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

2nd annual Candlelight Christmas Service in the German Language – Sermon in English. Join us at St. John' Lutheran, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus on **Jan. 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm** to experience the Christmas liturgy in German, the language of Martin Luther and many of the reformers. The service will be led by the Rev. Roger Timm. A cookie reception follows in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm. **Handicap parking and accessibility at the 5th St. entrance.**

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

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., Jan. 24, 2017**, Sundar Brown on Theoterrorism: Further Discussion about Religion and Violence. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

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

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

Employment, Internship, and Volunteer Opportunities at Luther Crest. If you or someone you know would like to explore employment, internship, or volunteer opportunities in nursing, dining services, activities, pastoral care, or other services among senior adults, please contact Luther Crest at [610-398-8011](tel:610-398-8011). For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

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!

**OPERATION SUNSHINE
CELEBRATING**



1987-2017

We have fun and exciting trips planned for 2017!!



REFORMATION IN THE LMD!

Even though the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has already been very much on our minds, 2017 will be the year for the official celebration. And October 29, Reformation Sunday, will be a special day for all of us. Consequently, having requested focus articles from several sources for this issue of our LMD Newsletter and finding that various conflicts, including preparations for Christmas, were interfering with their making a positive response, it seemed like some reflections on the last 50 years of "reformation" in our LMD would be in order. Your responses to my observations will be welcomed (stough@rcn.com).

Some of you would know that I have spent most of the last 50 years serving in one capacity or another within the Lehigh Mission District. Describing those various roles would detract substantially from the space available for this contribution, so I'm electing to pass on that. But the fact is that my initial experience was as Assistant Pastor of St. John's Church, South Fifth Street, Allentown, in 1962.

Needless to say, those were different times! At that time, there were at least six Lutheran churches in the Allentown area with memberships surpassing 1000 and worship attendances approaching or surpassing 500. And in an effort to focus the outreach and service ministries of these major faith families, we developed what was known as the Allentown Area Lutheran Parish (AALP), with a full-time ordained executive leader and at least a part-time secretarial associate. Much good mission and ministry was accomplished through this effort.

In 1966 I was called out of the area for nearly 10 years (Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale) but by the mid-70s I was back in Allentown, now as Pastor of St. John's. Upon my return, I realized that things had begun to change. The city was changing – housing in the area of both St. John's and St. Paul's had been replaced with a different style of residences which attracted a very different kind of neighborhood and residents who were not nearly as interested in involvement in the Lutheran Church.

It was during this period that we became involved in the development of the Allentown Foodbank, originally in the basement of St. John's, and supporting the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. Among other things, I chaired its board for at least 5 years. And, uniquely, it was also during this period that we facilitated the development of San Martin de Porres, the first Spanish-speaking Lutheran parish in a large area. Ironically, it was developed by a staff member from St. John's but established at St. Paul's.

Those were some of the highlights of Lutheran mission and ministry in what we know as the Lehigh Mission District during the last 50 years, as we approached the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It's clear that the next 50 years will see significant changes as we are challenged to consolidate and share both pastoral and lay leadership. We pray, however, that this continuing "reformation" will involve a genuine openness to creative mission and ministry.

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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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. Travel for a night in Wheeling, WV before arriving at our home base in Cincinnati for nights 2 and 3. Meals 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 on a trip to Germany to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with highlights on the trip of visits to Mainz, Worms, Gutenberg Museum, Erfurt, Wartburg Castle, Lutherhaus, Eisleben, Dresden, Leipzig, St. Thomas Church, Wittenberg, St. Mary's Church and Berlin.

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