



The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030
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

LMD News for the January issue will be due December 14, 2018. E-Mail information to imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

NEW – **The LMD Council** is looking to add a few additional members (lay or ordained) and needs a new treasurer. This group normally meets about 5 times a year on Sunday evenings at Western Salisbury Church. If you can help, please contact Dean Gade by phone 610-966-3030 or e-mail stpeters@ptd.net.

***NEW** – Join us for the Christmas concert of The Emmaus Chorale, on **3:00 pm on Sun., Dec. 9**, at **Faith Presbyterian Church Emmaus**. Under the direction of Daniel Reed, the program will include: "Gloria in Excelsis" by Mozart; "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" by Rutter; "God With us, Emmanuel" by Dotta (Choral Premier); "We Need A Little Christmas" and "Charlie Brown Christmas." Refreshments will be available after the concert. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496)

***NEW** – **Beyond Dementia: Sat. Jan. 26, 2019** (snow date Feb. 2) from **9 am – 3 pm**. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. Join us for a contemplative day to explore ways we can journey in the sacred with those who are cognitively different. We will be led by Elizabeth Buss, spiritual director and former chaplain, who has been companioning these persons for many years both in individual and group settings. Questions and registration email Mary Howe mhowe@rcn.com

Updated – **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 multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. **Days and hours are Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 am - Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 pm.** This program is in **JEOPARDY** due to insufficient volunteers! We are especially looking for people who are comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at 610-434-3943 or stluke@enter.net

One last message from St. Paul's – Grace to you all, and peace. On behalf of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Allentown, please accept our gratitude for your partnerships over the years, and more recently, for your prayers and good wishes as we prepare to close on December 30th. The congregation's decision to disperse throughout the area means that some of you may have visitors, and perhaps eventually members, who find their way from our home to yours. I trust that you will be as blessed by their presence and gifts as I have been. *Blessings on you and your congregations.*
Pastor Steve Shussett

Come Away To A Quiet Place – Centering Prayer is a form of quiet, receptive prayer. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include discussion about centering prayer, so whether you are a beginner or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Friday of each month: Dec. 2, Jan. 4, 10:30 - 11:30 am.** Led by Rev. Maritza Torres-Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner at Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown. Parking in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. Enter on 13th Street, look for sign "Schantz House/Ruhe Annex". Please let us know if you will be joining us. Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, tlcichner@rcn.com

Contemplative Prayer...Prayer Around the Cross – Wed., Dec. 5th, 7:00 pm - Advent Awakening. You are invited to join with others for a time of contemplative opening to the Spirit of God in and around us. We invite God's Light to shine in our hearts and to awaken our consciousness to live lives of mercy, justice, and love. Please join together in this brief time of sacred reading, silent reflection, poetry, chanting, candle lighting, intercessory prayer, and space for quiet reflection. Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa. 18102. Parking lot across street from church. Address inquiries to Rev. Tom Lichner at tlcichner@rcn.com.

Set of Bells Wanted – St. Mark Allentown is starting a bell choir and is looking to purchase a set of bells from a congregation that may no longer need them. If you can help, please contact John Harkins at dubbadad@aol.com.

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

As I contemplated this issue of our LMD Newsletter and an appropriate Christmas message, I reviewed some recent contributions it was easy to conclude that a contribution from Dean Gade from 2014 merited recollection. It's an appropriate message for these unusually confusing times. He noted that he got the inspiration from a parish newsletter and it is my privilege to share an updated version of this piece in the spirit of Christmas 2018.

Let's begin with the story of a traveler who was lost in the back woods. It was night and a violent thunderstorm was raging. He floundered through the mud and rain, desperately peering into the darkness for some hint as to where he was. Then, all of the sudden a crash of thunder brought him to his knees. And he turned his face to the sky and said, "O Lord, if it's all the same to you, I could use a little more light and a little less noise."

The fact is that God has generously shared a special light with us! We are currently celebrating *The Season of Light – Advent*. But there are many in our world still floundering in the darkness. There are many who have been abused and are groping for new life as they flee from parts of Africa and Central America. There is another large group struggling to put their lives back together as they work at recovering from violent storms and fires.

Thanks be to God's presence through which we encounter the illuminating light of the newborn king through that manger in Bethlehem. Thanks too for the privilege of sharing this saving light with our family and friends, our congregations and their ministries, and our siblings around the world.

But it doesn't end there! We also find ourselves called to generate some creative noise. We are sharing creative noise when we explain the Light – the Love of God – to others. We are privileged to share that light with our families and friends, our colleagues in mission and ministry, and with those from near and far with whom we share history.

In the coming months we will encounter numerous opportunities to extend an invitation to others to join us in our mission of light. Invite someone to join you for worship, or encourage a neighbor to come with you to an event. Give of your time in caroling to some homebound members. Invite a lonely individual to join a parish group. Give gifts that will show that love is important and not simply material possessions.

We are a blessed people. Let us live that out by being a blessing to others. Let us confirm that gift by sharing some creative noise!

Holiday Blessings!
Pastor Stough

OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.

Allentown, PA 18109

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

!!PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS!!

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.

*******Few Seats Remaining*******

Mar. 21 (Thru) – Bristol Riverside Theatre – THE SUNSHINE

BOYS – Al and Willie, a famous vaudeville team, haven't spoken to each other in over a decade. When a big TV network requests to bring the legendary (and cranky) comics together one last time, it turns out to be easier said than done. Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" is a touching story full of the memories, regrets and the laughs that accompany a lifelong friendship. Lunch at the King George Inn includes a salad, Entrée and Cheesecake Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream and Walnut Streusel for dessert. Choice of entrees: Home-style Meatloaf, Fish and Chips or Grilled Chicken Breast ***Please indicate your choice of entrée at time of reservation.***

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00AM and will return approximately 6:30 PM Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 7

*******Waiting List Only*******

Apr. 24 (Wed.) – Media Theatre – SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER -

Tony Manero doesn't have much going for him during the weekdays. He still lives at home and works as a paint store clerk in his Brooklyn, N.Y. neighborhood. But he lives for the weekends, when he and his friends go to the local disco and dance the night away. When a big dance competition is announced, he wrangles the beautiful and talented Stephanie to be his partner. As the two train for the big night, they start to fall for each other as well. The soundtrack by the Bee Gees became a classic overnight after the movie starring John Travolta hit the big screen. Return to the 70s where disco dancing became an art form. Lunch at Spasso Italian Grill which includes a salad, dessert sampler and one of the following entrees: Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon, or Fettuccini Pomodoro. ***Please indicate your choice of entrée at time of reservation.***

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10AM and will return approximately 6 PM Cost \$85 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 21