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 The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair 484-358-5720
 Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

Chaplain Callista Isabelle concluded her service as Chaplain of Muhlenberg College on December 5, 2017. She and her husband have moved back to the Mid-West. As of this writing we were not aware of the appointment or calling of a successor for this position.

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers 2018 -

Do you provide part time or full-time care for an elder? Would you like a safe place to share your joys and struggles with other care-givers? Would you appreciate companionship in nurturing your spirit? 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. There is no need to make a commitment to each one. Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, [1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102](http://1245WHamiltonStAllentownPA18102). **1:30 - 3:00 PM Wednesday's: January 17th, March 14th, May 16th, July 18th, 2018.** Parking is available in a lot across Hamilton Street from the church. Each gathering will be led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Tom Lichner at tllichner@rcn.com OR 610-533-9362.

Simple Gifts – Two women plus twelve instruments equal one good time! Simple Gifts takes stage at **St Paul's Lutheran Church**, 8227 Hamilton Blvd, Breinigsville, 18031, on **January 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** This award-winning band performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, banjo, and guitar plus more unusual instruments. All are welcome! **This concert is free however, donations will be collected of non-perishable food items for local food pantries.**

**Crossroads at St. Paul's-Allentown:
 "Lord, when did we see you?"**

Crossroads is Allentown's only day shelter, where the homeless can gather out of the cold. Thanks to our partners, we are pleased to announce that Crossroads is now open: **Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm, Friday, 11am-4pm, and Saturday, 11am-3pm.** Additionally, a lite breakfast is served **Monday-Wednesday, 8:30am**

If you or your fellow church members want to make a hands-on contribution to help those in need: **60 minutes** on Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm, Friday, 11am-4pm, or Saturday, 11am-3pm is all you need to offer hospitality & friendship. Do a puzzle! Share a hobby! Just talk to folks.

Contact **St. Paul's-Allentown** at [610 435-9065](http://610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net.

**Just 30 or 60 minutes can make such a difference!
 With your help, we can distribute the following items to those whom we serve:**

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| January | February |
| Socks | Cough Drops |
| Gloves | Tissue Packets |
| Candy Bars | Knit Hats |
| Slim Jim's | Chap Sticks |
| Hand Wipes | Hand Warmers |
| Packages of Cheese/
Peanut Butter Crackers | Bandanas |



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

When we turn the page of the calendar to begin the new year, we have at least two options. We can use it as an opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments or shortcomings of the past year...or we can see it as a challenge to vision the opportunities which the new year will hold in store for us. Because it has long been my general habit to vision the positive options with which it is my expectation that we will be confronted, I choose to share a few of these which we may experience in 2018.

I am envisioning that the new year will afford us a continuation of the worship experiences to which we have been accustomed, but I am hoping that at least some of us will benefit from experimentation with at least a few *New Opportunities*. During my service as a Stewardship Key Leader for the ELCA, I had the privilege of visiting with parishes in various parts of our country. I have special memories of my visit to one very active congregation in the Mid-West. Admittedly it had a rather large number of parishioners to serve, but I came away from that experience believing that one of the reasons for this was the various worship opportunities they offered. There was an informal worship in the context of an early Saturday supper, which was attractive to senior folk. There was a rather traditional early service, followed by a mid-morning contemporary service from which the children and young people were excused to Sunday School following a brief but meaningful opening ritual. And there was a late morning traditional worship in the chapel (by this time many of the worship tastes had been satisfied). Some experimentation had gotten them to this point!

I'm also hoping the new year will afford us *New Opportunities* to broaden our fellowship experiences. Across the years I have heard people affirm that their experiences with the congregations with which they are affiliated comes as close as possible to reflecting a real family of faith. It is to be hoped that the new year will find those parishes which have already become families of faith continue to serve in this capacity, and that those which have not yet reached this level will progress in this direction. The strangeness and busyness of our evolving world suggests an increasing need for the intimate sharing of God's love!

And, there is considerable evidence that the new year and beyond will include *New Opportunities* for the sharing of this love as we respond to the unique and serious needs of

people in various parts of our world. As I was preparing these materials I was listening to a report of the devastation and the number of people who were being affected by the wildfires in California. And this news was following very closely, of course, on the heels of the various kinds of storms which had recently taken major tolls in Texas/Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico. The calendar may change, but *New Opportunities* continue with us!

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](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.

March 13 (Tues.) – Hunterdon Hills – STEEL

MAGNOLIAS - Steel Magnolias revolves around the lives of a group of gossipy southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor. The play is alternately hilarious and touching, revealing the strength and purposefulness that underlies the banter of its characters. Lunch included at Hunterdon Hills. **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 4:30 PM**

Cost \$89.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Mar. 1, 2018

April 26 (Thurs) – Papermill Playhouse – THE STING –

A new musical based on the academy award-winning film. Chicago 1936. Get ready to enter a smoke-filled world of cons and capers, where nothing is what it seems, and no one is who they appear to be. Lunch at Charlie Brown's Fresh Grill. **Lunch Choices:** Chicken Marsala, Prime Rib and Lemon Dill Salmon. **Dessert Choices:** Cheesecake, Key Lime Pie or Ice Cream. Charlie Brown's Famous Salad Bar included. **Please indicate your choices at time of reservation.** **Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM and will return approximately 6:30 PM**

Cost \$99.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar. 22, 2018