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October 2019 LMD NL news will be due September 18, 2019. E-mail information to imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Also, please check out our Mission District website: www.lehighlutherans.com and send any changes or additions to Pastor Samantha Drennan, sldrennan1@gmail.com

The Invitational Christian, by Dave Daubert – On Sun., Sept 22 from 2 to 5:00 pm at the Lutheran Center you are invited to attend the book discussion on *The Invitational Christian* by Dave Daubert. If you would like a free copy of Daubert's book please contact Pastor Nelson Quinones, LMD Dean, at [610-653-5858](tel:610-653-5858).

***NEW - 2019-2020 First Friday Theme – Learning to Understand One Another** – Fri., Sept. 6, Noon to 1:00 pm at Muhlenberg College, Miller Forum, Moyer Hall. Come learn what Intergroup Dialogue (IGD) is, how the IGD process works, and the hopes for IGD on a college campus.

***NEW - The Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering** planning meeting will be held on Wed., Sept. 11, 7:00 pm, at St. John Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus. We look forward to meeting with all the LMD church representatives or pastors. Thank you!

***NEW – Fall Basket Social - Fall Basket Social** – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be holding a basket raffle on **Sat., Sept. 28** from 10 am-2 pm. 'Basket Preview Night' will be on **Fri., Sept. 27** from 6-8 pm (only raffle tickets will be sold, no food). For more info call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit www.stjohns-fogelsville.org.

***NEW – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Breinigsville** will be hosting – Pet Blessing Oct. 6th, Trunk-or-Treat Oct. 16th, Moravian Choir Performance Nov. 10th.

***NEW – Passing the Word:** A Conference toward the future of Lutheran-Jewish and Inter-Religious Understanding. Oct. 27–28 at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. For more info and to register go to: www.muhenberg.edu/passingtheword.

The Gospel of Thomas Series – First and Third Wed. of the month starting Sept 18th. Questions or to register contact Mary Howe, mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

Welcome to SoulCollage Fall Series – Starting Fri., Sept 27th, at Center for Spiritual Awakening.

Centering Prayer - continues on the first Fridays of the month from 10:30-11:30 am at Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran, **1245 W. Hamilton St.** Park 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).

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 13, 2019, 1:30 pm, beginning and ending at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA with registration starting at 1 p.m. Please contact your own congregation, or log on at www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa for more information about CROP and for making online donations. Walkers are encouraged to register online, and those who raise \$150 or more earn a free CROP Hunger Walk T-shirt. Walkers are also asked to bring non-perishable food to the CROP Hunger Walk for the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. The CROP Hunger Walk is a great fellowship and service event for families, youth groups, adult groups, and congregations. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised by the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk returns to the Lehigh Valley to support the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen. The remaining 75% is used by Church World Service for disaster relief and development assistance (e.g., assisting poor families with clean drinking water, seeds, tools, and irrigation).

2019-2020-First Friday – Learning to Understand One Another. Muhlenberg College, starting Sept. 6th, Noon to 1:00pm. www.muhenberg.edu/IJCU.

Basket Social – Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, Allentown. Sept 29, 12:00-3:00 pm. For more information call the church office, [610-797-4774](tel:610-797-4774).

Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo – Presented by St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Fearless Fire Company, Allentown, Nov 10th, 11:30. For more information: Lori Young [610-390-2107](tel:610-390-2107) or Robin Daw [717-926-7045](tel:717-926-7045), standrewssummit@aol.com.

**LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT
2019 – 2020**

Welcome to our new year of mission and ministry (2019 – 2020)! We look forward to addressing the challenges of this year under our new leadership. Although Dean Nelson Quinones has been in place since the Mission District Assembly on May 5, his new leadership will be more obvious as we begin the new activity year. His efforts will be supported by Elizabeth Leibenguth in her new role as mission district chair and by Pastor Samantha Drennan in her new role as Synod Council Representative. At the same time, we once again express our gratitude to those who have left these positions because of the expiration of term availability (Dean Jerel Gade), a desire to “retire” after at least 20 years of service (Chair Joshua Fink), and the inappropriateness of continuing to serve as Synod Council Representative while also serving as Dean (Pastor Nelson Quinones).

