

*Epistle from**St. Timothy*
*Evangelical Lutheran Church**Sharing our faith by sharing God's love!*

I don't know where you are at right now. As for me writing this article, it was March 14, 2017 and I am crafting this during a March blizzard. Hopefully as you read this, you can think with me—things have really changed. I'm also hoping that this goes beyond weather and we can think of a change in mental state in St. Timothy.

I know that change is scary. Change is also exciting and life-giving as well. Please trust me on this. In two days, Pr. Wood Maxon, Pr. Tom Lichner, Rick Focht, and myself are going to be sitting with Bishop Zeiser talking about change. We will present the Bishop with a vision adopted by St. Timothy: TRANSFORMING LIVES BY CONNECTING COMMUNITY. We will also present to him a potential leadership idea for St. Timothy moving forward. As in the beginning of my service with you, I must say that there are no promises here. However, this group of men and the executive team of St. Timothy believe that the Bishop will not be able to present an opportunity for a leader to come into a church who is excited about the future and looking for transformation to be possible.

A big part of our call, as a disciple of Christ, is to be in relations with one another. To be in relation means that we must be open to listening to the other. We must be open to hear new words which may stimulate change within our structure. We know our identity as: beloved children of God. We know the message to share through words and actions: Christ offers everyone a new life, free from sin, death, and doubt through an invitation to be in relationship. Now, we need to discover how we can extend this relationship to others and offer them Christ. We must discover for ourselves how the gifts of time, talents, and treasures can be used for transformational purposes.

Discovering how we can use ourselves anew for the ministry of Christ is a big change from the death talk that I hear in July of last year. As I said the, I still affirm. You are all very much alive and full of so much love, full of so much to offer others that once your discoveries come, St. Timothy will burst with excitement and with life. I am anxiously awaiting to hear how you all become the Body of Christ renewed and anew in the late first decade of this century. As conversations to help in this discover occur, know that there are many who are praying for you, many hoping to see the transformation which is awaiting you.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Senior Seminararian Brian Riedy

St. Timothy Mission Statement

Nurtured and sustained by God's love,
we are called and inspired to share His love with our neighbor,
to make God's story known, and to help our neighbors near and far
...so that all may experience God's love.

April Worship Calendar

Sunday School – 9 am in Fellowship Hall • Adult Forum – 9 a.m. in Lounge
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Date	Day	Special Events	Readings
April 2	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	5th Sunday in Lent Praise Worship	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
April 5	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Mid-Week Lenten Worship Soup/Salad Meal/Worship	with West End Collaborative at St. Timothy Fellowship Hall
April 9	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Passion / Palm Sunday Children Sing & Ring	Processional Gospel– Matthew 21:1-11 Processional Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
April 11	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	Holy Week Worship	Stations of the Cross at Muhlenberg Chapel, 2400 Chew St., Allentown [parking available on the street]
April 13	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship	John 13:1-17; Matthew 26:17-30 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
April 14	Friday 12:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Good Friday	Good Friday Liturgy at Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Washington & 19th Sts., Allentown [parking available on the street]
April 15	Saturday 7:30 pm	Easter Vigil	Easter Vigil Liturgy Biblical Narratives at Christ Lutheran Church, Hamilton St. & 13th St., Allentown [parking available in lot across from the church]
April 16	Sunday 7:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Worship on Land of Promise Easter Worship Bell Choir Random Ring Brass Quintet	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10; OR John 20:1-18
April 23	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday of Easter Pr. Tom Lichner preaches	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 30	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3rd Sunday of Easter Pr. Woody Maxon presides	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org

for information about our national church

NE PA SYNOD WEB SITE

www.godslove.org or www.nepsynod.org
for information about our synod



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa



Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/StTimAPa

EPISTLE FROM ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH is a publication of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). EPISTLE FROM ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH. Published monthly except August by St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6197. Questions or comments may be directed to the Editor, Epistle from St. Timothy, St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104-6197.

A Message from Pr. Woody

I really don't like crab grass. It seems to have a life of its own and it tries to take over my lawn every year. Every year seems like a good year to try to spread crab grass preventative material early in the Spring to stop the crab grass from ever appearing. So, armed with many chemicals, I spread this alien looking yellow stuff all over my lawn right before the snow. In the past, the first thing that happens, of course, is that patches of my lawn where I accidentally went over it twice, died. Since there was fertilizer in the material I spread around, what is left of my lawn looked really good. Hopefully this year will be different.

