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May 2017 LMD NL news will be due April 12, 2017. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

The LMD Mission District Assembly is scheduled for **Sun., April 30th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** at **The Lutheran Center**. It will begin with a free dinner (financial contributions will be accepted), during which the business meeting will be conducted. And it will continue with a special presentation on *Luther in the Changing Church*, under the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner. **Please make dinner reservations before April 21st** through our Secretary, Pastor Richard Stough (e-mail at stough@rcn.com or cellphone at [484-655-4550](tel:484-655-4550)).

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.

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

Model Passover Seder Dinner: April 6th at 3:30 p.m. in Crest Hall, cost is \$11.00 and covers a full buffet style meal with commentary led by Cantor Kevin D. Wartell from Temple Beth El. **Registration required**, contact Chaplain Ginny Heimer [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., April 11th**, Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on **A Turkish Puzzle: Fetthulah Gulen**. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

The 2017 schedule for Lutheran Congregational Services' Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training is now available. Trainings will be held **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).

THANK YOU!! - to those who have contributed their time, talents, and donations of goods and money to the Crossroads Day Shelter at St. Paul's-Allentown. This ministry is possible only because of people like you! From **May 1st until October 31st**, Crossroads will only be open at certain times, due to the lack of volunteers and staffing. If you are interested and able to donate a few hours a week, perhaps we can be open a bit more. In the meanwhile, contributions are always welcome! Call St. Paul's at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065).

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).

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.



EASTER BLESSINGS

The month of April will include the Festival of Easter and it is my privilege to wish you Easter Blessings on behalf of Dean Gade, Associate of the Bishop Kurt Garbe, and the entire Lehigh Mission District Council. Easter is, of course, the most significant celebration in our faith tradition! Oh, admittedly, there is Christmas and there is Holy Week, including Good Friday. But none of these would have any significance for us were it not for the special gift of Easter.

When I contemplate the meaning of Easter, my mind and my thoughts go immediately to the 28th chapter of Matthew's Gospel and his description of what occurred on that first Easter Day. In an abbreviated form, it reads *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And there was a great earthquake; (and) an angel of the lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it...(And) the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where he lay.*

And the implication is that the Marys, after a quick look into the emptiness of the tomb, went off to tell our Lord's disciples what they had found. Obviously, there is no reason to think that an empty tomb is what they were expecting to find, but it was a scene which dramatically changed their lives and has had a major impact upon the history of the more than 20 centuries since they shared that experience.

My reflections and contemplations of this experience were dramatically impacted by an episode which I experienced a few years ago while visiting Jerusalem. Any of us who have had the privilege of visiting that Holy City have recollections which will never escape our memories, but this one had a particularly profound impact upon my faith life. It happened while we were visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The guide was in the process of introducing us to some of the uniqueness's of this place and ultimately, of course, this led to the empty tomb. As he was describing this space, he digressed and told us that just a week or so prior to our visit there had been someone in a group who interrupted him by saying, "Sir, thank you for your enlightening information, but I want you to know that the only reason I came here was to assure myself that the tomb is empty! And I can see that now, and that's all that really matters!" And, I guarantee you that not many of those in my group heard much of what he said after that, because that really was what mattered!

There can be little doubt about the fact that the emptiness of that tomb when those ladies went there that day has had and continues to have a significant impact upon our lives. It affirmed continuing hope for us beyond both the celebrations and the struggles of this life. Undoubtedly most, if not all, of us have dealt either personally or through relatives or friends with issues which make us extremely grateful for the renewing gift of our Easter Blessing!

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.

May 11 (Thurs) – Bucks County Playhouse – CLUE ON STAGE - A new venue for Operation Sunshine, the well known Bucks County Playhouse presenting *Clue On Stage*. Secrets! Lies! Blackmail! Murder! What's a body to do? Join in the original farce whodunit cocktail party turned multiple homicides that will leave you guessing! CLUE: the Play is the stage adaption of the popular Parker Brothers board game, featuring six suspicious characters, six deadly weapons, nine sinister rooms and one killer evening! Luncheon restaurant to be determined.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM
Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Mar. 30

June 21 (Wed.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – MARY POPPINS - Based on the stories by P.L. Travers and one of the most popular films of all time! Mary Poppins takes us on a magical and memorable adventure. It's an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers, and a little bit of magic. This is a show that received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including best musical. It's a **SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS** musical adventure! Lunch at Charlie Brown's Fresh Grill.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM and will return approximately 6 PM
Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 18

July 12 (Wed.) – Fulton Theatre – NEWSIES - The toast of Broadway for over two years, *Newsies* is based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899. Day in and day out a young group of scrappy and spirited newsboys carry the banner, hoping for a major headline so they can sell enough "papes" to survive the harrowing streets of New York City... until they become the headline! Lunch at The Pressroom. Please call the office for lunch menu choices at the time of reservation.

Bus leave St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 6 PM
Cost \$97 Payment Deadline: Thurs., June 8

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.
Now on a First-Come First Served basis.

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