



Epistle from

St. Timothy

Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2016
Volume 22, Issue 4

Sharing our faith by sharing God's love!

Advent—the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event *(Google definitions)*

I'm sure that many of you are familiar with the Season of Advent. We are in the midst of Advent as you are reading this article. This means that we should all be in a time of preparing the way of the Lord. We heard this cry as we read from the Gospel of Matthew, which is the highlighted Gospel for this entire year. The cry we heard is a cry which calls us to repentance and then leads us to the baptismal waters of Christ.

We should never forget the Season of Advent for it is during this time of waiting and longing where our hearts beckon each week for the arrival of Christ. Advent has us yearning to come and return to the waters so to remember that we are cleansed because Christ has made us so to be. Advent also has us longing to be at the communion table so to taste and see that the Lord is good. So, come. Come to the table where no one is denied. Come and see that the yearning ends when the heart finds life anew through Christ.

At St. Timothy, we are in another advent as well. Notice the small "a" of this advent. This is to say that we are anticipating the potential arrival of someone. At a church talk after service on November 6, the congregation accepted a request to be in conversation with the worshiping community of The Barn. We will look to reopen the communication between the two congregations so to partner in ministry.

This will not be a merger where one group is swallowed up the other. Rather, it will be more like a marriage where two spouses remain the individuals they are while learning how to live under one roof sharing joys, concerns, sorrows, and space. This means there will need to be give-and-takes. It also means that we will need to welcome a stranger (one who is broken and who comes as they are) just as Christ first welcomed us (ones who are broken and who came just as we are).

So please, this Advent hold the hope of Christ deep in your hearts as we all await what might be new in this coming year.

Your brother in Christ,
Senior Seminarian 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.

December 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
Dec. 4	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday in Advent Children Sing	Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
Dec. 11	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3rd Sunday in Advent Advent Lessons & Hymns Praise Service Pr. Tom Lichner Rite for Wholeness	Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
Dec. 18	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	4th Sunday in Advent Rev. Woody Maxon	Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24	Friday 4:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Children's Service Christmas Pageant Bell Choir	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 24	Friday 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Bell Choir	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 25	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Christmas	Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20



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.

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

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org
for information about our national church

ST. TIMOTHY'S EMAIL

office@sttimothyhc.org
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A Message from Pr. Woody

Walking downtown along Hamilton Street on my way to Billy's Downtown Café, I looked with a little bit of sadness where the Hess Department Store used to be. I was reminded me of the shows I saw on Channel 39 about how the store was decorated for the Holidays. The thought took me back to my childhood when we would go to the Higbee's Department store and see the Lionel trains and the animated figures. I get to see my childhood again every time I watch the movie "Christmas Story" because it was filmed in Cleveland with the original sets from the 1950's.

Looking and remembering is fun to do. It brings back memories of what we recall as simpler times, even though in reality there were no simple times. We get nostalgic and a bit sad but then we move on and enjoy the times we have today.

Memories of Christmas remind us that the things of our lives always change. As one year flows into another, we realize we have to make sense of a brand new world. That would be especially true this year as an entirely new administration takes over leadership of the White House.

As we go through this special season, I worry about so many people who get caught up in the whirl and twirl of the season. Too many people get caught up by the things of Christmas and forget about how Christmas enhances our relationships. These moments are special and we should enjoy them. It is too easy to spend precious time putting pictures on our devices and not really enjoying the moment.

I think that as we have a chance, it is important to pause and look around. Enjoy the wonderful Christmas decorations that are everywhere. Listen to the joyous music that is played everywhere. Watch the happy and sad Christmas specials that are always on television this time of the year. Come and hear the wonderful worship service at church with music that can fill your heart with hope.

These are the events that make up the holiday. But the truth is that we can keep Christmas all the year round in our hearts. The Christ child came into a world that was filled with anger and hate. The Christ child came into this world a victim of poverty. Disease and death were all around him. He was a stranger in a foreign land from the moment of his birth.

Today we living in a world that is not so different from the world our Lord entered 2000 years ago. Danger and uncertainty still abound around us. We still face disease and economic instability. We move from place to place and commute long distances. It has never been an easy life. And it is to this world that the Christ Child continues to choose to come. It is in our confused and hurting hearts that Christ wants to make his home.

The hope of this season always rests with the Baby Jesus nestled in his mother's arms reminding us that with him we always have the hope of peace.

It is my Christmas wish for all of you that you find peace and hope in this season of joy.



DEADLINE
for the
JANUARY NEWSLETTER...
DECEMBER 15!