I think the past few years have been painful because we have seen how our dreams of a particular path of ministry or the kind of pastoral leadership we would be comfortable with, can hurt us. We lined up our treasures around a dream that could never really deliver what we hoped for which is perhaps, a vision of St. Timothy of old. The bait and switch of our dreams and reality hurts us and even the community around us. When the future we hope for does not appear, we appreciate how vulnerable we are and how close to the edge of difficulty we are walking.

The dream of a beautiful, green, weed free lawn is just that, a dream. The reality is that it takes hard work and years of careful planning to have a beautiful lawn. It takes daily primping and manicuring to look nice. Nothing ever just happens. Spreading a few odd colored chemicals around will not make it happen. It still takes work. That lesson is true of our ministry and our vision of our congregation and community too.

The future of St. Timothy is not something that is going to just happen, it takes work. It takes work from the council, the committees and the members. Pastor Lichner, Brian and I have been working these last months to get the information and tools necessary for the leadership to start looking at ministry possibilities. The relationship that is developing between the Barn and St. Timothy is a good example of how seizing a ministry opportunity is crucial to the ongoing life of a congregation. The changes that come about from seizing this opportunity makes the congregation stronger and ready for the future.

In the coming weeks and months, we all have to do those things necessary to make our new Vision Statement a reality. As we come to worship, think about how you can be receptive to God's call in this place. Pray for your congregation, your leadership and the Bishop, that God will bless us all with wisdom and the Spirit we need to do our next step in mission.

A congregation is like a lawn. The only way that a congregation is healthy and growing is when the people do those daily care things of participation and work. It is not the Pastor who makes a congregation grow, it is the people. New pastors are like fertilizer, they make things green for a little while but then the real character of the congregation comes out. So, it is up to you, not a new pastor. If you want to be a green congregation with a bright future, start working now, don't wait for the fertilizer!

ST. TIMOTHY'S EMAIL

office@sttimothy.org

FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:

www.sttimothy.org

Moving? New Email? Change Your Phone No.?

We constantly struggle in this mobile society we live in to keep up with everyone's current mailing and contact information. We are asking everyone to make sure the information we have is up-to-date by completing the form below and either mail it to the church secretary or drop it in the offering plate.

Name	
Address	
City	State Zip Code
Home Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Cell Phone (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Work Phone (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Please send my copy of the newsletter to me via:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail (Post Office) <input type="checkbox"/> Email

PLEASE PLACE COMPLETED FORM IN OFFERING PLATE OR DROP IN THE MAIL.



Health Topic of the Month



by Charlotte Cruise

Staying Healthy

SPRING IS HERE! Although we had a mild winter, most of us probably were more sedentary than we should have been. We made the choice to stay indoors where it was comfortable and warm. We chose to not be as active as we are in the warm weather months. Sometimes these choices, although comfortable, can lead to an unhealthy decline.

A popular belief among many of us is that after the age of forty it is all downhill. How wrong we can be with this thought. It is true that weight gain increases, mobility and flexibility slow a bit, and we experience more aches and pains and a myriad of other symptoms. However, research has pointed out that decline does not begin until age seventy, excluding any major illness or accident. Most decline that we each experience is a result of our life style choices and not age.

Between the ages of 30 and 50, we may lose almost twenty percent of our lean muscle mass. Weight training can stabilize the loss. No need to run right out and purchase weights; using canned goods will provide the weight needed to accompany exercises.

Thirty minutes of cardiovascular exercise (walking, running, swimming, etc.) at least three times per week is important for cardiac and lung health. The exercise should cause an increase in your heart rate. There is a difference between a leisurely stroll and a brisk walk. However, a leisurely stroll is better than long periods of sitting. Weight training does not increase the heart rate as cardiovascular exercise do.

It is also important to stay well hydrated. A well hydrated body will have healthy joints, clear moist skin, fewer digestion problems, and healthier organs.

Of course, in addition to physical exercise, ones mental and emotional well-being is important. Hobbies and activities that require concentration and problem solving will help the mind to stay sharp. Stepping out of one's comfort zone provides a healthy mental challenge. Choose activities that provide enjoyment and delight. Take time to smell the roses and choose to stay healthy.

