



Epistle from

St. Timothy

Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2016

Volume 22, Issue 1

Sharing our faith by sharing God's love!

In June of this year, I had the pleasure of attending my first Synod Assembly. It was housed at a new venue (PPL Center, downtown Allentown). I can't speak to the success of the assembly being at this venue, but I can speak to the willingness of the Synod staff to try something new. They stepped out on a limb, even though there was a voice of fear to being in downtown Allentown. I think that we are all invited to try something new. Change is scary but Christ has promised us to be with us in success or in our failure. It's in the trying where we grow the most.

On the last day of the assembly, Bishop Zeiser stepped away from the pulpit during his sermon. There was a slight gasp as he did such because people are not accustomed to seeing the Bishop step off pulpit to preach. He ended the sermon by saying that we are encouraged to witness and experience strange and awesome things this year.

Well, are you all ready for the year ahead of us? Hopefully by now you are all aware that Pr. Woody Maxon, Pr. Tom Lichner, and I will be walking with you in a time of discernment and change. September has just begun and already strange and wonderful new things are afoot.

My time, officially July 31, with St. Timothy started with the announcements of a few deaths. By my third day in the new role, I had already sat with three families who were grieving a death. Hopefully, during this time of sadness, the families could hear the glorious proclamation of hope found in Christ Jesus. This proclamation brings peace and a message of promise to all. Even though our loved ones have left us in this world and we are full of sadness, we can know joy because our sisters and brothers are now experiencing a new life, life eternal in the loving embrace of God.

I saw a promise of new life in this world as I stepped into my office on the second Sunday I officiated at service. After fellowship, I walked into my office and discovered two visitor cards. These visitors have an interest in joining our church family—what an awesome new thing.

In this newsletter, you will find out about a change in our Sunday school program ([See page 5](#)). As you read about this, I think you will see it as a strange yet potentially awesome new thing. Please consider being a part of this. I also hope that you consider

Continued on page 3—see **VICAR**

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.

September Worship Calendar

Sunday Morning Services – 10:30 a.m.
Adult Forum – 9 a.m. (Lounge) • Sunday School – 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Date	Day	Special Events	Readings
Sept. 4	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 16	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
Sept. 11	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Pentecost 17 A Unity Service Rally Day Outdoor Praise Service & Picnic	Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51: 1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 18	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Pentecost 18 Pr. Woody Maxon presiding	Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
Sept. 25	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Pentecost 19 Rite for Wholeness Pr. Tom Lichner preaching	Amos 6:1a-4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

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'S EMAIL

office@sttimothy.org
FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:
www.sttimothy.org



Find us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa](https://www.facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa)



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VICAR (continued from page 1)

being a part of the adult forums this year. The discussions when Pr. Woody and Pr. Tom are present will be focused on looking to a new vision and letting go of what we were yesterday. Questions will arise like: How is God calling St. Timothy to be church in today's ever changing world? What strengths do each of us bring that will help St. Timothy live out God's work with our hands? The only way to discover these answers is to step out on the limb, be willing to fall at times. I

invite you to try something strange and be open to experiencing something new. Just know that no matter what happens, all will be fine because Christ will be with us in this journey. Our success or our failure does not hinder the promise, the message of the cross. Therefore, we can boldly and courageously step into the unknown, the new. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully submitted,
Senior Seminarian Brian Riedy
*(you can still call me Vicar
if that's easier)*

**Focus on Men's Health**

Last year we were planning our educational seminars for Parish Nurses at the Parish Nursing Board, and I mentioned that we have really been doing nothing about men's health, and how men's health issues seem to have fallen behind. So on September 29, we're doing a program for parish nurses on Men's Health, and I'm doing the Introduction and the Conclusion. We'll be covering issues of sexual dysfunction. Medical concerns in the aging male, and the increase in suicide rates among men.

But what is the major issue with us men? It is how we men look at ourselves when we are sick or not feeling well, or physically or emotionally hurt. We tend to distance ourselves from others; we want to be in control of ourselves. We are also taught to take risks and if we fail and get hurt, pick ourselves up and start over. We also don't want to be mothered or cared for. We can do it ourselves. And, there is always the Macho Man (the Village People). In short, we don't take our illnesses and

pains seriously. We neglect our health. And in the long run, we hurt ourselves and our families.

