



# THE PROCLAMATION

JANUARY 2019

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

LIGHT OF CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



*When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2: 10-11*

Greetings and peace to you all!

The waiting, the watching, the wondering of Advent 2018 was replaced with the great joy and exhilaration of another wonderful Christmas! A time when on Christmas Eve nearly 500 people heard the Word of God proclaimed for their lives anew across the UPG! Truly a wonderful celebration and witness to the power and glory of God come among us!

Now, our eyes turn towards the night sky as we prepare to celebrate the season of Epiphany! Epiphany literally means "manifestation." During this season our Christian hearts look to celebrate the revelation of Christ in the world. First in the magi's adoration of the Christ Child, next Jesus' own baptism in the river Jordan, then on to Christ's first miracle in which he turns water into wine. In all these places, in all these times God comes to us in human flesh made visible for our human eyes and hearts to have Christ revealed in our world!

As a community of faith, we continue our visioning process for the UPG — an intentional time when people within our community are looking for the light of Christ being revealed within our midst and how we might best proclaim that light in the world in which you and I live!

The hopes and prayers of the leadership of the UPG are that each person who gathers among us would be able to see and experience the joy of Christ dwelling among us.

May we all be able to move forward witnessing to the light of Christ which shines ever so brightly within our midst.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jerry

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Dear members of the UPG,

Happy New Year! May the peace of Christ be with you.

A new year lies ahead. What will you do for the next 365 days? Will you make a difference in your own life and/or in the lives around you? To help you focus on what God wants you to be and do, plan to begin your daily devotions with Luther's Morning Blessing.

Luther's Morning Blessing is a very beautiful prayer that sets the right tone for the advent of a new day and a new year. The words help us to know more clearly that we belong to God and, because God loves us, God will always be with us. This is the prayer:

*"I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself, my body, my soul and*

*all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."*

During the recent Christmas season, we sang the hymn, "Love Has Come." These words are the epitome of how much God loves us in the gift of God's son Jesus. This is the final verse by Ken Bible (b. 1950) as they are found in our worship book:

*"Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.*

*Love is Jesus within and among us. Love in the peace our hearts are seeking.*

*Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you God on high!"*

You and your family are wished a most blessed New Year with God's abiding love and presence walking with you through whatever joys and sorrows the coming days will bring.

Peace be with you,

**Linda Maule, Deacon**



**DAVID ENSTROM**, a member of Light of Christ, died on December 13. His funeral was held on December 17.

**DONALD BRAMWELL**, a member of St. Peter's, died on December 13. A private funeral was to be held.

**GENEVIEVE KRIEGER**, a member of St. Peter's, died on December 15. Her funeral was held on December 22.

**PATRICIA VELEKEI**, a member of Light of Christ, died on December 15. Her funeral was held on December 22.

**CAROL LEMPKE SAYLOR**, a non-member,

died on December 17. Her funeral was held on December 20.

**RICHARD HERO**, a member of St. Peter's, died on December 18. His funeral was held on December 26.

Please keep the families and friends of **DAVID, DONALD, GENEVIEVE, PATRICIA, CAROL,** and **RICHARD** in your prayers during their time of mourning.



**REYNA LYNN RAWHOUSER**, was baptized on January 6, 2019 at LoC campus. Reyna's parents are Scott and Kimberly Rawhouser.

