual believers' thoughts and opinions in regard to how this new ministry was doing and to elicit your thoughts about how you would like to see us move forward in the future. The results of this questionnaire encouraged our congregational councils to extend the current United Proclamation of the Gospel agreement to September of 2022. Our two-year trial was now increased to a total of five years in order that we would be able to fully realize how this new ministry might work in our world.

Now, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you to join me in "rolling up our sleeves" and share in the task of "re-visioning" our shared ministry. The leadership of our community would like to have an ad-hoc task force come together in order to make short term and mid-range plans for the United Proclamation of the Gospel. We would like to invite you to a Saturday morning retreat on **November 3, 2018 at 9:00 AM** in our **St. Peter's** campus social hall to be part of the visioning process for our shared ministry.

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At this initial meeting we will be working on a shared “mission statement” and provide a list of thoughts, hopes, and dreams for what our community might look like by September 2022. It is our greatest hope and desire that we would have as much participation in this process as possible and we would like to hear from as many of our sisters and brothers in Christ as possible.

Following this initial task force meeting, we believe there will be a minimum of three sub task forces formed, potentially more based on our initial gathering, that will begin to work out the details of how we will proceed to make our new vision a reality among us. Right now, our leadership envisions a sub task force on the following areas: Public Proclamation (how we worship and share the gospel), organization (how we will most effectively organize our ministry teams, staff, Administrative Systems to accommodate our new model of ministry) and Welcoming (procedures for how we would extend invitations to other communities of faith who might be interested in being part of the UPG.)

We are excited about the possibilities of our community of faith. We look forward to the journey that we have embarked on and hope and pray that all of you will actively participate in these formation events in order that God’s will be done among our community and our shared hopes and dreams may become a reality.

May God continue to bless us on this holy pilgrimage!

Peace,

PASTOR JERRY

*In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

*3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.*

*4 The Word gave life to everything that was created
and his life brought light to everyone.*

5 The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1:1-4

Greetings and peace to you all!

Recently an anonymous note was received by the leadership of our community of faith. Normally, anonymous notes/letters are disregarded by our leadership because we have no way of contacting or being in dialogue with the author. This note however, we believe touched on areas of our shared faith journey that we thought it was important to share the contents and responses from our leadership.

Please know, that we, along with all of you have an understanding of how difficult it is to be in a state of change and transition as a community of faith. We realize that in some aspects there is grief and mourning over “losing what used to be the norm, (i.e. a specific worship time at a specific place, or Sunday school on a specific campus)”

It remains our hope that we, as the United Proclamation of the Gospel in Bethlehem, are able to see the many positive attributes of this new ministry. The leadership of the UPG has never seen this arrangement as two congregations sharing a common pastor, rather the intent of this arrangement from its inception has been to view ourselves as one congregation with two campuses.

We share the contents of this note with you in hopes that together we can hear the concerns of this brother or sister in Christ and appropriately respond to these concerns. We believe there are many within our community who have similar concerns about our new ministry together and while each specific concern differs from one person to another perhaps the responses to these questions may provide some insight, inspiration, and a renewal of heart.

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Comment: I know of one child who doesn't want to go to Sunday school because it is not held at St. Peter's and another child who goes to the "other church" because the "other church has more customers so I have to go there."

A response: The "other church" is OUR church. A primary motto and often spoken of description of the United Proclamation of the Gospel is that we are ONE community of faith with two different campuses. As members of this community of faith we should see all ministries of the UPG as OUR ministries and not "mine" or "theirs." The decision to conduct Sunday school under the UPG banner was a difficult decision to reach. This decision was made after realizing that St. Peter's campus did not have enough people interested in leading Sunday school and parents were not regularly bringing children to Sunday School. We should all be grateful that as part of the United Proclamation of the Gospel that we have so many willing and capable teachers and wonderful opportunities for our children to participate in Christian Education with many more children than they previously would have been able to learn and grow together in the presence of God.

