

'Till We Meet Again!

Week of November 26 & 27, 2022

At worship on November 19 and 20, Joe Bleier, Unity Team co-chair, presented a recap of the Team's November 14 meeting. This report is printed in this issue of **TWMA**, beginning on page 4.

David Kolman, president of St. Peter's Congregation Council, presented highlights of the Joint Council's actions in response to the Unity Team's recommendations. This report begins on page 7. You can also see these reports on the UPG website: <https://www.upgbethlehem.org/general-8>

The Unity Team cochairs are looking for a few volunteers to complete the subcommittee rosters. See page 9.

We are taking a survey to get your preference for Sunday Worship (see page 8)

Pastor Suzanne Trump Announces Resignation

Dear Members of St. John's Windish, St. Peter's and Light of Christ,
On November 18th I officially announced my resignation as the called pastor to the congregational council of SJW. Sunday, it was announced at the SJW congregational meeting. And now I am announcing it to all members of our expanded community of faith. My last day as your pastor will be January 31, 2023.

I leave with a heavy heart and wish you God's blessings as you move forward in your faith journey. It has been my honor and pleasure to walk with you these past 8 years in ministry and I treasure the relationships that have formed.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne.

We wish Pastor Suzanne well!

Weekend Worship

November 26

5 PM at St. Peter's

November 27

9:15 AM at St. Peter's

This Week's Worship Ministers:

Presiding Minister:

Pastor Suzanne

Organist: Marisa Deshler

November 19:

Assisting Minister:

Josh Gulotta

November 20

Assisting Minister:

Rosalie Adducie

Lector: Marilyn Musgnung

Communion Assistant:

Michel Lloyd & Tony Villani

Acolyte: Harmony Gubich

Ushers:

Delynn Gerhard & Jimmy Bleier

Material for TWMA

Lauren Scott is our new Executive Assistant to Pastor Mike. Please send new material for TWMA to church@stpetersbethlehem.org

Organ Concert at St. Peter's Rescheduled

The organ concert originally scheduled for October 23 has been rescheduled for **Sunday, December 4 at 3 pm at St. Peter's!** Marisa Deshler, the organist at St. Peter's, will be performing a concert featuring a wide variety of organ favorites, including works by J.S. Bach, Dupre, and Durufle. The variety of pieces on the program showcases the many sounds and moods of the St. Peter's pipe organ. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music.

Christmas Ingathering

With only 2 Sundays left to finish our collection of 300 bottles of shampoo (children's or adult's), **we are behind in honoring our commitment. Please help! Residents of the agencies served by the Ingathering are depending on us.** Bring your contributions of shampoo to STP's on Nov. 20 and 27 and to LoC on Dec. 4 (**this is the deadline**). Volunteers who wish to attend the Ingathering on Wed., Dec. 6th, at St. Paul's Third on Newburg Road, Easton should contact Louise Fielding.

Christmas Card Project

Please save the Christmas/holiday cards that are now coming in the mail or ones you have leftover from last year. We will need them (approx. 1600) for our 2022 card signing project this December as we share Christmas/holiday joy with our brothers and sisters in local nursing and retirement homes.

Please sign cards at home (your first name), a short personal greeting (Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Peace and Joy or your own message), and bring them (please do not seal)

to the porch of LoC in a plastic Ziploc bag where you will find a collection box.

You are also invited to join our Card Signing Event on Sunday, December 4th, after worship at LoC. We'll enjoy a fellowship luncheon and sign cards together. Final date to collect signed cards is Sunday, December 11.



Next Week's Ministers

Presiding Minister:

Pastor Mike

Organist: Linda Maule

December 3:

Assisting Minister:

Stephanie McGregor

December 4

Assisting Minister:

Michel Lloyd

Lector: Donna Musselman

Communion Assistant:

Douglas Bleier

Acolyte: Joan Erb

Ushers: TBD

Altar Flowers Price Increase at LoC

RichMar florist has informed the Light of Christ office that the cost of the altar flowers has gone up from \$30.00 to \$40.00 immediately. If you have scheduled to be a sponsor for the altar flowers for the month of December at LoC, the cost will be \$40

Christmas Giving Tree for Headstart Children



On the 1st Sunday of Advent, **November 27th**, tags will be available at STP with an invitation to buy a matching mitten/hat set for either a boy or a girl (age 4-5) and \$4 cash for a book (appropriate books will be purchased for you). The mitten/hat sets and \$4

should be placed in the plastic Ziploc bags provided and returned to LoC **no later than Sunday, December 18**. Worship will move to LoC on December 4th; tags and plastic bags will be available there as well. **Thank you for sharing holiday joy with these Headstart children.**

Blessed Trinity Ladies Fellowship

We invite all quilters, sewers, crafters or anyone who wants to drop by for fellowship between 9:00 AM and noon on Wednesday mornings at the light of Christ Fellowship Hall. We hold devotions during lunch beginning at 11:30. Food and beverages if desired are "bring your own."



