



Epistle from

St. Timothy

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives by Connecting Communities

December 2018
Volume 24, Issue 4

The Liturgy of Our Church— *We Share the Meal and Are Sent*

What a wonderful and deeply meaningful gift is the liturgy of the church—one to be received with gratitude, attentiveness, and engagement! In the previous three editions of the “Epistle” we considered these aspects of our Sunday morning worship:

† **Preparation** (what we do to be ready for the liturgy, which is “the work of the people” of God),

† **Gathering** (our coming together in Baptismal grace and praise of the Triune God),
and

† **Word** (listening for God’s speaking in the words of Scripture, sermon, prayers, silences, and hymns so that we may be healed, comforted, guided, and transformed more fully into the people God intends us to be).

In this final installment on the “Liturgy of Our Church” we will focus on the Meal that we share and the charge with which we are sent. It seems appropriate that, in our December installment, we focus on the Meal with its physicality, as we also prepare to celebrate the Word becoming flesh to dwell among us. In grace and love, God comes to us in “the ordinary”—including as a vulnerable human infant and in small bits of bread and wine.

The Meal portion of our liturgy commences with the collection of the offering and the presentation of the gifts. The collecting of financial offerings is an opportunity to practice first-fruits, proportionate giving (Deuteronomy 26:1-13; etc.) It is an acknowledgement that God is the Provider of all good gifts, and it is symbolic of the offering of our whole selves in service to God’s loving, sanctifying intentions. As the presentation of gifts (the financial offering which has been collected and the bread and the wine for the Meal) is made, we are bringing back to God a portion of that which God has given us. God then gives the bread and the wine back to us as Holy Communion, and we experience God’s holy presence in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Therefore, the offering of gifts is

*Continued on page 3—see **SR. JANET***

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. 2	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Advent 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 9	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday in Advent Praise Worship	Malachi 3:1-4; Ps.: Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 16	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3rd Sunday in Advent Youth Choir	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Ps.: Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 23	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	4th Sunday in Advent Decorate Sanctuary after worship	Micah 5:2-5a; Ps.: Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
Dec. 24	Monday 4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service Bell Choir in Prelude Candlelight Service Bell Choir	Children's Christmas Pageant and Luke 2:1-20 Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 30	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	1st Sunday of Christmas Lessons and Carols	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

NE PA SYNOD WEB SITE

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

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org
 for information about our national church

DID YOU KNOW?

*Did you know that you can
 keep up-to-date with
 what's happening at
 St. Timothy by checking our
 website? Just go to
www.sttimothy.org
 Click on "News & Events"
 in the menu bar near the top or left
 side of the page...
 and you won't miss a thing!*

AS PASTORAL CARE NEEDS ARISE...

Please help Sister Janet provide timely pastoral care by informing her if you or another member of the congregation goes into the hospital or if you have any other pastoral care needs (in-home visit, spiritual counsel, baptism, funeral, wedding). You can reach her mobile phone at 570-401-5251 (please leave a message and she will get back to you) or by calling the church office at 610-435-6512 Ext. 200 and leaving a message with Cheryl.

ST. TIMOTHY'S EMAIL

office@sttimothy.org

FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:
www.sttimothy.org



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SR. JANET *(continued from page 1)*

done in a spirit of thanksgiving, trust, and great anticipation.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion “for the remembrance” of Jesus—His love, self-giving, death, and resurrection. We celebrate the Meal (the Lord’s Supper) because Christ instituted it and gave it to us as a gift (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We say that the Holy Meal is “a foretaste of the feast to come”—an anticipation of the future of abundant peace, unity, and joy which we are promised in Christ. As Lutheran Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is “truly present” (mysteriously and wondrously) in the Lord’s Supper—in, with, and under the bread and the wine. We believe that, in sharing this Meal, we are united with Christ and with one another. This Meal strengthens us for the journey of faith, the life of service, and the hope-filled facing of death in the assurance of God’s love. The real presence of Christ “for us” in the humble bits of bread and wine united with Jesus’ word of promise, is an assurance that Christ is with us in daily life also.

