



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of September 26 and 27, 2020

REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020:

¹²*Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.* ¹³*Show them great respect and whole-hearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.*

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Greetings my friends!

In a time when many within our world seem to take pleasure in angry confrontation and debate. In a place in which many within our world seem to take polar opposite views on difficult topics. In an environment in which feelings run profoundly deep and strong and it seems that the only way to properly relieve those feelings is through aggression, I bring you good news!

On Tuesday evening the joint congregational councils of the UPG Parish and St. John's Windish Lutheran Church came together to once again talk about, pray about, and make decisions regarding how our community of faith will move forward during this time of global pandemic.

Our elected leaders within our community of faith represented each of you and our Lord with great distinction and honor. Various views were expressed both in favor and in opposition to a return to "In person indoor worship." Our leaders shared genuine and authentic feelings about concerns they held, particularly in relationship to people viewed as more vulnerable within our community. Our leaders expressed genuine and authentic feelings about desiring to allow their sisters and brothers to worship in ways that were meaningful. In retrospect, this meeting was one of the more chal-



lenging meetings I ever participated in, but it was also one of the most wonderful meetings that I ever attended.

Within the "business" of the meeting there was respect and dignity given to each esteemed elected leader who was present. There was patience displayed as people engaged in dialogue expressing opposite views but there was always respect and dignity shown to one another.

I for one, want to thank our God for the assembled group of elected leaders within our community. I thank our Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to aid us in our discussions and our votes.

As many of you undoubtedly know, our community will be returning to indoor in person worship beginning October 4. If you have read our emails from yesterday you would also know that Pastor Trump is now officially a pastoral partner with myself and you would know of other challenging decisions that were reached. Yet I stand before you all honored to share that each decision that was made on Tuesday evening was prayerfully, thoughtfully, and respectfully reached.

While none of us truly know how future events will unfold within our community of faith let alone how events will unfold with the larger world around us; isn't it nice to know

that God has provided us with leaders who when they come together embody the very essence of Christianity that we all hope to attain?

God dwells within our midst! May we all pause and give thanks to the Lord!

Until we speak again

Trust God keep washing those hands and be at peace!

PJ

REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

YOU ARE CALLED TO VOTE!

Romans 13: 7-8

Pay to all what is due to them-taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. Owe to no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

I suspect that many of you have thought about or even decided who you are going to vote for in the upcoming election. As a pastor, I will never tell you who you should vote for, that decision is yours and yours alone. As a pastor, I will tell you that you need to vote. It is part of our civic duty and according to Martin Luther an obligation for us to participate in the voting process.

Some people are frustrated saying there are no good candidates, so they are going to sit this one out. I want to share with you some words shared by one of my favorite contemporary theologians and writers, Diana Butler Bass. She thought about what Jesus might say about this election and about the temptation to just sit this one out.

First, she notes that the world is already in trouble. We are dealing with racism, a global pandemic, wildfires burning the west coast and economic uncertainty. Second, we are dealing with people, so whichever party or candidate you support, recognize that they are human

and imperfect. Pay attention to the facts and then act accordingly, pay attention to those who marginalized in our society and listen to their voices. No one candidate might meet all your expectations but do not dissuade you from voting. Remember that people have fought wars and died to protect our right to vote. Do not give it up!

If you are not registered to vote, please do it now. You can vote by mail or in person. Contact VotesPA.com for more info. There are four ways to register to vote; online, by

mail, in person at a county voter office, or at PennDOT license centers. Make sure you register before October 19, 2020 to be eligible to vote in the upcoming November 3rd election.

I offer the following prayer as you contemplate voting in the upcoming election.

Gracious and Loving

God, we give you thanks for all the blessings you give to us. Guide

our hearts and our minds as we approach the upcoming election and help us to cast our votes with care. Help us to hear the voices of those most in need in our society and help us to listen carefully to those who are running for an elected office. The decisions we make on November 3rd will determine the direction of our country into 2021 and we pray that you would guide all elected leaders to focus on the needs of those at risk and to promote a more peaceful and loving society. We ask for your strength and your peace as we move through the next several weeks. Give us ears to listen and patience with those who disagree with us. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

May God's love flow through your heart and spirit as you contemplate your votes for November 3rd.