Adapted from Natural Awakenings, February 2017



Members at Home

We pray weekly for our members at home. Every month we highlight a portion our list of homebound members so that you can send cards, and perhaps visit!

Here is this month's list (*birthday in italics*):

Sharon Clark, Good Shepherd Home, Raker #216, 543 St. John St., Allentown, PA 18103
(February 5)

Steven Hader, Moravian Hall Square, 175 W. North St., Nazareth, PA 18064 (November 11)

Barbara Fletcher, Lehigh Commons, Rm. 212 1680 Spring Creek Rd., Macungie, PA 18062
(December 22)

Al Nork, 1231 St. Basil St., Allentown, PA 18104
(December 16)

The following members have birthdays soon:

Elaine Jones, 2835 W. South St., Allentown, PA 18103 (May 2)

Thank You!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to everyone for donating soup and other food supplies for the Lenten Wednesday suppers; for the bottles, stickers, and candy our team will deliver to the St. Paul's breakfast on Easter; also to Cheryl for shredding the 'straw' and making the labels!

NO MORE BOTTLES ARE NEEDED. The Sunday School children, with the expert help of Kim, Jessy and Vicar Brian, finished adding the stickers last Sunday to 120 'Easter Baskets'!

Thanks, too, for the colored Easter eggs, treats for the children's egg hunt, clothes and shoes for the Rescue Mission and clothes and toys for 'Little Boy.'

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

Taking Others to the Lord in Prayer

St. Timothy intercessory prayer ministry has an invitation for you.

As part of our personal prayer discipline, we pray for others...
and gather together during the year to strengthen our individual
and corporate prayer life.

Are you called to prayer ministry? We welcome you to JOIN US...

For more information contact:

Senior Seminarian, Brian Riedy (610-844-8924) or Gloria Hinrichs
(610-398-8472)



The children make baskets for the St. Paul's Breakfast that will be given out on Easter Sunday.

DEADLINE
for the
MAY NEWSLETTER...
APRIL 15!



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$200.00.

Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week.

Again, thank you for your donation.

Sincerely, AAEFB

M. Rosenberger

Corresponding Secretary

The Recycling Corner

Have you ever wondered how to recycle some of the items around the house? How to be better stewards of God's earth and help others at the same time? Here are some of our ongoing projects:

ARTICLES	WHERE TO PUT THEM	PERSON IN CHARGE
Sheet blankets	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Quilting committee
Soda cans	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (for Scouts)
Men's socks in good condition	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Alliance Hall)
Toiletries (from hotels/motels)	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Alliance Hall)
Card fronts (from greeting cards)	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (St. Jude's Home for Children)
Eyeglasses	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Center for Visually Handicapped)
Good used sneakers	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Alliance Hall)
Plastic bags	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Food Bank)
Styrofoam Peanuts	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ Mailbox)
Styrofoam medicine boxes and shipping packaging ONLY	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ Bethlehem Recycling)
<i>Styrofoam trays, cups, plates, egg cartons, food containers, etc. are no longer accepted. Please dispose of in your trash.</i>		
General Mills box tops for education;		
cash register receipts from Redner's & Fairgrounds Market;		
Campbell's labels	Appropriate boxes in narthex	Cheryl Christensen
Rubber Bands*	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (*from newspapers)
Current Calendars	Cabinet in narthex	Anyone who can use them
Empty printer, fax machine or desktop copier cartridges	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ FundingFactory)
Old cell phones	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ FundingFactory)
Women's and Men's business attire and accessories... (for "The Perfect Fit"/"First Impressions for Men")		
(Must be Clean, Good Condition/gently used laundered/ironed)		
IN SEASON ONLY!!!	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Gloria Hinrichs

Thanks for your help and cooperation with these projects!



Focus on Men

Over the past several months we have been focusing on health issues that are important to men, especially as we age. First, we looked at the issue of suicide as we age. We can't do what we use to, and so why live. It happens more often than we think. Secondly, we looked at the aging itself and what it does to us,

Today we're looking at urology, which includes Prostate Cancer, ED and Sexually Transmitted Disease.

First, we begin with a statement about support services for men. There is a subtle discrimination against men. We really have no support systems. (Although for many of us, the church is a support system. Here we do talk to each other and share some of our concerns.) We don't want to reach out for health care. We don't mourn ourselves. However, we are getting older and we are getting better. As our bodies age, some things are obvious—such as baldness or weight gain. Other things are not—such as the prostate.