According to an article by Salvatore Giorgianni of the Men's Health Network, we need to develop "gender specific approaches to men's health care." It's OK to get hurt and receive caring. Don't do it alone. Men live 5.6 years less than women on the average. Half of men never get preventive health care. Many men, because of our jobs, already have poor health outcomes. Men with low income and men of color have even worse health histories. We need to foster public-private partnerships to support men's health. The United Way, Meals on Wheels, Active Living, AARP and others are already doing much in this area for men's health. Over the next several months I want to focus on Men's Health Issues as we support and care for each other in our Parish Nurses program. Now let me take your blood pressure.

Jerry Rounds



Health Topic of the Month

by Charlotte Cruse



Back to School Safety Tips

The National Safety Council has issued some safety tips for drivers as the new school year begins. Once again it's time to share the road in the early morning and late afternoon with those familiar yellow school buses, kids on bikes, and an increase in pedestrians traffic.

If you drive your children to school be sure that you know the drop-off procedure. According to the National Safety Council, the number of children hit by cars near schools is greater than at any other location. A few reminders to reduce that risk:

- Do not double park; it hinders visibility for other cars as well as children on foot.
- Do not drop children off or pick them up across the street from the school.

Older children may frequently ride their bikes to school. Some safety tips when encountering a child on a bike are:

- Leave three feet between your car and the cyclist, always proceeding slowly in the same direction when passing.
- The most common accident involving a car and a cyclist occurs when the driver is turning left in front of the cyclist. If a cyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait until the person on the bike passes.
- If the person on the bike is behind you on the right and you are planning on making a right-hand turn, be sure that your turn signal is on and motion for the bike rider to go through the intersection first.
- Be vigilant for bikes coming from driveways and behind parked cars.
- Children have a tendency to turn without signaling or even looking. Be proactive by watching out for this.
- Always check your side mirror before opening the car door.

We all know the rules of the road when it comes to school buses. Are you aware that the greatest number of children who lose their lives in bus-related accidents are between the ages of 4 to 7 years old and the incident occurs while they are walking? They usually are hit by the bus or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. As drivers, we all know that it is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. Keeping a few pointers in mind will allow everyone to breathe easier.

- When driving behind a bus, allow a greater distance between you and the bus than you do when you are driving behind a car. This will allow you more time to stop after the yellow lights on the bus start flashing.
- When the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic in both directions must stop.
- The most dangerous area around a school bus is within a ten-foot radius. Even with that, children sometimes tend to ignore the hazards and take risks. Therefore, it is up to us, the drivers, to be extra vigilant and use a little ESP trying to predict a child's behavior.

In areas where children walk to school, safety is just as important.

- Always stop for crossing guards holding up a stop sign.
- Never pass a car that is stopped for pedestrians.
- Obey the speed limit in school zones.
- Do not stop in the crosswalk forcing the pedestrian to go around you. This could end up with the pedestrian walking into the path of traffic.
- Be extra vigilant when approaching playgrounds, parks and neighborhoods with lots of children. Unfortunately, children are unpredictable.

Exercising extra care and caution on the road will go far in creating a safe school year.

Adapted from the National Safety Council web site

The Whole Village Raises the Child

We are in need! Can you hear the call?

We have decided to change our children's education program. The biggest reason for this change is due to the lack of teachers. After some discussion, it was decided to ask all members to help in teaching our children about the love, joy, hope, and peace found in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are asking all members to take **one Sunday** to act as a leader for the children. A list of stories or themes will be given to those who call and offer help. This will be a first call, first choice arrangement. We do not want anyone to feel overwhelmed by making this commitment. Therefore, we promise to help you choose or craft a lesson (art piece, or story, or sharing your vocation, or skit, or game, or family ties, or community involved information, etc.).

The following is the Sunday school time breakdown:

9:00-9:15—Sign-in and Fellowship Time

During this time the children will hear the story or theme presented to them in a brief moment from the leader of the day. They will be encouraged to socialize with each other. Coloring sheets, music, books, food, board games, or conversation will all be accessible to the children.

9:15-9:35—Worship Time

During this time the children will meet with Nancy Fennell. They will learn about the church calendar, sing songs of praise, and grow in prayer.