Although there have been several significant changes in the congregational base of the Lehigh Mission District during the last year, the most recent one came with the closing of St. Matthew’s Church, 26 S. Tenth Street, Allentown, during the summer months. We certainly appreciated the mission and ministry of this congregation across the years and of its most recent pastor, Frederick Holst.

While we look forward to the new challenges and opportunities for mission and ministry which Activity Year 2019 – 2020 will hold in store for us, it is unclear what these may be. Still, there are some things which are clear about our future: for one, that we continue serving as part of a national church body (The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) which is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. The ELCA has more than 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 congregations scattered across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is one of the largest in terms of the number of congregations. Let’s never overlook the fact that the ELCA is also known as the church of *God’s work. Our hands.* This suggests that we will be increasingly engaged in the issues with which our world is groping at this point. We are committed to facilitating *God’s work!* And we do this as we extend our hands.

Throughout the history of the ELCA, and its predecessor bodies, this work has included providing care for those in need. It’s clear that this commitment continues to this day and that it is not going to go away in the near future. As a matter of fact, we have just learned that as a result of the Churchwide Assembly during the week of August 5, the ELCA declared us as the first *Sanctuary Denomination* with commitments to assuring that people with valid sanctuary needs will be assured of care. So, let’s pray God’s blessings on our new year of mission and ministry!

**God Bless!
Pastor Stough**

OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.

Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon. 11-3 and Wed. 11-3

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 the LMD, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

September 17 (Tues) – Hunterdon Hills Playhouse – BAREFOOT IN THE PARK – BAREFOOT IN THE PARK - Neil Simon manages to take the silly squabbles of a young married couple and make them absolutely hilarious! Corie, the young bride, sees their tiny new apartment as cozy and romantic. Paul, the groom, only see five flights of stairs, a gaping hole in the skylight, and heat that doesn’t work. Add oddball neighbor, Victor Velasco, and Corie’s well-meaning mother into the mix, and it’s a recipe for non-marital bliss! Enjoy a wonderful lunch followed by the famous Hunterdon Hills Dessert Room! **Bus leaves St. Timothy’s at 10:00 am; Cost \$92; Deadline: Thurs, Aug. 26**

October 16 to 18 (Wed. to Fri.) - WINE AND DINE IN SCENERY DIVINE! – FINGER LAKES, NY – Call the Operation Sunshine office for a flyer and pricing.

November 20 (Wed.) – Bucks County Playhouse – ONCE - The Tony Award winning romantic musical isn’t your typical boy meets girl love story, but an eccentric musical based on the award winning 2006 film. A heartbroken Dublin musician meets a Czech immigrant with a complicated past and a broken vacuum cleaner. When an opportunity arises in America for Guy, will Girl let him know how she truly feels? Lunch at the new restaurant on site where you will choose your entrée from the following: Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast, Pan Seared Icelandic Cod or Braised Boneless Short Ribs. Make your choice at the restaurant. **Bus leaves St. Timothy’s at 10:00 am; Cost \$108 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Oct. 17**

December 12 (Thurs.) – American Music Theatre – JOY TO THE WORLD – An American Music Theatre original. The ringing of church bells in a quaint town square set the scene for Joy to the World, AMT’s newest holiday spectacular. Evoking the revered holiday nostalgia of hometowns all across the US, our stage will transform into a small-town winter carnival brimming with family and friends. Featuring scenes filled with entertaining elves, dramatic dancing, sensational singing, and grand moments galore. Lunch at Miller’s Smorgasbord. **Bus leaves St. Timothy’s at 10:30 am; Cost \$100 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Nov. 7**