Some worshippers wonder why we surround the Meal of Holy Communion with words. The words are there to assist us in corporately giving thanks (our family “table prayer”) and to help us relive our common story—the grace of God revealed profoundly in Jesus. The “dialog” draws our communal attention toward the Meal. The “preface” reiterates God’s great grace and mercy given us in Christ and reminds us that, as we share this meal in faith, we are at table with saints of all times and places. Therefore, “with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, and with the hosts of heaven [saints who have gone before us]” we sing the “Sanctus” (“Holy, holy, holy...”), thus echoing the song of the seraphim. (See Isaiah 6:1-3 and Revelation 4:8. On the last two lines of the Sanctus, see Matthew 21:8-9; Matthew 23:39; etc.).

The Prayer of Thanksgiving, which includes the Words of Institution (Matthew 26:26-28), is a narrative of praise and thanksgiving around God’s acts of mercy and grace. In the words, responses, and actions of this prayer, we are telling the story for this present time – affirming that Jesus’ self-giving is “for you,” that is, for each one of us now. The participation in Holy Communion is much more than a remembering of a past event; it is the experience of Christ’s redeeming Presence at this moment. On many Sundays, in three short sentences we proclaim the mystery of faith (Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Tuesday Prayer for Peace

Is a weekly opportunity to gather with brothers and sisters in faith for thirty minutes of reflection and prayer for peace—in hearts, in neighborhoods, in the world.

Prayer begins at 7:00 A.M.

We gather in St. Timothy Church lounge.

Please join us and invite others as well!

Christ will come again.), thus affirming a past, present, and future reality for us in Christ. The Prayer of Thanksgiving culminates with the assembled people praying the “Our Father,” the model prayer which Jesus gave us.

Then, as we come to the Table to receive the Bread and the Wine, we do so as a community of faith (the body of Christ) and each one hears the words personally, “The Body of Christ, given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.” In this Meal, our Lord is truly, lovingly present and asking us to receive these elements and these words in simple trust.

Following the distribution of the Lord’s Supper and a concluding prayer, we move into the Sending portion of the liturgy, in which the assembly receives a blessing and may sing a sending song. Then, having been instructed, nourished, spiritually strengthened, and reassured of God’s grace, we are dismissed from the house of worship to go and BE the servant church, the body of Christ, in and for the world in the week ahead. That is our charge as the people of God.

Much more could be written about the marvelous liturgy of the church. However, I hope that this short, 4-installment reflection has been enough to remind us all of the meaning and the value of the work that we do—and the work that God does—when we assemble in worship. I hope that we have been called into deeper attentiveness, more exuberant praise, and greater joyful anticipation as we engage, Sunday by Sunday, in the church’s liturgy. I hope that our faith in God’s love, and our love for God who is “for us”, continue to be strengthened. May we also find ourselves continually renewed as a community of faith whose members carry the love of Christ into many corners of our world day by day. To God be the glory!

Yours in the grace of Christ,
Sister Janet

**Special
Congregational Meeting**
Immediately following the
10:30 a.m. Worship service
on Sunday, December 2, 2018

The sole purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and vote on a recommendation from our Congregation Council that we make needed updates to our heating system. (A letter with more details was mailed out to members on November 16.) All voting members of St. Timothy are urged to be present for this important informational meeting and vote. Non-voting members and friends of St. Timothy also are welcome to attend.

Christmas Eve

Please invite your family, neighbors, friends—and strangers, too—to join us on December 24, Christmas Eve, for Services of Holy Communion celebrating the Birth of Jesus the Christ:
4:30 p.m.—including children's Nativity pageant
8:00 p.m.—including congregational candle lighting

Christmas Caroling

Our Outreach Committee is planning to go to homebound members of St. Timothy during the Christmas Season to bring Christmas song, prayers, and blessings. Please consider joining us on one or more of these evenings:

Wednesday, December 26

Thursday, December 27

Friday, December 28

Each evening we will leave from St. Timothy church building at 6 p.m. and return at approximately 8 p.m. For more information or to let us know that you will join us in this outreach to our homebound members, please speak with George Fennell, Rick Focht, or any member of the Outreach Team.

Our Process with Hope UCC— Worshipping Together in December

Occasionally over the past year St. Timothy Lutheran Church and Hope United Church of Christ have shared in worship on Sundays. We have felt blessed in the opportunity to praise God and be nourished on Word and Sacrament together. Along with these worship services we have eaten together, conversed together, and gotten to know each other better. Committees and Church Councils also have had joint meetings.

