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*June 2020 LMD NL news will be due **May 15, 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 – The Emmaus Chorale Concert scheduled for **June 7, 2020** has been **CANCELLED**. We hope to see you at our December Concert. Watch for details in the November LMD Newsletter.

SUSPENDED - **St. Luke's ELL and Naturalization Test Study groups** have been **SUSPENDED** 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.

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 tlchneider@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).

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 Piccuiro 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.

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

OVERCOMING FEAR

As I was contemplating an appropriate message to share in these difficult times, I had one of those stay-in-touch telephone conversations that all of us are having these days, with my brother in central Pennsylvania. He is also a retired Lutheran pastor. In the course of that communication he noted that he had just received a congregational letter from the president of the church council in the parish where he and his wife are members which included a unique sharing of some material from one of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's sermons. I asked him to forward it to me and once I saw it I knew it was something I needed to share in these tumultuous times.

This sermon, titled *Overcoming Fear* was preached on Sunday, January 15, 1933 (The Second Sunday of Epiphany), shortly before the Nazis came to power in Germany. The Gospel reading was from Matthew 8:23-27 and Bonhoeffer's sermon included this advice:

The overcoming of fear – that is what we are proclaiming here. The Bible, the gospel, Christ, the church, the faith – all are one great battle cry against fear in the lives of human beings. Fear is, somehow or other, the archenemy itself. It crouches in people's hearts. It hollows out their insides, until resistance and strength are spent and they suddenly break down. Fear severely gnaws and eats away at all the ties that bind a person to God and to others, and when in time of need that person reaches for those ties and clings to them, they break and the individual sinks back into himself or herself, helpless and despairing, while hell rejoices.

Ironically, although we are confronted with a very different crisis, it is of such consequence that it has the potential of overwhelming us. There are places in our nation and throughout the world where life has come to a virtual standstill. There are families that have lost several members in very brief periods of time, while the circumstances were such that loved ones could not even be with their family members as they were dying. Although the world has been confronted with serious issues in its history, the fact is there has never been anything quite like this. The world is indeed crying out in despair. And, thanks be to God, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer continues his sermon he reminds us of the role faith plays in helping us deal with the major crises of our world.

...We hear people tell us “God is against us, and we have to accept it.”...This is the cry out of the very depths of despair. There is only one thing that helps, and it is what the church does with any of us who thinks and feels this way. It takes the cross and places it before our eyes and asks – Did God abandon him? And since God did not abandon Jesus, we will not be abandoned by God, either...We say there are no miracles anymore...but what do we know really, you and I...

The Easter promise is that God will be with us through thick and thin – through life and death. Although our remembrance of this truth may have been difficult in this season, it was not nearly as unusual as was the celebration of that first Easter. Thanks be to God, we have not been abandoned!

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.

DUE TO COVID-19 OUR TRIPS TO DUTCH APPLE, BRISTOL AND THE REVERE TAVERN HAVE CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

DUTCH APPLE – GRUMPY OLD MEN RESCHEDULED TO JULY 8

BRISTOL – CABARET CANCELLED

REVERE TAVERN – LAST WRITES RESCHEDULED TO SEPT. 3

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June 25 (Thurs) – The Fulton Theatre – JERSEY BOYS - A REGIONAL PREMIER! How did four kids from Jersey become one of the greatest successes in pop music history? Jersey Boys takes you up the charts, across the USA and behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Lunch at the Eden Resort. Choose an entrée from the following. **Please notify the office of your choices at time of reservation.**

CHOICES: Chicken Bruschetta **OR** London Broil **OR** Baked Flounder Almondine. All entrees are served with a salad, rolls and butter, starch, vegetable and soft drinks, coffee and tea and dessert

Bus leaves St. Timothy’s at 9:30 AM
Cost \$104 Payment Deadline: Thurs. May 14

11 SEATS REMAINING

July 8 (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! 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: July 1, 2020

July 23 (Thurs.) – SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE – QUEEN ESTHER – Everyone has a story.

Set in the opulent yet perilous Persian Empire, **QUEEN ESTHER** is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Esther’s ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God’s plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this? Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects and live animals in this brand-new, original stage production! Lunch at the Shady Maple Buffet.

Bus leaves St. Timothy’s at 10 AM
Cost \$110 Payment Deadline: Thurs., June 11

****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.

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (coronavirus)

As per the Pennsylvania Department of Health they recommend the following:

- Wear a mask in public
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your face
- Clean surfaces
- Practice social distancing

For complete information please check out the PA Department of Health website: www.health.pa.gov



***“I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.
Genesis 9:13 (NIV)***