In Peace,
Pastor Suzanne



PASTOR GARBE'S RETIREMENT

Pastor Garbe's resignation went into effect on Sept 15, 2020. In gratitude for his dedicated ministry, the UPG is donating \$500 to the ELCA World Hunger appeal in his name.



LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS TRAINING

OCTOBER 3

LCS will host virtual training for Lay Eucharistic Visitors in fall 2020 on, October 3, 2020. Fee for



the training is \$25. Those participating will be mailed a guidebook prior to the training. Participants will be asked to read sections of the text prior to the training day (instructors for both sessions are ELCA pastors). Instructors will be using Zoom to deliver the training, which will last about two hours. Participants will be asked to complete some follow up work and a final virtual check-in before the training certificate is issued. Training will include options for how to deliver the Eucharist in times of social distancing.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Please read these important updates on UPG Outreach from God's Work.Our Hands and Stewards, Angels in Ministry.



"Days" of Service - That's correct - this fall there will be several "Days" of Service instead of one specific day. When conditions are safe, we will schedule the Youth Car Wash (Josh Gulotta) and the Ft. Hill Cemetery Clean-up (Cindy Kemp). The same will be true of the intergenerational rock painting (Lois Ritchie). Dates to be announced later.

During the summer, Louise Fielding, Jean Finn, Elizabeth Elterich, Kathy Stephen and Helga Rimonneau have sewn and filled twenty-five bags with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (funded by a Thrivent Action Team).

Mat Ministry - SOS!!

We need many more hands to turn the plastic bags we've collected into plarn for those who are crocheting mats. The process is quite easy - take each bag, smooth it out lengthwise, fold it several times upon itself until you have a narrow strip, cut off the handles at the top (making sure to cut off any curved edges), cut off the seam at the bottom, fold the strip in half and cut at the folded edge, fold again in half and cut again at the folded edge. You should now have 4 strips that can be fastened together by looping the ends of the strips over each other and pulling gently to keep the knot as small as possible. Keep knotting strips together until they can be rolled up into a ball. Please save your plastic scraps and any bags that were not usable and bring them and your balls of plarn to the back porch of Light of Christ. You will see where to put them. Additional bags for making plarn are available on the porch at Light of Christ. PLEASE HELP - thank you!



UPG OUTREACH MINISTRY

Donations of \$111.25 have recently been contributed to each of the following local agencies: Allentown Rescue Mission, KidsPeace (Family Center), Tails of Valor Paws of Honor, and Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley. The financial support given to these agencies comes from the UPG 1st Quarter line item of the budget. If you are not familiar with Tails of Valor Paws of Honor, this is an agency that trains and connects service dogs with veterans in need of support when they return from deployment. Learn more by visiting their website, click on Our Service Dog Program and watch the video, Tails of Valor.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE MILITARY

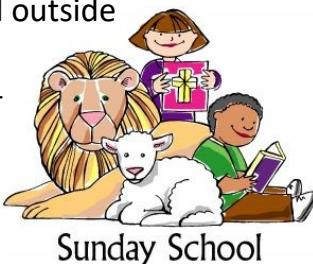
The Bleier family is collecting Christmas cards to be sent to the U.S. active duty military. The cards may be purchased or hand-made with a personal greeting addressed to



Dear Warrior and signed only with your first name, city, and state. Homemade cards should not be larger than an 8x11 sheet folded in half. Cards do not need to be in an envelope, if enclosed in an envelope, do not seal envelope. Please keep in mind that our military troops are diverse in their holiday practices and beliefs. Contact Joe by email or cell at bleier.joe.amy@gmail.com or (610) 737-6613 to arrange pick up. We are hoping to have all the cards collected by October 25, 2020. For more information feel free to contact us or visit www.militaryholidaycardchallenge.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be held outside on the LOC Campus on September 27 from 10:30-11:30 AM and the adult class will begin on this day, also. Thank you!



Sunday School

NOW VIRTUAL...THE 5TH ANNUAL MONOCACY

FARM FOOD FEST HAS A NEW DATE!

Visit Monocacyfarmproject.org, Facebook, or Instagram for more details or updates about our Online Auction which will Begin on Oct. 19 at 11:00 AM and end on Oct. 24th at 5:00 PM. Our popular goodie bags will be available for sale and go to all auction winners! There will be online info sessions and demos. All proceeds benefit the Monocacy Farm Project in Bethlehem, PA.