Comment: The adult Sunday school class has great confusion over answers to the "refresher test."

A response: We are blessed in the United Proclamation of the Gospel to have adult Sunday school on both of our campuses. We are also blessed within our community of faith to have wonderful people who willingly share their gifts and talents with the greater community in leading these classes. Perhaps instead of criticizing these sisters and brothers, we should pause a moment, give thanks to God that they share their gifts with all of us, and actively participate in these classes in order to help and aid in these Christian Education

opportunities instead of being critical of them.

Comment: I find it embarrassing trying to explain that my congregation has no Sunday school and no youth group.

A response: We are truly sorry that you find it embarrassing to share that the United Proclamation of the Gospel is a new way of viewing traditional church patterns. We are truly sorry that you find it embarrassing that you are unable to see the United Proclamation of the Gospel as YOUR congregation. That being said, "YOUR" congregation does offer Sunday School on a weekly basis, it occurs on our **Light of Christ** campus for children every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. "YOUR" congregation does offer a "youth group." The UPG has had several ministries, both fellowship and service related, for the children of the UPG, most recently OUR youth group had a car wash in order to raise funds for a local "no kill" animal shelter. At this event there were four youth from our Light of Christ campus and four youth from our St. Peter's campus.

Comment: How do "southside kids" get to Sunday school?

A response: This is a great observation, perhaps you could organize an effort to help young people from the "southside campus" find rides to Light of Christ.

Comment: How would a Lehigh University student get to Light of Christ?

A response: see response from last question.

Comment: If you can't worship at St. Peter's on Sunday that does not create a good evangelism tool. When a young family is choosing a congregation, they surely would-

n't come to a place with no Sunday school.

A response: Again these are good observations, however from it's inception the UPG was shared with our community that this was a new model of ministry. The hope of the leadership of our community of faith is that in fact it is a good evangelism tool to share with the world that our two campuses come together on a regular basis in order to demonstrate to ourselves and to the world around us that there are many more important things that "bind us together" than things such as geography or bricks and mortar that separate us. Again, the UPG does have a Sunday school available for children and each campus currently shares Children's Church for young people which is wonderfully led and allows our children to learn more about God and grow in their faith. For these things and for so much more, we should be grateful to God for the abundant resources that are available in this new model of ministry.

Comment: How do "southside folks and Lehigh University students get to worship when worship is moved to the North side for random occasions?"

A response: Again, a great observation that many people could easily help with simply by offering rides to their sisters and or brothers in Christ. A special note: based on the congregational questionnaires that we completed in May of 2018, there was an expressed desire that the United Proclamation of the Gospel would offer more shared worship celebrations. The Worship and Music ministry team responded to this desire by recommending that the UPG celebrate joint worship every other month. This recommendation was approved by our congregational councils at our July 2018 meeting. The dates for these "random occasions" to date, have not been "random." We have come together in August to celebrate a joint outdoor worship with a UPG picnic. We have come together in September to join in the ELCA's celebration of God's Work our Hands Day and to pull the resources of our two

campuses together in order to have a more profound impact in our world. Our next joint celebration will be held on Reformation Sunday which also serves as the anniversary date of the formation of our Light of Christ campus, a date that indeed should be celebrated by all of us. During the Christmas season, specifically Advent week 4 and the First Sunday after Christmas will be joint celebrations due to the fact that over the last five years these worship celebrations have been more poorly attended than normal.

Comment: If you participate in Sunday school and then worship at Light of Christ, worship goes into the afternoon.

A response: a wonderful observation that is true for all people who desire to attend our 11:00 AM worship. Unfortunately due to the reality that we currently have one called leader to lead our public worship celebrations the reality of time management on a Sunday morning is crucial. Perhaps as our two campuses continue to draw more closely together we will be able to offer an earlier worship celebration on one campus (perhaps 8:00 AM) followed by a shared Sunday school and a late worship which would allow for an earlier "sending" time.

