

*Epistle from**St. Timothy*
*Evangelical Lutheran Church**Sharing our faith by sharing God's love!***TRANSFORMING LIVES
BY CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

Take a good long look at the above phrase. Let it rattle around in your mind for a minute before you continue reading. This phrase speaks to the call we have received at our baptism. To live out this phrase would be the ultimate reflection of Christ in our bodies. I boldly make this claim because I have read about Christ transforming lives as he sets about his mission through Galilee and surrounding areas.

This phrase was presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. The members who attended the meeting asked the Outreach Team to add religious language to the phrase. This was a good and honest response. During the Outreach Team's conversation, it was asked: for whom is this vision statement crafted? If said that the statement was crafted for you, then it might sound like a denial of all the things your congregation has done. St. Timothy's history is full of transforming examples when you have reached out to other communities. Therefore, this statement is an acknowledgement of what St. Timothy strives to do in words that outsiders may understand and embrace.

The Outreach team has done their due diligence. They have added a pre-amble to the statement which proclaims our identity. The new vision statement is below. Now that the work of forming a vision statement is complete, I strongly encourage all of you to contemplate your ministry. Does your ministry align with the vision of St. Timothy? Are there ways in which your ministry can be lived out so that more communities are brought into relationships? As you ponder these questions for yourselves, the Council will be asking them of St. Timothy. Already new partnerships are being formed, and action is on the brink. If you are inspired by the Spirit, please call the office and share your thoughts on being open to transformation because of a new community connection.

**AS PEOPLE CALLED BY CHRIST, OUR VISION IS:
TRANSFORMING LIVES BY CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

Your brother 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.

March 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
March 1	Wednesday 7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; alternate—Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 5	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	1st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
March 8	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Mid-Week Lenten Worship Soup/Salad Meal/Worship	with West End Collaborative at St. Timothy Fellowship Hall
March 12	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday in Lent Praise Worship	Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
Daylight Savings Time Begins			
March 15	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Mid-Week Lenten Worship Soup/Salad Meal/Worship	with West End Collaborative at St. Timothy Fellowship Hall
March 19	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3rd Sunday in Lent Children's Choir Rev. Woody Maxon presides	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
March 22	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Mid-Week Lenten Worship Soup/Salad Meal/Worship	with West End Collaborative at St. Timothy Fellowship Hall
March 26	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	4th Sunday in Lent Rev Tom Lichner preaches	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
March 29	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Mid-Week Lenten Worship Soup/Salad Meal/Worship	with West End Collaborative at St. Timothy Fellowship Hall

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org

for information about our national church



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facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa



Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/StTimAPa

NE PA SYNOD WEB SITE

www.godslove.org or www.nepsynod.org

for information about our synod

ST. TIMOTHY'S EMAIL

office@sttimothy.org

FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:

www.sttimothy.org

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

March brings us the time for the hope of Spring. In the last few days we have been teased by a few warm days helping us believe, wrongly, that Winter is over. It is not. As I learned from one of my Pennsylvania German farmer friends it's not over until the Onion Snow. I sort of believe that.

This year March brings us most of the days of Lent. We travel through with our partners; the people of Christ, Redeemer and the Muhlenberg Chapel. The Journey of Lent is a journey worth taking because we do not walk alone but rather we walk with our friends. This year we are going to be looking at a Reformation Theme that helps us to understand the foundation of our Lutheran faith. The five weeks will look at the five "Solas" of the Reformation. The Solas are: Scripture, Grace, Faith, Jesus Christ and God.

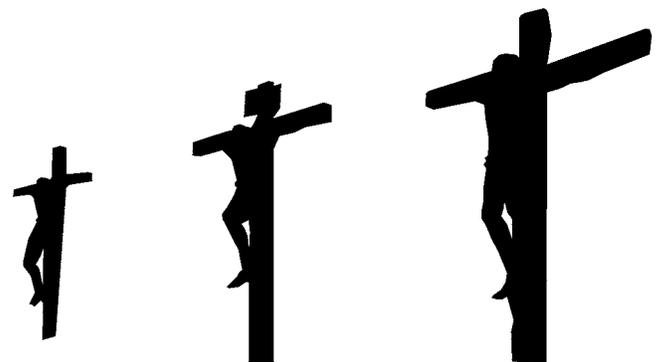
With these Reformation insights in mind, the weeks of Lent become an opportunity for us to think about our faith and life and what those things mean to us. This is a chance to hear the words of God that

teach and heal us. The subjects will show us again that after 500 years God's Spirit touches us and turns us around to see God's new way of doing things. It is a journey worth taking. I hope that you will join us for a little food, a little time together and an opportunity to explore God's Word.

