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December 2019 LMD NL news will be due November 15, 2019. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale - Looking to add some St. John's, Fogelsville favorites to your meal? Place your orders for the following: 3lbs. potato filling in a conveniently packaged, oven ready aluminum baking pan for \$7.00. (Remove the lid, put the container in the oven, bake, and enjoy!) Applesauce will be available in quarts for \$5.00 each. Bacon dressing is available to order in a pint for \$4.00 or a quart for \$6.00. We will be taking orders from **Oct. 13th until Nov. 14th** – contact Carol Moyer at [610-398-0569](tel:610-398-0569). **PICK UP:** Sat., Nov. 23rd from 9 AM to 12 PM. For more info call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit www.stjohns-fogelsville.org.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmaus: Spaghetti Dinner – Are you hungry for delicious homemade food? Looking for a place to socialize with friends on a Saturday night? Then come to the annual All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner in the Parish Hall, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus, PA 18049, **Sat., Nov 2nd**, from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. The cost is \$7 per person, \$4 for children 5 – 12 years, and free for children under 5. Reservations are not required, so spread the word and invite your friends to join us for food and fellowship.

Holiday Craft Bazaar – Zion Lehigh Church, 8269 Spring Creek Rd, Alburtis, PA 18011. **Nov 2nd**, 9:00am – 3:00pm. Crafts, Bake Sale, Basket Raffle, Grandma's Attic and lunch. Please call the church office with any questions [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215). See attached flyer.

Book Study at Luther Crest: Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved, by Kate Bowler. Luther Crest (800 Hausman Road, Allentown) will host a 5-week book study on **Thurs., Oct 10th - Nov 7th, 2:30-4 p.m.**, in the Fuellenbach Room, led by Rev. Dallas Bradel, Interim Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Allentown. Bring your thoughts and questions about suffering, grief, and grace. Participants are asked to purchase the book and read the first two chapters prior to the first meeting.

Spaghetti Dinner and Puppet Show – **Sat., Nov 9th** at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 201 E Juniata St., Allentown, PA 18103. It will be a Christmas show presented by the St Paul Pulpiteers. The dinner will be served from 4:30 – 5:30pm. The show will start at 6:00pm. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults, children 5-12 \$5, and children 5 and under are free. Donations of spaghetti noodles, sauce, salad items and drinks will be appreciated, as well as baked goods. We are also looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen. Please contact the church office at [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440).

Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran - Open House and Reception – Sun., **Nov 17th**, 12 noon. See attached flyer.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Breinigsville will be hosting – Moravian Choir Performance Sun., **Nov. 10th**, at 3 PM. There will be a reception with light refreshments and snacks in fellowship hall following the performance. This event is free and open to the public with a nonperishable food item or free-will monetary donation for a local food bank.

Save the Date – Fri., **Nov 15th** beginning at 6:30pm for a holiday string art fundraiser. Join us to make a holiday string art creation. Invite your friends and family to come and have fun, enjoy the company and refreshments while supporting St. Mark's. You can check out Just Stringing Around string art by Lisa on Facebook. Registration will be required in advance, along with a \$10 deposit. The additional cost is \$25 or \$27 cash at the door (\$2 increase is for lights, if you so choose). A poster and sign-up sheet are on the glass case in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Linda Gier [484-538-7707](tel:484-538-7707).

Come One! Come All! – to the debut of the **"BRIDGE"** – St. Mark Lutheran Church, Luther Hall, 201 E Juniata St, Allentown, PA 18103. Fri., Nov 22nd, from 7:00-9:00pm. Come together to share scripture, poetry, art, and music. Have some coffee or tea, light snacks and fellowship! [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440)

"Christmas Chestnuts" – The Emmaus Chorale's Christmas Concert – Sun., Dec 8th, at 3:00pm at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2nd & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. Director, Janet Davis will lead the Chorale in presenting a variety of music for the season. Including, "Twas the Night Before Christmas", excerpts from Vivaldi's "Gloria", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy". Join us for this celebration! *Free-will offering – Refreshments Following.* Contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496) for more information.

St. Mark Adventures – Pines Country Christmas at the Pines Diner Theater, Dec 15th. Price is \$50.00 per person which includes dinner, show and gratuity; \$30.00 for show only. Doors open at 12 noon and the show is at 2:00pm. Deadline for reservations and payment is Dec 1st. Please contact the church office at [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440).