Comment: If I'm a Lehigh University parent visiting Bethlehem, what does it say when the doors of St. Peter's are locked on a Sunday morning.

A response: It suggests that this community of faith is hopeful in the continued proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the year of our Lord 2018, that this community of faith is taking into consideration the financial realities associated with operating a 26,000 square foot building and the need for multiple staff members in order to maintain the ministries that the people of this community of faith expect. It says that we as Christians

living in 2018 are constantly seeking ways in which we can more effectively communicate the truth of God's love for all people.

A final note: As the pastor of this new, exciting, and challenging ministry, I continue to be amazed at the abundance of gifts, talents, and resources of our sisters and brothers in Christ. As we continue to move forward we do so knowing that there are many within our community who are lamenting the loss of "what once was." We invite all people in our community to join us in the upcoming task force work which will set a path for this newly formed community for the next five years. True, there are still many issues that need to be addressed and worked on, we are inviting all members to help be part of the solution to these issues. In the midst of this time we request that all people of the United Proclamation of the Gospel continue to keep our leadership in your thoughts and prayers.

Peace.

PASTOR JERRY



Dear Members of the UPG,

Our efforts to thank our gracious and loving God each and every day for the abundance of blessings bestowed on us sometimes fail. We go about our busy schedules forgetting that it's not about us. Let us remember that all we have and are is a gift from God. As we will soon celebrate our national Day of Thanksgiving, perhaps this story will put "giving thanks" into perspective.

This story is about the circumstances that brought about the writing of the words to one of our favorite hymns, "Now Thank We All Our God." It has an interesting history, one that is surprising in many ways, and one that can remind us that no matter the situation, our God is always there for us with gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness and grace.

Martin Rinkart, author of the words, "Now Thank We All Our God," was born in Germany in the year 1586. Being a musical child, he spent his earlier years as a chorister at St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, where J. S. Bach was later to be the director of music. After completing his education, Martin was ordained as a Lutheran pastor.

He arrived to begin his pastorate in the city of Eilenberg just as the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) began. The ensuing bloodshed combined with a deadly plague and famine claimed many victims, reducing the German population from sixteen million to six million. At its worst, Rinkart found himself as the only pastor left in Eilenberg to care for the sick and bury the dead. He often conducted upwards of 50 funeral services a day.

Despite the intense personal suffering and strain he experienced, Rinkart was still able to express an unswerving faith and gratitude to God in the text of "Now Thank We All Our God." In this way, he encouraged the surviving members of Eilenberg to know that no matter how severe their adversity, they could begin to heal by being thankful.

Today, as they did almost 375 years ago, the eloquent words of Rinkart's text can serve to bolster our faith and thankfulness for God's loving care. Recognition must also be given to Johann Cruger, who composed the tune to Rinkart's text in 1647, and to Catherine Winkworth, who translated Rinkart's text into English in 1858.

Suggestion: next Sunday when you come to worship, turn to hymn #840, read the text with a thankful heart knowing that God loves and cares for you.

YOURS IN CHRIST,

LINDA MAULE, DEACON

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



CHRISTMAS
GIVING TREE

This year on the LoC campus, we will purchase books for the libraries of Marvine Elementary school and the LoC preschool. Suggestions will be printed on the tags with collection beginning

on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2. Please do not wrap the books; place them under the tree before or on Christmas Eve and include the tag with the book. Thank you for helping children experience the joy of reading.

On St. Peter's campus, the Giving Tree for Head Start students is decorated with paper mittens and children's names. Take a paper mitten, then purchase children's mittens or gloves, and a hat. Please bring the items to church with the paper mitten and a \$3 donation to buy a book. Items can be returned by December 16 in a clear plastic ziplock bag. Note: the items should have no references to religious or secular holidays (for example, no Santa or religious themes). Warmest thanks for keeping Head Start students warm this season!

THE BETTER BUY THRIFT SHOP - LET'S GO SHOPPING!