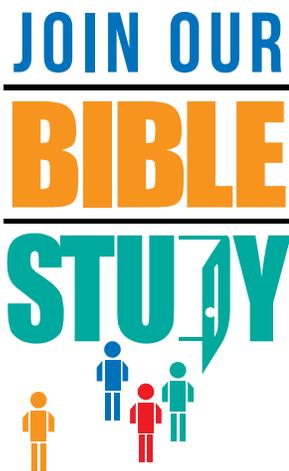
## WHAT'S OLD IS WHAT'S NEW



### Fellowship Group

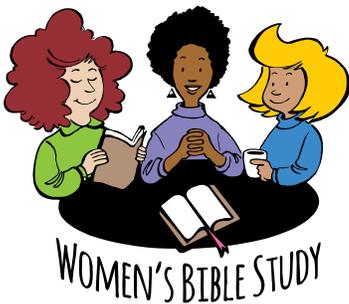
The UPG men's fellowship, which meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (St. Peter's campus), is now opening our arms to any person, regardless of gender, who would like to join us! We are beginning an exciting new study entitled "Animate" published by the 1517 Publishing House (formerly Augsburg Fortress). In this study we will be discussing issues of faith, for example "the radical nature of Christ's love to the world." We always have coffee and wonderful fellowship available. A time for sharing our joys and concerns is always available and we normally complete our time together by 7:30 AM for those who need to get to work. We hope that you consider joining us for this wonderful opportunity.

## THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY



Each and every Thursday, many of your sisters and brothers gather with Pastor Jerry to hear, to discuss, to reflect on God's Word. Many people seem to be a little intimidated to join the Bible study, fearing that they do not know or understand Holy Scripture, however, this study is truly designed to offer insights into the background of Holy Scripture and search out the thoughts and impact of this Scripture in our daily lives. For many who join us at this ministry, there is a feeling of excitement in that this time together helps prepare them for the coming Sunday's worship as we discuss the texts that will be shared in our weekend worship celebrations. This ministry is currently offered on our **Light of Christ Campus** at 9:00 AM and our **St. Peter's Campus** at 6:30 PM. Recently our numbers for the evening study have declined, if this situation does not change the evening study will be suspended at the end of January. Please consider joining us for this opportunity to hear and learn more about how God calls us to live in the year 2019!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



insightful, spiritual articles. The time together includes the study time, prayers, and support of each other on our faith journeys.

Consider starting 2019 by coming to the Women's Bible study on January 15 and 29. Note: We usually meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, but will not meet on New Year's Day, so for January 2019, will meet the 3rd and 5th Tuesdays.

Beginning in January 2019, the group will focus on the study entitled "The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus." The author, the Rev. Julie A. Knarr, will guide our discussions and of meeting Jesus as Jesus interacts with various characters of the Gospel. The study is found in the Gather magazine of the Women of the ELCA. Each woman receives a copy of the magazine which has many helpful,

(Continued on page 4)

### CRAFTERS' NIGHT



Monday, January 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, begins a new year of Crafters' Night. The group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the UCF Room on Level 1 on the **St. Peter's Campus**. Ring the Church doorbell and you'll be let in. Whatever craft you enjoy, bring it along with you and enjoy the company of other crafters. There are plenty of chairs and a sturdy table place to work on your projects. Bring your own supplies, patterns, ideas, and energy! Some work on scarves, prayer shawls, chemo caps, blankets, baby toys, etc. Show off your craft specialty.

It is a quiet time away from the noise of the loud world we live and work in all day. When projects are completed, prayers are raised for those receiving the gifts made with hands of love.



### GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS TEAM

### FALL COAT COLLECTION

During the fall months, members of the UPG donated over 100 winter coats. They all found homes in Bethlehem at the Trinity soup kitchen, Northeast Ministry, the Calvary pantry and the Nativity Thrift Shop. Thank you for helping to keep someone warm this winter.



### CHRISTMAS INGATHERING



Members of the UPG collected 130 bottles of shampoo, 24 bottles of lotion, 19 packages of diapers, and 34 packages of personal care products. Thank you for supporting the Ingathering which in turn supports these local social service agencies: New Bethany Ministries, Turning Point, Victory House, and Community Services (Head Start) all in Bethlehem; Safe Harbor Shelter, Third Street Alliance, ProjeCt, and Bright Hope, all in Easton; the Hellertown Area Food Bank; and Lehigh Valley Children's Services.

### REUSABLE PANTRY BAGS

On Sunday, December 9th, reusable pantry bags with the UPG logo were blessed during worship. Members are encouraged to pick up a bag, shop for the food pantry (check Pew News for suggestions) and bring the filled pantry bag back on Pantry Sunday, January 13.