Centering Prayer - the first Friday of the month – 10:30-11:30am. 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).

IN GRATITUDE WE GIVE Stewardship Season

Gratitude is a quality that is in short supply these days. While not everyone is guilty of gross ingratitude, many of us fail to be thankful for the many good gifts we receive each day. Between God's gifts and our responses lies a gratitude gap.

This suggests an appropriate attitude for us to maintain as we contemplate our giving to the special needs we address in and through our congregations and our communities. Obviously, an initial stewardship concern involves assuring that our congregation will remain solvent and that our immediate needs will be met. But those of us who have had the privilege of having contact with numerous congregations have also become well aware of commitments to reach out, even from this home base. Many congregations extend themselves to meet the needs of individuals and families with special needs within and around their family of faith. And many extend special gifts to Good Shepherd Home, Diakon and Muhlenberg College. In gratitude we give!

Appropriately, this spirit also involves our support of the mission and ministry of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In the spirit of this season, we have been reminded that 53 cents of every dollar of our contributions to Mission Support is committed to deepening our spiritual lives, supporting the sharing of the good news, enhancing the connections between young people and their communities, strengthening ministries to youth, young adults and families, and developing leaders for a new church in a new world. In gratitude we give!

The other 47 cents of that dollar support the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands." it emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians, and service in the world. At a recent meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, this group issued a communication to the governmental leadership in Washington asking for the restoration of funding support for the Augusta Victorian Hospital and other hospitals in East Jerusalem. This group also committed to working in new and concrete ways to give priority to our response to the global crisis of climate change. In gratitude we give!

And, ultimately, this brings us back to contemplating both congregational and our personal responses in support of efforts. Even though these have become unusual times for many, we are uplifted if we allow ourselves to project a spirit of gratitude for the blessings which we have received and experienced. Obviously, these begin with the beautiful summary in the "Small Gospel" *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16)*. And they continue as we respond in ultimate gratitude to this blessing and as we reach out to those with special needs in the world around us. Welcome to the season when we are encouraged to respond in gratitude to the gifts with which we have been blessed!

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

ALL 2019 TRIPS ARE WAITING LIST ONLY

SNEAK PEAK AT 2020

NOT YET ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

February 27 – Paper Mill Playhouse
UNMASKED – MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBER

March 25 - Dutch Apple Theatre
GRUMPY OLD MEN, THE MUSICAL

April 9 – Bristol Riverside Theatre
CABARET

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****** PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ******

- 1 – 2019-2020-First Friday** – Learning to Understand One Another. Muhlenberg College, Nov 8th, Dec 6th, 12:00 to 1:00pm
www.muhlenberg.edu/IJCU.
- 2 – 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.
- 3 – Wisdom Way of Knowing** – Last Fri. of the month starting Sept 27th. RSVP: marcellak2@aol.com
- 4 – Welcome to SoulCollage Fall Series** – Fri., Oct 25th, Nov 22nd, at Center for Spiritual Awakening.
- 5 – Come get a Taste...and See** – Oct 23rd, at Center for Spiritual Awakening.
- 6 – Passing the Word** – Muhlenberg College, Oct 27th & 28th, 3:30-8:00pm. For more information and to register go to: www.muhlenberg.edu/passingtheword.
- 7 – Holiday Craft Bazaar** – Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church, Nov 2nd, 9am – 3pm. Questions call the church office [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215).
- 8 – Sufism Explored** – Christ Lutheran, Nov 2nd, 10-1:00
- 9 – Basket Social** – Jerusalem ELC of Eastern Salisbury, Nov 8th, 7:00
- 10 - Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo** – Fearless Fire Company, Allentown, Nov 10th, 11:30. For more information or questions: Lori Young [610-390-2107](tel:610-390-2107) or Kristen Cunningham [484-661-9631](tel:484-661-9631), standrewssummit@aol.com.
- 11 – The Dynamic Enneagram** – Center for Spiritual Awakening, Nov 16th, 9 – 4:00pm.
- 12 – Annual Celebration and Open House** – Center for Spiritual Awakening, Nov 17th, 12 noon.