We're extremely grateful for your support. Thank you for helping to make our annual fundraising festival a success.

CLOTHING DRIVE

WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Has Covid-19 given you the time to clean out your closets, but nowhere to donate your gently used items to? With Salvation Army & Goodwill Stores not currently accepting donations, you might be left "holding the bags"!

We Can Help!!

The youth of Jordan Lutheran Church (Vicar Jamie's home church) are holding a clothing drive. They invite you to bring your bagged items to the outdoor worship service held at the NE Penn Synod Office (2354 Grove Road, Allentown) where Vicar Jamie will collect them and take them to Jordan Lutheran Church. The items will be collected from Jordan Lutheran by a company that pays for the lump sum of items by the pound. All items are then sold inexpensively to thrift shops in third world countries, Mexico and even the United States. Items are not shredded or made into rags.

Drop Off Deadline: October 5, 2020.

The following items are accepted: Gently used clothing and shoes (men's, women's and children's), purses, belts, backpacks, hats, scarves, briefcases, gloves, ties, blankets, table cloths, bed sheets, curtains and drapes, pillows, towels, quilts, comforters, stuffed animals, bicycles. No other items accepted!

Proceeds from the collection will be donated to Camp Noah on behalf of Jordan Lutheran and the UPG/St. John's Windish.

Camp Noah is a nationally acclaimed resiliency and preparedness day camp that brings hope to children living in communities impacted by disaster.

IN PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sunday, September 27 at 9:00 AM (weather permitting) at the Lutheran Center in North-eastern Pennsylvania, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109-3044

Things to Bring: Chair (or you may stay in your car); Face mask; Sunscreen or umbrella for shade; Water or refreshments; clappers. Restrooms will be available to folks attending worship.

Directions: Exit Route 22 at the exit for the Lehigh Valley Airport, Route 987 north. Drive 1.5 miles to Grove Road on the right. Turn right on Grove Road. Drive approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and the Lutheran Center will be on the right. (If you are coming from Schoenersville Road, turn left on Grove Road. The center is located between Schoenersville Road and Airport Road.)

Call one of the church offices with any questions: Light of Christ Lutheran Church 610-691-2321; St. John's Windish 610-868-3282; or St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church 610-867-0519.

ALL AGE YOUTH GROUP AND FAMILY EVENT



Please join us for an all age youth group and family event at the Unangst Tree Farms Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Plan to arrive/meet at 10:00 AM at Unangst Tree Farm, 7317 Beth

Bath Pike, Bath, PA 18014. Masks required! No corn shed this year! At 10:15 AM we will be taking a group photo and hayride to the pumpkin patch with group discounts on pumpkins at checkout under UPG. At 11:00 AM families can enjoy the following items on their own: Petting Zoo, Farm Market, Snack Stand, Large Maze (discounts may apply) 1 hour, Small Maze (discounts may apply) 15 minutes. Depart at your convenience. Please visit www.unangsttreefarm.com for more information. No rain-date scheduled. To sign up, please contact Tracy Haas at 610-533-9145.

FROM THE MAILROOM

September 2020

Dear People of Light of Christ,

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with ELCA World Hunger and for your \$1,117 gift given through your synod this summer.

As hunger spreads due to the pandemic your faithful generosity is so needed, so appreciated.

Thank you for creatively and courageously working towards a just world where all are fed.

Robin Brown

Dear Members of UPG,

Thank you for hosting the luncheon for Behavioral Health at our Eaton Avenue location. Our team was grateful for the nourishment and recognition of our work during this stressful time. Blessings on all your outreach and thank you!

Sincerely,

St. Luke's Behavioral Health, Eaton Avenue, Bethlehem, PA

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG SEPTEMBER 26—OCTOBER 4

Saturday September 26

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday September 27

9:00 AM Worship (Lutheran Center)
Baptism

Monday September 28

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

Tuesday September 29

9:00 AM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday September 30

7:00 AM Fellowship Meeting

Thursday October 1

6:30 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday October 2

Saturday October 3

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday October 4

8:00 AM	Worship (St. P)
9:30 AM	Sunday School (LoC)
11:00 AM	Worship (St. P)