Prostate problems can be controlled by medication or surgery. Many doctors want to take a conservative approach, and don't want to use invasive surgery until they must. However, we don't want to talk about it, because we fear surgery. But simple PSA tests and digital exams do their jobs. After several years of testing, my urologist told me that with both these tests and my age, I probably will never develop a prostate issue, and he released me from yearly checkups. That was good news.

Sexual issues are also involved here. Both men and women have sexual issues. Men will talk about theirs; women, generally will not. It is just a part of getting older. For us men, we feel less of ourselves and our partners will think less of us also. That is our fear and our loss, but it doesn't mean we can't have intimacy with each other. There is help. Have your blood pressure checked. Hardening of the arteries affects ED. So, there is medication. Anxiety also is an issue that can be addressed.

STD's are an increasing issue among the older population. Since we don't have to be afraid of pregnancy and we don't have safe sex, more and more of us get infected. It is a very dangerous trend and it can kill us. It may seem strange to talk about this in a church publication because most of us are of the age that we have been committed to our wives. Nevertheless, we are all vulnerable to STD's.

Our health as men is very important. We're beginning to move into the phase of health care when we are taking responsibility for our health. Have yearly preventive checkups to maintain your health. God has given us precious bodies. This is a wondrous gift. Take care of yourself. Be kind to yourself.

(Most of this material is based on notes from a presentation by Dr. Lieberman, of Sacred Heart Hospital.)



MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APRIL 2017

Key: [F] = Fellowship Hall [L] = Lounge [P] = Pastor's Office [NV] = Nave
 [N] = Nursery [LB] = Library [YR] = Youth Room [LP] = Land of Promise

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9-10:30 am–St. Timothy/Barn Meeting [L]
2 Lent 5 8 am–Glorious Day Rehearsal [NV] 9 am–Sunday School [F] 9:15 am–Confirmation Class [YR] 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am– Praise Worship ~11:30 am–Blood Pressure Screening [L]	3 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	4 9 am–12 pm–Quilters [L] 11-3 pm–Office Open 1:30-2:45 pm–Bible Study [L] 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F]	5 11 am–4:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 3:30 pm–Worship & Music Committee [L] 5:30-7 pm–Lenten Meal & Worship [F] 7 pm–Allentown Hiking Club [F] 7:30 pm–Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm–Venture Crew [F]	6 10 am–3 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 12-3 pm–AARP [F]	7 10:30 am–2:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11 pm–Chess Club [L]	8 8 am–4 pm–AlAnon Workshop [F]
9 Palm/Passion 9 am–Sunday School [F] 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am–Worship	10 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am–Property Committee 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	11 11-3 pm–Office Open 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F]	12 11 am–4:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 7:30 pm–Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] AARP in Parking Lot	13 Maudy Thursday 10 am–3 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 2 pm–Daybreak Mission Team 6:30 pm–Scout Leadership Meeting [F] 7:30 pm–Worship [NV]	14 Good Friday 10:30 am–2:30 pm–Vicar in Office 12 pm–Worship @ Redeemer 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11 pm–Chess Club [L] 7:30 pm–Worship @ Redeemer	15 Easter Vigil Chess Club [F] 6 pm–Worship @ Christ Lutheran MAY NEWLETTER DEADLINE
16 Easter 6:30 am–Mission Team @ St. Paul's 7 am–SonRise Worship [LP] NO Adult Forum 9:15 am–Confirmation Class 9:45 am–Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am–Celebration Worship Children Sing Bell Choir	17 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Mental Health Support Group [L] 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	18 9 am–12 pm–Quilters [L] 11-3 pm–Office Open 1:30-2:45 pm–Bible Study [L] 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F] 7:30 pm–WELCA Meeting [L]	19 11 am–4:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open NO Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm–Venture Crew [F]	20 St. Patrick's Day 10 am–3 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 6 pm–Scout Commissioners Meeting [F]	21 10:30 am–2:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11 pm–Chess Club [L]	22
23 Easter 2 9 am–Sunday School [F] 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am–Worship	24 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	25 11-3 pm–Office Open 1:30-2:45 pm–Bible Study [L] 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F]	26 11 am–4:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 7 pm–AA Board Meeting [L] 7:30 pm–Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV]	27 10 am–3 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open	28 10:30 am–2:30 pm–Vicar in Office 11-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11 pm–Chess Club [L]	29 9 am–Outreach Committee [L]
30 Easter 3 9 am–Sunday School [F] 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am–Worship						

