



Proclaiming God's Love! One Heart at a time!

Regularly schedule ministries of the UPG!

Worshipping our Lord!

"The ground at the base of the cross is level! All people are welcome!"

See Worship and Music Subcommittee

Connecting Electronically to Worship our Lord!

"Live-Stream" Worship – At least one of our public worship celebrations will be "live-streamed" each week. Recordings of this worship celebration will be available through our web site and will include Holy Communion. UPG-STP; UPG-LOC; STJW

"Bring it Home Ministry" - For people who do not have internet capabilities, especially home-bound parishioners. Provide computer tablets that will have two options for the user: one to join the live stream worship and one to be connected to the UPG website. They work through the phone data service.

Learning more about our Lord!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." – Colossians 3:16

Sunday School - The UPG offers Sunday School for children of all ages! September through May each year. Classes available from 3 years old to 103! Many special event Sundays held: Rally Day, Harvest Home, Confirmation Breakfast, Lenten Fair, Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch, Sunday School picnic, 3rd Grade Bible Program & Breakfast (3rd graders are taught the books of the Bible and then receive a Bible), Singing Sundays, Service Events. UPG-LOC

Confirmation Education – The UPG offers a two-year Confirmation Education Program for young people entering the 8th grade. This class meets 3 times a year for four consecutive weeks on Sunday Evenings from 6-7PM. Young people enrolled in this class will learn more about Luther's Small Catechism and various topics to help them understand their faith. UPG-LOC

UPG Women's Bible Study - On the First and Third Tuesdays of each month at 9:30AM, Deacon Elizabeth Elterich (Retired) leads many sisters in Christ in a Bible Study ministry. UPG-STP

UPG Wednesday Morning Fellowship – Each Wednesday morning at 6:30AM (7:00 a.m. now) several people gather with Pastor Jerry to learn more about various issues of faith, enjoy some early morning fellowship and spend time together and with our Lord. Many times, a ministry book is shared, read, and discussed. This fellowship ministry is complete by 7:30AM so that participants can make it to work on time. UPG-STP

Lunch Bunch - a Bible study group that meets every other Wednesday at noon. Bring your own lunch to enjoy during the discussion. STJW

UPG Thursday Bible Study with the Pastor – Every Thursday at 9:00AM and 6:30PM Pastor Jerry and friends come together to take a closer look at the assigned Scripture lessons for the coming Sunday. We take a look at the historical context of these lessons and how these lessons might inform our lives in the 21st century. UPG-LOC

Brewing Theology – on the 2nd Monday evening (6:00PM) Many of us gather at TAPS restaurant located on 378S for dinner and to reflect on issues of faith occurring in our world today! Conversations have ranged from decline of the church, to why we do things in church the way we do them, to how God calls us to live in such a pluralistic world. UPG

Beer & Hymns - Once or twice a year, friends gather together at the Bethlehem Brew Works on a Saturday afternoon to have lunch, drink beer, and sing hymns. STJW

The UPG and Young Believers Ministries!

“From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” – 2 Timothy 3:15

Children’s Church is offered to young believers (pre-k – 3rd grade) at both of our Sunday morning worship celebrations. All children are welcome in our worship spaces! Each week following our children’s message, children who desire may leave our worship space with one of our Children’s Church leaders to participate in a worship designed just for them! The children are brought back into our worship in time to celebrate Holy Communion with their parents. UPG-STP; UPG-LOC

UPG Youth Group - Youth (7th through 12th grade) are invited to be part of our youth Group. Led by Tracy Haas (Light of Christ), our youth gather the 3rd Sunday of each month at 4:30PM. Our youth program focuses on fellowship, service, and learning opportunities. All of the youth from all three campuses are combined into this one group.

UPG “46’ers” - Our young people (grades 4-6) gather in person (or via Zoom) for a weekly Youth Hang (checking in and hanging out) where they can enjoy some quality fellowship time together in a nurturing environment. This ministry spans all three campuses.

Vacation Bible School – Each year the UPG offers vacation Bible School to our children. Normally our Bible School ministry operates from 9AM to noon, Monday through Friday for one week during the summer. UPG-LOC.

