

Epistle from

St. Timothy

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives by Connecting Communities



My dear Sisters and Brothers at St. Timothy,

Heartfelt greetings, and peace to you in Christ our Life!

You have been in my thoughts and prayers daily as I work toward being present with you bodily and partnering with you fully in being the people God is calling us to be and doing the work God is calling us to do. Your Council President, Rick, has kept me abreast of the happenings in the congregation, and I have read your previous newsletter with much interest and excitement. I hold you in my heart as you move through the process (including both celebration and sadness) of bidding Godspeed to Vicar Brian as he moves to his new call.

Perhaps some of you have noticed that I frequently wear a pendant in the shape of a labyrinth. The labyrinth is a symbol which, for several reasons, has become increasingly meaningful to me over the last decade or so. One of those reasons is that the labyrinth reminds me that life is a journey the richness of which unfolds as we attentively move inward (towards the depth of our hearts, where God dwells) and outward (towards others in the wider creation, where God also dwells.) Praying with the labyrinth also calls us to consider what needs to be let go of (relinquished) and what needs to be received as we walk in God's grace and presence.

These two qualities of the labyrinth (journey and relinquishing/receiving) resonate strongly as themes in my life just now as I engage in the process of moving across several states and into a new ministry. Perhaps they resonate also with you, the congregation of St. Timothy, as you have been engaging in a process of coming to a new understanding of God's calling in your congregational life and ministry for this present time. You have had to be on the move. You have had to relinquish some previous, good-for-their-time, understandings about your identity and purpose as a congregation and to receive some fresh conceptions and grace gifts for the present time. It is an inward and outward journey that is ongoing and richly blessed by God.

In God's grace, our journeys (St. Timothy's and mine) now are meshing for a time. Know that I look forward with eager anticipation and great love to walking

*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.

October 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
October 1	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Pentecost 17 Bell Choir	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
October 8	Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1 p.m.	Pentecost 18 Praise Worship CROP Walk	Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
October 15	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Pentecost 19	Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
October 22	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Pentecost 20 Children's Choir	Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
October 29	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Reformation	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

We will join the Celebration Worship for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation at:

Christ Lutheran Church
1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102
Bishop Samuel Zeiser will be preaching
THERE IS NO WORSHIP AT ST. TIMOTHY ON THIS FESTIVAL DAY

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.**

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

ST. TIMOTHY EMAIL

office@sttimothy.org

FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:

www.sttimothy.org



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa



Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/StTimAPa

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

SR. JANET *(continued from page 1)*

the path with you—joining with you in a deepening spiritual life and partnering with you in continuing to discover, deepen, expand and live the vision of “transforming lives by connecting communities.” Thanks be to God for all the wonderful, yet-to-be-ascertained possibilities in all of this!

In this transitional time, as I work on the many tasks and live in the

upheaval involved in moving from Illinois to Pennsylvania, and then as I get settled in Allentown, I ask for your prayers as you also shall continue in mine. May we all be attentive to God’s gracious and faithful presence sustaining and guiding us! Looking forward to being with you soon, I remain...

Joyfully yours in Christ,
Sister Janet



Health Topic of the Month

by Charlotte Cruise



Influenza Season

With the coming of October, the influenza season begins to arrive on our door steps. Be sure to have your family and yourself immunized against the influenza virus. You can contact your physician or go to your nearest pharmacy or even your grocery store

to get immunized against the flu. Remember, proper and frequent hand washing, keeping your hands away from the T-zone of your face, and covering your nose and mouth when sneezing will all contribute to reducing your chances of contracting the flu.

Distinguishing between a cold and the flu:

Cold Symptoms

- Tend to come on gradually*
- Runny nose*
- Sore throat*

Flu Symptoms

- Tend to come on suddenly*
- Runny nose*
- Sore throat*
- Fever*
- Chills*
- Aching muscles and joints*
- Cough*

The flu can be especially harmful for small children, people with chronic medical conditions, and the elderly. ***When in doubt as to the cause***

of the symptoms, do not hesitate to seek your physician’s opinion and advice.

Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control





CELEBRATE the REFORMATION and DO SOME GOOD

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 3 PM | Christ Lutheran Church
1245 W. Hamilton St**

A festive German concert by The Allentown Band followed by a German Fest in the Fellowship Hall and Gym. Food stations, beverages and German music ala Barb Wentling and much more.