March is also a time for another holiday. That holiday would be St. Patrick's Day. While I am not Irish, I celebrate St. Patrick's Day because we should. Patrick was a good man who worked hard for the Lord under difficult circumstances. In his own life, he turned hate into love and bad luck into a blessing. I do not know anything about snakes in Ireland and any part of what St. Patrick had to do with that. What I do know is that Ireland was a better place because of Patrick and that he took being a missionary very seriously. For that he should be honored and respected. While we are at it we should share some Brisket, potatoes and cabbage. Yum!

So, join with me in prayer that if it must snow during March, Monday is a pretty good day. It doesn't interrupt any Sunday services and none of the Wednesday services. Kids are happy to miss a day of school now and again. That is all right too. But perhaps what we really need to pray about is how God can enter our hearts and minds and make us more like his children. And perhaps too, we should find ways to open our hearts and minds to what God wants to change in our hearts and minds and work together with God to make that happen.

I would say that that would be a very successful Lent and a wonderful March.



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.	



Lenten & Holy Week Worship Schedule

St. Timothy, Redeemer, Christ Lutheran, and Egner Chapel at Muhlenberg College, members of the West End Collaborative, will again share the Lenten worship experience this year. The schedule of times and locations follows:

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Each church will hold their own Ash Wednesday worship services as follows:

7:30 pm St. Timothy Lutheran Church
 11 am & 7 pm . . . Christ Lutheran Church
 12 & 7:30 pm . . . Redeemer Lutheran Church

Midweek Lenten Services

March 8 5:30 pm . . . Simple Soup & Salad Meal
 15 6:15 pm . . . Message
 22 6:45 pm . . . Worship
 29 7:00 pm . . . Dismissal
 April 5 *All Midweek services will be held at St. Timothy Fellowship Hall, 140 S. Ott St.*

Holy Week

April 11 Tuesday 5 pm Stations of the Cross
 Egner Memorial Chapel
 Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew St.
 April 13 Maundy Thursday . . 7:30 pm . . . St. Timothy, 140 S. Ott St.
 April 14 Good Friday 12 pm Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
 7:30 pm 822 N. 19th St. (at Washington St.)
 April 15 Easter Vigil 6 pm Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street

Easter

April 16 St. Timothy 7 am Sunrise Worship [outdoor, weather permitting]
 8 am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
 9:45 am Egg Hunt
 10:30 am Holy Communion
 Redeemer 10:15 am . . . Holy Communion Festival Worship
 Christ Lutheran . . . 8 am Holy Communion
 9 am Breakfast
 10:30 am Holy Communion





Health Topic of the Month



by Charlotte Cruise
Health History

Most people either know or have recorded their family history relating to where their ancestors have come from, information about grandparents and great-grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. However, have you and your family members documented your family health history?

A health history can provide valuable information about certain conditions, diseases and risk factors of diseases that may have a possibility of being passed on through generations. Knowing this information allows one to act to reduce their risk of certain conditions, in addition to seeking medical advice for various symptoms that may lead to early detection of a condition.

Information to include in a comprehensive health history is:

- Name, sex, date of birth and death, if applicable, race and ethnic background of members
- Relationship, include adoption history if available
- Present as well as past diseases and conditions along with the age at the time the diagnosis was made
- Treatments and preventive measures implemented
- Addictions, smoking and alcohol habits if present
- Medications, both prescription and over the counter, including adverse reactions
- Allergies to foods, medications, or other sources
- Name and phone numbers of treating physicians

Adapted from Health Options News, Winter 2017



HEALTH CABINET

by Jerry Rounds

Parish Nurses care for body, mind and spirit

This is a summary of an article by Heidi Ernest in the January 2017 edition of Living Lutheran, pages 34 -37. It is an excellent introduction to parish nursing—our Health Care Ministries.

