



'Till We Meet Again!

February 1 and 2, 2020

THE BETTER BUY THRIFT SHOP (South Side Thrift Shop)



...is located at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity at 321 Wyandotte Street in Bethlehem. The Thrift Shop sells clothing,

small household items, decorations, toys and books, all at very reasonable prices – they also provide clothing to people in need. Several UPG members volunteer regularly there. You can help the Thrift Shop by...

- Donating items for the shop to sell (donations accepted during store hours)
- Shopping at the store!
- Volunteering – helpers sort donated items, arrange merchandise for sale and help at the checkout.

For more information including store hours, please call the Thrift Shop at 610-865-0727. And stop in soon!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class Revised

Schedule: Please note class will be held on February 9, 2020 from 6:00-7:00 PM in

the LoC Campus Library. Class will not be held as previously scheduled on February 2, 2020 which is Super Bowl Sunday.



PANTRY SUNDAY

On February 9, we will be collecting items for Calvary Pantry. Items requested are cereal, canned beef stew, canned pasta, and jam/jelly (plastic only).



BINGO/BASKET RAFFLE FOR YOUTH

St. John's Windish is hosting a Bingo/Basket Raffle fundraiser for the youth of St. John's, St. Peter's, and Light of Christ on February 15, 2020. Doors open at 12 noon, BINGO begins at 1:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance by calling 610-868-3282 or \$25 at the door.



46ERS YOUTH EVENT



The inaugural meeting of the 46ers took place on January 17. We had a great time of friendship, drawing and hide and seek. We also jumpstarted our mentoring program with the Junior/Senior group.

Our next meeting will be February 16 from 3—5:00 PM at Light of Christ. We'll be building and filling our UPG time capsule.

To get involved, please contact Josh Gulotta.

A BLANKET BLITZ

Join us on Sunday, February 23 from 12:30—3:00 PM on St. Peter's campus. Everyone can

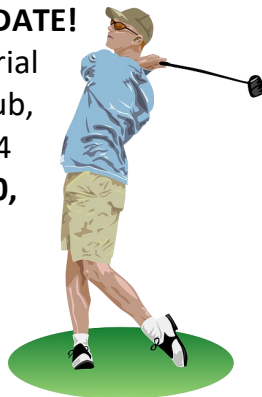
help make these Lutheran World Relief blankets. You can help pin the 3 layers together and some will do the final machine sewing!



Let's see how many blankets can be put together. Sign up sheets will be available on each campus. Soups will be provided. Please bring snacks and desserts to share.

GOLF OUTING NEW DATE!

The UPG Frank J. Scheck Memorial Golf Outing at Whitetail Golf Club, 2679 Klein Road, Bath, PA 18014 will be held on Saturday **June 20, 2020**. It is a four person scramble. **Please notice the date change** from the save the date announcement.



FIRST RESPONDERS BREAKFAST



Thank you to everyone who contributed time and/or food for the St. John's

Windish First Responders breakfast! The event was well attended.

UPG WEBSITE

The UPG website continues to get many "hits". While most visitors are from the U.S., there have been numerous international visitors also. The IT Team continues to work toward the ability to live stream the worship services so that people unable to attend services in person will be able to be part of the service via the internet.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



Vote for your favorite team this Sunday in our annual collection for hunger. Vote for the Kansas City Chiefs,

San Francisco 49ers or the UPG by placing your donations in designated soup pots on each campus.

BEER & HYMNS

As Martin Luther once said, "It is better to think of church in the ale-house than to think of the ale-house in church." Join us as we again live up to this quote in true Martin Luther style... Beer & Hymns!

Join us as we share God's love through a hymn-sing on Saturday, February 29 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM at the Bethlehem Brew Works, 559 Main St. # 101, Bethlehem.



Please sign up in advance so we can ensure enough space for our group! Sign-Up sheets in St. John's or via SignUpGenius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0444A9AC2CAAFC1-beer> (Each attendee will be responsible for buying their own food & drinks.)

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



From time to time, a sister or brother in our community of faith needs financial help.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund provides a way for Pastor Jerry to offer help at times like these such as for medical equipment to improve their quality of life, and assistance to help offset costs. To donate, please mark your gift "pastor's fund" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or drop off at either church office.

You can also purchase a grocery store gift card and donate it for members who are in need of food. Cards available on both campuses— please see Kenda Riley at St. Peter's or Michele Weierbach or Karen Favinger at LoC.