ELCA Youth Gathering – Every 3 years the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America brings together nearly 40,000 young people (entering 9th grade to just completed 12th grade) across the ELCA to participate in a youth gathering. Our next gathering is scheduled for Minneapolis, Minnesota in June of 2022 (COVID-permitting)! The youth from all three campuses will participate in the Youth Gathering.

Scholarship - Each year, a scholarship is awarded to one college student attending college. Scholarship is awarded based on the student's application. Soup sales help us raise funds to support the scholarship.
STJW

Care Packages for College Students - Donations collected and packaged with the help of the younger youth in our community of faith. UPG-LOC

Using “our hands” to help complete “God’s Work!”

Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. - 1 Peter 4:9-10

God’s Work our Hands Ministry team combined with Stewards and Angels in Ministry (SAM) committee - This combined group is focused on advocacy and outreach ministries of the UPG! We have many opportunities for you to share your time and talent with others! UPG-STP; UPG-LOC; STJW

The UPG also supports and helps assist in the following benevolent ministries across the Lehigh Valley:

- **Wreaths Across America** – who place Christmas wreaths on the graves of veterans at the Fountain Hill cemetery.
- **Cedarbrook Bingo** – Bingo at Cedarbrook nursing home for residents to enjoy a night of fun and fellowship playing bingo. Active by some of the ladies in the Bible study.

Christian Service Day – Each Wednesday morning from 9AM to noon, several people gather in our Light of Christ Fellowship Hall to spend time sharing their own unique gifts and talents with the world. From quilt making, knotted blanket making, pillowcase making for the sick or needy, to completing various tasks needed to help advance the gospel, this faithful group of people help share their love of God through their time and talent.

UPG Blanket Making – On the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm, several people gather in our St. Peter’s Campus social room to make blankets, which are fairly easy to make. The blankets are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Some people do some of the sewing at home and then during Blanket Making time, the bottom, filler, and top are put together with knotting and final sewing. When approximately a dozen blankets are completed, they are taken to New Windsor, MD to the Church World Service Center. From there they are sent around the world to those in need of protection, warmth, and the assurance that God’s people love and care for them in their difficult situations – war, natural disasters, refugee camps, etc. UPG-STP

UPG Crafters' Group – On the 3rd Monday night of each month at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at St. Peter's Campus, several people gather to work on craft projects. Crafters bring their own projects and enjoy the company of others away from distractions. Ideas, supplies, and patterns are shared and enjoyed. Some knit, some crochet, any craft can be enjoyed during this time. Volunteers made masks for members of the community during COVID.

The UPG and STJW also support many other local benevolent ministries with collections and offerings over the course of the year!

Calls of Compassion and Caring "CCC" Ministry – This exciting new ministry was formed during the 2020 pandemic. A faithful group of volunteers regularly call all members of the three combined communities of faith simply to "check in" with their sisters and brothers in Christ and to see if there is anyway that the community may be of assistance.

First Responder's Appreciation Breakfast & Luncheon Event - This event is hosted for police, fire fighters, and EMS for the entire city. They get breakfast and lunch (some come for both meals). Every single first responder who walks in gets a standing ovation from the volunteers. If there is food leftover, we deliver it to fire station, police station, call center. Always done in January to "kick off the new year with thankful hearts." Usually the 3rd Sunday in January. STJW

Care Packages for Military

Blood Drive

School supplies & backpack donations – collected and distributed both through Sunday school and GWOH/SAM

The UPG and Social Justice

"Learn to do good; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Isaiah 1:17

Food Banks – The UPG receives offerings of food on the second Sunday of each month for three different food pantries across Bethlehem.

- We also have disciples cooking at New Bethany Ministries once a month.
- Serving at the Calvary Templo Food Pantry on distribution days.
- Serving at Nativity Thrift Store twice a month.
- Cooking for the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter once a month during the winter months. 1st and 3rd weeks of each month.

Power Lehigh Valley - All three campuses of the UPG have joined this interfaith movement to strive for social justice within our community.