Jesus reminds us to help feed and clothe our neighbors. We bring food to church to be distributed through food banks and we support Backpack Buddies.

But how can we help clothe people? It's easy! The Better Buy Thrift Shop is staffed by members of local faith communities – including our UPG. Items are sold for a dollar or two and anyone in need can receive a voucher for free clothing.

Simply gather clothing items in good condition for men, women, and children (nothing torn or stained please). Donations can be delivered to the shop, located at Cathedral Church of the Nativity at 3rd and Wyandotte Streets during shop hours --- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Coats, hats and scarves are in great need now as cold weather moves in.

Also accepted are small household items (no furniture) and knickknacks. If you have items from cleaning out a house or items that you don't need from your own home, plan to donate to the shop.

Here's another plus --- Because of the high quality of the available clothing, many UPG members and community members shop at Better Buy for themselves. Purchasing brand new clothing with the tags still on or almost-new clothing makes sense for everyone's budget.

The Better Buy shop is a win-win-win. The shop is staffed completely by volunteers. Every year hundreds of people receive low or no-cost clothing and the approximately ten thousand dollars raised each year are given to a program caring for residents of south Bethlehem.

Clothe our neighbors, clothe yourself, and support caring programs for our south Bethlehem community. Contact our Coordinator **EVELYN SMITH** for more information.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018 AT 3:00 PM – VALLEY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA



The next concert in the UPG concert series at St. Peter's takes place on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 3:00 pm. The Valley Community Orchestra was founded in October of 2015; this fine group of musi-

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cians comes from all walks of life and ages. They are committed to growing in their abilities and sharing their talents with the wider community. Their director says “We are thrilled to be playing at St. Peter's today and hope you enjoy the program.”

The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken at the door to support the concert series. All are welcome.

LIGHT OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 11, 2018



On **NOVEMBER 11**, Light of Christ will hold a congregational meeting after the 11:00 AM worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and vote on the 2019 budget.

Please save the date and plan to attend this important meeting.

UPG WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY IN NOVEMBER ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH AND 20TH



All women of the UPG are welcome around the Bible Study table. The group meets in the Social Room on the **St. Peter's** campus from 9:30 to 11:00 am.

Enter off the parking lot level. Ring the 'St. Peter's' doorbell and Kathi will let you in!

The coffee/tea are ready as are some light snacks. The current study on repentance will continue as the group gathers to discuss the role of Lutheran Christians' responsibility to the world around us. Repentance~~admitting a wrong and changing behaviors~~is important in all relationships. Our relationship with God, each other, and the world all require the honest admission of doing wrong and being willing to change and do better. Our God is a God who forgives and lets us move on, a great gift of love for God's children.

Please prayerfully consider coming to Bible Study. Come whenever you can, bring a friend, and enjoy time with other women in study, conversation, and prayer. If you have any questions, please see **ELIZABETH ELTERICH**.

SAVE THE DATE



On Tuesday, December 4, all UPG women are invited to a Christmas Tea. This will be held in the Social Room at 11:15 am. Bring a snack and a favorite tea cup and enjoy some time together with all women of the UPG.

NOTE: In the month of December (4th & 18), the study will focus on an Advent Bible study, 'Fear Not'. A phrase that we often hear, but how do we live it out in today's world? Plan now to be part of this December Advent study.

NOTE: Beginning in January 2019, there will be a four-month study focusing on the Gospel of John "Meeting with Jesus," looking at the variety of people Jesus interacted with throughout his ministry~~people just like us.

CRAFTER'S NIGHT GATHERING



On Monday night, November 12, and Monday, December 10~~note change of date~~anyone who enjoys crafting projects of any

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kind, is welcome to come to the UCF room on Level I at the **St. Peter's** Campus from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring whatever project you're working on and share some good time with others who enjoy the joy of working with our hands. During the evening, ideas and projects are shared, materials are shared, and good conversation is shared. In the business of the holiday season, take time to share your favorite craft with others. There is a large table, comfortable chairs and good company. Any questions, see **ELIZABETH ELTERICH** or **BARBARA KEENER**.