When the two congregations met casually over a potluck lunch on October 21 and had open conversation, Sister Janet and Pastor Mia heard the process thus far being affirmed and a desire being expressed for continued movement toward closer relationship and cooperation in ministry. Toward that end, the two congregations will worship together in St. Timothy on Sunday mornings (10:30 a.m.) throughout the month of December and on Christmas Eve (4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.) All will be Services of Holy Communion and will include elements from both traditions. In January we will evaluate our December experience and decide on next steps.

Please work to make certain that our brothers and sisters from Hope feel welcomed and valued in our midst, and please continue to pray for wise discernment as Hope and St. Timothy walk this path. May God's good, loving, and holy intentions be served!

Contemporary Worship

A contemporary-style worship service is held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Hope United Church of Christ, 1031 Flexer Avenue. All are welcome.

AARP News

Allentown AARP Chapter #5415 will meet noon, December 6, 2018 at St. Timothy Church, 140 So. Ott St., Allentown. Program: Lehigh Valley Pops Orchestra. Non-members and guests are welcome. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Allentown Food Bank. Call 610-437-4265 for more information.



Health Topic of the Month



by Charlotte Cruise

Carbon Monoxide Safety

This is the time of year when we all want to be warm and cozy. Regardless of the type of heating system in your home, your system can lend itself to high levels of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas which is produced when fuel is burned. Carbon monoxide can quickly build to dangerous levels in un-vented spaces. Breathing air with a high concentration of carbon monoxide displaces the oxygen in the blood and can lead to death. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, chest pain, weakness, upset stomach, or confusion. The remedy is to recognize the symptoms, get into fresh air and then call 911 immediately for treatment.

Tips for Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in the Home:

- Install CO detectors on every level of your home. They should be checked on a regular basis and replaced every five years.
- Have your heating system, water heater and gas, oil or coal-burning systems serviced annually by a certified technician.
- Refrain from using flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- When you purchase gas equipment, check for a national testing agency seal such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- Have your chimney checked and/or cleaned annually.
- If you cook with gas, never use the gas range or oven for heating.
- DO NOT use a portable gas camp stove indoors or burn charcoal indoors.
- When using a generator, it MUST be used outside of your home and placed at least 20 feet from any window, door or vent.

Be safe while enjoying the warm coziness of a winter day.

Adapted from Healthy You—Lehigh Valley Health Network

Reminder—If you did not get your influenza immunization, it is not too late to do so. You can go to your physician, any drug store, or grocery store. **Get protected.**



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*):

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

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

Shirley Hingberger, Above and Beyond, Rm 203, Emmaus, PA 18049

One of our members at home has a birthday in December:

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

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.

Spotlight on Council



Council Highlights November 13, 2018

Pastor Garbe, NEPA Synod Representative, was in attendance to hear about our progress with Hope U.C.C. and to offer comments.

A "thank you" note was received from Sister Janet thanking the congregation for the surprise reception in honor of her first anniversary with us.

St. Timothy and Hope will worship together throughout December at St. Timothy.

The constitution committee will meet on December 2 to begin reviewing our current constitution.

Council agreed to call a special congregational meeting on December 2 to discuss our current heating situation.



DEADLINE
for the
JANUARY NEWSLETTER...
DECEMBER 15!

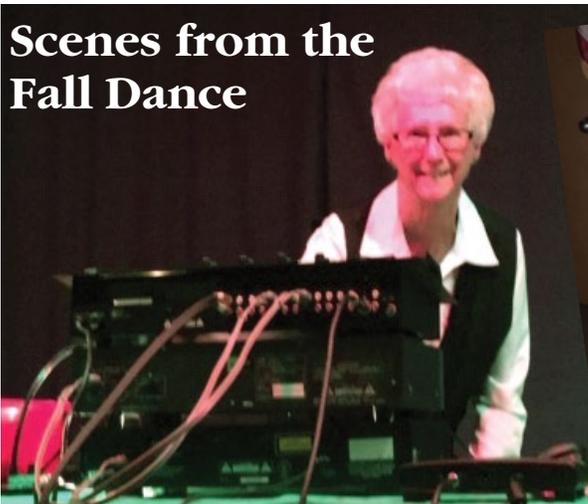
Seen Around...



