



THE PROCLAMATION

FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

LIGHT OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. ⁴² When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual."

Luke 2:41-42 (NLT)

Greetings and peace to you all!

Recently I read a book that a friend of mine shared with me entitled: "Birds of Pray." This book which encompasses many interesting facts about the Philadelphia Eagles Superbowl winning team from 2018 really impacted me. More than my fascination with the NFL than with the Eagles, I was impacted by the life style, at least publicly displayed, from these professional athletes.

Upon finishing this book, my thoughts and my prayers asked a question: "Shouldn't what these young athletes experienced during this year be something that all Christians can have access to?" These athletes studied God's Word together, they prayed together, they shared both social and service activities together, and they developed close relationships with one another allowing them to even rebuke and admonish each other in love when necessary.

I began to wonder how a community of faith might be able to foster such a life style with the sisters and brothers that gather together. I began to imagine what it must have been like for Jesus and His family to make a pilgrimage each year to Jerusalem. In my thoughts and wanderings I imagined a young Jesus learning about faith from the family he walked the dusty road with. I could imagine Jesus and his friends talking about ways in which God was at work in their lives and sharing one another's burdens.

Then it dawned on me that Lent 2019 is just around the corner!

During the season of Lent, we will be forming "pilgrimage" groups. Each group (consisting of four people) will be asked to read the same Scripture daily, respond to study questions shared by Pastor

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Jerry, and complete a small “faith oriented” activity. To be part of a “pilgrimage group” will be a true commitment from each participant for the six weeks of Lent. I know that the type of commitment I am looking for in these “pilgrimage groups” will not be everyone’s “cup of tea.” My hope and prayer however, is that by sharing in this pilgrimage to Jerusalem along with Jesus and His friends and family, Lent and Easter will take on a deeper meaning for each of the travelers.

There will be two large group sessions as part of this pilgrimage. The first one will occur on our **St. Peter’s** Campus in the social room on March 2, 2019 at 9:00 AM and will last approximately two hours. At this session, group assignments will be shared and the pilgrimage will be fully revealed. The second Large group session will occur on the **Light of Christ Campus** in the fellowship hall on April 27, 2019 at 9:00 AM and will last approximately two hours to assess how this experience impacted everyone during Lent and Easter of 2019.

Part of the process that we are attempting to elevate is to provide opportunities to get to know

other people on a deeper level. Because of this, groups will consist of at least two people that you may or may not know very well. I realize that this can be unsettling, so if you would like to be assured that you have at least one person in your group that you are already comfortable with (perhaps a spouse or close friend) you may annotate this on your application.

All applications must be received by our offices or Pastor Jerry not later than our worship celebrations on February 23 and 24, 2019.

If you have questions or concerns about this ministry, please contact Pastor Jerry.

Please take some time in thought and prayer to see if this might be a wonderful opportunity for you to experience Lent and Easter 2019. This ministry is open to all people of the UPG age 12 and older.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jerry



Dear members of the UPG,

How is your heart?

February, as some health organizations refer to it, is Heart Month. Many of us receive brochures from area hospitals urging us to take care of our health, especially our hearts, by eating heart-healthy foods and exercising regularly – a good plan not just in February but year round.

February is also a romantic month for many people – a time for engagements, marriages, sending Valentine's Day cards, taking a romantic getaway, or going out to enjoy a candlelight dinner. Sometimes it's just telling a special someone that we love them.

You see, our hearts have a dual purpose - to keep us alive and to help us show love toward one another. God loves us so much that we are gifted with hearts that beat and breath that speaks the love our hearts feel.

In every worship service, God bestows unconditional love toward us in Word and Sacrament; we, in turn, proclaim our love for God in prayer and song. We hear how Jesus models love, forgiveness, acceptance, and respect toward friend and stranger and calls us to do the same. LOVE is the operative word in all that we, as Christians, say or do.

