

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

201 E. JUNIATA STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103
PHONE # (610)797-6440; FAX # (610)351-6114
E-MAIL: OFFICE@SAINTMARKALLENTOWN.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.SAINTMARKALLENTOWN.ORG
HOSPITAL CODE: #300 / OFFICE HOURS: AS NEEDED
SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30 AM / SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 8:30 AM
THE REVEREND MARK E SWANSON

GOD'S PEOPLE: BELIEVING, CARING, LOVING AND SERVING

The Open Door

The number of families served in January was down probably due to the bitter cold, windy weather we had on the days we were open. Some families walk or take the bus to get to the food pantry and during such weather conditions, that is not an easy thing to do. We did serve 34 families, consisting of 86 adults, 73 children and 17 elderly.

Thank you for the donation of 65 boxes of spaghetti and to Trinity Memorial for their continued monthly support. In addition, we received \$ 100.00 in memory of Jim Sorgini. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Our suggested items for March are Pop Tarts and pancake syrup. Since we received pancake mix through Second Harvest, syrup would

be a good choice to pair up with that.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!

Don't forget before retiring to bed on Saturday evening, March 10th, 2018 to turn your clock one hour ahead.

Otherwise, you'll miss the service on Sunday. And we miss you when you are not here.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Youth Group sponsored Easter Egg hunt will be held on Saturday March 31, 10am.

We are in need of donations of: plastic eggs, colored hard boiled eggs, candy, small prizes and Easter baskets.

Anyone wishing to donate these items you may bring them to church during the

week of the Egg Hunt and place in the kitchen.

Do you Need Transportation To Church? No problem!

Please contact the church office at 610-797-6440 and leave a message with your name and phone number and we will arrange for someone to pick you up for services. This includes mid-week Lenten Dinners and Services.

Upcoming Youth Events

Iron Pigs Game: May 11th, 2018 / Section 119 / \$11 per person (\$2-dollar voucher) August 26th, 2018 / Picnic / \$28 per person (includes a buffet)

Easter Flowers

Easter Flower Orders for lilies and Tulips are due no later than March 11th ... stop on by Sunday Morning!

A PASTORS MESSAGE

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: I am with you always, even unto the end of the World. Amen.”

~Matthew 28:20

We are in the midst of Lent, the season of repentance and renewal. Repentance means turning around, facing a new direction, and going a new way. During Lent we hear more loudly that God wants to lead us to love and service of our neighbor and faith and trust in the promise God has made to all of us. This promise is that God will be with us always (see Matthew 28:20) and that forgiveness, victory over evil, and eternal life are freely given. It is a promise made sure by the cross of Christ. It is a promise sealed upon our forehead in baptism and renewed every time we eat and drink at the Lord’s Supper.

Of course, our sin gets in the way. We like to think more of ourselves than the people around us. Being a repentant person is hard because it requires a change on our part. We resist with all our might. Fighting against God is the story of humanity; it is our story. We want what is best for us, but not so much for the person we don’t know or is different, or looks and talks strangely. And still, God comes to forgive and change us.

If sin means missing the mark, being off target, then repentance means getting the aim straight. God wants us to have our aim, our focus, clearly where God intends us to go. God wants to lead us straight to God’s loving arms, to the comfort of true hope, where all our sin is forgiven and where we are reconciled to God and each other. Call that heaven, call it a place of peace, call it new life given in the name of Christ; it is all of these and more. This change, this turning around, is God’s desire for everyone. I bid you come and hear God’s promise again this Lent. Hear it proclaimed loudly. Hear God speak to you, guiding you in the right direction. That direction may not be where you want to be headed, but you can be sure the Lord is leading you to a place of life.

Pastor Swanson

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

On behalf of Council, I would like to extend an invitation to each of you regarding several events occurring in the next few weeks. The first event is on Sunday, March 4, 2018. Come, welcome and hear Pastor Mark and our new organist John Harkins at our morning worship service. Stay afterwards, for coffee and cake, in honor of Pastor Mark and John. This is an opportunity for each of you to greet and get to know them.