Christian Education Director



Dear Members and friends,

We are looking forward to celebrating with our confirmands at a UPG dinner to be held for the students and Pastor Jerry and Shirley on **November 17, 2018** at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of our **LOC** campus. The young people will enjoy a meal together and then go over the details of the confirmation service. We extend many thanks to the dedicated and generous volunteers who are supporting our youth with their donations of food for this meal.

On **November 18, 2018** **TAYLOR BAGGEST, EVAN HAWK, QUINN JACKUS, LUKE KING, JESSE NICHOL, KAILYN SEIXAS, KEEGAN THOMPSON** and **JILLIAN WEIERBACH** will affirm their baptism at our confirmation worship services on either the St. Peter's campus or the Light of Christ Campus. Please support them in worship as they make public affirmation of their faith. God bless our confirmands! Thank you to all of the volunteers who have supported our youth throughout their confirmation journey.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR UPG CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve worship schedule has been announced for the UPG. The children's service will be held at our LOC campus at 4:00 p.m. We will practice the songs during Sunday School beginning on November 25th and continuing each Sunday through December 16, 2018.

We will hold the Saturday rehearsal in Light of Christ's sanctuary on December 15, 2018 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with the party following in the fellowship hall at 11:00 a.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will once again attend our Christmas party with a small gift for each child. Volunteers will be needed to help with the children and to organize the party.

Please know!! It is very important for families who desire their children to participate in the pageant portion of this service to send them to Sunday School on the LOC campus in order for them to learn the songs. Attendance at the rehearsal on December 15, 2018 is also a part of participation. Please call Lynn Terry at LOC's number or Pastor Jerry with any questions. We are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with the children.

CARE PACKAGES

Parents of college students and military members: please submit your son's/daughter's address to either church office or email to Lynn Terry lynnjt680@verizon.net before November 6, 2018 if you would like them to receive a care package! We are in need of bakers, packers and donations to fill the packages. A sign up sheet is in the narthex of the **Light of Christ** Campus and in the sign up area on the **St. Peter's** campus. We will assemble the packages on November 10, 2018 on the LOC Campus in the fellowship hall. Currently we have eight addresses and will be in need of many donations. Your help is greatly appreciated for this ministry to thrive!

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YOUTH NIGHT

On November 23, 2018 youth ages 8th through 12th grade will meet on the LOC Campus for our first UPG Youth Night. Pastor Jerry and Mrs. Haas are making plans for an engaging evening with lots of fun activities planned. More information will come home through Sunday School.

WINTER FESTIVAL



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 1, 2018 to be at our LOC Campus for an awesome indoor and outdoor winter festival with a live outdoor nativity to tell the story of Jesus' birth to our neighbors!! We are asking for volunteers of all ages to take turns being in the nativity. Please contact **LYNN TERRY** at the LOC office if you are interested in being in the nativity! This promises to be a joyful festival with many activities in the planning stages and plans for lots of food including homemade Christmas cookies.

ing for volunteers of all ages to take turns being in the nativity. Please contact **LYNN TERRY** at the LOC office if you are interested in being in the nativity! This promises to be a joyful festival with many activities in the planning stages and plans for lots of food including homemade Christmas cookies.

Sunday School Schedule for December 23 and 30, 2018

Please know that joint worship services will be held at **St Peter's Campus** on December 23rd and on **Light of Christ's Campus** on December 30, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Therefore, **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 23 and 30, 2018!!** We look forward to resuming Sunday School on January 6, 2018.