Prayers for Bishop deForest

Bishop Chris deForest is currently hospitalized while receiving treatment for a systemic strep infection. Doctors will also replace one of his heart valves in the very near future.

Thanks to the gifts of antibiotics and modern medicine, he intends to be recuperating at home during December. He's receiving great care from the infectious disease, cardiology, and pain management teams. Because of their collaborative work, he hopes to start 2023 full of strength.

In the meantime, Laurie Christman (laurie@nepsynod.org) will monitor his schedule to ensure she communicates any

upcoming meetings or gatherings that need to be canceled or rescheduled.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

We have added him to our UPG/SJW prayer list. Please send expressions of support to: prayers4bishop@nepsynod.org

Strengthen your servant, Christopher, O God, and lead him through the journey ahead. Thank you for healing gifts at the hands of physicians, nurses, and medical workers. May he be restored to wholeness with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

(ELW "Prayers for Sickness and Health")

Unity Team Meeting Recap

1. Meet on November 13, 2022
2. Discussed:
 - a. Voting procedures on the Unity Team
 - b. Reviewed Joint Council vote on Unity Team recommendations
 1. All funds from the sale of all locations are to be used for the purchase\renovation for the location of Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church = Approved by Council
 2. The purchase\renovation of the new location of Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church will not exceed the proceeds from the sale of all 4 properties = Approved by Council (added No Mortgage at the end)
 3. Any remaining funds from the sale and purchase\renovations of the new location will remain in the possession of Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church = Approved by Council
 4. We decline both Letters of Intent received from the City of Bethlehem and the developer = Approved by Council
 5. Enter into a contract with Lucy Lennon as our realtor for the sale of all 4 locations and the purchase of new location for Blessed Trinity = Approved by Council for a 6-month contract
 6. The Joint Council decide on the process of marketing and selling all 4 locations by either option 1 of bundling all 4 locations as 1 complete purchase or option 2 of selling each location individually = Bundling all 4 as 1 complete purchase Approved by Council (NOTE: this was voted after a meeting with Bethlehem mayor and Lucy Lennon on Nov 2nd)
 - c. Ask the Joint Council to publish their meeting minutes\highlights by the end of the week. They should share the update at the weekend services, print in the TWMA, publish on both websites, and send an email to all members. Also mentioned that if any Unity Team member receives any questions or concerns of the Joint Council approvals, they should be directed to the Joint Council.
 - d. New Location Search – volunteers
 1. There is currently an unequal representation of each community of faith. The goal is to have 3 members from each community of faith to be represented.
 - e. Sub-committee updates

Constitution & ByLaws (Mary Mann) = October's synod meeting was cancelled, we are scheduled on November synod's meeting. Mention to council to discuss a date for a Joint Congregational meeting to approve the Constitution & ByLaws for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church.

New Location Search (Mike Horwath) = will be working with Lucy for possible new locations. Scheduled to visit a contemporary\modern style church.

1. Recommend to council the following procedure for when Lucy presents a location and the sub-committee believes that it should be considered:
 - The realtor will contact Mike, as Unity Team liaison, who will contact the President, Vice President, and Secretary of each community of faith for their review and action on the offer within 24 to 48 hours. Their task is to decide whether to reject, clarify, counteroffer, or consider the offer and schedule an Emergency Joint Council meeting within 24 to 48 hours for action to be taken by the Joint Council on the Offer.

Asset Disposition (Kenda Riley) = started with Lucy to market and list all 4 locations as 1 purchase for \$4.1 million. Lucy has contacted the City of Bethlehem first for them to prepare an offer for all 4 locations.

1. Recommend to council the following procedure for when Lucy receives an offer:
 - The realtor will contact Kenda, as Unity Team liaison, who will contact the President, Vice President, and Secretary of each community of faith for their review and action on the offer within 24 to 48 hours. Their task is to decide whether to reject, clarify, counteroffer, or consider the offer and schedule an Emergency Joint Council meeting within 24 to 48 hours for action to be taken by the Joint Council on the Offer.
 - Any monies needed to move, donate, or discard items that will not be used at Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church will be split evenly among the 3 communities of faith.

Archive (Kenda Riley) = continue with assessing and inventorying archives. They may start boxing items if they are able that they want to bring to Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church.

