

'Till We Meet Again!

February 11 and 12 2023

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Dear Members,

The 3 communities of faith held the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023 and the vote to accept the Plan And Agreement of Merger, which includes the Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws was passed! The vote to accept the offer from Lehigh University to purchase the properties was passed!

Please keep this in mind, We recognize that some might be anxious to contribute and write checks to Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church, but please do not start. Please continue writing checks to your congregation as we just started the filing process for the legal formation of Blessed Trinity and will be unable to deposit your contribution. If you still would like to contribute to Blessed Trinity, please make your checks payable to your congregation and put **"Blessed Trinity" in the memo line.**

We will keep you informed as more information becomes available. Also, please look for a separate email regarding the letter from Lehigh University that was read at our Special Congregational Meeting.

Blessings!

Sandy Butch (LOC)

Ken Remaly (SJW)

David Kolman (STP)

Council President

Nancy Kostas (LOC)

Kevin Remaly (SJW)

Joe Bleier (STP)

Unity Team co-chair

Weekend Worship

February 11th
5:00 PM at St. Peter's
February 12th
10:00 AM at St. Peter's

This Week's Worship Ministers

February 11th

Assisting Minister: TBD

February 12th

Assisting Minister: Rosalie Adducie

Organist: Marisa Deshler

Acolyte: TBD

Lector: Nancy Kostas

Communion Assistant:

TBD

Ushers: Sandra Butch, Dolores Kennedy,
Pat Little and Glenn Breidenbach



January 26, 2023

Dear Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church Congregants,

Thank you to the congregations' leadership and members for your time as you convene. We respect the thoughtful process in which you have engaged for the sale of the churches that your congregations have called their respective homes for many decades.

We want to first express our continued commitment to purchasing these properties and reinforce our interest in being thoughtful stewards of these spaces. Lehigh's future, and our past, are inextricably connected to Bethlehem and the Southside. We recognize that each church has unique significance to the areas and communities you serve. We have a history and experience with preserving historic buildings, and deep respect for the roots of each of these congregations.

Regarding our thoughts for each of the three churches, St. Peter's is in close proximity to Lehigh's campus, and we can envision many short-term and long-term uses for St. Peter's that align with our mission and advance our ability to teach, develop new knowledge, and serve the community. It is our understanding that your combined congregations would prefer to continue to worship at Light of Christ while you search for your long-term home, and we welcome Blessed Trinity to continue worshipping in this space in the coming months as your search continues. St. John's Windish has been the focus of substantial discussion by members of the community and the City; we are committed to open conversations with a variety of organizations and partners to gather input from the community and leaders on future uses of the St. John's Windish church and parking lot that reflect the needs and interests of both Lehigh and the local community. We would like to state clearly and unequivocally that we have no intention of building student housing on any of the church sites, including the parking lot associated with St. John's Windish.

Lehigh is deeply engaged in service and investing in the Southside. Our students, faculty and staff belong to countless community organizations and dedicate several thousands of hours of service each year through local schools in South Bethlehem and community organizations such as the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley. We have many programs that engage the community as partners in ways that reflect the university's mission and help benefit and support the Bethlehem community. We remain committed to the greater Bethlehem community to ensure a bright future for all.

On behalf of Lehigh, we wish the very best for your congregations and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Melby".

Joseph Melby
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Urban".

Nathan Urban
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Bible Study

Pastor Mike will be hosting a mid-day Bible study on the Apostle Paul that will comprise the Wednesdays of Lent, from March 1 through March 29. We would convene in St. Peter's Social Room at 2:00pm and finish by 3:30pm. We would be following a pattern used this past Fall when he led a similar study of the Five Scrolls where we offered snacks and beverages to go along with our study. Please contact Pastor Mike to sign up, and he will provide you with a syllabus.

Next Week's Ministers

February 18th

Assisting Minister: TBD

February 19th

Assisting Minister: Steph McGregor

Communion Assistant: Stacy Stocker and Delynn Gerhard

Organist: Marisa Deshler

Lector: Gene Luff

Usher: Nancy Kostas, Tracy Heberling, Glenn Breidenbach and Eric Harper

Attention Thrivent Members

If you have not already done so, please direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the church or organization of your choice before March 31st.