Secondly, on March 11th come to worship and remain after the service for a brief Question and Answer Session. This will be held in the worship area. Council will brief the Congregation on what Council has been working on, since January and to answer any questions you may have. This was an action item that came directly out of our Council Retreat, as a way to improve communication, amongst the Congregation and Council. These Q/A sessions will be held on a quarterly basis. We hope to see you there.

Lastly, as we journey through Lent, on behalf of Council would like to extend an invitation to each of you to come home during this Lenten Season and Easter. Some of you have been away for a short time or too long and your presence is missed.

Lent is a time of reflection and forgiveness. God loves each and every one of us. He is always present in our lives. He gave his son to die for us and to forgive all of our sins. Come celebrate this season and Jesus's Resurrection.

In Christian Service,
Tom Rieger Sr,
Council President

ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ALLENTOWN, PENN SYLVANIA TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2018 (Subject to Audit)

	MONTH OF JANUARY	1ST MONTH BUDGET	1ST MONTH ACTUAL 2018	1ST MONTH ACTUAL 2017
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$5,532.16	\$6,542.02	\$5,532.16	\$7,874.46
BENEVOLENCE	<u>\$136.50</u>	<u>\$212.50</u>	<u>\$136.50</u>	<u>\$93.00</u>
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	<u>\$5,668.66</u>	<u>\$6,754.52</u>	<u>\$5,668.66</u>	<u>\$7,967.46</u>
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	<u>\$2,712.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,712.00</u>	<u>\$2,415.47</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$8,380.66</u>	<u>\$6,754.52</u>	<u>\$8,380.66</u>	<u>\$10,382.93</u>
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$5,900.43	\$10,532.50	\$5,900.43	\$9,086.63
BENEVOLENCE	<u>\$347.50</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$347.50</u>	<u>\$755.00</u>
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	<u>\$6,247.93</u>	<u>\$10,732.50</u>	<u>\$6,247.93</u>	<u>\$9,841.63</u>
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	<u>\$1,849.50</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,849.50</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$8,097.43</u>	<u>\$10,732.50</u>	<u>\$8,097.43</u>	<u>\$9,841.63</u>
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY	BALANCE	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE
	<u>1/1/2018</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>1/31/2018</u>
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - NPB	<u>\$12,797.89</u>	<u>\$8,380.66</u>	<u>\$8,097.43</u>	<u>\$13,081.12 +</u>
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	<u>\$12,797.89</u>	<u>\$8,380.66</u>	<u>\$8,097.43</u>	<u>\$13,081.12</u>

2018 BULLETIN AND ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

Signups are available in the Narthex for 2018 Bulletin and Alter Flower Sponsors please stop one Sunday and sign up. You will receive reminder letters before your selected dates!

TRINITY MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Designer Purse & Pampered Chef Bingo – March 11th, 2018. Doors open 12:00 pm Bingo begins at 1:00 PM / \$25 – 20 games / Specials/Chinese Auction/Door Prizes / Food Available /

**Advanced ticket purchases \$20 / Email: kehmdl@outlook.com / Phone: (610) 797-4774

And the winners are.... Top prizes for the Chili Spiciest Chili : Rick Krasley / St. Mark
Best Tasting Chilli - Randy Stroble / St. Mark

Top prizes best tasting baked good

1st Place - Kari Dougan

2nd place - Melissa Stroble - St. Mark

\$146.00 was raised for The Open Door Food Pantry here at St. Mark. A big Thank You To Everyone in making this a Success at Trinity and St. Mark