The UPG believes that hearts are important year round as we speak these words each week in worship: "Proclaiming God's love, one

(Continued from page 2)

heart at a time; and, one heart at a time, proclaiming God's love." Come to worship and experience the Love that makes us One.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Linda Maule



HARRY QUIRK, a Light of Christ member, died on January 7. His funeral was held on January 14. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his wife Carol and their family and friends.

PHILLIP A. SABATINO, a member of St. Peter's, died on January 11. His funeral was held on January 15. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his wife of 69 years, Sara, and their family and friends.



UPG VISIONING TASK FORCE MEETING

Our third Visioning Task Force meeting will be held on Saturday February 9 at 9:00 AM in the Trauger Room on our **St. Peter's Campus**. During this time together we will be finalizing information for distribution to the community of faith following our joint worship celebration of March 3, 2019. Anyone interested in being part of this process is invited to be part of this meeting.

UPG LEADERSHIP RETREAT



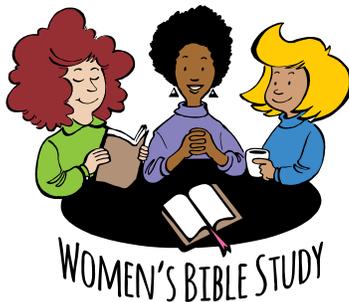
A UPG Leadership Retreat will be held on Saturday February 23 at 9:00 AM in the "New Fellowship Hall" on our **Light of Christ Campus**. During our time together our congregational councils and anyone who is interested will be invited to participate in a time of reflection and action on how we can best share in open and honest communications as we move forward as a community of faith. If this retreat sounds interesting to

you, please RSVP to one of our church offices no later than February 18, 2019.



SNOW CLOSING POLICY FOR WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND CRAFTERS' NIGHT: If Bethlehem Area School District is closed or has delayed start – events are cancelled.

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN



All UPG women are invited to be part of the Women's Bible Study on Tuesday, February 5 and 19, meeting on the **St Peter's** campus from 9:30-11:00 AM. Enter off the parking lot, ring the Church doorbell and Kathi will let you in. Coffee/tea and snacks are available!

The current study, found in Gather, the ELCA magazine for women, is entitled "Meeting with Jesus", based on the stories

(Continued from page 3)

of Jesus' interaction with all kinds of people as told in John's gospel. As Jesus interacted with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman, Jesus wants to interact with each of us each day. We'll consider how Jesus interacts in today's world.

CRAFTERS' NIGHT:



Crafters Group

Crafters of all types – basket weavers, card creators, knitters, crocheters or however you craft – are welcome in the UCF Room on Level

I on the **St. Peter's** campus from 6:30-8:00 PM on Monday, February 18. Bring your own supplies – a cozy room, comfortable chairs/sofas and a sturdy table are awaiting your arrival! Come share your crafting gifts with other interested crafters.

CONCERT SERIES ON ST. PETER'S CAMPUS



You are invited to attend these great concerts at St. Peter's. Mark your calendars now for the exciting season of music.

All concerts are in St. Peter's Nave and are free. A free will offering will be collected at each concert to fund this concert series.

concert series.



SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019 at 3:00 PM – Marisa Deshler, Organ Concert. St. Peter's organist performs beautiful pieces to begin the Lenten Journey

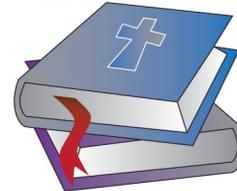


SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019 at 3:00 PM – Lehigh University Chamber Ensembles and Soloists. Showcases the many musical talents of Lehigh students



SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019, 3:00 PM – "Music Among Friends". Lucille Kincaid with some of the Lehigh Valley's top musicians

Christian Education Director



Dear friends,

The day was rainy and cold but that did not dampen the spirits of those who attended our first Winter Fest for the UPG. We celebrated the beginning of the Advent Season with music, crafts, games, community displays and information, lots of delicious cookies and other food and a Live Nativity.