Parish Nursing was begun by The Rev. Granger Westberg, a Lutheran pastor and hospital chaplain, in 1984. He started this ministry based on his belief “that true healing involves the body, mind and spirit.”

“Parish nurses help clergy and parishioners understand the connectedness with how well or unwell affects our whole being.” (*I am not use to pain. My sciatica has become a new normal and I’m trying to cope with it. Some days are good. Some days, well.... GJR*). Parish nurses can also help people navigate the health system. And they encourage pastors to incorporate health information into their ministry.

To do it right, parish nurses need “to take a look and feel of the demographics of the congregation.” (*We have done that here last year and we need to bring this information into our ministry. We will be soon offering information on bereavement. GJR*) “To be healthy and well and have a healthy spirit and mind definitely is what a church congregation should be emphasizing insofar as faithful discipleship.” (*This is what we are beginning to emphasize now as we are developing our vision statement. GJR*)

“In very concrete ways the church talks about salvation in relation to bodies because we are a part of Christ’s body, (we) eat and drink Christ’s body. Our bodies are the place where Christ is manifest. One challenge for the church today is to reclaim bodily practice and the fact that faith is connected to our bodies.” Lois Malcom, Luther Seminary

What this means for us, I believe, is that as we go through our transitions and discover God’s plans for us, we are not only making mindful choices, but also communing together our bodies and spirits.

***The Lord who heals all our iniquities
bless and keep us;***

***The face of the Lord who heals all our afflictions
shine upon us and be gracious to us;***

***The light of the countenance of the Lord who
redeems our lives***

Be lifted upon us and give us peace. Amen

(Adapted from United Methodist Service of Healing)

Needs of the Community

The Allentown Rescue Mission is in dire need of these articles:

Winter coats	Wool socks
Handkerchiefs	Snow boots
Hand warmers	Sweatshirts
Thermal Clothing	Thick scarves
Winter hats and gloves	All-weather gear

If you could bring in even one article, it would help tremendously!! Donations, marked RESCUE MISSION can be placed outside the upstairs Restroom at church. Deadline to collect these items is March 31. Thank you very much!!

A 6-year-old boy needs clothing, shoes, toys, etc. He wears size 7 shirts and pants, and a child's size 11 or 12 shoe. Articles can be gently used and in good condition. He and his mother are here as refugees from Honduras where this mother was brutally gang raped by three men in front of her son three years ago in Honduras.

They fled the country, and are here legally. As an adult, the mother is eligible for and possesses a working visa and a social security number assigned through the Dept. of Homeland Security. She is working and doing all she can to support herself and her son. He is ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP because he does not have a SSN. They are working with an attorney through the Hispanic Immigration Society to be naturalized and become citizens. Their first court hearing is in Philadelphia in May.

Anything you can donate, clothing, food, toys, or even money would be a blessing. Please mark it LITTLE BOY, and place it outside the upstairs restroom. They will be so grateful for any help you can give! Deadline for these items is May 30. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity.

AARP News

Allentown AARP Chapter #5415 will meet noon March 2, 2017 at St. Timothy Church, 140 So. Ott St., Allentown. Entertainment will be Ken Purcell. Non-members and guests are welcome. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Allentown Food Bank. For more information call Jeanne at 610-437-4265.