Bethlehem Crop Walk – a walk to help raise funds and awareness of the need for food across the Lehigh Valley. UPG-STP; UPG-LOC; STJW

Souper Bowl – collect non-perishable food items to score touchdowns against hunger and it concludes with soup and fellowship after church service on Superbowl Sunday in February. STJW

The UPG and Fellowship!

“We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:3

UPG Ladies Luncheon – On the 2nd Monday of each month, women in the UPG gather at Perkin’s restaurant at noon for a time of refreshment, fellowship, and wonderful discussion!

UPG Men’s Breakfast – On the 4th Monday of each month at 8AM the men in the UPG gather at the Palace Restaurant for breakfast, fellowship and discussion!

UPG “Winterfest” – On the 1st Saturday of December each year our Light of Christ campus is transformed into a “winter wonderland” as we share in a time of fellowship with the community which surrounds us! Games, food, music, fellowship, and sharing the story of Jesus’ birth highlight this wonderful ministry!

St. John’s Striders – a weekly walking group that gathers at different walking trails from April to September to get outdoors, get some exercise, all while enjoying wonderful fellowship with your fellow walkers.

Dart Club

Iron Pigs & Phantoms games – Faith Nights & party porch STJW

Spaghetti Dinner at LOC

Family Events

- Pumpkin Patch Event UPG-STP; UPG-LOC
- Ice Skating UPG-STP; UPG-LOC
- Caroling UPG-LOC
- Sock Hop UPG-STP
- Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt (Community) UPG-LOC; STJW
- Movie Night STJW
- Family Fun Night (once/month) STJW
 - Get together and play board games, etc.
- Dinners: April Fools Dinner, Valentine Dinner & a Movie, Mystery Dinner STJW
- Bingo & Basket Raffle STJW
- Book Club - Enjoy sharing fun/interesting books to read and discuss STJW

Envisioning Future Ministries

Turning all campuses into Reconciling in Christ churches - www.reconcilingworks.org/ric To provide a welcoming, safe, inclusive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+).

Childcare Center - The return of a childcare center would be welcome.

Junior Choir - A choir specifically for our youth.

Supporting various organizations:

- Homes for Our Troops - a non-profit organization that raises money and builds/modifies homes for injured soldiers.
- Paws of Valor - dogs are trained and matched with soldiers with injuries and PTSD.
- My Sister's Closet (on 512) - They give help to battered women and human trafficking victims.
- Volunteering at animal shelters on a weekly basis.

Base of the Cross Ministries - All voices are equal at the base of the cross. Host a monthly forum on hot topic issues, welcoming people into safe, accepting dialog and discussion without fear of reprisals.

Small Group Ministries - Create small groups based on hobbies or shared interests, including young adult groups.

Cooking meals for people coming out of the hospital - Cook and deliver meals to anyone who may have had a recent hospitalization for whatever reason (illness, surgery, giving birth).

Create a Therapy Dog Group - Teach owners to train their dogs to be Therapy Dogs and then make monthly or weekly hospital visits to cheer patients.

Hosting Girl/Boy Scouts -

- Host Troop meetings
- Service Sunday - Any scouts can come in and earn a patch learning about different religions.
- Scout Sunday - An annual event (this could go to Worship and Music).

Getting a church van - Since we have three different campuses, we can pick up people who don't have access to vehicles/can't use public transportation.

CCC - Counseling/concern

- Group of pastoral leaders and lay people who work together to have eyes on the entire community
 - To help people in financial, medical, etc. need.
- They have a therapist on staff who helps them discern how they can best be of help.

Monthly/Weekly Free Meal - Provide a monthly or weekly free meal to any in the community who wish to participate (Love Feast).

Bethlehem Interfaith Group - We have a standing invitation to join.

Hosting Community Groups - Have an openness to share the gift of our buildings with other groups. Invite and encourage community groups to use our resources.

Outreach to Minorities in our community - How can we reach out to the minorities in our community? Beginning a relationship with the Hispanic Center. Had a relationship with a United Methodist African American church. Host a summer carnival open to the community?

Bear Creek Camp - Host an annual retreat with the confirmation class. Can also make the retreat an all youth event. We could make more use of this resource. The Luther Inn at Wildwood is also an option.