God's light shone through the many members who worked behind the scenes and during this event to make it a beautiful reflection of God's love to the many who attended. Our Sunday School and preschool sponsored crafts for the children who attended and sponsored the Live Nativity. Twenty-five children, youth and adults participated in the Live Nativity. God was with us as the children remained in their places for one half hour during their participation in the nativity. He also provided enough costumes for all to wear through the generous support of our members.

December continued with a flurry of activities as the Sunday School and weekday teachers and I worked with our children and youth in our preparations for the birth of Jesus. Our children and youth of the UPG learned the story of Jesus' birth through bible readings, songs, poems, art and music. We celebrated together following our rehearsal for our Children's Christmas Eve service with a Christmas party in the fellowship hall of LOC. Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Tom Seifert and Lynn Malok) visited with a candy cane for each child. Our families provided the food for the party. Three large boxes of baby care items were collected for local families. These were donated by our weekday school and our Sunday School families and church members. The children brought these items to the manger on Christmas Eve and during our weekday preschool Christmas Chapel service. Thirty children and youth participated in our 4:00 pm. Christmas Eve Service. Many thanks are extended to the adults and youth assistants who helped with the rehearsal and the service. Thank you to Pastor Jerry for his engaging children's message on Christmas Eve and always!!

During the Christmas school break a fun event of jumping, games and pizza was held at our local SkyZone and was organized for the children and youth of the UPG by **TRACY HAAS**. This event was very well attended and we thank Tracy for her work on this event!

On January 18, 2019, the youth of the UPG gathered for a fun evening of activities, food, fellowship and a movie led by Pastor Jerry. This event included youth in grades 7-12. Shirley, Mrs. Haas and Mrs. Terry also attended.

Our confirmation classes are resumed in January for our winter term. Students were notified through email.

Please save size 7 or 8 women's dress shoe and/or sneaker boxes for our care packages for 2019. This is the best size for mailing. Please place them in either church office. We are in need of 15 boxes. Thank you very much.

On March 3, 2019 we will hold one joint worship service on the **St. Peter's** Campus at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School will not be held this day in order for our teachers and families to attend worship. We will welcome new members at this service.

Please save the week of July 15-19, 2019 for Vacation Bible School!! We will need many volunteers to bring the message of God's love to the children and youth who attend. More details will be available in the coming months.



“Look, Mrs. Terry, I see the Jesus star!” said a child in our preschool during a chapel lesson recently. Her statement is reflective of what our children are learning here at the Light of Christ Child Center. This was during an Epiphany lesson on sharing the light of Jesus where we were looking at different kinds of light and a light up scene of a night sky. One of the stars in that sky scene reminded her of our Christmas lessons where we learned about the star in the sky the night Jesus was born. Our children here are learning foundational reading, writing and math skills and so much more in this setting where we are free to tell them that God loves them and we do, too!

Your support of this year's Giving Tree is another way we as a church are sharing God's love with

our preschool children. Thank you ever so much for the beautiful and age appropriate books you so carefully selected for our children. The early reading books are especially meaningful as they hold the promise that soon the children will be reading. Our preschool staff and I cannot thank you enough for your support. In January we held a special book day filled with book sharing, a book related snack, and story creation during which we distributed the books. A label was created for each book with the child's name and the words "A Gift from the UPG Giving Tree 2018".

Thank you to **CLIFF BENGSTON** and his daughter, **ERIKA**, who knitted the beautiful hats and scarves which adorned the Giving Tree following the book tags. Some children at LOCCC were among the recipients of these hats and scarves.

Lutheran Schools Sunday will be celebrated at **Light of Christ** during worship on February 24, 2019 at the 11:00a.m. service. Our preschool children will sing in worship as well as our Sunday School children and youth through 6th grade. A welcoming reception will be held following the service.

Please mark your calendars to attend our spring Friendly's Family Fun Night on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at 3099 William Penn Highway. If you have a talent or a service to share we are always thankful for donated items which help generate funds for our preschool. Creation of a themed basket is also very much appreciated.