### THRIVENT BREAKFAST



Thrivent members and non-members alike who have a passion for outreach ministry are invited to attend a breakfast meeting to discuss and

plan Action Team projects for 2019. We need to know who will repeat previous projects and what new ministries we might do.

Please bring your suggestions to **Light of Christ** at 9:30 AM on Saturday, January 12 (snow date – January 19). Beverages will be provided; please bring a small breakfast nibble to share.

### THRIVENT NEWS

Did you know that in 2017, Thrivent members volunteered 14.4 million hours to help their communities, and \$280 million in total outreach was generated by Thrivent and its members?

Also, in 2017, 88,000 members led 124,000 Thrivent Action Teams, making a difference in their communities.

The UPG is part of those statistics as we continue to do our part to provide outreach to the community by taking advantage of the support we receive from Thrivent.

### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

**THRIVENT MEMBERS:** Please remember to assign your choice dollars to the organization of your choice by March 31, 2019. During 2018, \$3678 in Choice Dollars was gifted to the campuses of the UPG. Thanks to Thrivent for helping us "make a difference."



**OUR NEXT CONCERT IN THE UPG** concert series at **St. Peter's** is on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 4:00 pm AGO Organ Recital. Organists from the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will perform a wide array of their favorite works from the organ repertoire. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music. This is a free concert. A free will offering will be taken at the door. All are welcome.

- *“A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.” —Unknown*
- *“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.” —Martin Luther King Jr.*
- *“Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.” —Henry David Thoreau*
- *“Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone’s life. Be the light that helps others see.” —Roy T. Bennett*
- *Good habits are as addictive as bad habits, and a lot more rewarding. —Harvey Mackay*
- *Whatever we are, we are not what we ought to be.—St. Augustine*
- *The new year is our opportunity to refresh our relationship with the One who says, “See, I am making all things new” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).*
- *Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian. —G.K. Chesterton*
- *I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.—Martin Luther*
- *A Christian cannot help being free, because in the pursuit and attainment of his object, no one can either hinder or retard him.—Leo Tolstoy*



- 1 Amanda Olenwine
- 2 Pamela Celecz  
Richard Romig
- 3 Terry Knauss  
Carol Tullock  
Alison Valish  
Riley Musselman  
Jasmine Swartz
- 4 Elizabeth Rolls
- 5 Carol Ann Cope  
Anna Elterich  
Timothy Nonnemacher
- 6 Hollie Nolan  
Angelina Frankenfield
- 7 Jordana Chung  
Arthur Faust
- 8 Elinor Kuhns  
Alexander Lehman  
Karly Myers  
Raymond Snyder, Jr.  
Nancy DeAngelis  
Alexis Holzinger
- 9 Wendy George  
Patricia Schoenberger  
Justin Seip
- 10 Roma Ziegler
- 11 Kaitlyn Donchez  
Dennis Newhart
- 12 Sandra Halleman  
Jamie Lynn Peiffer  
Joshua Young
- 13 Kerry Isaac
- 14 Jacqueline Brueningsen  
Madison Langkamer
- 15 Jeremy Griffis  
Jesse Nichol
- 16 David Cope
- 17 David Myers, Jr.  
Leslie Snow
- 18 Geraldine Hottle  
Emery Cybuck

- Anthony N. DeAngelis
- 19 Mary Ann Erney  
Chad Gillette
- 20 Angel L. Diaz
- 21 Brenda Demyan  
Thomas Keim  
Robert Moyer  
Emily Vasily-Schoeny  
Michael S. Keller
- 22 Joan Rogers  
Joan Erb  
Kurt Garbe
- 23 Scott Rawhouser  
Kelley Schaaf  
Joan Zambor
- 24 Joshua Anders  
Andrea Baggest  
Harold Dudeck, Jr.  
Lesley DaSilva  
Amy Faulch  
Frank Wetzel
- 25 Colin Dravec  
Carla Dudeck  
Ian Eberle
- 26 William Hammersmith  
Phyllis Hummel
- 27 Betty Terry  
Sherry Frankenfield  
Michael Taylor
- 28 Virginia Bersch  
Cami VanGorden
- 29 Marlene Bender  
Nancy Freeman  
Chris Kunkle  
Patricia Morris
- 31 Jack Donchez  
Kathleen Gerhard  
Sandra Horwath  
Aidan Johnson  
James D. Nonnemacher  
Lee Sauerwine  
Keith Young