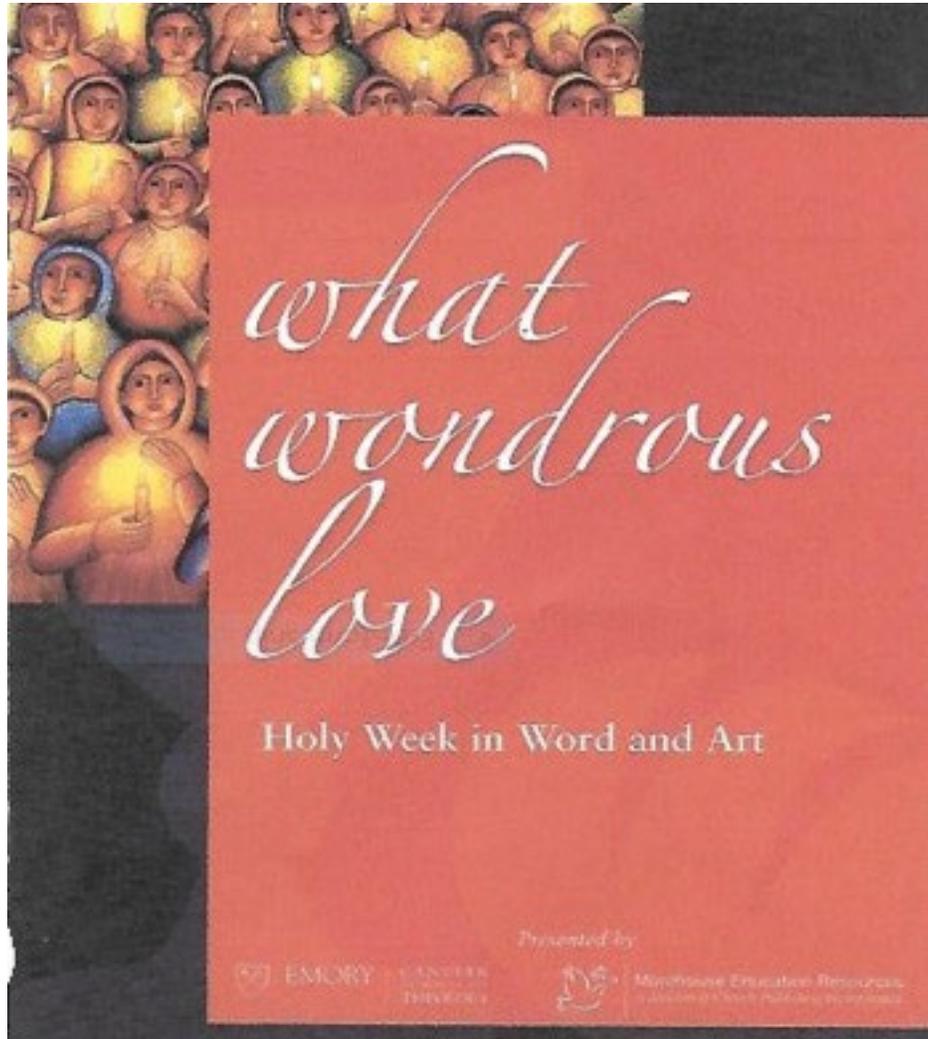
Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will be discussing *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren during the Sundays in Lent. Amazon.com has it at \$10 to \$15 depending on your preference for hard cover, kindle or used. Hopefully most of us will be able to share a copy with someone.

Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that—notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun.

Drawing from his work as global activist, pastor, and public theologian, McLaren challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church. He explores three profound shifts that define the change in *The Great Spiritual Migration*:

- Spiritually, growing numbers of Christians are moving away from defining themselves by lists of beliefs and toward a way of life defined by love.
- Theologically, believers are increasingly rejecting the image of God as a violent Supreme Being and embracing the image of God as the renewing Spirit at work in our world for the common good.
- Missionally, the faithful are identifying less with organized religion and more with organizing religion—spiritual activists dedicated to healing the planet, building peace, overcoming poverty and injustice, and collaborating with other faiths to ensure a better future for all of us.



Lenten Bible Study

Glenn & Mary Simmons will be leading a Lenten Bible Study entitled

“What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word & Art.”

The course consists of gospel readings from Holy Week describing our Lord’s Passion combined with contemporary prints from John August Swanson.

As always, the class format will provide discussion opportunities.

**The class will meet on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:45
from March 7 to April 18.**

Please come and join us & bring a friend!



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*)

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*)

There are no March birthdays among our members at home.



Dear members of St. Timothy,

The family would like to thank all those whose words of comfort and solace are helping us navigate through our sorrow.

I also want to thank the leadership and membership of St. Timothy for their flexibility with my times in the office while helping my brother and mother on their final journey's these past few months.

Cheryl Christensen

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 (<i>for Scouts</i>)
Men's socks in good condition	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Alliance Hall</i>)
Toiletries (from hotels/motels)	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Alliance Hall</i>)
Card fronts (from greeting cards)	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>St. Jude's Home for Children</i>)
Eyeglasses.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Center for Visually Handicapped</i>)
Good used sneakers.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Alliance Hall</i>)
Plastic bags.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Food Bank</i>)
Styrofoam Peanuts	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ Mailbox</i>)
Styrofoam medicine boxes and shipping packaging ONLY	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ Bethlehem Recycling</i>)
<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 (<i>*from newspapers</i>)
Current Calendars.	Cabinet in narthex.	Anyone who can use them
Empty printer, fax machine or desktop copier cartridges.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ FundingFactory</i>)
Old cell phones.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ FundingFactory</i>)
Women's and Men's business attire and accessories... (<i>for "The Perfect Fit"/"First Impressions for Men"</i>)		
(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!