REMINDER

If you come into church for a meeting / event please make sure you secure the building and turn all lights off prior to leaving especially check all the bathrooms.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Council welcomed Pastor Mark to his first Council Meeting with us.
2. Christian Education and Youth will be meeting March 5 @ 6:30 pm.
3. Council acted on pending new member requests with a date to be accepted into membership to be determined by Pastor and the individual.
4. With 25 keys missing the Council discussed and voted to re-key the church.
5. Council voted to replace the heat pump for the Pastor's Office and Secretary's Office at the cost of \$ 6,029.00. The funds will be withdrawn from the Capital Fund.
6. Council approved the use of Luther Hall for the drum line group on Monday nights between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm.
7. A interview committee consisting of Pastor Mark, Anita Vandergrift, Marcia Heckman and Tom Rieger Jr was approved and will be setting up and interviewing the office secretary applicants.
8. Steve Ghazi is taking the lead for setting up Coffee/Bagels/Donuts for Easter for the Congregation between the 6:30 am Service and 9:30 am Service. This will take the place of the formal Easter Breakfast this year.
9. The first informal Q/A session for the Congregation will be held right after the service on Sunday, March 11th. Please remain in the worship space for a brief communication/dialogue. This is one of our action items that came out of the Council Retreat.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Council Leader: Missy Stroble
Acolyte: Alex Schmick
Alter Guild: Toni Krasley and Linda Kline
LuAnn Bresnak/Ina Ruhf/Sandy Dillaway/Toni
Ushers: Krasley/Zach and Emily Ruth
Tape Ministry: Roxann and Thomas Rieger
Hymns: 654 The Church's One Foundation
772 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways
705 God of Grace and God of Glory

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Council Leader: Missy Stroble
Acolyte: Volunteer
Alter Guild: Toni Krasley and Linda Kline
Ushers: Volunteers
Tape Ministry: Roxann and Thomas Rieger
Hymns: 769 If You But Trust in God to Guide You
742 What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Council Leader: Bill Walker
Acolyte: Alexis Stroble
Alter Guild: Sue Krasley, Kristen Feldon, Tiffany Miller
Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak, Ina Ruhf, Sandy Dillaway
Randi Fries/Toni Krasley, Brian/Emily Ruth
Doris Brezan, Tammy Walbert,
Tape Ministry: Diane Walton
Hymns: 335 Jesus, Keep Near the Cross
779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
863 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Council Leader: Bill Walker
Acolyte: Volunteer
Alter Guild: Sue Krasley, Kristin Feldon and Tiffany Miller
Ushers: Volunteers
Doris Brezan, Tammy Walbert,
Tape Ministry: Diane Walton
Hymns: 324 In The Cross of Christ I Glory
337 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

OUR STAFF

Mark E. Swanson, Pastor
Home Phone: 610-838-7682
Cell: 215-264-4180
Roxann K. Rieger – Treasurer
Phone: 610-217-3874
Anita Vandergrift, Financial Secretary
Phone: 610-770-6195

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Council Leader: Doris Brezan
Acolyte: Chase Klingaman
Alter Guild: Sue Krasley, Kristen Feldon, Tiffany Miller
Ushers: Doris Brezan, Tammy Walbert, Steven Ghazi, Chase/Terry Klingaman
Tape Ministry: Brenda Mann
Hymns: 803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
812 Faith of Our Fathers
629 Abide with Me

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Council Leader: Doris Brezan
Acolyte: Volunteer
Alter Guild: Sue Krasley, Kristen Feldon, Tiffany Miller
Ushers: Volunteers
Tape Ministry: Brenda Mann
Hymns: 328 Restore in Us, O God
338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Council Leader: Dan Christman
Acolyte: Zach Ruth
Alter Guild: Roxann Rieger, Doris Werkheiser, Edie Lindenmuth
Ushers: Tom and Roxann Rieger, Sue Krasley, Kathy/Nicholas and Zachary Walker
Tape Ministry: Roxann and Thomas Rieger
Hymns: TBD

