



The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030  
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**May 2019 LMD NL news will be due April 15, 2019.** E-Mail any information to [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

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

**\*NEW - Seeking Truth & Building Trust in an Era of Political Polarization** by The Hon. Charles Dent, Sr. Policy Advisor, DLA Piper and Visiting Fellow, University of Pennsylvania. Friday April 5, noon to 1 pm, Muhlenberg College Seegers Union, Room 111-112. A presentation in the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding of Muhlenberg College's 2018-2019 First Friday Series: **Seeking Truth, Building Trust: Making the World Make Sense.** 2400 Chew Street, Allentown. Free and open to the public. Bring your lunch or purchase it at one of Muhlenberg's tasty dining venues. **Please leave time to find street parking.**

**\*NEW – Book Discussion Group** at Luther Crest Senior Living Community, Allentown. We will discuss *Little Excursions in the Alternate Universe* by Helen Wernlund. This quirky little volume is part memoir, part reminiscence, and part collection of wanderings of an original mind. In this series of short essays, you may discover a different way of looking at the world in the so-called Golden Years. Helen is a resident at Luther Crest, and will join in the discussion led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Books may be purchased at each gathering for \$15.00 each. The group will meet in the Fuellenbach Dining Room at Luther Crest from 10:30 am - 11:30 am on the following: Wed April 24, Tues April 30, Thurs May 9, Wed May 15, Wed May 22. Please register for this group by April 14 by calling Rev. Tom Lichner at [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362) or Luther Crest Chaplain, Rev. Ginny Heimer at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

**Wisdom Way of Knowing - 3/29, 4/26 from 3 - 5:30 pm.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown. This monthly gathering will introduce the rhythm and tools of a 'Wisdom way of knowing', a way which engages and harmonizes

our heart, mind and movement using a balance of centering, teaching, Lectio Divina and gentle body prayer. RSVP to [marcellak2@aol.com](mailto:marcellak2@aol.com).

**The Gospel of Thomas Series** - The first and third Wed. of the month **1:30 to 3:00 pm.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown. Discovered in a cave in Egypt in 1945, the Gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings of Jesus. Rather than being narratives, they are more like riddles. They appeal more to the heart and imagination than to reason. You are invited to attend ongoing gatherings to explore this gospel. Direct questions and registration to Mary Howe: [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com)

**\*\*\*\* OTHER SPRING EVENTS \*\*\*\***

**Spring Craft & Vendor Show** – Sat., March 23, 10 am - 4:00 pm. St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943)

**Roast Beef Dinner** – Sat., April 13, 4 pm - 6:30 pm. FriedensEvangelical Church. Call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144)

**Jesus Christ Superstar** – Sun., April 14, 2:00pm. St Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943)

**See what Spiritual Direction is all about!** – Wed., April 24, 1:00 - 4:00pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP: Mary Howe at [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com)

**Big Band Dance** – Sat April 27, 7:00-10:00 pm. St Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church. Church office [610-435-6512](tel:610-435-6512), Rick Focht [610-393-8914](tel:610-393-8914), Jim Henry [610-435-9834](tel:610-435-9834)

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Sat, April 20 at 10 am. St. Mark's, 201 E Juniata St, Allentown, phone [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440)

**19th Annual Basket Social** - Sun., April 28, 12:00 pm.  
**Clothing Drive – Fundraiser for our Youth.**

**Melvin Adams from Ghetto to Globetrotters** – Sun., **May 5, 2:00 pm.** St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)

## REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Ash Wednesday is history by several weeks and Easter will occur a few weeks in the future. This suggests that this is an ideal time to ponder the unique meanings of this very special season in the Church Year.

Ash Wednesday initiates a period of reflection for Christians. An e-mail invitation from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA a few days before Ash Wednesday reminded us that this special day “invite(s) us to look at ourselves and our neighbors in a different way, and start a Lenten journey of reflection, reconciliation, and acts of kindness.” And uniquely it also invited those in the area of the State Capitol to visit representatives of LAMPa in the main rotunda of the Capitol building between 7 and 9 am or 11 am and 1 pm on Ash Wednesday for prayer and the imposition of ashes. Similar opportunities were offered by several groups in our area and presumably across the country.

LAMPa Director Tracey DePasquale reminded us that the Ash Wednesday “rite serves as a reminder of what unites humankind as well as an invitation to extend forgiveness and move beyond what separates us.”

The Lenten Season challenges us to contemplate both the personal and societal shortcomings across the years which have contributed to the challenging predicament with which we are currently living. There are few of us who are not wrestling with stresses and distresses relating to our own lives and those closest to us, and our world relationships are far from perfect too.

As we continue our Lenten reflections, we move on toward Holy Week and Easter. During Holy Week, and especially on Good Friday, we are reminded of our Lord’s major gift as he sacrifices his life in the spirit of *reconciliation* to liberate us from both our personal shortcomings and those of our world. There is good reason to believe that, were it not for this gift, our world, had it survived, would be in total disarray and our personal relationships would be in a total shamble. But his sacrificial death opened new doors for us and for our world.

Thanks be to God, our celebration of Easter will, once again, conclude this year’s experiences with *reflection* and *reconciliation*. As we celebrate our Lord’s emerging from the tomb, we are reminded of the love which has been shared with us and which we are now empowered and encouraged to share with our world. Whatever else they do for us, our Lenten and Holy Week observances, culminating in our Easter celebration, remind us that it is this to which we have been called!

God Bless!  
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](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

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Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

*Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends!*

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### **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 2 nights lodging, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners including one at the Belhurst Castle, the 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.**

**Can you provide an hour or two per week** to help someone who wants to change their life? St Luke’s at 417 N 7<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 pm We always need help and are especially looking for people comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or [stluke@enter.net](mailto:stluke@enter.net)

**Come Away To A Quiet Place** – Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some discussion/explanation about centering prayer. All are welcome. First Friday 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. Look for the sign “Schantz House/Ruhe Annex” (side entrance). Please let us know if you will be joining us. Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, [tlcichner@rcn.com](mailto:tlcichner@rcn.com) / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).