Non-Fixed Assets (Nancy Kostas) = continue with inventorying items. Mentioned that if items are in damaged or non-working, that they may discard the items. There is still a need for more volunteers. Discussed possible options for when we have large amount of items that we need to discard.

1. Recommend to council the following:
 - Anyone who wishes to take any books, other than any used for worship, are able to take as they want.

Attorney (Joe Bleier) = received invoice for clarification on obtaining a Federal EIN number for Blessed Trinity.

Mission Statement (Kevin Remaly) = they have a rough draft, working on a mission statement with a set of core values.

Fellowship (Linda Toltesi) = still need volunteers from Light of Christ and St Peters. Bingo at St John's Windish is scheduled.

3. Any questions or concerns regarding the sale of the locations should be addressed only to Kenda Riley as the Unity Team liaison, along with any questions or concerns regarding the purchase of the new location and property for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church should be addressed only to Mike Horwath. There is no contact to be made to our realtor from the congregation.
4. **Please be aware that we will not be without a church building to worship at any time during this process.** Our realtor is stressing this point in all offers, along with working this into any contract regarding the sale, that we will be able to worship at one of our campuses until we are ready to move into the new building for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church.
5. Next Steps
 - a. Keep the Unity Team recap in the Til We Meet Again until the next recap, not just for the 1 week as we are currently doing.
 - b. Meeting with Pastor Jean Huber on November 22nd to learn Pastor Call process
 - c. Follow up with the Joint Council vote on recommendations
 - d. Follow up with sub-committees with progress
6. Next Meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2023

7. 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



Pictured Left to Right:

Gina Brockway, Pastor Mike Button (liaison), Nancy Kostas, Mike Horwath, Kenda Riley, Joe Bleier, Mary Mann, Kevin Remaly, David Kolman, Linda Toltesi, and Pastor Suzanne Trump (liaison)

Council Actions Concerning Unity Team Recommendations

At the Oct 25th Joint Council meeting we addressed the following Unity Team recommendations.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

That all fund \ proceeds from the sale of all locations are to be used for the purchase \ renovation of the new location for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

That the purchase of the new location and renovation of location and building for Blessed Trinity will not exceed the net proceeds from the sale of all 4 locations, **in example No Mortgage**

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

That any remaining funds from the sale and purchase and renovations of the new location and building for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church will remain in the possession of Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

That we decline both Letters of Intent received from the City of Bethlehem and the developer.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

That we enter into a contract with Lucy Lennon as our realtor to assist us with sale of all 4 locations and the purchase of the new location for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church **for contract term of 6-months.**

Discussed and tabled:

Unity Team recommends that the Joint Council decide on the process of marketing \ selling of all 4 locations by either one of 2 options: (option 1) bundle all 4 locations as 1 complete purchase, or (option 2) sell each location individually.

*A meeting with the Mayor of Bethlehem and our realtor Lucy will be invited to address the Joint Council at a special meeting to assist with our decision.

At the Nov 2nd special Joint Council meeting

1. After hearing presentations given from the Mayor Reynolds of Bethlehem, and realtor Lucy Lennon. The Joint Council voted on the Unity Team recommendations that were tabled at the Oct 25th meeting.

Motion was made to reopen the tabled joint council motion to market the 4 properties as 1 bundle.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed

At the Nov 15th Joint Council voted on the following Unity Team recommendations.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

The process followed for offers on the sale of the properties shall be. The realtor will contact Kenda, as Unity Team liaison, who will contact the President, Vice President, and Secretary of each community of faith for their review and

action on the offer within 24 to 48 hours. Their task is to decide whether to reject, clarify, counteroffer, or consider the offer and schedule an Emergency Joint Council meeting within 24 to 48 hours for action to be taken by the Joint Council on the offer.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

The process followed to purchase the new location for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church shall be. The realtor will contact Mike, as Unity Team liaison, who will contact the President, Vice President, and Secretary of each community of faith for their review and action on the offer within 24 to 48 hours. Their task is to decide

whether to reject, clarify, counteroffer, or consider the offer and schedule an Emergency Joint Council meeting within 24 to 48 hours for action to be taken by the Joint Council on the offer.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed:

That any monies needed to move, donate, or discard items that will not be used at Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church will be split evenly among the 3 communities of faith.

Discussed, Voted, and Passed

That anyone who wishes to take any books, other than used for worship, are able to take as the want with a **free will donation**

Bethlehem Christmas Pageant

– The 43rd Annual Live Bethlehem Christmas Pageant takes place on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11 at 1:45 pm at the Bethlehem Rose Garden Band Shell. *Come to Bethlehem and see . . .* costumed actors participate in this inspirational Christmas experience. **Notice in particular the costumes of the footmen – they were sewn by Jean Finn, Judy Hlavinka, Rosalie Adducie, Donna Mackaravitz, and Mary Mann from the Blessed Trinity Ladies Fellowship.** The women also contributed \$100 to support the Pageant and the proceeds of the bake sale that was held on our Day of Service in September (\$500) was also contributed to support the ongoing needs of the Pageant.