9:35-10:00—Lesson Time

This will be where the member spends the time with the children. A post confirmation helper will be present to assist the leader of the day. During this time the leader will determine (again help will be provided to mold this time to fit the leader's style—don't be scared) how and what the children learn. Some leaders will share their favorite Bible story, others will share their personal faith story, others will share a craft or vocation with the children, others may share a movie and then have discussion on the movie. All will focus on the story or theme of the day so that the children learn how Christ walks with us in our everyday lives.

10:00-10:15—Social Justice project and Pick-up

Each week a project will be chosen to stress the importance of doing God's work with our Hands. This activity will also stress our overall theme of: **TOGETHER WITH GOD... WE CAN...!!** The leaders will not be responsible for deciding the project unless that is their passion.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a leader during the Sunday school year. Simply call the church office and leave a message that you will volunteer as a village leader. You will then receive a call back to discuss a which story or theme and also choose the week you will lead.

Your fellow villagers,
Faith Formation for youth



DEADLINE
for the
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER...
SEPTEMBER 15!

Endowment Fund



The Endowment Fund earned \$709.70 in dividends since January of this year and the Berger Fund earned \$1,402.19.

Only the dividends earned are available for distribution for purposes such as:

- scholarships for educational purposes for college, technical, seminary, nursing or medical school
- church related camping and leadership conferences training which enables members of the church to grow in their Christian faith and service to God's people
- outreach into the community to ELCA colleges, seminaries, social service agencies, and programs designed for persons who are in spiritual and/or economic need.

Funds were recently awarded to Ethan and Alex Christensen and Deontee Krayee to help with necessary items for the fall college semester; Alexis Rounds for a week at Bear Creek Lutheran camp to further her faith; and Jonathan Mosebach as he grows in his faith in his music ministry.

The Fritzingler Scholarship Fund was deposited during the end of the second quarter of the year and had not yet earned any dividends by the end of June.

A gift of \$ 3,900.53 was received from the estate of Dorothy Kostenbader and deposited into the endowment fund.



Together With God... We Can!!

St. Timothy's is blessed with excellent musicians in the choirs and ensembles, as well as in the congregation. Music can express what cannot be put into words.

Everyone is welcome to join any of our musical groups, and we encourage people to participate as much as their schedules allow, whether it's all year, or just for special services.

The **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** is made up of all the children in Sunday School. They meet every Sunday, September to June, at 9 am in the Choir Room for a short 20 minutes of singing and worshipping together. Note the new start time, with a new exciting schedule of activities. (See Vicar Brian's article for details!) They sing in church one Sunday a month. All children are welcome!

The **SENIOR CHOIR** meets in the church sanctuary every Wednesday, September to June, 7:30-9:00 pm. The choir is open to everyone from middle school on up who can sing in tune and enjoys singing. The Senior Choir sings in church almost every Sunday and for special services during Lent and Christmas. They also sing occasionally during the summer. Come join us!

The **BELL CHOIR** presents music in the worship service approximately once a month. They rehearse in the church sanctuary 6:45-7:15 pm several Wednesdays a month and before the Sunday service in which they will be playing. The Bell Choir is open to everyone from grade four on up who enjoys hearing the bells, and would like to play them.

The **PRAISE BAND** presents music in the worship service once a month. They rehearse in the church sanctuary 6:30-8:30 pm every Tuesday. The Praise Band welcomes singers or experienced instrumentalists who would like to add to our praise experience.

The **CONGREGATION** is where everyone can participate, no rehearsal necessary. Sing from your heart and don't worry about how it sounds. Pay close attention to the words. They have a definite purpose for being there. Your worship will be more meaningful to you because of your participation.

These are just a few of the many ways you can serve our Lord. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Fennell, at 610-435-0628, or nanfenn@aol.com.

A Message from Pr. Woody

It was hard not to be inspired by the athletes of the 31st Olympic Games held last month. They were young and not so young, they were dedicated and some are even mothers. They had come from all over the globe. From mighty countries with vast resources of money and small countries where people work out in the streets not a gym, the Olympics so come down to talent. Certainly a country that provides that, is the island nation of Jamaica. It has been dominant in field and track for both men and women.

The Olympics demonstrate the human truths that people do want to do their best, people do want to reach their potential and exceed their barriers and people do want to live in harmony as part of a large family. Sadly, politics and selfish ambition do get in the way on some occasions. But so far good has won out and the games still go on.