Suggested donation is \$10.00. All proceeds will benefit Lutheran Disaster Response-Hurricane USA.





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*):

Margaret (Peg) Leiby, 2868 Reading Road,
Allentown, Pa. 18103 (*November 1*)

Mrs. Ruth Reichenbach, Luther Crest, 800
Hausman Rd., Health Center #541, Allentown, PA
18104 (*June 25*)

Mary Schnable, (At Phoebe) Mail to:1696
Jackson St., Whitehall, PA 18052-4174 (*August 28*)

Carol Keller, 3209 Aberdeen Circle, Allentown,
PA 18104 (*October 10*)

October birthdays include:

Carol Keller, (*see above*)



AARP News

Allentown AARP Chapter #5154 will meet 12 p.m. on October 5, 2017 at St. Timothy Church, 140 South Ott St., Allentown. Program: Fourtissimo Barbershop Quartet. 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.

3D—Discovery, Devotion, Discipleship

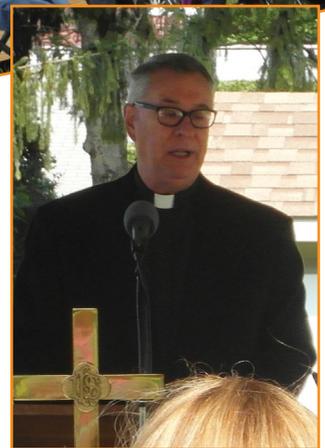
As WOMEN on a FAITH JOURNEY... we gather two Thursday evenings a month in the Lounge (7-9 p.m.) to share scripture, read and discuss a variety of inspirational materials. We pray together for selves and others and experience the bond of sisterhood through various spirit-led activities.

Ladies are invited to join them at their next meeting(s) on Thursday, October 5 and/or Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. in the Lounge. For more information contact Gloria Hinrichs (610-398-8472 or gloryhi@msn.com).

DEADLINE
for the
NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER...
OCTOBER 15!

Seen Around...

Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic



Seen Around...



New member Brian Deppe



Seen Around...



The Sunday School class shows congregation how to tie blankets that will be donated to the Refugee Resettlement Agency.



 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®



The Sunday School class studies the bible and bakes cookies to take to St. Timothy's homebound members.



Reformation 500 Events

CONCERTS—

Sunday, September 29—Allentown Band Reformation Concert at St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown—**4 PM**

Sunday, October 1— A festive German concert by the **Allentown Band** will be followed by a German Fest in the Fellowship Hall and Gym.

Food stations, beverages and German music ala Barb Wentling and much more. Suggested donations is \$10. *All proceeds will benefit Lutheran Disaster Response—Hurricane USA.* At Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown—**3 PM**

Saturday, October 28—Ken Medema will help the Lehigh Mission District celebrate with a free concert at St. Peter, Hanover Avenue, Allentown—**4 PM**

Sunday, October 29— Allentown Band Reformation Concert at Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville—**3 PM**

Sunday, October 29—Ken Medema will help the Lehigh Mission District celebrate with a free concert at St. Peter, Hanover Avenue, Allentown—**3 PM**

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

POTLUCK DINNER—

Sunday, October 16—“500 Years of Faith” Potluck Dinner will be held at Leesport Market. All Lutheran congregations are invited to participate. Bring your best Potluck side dish or dessert to share—main course of sausage and kraut will be provided! Bishop Samuel Zeiser is the guest speaker. There will be a combined Lutheran Choir and Orchestra, and a Love Offering for the Potato Project. For more information contact Pr. Bruce Osterhou at 610-562-3112 or pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org—**6 PM**

WORSHIP SERVICES—

Sunday, October 22—TOGETHER IN HOPE: A Reconciling Reformation worship service of Word and Music for the commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Leaders from the Roman Catholic, Methodist, UCC/Reformed, Episcopal and Lutheran traditions have joined together to plan this special service at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, 2810 St. Alban's Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 18605. Worship together will focus on the themes of Thanksgiving, Repentance and a Call to Common Mission.

The liturgy is built around the words of reformers from different denominations, celebrating our common faith in a loving and reconciling God. For more information contact Rev. Mark Riggs at 610-678-2411—**3 PM**

Sunday, October 29—The congregations of the West End Collaborative are holding a joint **Reformation 500th Anniversary** celebration worship service at Christ Lutheran Church—**10:30 AM**

MOVIE—

Tuesday, October 24—Martin Luther: An Idea that Changed the World. The film follows the dramatic story of Martin Luther's life: the massive lightning storm that nearly killed him, the bleak self-punishment of his time in the monastery, the corruption that unleashed his anger, his trial before the most powerful man in Europe, and the staged kidnapping that helped him escape the death penalty.