Health Topic of the Month

by Charlotte Cruise



First Aid for Common Disorders — Part 2

Fainting—When a person faints, the blood vessels do not carry an adequate supply of blood to the brain resulting in a loss of consciousness. This loss of consciousness is of short duration. Frequently, there is no medical significance for the episode. In some instances, the cause can result from a serious disorder. Discuss recurring fainting spells with your physician.

- **Treatment**—

- If you feel faint, sit down and place your head between your knees. When you feel ready to get up, do so slowly.
- If you are with someone and they faint, place them on their back. If they are breathing, raise their legs above the level of the heart (about 12 inches). Do not allow them to get up too quickly. **If they remain unconscious for longer than a minute, call 911.**
- **If the person is not breathing and there are no signs of circulation, call 911 and begin CPR until help arrives.**

Fever—Winter is prime time for colds and flu which can be accompanied by fever. The average body temperature is 98.6 degrees. Normal body temperature can range between 97 and 99 degrees. It is good to know what is normal for yourself.

- There are several ways a temperature can be taken. Each way has a degree point that indicates a fever is present.
 - Rectal, ear, or forehead—100 degrees or higher
 - Oral—100 degrees or higher
 - Under the arm—99 degrees or higher
- **Treating a fever**—When an individual is ill, comfort and rest are the main goals. Treating a fever will neither shorten nor prolong the duration of the illness.
 - Children with a fever:
 - Encourage the drinking of fluids.
 - Dress in light clothing.
 - If chills occur, cover the child with a light weight blanket until the chills disappear. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil, Children's Motrin) as indicated on the label can be given.
 - **Special note:**
 - DO NOT** give aspirin to anyone age 18 or under.
 - DO NOT** give ibuprofen to children under 6 months of age.
 - DO NOT** give acetaminophen to infants younger than 6 weeks.
 - Adults with a fever should be treated based on how they feel and look. Use the same care steps as outlined for children.
- A child or adult who has a fever and shows any of the following should be seen by a physician:
 - severe headache
 - seizures
 - stiff neck
 - confusion
 - continuous vomiting or diarrhea
 - significant discomfort

Adapted from the Mayo Clinic



Focus On Men

We may not want to hear it, but Christmas is coming. We may not want to admit it, but Christmas is a time of depression for many people. We may not want to acknowledge it, but the suicide rates are higher than normal around Christmas time. And we may not want to recognize it, but men suffer depression and suicide.

Men become depressed and perhaps suicidal for a number of reasons. Long term illness. Illness with no hope of recovery. Death of a wife (spouse). Sitting down with no desire for physical activity. Pure boredom. Job security. Job loss. Finding a job at an advanced age. Overwhelming feelings of loneliness and hopelessness. Feelings of living beyond our age. Relationship changes and losses. Loss of faith that has kept us whole our whole lives. The affects of these issues affect each man differently.

Yet men are not willing to give up. We still want to work—even in the yard. We identify ourselves by our jobs and careers. We try to keep our bodies young, and eventually may hurt ourselves. We have emotional baggage we don't want to get rid of or know how to get rid of. There is no one to really talk to seriously. We don't want to show our vulnerabilities.

Depression hits men in such a way we often see no way out of it. We often have no support nor

can find a redirected life. And suicide may become a long term process that we need to take seriously. "I can't do this anymore" may finally bring us to the point when we begin to consider suicide as a way to end the pain.

Not a pretty picture, but many of us men (especially in our latter life) face these personal intimate issues and don't know how to deal with them.

Three therapies within our Health Care Ministries can help us:

- 1) Stay in church. Maintain those all important relationships that have helped support you through the years. Take advantage of blood pressure screening and the Service of Wholeness.

- 2) Don't ignore your medical issues. See your doctor. Share with your spouse. Do the best you can to manage your pressures.

- 3) Get connected. Men who are connected (coffee groups, etc.) tend not to commit suicide.

