

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

June 2019 LMD NL news will be due May 16, 2019. E-Mail any information to lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

The LMD Council is looking to add additional members to its ranks (Lay or Ordained) and needs a new treasurer. This group normally meets about 5 times a year on Sunday evenings. If you can help, please contact Dean Gade by phone 610-966-3030 or email stpeters@ptd.net.

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 koans or riddles. They appeal more to the heart and imagination than to reason. Direct questions and registration to Mary Howe: mhowe@rcn.com

Book Discussion Group at Luther Crest Senior Living Community, Allentown. We will discuss the new book *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. Helen is a resident at Luther Crest, and she will join in the discussion led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. At each of the group gatherings, two short essays will be read aloud and discussed. **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 - 11:30 am on the following: April 24/Wed., April 30/Tues. May 9/Thurs., May 15/Wed., May 22/Wed.** Please register for this book discussion group by calling Rev. Tom Lichner at [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

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

CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 25, 1:30-2:30 pm, to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation. Location: St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need locally and globally! For more information: www.crophungerwalk.org

**** **UPCOMING EVENTS** ****

- 1 – COME get a TASTE...and SEE what Spiritual DIRECTION is all about!** – Wed., April 24, 1 - 4:00 pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP: Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com
- 2 – Big Band Dance** – Sat., April 27, 7 - 10:00 pm. St Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church. Church office [610-435-6512](tel:610-435-6512) or Rick Focht [610-393-8914](tel:610-393-8914) or Jim Henry [610-435-9834](tel:610-435-9834)
- 3 – 19th Annual Basket Social** - Sun., April 28, 12:00pm. St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 4 – Clothing Drive – Fundraiser for our Youth.** St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 5 – 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)
- 6 – DESIRE...The Heartbeat of Purpose** – Sat., May 18, 9 am - 3:00 pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church. Registration or questions: divinepossibility@gmail.com.
- 7 – A Guided "Creation Walk"** - Sat., June 1st, 9 am -12:00 pm. Jacobsburg State Park, Bushkill Township, PA.
- 8 – Space to Breathe: Renewal for Counselors and Therapists** – Sat., June 15, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. Register by texting to [484-226-5073](tel:484-226-5073) or email jane.williams.phd@gmail.com.

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 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 a.m. this part of the program is in JEOPARDY due to insufficient volunteers.** Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We always need help. We are especially looking for people who are comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net

Wisdom Way of Knowing - 4/26 from 3-5:30pm. 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', 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. RSVP to marcellak2@aol.com.

**LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT
TRANSITION AND GRATITUDE**

The annual meeting of the Lehigh Mission District is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th, 5:00 pm at the Synod Office.

As usual, it will begin with a delicious full-course dinner, courtesy of the Mission District. Although this event has become a tradition, this year will be an exceptionally special experience. It will include the election of a new Dean, a new Chairperson and, hopefully, the confirmation of a new Treasurer. Obviously, it will represent a time of major transition, but it will also include, as I explain in the following, an opportunity for a significant expression of gratitude.

This will be Pastor Jerel Gade's final meeting as Dean of the LMD. The Mission District Guidelines specify that pastors serving in this capacity cannot serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Not only will Jerel be completing such service at this time, while serving as pastor of St. Peter's Church, Macungie, he also served two consecutive terms back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, while serving as a pastor of Zion Church, Old Zionsville. And although there has been substantial change in the Lehigh Mission District, especially during the last six years, Jerel has consistently provided dedicated leadership, for which he deserves our sincerest gratitude.

This will also be Joshua Fink's last meeting as Chairperson of the Lehigh Mission District. Uniquely, Joshua's history with the mission district is also somewhat record setting. He joined the council in 1997 and has been serving as chairperson since 1999, which means he has been serving in that position for a total of 20 years! In his personal e-mail defining the timing of his service he shared the reflection that "I realize now that I have been serving on the council half of my life." Joshua has also provided distinguished and forthright service across all of these years and is also deserving of our sincerest gratitude.

And, though this may not be his last meeting as the Treasurer of the Mission District, Dick Skelly certainly holds the record for the most time in service. He has been serving in this capacity since 1996 - 23 years. Having personally served on the council for a number of years, I can observe that I was always grateful for Dick's wise oversight of our financial situation. Indeed, while serving as secretary, I was very appreciative of the clarity of the information he provided for inclusion in the minutes. Obviously, Dick is also very deserving of our gratitude for his long and distinguished service. He is wishing to "retire" from this position and is hoping that someone will be identified to take his place in the near future.

Clearly the May 5th meeting of the Lehigh Mission District will be a very special meeting. These gentlemen deserve our personal expressions of gratitude. Obviously, we all anticipate that the Lehigh Mission District will continue its positive service on into the future, but something of that will be a result of the special leadership of these past years. Thank you, Jerel and Joshua and Dick!

**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

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

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 as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

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.**

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Come Away to a Quiet Place – Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **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, PA 18102.** 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 tllichner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

***NEW - "Endings & Beginnings" - The Emmaus Chorale's** Spring concert. Sun., **June 9, 3:00 pm** Faith Presbyterian Church, North Second & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. The Chorale, under the direction of Janet Davis, will present a program which will include: The Word Was God, Polly-Wolly-Doodle, If I Fell and Yesterday (Beatles), Love Walked In, and Another Op'nin. There will be a free will offering and refreshments will be available after the concert. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).