

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean 610-653-5858
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair 484-550-0057
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

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

***** Important *****

In light of the Coronavirus Crisis - Please check in advance to see if the events listed will be held.

CANCELLED - Roast Beef Dinner – We at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley, PA are **CANCELLING** the Roast Beef Dinner scheduled for Sat., April 4th. The reason is in light of the COVID-19 Virus. Call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144) for more information.

SUSPENDED - St. Luke's ELL and Naturalization Test Study groups have been **SUSPENDED** until at least April 13th, due to cautions regarding large gatherings during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) for more information.

Community Free Dinner - We will be holding another **free** dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) on Fri., Mar. 20th from 5-7 PM. The meal will include corned beef and cabbage, desserts and more. Everyone is welcome...invite your neighbors, friends and families. No reservations required. **Contact the office** at [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Following the Thread – Mar. 23rd, 1:00 – 3:00p.m. – Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18102. **Cost \$20 payable that day by cash or check.** RSVP: Angela at aumurphy@ptd.net. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

COME get a TASTE...and SEE what SPIRITUAL DIRECTION is all about! – Thurs., Mar. 26th, 1:00 – 3:00p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18102. **Please RSVP:** to sign up for a complimentary Spiritual Direction session – Mary Howe, mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

"Amazing Love" Easter Cantata - presented by Zion Lehigh's own Music Director Betsy Lichtenwalner and performed by the Zion Lehigh Choir and a few extras. Show times are **Sat., Apr. 4th at 3:00 pm** and **Sun., Apr. 5th during the service. (10:00 am)**. This is a show you don't want to miss. Zion Lehigh Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8269 Spring Creek Rd. Alburtis, PA Contact: [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215).

Wisdom Way of Knowing – Allentown Spring 2020 – Wed. 4/8, 3-5:00 p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton Street, Allentown. RSVP: marcellak2@aol.com. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

Explore SoulCollage® - The Center for Spiritual Awakening – Mornings with SoulCollage® **April 14th**, 9:30am-12:00pm/ \$20.00 a session or \$50.00 for the series. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

The Two Popes – Spring Film Fest – **April 30th**, 12:30-3:00p.m. or 6:30-9:00p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102. Direct questions to Rev. Tom Lichner tlchiner@rcn.com and to let us know you will be coming. **See attached flyer.**

The Gospel of Thomas Series - 2020 – The first and third Wednesdays of the month **through May 6th**, 1:30 p.m. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

Emmaus Chorale looking for Singers – Would you love to have an additional outlet for singing? Would you love being part of a choir of wonderful voices performing both sacred and secular music? Here's how! **Rehearsals:** Tues. nights, 7:00 – 9:00p.m. Faith Presbyterian Church, 3002 N Second St, Emmaus, PA 18049. Questions? Contact artistic director **Janet Davis:** jdavischoirnut@gmail.com. Website: www.emmauschorale.org. **See attached letter from director.**

Thank you for helping our 2019 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$31,570.98** to help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe! **Save These Dates!** Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 11, 2020**, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104. **CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 30, 2020**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104. For more information about Church World Service/CROP, go to www.crophungerwalk.org

Centering Prayer - 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 along with Rev. Maritza Dolich. 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. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced prayer, all are welcome. For questions contact Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com.

CORONAVIRUS
A UNIQUE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Obviously the last several months have included a growing awareness of the virus which has been a threatening presence throughout the world. Fortunately, as this newsletter is being distributed, it has not yet had an impact on our immediate area. But that doesn't mean that it is not going to make its presence known among us. And this means that we need to be taking the appropriate steps to deal with this threat. The conclusion of this contribution will include a reminder of those actions and precautions which are being recommended for our serious consideration. First, however, let's call attention to Bishop Eaton's recent e-mail which sets an interesting stage against which we can contemplate what is happening.

She calls attention to the plague which returned to Wittenberg, Germany, in 1527, two hundred years after it had swept across Europe and killed up to 40% of the population. Obviously, as it returned, Martin Luther was a significant presence in the Wittenberg area. And Bishop Eaton reminds us that in a document titled *Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague* Luther reminded his colleagues that: *God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. Use medicine; take portions which can help you; fumigate your house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence.*

Bishop Eaton continues by calling attention to the fact that we are indeed living in the time of the coronavirus. She notes, too, that we are also living in the time of social media and constant and relentless news coverage; that many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day; and that many of our people are anxious. She affirms that Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. She adds that we should respect the disease; should not take unnecessary risks; should provide for the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors; should make use of medical aids; and should be especially supportive of the most vulnerable. She adds that the churchwide organization is recommending that its staff wash their hands regularly, stay home when they are sick, wear masks if they have symptoms, and stay in touch with their medical providers. Obviously we should adopt these guidelines. And the Bishop concludes her remarks by noting that bishops and pastors are challenged to provide guidelines for worship and church gatherings.

So, obviously, we need to be very conscious of what is happening around us and we should be taking the appropriate steps to resist the spread of, yes, the coronavirus, but these actions will also help to preclude the spread of influenza and other such diseases among us. Unfortunately, hand-shaking needs to be off the list of our greetings. There is also concern about the rallying of groups, which suggests that, depending on the evolution of this concern, we may even need to be careful about our worship gatherings. And we certainly need to take our personal circumstances very seriously to both prohibit the contracting and the spreading of sickness.

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.

May 4 (Mon.) – The Revere Tavern – THIRD SPACE THEATRE PRESENTS “LAST WRITES” – What happens when

a group of Famous Mystery Writers start living out an actual mystery? Strange occurrences leave the writers wondering if they should watch their backs! Be a part of this interactive Comedy Mystery Dinner Theatre show by chatting with the writers and questioning the suspects during the interrogation. Or simply sit back, relax, and enjoy the show at the Historic Revere Tavern in Paradise, PA. While there, we will enjoy a buffet luncheon and put on our detective hats as we try to follow the clues to solve the crime. After the crime is solved, we will head to the Kettle Kitchen for an hour of browsing the fine crafts and sampling some of the delicious jams, jellies and condiments.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM

Cost \$83 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Apr. 8

****NEW MULTI-DAY TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT****

MAINE – 4 DAY/3 NIGHT – SEPT. 22-25

Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse
Call the office for a complete itinerary and pricing.

SAVE THE DATES: RESERVATIONS OPEN APRIL 1st

June 25(Thurs) – Fulton Theatre – JERSEY BOYS

July 23 (Thurs) – Sight and Sound – QUEEN ESTHER

Aug 19 (Wed.) – Doolan's-RED HOT MAMA'S OF SONG

Sept 17 (Thurs) – Westchester Broadway Th. – 9 TO 5

Details to follow next month