From the brief breath from more important issues of life and politics, we will now return to our lives. No more inspiring stories from Rio. Some will return to following the Phils and having hope for the Eagles and Penn State. Others will just go back to reading the newspaper.

But the truth is we will experience a new spring when the lazy days of summer come to an end. Suddenly there will be a stir of energy in the air as people return to their routines. More kids will be going back and forth, more cars on the roads. It will

be a change from the slower pace of the last few months and the Olympics. It reminds us the getting there means there is always something new to do.

This Fall will bring us some good new challenges. We are exploring a new way to do Sunday School. We will be exploring topics with myself and Pastor Lichner that have to do with the future of St. Timothy in Adult Forum. The Westend Mission Collaborative is beginning to put planning together for the Celebration of 500 years of Reformation. This is with all the other things that normally start up in September.

The Church is an ever changing place. We live in a world that no longer assumes some religious connection. How we handle communicating the Gospel in a world deaf to its message is going to be more than challenging. We pray that God will give all of us the strength and wisdom we need. We have to develop a new way of thinking and a new way of acting in order to continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

September is always a challenge anyway isn't it. We mourn the loss of summer, worry about the approach of winter. But in all of the transitions of our lives and our congregation, we have the love of God and the strength of God to see us through. We are blessed with an invigorating present and a hopeful future in the love of God.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during my battle with an infection in my left eye. I thank God for the excellent doctors who have been taking care of me.

It has been a long four months. The vision in my eye has improved considerably but it is not what it was prior to the infection and it is doubtful if it will get any better.

Again, thank you for your concern.

Yours in Christ,
Dick Cruse





Members at Home

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

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

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

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

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

Madelon Umlauf, Country Meadows, 450 Krocks Rd., #308A, Allentown, PA 18106 (*June 2*)

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

September birthdays include:

Pat Nork, 1231 St. Basil St., Allentown, PA 18104 (*September 22*)

3D - DISCOVERY, DEVOTION, DISCIPLESHIP

As women on a FAITH JOURNEY... we gather two Thursday evenings a month in the LOUNGE from 7 - 9 p.m. to share Bible study, read a variety of inspirational books, share prayer, and/or enjoy social time.

To learn more...

JOIN US... THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

St. Timothy LOUNGE 7 - 9pm

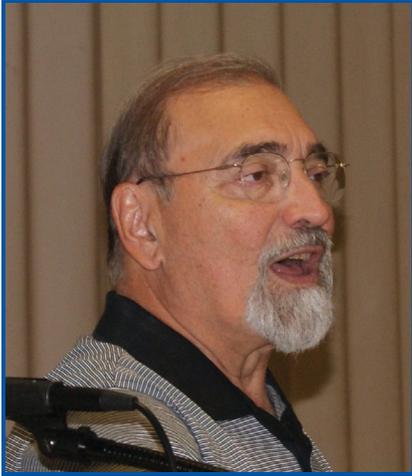
RSVP to Gloria Hinrichs (610-398-8472)

Beginning in October we will read & discuss the book *Hillbilly Elegy, A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance.

"J.D. Vance's memoir offers a starkly honest look at what the shattering of faith feels like for a family who lived through it. You will not read a more important book about America this year." (The Economist)

"The troubles of the working poor are well known to policymakers, but Vance offers an insider's view of the problem." (Christianity Today)

Pastor Paul's Farewell Luncheon



2016 Policy Priorities ELCA Advocacy



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"Along with all citizens, Christians have the responsibility to defend human rights, and to work for freedom, justice, peace, environmental well-being, and good order in public life."

– ELCA social statement: "The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective"

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. As believers in Christ, we are called to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." With a justice mindset, we speak out and encourage positive change in our communities and throughout the world.

ELCA Advocacy works to create and influence public policies that embody our biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to our neighbors, care for God's creation, and concern for our brothers and sisters facing poverty and struggling with hunger and disease. **In 2016, ELCA Advocacy will work to:**

Peacemaking

- + Advocate for the passage of the Food for Peace Act and the International Violence against Women Act.
- + Address funding needs for humanitarian relief.
- + Promote peace in the Middle East.