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Support Mission with Thrivent Choice Dollars

Sometimes opportunities to provide help to those in need come from surprising places. Those in our synod who are also Thrivent Financial members now have the option of routing all or a portion of their Thrivent Choice Dollars to our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

As a non-profit, fraternal organization, Thrivent Financial must return a portion of its revenue to organizations that do good in the world. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA has just been added to Thrivent's list of approved organizations that can receive these funds.



With just a click of your mouse, or a simple phone call to Thrivent's customer assistance, you can help your Synod continue

various ministries through which it carries out Christ's directive to feed the hungry, provide for the homeless, support the spiritually lost, and many other concrete actions taken daily on your behalf.

Please consider how a small portion of your time can help so significantly. Visit www.thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 to take action or get more information.

Maidencreek Church Toys for Christmas



On Wednesday, December 21, Maidencreek Church received a last minute request for toys from the Second Street Learning Center in Reading. The Center did not have enough toys for the 450 children enrolled in their programs, which includes a 24/7 day care center. These children range in age from 6 weeks to 13 years. Even though most of the parents work, 98% of these families are below poverty level.

Thanks to social media, the church was able to get the word out to its members. The message was shared with coworkers and friends who joined in to assure that all the children would have a Christmas gift. By 5:00 PM Thursday (30 hours after the request) a truck was loaded and 200 toys were delivered to the Center.

There were Barbie Dolls, Legos, footballs, games, baby toys, craft kits, trucks, cars, and everything in between. Every child at the center was able to receive a Christmas gift, and the people at Maidencreek Church gave thanks to God for placing this opportunity before them.

Maidencreek Church Outreach Ministry spent a Saturday morning in December with these children creating crafts as gifts for their parents, grandparents, and friends. In addition, the team provides eight meals a year at Opportunity House, where some of the homeless children live with their mothers.

Share the Good News!

**GOOD
NEWS
EVERYWHERE!**

The synod has a story to tell: How the Holy Spirit works through congregations,

institutions, and programs to accomplish God's will!

Mission Interpreters tell that story. They are making Christ known by sharing the excitement of our synod and churchwide mission and ministry with their own and with other congregations.

To invite a mission interpreter to your congregation, please contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com or Brenda Stauffer at brenda@nepssynod.org.

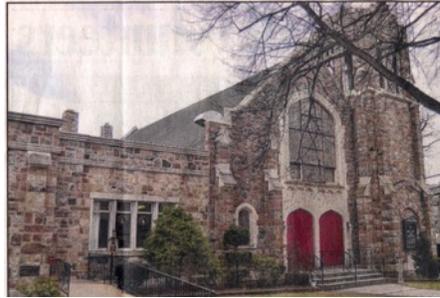
Subscribe to E-News

Do you know that each Tuesday over 900 people receive the synod's weekly electronic newsletter?

Synod E-News contains a list of prayer concerns, various items of interest (both synodical and from the wider church), a list of upcoming events, and various positions available in our congregations.

Are you missing out? You can subscribe by visiting the synod website. Under the "Publications" tab, click on "E-News." Then click on the "Join Mailing List" button and you will be sent to a page where you may subscribe to E-News, Daily Prayers, and other e-publications.

Sharing a Pastor



Holy Trinity, Palmerton

St. Matthew, North Weissport

One of the first things children learn is to share. Two churches are doing just that. For three years, St. Matthew, North Weissport, has been without a regularly called pastor of their own. At the same time Holy Trinity, Palmerton, came to the realization that they could no longer afford to support a pastor on a full-time basis. They approached the synod office for help and learned of St. Matthew's situation.

The leaders of Holy Trinity decided they would rather share their pastor than see him take another call, so they opened discussions with St. Matthew. This led to the sharing arrangement. Sunday services are held at 8:30 a.m. at St. Matthew and 10:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity. This allows Pastor Frost enough time to talk with the congregation and still get to the second service on time. His only regret is that he is not able to be present for Sunday school at either church. The churches will also worship together for mid-week Lenten services and Holy Week, alternating locations.