Sharing God's Love at Rittenhouse Village



Scenes from the Fall Dance



MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

DECEMBER 2018

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 am–Outreach Committee [L]
2 Advent 1 Hanukkah Begins 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 9 am–Sunday School (Christmas Eve Rehearsal [F]) 10:30 am– Worship Bell Choir ~11:30 am– Congregational Meeting [NV]	3 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	4 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 9 am–12 pm–Quilters [L] 12-3 pm–Office Open 3 pm–Worship Committee [L] 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F]	5 12-3 pm–Office Open 2 pm–Executive Committee [P] 5:30-6:30 pm–Praise Band Setup [NV] 6-9 pm–Allentown Hiking Club [F] 6:30-8 pm–Praise Band Rehearsal [NV]	6 10:30 am-3:30 pm–AARP Christmas Meeting [F] 12-3 pm–Office Open	7 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	8
9 Advent 2 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 9 am–Sunday School (Christmas Eve Rehearsal [F]) 10:30 am– Praise Worship ~11:30 am–Blood Pressure Screening [L]	10 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	11 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F] 7-9 pm–Congregation Council Meeting [L]	12 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:45-7:30 pm–Bell Choir [NV] 7:30-9 pm–Adult Choir Rehearsal [NV] AARP in Parking Lot	13 12-3 pm–Office Open 2 pm–Daybreak Mission Team 6-9 pm–Scout Leaders Meeting [F] 7-9 pm–3D [L]	14 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	15 JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
16 Advent 3 6:30 am–Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 9 am–Sunday School (Christmas Eve Rehearsal [F]) 10:30 am– Worship Youth Choir ~11:30 am–Place Christmas Trees & Greenery	17 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F] 7 pm–NAMI Mental Health Support Group [L]	18 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 9 am–12pm–Quilters [L] 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30 pm–Cub Scouts [F]	19 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:45-7:30 pm–Bell Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7 pm–AA Board Christmas Meeting [F] 7:30-9 pm–Adult Choir Rehearsal [NV]	20 12-3 pm–Office Open	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	22
23 Advent 4 NO Adult Forum TBA–Sunday School 10:30 am– Worship ~11:30 am–Decorate sanctuary	24 Christmas Eve OFFICE TBA 4:30 pm– Family Worship Youth & Bell Choirs 8 pm–Candlelight Worship Bell Choir	25 Christmas OFFICE CLOSED 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L]	26 12-3 pm–Office Open	27 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-8 pm–Praise Band Rehearsal [L]	28 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	29
30 Christmas 1 9 am–Adult Forum [L] 9 am–Sunday School [L] 10:30 am– Worship Lessons & Carols	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L]				

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Visitors from Saxony, Germany



The Northeastern PA Synod is blessed with four Companion Synods—a special relationship with the Lutheran Christians in five countries. These are Argentina and Uruguay; Slovenia; Tanzania; and Saxony, Germany. From October 4 to 15, we had the privilege of hosting 15 of our brothers and sisters from Saxony, Germany. The visitors ranged in age from 17 to “older”.

While our visitors were in our Synod, they were each hosted by two different families—one in the Mountain Top area of the Synod and one in the greater Reading area.

From the moment they arrived on the 4th, the visitors had a very full agenda. Some of the opportunities provided to our brothers and sisters from Saxony were:

- worship with their host families,
- a retreat with our Saxony Committee to develop a covenant,
- going to a high school (American) football game,
- spending 2 days in New York City,
- a day in Philadelphia,
- a trip to Amish country,
- and a pig roast.

Of course they did get some down time too!



In order to host a group of this size, it takes the commitment and dedication of many people. A special “Thank You” goes to the host families and our synod’s Saxony committee. A extra special thank you goes to Pastors Wayne and Michele Kaufman.

Final Reminder: Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

Beginning with the January 2019 mailing, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact us at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com or 610-266-5101.

Grace, Reading Back to School Giveaway



The lazy days of summer maybe the norm for some people, but not for the congregation and supporters of Grace, Reading's Back to School Event. For the past four years Grace has hosted this event at their location on the southern side of Reading.