<http://www.messiahlutheran18017.org/child-center/>

Follow us on Facebook: Messiah Lutheran Church
Child Center

Recently our council asked how they and other members of our congregation can help our preschool thrive. We are very thankful for this question and concern for our preschool and the children in our care. As you may know we are surrounded by four new preschools/day cares that have opened in our area. We are feeling the effects of competing with these brand new facilities. Our preschool board members and our council are committed to helping us grow in enrollment. We are one of the few remaining church affiliated preschools. We can offer so much more because we are teaching in Jesus' name. Children at our preschool learn that they are loved and cherished by God and their teachers and pastor. We are blessed beyond measure to be telling children that God loves them, who God is and His stories of love for all people. We never take this for granted. Some of our young children are hearing this for the first time here at our preschool.

In the weeks ahead we will be asking for building improvements to our school building. Support of these improvements is one way that members can help. Our council designated money to be used for building improvements. We will ask for a portion of this money.

Our members have supported our preschool in many awesome ways throughout our 10.5 years of existence. Our property committee members have worked hard to clean, paint and replace lighting among countless other ways. Many people have supported our scholarship fund, served on our school board, read to our children, donated items for our basket raffle, plus many more ways. We work hard for all of the money that we have for school equipment, the fencing for the play yards and essentially for all that we have for use in our school. We are thankful for your support!!

We are very thankful for all that you have done and continue to do!! We hope to see you at Family Fun Night at Friendly's 3099 William Penn Highway on November 13, 2018 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will go to our pre-

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school. Please come and enjoy fellowship with members of the UPG and our preschool family while enjoying dinner and/or ice cream. We also will hold a basket raffle during the evening.

With the funds raised through our Friendly's event we are hoping to purchase new surfacing for our play yards.

Our baskets will be on display in the narthex of LOC on November 4 and 11, 2018 and raffle tickets will be sold. You do not need to be present at Friendly's to win a basket.

Our Raffle Baskets Donated by Our Members!!

- Two Crayola Baskets - Family Movie Night Basket
 - Fall Longaberger Flower Basket—Philadelphia Eagles' Basket
 - Phantom Hockey Tickets—Christmas Baking Basket
 - Coffee Lover's Basket—Christmas Party Basket
 - Wine and Cheese Basket—Two Fleece Blankets
 - Children's Book Basket—Framed Photograph
 - Avon Basket—Snowman Basket
 - PJ Whelihan's Gift Card—Lottery Basket
- And More!!

During the month of November we will be counting our blessings in lessons and songs. We are looking forward to our family Thanksgiving Chapel Service with Pastor Jerry on November 20, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome!! We will be collecting food for a local food bank at this service. We are also making plans for our all school Thanksgiving Feast to be held in the fellowship hall. We will be dressing as the people who celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

Thank you to all who purchased greeting cards and books during our Back-To-School Usborne Book Fair which was held in September. We earned \$400.00 in books for our new reading room. This is amazing!! Thank you for your support!!

We have been enjoying raking the autumn leaves during outside play as much as possible. The children enjoy being outside in God's great world. The children, staff and I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. We are thankful for all of you!!

With God's Blessings,

LYNN TERRY

Christian Education Director/MLCCC Director

Lynnjt680@verizon.net MLCCC (610)861-0645

GOD'S WORK.OUR HANDS TEAM



Winter coats

Our collection of winter coats in good condition for men, women and children will continue until Thanksgiving. Please bring them to either campus.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS



meal.

Please look for the Giving Tree on both campuses and take a tag from the tree. Buy the item suggested, return it by Sunday, November 11th, and you will have helped provide a UPG family in need with a hearty Thanksgiving

BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTER

Volunteers to provide food and supervision are urgently needed at the shelter at Christ UCC, Center and Markets Streets. The shelter opens on December 1st. Please contact **MICHELE LLOYD** if

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you can volunteer your help.

We are continuing to collect tube socks and underwear for men and women.

WINTERFEST

Come and see! the Winterfest on Saturday, December 1st from 4:00-6:00 PM at LoC. A wonderful treat is in store for those who attend: a live Nativity (animals, too), a children's carnival corner, free food and homemade Christmas cookies, music of the season by the Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble, and a reading of Christ's birth narrative with the singing of carols. Invite your neighbors and friends. This is the UPG sharing the Christian message with our neighbors in the community. Don't miss it!!

