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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

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.

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.