

# The Herald

January 2018

## *Dates to remember....*

1st	Welcome 2018!
3rd	God's Golden Gems
6th	Epiphany!
7th	Baptism of our Lord Food for the Poor Sunday
8th	Pastor Support Committee
10th	God's Golden Gems
11th	Martin Luther Study
13th	Confirmation Class
15th	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
16th	Church Council Meeting
17th	God's Golden Gems Herald Deadline
18th	Luther Study Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
20th	Confirmation Class
21st	Missionary w/ Jesus
24th	God's Golden Gems
25th	Luther Study
27th	Confirmation Class
30th	Men's Club
31st	God's Golden Gems

## Security Committee Formed

Your church council is aggressively looking at ways to keep us all safe while at church. We have formed a security committee who is looking into the many ways to achieve this.



The committee (Neil MacFadden, Matt Stark, Ron Tomalia & Pastor George) has met several times and have been in contact with local law enforcement for their input. It will be an ongoing learning process for the committee. The committee will be making recommendations as they learn more.

The first recommendation of the committee will go into effect on February 4th. At 5 minutes before the start of each service all the doors into the building (with the exception of the double doors off each parking lot) will be locked. If you arrive to church late, you must enter through one of those doors.

The second recommendation of the committee will also go into effect that day. A member of the security team will "walk around" the church and parking lots during the worship services to keep an eye on things. They will have their cell phones to call for help if needed.

As the committee continues to learn and develop their recommendations, we will keep you updated. If you have any questions, please refer them to the Committee Chair Neil MacFadden.

## Pastor's Message

### *Fighting to Protect Verses Fighting*

Once again, we recall that in the foxholes of life the choice is to fight in order to “conserve”; or, to “transform”. In the fight of conservation, the emphasis is on protecting what is of significance to us. Yet there are times when old values and traditions can no longer be sustained. In such turbulent times, the old reasons for coping no longer work. Therefore, it is a time to fight by making changes happen; wherein things of significance are transformed into new ways of seeing and doing things. Within Christianity, and indeed in our Lutheran tradition, this way of reform and change is seen as a good way to fight the good fight of faith.



In this newsletter we look at another type of transformative action. In “re-creation” we do not merely envision a re-evaluation of our sense of significant goals and values. We also re-evaluate our customary pathways to significance. This total re-creation of both, the way we see and do things, is a “radical change” in our life.

This is often seen in dealing with occupational stress, wherein one not only leaves the place of their problem-filled employment, but they also leave the field they have been making a living in. Such a radical change often entails a transformation of the way the individual has seen and done things before. One goes back to student life, or into a retraining program in order to learn the new occupation. Sometimes this may also involve a geographical relocation, setting up home in a completely new setting. More often than not, it involves a temporary cut in pay (and depending on one's new field of employment, a permanent cut in pay).

This is indeed, radical change. But, it is also re-creative! One is set free from what was holding them back. One feels alive in the face of new challenges and new possibilities. A new mission in life is taken on. And one's life is transformed into something new... And hopefully, something better.

Sometimes such radical change is not chosen; it is forced upon us by some of the hardships in life. The loss of a loved one is such an example. The loss of one who

was a central part of our life causes us to see and do things so differently. And our life is not re-centered until the loss is dealt with, and we have made the changes that we need to make, wherein we do a re-centering of our lives around someone or something else. This takes time; and it is no easy task to deal with the stresses of grief and the changes that are forced upon us. But it is done all the time by so many people.

In the realm of our faith radical change can also take place. Martin Luther is an example. If one considers God as Luther's goal, Luther made the radical transformation of believing in an All-Judging God to a God who's judgment was loving tempered by grace. And, Luther's pathway to God did a radical switch also; changing from asceticism and self-punishment to Scripture and helping others in need out of love. Luther's whole life of faith was radically changed, re-created. And as his radical change was creative for him, it was also creative for many others! So creative was this radical change for the Christian Church!

So, indeed, radical change, of both the way we see and do things, is sometimes necessary for dealing with stress or suffering. Is such radical change called for in your life; or, in the life of a family member or friend who needs your understanding and support? Is it time for you to see and do things differently? Such considerations calls for deep discernment. Well such lead you to a new and creative mission in life under God's calling? If so, I pray that you, with God's grace and Spirit, can make such changes... And that it be for the better; not just for you, yet also for those around you too.

Yours in the Journey of Faith,

Pastor George



3	Bev Emery
	Asher Weyersberg
10	Alex Nicolli
19	Dave Cornelius
	Jim Kriesel
25	Margaret Eggleston
	Norm Witte

## The meaning of Epiphany



Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.



### *A Message Regarding Our Seminary...*

(Based on a message from Rev. Dr. Amy C. Schiffrin, President, North American Lutheran Seminary)

At our seminary for the North American Lutheran Church, we seek to provide an education for pastors and church leaders that is evangelical, orthodox and confessional, an education in which students are formed as faithful servants for ministry in Christ’s name.

We work in partnership with existing Christian seminaries, sharing resources so that our students receive a fully accredited seminary education. For seminarians who are discerning a call to ordained ministry within the NALC, we work hand in hand with the NALC Candidacy Committee, so that each pastoral candidate will be prepared to enter the Ministry of Word and Sacrament with obedience and joy, as a faithful disciple ready to disciple others.

Our Seminary Center is located at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Our programs contain both online and residential components. If you are discerning a call to ministry—lay or pastoral—you are invited to consider the North American Lutheran Seminary as the Christian community where you will be formed for faithful service in ministry.

Please continue to keep our NALC seminarians and seminary staff in your prayers as we strive to serve Christ and his Church in the new year.

## The Herald

is published monthly by

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### Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Traditional Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Liturgy

### Sunday School:

For all ages at 9:30 a.m.

### Deadline for copy:

*The third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in  
electronic form only.*



Redeemer Lutheran Church-NALC

## *Workshop on the Basics on Being a Missionary with Jesus Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup>—3:00-5:00*

With present day hesitations and fears about evangelism, why would we be interested in a workshop on being an evangelist?

*Because... Mission to another person is so important and personal! And good!*

*Because... There is a way to imagine yourself being a part of such an important mission! Because... There is a non-pushy and non-judgmental way to be involved in mission!*

*Because... There is a caring and comfortable way for you to do it!*

This workshop will help us to see a kind and gentle way of being in mission—of helping another person come to faith in Jesus. The basic theme of the workshop is two-fold: joining Jesus on his mission; and, being a missionary in simple ways.



## **Class on Luther offered**

Pastor George is again offering a class on the life of Martin Luther. This class will meet January 11, 18 & 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Please see Pastor George if you have any questions.

### ***Remember, When You Go in the Hospital...***

When you go into the hospital please call the church or Pastor, or have a family member do so. Hospitals tend not to contact a church for you anymore. And if they do, they tend to make such a contact too late for the pastor to follow through with a visit at the hospital. So, please have a call made to the church or the pastor's home so that the pastor will have a better chance to visit with you during your time in the hospital. Thank you.