Some highlights of the month of December at preschool were our Christmas Chapel service, a trip to the Edgeboro Moravian Christmas Putz by our Fascinating Fours Class, a visit by Santa Claus and our Christmas lessons and parties. Our Barnes

and Noble Book Fair was held in early December where we participated in the store's Polar Express Night. A train ticket and jingle bell were given to every child who attended by our preschool and the store provided hot chocolate and cookies for all participants. We are so thankful to all members of the UPG who purchased books during the fair. All of our library wish list books were purchased and we earned a \$98.00 gift card to the store. We will use this money to purchase educational materials for our school. Thank you!!

LARISSA PELLETIERS continues to work on creation of the reading room in our Education Building as part of her work toward her Gold Star Award in Girl Scouts. We are thankful for her work and are looking forward to adding "library" time to our preschool day.

January has found us learning about God's winter wonders. We have been creating snow scenes, snow people, snowflakes and engaging in science lessons while playing with pretend snow in the activity table. We hope to have some real snow soon to explore. Our January Pajama Day is a much anticipated event where we learn about rhyming words, engage in counting activities, enjoy movement, play acting and a special bedtime snack.

February will find us getting ready for our Lutheran Schools Week Celebration as well as learning with Dr. Seuss stories and activities. Our staff will have an inservice day on February 15th.

You may have noticed while reading this article that our name has officially changed now that we have all of the proper documentation as of January 11, 2019. We are the **Light of Christ Child Center**. I am working on updating our name on all forms, online and with all vendors and our payroll

company. This will take some time so please be patient with me.

February begins our registration for next year. Please spread the word of our nurturing preschool where we share God's love everyday with the children in our care. We have classes and extended care for children age 2, 3, 4 by October 1st of 2019.

With thanks and praise for all of God's blessings,

Lynn Terry

Director Christian Education



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS TEAM

CHRISTMAS QUILTS – Proceeds from the raffle were \$240 to support missionary partners in Argentina; winners were **KAREN SCHOCH** and **MATT PISZEL**. Thank you to everyone who participated.



GIVING TREE – LYNN TERRY distributed 27 books to the Preschool children; **LINDA MAULE** took 47 books to the Marvine Elementary library. Principal Eric Fontanez and librarian Laurie Werkheiser were especially appreciative of our generosity.

KNITTED ITEMS – KATHY COFFIN, KAREN FAVINGER, MICHEL LLOYD, MARY MANN, and LOIS RITCHIE volunteered to deliver the handmade

scarves, hats, and gloves that decorated our Giving Tree. The knitted items will go to Northeast Ministry, Trinity Soup Kitchen, Bethlehem Emergency Shelter, Calvary Templo, and New Bethany Ministries.

Thank you to **INGRID BENGSTON EBERLE** for making and sending these beautiful knitted items that will keep many people warm this winter.

DECEMBER BLOOD DRIVE – Eleven donors registered and 10 units were collected. Thank you to each donor. Another blood drive will be scheduled in the spring.

PANTRY SUNDAY - On January 13, the UPG collected many pounds of oatmeal, pancake mix, cereal and juice for Northeast Ministry. The response from members of both congregations was amazing!! Thank you for sharing your abundance with others.

Next month, our Pantry Sunday is February 13. We will collect cereal, pasta sauce, and canned entrees (beefaroni, beef stew, ravioli, etc.) for New Bethany Ministries. Please consider volunteering to help the GWOH Team deliver the food.

LENTEN PROJECT – During Lent, the Sunday school and congregational members of the UPG will encourage contributions for Mary's Shelter, a Bethlehem agency that supports homeless and pregnant women and new mothers. More details to follow.

SPECIAL OFFERING ON SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Following worship on February 3, you will find three soup pots for your monetary donations to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Two pots will represent the teams playing in the Super Bowl and one pot will represent Team UPG. Please vote for

your favorite team with a generous offering to help alleviate hunger.



