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January 2020 LMD NL news will be due December 13, 2019. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

*****NOTE TIME CHANGE TO 2:00 P.M.*****

“Christmas Chestnuts” – The Emmaus Chorale’s Christmas Concert – Sun., **Dec 8th**, at **2:00pm** 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.

Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale - Looking to add some St. John’s, Fogelsville favorites to your meal? **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.

The Gospel of Thomas Series – The current Gospel of Thomas series will have the last gathering on **Nov. 20th**. Look for more information after the New Year. Contact Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007) for questions.

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).

Interplay – Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran – 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. **Thurs., Dec 5th**, 9:30-11:30a.m. Leaders: Sarah Carlson – Interplay Facilitator, Marcella Kray-Greggo, Spiritual Director, Social Worker and Interplay Facilitator. RSVP or questions – marcellak2@aol.com. See attached flyer.

First Friday Luncheon Discussion – Learning to understand one another. Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew St, Allentown, PA, Seegers Union 111-112, **Dec 6th**. Lunch: 11:45a.m., Program: 12:00-1:00p.m. As if I were you: Acting with Compassionate Understanding. Roger Ainsle, visiting Asst. Professor Theatre; Holly Cate, Assoc. Professor Theatre; Lane Flores '20. www.muhlenberg.edu/IJCU.

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).

Blue Christmas Worship Service at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 5th and Chestnut Sts., Emmaus. **Sun, Dec 15th**, at 3:00 pm, with fellowship following service. A service of healing and hope for those living with loss. A time to gather with others and acknowledge the “blue” feelings they have at Christmas time. Whether it is the loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, the loss of health or another kind of loss, everyone who seeks healing and hope in dealing with their particular loss is welcome to attend the service. Please call the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) with any questions.

Candlelight German Christmas Service – St. John’s Lutheran Church, 5th and Chestnut Sts., Emmaus. **January 5, 2020** at 6:00PM. The service including Carols will be in German, but the sermon will be in English. A fellowship follows immediately in our Parish Hall complete with homemade German Cookies, and beverages including hot chocolate. The Hall will be decorated with items purchased in Germany by our members as well as homemade ornaments. All are welcome! Please call the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) with any questions.

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 tlchicher@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).



**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS**

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2019, please be reminded of the story which Pastor Jerel Gade, then our Dean, shared with us several Christmases ago. It is the story of a traveler who was lost in the back woods. It was night and a violent thunderstorm was raging all around him. He floundered through the mud and rain, desperately peering into the darkness for some hint as to where he was. Then, all of the sudden a crash of thunder brought him to his knees. And he turned his face to the sky and said, "O Lord, if it's all the same to you, I could use a little more light and a little less noise."

Needless to say, it seems appropriate for us to contemplate this image as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in this season. Unfortunately, the political scene in our beloved nation is in a major state of disarray. And, regrettably, there is a significant conflict among our leadership. This means that the world in which we will be celebrating is desperately in need of more light and less noise.

In addition to what is happening generally, there is the special concern that we need to be relating to issues regarding to the climate of our world. The major storms in our nation during these past months have brought many to their knees. Further, the fires in the west have devastated many families. And while the icebergs in the artic have been melting at an unusual pace, those along various coasts and especially some island residents have been contemplating their futures. Thanks be to God, there are those who can project light into these dark spaces to whom we need to be paying close attention.

And, ironically, there are continuing issues involving the home of that first Christmas story. Israel is experiencing continuing conflict and its future is uncertain. There are leadership issues in Israel and major issues relating to the relationship between Israel and Palestine which are of continuing concern. Let's pray that God will project a soothing light into this crisis.

Throughout the coming months we will obviously encounter numerous opportunities where we can extend an invitation to others to join us in our mission of light. And let's not be silent – let's make noise! Invite someone to join you for worship in this Holiday Season. Encourage a neighbor to come with you to an event. Give of your time in caroling to some homebound members. Invite a lonely individual to join a parish group.

And, finally, give gifts that will show that love is important and not simply material possessions. We are indeed a blest people. Let us live that out, by being a light and a blessing to others. God has made the light shine! Let us confirm that gift! And may the noise we share be that of a soothing melody!

Holiday Blessings!
Pastor Richard 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.

February 27 (Thurs.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – UNMASKED –

MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBER - One of the most successful musical theater composers of all time takes audiences on a behind-the-scenes journey in Unmasked: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Written with Richard Curtis and directed by Laurence Connor, Unmasked is a not-always-reverential look at Andrew's life and musical career. You'll hear his best-loved work, including classics from Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, Cats, Phantom of the Opera, and Sunset Boulevard, in sometimes new and unexpected ways. This new production will also feature new material and rediscovered gems, along with the history of their creation intertwined with Andrew's extraordinary personal story. Lunch at Charlie Browns, Chatham, NJ which starts with their great salad bar and one entrée and one dessert choice below. **Please notify the office of your choices at time of reservation.** **Entree Choices –** Chicken Piccata, with Seasoned Rice **OR** Bistro Steak with Garlic Mashed **OR** Salmon with Seasoned Rice **Dessert Choices –** Key Lime Pie **OR** New York Cheesecake **OR** Vanilla, Chocolate or Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 AM

Cost \$112 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Jan. 16

March 25 (Wed.) – Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre – GRUMPY

OLD MEN, THE MUSICAL - Don't miss this laugh-out-loud story of family, friendship, love and romance in a fresh new musical that's guaranteed to delight! Based on the 1993 film, which starred Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Ann-Margret, written by Mark Steven Johnson. The story of two aging men, Max and John, neighbors, who have been feuding for most of their lives. They are re-united in friendship through the love and compassion of their new neighbor across the street, the beautiful, eccentric and charming Ariel. Lunch is buffet style with loaded dessert tables!

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM

Cost \$92 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Feb. 20