"As a reconciling presence, the church creates bonds among different peoples, whether local or distant ... Our calling to love of neighbor obligates us to act to prevent wars and to seek alternatives to them."

ELCA social statement: "For Peace in God's World"

Care for creation

- + Safeguard environmental standards that protect God's creation by supporting rules that regulate carbon emissions.
- + Ensure the U.S. fulfills its pledge to support the Green Climate Fund.

"Made in the image of God, we believe that we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth ... We depend upon God, who places us in a web of life with one another and with all creation."

ELCA social statement: "Caring for Creation"

Hospitality to our neighbors

- + Ensure immediate protection of displaced Central American children and families while focusing on long-term solutions for bettering conditions that cause people to flee.

"The world community has a responsibility to aid nations that receive refugees and to help change the situations from which they have fled."

ELCA social statement: "For Peace in God's World"

Concern for our brothers and sisters living in poverty

- + Take concrete steps toward ending hunger by enhancing domestic programs, including The Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act.
- + Improve funding for and access to affordable housing.

"Putting faith to action, we commit ourselves to advocate for public and private policies that effectively address the causes of poverty."

ELCA social statement: "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All"

Justice for all

- + Encourage faithful and non-partisan voter participation and provide a framework for Lutherans to understand and speak about the intersection of voting and elections with racial and economic justice.
- + Address unjust systems of mass incarceration by passing the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act.

"[It is] resolved, that ... this church be encouraged to "promote public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts ... to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens."

ELCA social policy resolution: "Voting Rights to All Citizens"



Saturday, September 24

Doors open @ 12:00pm; Games begin @ 1:00pm

\$20 for 20 games!

**Game prizes are themed gift baskets,
including similarly-themed gift cards.**

Each basket is worth minimum of \$20.

*** Special games ***

*** Lunch available for purchase ***

Call or email the church office to order advance tickets:

610-865-0601 † ststephenoffice@ptd.net

Profits benefit St. Stephen's Organ Fund.



St. Stephen's, 67 W. Washington Ave., Bethlehem 18018

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 10 am-3 pm-AARP [F]	2 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	3
4 Pentecost 16 9:30 am-Worship ~10:30 am-Blood Pressure Screening [L]	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	6 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 3:30 pm-Worship & Music Committee [L] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	7 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 7 pm-Allentown Hiking Club [F] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [F]	8 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 2pm-Daybreak Mission Team 6-9 pm-Scout Leadership [F & LP]	9 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	10
11 Pentecost 17 9 am-Sunday School-Rally Day 10:30 am-Outdoor Praise Worship [LP] Children Sing Picnic Lunch	12 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	13 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	14 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] AARP in Parking Lot	15 11 am-3 pm-Office Open OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11pm-Chess Club [L]	17
18 Pentecost 18 6:30 am-St. Paul's Mission Team 9 am-Sunday School 9 am-Adult Forum with Pr. Maxon [L] 10:30 am-Worship Pr. Woody Maxon ~11:30 am-12 pm-Congregation Council Meeting [L]	19 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F] 7 pm-Mental Health Support Group [L]	20 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	21 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:45 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7:30 pm-Venture Crew [F]	22 11 am-3 pm-Office Open	23 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	24
25 Pentecost 19 9 am-Sunday School 9 am-Adult Forum with Pr. Lichner 10:30 am-Worship Rite for Wholeness Pr. Tom Lichner Vicar Brian Riedy	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	27 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	28 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6:45 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal [NV] 7 pm-AA Board Meeting [F] 7:30 pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal [NV]	29 11 am-3 pm-Office Open	30 11 am-3 pm-Office Open 6-7 pm-Open Word Fellowship [F] 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Highlights from Synod Assembly 2016

World Hunger Challenge

The assembly heard how earlier this year two members of the synod offered a challenge: "If the special offering for ELCA World Hunger received at the 2016 Synod Assembly totals \$15,000, we'll match the \$15,000!"

In response to this challenge the congregations of our synod collected approximately \$80,000, including a gift of \$50,000 from Christ, Conyngham. With the match and additional contributions received after the Assembly, the synod was able to contribute over \$96,000 to World Hunger.



Save the Date! June 2-3, 2017

Assembly 2017 will be held on June 2-3 at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the grand finale of "UNLEASHED for Reformation 2017."