Pastor Frost is especially excited about the possibilities this arrangement opens for St. Matthew. "They are very excited to have someone who is their pastor. There's a great deal of enthusiasm." Over the years, the church has seen a decrease in attendance due to the lack of a regularly called pastor. "Worship attendance has picked up since I started," says Pastor Frost. "Morale dips when there isn't a consistent pastor." He looks forward to seeing the church grow.

Pastor Frost leads Bible study groups at Holy Trinity. A Wednesday evening group is studying St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, and a Thursday morning group is studying the book of Genesis. Pastor Frost hopes there will be crossover and that people get to know one another, leading to new relationships between people of the two congregations.

[Thank you to Kristine Porter and the *Lehigh Times News* for allowing her article to be edited for use in *Synod News*.]

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101.
nepsinfo1988@gmail.com; www.godslove.org

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030
 The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair 484-358-5720
 Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

May 2017 LMD NL news will be due April 12, 2017. E-Mail any information to me at ldm.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

The LMD Mission District Assembly is scheduled for **Sun., April 30th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** at **The Lutheran Center**. It will begin with a free dinner (financial contributions will be accepted), during which the business meeting will be conducted. And it will continue with a special presentation on *Luther in the Changing Church*, under the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner. **Please make dinner reservations before April 21st** through our Secretary, Pastor Richard Stough (e-mail at stough@rcn.com or cellphone at [484-655-4550](tel:484-655-4550)).

Roast Beef Dinner at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church (2451 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley PA) on **Sat., April 1st 4-6:30pm**. Adults \$12, 12 & Under \$9, 3 & Under Free. Please call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144) for more information. Takeout meals are also available. Proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County.

Journeys Through Grief: Two LCS six-week grief support are available this spring in the Lehigh Valley. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. **Luther Crest**, Mon. mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon through Apr 10th; **Emmaus Moravian Church Mon. evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. through Apr 10th**. Contact Sylvia Havlish to register at [610-657-7075](tel:610-657-7075) and visit our website for more information at www.lutherancongregationalservices.org.

Model Passover Seder Dinner: April 6th at 3:30 p.m. in Crest Hall, cost is \$11.00 and covers a full buffet style meal with commentary led by Cantor Kevin D. Wartell from Temple Beth El. **Registration required**, contact Chaplain Ginny Heimer [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

Presentation at Luther Crest - The public is cordially invited to attend the following presentation in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104. **Tues. at 2:30 p.m., April 11th**, Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on **A Turkish Puzzle: Fetthulah Gulen**. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

The 2017 schedule for Lutheran Congregational Services' Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training is now available. Trainings will be held **May 13th** (St. Michael's, Sellersville), **Sept. 16th** (Christ Lutheran, Hellertown) and **Oct 7th** (St. John's, Stroudsburg). **Details and registration information at www.lutherancongregationalservices.org**. Your congregation may also schedule a special training for \$250 + facilitator mileage. Thrivent Action Team grant funding can be used for educational trainings like this! Questions? Call Pastor Jennifer Ollikainen at [610-425-2981](tel:610-425-2981).

THANK YOU!! - to those who have contributed their time, talents, and donations of goods and money to the Crossroads Day Shelter at St. Paul's-Allentown. This ministry is possible only because of people like you! From **May 1st until October 31st**, Crossroads will only be open at certain times, due to the lack of volunteers and staffing. If you are interested and able to donate a few hours a week, perhaps we can be open a bit more. In the meanwhile, contributions are always welcome! Call St. Paul's at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065).

Save These CROP Dates!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger **Walk: Sun., Oct. 8, 2017, 1:30 p.m.**, with registration beginning at 12:45 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104.

CROP Recruiters' **Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 27, 2017, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need locally and around the globe!

Employment, Internship, and Volunteer Opportunities at Luther Crest. If you or someone you know would like to explore employment, internship, or volunteer opportunities in nursing, dining services, activities, pastoral care, or other services among senior adults, please contact Luther Crest at [610-398-8011](tel:610-398-8011). For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

Can you provide an hour or two per week to help someone who wants to change their life? St Luke's at 417 N 7th St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net for class times and orientation sessions.