Yes, wonderful, lovely, enchanted Christmas is coming. There are moments we will all wax quiet, pull within ourselves, and shed those important tears over those we have loved, the years we have lost, and the dreams that begin to fade. But don't stay there. Get out of yourselves and let the Christ of Christ renew your life and bring you true inner joy. You have a life to live. In Christ, forever. Jerry





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*):

Ms. Emily Flowers, Good Shepherd Home, Raker #204B, 543 St. John St., Allentown, PA 18103 (*June 3*)

Ms. Vickie (Viola) Kramer, Cedarbrook, D-6 Unit, Rm. #614B, 350 S. Cedarbrook Rd., Allentown, PA 18104

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

Madelon Umlauf, TBA (*June 2*)

Virginia (Ginny) Stetz, Woodland Terrace at the Oaks, 1263 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Apt. 310, Allentown, PA 18103 (*July 23*)

December birthdays include:

Earl Lichtenwalner, 3311 W. Union Street, Allentown, PA 18104 (*December 2*)

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

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL



FALL CLEANUP WITH THE SCOUTS



MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

DECEMBER 2016

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 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 10:30 am-3:30 pm-AARP Christmas Meeting-Lehigh Valley Pops[F] 12-4 pm-Office Open	2 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	3 Operation Sunshine in Parking Lot
4 Advent 2 9 am-Sunday School Christmas Eve Rehearsal [F] 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am-Worship Lessons & Hymns Children Sing Vicar Riedy presides ~11:30 am-Blood Pressure Screening [L] ~12 pm-Decorate Sanctuary ~12 pm-Praise Band Setup [NV]	5 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	6 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 12-4 pm-Office Open 2:30 pm-Staff Meeting [L] 3:30 pm-Worship & Music Committee [L] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	7 12-4 pm-Office Open 6-9 pm-Allentown Hiking Club Christmas Meeting [F] 6:30-7:30 pm-Praise Band Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [L]	8 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 2 pm-Daybreak Mission Team 6-9 pm-Scout Leadership Meeting [F]	9 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	10
11 Advent 3 9 am-Sunday School Christmas Eve Rehearsal [F] 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am-Praise Worship Pr. Lichner preaches Rite of Wholeness	12 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	13 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 2:30 pm-Staff Meeting [L] 3:30 pm-Executive Committee [P] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	14 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:45 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] AARP in Parking Lot	15 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:30-11pm-Chess Club [L]	17
18 Advent 4 6:30 am-St. Paul's Mission Team 9 am-Sunday School Christmas Eve Rehearsal [F] 9 am-Adult Forum [L] with Pr. Maxon [L] 10:30 am-Worship Pr. Woody Maxon ~11:30 am-Congregation Council Meeting [L]	19 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F] 7 pm-NAMI Mental Health Support Group [L]	20 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 2:30 pm-Staff Meeting [L] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	21 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:45 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew Christmas Party [F]	22 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 7 pm-Ensemble Rehearsal [NV]	23 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:30-11pm-Chess Club [L]	24 Christmas Eve Hanukkah Begins 4:40 pm-Children's Worship Service Children Sing 8:00 pm-Candlelight Worship Service
25 Christmas NO-Sunday School NO-Adult Forum 10:30 am-Worship	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	27 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 2:30 pm-Staff Meeting [L] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	28 12-4 pm-Office Open 7 pm-AA Board Christmas Meeting [F] NO-Senior Choir Rehearsal	29 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 7 pm-Ensemble Rehearsal [NV]	30 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-4 pm-Office Open 6:30-11pm-Chess Club [L] 6:30 pm-Venture Crew Overnight Event [F]	31 New Year's Eve 12-9 am-Venture Crew Overnight Event [F] 12-5 pm-Private Event [F] 6:30 pm-6:30 am (1-1) Lehigh Chess Club SAFE New Year's Chess Event [F]

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Meet Your Synod's Staff



Brenda Stauffer

Brenda is the Administrative Assistant to the Bishop. She maintains his calendar and receives all of his incoming telephone calls.

She is also responsible for maintaining the various rosters of church leaders. If you have a change in contact information, especially email address changes, please be sure to advise her.

As part of her roster responsibilities, Brenda also handles the information regarding transitions, both of rostered leaders and of congregations.

Brenda also takes care of ordering office supplies for The Lutheran Center.

She has been in her position with the synod for the last 8 years. Prior to that she served for 22 years as the parish secretary at Prince of Peace, Johnsonville.

Brenda and her husband, Larry, have one son and two grandsons. She enjoys working in her flower beds; and along with Larry, she collects toy trains.

The Gallery at St. John's, Easton



When front porches were common, they were often neighborhood gathering places where friendships were formed. A church leader once said that every church needs a "Front Porch Ministry."

In the late 1990's Easton experienced an influx of artists because of the affordability of space and the proximity to New York City. This inspired St. John's, located in downtown Easton, to find a way to relate to the growing art and business communities.

In the year 2000, *The Gallery at St. John's* opened. A committee of six was formed to oversee its operation. Six exhibits are held each year. One thousand postcards are printed to announce each show. A bulk mailing is sent to 725 recipients, and a press release is issued. There are solo, group, juried, and invitational shows utilizing various media.