This is a highly-visual documentary with elaborate full-scale dramatizations that were filmed in the castles, monasteries and cobblestone streets of eastern Europe. Dozens of historians from Europe and the Americas were interviewed, with a careful eye to ensure all sides of the story are represented.

Proceeds go to the Food Pantry at the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Kutztown University and the IHartHarvest, Inc., The Potato Project. Go to <http://luthermovie.link/Reading> to order tickets—**6:30 PM**

Hurricane Relief: How You Can Help

Thousands of people have been impacted by the recent devastating storms. The best way you can help is by giving to ELCA Hurricane Response whose affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials. Lutheran Disaster Response will remain there to accompany those affected through every phase of this disaster.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, designated for "Hurricane Response–United States" will be used entirely (100%) for this disaster. You can donate online at ELCA.org, mail a check payable to Hurricane Response–United States to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009, or operators will assist you by phone at 800-638-3522 Mon. thru Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Central Time).

You can find up-to-date information about Hurricane Response on the LDR Facebook page [Lutheran Congregational Services](#).

Cleanup Bucket Brigade

You know the names—Harvey, Irma, Jose, Kaitia, Lee, Maria. You know the places—Texas/Louisiana, the West Indies, Puerto Rico, Florida, the Carolinas. You may even know some of the people there who are affected. Millions have been affected and impacted.

This is your opportunity to reach out to some of them and help them as they clean up. Lutheran Disaster Relief is partnering with the United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church to provide Clean Up Buckets.

All we need to do is provide the essentials and we can deliver everything. Items needed for the buckets are: liquid laundry detergent (25 oz.), liquid household cleaner (12-16 oz.), dish soap (16-28 oz.), air freshener, insect repellent (6-14 oz. aerosol), scrub brushes, cleaning wipes, sponges, scouring pads (no soap), clothes pins, clotheslines, dust masks, dishwashing gloves and work gloves.

The next time you go shopping, simply pick up a few of these items and bring them to the church. We will ship them on Nov. 5.

Theology, Literature & Coffee

Luther Crest is hosting a Moravian Theological Seminary-sponsored course, "Theology, Literature and Coffee" on Mondays, October 2, 16 & 30, 1:30-3:30 pm. Cost for the series is \$25, beverages will be provided. The books to be discussed are:

Oct. 2—*Of Love and Other Demons* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Leader: Nelson Quinones. ISBN: 1400034922

Oct. 16—*Silence by Shusaku Endo*. Leader: Nelvin Vos. ISBN: 1250082277

Oct. 30—*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Leader: Ruth Marcon. ISBN: 1476738025

To register, please contact Moravian Theological Seminary (610-861-1516) or www.moravianseminary.edu/academics/continuing-education/book-groups.



The Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9 AM in the Lounge. Topics relevant to today's society and our Lutheran faith are discussed.

Following are the upcoming topics:

October 1—*God's Call to Earthkeeping—Session 2*. Leader: Dave Hinrichs

October 8—*God's Call to Earthkeeping—Session 3*. Leader: Dave Hinrichs

October 15—*God's Call to Earthkeeping—Session 4*. Leader: Gloria Hinrichs

October 22—*Our Companion Synods*. Leader: Pastor Kurt Garbe

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 2017

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pentecost 17 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 9 am-Sunday School [F] 10:30 am-Worship Bell Choir Rev. Elizabeth Reed ~11:30 am-Blood Pressure Screening [L] ~11:30 am-Free Flu Shots [L]	2 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	3 9 am-Quilters [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 3 pm-Worship & Music Committee [L] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	4 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-8 pm-Praise Band Rehearsal [NV] 7 pm-Allentown Hiking Club [F] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [F]	5 10:30 am-3 pm-AARP [F] 12-3 pm-Office Open 7-9 pm-3D [L]	6 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	7
8 Pentecost 18 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 9 am-Sunday School [F] 10:30 am-Praise Worship Guest Pastor: Pr. Stan Trout 1 pm-CROP Walk [LP]	9 Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED 9 am-Property Committee [L] 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	10 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	11 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-7:30 pm-Praise Band Rehearsal [NV] 7:30-9:00 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV]	12 12-3 pm-Office Open 2 pm-Daybreak Mission Team 7-9 pm-Boy Scouts Leadership Meeting [F]	13 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	14
15 Pentecost 19 6:30 am-Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9 am-Sunday School 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 10:30 am-Worship [LP] NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F] 7 pm-Mental Health Support Group [L]	17 9 am-Quilters [L] 10 am-Hymn Committee [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [L] 6:30-9 pm-Joint Collaborative Council Meeting [F] Operation Sunshine in Parking Lot	18 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-7:30 pm-Praise Band Rehearsal [NV] 7:30-9:00 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [F] AARP in Parking Lot	19 12-3 pm-Office Open 7-9 pm-3D [L]	20 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11pm-Chess Club [L]	21
22 Pentecost 20 9 am-Adult Forum [L] 9 am-Sunday School [F] 10:30 am-Worship	23 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	24 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	25 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:45-7:30 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7 pm-AA [L] 7:30-9 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV]	26 12-3 pm-Office Open	27 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11pm-Chess Club [L]	28 9 am-Outreach Committee Meeting [L]
29 Reformation 9 am-Adult Forum [L] Reformation Activities for Youth at Christ Lutheran Church 10:30 am-Reformation Worship at Christ Lutheran Church	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 Halloween 12-3 pm-Office Open				

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers

- Do you provide part time or full time care for an elder?
- Would you like a safe place to share your joys and struggles with other care-givers?
- Would you appreciate companionship in nurturing your spirit?

Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. An every-other-month gathering will provide participants with a time of guided program, prayer, supportive conversation around joys and struggles, and sharing new ideas for offering care.

Each gathering will be led by the Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Lichner either at tllichner@rcn.com or 610-533-9362.

Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown from 1:30 - 3:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: Sept. 20, Nov. 15, Jan. 17, March 14, May 16, and July 18.

"Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers" is being co-sponsored by the synod's Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team.

Luke Csellak Swanson - YAGM



Luke Swanson with friends Alicia, Lucas, and Martin from Santo Sacramento

I am Luke Swanson, a recently returned Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM). As a missionary/volunteer for the ELCA, I was called to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There I volunteered with the Santo Sacramento Congregation where I aided in their Sunday program supporting marginalized neighbors and providing them with a safe place to be themselves. Additionally, I volunteered with a creative organization, El Arca, where I lived out daily life in community, joy, and forgiveness with intellectually disabled adults.

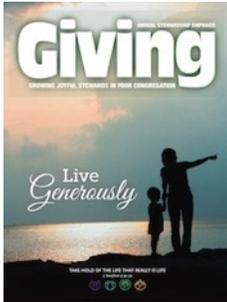
My YAGM year was filled with ups and downs. I started my year with some inevitable expectations, many of which provided me with layers of comfort, others with intense feelings of hardship. For the first time in my life I frequently felt like an outsider. My Protestantism, white skin tone, and language all put me at a disadvantage.

But what my friends at El Arca taught me so well is that I can do things others cannot, and they most certainly can do things that I never will be able to do. Life is to be lived in community, in joy, and in forgiveness; and it is these ideas that I have brought home with me.

Thank you to all who have supported me during this journey.

Don't Reinvent the Wheel!

- ◆ Are you a member of a ministry team in your congregation?
- ◆ Did you know that the ELCA website has a ton of resources to help you?



If you visit <http://elca.org/resources> you will find links to over 50 areas of ministry (listed alphabetically).

This month we highlight some of the resources for stewardship.

They fall under 6 categories.

Leadership: These resources can help your team put together a stewardship program that is eye-catching and informative.

Care for Creation: This is a page for congregations who want to raise environmental awareness among their people.

Lifestyle: There are numerous bible studies and other spiritual resources available at this location.

Finances: Here you will find samples of giving charts, proportional giving, an explanation of tithing, and other helpful materials.

Spiritual Gifts: This page is helpful for the non-monetary aspect of stewardship.

StewardNet: This is a newsletter for church leaders. There are links both to the most recent edition as well as many previous editions.

Healing the Wounds of Racism



Christian writer and activist Jim Wallis calls racism "America's original sin." Racism was present at the birth of our nation and, as current headlines make clear, has never been eradicated.

