

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



NEPA Synod Assembly 2018

**June 8-9**

**Mohegan Sun Arena  
Wilkes-Barre, PA**

### Special Guest:

**Pastor Gustavo Gómez Pascua**

President of the  
Iglesia Evangélica  
Luterana Unida  
(the United  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in Argentina and  
Uruguay).



### Festival Worship Service

4:00 pm on Friday, June 8.  
All are welcome.

### Service Projects

There will be two blocks of time on  
Friday for Bear Creek Camp, Ministry  
Displays, and Service Projects.

For more information and to register,  
please visit the synod website at  
<http://nepasynod.org/synod-assembly-2018>.

## United Proclamation of the Gospel St. Matthew, Messiah & St. Peter, Bethlehem



What do you get when you take three distinct congregations and turn them into one community of faith? Chaos? In house fighting and bickering? No, silly! You get the United Proclamation of the Gospel (Bethlehem).

In September of 2017 the congregations of St. Matthew, Messiah, and St. Peter entered into a bold vision of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania! Unlike previous models of "shared ministry," this model calls for **one** community of faith on **two** campuses!

In bringing these ministries together in this way, the three congregations have been able to share leadership, bring new and exciting ministry opportunities to more people, and allow the members of these faith communities to feel the power and the presence of God in deeper and more profound ways! At the same time, they have been able to be much better stewards of the available financial resources that they enjoy.

Indeed, at the six month point of their journey together, there have been many "opportunities for them to excel" as they have encountered various obstacles in their path. There have been many difficult discussions held about the best way in which to proceed. Yet through all of these adjustments and all of these moments, a Spirit of unity, peace, and joy in sharing God's word with many more sisters and brothers in Christ has been present!

If this sounds like a ministry that you or your congregation might be interested in pursuing, please pray about it, then feel free to contact Pr. Jerry Kulp at St. Peter.

## Do You Subscribe to the Weekly Synod E-News?

Each Tuesday morning the synod emails a newsletter to nearly 1,000 people. Are you one of them? If not, why not?

Synod E-News contains up to date information on happenings and upcoming events that are of interest to Lutherans in Northeastern PA.

You can subscribe on the synod website (<http://nepasynod.org>) under the "Publications" tab. Give it a try! If at any time you wish to stop the subscription, you can do so by clicking "Unsubscribe from this list" at the bottom of any edition of E-News.

## Major Anniversaries Celebration on May 8

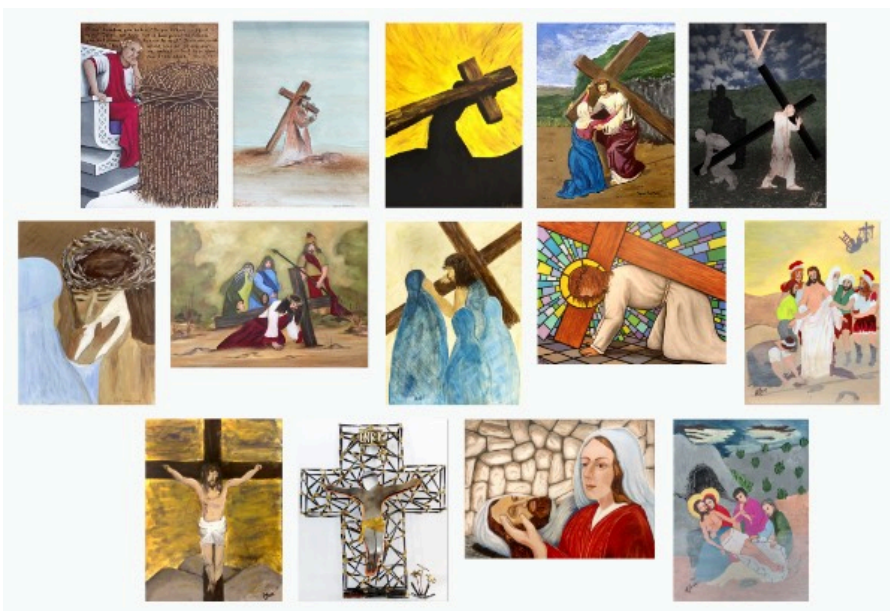
On May 8 at the Lutheran Center, there is a worship service at 11:00 AM to celebrate major anniversaries of rostered ministers in our synod. All are invited to join in recognizing the many years of service for these servants of the church.

## Talking About Racism

### Education - *The Level Playing Field*

Women of the ELCA have done some good work addressing racism. The Level Playing Field is a program to help people make the connection between racism and real life. It hopes to make people see that to be anti-(against) racism is a good thing!

## Stations of the Cross at Prince of Peace, Johnsonville



This Lent the congregation at Prince of Peace, Johnsonville was invited to walk the "Stations of the Cross." The Stations or the Way of the Cross refers to a series of images of Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion. They are placed in order so that Christians may contemplate the Passion of Christ as a spiritual pilgrimage.

The use of the Stations goes back to at least the 15th century. Today, the Stations can be found in and around the churches of many Western Christian denominations, including Anglican, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, and Western orthodox parishes.

The images at Prince of Peace were completed by both youth and adult members of the congregation, using a variety of media. The Stations were hung around the walls of the sanctuary during Lent. Devotional booklets and a brochure depicting the work of the artists and their stories was made available. Members of the congregation walked the stations on their own or in groups.

A mid-week Lenten series focused on the images of the Stations using *Visio Divina* (Latin for "divine seeing"). As *Lectio Divina* is a method of praying with scripture, so *Visio Divina* is a method for praying with images or other media. The Orthodox tradition has long practiced praying with images through icons; but the western church, and Protestantism in particular, has been less comfortable with this type of prayer. A cursory glance through scripture will show, however, that images have been an important part of God's way of communicating.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
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