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February 2020 LMD NL news will be due January 16, 2020. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Candlelight German Christmas Service – St. John’s Lutheran Church, 5th and Chestnut Sts., Emmaus. **Jan. 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.

Healing for Our Troubled Times – The Gifts and Challenges of Empathy. **2020 dates: Jan. 15th, Feb. 5th and Mar. 4th**, 10:30-12:30 at The Center for Spiritual Awakening. **See attached flyer.**

Drumming for Fun and Laughter – Sat., Jan. 18, 2020, 10 am - 12:00 pm. Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18102. **See attached flyer**, with registration and payment information.

It’s B-I-N-G-O time!! – Join us on **Sun., Jan. 26, 2020**, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 201 E. Juniata Street, Allentown, in Luther Hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and Bingo starts at 1:30 p.m. We’ll have Designer Purses, Gift Cards, and much more! You’ll have additional opportunities to win with Tricky Tray, 50/50, and door prizes. Food will be available for purchase. Spread the word and purchase tickets! Tickets will be **\$20 in advance and \$25 at the door**. Buy your tickets early, we sold out before the event last year. You can purchase tickets by calling the church office Monday – Thursday 9-12:00, [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440).

Wisdom Way of Knowing – Allentown Spring 2020 – Fridays 1/31, 3/13, and Wednesday 4/8, 3-5:00 p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton Street, Allentown. RSVP: marcellak2@aol.com. **See attached flyer.**

Madonna to Pieta – **Feb. 15, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton Street, Allentown. **Snow date will be Feb. 22, 2020.** **See attached flyer.**

The Gospel of Thomas Series - 2020 – The first and third Wednesdays of the month beginning Feb. 19 through May 6, 2020, 1:30 p.m. Contact Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com for questions. **See attached flyer.**

Centering Prayer - the first Friday of the month – 10:30 a.m., 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”. Beginning in January, Ferd Piccurro will be leading the monthly Centering Prayer gathering. Ferd has been practicing Centering Prayer for about 19 years, comes from a Roman Catholic background and now attends Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown, PA. He leads the monthly Mediation Group there and is an accomplished guitarist and singer/song writer. For questions contact Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com.



Naturalization Test Study Class – St. Luke’s will resume its Naturalization Test Study class on **Jan. 15, 2020** from 7-8 p.m. The classes are free and bilingual. Please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) for more information.



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

- 1- Healing for Our Troubled Times – Starting Jan. 15, 2020
- 2- Drumming for Fun and Laughter – Jan. 18, 2020
- 3- Wisdom Way of Knowing – Starting Jan. 31, 2020
- 4- Madonna to Pieta – Feb. 15, 2020
- 5- The Gospel of Thomas 2020 Series – Starting Feb. 19, 2020



2020
A GIFT OF GRACE

It is hard to believe that we are already into the 3rd decade of the 21st century. It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating the turn of the calendar into the new century. But facts are facts and we have now turned the corner and are well into the gracious offerings of the new century. Indeed, although we can easily view the challenges of our current world as an invitation to view this new calendar option as another unique CHALLENGE, I would like to encourage us to view it as a GIFT OF GRACE.

For instance, as we move around through the church at these days, we encounter numerous families of faith which are struggling to maintain themselves at this point in history. There are obviously various reasons for this. In many cases it is a result of major changes in the neighborhoods in which parishes are located. What was once a residential environment, is now a cosmopolitan or business community and the members have had to move out of the area. And in other cases, it is a matter of the residential community surrounding a church changing in nature. Although the original membership of a church was comprised of people of European background, it is now surrounded by residents with Asian or African backgrounds who are accustomed to different worship styles or are related to other traditions. Uniquely there have been some "gracious" adjustments to this challenge. Bi-lingual pastors have been called and various worship options have been developed. It is exciting to experience these applications of the GIFT OF GRACE.

And there are other evidences of this gift at work in our world. Families of faith in communities where numerous parishes had been established a century-plus ago to meet the needs of non-mobile communities have made the decision to come together through mergers of other kinds of new relationships. I consider myself blessed to have involved in one such coming-together that worked wonderfully and has resulted in establishment of a new parish on the site of one of the merging congregations. This experience suggests several important contributions to this process which played a role in this being a positive experience. It started with the decision-making process of the failing center-city congregation. Even though these regretted it, the leadership of this parish had reached the point of concluding that their future was very much in question. And it evolved as the congregations with which they were considering a merger was also very open to considering a merger. The memberships of both families of faith were certainly privileged to experience the GIFT OF GRACE as they came together during the 2nd decade of this 21st century.

Further, the reality of this GIFT OF GRACE is constantly affirmed for us as we reach out to share it with those with special needs. Throughout the history of the tradition which we now know as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America we have been committed to responding positively to the many needs of people around the world. The Christmas Season always included a special opportunity for responding intimately to these needs as we are invited to share in the ELCA's Good Gifts program. How unique is it to be afforded the opportunity to share a goat and some chicks with the needs of our world with a gift of \$60. And the list includes many more options. Let's be sure to share the GIFT OF GRACE as we move through 2020!

God Bless!
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