EASTER BLESSINGS

The month of April will include the Festival of Easter and it is my privilege to wish you Easter Blessings on behalf of Dean Gade, Associate of the Bishop Kurt Garbe, and the entire Lehigh Mission District Council. Easter is, of course, the most significant celebration in our faith tradition! Oh, admittedly, there is Christmas and there is Holy Week, including Good Friday. But none of these would have any significance for us were it not for the special gift of Easter.

When I contemplate the meaning of Easter, my mind and my thoughts go immediately to the 28th chapter of Matthew's Gospel and his description of what occurred on that first Easter Day. In an abbreviated form, it reads *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And there was a great earthquake; (and) an angel of the lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it...(And) the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where he lay.*

And the implication is that the Marys, after a quick look into the emptiness of the tomb, went off to tell our Lord's disciples what they had found. Obviously, there is no reason to think that an empty tomb is what they were expecting to find, but it was a scene which dramatically changed their lives and has had a major impact upon the history of the more than 20 centuries since they shared that experience.

My reflections and contemplations of this experience were dramatically impacted by an episode which I experienced a few years ago while visiting Jerusalem. Any of us who have had the privilege of visiting that Holy City have recollections which will never escape our memories, but this one had a particularly profound impact upon my faith life. It happened while we were visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The guide was in the process of introducing us to some of the uniqueness's of this place and ultimately, of course, this led to the empty tomb. As he was describing this space, he digressed and told us that just a week or so prior to our visit there had been someone in a group who interrupted him by saying, "Sir, thank you for your enlightening information, but I want you to know that the only reason I came here was to assure myself that the tomb is empty! And I can see that now, and that's all that really matters!" And, I guarantee you that not many of those in my group heard much of what he said after that, because that really was what mattered!

There can be little doubt about the fact that the emptiness of that tomb when those ladies went there that day has had and continues to have a significant impact upon our lives. It affirmed continuing hope for us beyond both the celebrations and the struggles of this life. Undoubtedly most, if not all, of us have dealt either personally or through relatives or friends with issues which make us extremely grateful for the renewing gift of our Easter Blessing!

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary



1987-2017

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

May 11 (Thurs) – Bucks County Playhouse – CLUE ON STAGE - A new venue for Operation Sunshine, the well known Bucks County Playhouse presenting *Clue On Stage*. Secrets! Lies! Blackmail! Murder! What's a body to do? Join in the original farce whodunit cocktail party turned multiple homicides that will leave you guessing! CLUE: the Play is the stage adaption of the popular Parker Brothers board game, featuring six suspicious characters, six deadly weapons, nine sinister rooms and one killer evening! Luncheon restaurant to be determined.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM
Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Mar. 30

June 21 (Wed.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – MARY POPPINS - Based on the stories by P.L. Travers and one of the most popular films of all time! Mary Poppins takes us on a magical and memorable adventure. It's an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers, and a little bit of magic. This is a show that received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including best musical. It's a **SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS** musical adventure! Lunch at Charlie Brown's Fresh Grill.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM and will return approximately 6 PM
Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 18

July 12 (Wed.) – Fulton Theatre – NEWSIES - The toast of Broadway for over two years, *Newsies* is based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899. Day in and day out a young group of scrappy and spirited newsboys carry the banner, hoping for a major headline so they can sell enough "papes" to survive the harrowing streets of New York City... until they become the headline! Lunch at The Pressroom. Please call the office for lunch menu choices at the time of reservation.

Bus leave St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 6 PM
Cost \$97 Payment Deadline: Thurs., June 8

MULTI- DAY TRIPS

June 5 (Mon.) to June 8 (Thurs) – ARK ENCOUNTER AND CREATION MUSEUM, Williamstown, KY with an overnight in Wheeling, WV (4 Days-3 Nights) Join Operation Sunshine on a tour of Biblical proportions! Travel with us to tour a full-sized replica of Noah's Ark, built to specifications from the Bible and then a day at the 70,000 square-foot Creation museum that brings the pages of the Bible to life. Travel for a night in Wheeling, WV before arriving at our home base in Cincinnati for nights 2 and 3. Dinners include a German dinner with entertainment at the first authentic Hofbrauhaus in America and a scenic riverboat dinner cruise.

Join us September 20-30, 2017 for - ON THE TRAIL of MARTIN LUTHER MUSEUM, Travel with Operation Sunshine and Collette faith on a trip to Germany to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Now on a First-Come First Served basis.

For a flyers and pricing information on these trips, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.