This community project started when four congregation volunteers agreed to assist on a project suggested by Rita Wilk at church council. Rita's dream was to hold an event open to all community members, where needed school supplies and backpacks could be given out to students. Donations were obtained from Grace members along with other churches within the West Berks Mission District. Reaching the targeted recipients was simplified by piggybacking on the resources established by our Growing with Grace Tutoring program. This tutoring program serves two elementary schools located within a few blocks of the church.

In its infancy, this one-day event reached about 120 students with new and used backpacks / bags filled with school supplies. A limited amount of new underwear was given out as well.

To make a greater impact, additional funds were needed to expand the number of backpacks and supplies offered. Over the last three years, grants have been written and granted from Thrivent, Walmart, and the NEPA Synod (your Mission Support dollars at work).

Read more online at <http://nepasynod.org/grace-reading-backpacks>.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-966-3030
610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-358-5720
610-437-9927

[January 2019 LMD NL news will be due December 14, 2018.](#)
E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

***NEW – The LMD Council** is looking to add a few additional members to its ranks (Lay or Ordained) and needs a new treasurer. This group normally meets about 5 times a year on Sunday evenings at Western Salisbury Church. If you can help, please contact Dean Gade by phone [610-966-3030](tel:610-966-3030) or e-mail stpeters@ptd.net.

Set of Bells Wanted - St. Mark, Allentown, is starting a bell choir and is looking to purchase a set of bells from a congregation that may no longer need them. If you can help, please contact John Harkins at dubbadad@aol.com.

One last message from St. Paul's - Thanks for everything! **Grace to you all, and peace.** On behalf of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Allentown, please accept our gratitude for your partnerships over the years, and more recently, for your prayers and good wishes **as we prepare to close on December 30th**. The congregation's decision to disperse throughout the area means that some of you may have visitors, and perhaps eventually members, who find their way from our home to yours. I trust that you will be as blessed by their presence and gifts as I have been.

Blessings on you and your congregations. Pastor Steve Shussett

Come Away To A Quiet Place – Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Fri., of each month Dec. 2/ Jan. 4, 10:30 - 11:30 AM.** Led by Rev. Maritza Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, **1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102.** Parking in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. Enter on 13th Street, look for the sign "Schantz House/Ruhe Annex". **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening tlichner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

Contemplative Prayer...Prayer Around the Cross – Wed., Dec. 5th, 7:00 PM - Advent Awakening. You are invited to join with others for a time of contemplative opening to the Spirit of God in and around us. We invite God's Light to shine in our hearts and to awaken our consciousness to live lives of mercy, justice, and love. Please join together in this brief time of sacred reading, silent reflection, poetry, chanting, candle lighting, intercessory prayer, and ample space for quiet reflection. Christ Lutheran Church, **1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa. 18102.** Parking lot across street from church. Address inquiries to Rev. Tom Lichner at tlichner@rcn.com.

***NEW - IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!** Join us for the Christmas concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 9, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North Second & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus.** The Chorale, under the direction Daniel Reed (Interim Director), will present a program which will include: "Gloria in Excelsis" by Mozart; "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" by Rutter; "God With us, Emmanuel" by Dotta (Choral Premier); "We Need A Little Christmas" and "Charlie Brown Christmas." Refreshments will be available after the concert. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496)

***NEW - Candlelight Christmas Service at St. John's Lutheran, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus.** Service in the German Language – sermon in English, **Jan. 6, 2019 at 6:00PM.** The liturgy will be in the inspiring language of German led by German-speaking members of the congregation. Traditional homemade German cookies and hot beverages will be served in the our festively decorated Parish Hall following the service. Handicap parking and accessibility at the 5th St. entrance. **PLEASE** see attached **Flyer** or **pick up at your church.**

***NEW - Beyond Dementia - Sat. Jan. 26, 2019** (snow date Feb. 2) from **9am - 3pm.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, **1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA.** Join us for a contemplative day to explore ways we can journey in the sacred with those who are cognitively different. The day will be led by Elizabeth Buss, spiritual director, retreat leader and former chaplain, who has been companionship these persons for many years both in individual and group settings. A dynamic speaker, El will share her experience of working and being with these individuals in a spiritually centered way. Questions and registration email Mary Howe mhowe@rcn.com