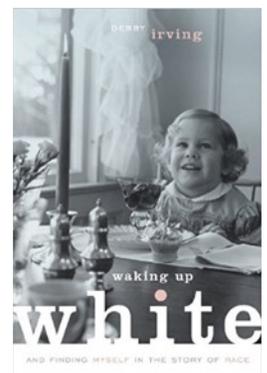
Seeing a need to address racism in the Northeastern PA Synod, the synod staff recently studied Debby Irving's book *Waking Up White*. This book is Irving's personal story about awakening to her own racism, how it has been built into our societal structures, and how she has benefited from it. Her book is a helpful resource for white people to understand the insidiousness of racism and their complicity in it.

Conversation continues among the staff about this issue. In particular, these are some questions that continue to rise: What kinds of actions could we, a predominantly white synod, take to address this evil? Where can we have honest and open conversations about racism?

If you are looking for ways to act against racism, this book may be a good place for you to start. Including this concern in the prayer life of your congregation is also another way to begin to take action.

Each upcoming issue of Synod News will include a resource or an idea to help you wrestle with ways in which you can participate in healing the wounds of racism.

Please share any ways you might be actively addressing the sin of racism. Perhaps we can learn and act together as a synod to continue doing God's work.



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

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

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

November 2017 LMD NL news will be due October 13, 2017. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

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. For more information or to register, go to www.crophungerwalk.org. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need locally and around the globe.

Food Bank drive at the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 8, 2017. The Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank serves 40-60 families each day. Please help by donating these items desperately in need: tuna fish, beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, peanut butter, rice, Jell-O, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce. A Food Bank truck will be at the CROP Hunger walk to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued support. Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, 534 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18102 [610-821-1332](tel:610-821-1332).

The 2017 schedule for Lutheran Congregational Services' Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training is now available. Training will be held **Oct 7th** (St. John's, Stroudsburg). **Details and registration information at www.lutherancongregationservices.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).

Luther Crest hosts "Theology, Literature, and Coffee". A Moravian Theological Seminary-sponsored course, "Theology, Literature and Coffee" (TLC), which will be held at Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, on **Mons., Oct. 2nd, 16th, and 30th, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Enjoy a time of learning and fellowship as theological themes in selected literature are presented and discussed. **Cost for the series is \$25**, beverages will be provided. To register, please contact Moravian Theological Seminary [610-861-1516](tel:610-861-1516) or www.moravianseminary.edu/continuingeducation

Books to be discussed are: **Oct. 2nd: Of Love and Other Demons** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, ISBN: 1400034922 Leader: Nelson Quinones, St. John Lutheran Church, Fogelsville, **Oct. 16th: Silence** by Shusaku Endo, ISBN: 125008227 Leader: Nelvin Vos, St. John Lutheran Church, Allentown, **Oct. 30th: A Man Called Ove** by Fedrik Backman, ISBN: 1476738025 Leader: Ruth Marcon, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown.



Fall Basket Social – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be holding a basket raffle on Sat., Oct. 7th from 10 AM-2 PM. 'Basket Preview Night' on Fri., Oct 6th from 6-8 PM (only raffle tickets will be sold, no food). Drawings for the 75+ different themed baskets and gift cards will be at 1:30 PM on the 7th, you do not need to be present to win. Various consultants and products will also be on hand. There will be lunch items and baked goods available, as well as jars of homemade chow-chow. For more info call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit www.stjohns-fogelsville.org. All are welcome!

Reformation Celebration Concerts – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be hosting 2 special concerts in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: **Sun., Oct. 15th at 3 PM** will feature a performance by Recordante (recorders & woodwinds) and **Sun., Nov. 19th at 3 PM** will feature a Brass Quintet. A free-will offering will be collected. For more info call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit www.stjohns-fogelsville.org. All are welcome, please join us!

Ken Medema – World-Renowned Pianist to Play at: St. Peter's, Hanover Ave., Oct. 28-29! The 175th Anniversary Committee has planned an exciting weekend featuring Ken Medema at the piano. He will play THREE FREE CONCERTS! **First:** Sat. Oct. 28, 4:00 pm, in **OUR nave!** **Second:** Sun. Oct. 29, **Ken will play at OUR 10:45 am worship service.** There will only be **ONE SERVICE on that Sunday** so plan to be at the 10:45 service. **Finally:** Sun. afternoon, **Ken will play at 3:00 pm as St. Peter's helps Celebrate the 500th Lehigh Mission District Anniversary of the Reformation.** You are welcome to come to all three services to enjoy his performances!