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BREAKFAST –
The Thrivent

breakfast held on Saturday, January 12, was attended by 12 members of the UPG. A lively discussion followed while we enjoyed breakfast food and coffee.

If you were unable to attend, please let Linda Maule know about the project you plan to do or a project you would like someone to sponsor. Many Action Team projects are being planned for this coming year as our outreach to the community and beyond.

OPEN INVITATION – Our next GWOH Team meeting is Tuesday evening, February 12th at 7:00 PM on the **Light of Christ** campus. You are invited to come and share your ideas for the kind of outreach you would like to see the UPG undertake. We look forward to your input.

MUSIC



MINISTRY

SPECIAL THANK YOU - To all the participants who played and sang their songs and carols on Christmas Eve, thank you for sharing your time and talent to enhance our worship.

UPG CHOIR REHEARSALS

Both choirs rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 PM in the choir rooms. Anyone is welcome to join us – from middle school on up. We look forward to making music with you.

BINGO AT CEDARBROOK ON APRIL 23

It's time for Bingo at Cedarbrook on Delaware Avenue in Fountain Hill on April 23 at 6:15 PM. The residents really look forward to our visits.



Please donate prizes of perfume, lotion and cards; also small bags of chips, pretzels, crackers or cookies (no candy please) are appreciated. Prizes can be dropped off in either church office with a note "Cedarbrook Bingo". And if you can help at bingo that night, please call either church office . Thank you!

GROCERY GIFT CARDS BENEFIT UPG YOUTH!

Grocery store gift cards for Giant and ShopRite are available on both campuses.

For every \$100 of cards sold, the store gives \$5 to the UPG which benefits our UPG youth.

To purchase a card, see **MICHELE WEIERBACH** at LoC, **KENDA RILEY** at St. Peter's or stop in at either church office.



- 6 Joshua & Cassandra Young
- 11 Allan & Jacquelyn Radtke
- 24 Donna & Ed Musselman
- 25 Scott & Eileen Reitenauer



In the Mailbag!

Dear Members,

Thanks so much for sending me the care package full of sweets. I loved what was in it and appreciate the

kind and thoughtful gesture.

My first semester at Lehigh has been fun and interesting, but it has also kept me very busy. I'm working hard at my studies right now, but it's great to know that you have been thinking about me. It means the world to me.

Warm regards,

Joshua Brandle

Dear Members,

Thank you so much for the wonderful box of goodies! It came as a complete surprise and I couldn't have been happier. Your care package arrived during a particularly stressful week, and it was reassuring to feel your love and support. It was just what I needed to get me through the week. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!!! I love and miss you all very much.

Best Regards,

Michael Brandle



- 1 Kristen Christman
Donna Fye
Lorriene Hertzog
Eleanor Moyer
- 2 Arlene Davidson
Lindsey Hunsicker
Lillian Yanzsa
- 3 Alfred Tullock
Rebecca Wise

- 4 Betty McAndrew
Cory Zrinski
Tony Favinger
Nancy Ryan
- 5 Anthony Baggest
Mary Mann
Tori Geiger
- 6 Theodore Birchmeier
- 7 Sherry Dancsecs
Dylan Markwith
- 8 Deborah Gaydos
Melinda Cruz
Nelson Perez Jr.
- 10 Tracy Haas
Margaret Sames
- 11 Donald T. Brosious
- 13 Kaylynn Schoenenberger
- 15 Marilyn Musgnung
- 17 Brian Dancsecs
- 19 Trey Jeffery Griffis
Lee Sandra Kociolek
- 20 Tyler O'Keefe
Breanna Frankenfield
Anne Marie Henshaw
- 21 Geraldine Cutsler
Graceson-Asher Tuazon Seixas
Judith Young
- 22 Stacy Gerhard
Rebecca Jenkins
- 23 Laurie Cybuck
- 24 Stephen Granlund
William Seixas
Richard Hoffert
Jan Kospiah
- 25 H. Richard Erney
- 26 Kristine Unger
Daniel Zrinski
Mike Finn
Samuel Haas
Joanne Seif
- 27 Kole Hammersmith
Shellie Twigg
- 28 Barbara Donnangelo
Grace Faust
Sharon Gombotz
Eileen Reitnauer
Scott Reitnauer