“Just for You!”

Year 1, edition 2 (Jan. 26, 2020)

¹My child, never forget the things I have taught you.

Store my commands in your heart.

²If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying.

³Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.

⁴Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

⁶Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

⁷Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

⁸Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

Proverbs 3:1-8

JUST FOR YOU

Greetings my friends,

Recently I've been hearing many of my friends talking about improving various aspects of their lives. Some of them have been speaking about a diet or a workout routine that they are “trying on for size.” Others have spoken about different ways, programs, or methods they are trying to get more organized and focused on near term goals or achieving long term success. Still others are looking more introspectively in an attempt to overcome incidents from their past or cultural norms that have kept them from living the life they desire to live.



All these efforts to improve one's life are commendable, yet I can't help but notice how few of my friends are attempting to improve their single most important relationship in their life, a relationship with our God.

Again, please know that in no way am I attempting to downplay or judge my friends who are working on these others aspects of their life, I am simply wondering why many of us don't put the same effort into our relationship with God and with our community of faith that we put into other aspects of our lives.

In my own thoughts and reflection on this subject I come back to something I've said often. Our lives are just simply too busy. There are 168 hours in every week. Between work, travel, sleep, and other commitments the vast majority of these hours are consumed. When we have “free time” we want that time to impact our lives and make our lives better. I'm not sure that many people see improving a relationship with God as an activity that makes their lives better in “practical or functional ways,” and quite honestly if an activity doesn't increase the quality of life, well let's just say, it “slips” down the priority trail.

The above text from the book of Proverbs speaks eloquently to this topic. This text reminds us all that trusting in God and seeking God's will for our lives will in fact help “make our lives better.” That trusting in God and seeking God's wisdom will help us make better choices in the life we lead. Trusting in God and allowing that trust to live within every fiber of our body by displaying loyalty, kindness, forgiveness, mercy and love will help us to find fa-

vor with God and with the people we live among. I might suggest that indeed a deeper relationship with our God will in fact make the quality of life that we lead more desirable as we constantly journey to become the children of God that we are meant to be.

So, this week, I am wondering what kinds of ministries or spiritual disciplines you might find rewarding. What kind of activities that you live out in your life to increase your relationship with God; Bible study, intentional prayer, meditative walks, fellowship activities would you recommend to friends who may be seeking to strengthen their relationship with God and with others. How have these spiritual disciplines helped to make your life “better” in practical terms? How has strengthening your relation-

ship with God functionally made your relationship with others more meaningful or powerful. I am wondering if those who follow various spiritual disciplines might be willing to bear witness to how spending time deepening your relationship with God helps to make your life more peaceful or provides some other kind of practical benefit.

I look forward to hearing your stories and want to remind each person reading this reflection that our Lord came “just for you” ... “just for me” “just for all humanity.” Having a deeper relationship with the very Creator of the cosmos can only lead to a happier, healthier, more peace filled and abundant life.

Peace and blessings for now!
PJ

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG

February 2—February 9, 2019

Sunday February 2

Groundhog Day

- 8:45 AM Worship (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
- 10:30 AM Sunday School Teacher Mtg (LoC—Youth Room)
- 11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
- 3-6:00 PM PGHI (St. P)
- 7:00 PM NA (LoC)

Monday February 3

Newsletter Articles Due

Tuesday February 4

- 8:00 AM Staff Meeting (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Women’s Bible Study (St. P)
- 7:00 PM NA (LoC)

Wednesday February 5

- 6:30 AM Fellowship Study (St. P)
- 9:00 AM Christian serv. (LoC)
- 1-4:00 PM AARP Tax Counseling (St. P—fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer (St. P)
- 7:00 PM Choir (St. P)
- 7:30 PM Choir (LoC)

Thursday February 6

- 9:00 AM Bible Study (LoC)
- 5-9:00 PM Champ Force Cheer (St. P gym)
- 6:30 PM Bible Study (LoC)
- 7:00 PM AA (LoC)
- 7:30 PM PGHI Worship (St. P)

Friday February 7

- 6:00 PM LVCCC Worship (St. P)

Saturday February 8

- 5:00 PM Worship (LoC)
- 7:30-9:00 PM PGHI (St. P)

Sunday February 9

- 8:45 AM Worship (St. P)
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
- 11:00 AM Worship (LoC)
- 3-6:00 PM PGHI (St. P)
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Ed.
- 7:00 PM NA (LoC)