St. Peter's, Allentown, invites the parishes of the LMD to participate in its Reformation Celebration. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod has commissioned a special anthem for the Anniversary of the Reformation. With the Bishop preaching at St Peter's for the LMD Reformation service on the **October 29th at 3 pm.** The feeling here at St Peter's (Janet Heckman, St Peter's Minister of Music) is that we should have a joint choir of all singing members of our LMD churches to perform this anthem. The anthem is entitled **"God is our Refuge and Strength"** and is available to download by contacting the Synod office for instructions. If members of the LMD churches are interested in joining the St Peter's choir in singing this anthem, we ask that they practice at their choir rehearsals and then have a practice session prior to the St Peter's Reformation service at 1:30 pm. Contact St Peter's [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762).

Holiday Craft Bazaar - Nov. 4th from 9-3 at Zion Lehigh Lutheran kitchen will be open for lunch. For more information call [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215) or email churchoffice@zionlehigh.org

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CALLED TO MISSION
Harvey and Irma

Although late August and early September has been relatively quiet and comfortable here in Northeastern Pennsylvania, it has been quite different in several other parts of our nation and, consequently, for a significant number of our sister parishes. Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coastline on August 25th and lingered in the area for an unprecedented period before it looped around and moved on to Louisiana. And even as it was dissolving the storm-trackers were making us very well aware of Hurricane Irma which was headed for the Caribbean and northward through Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. Both of these storms were among the strongest ever recorded and each led to major devastation which is only beginning to be assessed and which will be months and, yes, even years in the re-construction process.

And before, during and after these hurricanes were taking their toll, there have also been as many as a dozen horrendous wildfires burning throughout the western third of our nation. Many of these have been accompanied by the additional challenge of above 100-degree weather temperatures, making it just that much more of a challenge to fight them. Thank goodness in this case the few groups surrounded by fire have been successfully rescued.

The fact of the matter is that there are a phenomenal number of human beings living in serious stress in these days and it is not clear when many of them will return to secure housing and to the normal routines of their lives. There are thousands of people of all ages living temporarily in various shelters in both these areas. The final resolution is obviously far in the future.

These tragedies, like others before them and, unfortunately, those which will follow, have a way of calling us into various levels of "mission." This certainly includes our call to mission as the church and as members of it, but it also includes the immediate response of neighbors helping neighbors, as has been exemplified by many images on TV and in newspapers and magazines during these last weeks. I suspect you have been as overwhelmed as I have by the evidence of First Responders, Police, Fire Crews, the Military and the like who have literally poured in from all over the country and, to the extent they felt comfortable leaving Texas, they moved on to the Florida scene. It's unusual to use our word "mission" in relationship to this kind of service, but it is certainly appropriate.

And the Lutheran Disaster Response effort of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has played a major role in our response to these kinds of issues across the years. Not only do we contribute financial support, but staff of this group have remained on these scenes much longer than most groups. *Our gifts will, of course, be welcomed and can be made payable to **ELCA Hurricane Response and sent directly to that group at PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 28116-8009.*** Or many of our parishes will welcome gifts to Hurricane Response and will forward them for us. ***This is surely our role in this "mission."***

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary



1987-2017

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number [610-417-3286](tel: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.

Believe it or not, the three remaining 2017 Operation Sunshine trips are SOLD OUT.

Check back in the November Lehigh Mission District Newsletter for the 2018 Season of Operation Sunshine trips. Join our happy band of travelers as we enjoy fun and fellowship, great meals and entertainment.

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Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner: Reviews and responds to Michael Morwood's book...***It's Time***. **Mons., Oct 23rd, 30th and Nov 6th, 7:00-8:30p.m.** Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main Street, Hellertown. If you would like, you can join a carpool to Hellertown for each session. Departing from Christ Lutheran, Allentown parking lot at 6:15 p.m. Please contact Rev. Tom Lichner [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362) or tlichner@rcn.com

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers: In today's American culture, many adults are providing full-time or part-time care for their elder parents, relatives, friends, or neighbors. Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. This **every-other-month** gathering will provide participants with a time of guided prayer, supportive conversation around joys and struggles, and sharing new ideas for offering care. Come and go to these gatherings as you might need and desire. Each gathering will be led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102. Please direct your interest to Pastor Tom Lichner at tlichner@rcn.com OR [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).