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Toy Drive in Schwarzwald



Several years ago, Pastor Scott Staub had a dream that the Schwarzwald community could hold a Toy Drive for the children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry. The program began at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church; and now in its third year, it has become a truly community effort. This year the following churches participated in the Toy Drive: Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, Schwarzwald UCC, St. Lawrence UCC, Northstar UMC, and Bethany Lutheran Church.

Financial support was provided by Thrivent Financial and Tompkin's VIST Bank. Wood-to-Wonderful provided their lovely handmade, wooden toys. The Arbor Inn, Effie's Charcoal Chef and Jake's of Mt. Penn provided collection sites, funding and cooking assistance. Boscov's Travel, A Perfect Secretary, Exeter Veterinary Hospital, Five Below, St. Lawrence Women's Club, Rotary of Mt. Penn/Exeter, Exeter Lions Club, the Exeter Girls Scouts and the Exeter Food Pantry collected toys, bought toys and provided many hardworking volunteers.

There was absolutely no problem getting volunteers for this event! We had the hardest working, most joy-filled volunteers ever! Would you believe that we never had to ask for help with this project? The volunteers found us! We had set-up help, truck drivers, bakers, food servers, toy sorters, personal shoppers, tireless gift wrappers, friendly faces; and we even had a full crew at clean up time!

The parents were very grateful and shared their thanks freely. We heard stories of disability, lost jobs, housing complications, sick children and even lost spouses. Most of the parents were relieved to have been invited to the event, expressing that they had no idea how they would have provided Christmas for their children without the Toy Give!

Synod Assembly 2019 New Theme and Logo



The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on June 1 at Genetti Red Roof Inn and Suites in Hazleton.

The theme, "Freed In Christ For a New Day," highlights that "in Christ, there is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The new logo symbolizes some of the underlying concepts and content to be explored at this Assembly:

The FONT style is bold and clear, fresh and informal, reflecting a church that is open to all ages and clear in its belief and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The three colors are representative. (View the color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>).

BLUE - the skies and the waters that abundantly bless our Synod territory; and the waters of our baptism.

GREEN - the hills, mountains, valleys, and the rich fields and farmlands that are our heritage and our legacy, bestowed on us to steward, share and pass on to those who come after.

GOLD/YELLOW - the rising sun of the new day dawning in Jesus; the light of Christ; and even the fresh loaf of bread, the body of Christ broken for us.

The **FISH** is the earliest symbol of Christ and his first followers, and connects to his feeding of the 5,000 and his call for us to "fish for people."

Food Pantry Expansion in Dingmans Ferry



Holy Trinity in Dingmans Ferry has been operating a food pantry for 30 years. In recent times, as the number of families coming to receive supplemental food has grown, Holy Trinity has partnered with state and local government, local businesses, the Delaware Valley School District, and the community to purchase and collect food to distribute.

Barbara Hupfer, the Holy Trinity Lay Assistant, coordinates the pantry, ordering food, recruiting and training volunteers and scheduling and meeting with food pantry recipients. The pantry is open 5 days a week.

In recent years the need for additional space for storage, freezers and distribution of food became critical. The congregation was blessed by a \$100,000 gift from a parishioner who volunteers in the pantry and a grant from the Land Share Act of Pennsylvania for \$50,000 to pay for the 980 square foot addition onto the church.

Bishop Zeiser came to preside over the dedication of the new pantry. He spoke about recognizing the mission of God being shared in the church and the community, including the county and local elected officials who were present.



The congregation is filled with joy over this growing ministry that daily serves people in need. Each month, over 150 families are given supplemental food including, cereal, canned goods, meat, vegetables and a variety of staples. The congregation is blessed by being a blessing.

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February 2019