ELCA Representative Andrea Walker



On Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, approximately 500 delegates and visitors from congregations of the synod gathered for this year's assembly. After reports from Bishop Zeiser and the officers of the synod, the Rev. Andrea L. Walker, ELCA Global Mission Area Director for Madagascar, West and Central Africa, brought greetings on behalf of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the entire churchwide organization. She reminded the assembly that we are part of a larger story that makes up the ELCA. We are one church in 9,300 places, nearly 4 million people strong, "members of one another" (Romans 12:4-5) moving forward together.

Rev. Walker reported on a variety of mission efforts both here and around the world. In 2015 the ELCA started 92 new congregations in the USA, including Common Ground in Wyomissing. We have also made tremendous progress in fighting hunger and malaria. Reporting on "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA" she reported that after two years we have raised \$80 million toward the five-year goal of \$198 million. Our synod has raised nearly \$550,000 so far. She presented a video from Presiding Bishop Eaton highlighting four strategic statements: We are church, We are Lutheran, We are church together, and We are church for the sake of the world.



For the second year the assembly enjoyed God's Playground, an area set aside for celebrating ministries and other ways to be UNLEASHED. Those attending the assembly had several opportunities to wander through the Playground and interact with a variety of other folks.

Festival Worship Service



The assembly closed with a Festival Communion Service. The music and hymns were led by the Mark Mummert, who in 2015 served as Distinguished

Visiting Seminary Cantor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; and by Aimée and Joel Pakan, a folk rock duo who perform together as Tangled Blue.



In his sermon Bishop Zeiser challenged the congregations of the synod to look at what they are hoarding, that is, what traditions and ideas they hang on to even though they may clutter a healthy relationship to Jesus Christ.

Spending Proposal for 2017

The assembly adopted a Spending Proposal for 2017. Because income for the past year was about \$100,000 under budget, the finance committee proposed to reduce spending in the 2017 plan by the same amount. The proposal retains a split of 47% of income to the ELCA and 53% for synod operations. However, support for "Other Institution & Agency Support" was reduced from 10% of income to 8%.

The Synod Plants a Tree in Luthergarten



"Even if I knew that the world were to collapse tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree today" (ascribed to Martin Luther). In 2017 Lutheran churches will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, that had its beginnings in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. To commemorate this anniversary, the Luthergarten has been established in Wittenberg on the grounds of the former town fortifications. 500 trees will be planted in the Luthergarten and elsewhere in the town, as a concrete sign of the optimism so clearly expressed in Luther's apple tree quote.

The assembly heard how on June 13 a team from our synod visited Wittenberg and planted the tree, *Tilia tomentosa* 'Brabant' (Silver Linden Tree), identified as number 323.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Peterson



The Rev. Dr. Cheryl M. Peterson, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ohio, offered two keynote presentations. In the first she talked about how the church needs to be freed from its captivity to "cultural Christianity" and unleashed for God's ministry. Immigration and procreation will no longer support our efforts. We must learn how to reach out to the so-called "nones," who claim no religious affiliation but often describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious."

In her second presentation, Dr. Peterson talked about "Twelve Suggested Shifts for a church unleashed by the Spirit." Some of these were "From survival to revival," "From fear to bold proclamation," "From planning to preparation," and "From attractional to incarnational evangelism." She emphasized the need for building relationships into an expansive, inclusive fellowship.

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October 2016 LMD NL news will be due September 15, 2016. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Cooking for Crowds: A Volunteer's Guide to Safe Food Handling program helps non-profit organizations and their volunteers understand the risks involved with preparing large volumes of food and the important food safety practices that need to be implemented to ensure a safe event. The program, conducted by Penn State Extension is being held at *St. Peter's Union Church in Macungie, PA* **Sept 10th, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm. Register online by Wed, Sept 7th at:** <http://extension.psu.edu/food/safety/events>. Contact Nicole McGeehan at 570-421-6430 or nmd5140@psu.edu with any questions.

Redeemer is celebrating her 90th anniversary this year: Mark your calendars for the following dates.

Sun, Sept 18th, 10:15 am - Anniversary Worship, Rev. Michael Bennethum preacher. Luncheon follows worship; All are invited

Sat, Oct 8th, 4 pm - Anniversary Banquet at Luther Crest, Rev. Carl Shankweiler, guest speaker. Please call the church office ([610-434-1291](tel:610-434-1291)) for ticket information.