In addition to the fine arts exhibits, the Gallery hosts occasional concerts, art demonstrations, book signings, poetry readings, and dramas. The Gallery is open each Sunday afternoon, with two attendants on duty to greet visitors.

The Gallery has become a prominent location in downtown Easton. People from many religious backgrounds and denominations visit each year. It is not uncommon to hear someone say that they are waiting for friends to arrive for a luncheon engagement, having arranged to meet at the gallery.

For St. John's, Easton, the Gallery indeed has become a welcoming "Front Porch Ministry."

Learning Ministries Day

Saturday, January 29, 2017

Growing in Faith



Always [Re]Forming

Through December 31, the cost for the event per person is \$30 (includes lunch). After that date, the cost will be \$45.

For more information and to register, visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org> (under the events tab). Or you may contact Karen Matthias-Long at karen@nepasynod.org or 610-266-5101.

(continued from the right-hand column)

They asked questions such as "What would Good Shepherd be like if it greatly deepened people's relationship with God." "What would Good Shepherd be like if it equipped members very well to share their faith with others."

Some of the "great" vision for Good Shepherd included:

- being more authentic,
- having wider viewpoints,
- listening in a non-judgmental manner,
- risking to go where God wants us to be instead of where we want to be;
- serving with more energy.

The "feel" of this vision will guide Good Shepherd as it seeks to do what matters to God and neighbor.

If your congregation wants to explore this process, visit the website at congregationalvitalitysurvey.com.

Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre Congregational Vitality Project

Like many congregations in our synod, Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre, has been aware of the cultural shift that has been occurring in our society that leaves church involvement a low priority on many people's "to do" list. It was obvious that worship attendance, participation in ministry programs, and giving of member's time, talent and treasure was diminishing.

As a response to what many leaders were observing, the Congregational Council decided to spend a Saturday morning last winter in retreat using the Congregational Vitality Project Quick-Check Survey as a discussion starter.



Fifteen statements of a vital congregation were discussed in small groups scoring each one as it related to Good Shepherd on a scale of 1-5. After our morning of discussion, Good Shepherd's score fell around a "3", or "somewhat".

The vitality project survey suggested that Good Shepherd was primed for a redevelopment of its ministry and mission. The discussion throughout the morning retreat provided a lot of positive energy for the Council members. There was a sense of getting a handle on what could be done about what everyone was feeling.

The first thing addressed was a change in the ministry structure of the congregation from committee based to a ministry teams. Throughout the summer, however, Council members realized that changing the structure was but only a small part of the path toward redevelopment and renewal. They sensed a loss in some of the initial energy from the winter Council retreat, and they felt a need to challenge themselves towards a vision of ministry and mission.

In the fall Council met for another Saturday morning retreat and again used the fifteen statements of a vital congregation from the Quick-check survey. This time, however, they challenged themselves to imagine what the congregation would be like if it scored a "5" or "great" on all the statements on the survey. then they broke into small groups to explore it.

(continues in the left-hand column)

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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January 2017 LMD NL news will be due December 12, 2016. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Presentations at Luther Crest - The public is cordially invited to attend the following presentations in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104, **Tues at 2:30 p.m., Dec. 6th**, Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "What Is Family Anymore, Anyway?", **Jan. 24, 2017**, Sundar Brown on Theoterrorism: Further Discussion about Religion and Violence. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

The Emmaus Chorale presents: "Because It's Christmas" - Join us for a concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec 11th**, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2nd & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. A freewill offering will be taken. The Chorale under the direction of Laura Rabenold, will celebrate the season with a variety of selections, some with piano, organ, hand bells and flute. Included will be "Breath of Heaven" by Easton/Grant; "Because It's Christmas" by Barry Manilow; selections from "Christmas Oratorio" by Saint-Saens; selections from "Frostiana" by R. V. Williams and more. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

Re-awakening to a Loving God - Guided Prayer and Scripture a 5-week Session beginning Jan. 16, 2017. For further information and to register, contact Rev Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

Rev. Dr. Manfred K. Bahmann has just published the second volume of his collected lectures (held at St. Peter's, Scranton and at Luther Crest). The title is: "Two Different Promises: A Christian Perspective on Judaism." The book is available on amazon.com and will be in a few weeks at Barnes & Noble, or contact him for a signed copy at mkbmeb@verizon.net (\$10+postage).