A Christmas quilt has been donated for the UPG to raffle during Advent. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The quilt will be on display at LoC on December 2 and 9 and at St. Peter's on December 16 and 23. The winner will be announced at our joint worship at LoC on Dec. 30.

A recipient for the proceeds will be announced soon.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

The deadline for contributing shampoo, lotion, diapers, and women's personal care products is Sunday, December 2. Please bring those items to either campus.



Christmas Ingathering

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Beginning in November, the 2nd Sunday of each month will be designated as Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring your donations of nonperishables and help fill the food bas-



FOOD PANTRY

ket.

A special monetary offering will take place on the 5th Sunday of the months of December 2018 and March, June, September and December of 2019.

Postponed activities from God's Work.Our Hands Day of Service

⇒ **The clean up at Fountain Hill cemetery took place on Sunday, September 23rd. Thank you to the volunteers who performed this much needed community service.**

Thank you to the volunteers from our UPG youth and their adult supervisors who washed cars on Saturday, October 6th. The \$223 in donations will be a blessing to the Center of Animal Health and Welfare.

MUSIC MINISTRY



The choirs of the UPG need your help to prepare special music for December. Rehearsal time is 7:30 PM on Wednesday evenings at both campuses. Please consider a short-term commitment to "make a joyful noise" during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Both choirs also rehearse before Sunday morning worship. You are invited to join us then as well.

TROTTEY 'SHARKEY' KOSTIC, a member of **Light of Christ** and former member of St. Matthew's Church, died on October 19, 2018. His funeral service was held at the Connell Funeral Home on Oc-



tober 25.



In the Mailbag!

Dear Members of the UPG,
Thank you for all of the generous school supplies you donated to our school! So many students come back to school with no supplies or very little supplies. There are various reasons for this but the majority are from low income families. Your generous donation has helped so many of our students! It was a kind and thoughtful gesture! We are lucky to have such wonderful churches in our community. Thank you again for everything!

Nitschmann Middle School 6th Grade Staff

Dear Preschool Staff,

The staff of Unangst Tree Farms wants to thank you for choosing our farm for your 2018 Fall Field Trip! We hope the children, parents, and teachers all had a fabulous time learning in our outdoor classroom. We wish you an amazing year of learning and we look forward to seeing you next year for another wonderful learning experience at UNANGST TREE FARMS.

Dear MLCCC Board Members Present and Past,

How can I possibly convey to all of you my gratitude for your incredibly generous gift upon my retirement from the Board? Thank you seems so inadequate, but it is the only phrase I know. I am deeply touched by your thoughtfulness. I will use the money toward my new lift chair, which will be ordered shortly.

It was an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board, and to work with all of you. You have my heartfelt gratitude for your check. May God bless each of you.

With Christ's love,
Diane Voron

Dear Friends,

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your expressions of support and concern during my illness and recuperation. The prayers, the cards, the visit by Pastor Jerry prior to my surgery and the beautiful altar

flowers delivered by Lois Zigmund and Judy Sopko have all helped to lift my spirits.

I hope to be with you in a few weeks.

Blessings,
Susan Schellenberg



If you are need of a ride to worship or a church activity, please contact:

**GEORGE & LINDA BALTZ—
610-691-2994**



- 4 James & Alberta Baggest
Randy & Karen Schoch
- 11 Sammy (Victor) & Deborah Albors
- 17 Richard & Mary Bender
- 23 Clifford & Patricia Ousley
- 24 Nathan & Rebecca Righi
- 25 Tony & Karen Favinger
- 26 Abner S. & S. Jane Merkel
Theodore & Sandra Birchmeier