MARDI GRAS



DEADLINE
for the
APRIL NEWSLETTER...
MARCH 15!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



From Lehigh Mission District Pastor Steve Shussett

Centering Prayer Workshop Saturday, April 1, 2017

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 36 South Eighth Street, Allentown PA 18101

Centering prayer is a way of deepening our relationship with God through being still. In a world that is so often hectic and busy, this method of "resting in God" allows us to be open to the Divine within us and in the world. In this retreat, participants will experience the gift of silence in prayer. We will also learn how to incorporate this silence into daily life. This method of prayer requires no more than a brief period of time and an open heart.

This day provides instruction in the practice of Centering Prayer and will offer two sessions for engaging this prayer practice.

Time: 9:00 am-3:30 pm, bring a bag lunch, snacks and beverage provided

EARLY BIRD: \$40 (by 3/22/17)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50 (after 3/22/17)

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 29

To register: Contact Kairos School of Spiritual Formation at 717-669-2957 • office@kairosjourney.org

About the Presenter...

Steve Shussett is the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a member of the faculty at Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation. He is also a spiritual director, retreat leader, and writer.

Introduction to Systemic Racism Workshop

Sat. April 1, 2017

9am – 5pm

The purpose of this workshop is to explore racism as a systemic, institutional problem of power that goes beyond personal prejudice. Participants will experience first-hand Crossroads effective methodology for facilitating productive conversations about race. They will also be introduced to a strategic methodology that can assist people in effectively organizing to dismantle racism in their institutions.

This workshop is part of the Lehigh Valley Voices of Conscience Series

Where: The Ice House

Address: 56 River St. Bethlehem, PA 18018

Food: Lunch is provided

Costs: Sliding Scale Options Available

Information and Registration Link:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=sysrdbqab&oeidk=a07edozcdz6d51ecabd>

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MARCH 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
		[F]	1 ASH WEDNESDAY 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 3:30 pm-Worship & Music Committee [L] 7 pm-Worship [NV] 7 pm-Allentown Hiking Club [F] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [F]	2 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 10 am-3 pm-AARP [F] 12-3 pm-Office Open	3 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	4 11 am-Outreach Committee [L]
5 Lent 1 9 am-Sunday School [F] 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am-Worship ~11:30 am-Blood Pressure Screening [L]	6 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	7 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	8 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 5:30-7 pm-Lenten Meal & Worship [F] 7-8:30 pm-Glorious Day Rehearsal [NV]	9 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 2 pm-Daybreak Mission Team 6:30 pm-Scout Leadership Meeting [F] 7-9 pm-3 D [L]	10 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	11
12 Lent 2 8 am-Glorious Day Rehearsal [NV] 9 am-Sunday School [F] 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am-Praise Worship	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am-Property Committee 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	14 12-3 pm-Office Open 4:45 pm-Executive Committee Meeting [L] 6:30-8:30 pm-Glorious Day Rehearsal [NV] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	15 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 5:30-7 pm-Lenten Meal & Worship [F] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [F] APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Scout Commissioners Meeting [F]	17 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	18
19 Lent 3 6:30 am-Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9 am-Sunday School [F] 9 am-Adult Forum with Pr. Maxon [L] 10:30 am-Worship Pr. Maxon presides Children Sing ~11:30 am-Congregation Council Meeting [L]	20 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F] 7 pm-Mental Health Support Group [L]	21 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	22 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 5:30-7 pm-Lenten Meal & Worship [F] 7 pm-AA Board Meeting [F] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV]	23 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-8:30 pm-Glorious Day Rehearsal [NV]	24 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	25 9 am-Outreach Committee [L]
26 Lent 4 9 am-Sunday School [F] 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am-Worship Pr. Lichner preaches ~11:30 am-Glorious Day Setup [NV]	27 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	28 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	29 11 am-4:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 7 pm-AA Board Meeting [F] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV]	30 10 am-3 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 7-8 pm-3D [L]	31 10:30 am-2:30 pm-Vicar in Office 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2017

June 2-3 at the
Kalahari Resort in the Poconos

The site of next year's Assembly will be the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. For more information, visit their website at kalahariresorts.com/pennsylvania. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the grand finale of "UNLEASHED for Reformation 2017."