Rehab Services and 55+ Senior Living Opportunities at Luther Crest. If you or someone you know is in need of rehabilitation services (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy) or would like to explore senior living opportunities for people age 55 or older (e.g., independent living, personal care, memory support, or skilled nursing), please contact Matt [610-391-8227](tel:610-391-8227), Mary Louise [610-391-8258](tel:610-391-8258), or Cathy [610-391-8256](tel:610-391-8256) at Luther Crest.

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).

Church Council or Other Group Retreat or Meeting at Luther Crest
We invite your congregation's Church Council or other group to hold a retreat or one of its meetings at Luther Crest. To learn more or to schedule your Church Council or other group retreat or meeting at Luther Crest (with meals optional), 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.

OPERATION SUNSHINE

CELEBRATING



1987-2017

Turn over for fun and exciting trips
planned for 2017 !!!



NEW REFORMATION HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

It was an interesting afternoon! As we prepare to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, about 50 representatives from approximately 10 parishes in the Lehigh Mission District spent Reformation Sunday afternoon 2016 at the Lutheran Center. In most cases, they were accompanied by their pastors. This gathering was at the invitation of the Mission District Council, which made the decision that it would be helpful for the leadership of our congregations to share where things were for them as they approached this unique celebration.

Following devotions led by Dean Gade, Pastor Kurt Garbe, Associate of the Bishop, whose responsibilities include relating to our mission district, introduced the subject of the afternoon by noting that interestingly there have been unique developments associated with the 500th anniversary celebrations since early history. He followed by asking the group to identify some of the issues which it perceived are part of the scene as we move on into our celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Early on it was observed that we are at a point where we need to contemplate what it means to be with people where they are! It was noted that the world has changed dramatically during the last 100 years, let alone the last 500 years, and that the issues with which God's people are dealing have become increasingly complicated. And that the tools which are being used to share both our faith concerns and God's response have also become increasingly complex.

The group continued its discussion by observing that it would obviously be helpful for us to embark on more openness in sharing our experiences! The fact is that the issues with which we are dealing from one parish to another are uniquely similar and our wrestling's with them could probably be facilitated by our sharing's.

In particular, it was noted that the concerns of our children and young people have become increasingly complicated and there is good reason for us to be cooperating to develop new ways of reaching out to their needs. This conversation led to the suggestion that we should be more committed to reaching out and asking them how we can be of more help as they wrestle with relating more meaningfully to the faith world to which we are trying to introduce them.

There was also brief discussion about the fact that we need to be looking for additional positive use for our buildings, many of which were constructed in an era when we were serving many more parishioners than is true today. Several parish groups reported positive uses they had developed and it was clear that others were encouraged by what they were hearing.

It was agreed that we should plan to continue these discussions in the new year and as we proceed with our celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Meanwhile, your mission district council wishes you all the best for a blessed Christmas and a good New Year!

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

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.

March 14 (Tues.) – Hunterdon Hills – BORN YESTERDAY - A “business man” named Harry, comes to Washington DC to make crooked deals with government officials. He brings his charming, but uneducated ex-chorus girl girlfriend, Billie, along for the trip. Harry is worried that her lack of social graces and seemingly feeble brain won't impress the bigwigs he's trying to swindle. But Billie proves to be a quick study—learning about history, politics...and what Harry is really all about. This famous comedy enjoyed one of the longest runs in Broadway history and gave Judy Holliday the role that made her a star!
Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approx. 4:30 PM
Cost \$86 Payment Deadline: Tues., Feb. 28

April 6 (Thurs) – Bristol Riverside Theatre - JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR - Andrew Lloyd Webber's Jesus Christ Superstar, which changed the face of musical theater when it debuted on Broadway in 1971, is a remarkable retelling of the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth as seen through the eyes of his betrayer, Judas Iscariot. This powerful musical, filled with emotional intensity and explosive theatricality, features chart-topping songs such as “Everything's Alright,” “I Don't Know How to Love Him,” “Gethsemane,” and the high-octane title song. See the groundbreaking rock opera that reinvented musical theater for the modern age! Lunch at the King George II Inn with your choice of Roast Turkey Junior Club, French Dip on a Long Roll, and Quiche of the Day served with Soup du Jour and Vanilla Ice Cream and Cookie. Please indicate choice at time of reservation.
Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approx. 6 PM
Cost \$94 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar.9

****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** Travel with Operation Sunshine and Collette faith on a trip to Germany to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with highlights on the trip of visits to Mainz, Worms, Gutenberg Museum, Erfurt, Wartburg Castle, Lutherhaus, Eisleben, Dresden, Leipzig, St. Thomas Church, Wittenberg, St. Mary's Church and Berlin.

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