1	Lauren Fotiades Zachary Peek Keegan Jones Richard Kunkle Betty Marshall		
2	Jonathan Infantino Mary Beth Jacavage Eric Booser Susan Nichols		
3	Matthew Fotiades Jelissa Diaz Charles Reinert		
4	Tracy Groller		
5	Florinda Cope Kaitlyn Keller Bonnie Hodge Kevin Kunkle		
6	George Kummer II Thomas Sarver Donald Hetzel		
6	Francesca Piscitello Bruce Seif Jane Shollenberger		
7	Maureen Gramlich Paul D. Kalynych Mackenzie Moyer Edward Stephenson		
8	Kristin Frankenfield		
9	Ava Watson		
10	Alberta Baggest Mark Langkamer		
11	Melanie Olenwine Fran Walter		
12	Payton Cogle		
			Lynn Baglyos
		13	John Derham Trudy Handelong Marianne Napravnik Rosie Grellet Beverly Pizsel
		14	Blair Frankenfield Jay Geiger
		14	Judith Diefenderfer
		15	Stephen Hubinsky
		16	Richard Bender Kirk Snyder Beverly Kisslinger Ellen Muschlitz
		17	Stephanie Hofelich Jarrod Roberts
		18	Cassandra Young Kathi Raphael
		19	S. Jane Merkel Donna Tripp Cassidy Carraghan
		20	Wyatt Waas Lisa Weingartner Patricia Newhart
		21	Betty Klaus
		22	Donna Boyle Melissa Fye
		23	Ryan Grube Nancy Stoeper Jeannine Wilkinson
		24	Vincent Santoro
		25	John Halleman III Tony Nguyen
		27	Arline Snyder
		28	Ann Merkel
		29	Christopher Bosco Thomas Hubinsky

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

Beginning with the January 2019 mailing, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com or 610-266-5101.

Living into Common Mission



St. John Lutheran Church and Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal) in Sayre enjoyed the fruits of its partnership this summer in at least two ways: sending 10 youth from both parishes to the Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston, and worshipping together for the summer months. Both experiences have enriched the relationships between the two parishes.

Some years ago, the two parishes began discussions about sharing clergy with the Synod and Diocese. Early in 2017 an Episcopal priest was called to serve both parishes, bringing a full time presence to each at a part-time cost. Building on a successful youth program at Redeemer, the youth of both parishes combined to form a single youth group.

In December, the group decided to attend the LYG; and in less than six months they raised sufficient funds to send to Houston all ten eligible youth and four adult companions, including the pastor. As far as it is known, this was the only interdenominational youth group in attendance! And the youth found that for them, the Youth Event motto "this changes everything" was in fact true.

Because of construction projects at each site, the two parishes worshipped together during the summer months, alternating between Lutheran Worship and the Book of Common Prayer from week to week. Majorities of both congregations attended services, regardless of where the service was held. Both memberships remarked on how nice it was to worship in a full church and how much they appreciated the opportunity to get to know one another better.

A Year Long Celebration of Serving

For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works. (Ephesian 2:10)



At St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Rally Day is more than the kick-off to Sunday School. It is an introduction to a year-long focus not only for Sunday School, but for the entire congregation. The ELCA theme, "God's Work Our Hands" was selected by the Parish Education Committee to celebrate the talents which we have been given by God to serve our community and the world.

To introduce the theme, the children were asked to bring cans of food to donate to a local food pantry, make first aid kits, and sing songs about being a helping hand.

Hand prints listing community service ideas were hung on the church walls to encourage young and old to offer their gifts to others. Located around the church are specific "God's Work Our Hands" crosses. St. John's members place a "hand" sticker on one of the crosses when they have used their hands to do God's work. As the crosses fill up with hands this year, they will serve as a way to celebrate all the good work being done by one church in Berks County, collectively using unique God-given gifts to make a difference in the world.



More Stories from God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



Faith, Mount Penn

Several other stories about God's Work. Our Hands. community outreach projects are posted on the synod website (<http://nepasynod.org/events/stories-gwoh-sunday>). If your congregation participated in one, send a short story with one or more photos to georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com.

As you can see from the article above, these projects can take place throughout the year!



Good Shepherd, Reading

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