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**November 2017 LMD NL news will be due October 13, 2017.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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, [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 7<sup>th</sup> (St. John's, Stroudsburg). **Details and registration information at** [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://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).

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/continuingeducation). **Books to be discussed are:** **Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Of Love and Other Demons** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Leader: Nelson Quinones, St. John Lutheran Church, Fogelsville, **Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>: Silence** by Shusaku Endo, Leader: Nelvin Vos, St. John Lutheran Church, Allentown, **Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>: A Man Called Ove** by Fedrik Backman, Leader: Ruth Marcon, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown.

**Fall Basket Social – St. John's Lutheran Church** (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will hold a basket raffle on Sat., Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-2 pm. 'Basket Preview Night' on Fri., Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, you do not need to be present to win. 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](http://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. 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** will feature a performance by Recordante (recorders & woodwinds) and **Sun., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://visitwww.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 175<sup>th</sup> 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 500<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



**OPERATION SUNSHINE**

36 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

Web site: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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.***  
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***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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 [tlcichner@rcn.com](mailto:tlcichner@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 [tlcichner@rcn.com](mailto:tlcichner@rcn.com) OR [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).