Sat, Oct 22nd, 6 pm - An evening of Sacred Music featuring the choirs and musicians of the West Side Collaborative. Reception follows.

Sun, Nov 6th, 10:15 am - All Saints Worship- Redeemer Homecoming service. Reception follows. All are welcome.

Presentations at Luther Crest - The public is cordially invited to attend the following presentations in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104, Tuesday's at 2:30 p.m. **Sept. 20th**, Dr. William Jennings on "Religions of the Presidential Candidates", **Oct. 4th**, Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "Which Sort of Jew was Jesus?", **Oct 18th**, Sundar Brown on "When Religion Turns Violent", **Nov 15th**, Jason Brocius on "What is Humanism?", **Dec.6th**, Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "What Is Family Anymore, Anyway?". For more information, please contact the Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

Yard Sale at Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church - 8269 Spring Creek Rd. Albutis, **Sept. 24th, 9 am-2 pm.** \$10 for individuals, \$20 for businesses for a 10 x 10 spot. Outside vendors must supply their own table. Food will be available to purchase. Any questions call the church office at [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215).

Brain Injury Walk: On **Sun., Sept. 25th**, Good Shepherd joins forces with The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania to sponsor the Sprint, Stroll & Roll 5 K/1 Mile Walk at Lone Lane Park in Macungie. **The run starts at 9:00 a.m., and the walk starts at 9:15 a.m.** For more information on how you can participate or support this worthwhile cause, visit www.biapa.org/SprintStrollRoll2016.

Luther Crest Hosts "Theology, Literature, and Coffee" - Luther Crest will host 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 3rd, 17th, and 31st, 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 **\$20 with early registration discount before September 19** (\$25 after 9/19/16), beverages will be provided. To register, please contact Moravian Theological Seminary [610-861-1516](tel:610-861-1516) or <http://www.moravianseminary.edu/continuing-ed>

Books to be discussed are: **Oct. 3rd:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee ISBN-10: 0446310786 Leader: Nelson Quinones, St. John Lutheran Church, Fogelsville, **Oct. 17th:** *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines ASIN: B00E31IHG6, Leader: Ruth Marcon, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, **Oct. 31st:** *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton ASIN: B009035AXQ, Leader: Nelvin Vos, St. John Lutheran Church, Allentown.

ALOA Adult Ministry Festival: Where: Nativity Lutheran Church, 4004 Tilghman St, Allentown, PA, When: **Oct. 8th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Cost \$15 (includes lunch). Keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Wengert, professor emeritus of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will speak on "Luther's Catechisms for Adults: Tasting Them Again for the First Time." Join us for a day of engaging speakers, inspirational music, and creative workshops presented by ALOA in partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Attendees will glean "take home" ideas and starter material for personal faith development as well as intergenerational and adult programs for congregations. For more information or registration: <http://nepasynod.org/event/aloa-adult-ministry-festival-2016/>

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk: **Sun., Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m.,** beginning and ending at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104, with **registration starting at 1 p.m.** The CROP Hunger Walk is a great fellowship and service event for families, youth groups, adult groups, and congregations. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised by the CROP Hunger Walk returns to the Lehigh Valley to support the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen. The remaining 75% is used by Church World Service for disaster relief (e.g., for communities in the United States and around the world devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods) and development assistance (e.g., assisting poor families with clean drinking water, seeds, tools, and irrigation). For more information, for a sponsor form, please contact your own congregation or the Lehigh County Conference of Churches [610-433-6421](tel:610-433-6421). Log on to www.cropwalk.org for further information about CROP or for making online donations.

NEW REFORMATION
An Invitation

Reformation Sunday (**October 30**) will be a very special Sunday for the churches and leaders of the Lehigh Mission District. The Mission District Council has planned a special event, focusing on the Reformation, at the **Lutheran Center** that afternoon from **2:00PM to 5:00PM** which will conclude with a free supper. Pastors and congregational leaders are encouraged to attend.