(continued from the right-hand column)

This was a wonderful experience of the church connecting with and making a difference in the daily lives of its neighbors. Hope Lutheran Church and the participants in M.A.D. H.O.P.E. appreciate the financial support they received from their partners in ministry in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod through a grant from the Witness and Service Ministry Team.



M.A.D. H.O.P.E. Summer Youth Program



For six consecutive weeks this past summer, twelve neighborhood youth gathered each Tuesday at Hope Lutheran Church in Reading to participate in service projects, team building exercises, education in life skills, and worship. The vision of "M.A.D. H.O.P.E." (Making A Difference, Helping Other People Everyday) grew out of conversations between Pr. Mary Wolfe of Hope and the young people who frequent the church's programs.

Youth noted that over the summer there are plenty of activities for children in the neighborhood, but few opportunities for Middle and Senior High youth. Church leaders also recognized that the city young people often lack mentors who can teach them such basic skills as how to complete a resume, how to dress for work, and how to conduct themselves in a workplace.

Tuesday's at M.A.D. H.O.P.E. began with Pr. Wolfe, and Leanna Hassler, the congregation's Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, gathering with participants for a group devotion after which the young people prepared their own lunches, learning basic cooking skills. Following lunch, a service project in the community or church kept the youth busy working as a team while at the same time improving their neighborhood. A fun fitness activity followed service. The day concluded with helping to set up for and participate in the meal and worship experience of Hope's Table, a ministry of hospitality to area poor and homeless residents.

(continued in the left-hand column)

Meet Your Synod's Staff



Debbie Skinner

Debbie is part-time at the synod office. She prepares the monthly synod mailing and duplicates Synod News and other items that are inserted. She also keeps track of rostered leaders for the monthly Daily Prayers. In addition, she records the mission support commitments from synod congregations, and she helps Diane Hemerly with the Assembly Minutes Book.

She also is the person responsible for returning benevolence checks mistakenly sent to the synod office instead of the Mission Investment Fund because some congregational treasurers still are not aware of the new procedures.

Debbie is starting her 4th year at the synod office. She also works part-time at the Lehigh Humane Society as assistant to the bookkeeper. Prior to working for the synod, she worked in marketing for 19 years at AP Wagner Appliance Parts in Allentown.

Debbie has two sons and four grandchildren. She enjoys reading and going to rock concerts. She is a member at St. Luke, Allentown where she has served a council president.

St. Paul, Douglassville Hosts Volunteer Fair

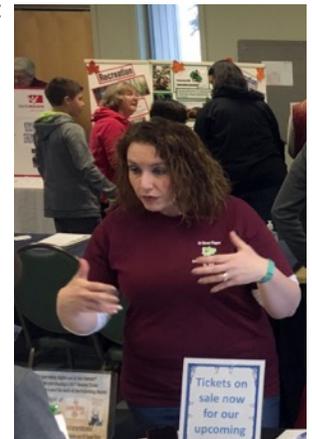


St. Paul, Douglassville hosted a Volunteer Fair on Monday, January 16. A variety of volunteer options in Berks County were on display, and prospective volunteers could discover opportunities to match their interests, time, and abilities. A complimentary luncheon was provided.

Twenty-four nonprofit agencies from around Berks County were on site with a display to raise awareness of their organization. Nonprofits had representatives on hand to meet with and discuss the goals and objectives of the organization, and how individuals could become involved in achievement of their mission. More than 100 community people attended to check out the volunteer opportunities.

The fair was an effort to bring together community members with local organizations, for a better community. It was organized by St. Paul's Stewardship Committee as part of a congregation wide goal to have each committee take something they do within the church, and carry out a project for folks outside the church. Jim Trout was the organizer and committee chairperson. Thrivent Financial provided Action Team seed money to help with the project.

Pastor Greg Frey reported, "We were really excited about the turnout because really important organizations recruited some new volunteers, and these same organization got to have some conversations with other community organizations as well. It was all good!"