Worship Time Survey

My preference for Sunday worship at Blessed Trinity is:

- Saturday Livestream Worship at 5 PM
- One Service, preceded by Sunday School, at
 - 9:15 AM (current schedule since September 2022)
 - 10:00 AM (Sunday School at 9 AM)
 - 11:00 AM (Sunday School at 10 AM)
- Two Services with Sunday School in between at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Please respond by November 30. If you are receiving this at home:

- Mail your response to St. Peter's, 474 Vine St., Bethlehem, Pa 18015
- Call any of the church offices (see page 10)
- Email your response to church@stpetersbethlehem.org

Volunteers Still Needed For Unity Subcommittees

Hello members,

Just a reminder, there still is limited room to volunteer on the following sub-committees. If you would like to serve, or know of someone whom they should contact to serve, please email the Unity Team liaison as follows:

1. New Location Search (contact Mike Horwath = jr4926@rcn.com)

*****This committee only needs 1 member from St John's Windish*****

- responsibilities include finding a new location for Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church. This sub-committee will evaluate all possible locations for our new congregation. Some of the items they will evaluate will include, but not limited to: parking, worship space, offices, green space, building condition, location, etc.

2. Asset\Non-Fixed Inventory (contact Nancy Kostas = nkostas@verizon.net)

- responsibilities include inventorying items within a community of faith. This sub-committee is not about counting every fork, spoon, hymnal, picture, chair, vestment, etc. This sub-committee will be estimating the quantity, and evaluating the condition of items by categories, such as: worship items, maintenance items, musical items, office items, etc. If you ever wanted to know what it really takes for a church to function, this is the group for you!

3. Fellowship (contact Kathy Remaly = kathyremaly@gmail.com)

- If you love gathering with friends, wanting to get to know each other, planning or helping with new or current activities, then this is the sub-committee for you! As part of becoming Blessed Trinity, we understand that there are many people from each community of faith that we wish we knew, but don't know how to start the conversation. Thanks to Kathy Remaly from St John's Windish. She is willing to offer their group who will plan many exciting activities. The Fellowship sub-committee will create new or plan existing events at each of our communities of faith. The goal is to plan a monthly event at the church where we are worshipping that month. If you think church is "boring" and want to have fun, then please contact Kathy. She would love to hear from you!

Please prayerfully take a moment to consider joining one of these sub-committees in achieving our goal of becoming Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church!

Thanks!

Joe Bleier \ Nancy Kostas \ Kevin Remaly

Unity Team co-chairs

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

Pastor Suzanne: 610-217-1375, strump@ptd.net

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, 610-691-2314 ·

Paul Toub, 267-421-8256

St. John's Windish Council

President: Sharon Lintner, 610-703-7904

Vice President:

Secretary: Susan Vitez, 610-390-9501

Ron Leposa – 610-865-3523

Linda Toltesi – 610-751-7915

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

Susan DeAngelis, 610-838-8156

Tracy Heberling, 484-601-2414

Michel Lloyd, 484-695-3921

This Week at Blessed Trinity

November 26 to December 4

Saturday November 26

- 9:00 AM Cleanup at Fountain Hill Cemetery
- 10:00 AM BAM Christmas Shopping Fundraiser at St. Peter's
- 5:00 PM: Worship at St. Peter's with live stream on Facebook

Sunday November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM: Worship Video premieres on YouTube and UPG website
- 8:30 AM: Sunday School at St. Peter's
- 9:15 AM: Worship at St. Peter's

Monday November 28

- 7:00 PM: LoC Dart Baseball at Emmanuel

Tuesday November 29

- 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast at the Palace
- 9:00 AM: Staff Meeting at St. Peter's

Wednesday November 30

- 7:15 AM: Fellowship Group at St. Peter's
- 9:00 AM: Blessed Trinity Ladies Fellowship
- 7:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal at Light of Christ

Saturday December 3

- 5:00 PM: Worship at St. Peter's with live stream on Facebook

Sunday December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM: Worship Video premieres on YouTube and UPG website
- 8:30 AM: Sunday School at Light of Christ
- 9:15 AM: Worship at Light of Christ
- 10:30 AM: Christmas Card Signing at Light of Christ
- 3:00 PM: Organ Concert at St. Peter's