**WINTER WARMTH**



*O God, you give the winter's cold,  
as well as summer's joyous rays.  
You warmly in your love enfold,  
and keep us through life's wintry days.*  
—Samuel Longfellow

# ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

- 6 Gerald & Shirley Kulp
- 9 Glen & Jessica Lehr
- 21 Matthew & Beverly Pizsel



## In the Mailbag!

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff and Board at Northeast Ministry, we'd like to thank you. The programs and services of NEM would not be possible without the support of friends and donors like you.

You have helped improve the lives of many food insecure and low-income families of the Marvin-Pembroke community of Northeast Bethlehem. This neighborhood is home to over 2,000 individuals, all of whom live at or below the poverty level, and are often overlooked and underserved.

From the NEM family to yours, we wish you a joyful holiday season!

Paula

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Ingathering, I want to express my sincere thanks to you and the members of your congregation for the wonderful response to the 2018 Christmas Ingathering program. Each year our Ingathering response for giving is overwhelming.

The response was over 6,300 health care and other items which were contributed by 20 participating congregations of the Bethlehem/Easton Mission District. We boxed and distributed all personal health care products, diapers, children's underpants, hats, gloves, bedding, games, puzzles and miscellaneous items. In addition to those, there were donations of

\$900, so we were able to give each institution \$100. We truly appreciate the generous monetary gift that each church contributed.

The following institutions benefited and were so grateful for the many items and money from the Christmas Ingathering:

- ◆ New Bethany Ministries, Bethlehem
- ◆ Third Street Alliance for Women and Children, Easton
- ◆ Victory House, Bethlehem
- ◆ Safe Harbor of Easton
- ◆ Community Services for Children (Head Start), Bethlehem and Easton
- ◆ ProjeCt of Easton
- ◆ Bright Hope (Formerly Care-Net) Centers in Bethlehem and Easton
- ◆ Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
- ◆ Hellertown Area Food Bank

Unfortunately, when I called Lehigh Valley Children's Services to pick up the items we had for them, they said they no longer wanted them. So, that brings us to another question. Should we supply items for another institution or go with the nine listed above. If you have another institution in mind, please let me know at 610-838-0651 or [barbl697@aim.com](mailto:barbl697@aim.com).

The 2019 Christmas Ingathering will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Tatamy on December 4.

Again I want to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to all who helped make the 2019 Christmas Ingathering a tremendous success.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara Young, Chairperson



# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Learning Ministries Day Saturday, January 26

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven  
(snow date: February 2).



The keynote speaker is Elsayed "Steve" Elmarzouky, spokesperson for the Reading Muslim Community.

Steve is a Reading area restaurateur, past president of the Islamic Center of Reading, and chaplain in the correctional and healthcare systems in Berks County.

He speaks to many audiences about his personal journey of faith as a practicing Muslim in Egypt and the U.S., and how his understanding of Islam reflects principles familiar to all people of faith.

Workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Participants can choose to learn about new resources, learn a skill, or choose a workshop for their own personal growth.

LM Day is a wonderful time to meet other Lutherans in our synod - youth and adults alike - and to do some networking and glean ideas from one another. A lunch is provided for participants.

For more information and to register, please visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/learning-ministries-day-2019>.