Updated - 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. **ELL days and hours are, Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. this part of the program is in JEOPARDY due to insufficient volunteers. Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We always need help. We are especially looking for people who a comfortable around computers.** Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net



PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

As I contemplated this issue of our LMD Newsletter and an appropriate Christmas message, I reviewed some recent contributions from recent years and it was easy to conclude that a contribution from Dean Gade from 2014 merited recollection. It's an appropriate message for these unusually confusing times. He noted that he got the inspiration from a parish newsletter and it is my privilege to share an updated version of this piece in the spirit of Christmas 2018.

Let's begin with the story of a traveler who was lost in the back woods. It was night and a violent thunderstorm was raging all around him. He floundered through the mud and rain, desperately peering into the darkness for some hint as to where he was. Then, all of the sudden a crash of thunder brought him to his knees. And he turned his face to the sky and said, "O Lord, if it's all the same to you, I could use a little more light and a little less noise."

Now the fact is that God has generously shared a special light with us! We are currently celebrating *The Season of Light – Advent*. But the truth is there are many in our world who are still floundering in the darkness! There are many who have been abused and are groping for new life as they flee from parts of at least Africa and Central America. And there is another large group who are struggling to put their lives back together as they work at recovering from violent storms and fires.

Thanks be to God's special presence by means of which we encounter the illuminating light of the newborn king through that manger in Bethlehem. And thanks, too, for the privilege of sharing this saving light in our experiences with our family and friends, our congregations and their ministries, and our brothers and sisters around the world. But it doesn't end there! As a result of these experiences, we also find ourselves called to generate some creative noise.

We are sharing such creative noise as we explain the Light – the Love of God – to others. And we are also privileged to share that light with our families and friends, our colleagues in mission and ministry, and with those from near and far with whom we are privileged to evolve history.

Throughout the coming months we will encounter numerous opportunities where we can extend an invitation to others to join us in our mission of light. And let's not be silent – let's make noise! Invite someone to join you for worship this Holiday Season. Encourage a neighbor to come with you to an event. Give of your time in caroling to some homebound members. Invite a lonely individual to join a parish group.

Finally, give gifts that will show that love is important and not simply material possessions. We are a blessed people. Let us live that out, by being a blessing to others. God has made light shine. Let us confirm that gift by sharing some creative noise!

Holiday Blessings!
Pastor Stough

OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.
Allentown, PA 18109

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

!!PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS!!

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.

*******Few Seats Remaining*******

Mar. 21 (Thru) – Bristol Riverside Theatre – THE SUNSHINE BOYS

– Al and Willie, a famous vaudeville team, haven't spoken to each other in over a decade. When a big TV network requests to bring the two legendary (and cranky) comics together one last time, it turns out to be easier said than done. Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" is a touching story full of memories, regrets and the laughs that accompany a lifelong friendship. Lunch at the King George Inn includes a House Salad, Entrée and Cheesecake Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream and Walnut Streusel for dessert. Choice of entrees: Home-style Meatloaf, Fish and Chips or Grilled Chicken Breast ***Please indicate your choice of entrée at time of reservation.***

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00AM and will return approximately 6:30 PM

Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 7

*******Waiting List Only*******

Apr. 24 (Wed.) – Media Theatre – SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

- Tony Manero doesn't have much going for him during the weekdays. He still lives at home and works as a paint store clerk in his Brooklyn, N.Y. neighborhood. But he lives for the weekends, when he and his friends go to the local disco and dance the night away. When a big dance competition is announced, he wrangles the beautiful and talented Stephanie to be his partner. As the two train for the big night, they start to fall for each other as well. The soundtrack by the BG's (Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb) became a classic overnight after the movie starring John Travolta hit the big screen. Return to the "70's" where disco dancing became an art form. Lunch at Spasso Italian Grill which includes a salad, dessert sampler and one of the following entrees: Chicken Marsala, Grilled Fresh Salmon, or Fettuccini Pomodoro. ***Please indicate your choice of entrée at time of reservation.***

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10AM and will return approximately 6 PM

Cost \$85 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 21