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April 2019 LMD NL news will be due March 14, 2019.

E-Mail any information lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

***NEW - Paint & Sip Party - April 7th, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm.**
 Lehigh Lodge No. 326, 2120 Route 100 South, Macungie Pa.
 Sponsored by Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church, Alburtis, PA.
 Kitchen will be open. BYOB. **Cost is \$35.00.** Contact [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215) for information or to order tickets.

***NEW – Center for Spiritual Awakening...A Hidden Pearl in the Lehigh Valley.** Join us for a special afternoon when the Center will be blessed and dedicated by, Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. **Sun., March 31 at 12:00 noon**, 13th and Hamilton St, in the Schantz House/Ruhe Annex of Christ Lutheran.

***NEW – A Morning with God – March 9th, 8:30 am to 12:30pm.** As the holy season of Lent begins, you are invited to a morning of quiet and prayer with God exploring how this Lenten season may be made holy. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Church, 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown. Questions: mhowe@rcn.com – 610-821-4007.

Wisdom Way of Knowing - 2/22, 3/29, 4/26 from 3-5:30 pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. This monthly gathering will introduce the rhythm and tools of a 'Wisdom way of knowing', an 'integral way of knowing' which engages and harmonizes our three intelligence centers: heart, mind and movement. This will be an experiential gathering with a balance of centering, teaching, Lectio Divina and gentle body prayer. Together we will explore ways to weave the different components of Wisdom into our daily life and spiritual practice. RSVP to marcellak2@aol.com

The Gospel of Thomas Series - The 1st and 3rd Wed. of the month **1:30 to 3:00 pm beginning Feb. 6th.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. Discovered in a cave in Egypt in 1945, the Gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings of Jesus. They appeal more to the heart and imagination than to reason. You are invited to attend ongoing gatherings to explore this gospel using the prayer form of *lectio divina* (Latin for Divine Reading). Direct questions and registration to Mary Howe: mhowe@rcn.com

Come Away To A Quiet Place – Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer. A portion of each gathering will include some discussion about centering prayer. **First Fri., of each month 10:30 - 11:30 am.** Led by Rev. Maritza Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. 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 the sign “Schantz House/Ruhe Annex”. **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening tlcichner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

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 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. **ELL days and hours are**, Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 am - **This part of the program is in JEOPARDY due to insufficient volunteers.** Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We are especially looking for people who a comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net

Support Our Neighbors in Need: Please Save These Dates!
 Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun. Oct. 13 at 1:30 pm**, with registration beginning at 1:00 pm at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown.

CROP Recruiters’ Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 25, 2019, 1:30-2:30 pm (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need locally and around the globe! For more information, go to www.crophungerwalk.org

***NEW - This Little Light of Mine** - For many churches, the leftover stubs of candles are a minor matter to store or dispose. For the homeless trying to survive a cold winter, those stubs can be life and death. By experience and ingenuity, many hard sleepers are able to get several hours of warmth from a single stub. **These candles once burned in love for God; let their light shine in love of neighbor.** Contact Ben Stephens at the Lehigh Conferences of Churches ([610-439-8653](tel:610-439-8653), or email bstephens@lehighchurches.org), or take the candle stubs to the Conference at 1031 W Linden Street, Allentown

CELEBRATING WITH THE ELCA

Although there is change in the church as we know it in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and in our Lehigh Mission District, we are obviously very grateful for the dedicated leadership provided at both levels by our Bishop and his staff and by our Dean and those working closely with him. There are also occasions when we are reminded of the uniqueness of our relationship to the ELCA and its skilled leadership. Recent publications have called our attention to several of these arenas.

For instance, I was moved very positively by the note that The Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Director of Advocacy for the ELCA, was celebrating our relationship with eco America and Blessed Tomorrow. This accents the fact that the ELCA is taking seriously the need to be involved in work around climate issues affecting our world. Although it is clear that the road to resolving these dilemmas will be long, it is heartening to be reminded that the national church body of which we are a part is committed to being actively involved in the process. The effectiveness of this mission is deserving of our continuing thoughts and prayers.

Alongside of this good news we learned that concerns about our Domestic Mission are under the leadership of a new Director. The Rev. Philip Hirsch has recently been elected to a four-year renewable term in this capacity. I was impressed by his statement of concern about his challenge. He said, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the light of the world and the hope for our broken humanity. I look forward to helping our church grow in its ability to connect a younger and more ethnically and economically diverse people with the gospel"*. Obviously, we look forward to his leadership in this significant arena of concern. We anticipate that it will help to develop appropriate leadership for the future of the ELCA.

We have also been informed that John D. Sundquist was recently elected Executive Director of Lutheran Men in Mission by its Board of Directors, replacing the retiring Doug Haugen, who held this position for 26 "fruitful and spirit-filled" years. We are told that, as an ordained American Baptist pastor, John was a senior pastor and former youth director in 5 congregations in 3 mid-western states from 1992 to 2008. He also held several senior-level positions in the nonprofit sector related to the American Baptist Church.

Yes, the world is changing and, although our primary commitment to affirming the Gospel of Jesus Christ will never change, the church needs to be open to evolving new and contemporary methodology for its proclamation of this truth. And it is indeed encouraging to be reminded that the ELCA is making appropriate decisions to facilitate our changing world. Obviously, we give thanks for its leadership in this on-going process.

God Bless!
Pastor Stough

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Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

SATURDAY SHOW!!!!

May 11 (Sat.) – Dutch Apple Theatre - CAMELOT - The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guenevere and Sir Lancelot comes alive in this Lerner and Loewe musical. An idealistic King Arthur hopes to create a kingdom with the Knights of the Round Table who fight for justice and right. His ideals are tested when his lovely queen, Guenevere, falls in love with his favorite knight, Lancelot and the fate of the kingdom hangs in the balance. Hits include "If Ever I Would Leave You" and of course "Camelot". Dutch Apple's Famous Buffet lunch is included. **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 am and will return approximately 5:30 pm Cost \$92 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Apr. 11**

4 SEATS LEFT!!!

June 26 (Wed.) – Fulton Theatre – MAMMA MIA! - A picturesque setting for a dream wedding, with only one problem: the bride doesn't know who her father is! On a quest to find her dad, so he can walk her down the aisle, Sophie must invite the three prospects to the wedding. Meanwhile Sophie's mother relives her glory days with her former suitors and her former girl group "Donna and the Dynamos. "Set to the free-spirited music of ABBA with explosive dance, Mamma Mia! will be a summer escape of hilarious fun! Lunch is at famous Shady Maple Smorgasbord. **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 am and will return approximately 6:30 pm Cost \$105 Payment Deadline: Thur., May 16**

October 16 to 18 (Wed. to Fri.) - WINE AND DINE IN SCENERY DIVINE! – FINGER LAKES, NY – Come join Operation Sunshine and White Star Tours for a fun-filled 3 Days/2 Nights in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York. Our tour includes two nights lodging, two Breakfasts and two Dinners including one at the Belhurst Castle. Also on the tour: Corning Museum of Glass, Willard Memorial Chapel, Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion, Finger Lakes Winery tour and tasting, Scenic Lake Cruise, the National Soaring Museum, Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track, and a souvenir gift. All taxes and gratuities are included. **Call the Operation Sunshine office for a flyer and pricing.**