### ELCA Youth Leadership Summit 2018



*[Two youth from our synod, Gianna Valenti from Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre and Ben Knox from Hope, Reading plus Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin, St Paul's Easton attended the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Ashland Nebraska. The following is a writeup by Gianna.]*

At the beginning of this year, if you asked me where I'd be this November, I would have thought anywhere **but** Nebraska. However, I am glad I ended up in the chilly, midwestern state at the beginning of November; for if I hadn't, I would not have learned so many new things, met so many new people, and grown so much closer to God.

This year's ELCA Youth Leadership Summit was all about Advocacy, more specifically Lutheran Advocacy. Throughout the weekend we had multiple speakers talking about many topics, including Environmental Conservation, World Hunger, AMMPARO, Women's equality, Latinix & African-Descent ministries, and LGBTQ+ acceptance in the church and the world. Each station opened my eyes about what I am capable of doing for the world with the help of God. Personally, the speakers talking about racial injustice and LGBTQ+ acceptance touched my soul the most; I will be working towards a more accepting future!

Besides the overall theme, I found joy in meeting other Lutherans from across the country. Within the large camp where we stayed, I met so many amazing people and learned about their vast and different lives and cultures. The group of girls I stayed with and the group I prayed with were all amazing people that I greatly wish to meet again!

## Did your congregation receive the January monthly mailing?

If you did not, please contact us at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).

Perhaps there is no email on file for your congregation, or there may have been some other problem.

The synod recognizes that this transition may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we are trying our best to make it as smooth as possible. Thank you for your patience.

## Brenda Stauffer Retires



Brenda Stauffer, administrative assistant to Bishop Zeiser, retired at the end of December.

Since beginning her work at the synod office in 2009, Brenda has been responsible for maintaining leadership rosters, providing forms/letters/certificates for congregation leadership transitions, managing the computer database, providing clerical support to the bishop, and managing his appointment schedule.

She also kept notes of the staff meetings, monitored office supplies, and prepared and distributed the annual "Confidential Report to the Bishop."

Brenda has been a trusted colleague, faithful worker, and an effective administrator. We thank her for her dedicated years of service and we wish her lots of joy in retirement.

## Kristen Glass Perez New Muhlenberg College Chaplain



I am thrilled to be called as Chaplain at Muhlenberg College where I started on June 15, 2018. I am also very thankful for the hospitality shown to me from both the college community and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as I begin this new call.

Before coming to Muhlenberg, I served as Chaplain and Director of Vocational Exploration at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in the Northern Illinois Synod. Prior to that, I served as Director for Young Adult Ministry for the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America in Chicago, Illinois.

My "home" synod is the Minneapolis Area Synod, where I grew up and the majority of my family still lives. It is fun for me to be an East Coast resident for the first time and to experience the beauty and unique setting of the Lehigh Valley!

As I begin this new call, I am impressed with Muhlenberg College's commitment to spiritual exploration across a variety of religious and non-religious traditions and am excited about working with a religious life team that serves the entire community. I understand the Chaplain's Office to be the perfect place to offer space for hospitality, reflection, and innovation as an integral part of campus life.

I am also intrigued about the very real possibilities for collaboration across the college and the synod to explore intersecting questions of meaning, purpose, and identity. I believe that college is the perfect time to find the liminal or "in-between" spaces where students explore foundational questions about who they are, what they like and don't like, and how understanding their own answers to these questions will help them to make an impact on the needs of their various communities.

I am delighted to join both the Muhlenberg College community and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and begin our work and life together.

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Pastor Jerry Kulp  
Pastor Kurt Garbe  
Rev. Edith B. Roberts  
Rev. Eugene F. Sharkey  
Kathi Raphael  
Kenda Riley  
Sandy Horwath  
Deacon Linda Maule  
Marisa Deshler  
Lynn Terry  
Michel Lloyd  
Oraine Roth  
Al Radtke  
Lisa Mantz

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Responsible for Administration of God's Word  
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Senior Pastor of UPG  
Pastoral Care Assistant  
Pastor Emerita St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Pastor Emeritus Messiah Lutheran Church  
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