This event is intended to encourage us to examine the meaning of the historical Reformation with expectation that the celebration of its 500th Anniversary in 2017 will also prompt us to vision the future of our Lutheran Church and our churches as an extension of that spirit. More than anything else, it will offer an opportunity for guided sharing of our hopes and aspirations in a congenial and creative setting.

Following an opening devotional, Associate of the Bishop, Pastor Kurt Garbe, who services our Lehigh Mission District, will set the stage for our discussion with a brief presentation which will introduce the concept of the "New Reformation." His presentation will be followed by our involvement in structured sharing groups which will be encourage to examine what this concept could mean to our congregations, our Mission District and even the larger Church. An interesting and unique event is envisioned and your participation is encouraged.

Since a meal is involved, it will obviously be necessary for us to have some idea about how many people will be involved. "Registrations" can be made by e-mailing me, your Mission District Secretary, at stough@rcn.com or by calling my cellphone (484-735-3237) and leaving a message if I don't answer. In order to accommodate appropriate timing with regard to the food order, **registrations need to be placed before October 17**. It promises to be an interesting, even exciting, afternoon, so your participation is both encouraged and anticipated.

Interestingly, after we began planning this event, we became aware of the fact that the ELCA is engaged in a similar project. It is involved in a process identified as "Called Forward Together in Christ," an initiative that is asking members to consider the kind of church God is calling the ELCA to become. A paper released July 26 shares key messages discovered through conversations across the ELCA and participants are being encouraged to provide feedback on the findings that emerged. Bishop Eaton of our ELCA has said that the 500th anniversary of the Reformation "provides a powerful focal point for reaffirming who we are as a Lutheran Church and understanding what God is calling this church to be in its ongoing reformation."

Plan on joining us at the Lutheran Center on Reformation Sunday afternoon as we take a brief look at what this might mean to our Mission District and our churches as we embark on the next 500 years of mission and ministry. Your registration will be welcomed and is anticipated.

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610-435-9155
Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com
Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators
Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

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

*******MULTI-DAY TRIP*******

TASTE THE FLAVOR OF VERMONT - Tues, Sept. 13th to Fri, Sept 16th - 4 Days/3 Nights in the Killington area of Vermont. Experience the tastes of a Maple Sugar Farm, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, Cabot Cheese, Woodchuck Hard Cider and visit a Marble Museum, Danforth Pewter, an Alpaca farm and the popular Vermont Country Store. 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners, 1 with entertainment and 1 live cooking demonstration. Call the office for flyer.

CUT OFF FOR RESERVATIONS IS AUGUST 26.

Cost \$600 pp based on double occupancy, \$690 for singles.

October 13 (Thur.) - Penn's Peak - Bill Haley's Comets - The Comet's Rock and Roll Show is an energetic entertaining show featuring fun, comedy, dance and music that keeps the crowds laughing, clapping and singing along to all the oldies and classic rock favorites. With the harmonies and choreography of the two poodle skirted and car hop uniform. All luncheon shows come complete with a family style meal including the ever popular Penn's Peak Pot Roast, all non-alcoholic beverages (alcohol available for purchase).

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:30 AM and will return approx. 4:30 PM

Cost \$80 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept. 22

November 17 (Thurs) - Media Theatre - "A Christmas Story, The Musical"

- Get in the mood for Black Friday shopping and the upcoming Christmas season along with Ralphie and his family as they weave their way through life from the "major award" of the lady's leg lamp to the "adorable" but embarrassing footed bunny pajamas for Ralphie. See how Ralphie tries to convince his parents, his teacher, and a grumpy department store Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift for a kid of the 1940s. Prior to the show enjoy a delicious lunch at Ristorante Gennaro where you will choose from Chicken Parmesan, Meat Cannelloni, Baked Salmon or Baked Eggplant Parmesan along with a choice of soup or salad, soft drinks, coffee and a choice of Gelato or Tiramisu for dessert. Please advise your meal and dessert choice, and soup or salad at time of reservation.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM and will return approx. 6 PM

Cost \$89 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept. 29

*****Join us September 10-20, 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, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.

Chicken Parmesan, Meat Cannelloni, Baked Salmon or Baked Eggplant Parmesan along with a choice of soup or salad, soft drinks, coffee and a choice of Gelato or Tiramisu for dessert. Please advise your meal and dessert choice, and soup or salad at the time of reservation.

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

Cost \$89 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept 29th