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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[April 2017 LMD NL news will be due March 17, 2017.](#) E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Re-awakening to a Loving God – Guided Prayer and Scripture a 5-week Session beginning **Jan. 16th**. For further information and to register, contact Rev Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [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., Feb. 21st**, Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on **Jesus as a Regular Guy**. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

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 from Mar. 6th to Apr 10th; **Emmaus Moravian Church** Mon. evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Mar. 6th to 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.

The 2017 schedule for Lutheran Congregational Services' Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training is now available. Trainings will be held **Mar. 11th** (Good Shepherd, Reading), **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).

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.

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).

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.

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.

Crossroads at St. Paul's-Allentown: "Lord, when did we see you?" Are members of your congregation looking for an opportunity to help those in need? St. Paul's-Allentown and Crossroads has several opportunities! Crossroads is Allentown's only day shelter, where the homeless can gather out of the cold, and perhaps better their lives.

30 minutes! Mon - Wed from 8:30-9am breakfast is served at Crossroads. Volunteers are needed on Mondays and Wednesdays to hand out food and offer a friendly smile.

60 minutes or more! Crossroads is open Mon - Thurs from 9am-4pm. We have a variety of services and social opportunities to offer throughout the week, but we can always use more.

Are you one of those people who can talk to anybody? Do you like to play games or do puzzles?

Are there crafts that you can teach? Perhaps you have specialized training that you are willing to share.

In addition to available slots on Mon (9am-4pm), Tues (1-4pm), Wed (9am-4pm), and Thurs (9am-12pm), we are hoping to expand our hours to Fri and Sat (9am-4pm) and Sun (11am-3pm). No one has to be there that whole time. By being there for just an hour or two, Crossroads can be a place of shelter and care. **But we need YOUR help to make that happen.** Contact St. Paul's-Allentown at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net. Your time and your presence can make such a difference!

RE-FORMING THE REFORMATION

Hopefully you are remembering that I devoted the *Pastoral Article* in the January Newsletter to some reflections about the kinds of *re-formation* which have occurred in and around our Lehigh Mission District during the last 50 years. Those sharing's were meant to remind us that we were about to engage in our observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation which was, of course, launched by Martin Luther's nailing of those 95 Theses on the door of that church in Wittenberg in 1517.

We're now into that anniversary year and a number of church leaders and writers are inviting and encouraging us to reflect on the life and church-related changes which have taken place during those years. They are also encouraging us to contemplate the changes which are in process in these early years of this new century. And they are also challenging us to vision the changes which we anticipate will evolve during at least the next half-to-three-quarters of a century. Those are interesting challenges for us as individuals, as congregational and institutional leadership, and as partners in the ELCA.

The February issue of *Living Lutheran*, the official publication of our ELCA, plays an interesting role in helping us move through this process. The cover features the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther nailed those Theses 500 years ago. And the first article reminds us clearly that the love with which we have been blessed in our baptism is meant to be shared in a creative way with those around us. *There may be no more important message for us to remember as we engage in the continuing world because this truth will not change!* This is followed by several pages of news of what's happening in and around the church. Then we are reminded of the many changes which are taking place in the structure of our Seminaries, which are responsible for preparing the leadership for that church of the future. This is a significant reminder that *re-formation* is in process. Finally, we are reminded of several unique ministries which have been developed to reach out to people with unusual needs in this early part of the 21st century. And Bishop Eaton, as she always does, concludes this issue with an *epistle* which reminds us that one thing which hasn't and won't change is that our salvation is in God's hands. She writes, *"It's a hard thing to believe that it's God's good and gracious will that all be saved from death, and since we can't save ourselves, God has done it through Jesus' death and resurrection. It's not what we do or even about that which we are certain, but what God has done, and God's faithful and sure promise"*.

It's encouraging to learn that a continuing *re-formation* of the church is already in process. Your Mission District Council has taken a step which will encourage us to reflect on what this means. They have scheduled the Spring Mission District Assembly for Sunday, April 30, at 5:00PM at The Lutheran Center. It will begin with a free dinner (financial donations will be accepted) and conclude with an hour or so focusing on *Luther in the Changing Church* under the leadership of a skilled presenter and facilitator. Make sure you place this in your calendar!

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary



1987-2017

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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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 flyer and pricing information on these trips, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.