Food Pantry Sunday February 12th, 2023

New Bethany special needs list.

Canned soup (chicken noodle)
Canned pasta meals
Insta Cups of Mac n'Cheese, pasta meals, soups
1 & 2 pound bags of rice
Dried beans
Canned or pouches of tuna and chicken
Hot chocolate packs
Instant coffee
Cereal, single serves too
Baby food
Pet food

Jan 17, 2023 Joint Council Highlights

1. Blessed Angels in Ministry mailed 1,702 Christmas cards to 12 different nursing and rehab facilities in Bethlehem! They are in the planning stages of a Lenten project, look for details in the future.
2. Technology team gave updates for 2022 which includes the many various ways we communicate information, livestream our Saturday services, and provide tablet to view our services to members at no charge.
3. Joint Council voted on the following Unity Team recommendations:
Discussed, Voted, and Passed:
Recommendation from the Unity Team to the Joint Council that a Joint Special Congregational Meeting date be set on Sunday, February 5, 2023, with a reschedule date if necessary of Sunday, February 12, 2023, at St Peter's following the morning service to vote on the acceptance of the Plan And Agreement of Merger (with the revised Exhibit A and Exhibit C) which includes Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws, and a vote for the acceptance of the offer from Lehigh University to purchase the properties as presented at the town hall meeting held on Sunday, December 18, 2022.
Discussed, Voted, and Passed:
Recommendation from the Unity Team to the Joint Council that any communication from the Synod regarding the blending\merging of Blessed Trinity should include the Pastors, 3 Council Presidents, 3 Unity Team co-chairs, and Mary Mann as Unity Team synod liaison.
4. Please plan and join us after the vote for an anticipated celebratory luncheon of Blessed Trinity! Food will be provided and will include sandwiches, snacks, side dishes, and desserts. While you are there, please thank the members of the Hospitality team for their hard work in preparing this meal!
5. Copies of the original Plan And Agreement of Merger and copies of the Revised Exhibit A and Revised Exhibit C will be available for pickup as you leave the church. Revised Exhibit A and Revised Exhibit C will also be made available through email and other forms of communication.

****Copies of the revised Exhibit A and revised Exhibit C of the Plan And Agreement of Merger, due to state filing requirements, are available for pickup at Sunday's services, on our website, or contact the church office for a copy. ****

Unity Committee Meeting Recap

1. Meet on January 15, 2023
2. Discussed:
 - a. Welcomed Sharon Lintner as new member.
 - b. Reviewed recent letter from the Bethlehem Parking Authority and the attorney's opinion on the letter. Also received a revised Exhibit A and Exhibit C for the Plan And Agreement of Merger from the attorney due to Pennsylvania's new form for 2023. Reviewed voting procedures for Special Congregational Meeting. Upon discussion, a recommendation to the joint council was presented at the January meeting regarding a special congregation meeting.
 - c. Remind the Joint Council of the requirements for Blessed Trinity's council from each congregation.
 - d. Discussed the need to contact Pastor Jean Huber to set up a date to meet with her regarding the Synod's new pastor call process. This meeting will include the 3 council Presidents, the 3 Unity Team co-chairs, Pastor Mike, and Mary Mann as the Unity Team synod liaison. Mary will contact Pastor Jean Huber to get dates.
 - e. Discussed the previous recommendation regarding any contact from the synod regarding the blending\merger of the 3 communities of faith into Blessed Trinity. Upon, discussion, a recommendation to the joint council was presented at the January meeting.
3. Next Steps
 - a. Items on hold: Blessed Trinity Mission Statement, Blessed Trinity logo, Blessed Trinity Staffing requirements
4. Next Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2023 with a reschedule date if necessary on February 19, 2023.
5. Unity Team Sub-Committees:
 - Naming** = Kevin Remaly \ kevremaly@gmail.com
 - Constitution & ByLaw** = Mary Mann \ marsecy@gmail.com
 - New Location Search** = Mike Horwath \ jr4926@rcn.com
 - Asset Disposition** = Kenda Riley \ klr3704@hotmail.com
 - Archive** = Kenda Riley \ klr3704@hotmail.com
 - Non-Fixed Asset** = Nancy Kostas \ nkostas@verizon.net
 - Attorney** = Joe Bleier \ bleier.joe.amy@gmail.com
 - Mission Statement** = Kevin Remaly \ kevremaly@gmail.com
 - Fellowship** = Linda Toltesi \ ltoltesi@rcn.com

Unity Team co-chairs: Joe Bleier, Nancy Kostas, and Kevin Remaly
Unity Team members: Mike Horwath, David Kolman, Sharon Lintner, Mary Mann, Kenda Riley, and Linda Toltesi
Pastor Mike Button (liaison) and Pastor Suzanne Trump (liaison)

YOU can HELP!



****Please note: we'll move the blanket making to Sunday, Feb. 26 following the 10 am worship****

Another blanket making session will happen on **Sunday, February 26th**, at St. Peter's following the 10 AM worship. Blanket making happens in the Social Room.

A light lunch will be served. **IF** you can use a scissors, use an iron, and/or tie your shoes, **YOU** could help make blankets. These 3-layered blankets are one of the Lutheran World Relief projects that congregations support so that blankets can be shipped around the world to people in crisis. Imagine how it feels to receive a new, warm blanket after you have fled from a war zone, survived a natural disaster, or some other life changing experience, but now have nothing left of your own possessions. These are some of the situations when LWR arrives to give aid and distribute these blankets, food , temporary shelter, and other necessities. Making these blankets is one way to show hurting people around the world that Lutherans care about their neighbors around the world.

Please consider saving some time on **Sunday, Feb. 26th** , to help with blanket making. Any time you can give to this project is helpful and appreciated. If you need more information or details, see Louise Fielding or call Elizabeth Elterich (610-691-3130).

Drop a Line

Light of Christ Lutheran Church: 610-691-2321, lightofchrist@rcn.com

St. John's Windish Lutheran Church: 610-868-3282, office@stjohnswindish.org

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church: 610-867-0519, church@stpetersbethlehem.org

Pastor Mike: 832-561-0697, mikebutton52@gmail.com

Light of Christ Council

President: Sandra Butch, 610-865-6204

Vice President: Ron Dalla Piazza, 610-691- 2694

Secretary: Bonnie Harper, 610-691-6647

Donna Mackaravitz, 610-762-4213

Lou Dravec, 610-258-7679

Linda Maule, 610-258-5006

Tom Seifert, 610-442-2750

Buzz Heidecker, 610-866-3808

Teryan Gerhard, 610-762-9154

Kathleen Fielding, 484-241-7311

Paul Toub, 267-421-8256

St. John's Windish Council

President: Ken Remaly, 484-934-4532

Vice President: Joe Boligitz, 610-762-9414

Secretary: Susan Vitez, 610-390-9501

Treasurer: Maria Skrilec, 610-849-2519

Ron LePosa, 610-865-3523

Stephanie Skinner, 610-515-4079

Linda Toltesi, 610-751-7915

Mary Karol, 610-868-9601

Gayle Nemeth, 484-560-4971

Carol Henn, 610-868-7390

St. Peter's Council

President: David Kolman, 908-797-7460

Vice President: Kenda Riley, 610-554-1018

Secretary: Donna Musselman, 610-791-1820

Treasurer: Joe Bleier, 610-737-6613

Steve Granlund, 610-391-1638

Harmony Gubich, 610-974-9487

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Michel Lloyd, 484-695-3921

Susan DeAngelis, 610-838-8156

Tracy Heberling, 484-601-2414

This Week at Blessed Trinity

February 11th – February 19th

Saturday February 11th

5:00 PM: Worship with Live Stream

Sunday February 12th

8:00 AM: Worship Video Premiers

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: Worship at St. Peter's

11:15 AM: Unity Team (StP Trauger Room)

Monday February 13th

7:00 PM: LoC Dart Baseball (Dryland)

Tuesday February 14th

9:00 AM: Staff Meeting (StP Trauger Room)

Wednesday February 15th

7:00 AM: Fellowship Group

9:00 AM: Blessed Trinity Ladies Fellowship at LoC

7:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal (StP)

Saturday February 18th

5:00 PM: Worship with Livestream (StP)

Sunday February 19th

8:00 AM: Worship Video Premiers

9:00 AM: Sunday School (St. Peter's)

10:00 AM: Worship (St. Peter's)