Thursday, March 29, 2018

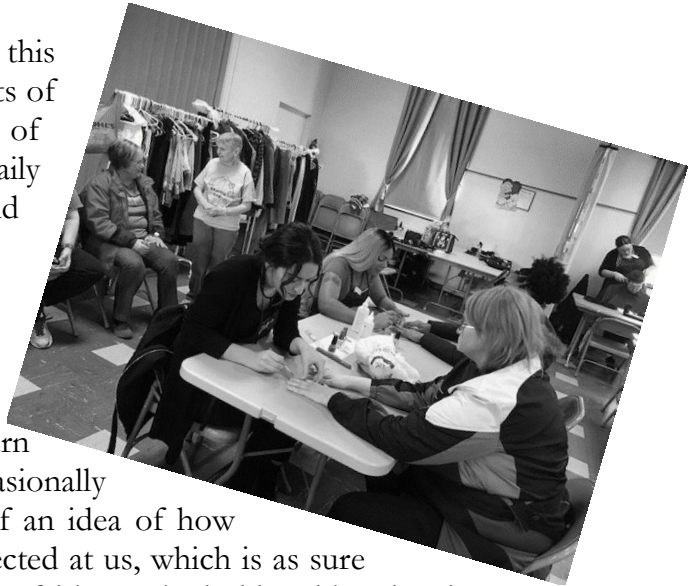
Council Leader: Dan Christman
Acolyte: Volunteers
Alter Guild: Roxann Rieger, Doris Werkheiser, Edie Lindenmuth
Ushers: Volunteers
Tape Ministry: Roxann and Thomas Rieger
Hymns: TBD

Friday, March 30, 2018

Council Leader: Dan Christman
Acolyte: Volunteer
Alter Guild: Roxann Rieger, Doris Werkheiser, Edie Lindenmuth
Ushers: Volunteers
Tape Ministry: Roxann and Thomas Rieger
Hymns: TBD

SHARING LIFE HAPPENINGS FEBRUARY 2018

As March rapidly approaches I was thinking back on this month and the offerings that February had brought....The gifts of Flexibility, Faith and Forgiveness. I realized the power of Flexibility and Faith while living in Florida for twenty years. Daily storms were a typical occurrence in SW Florida and I would watch in awe as the blustery winds would whip at those ever so flexible trees almost to the point of bending but never breaking. The raccoons slumbering atop the canopy, swaying and asleep in their faith that the trees would not snap. When the storm would pass, the trees grew still and the raccoons continued their slumber and all was right with the world. We can all learn from the trees flexibility and the raccoons faith as occasionally throughout our days we find ourselves unwilling to let go of an idea of how something should be that when life throws something unexpected at us, which is as sure as the daily Florida storms, we “break” rather than allowing our faith to take hold and bend us in a different direction.



With the irregularity of February’s weather, Sharing Life’s flexibility was tested with our New Year/ New You event that just happened to coincide with a surprise storm system that blew through on March 7th. We had to make the decision to cancel at the very last minute, move the event to the following Wednesday and have faith that we would be able to pull it together for the following week. Despite the work involved in rescheduling and reorganizing, the event was a huge success. The students from Empire Beauty School showed up, bringing their talent and skill and transformed Luther Hall into a Salon du Jour. Individuals enjoyed free haircuts, manicures and make-up sessions, were able to choose clothing from St. Mark’s Clothing Closet and snacked on an assortment of healthy snacks, such as hummus, pita chips, yogurt and fruit. The transformations were incredible and humbling. Our ability to remain flexible with the rescheduling of this event as well as keeping our faith that the day would be amazing no matter what led to the days success.

Our “Souper Bowl” luncheon this month was truly a celebration and another testament to flexibility and faith as we celebrated the EAGLES first Superbowl win!!!! (Much to the chagrin of Sandy...) Anyone following the EAGLES for any length of time knows all too well the requirement for faith to be a fan and this year, despite all of the injuries and new players, including our backup quarterback, they pulled through and won...The Team’s adeptness for flexibility and their capacity for faith throughout the season is evident of the power that these two qualities hold. Celebrants enjoyed dining on their choice of five varieties of homemade soups, salad and rolls. The unpredictability of February’s weather didn’t disappoint and the day turned out as hot as our soup, but none the less, everyone ate well and had a great time.

Yes, March is quickly coming and I am looking forward to less extreme weather, the scents of spring, lighter meals and will be anticipating what gifts the new month has to offer. Sharing Life will be looking forward to hosting our first ever, singles mixer that was reschedule from last month to March 14th. Our luncheon next month will find us celebrating St. Patrick’s Day, serving up Irish specialties like Corned Beef and Cabbage and Shephard’s pie with a Colcannon topping. Can’t wait to see DJ Don doing his jig!!! Maybe we can persuade him into donning a leprechaun outfit????

Until next time....wait...something I forgot...the Forgiveness...The last of February’s gifts was Forgiveness...Forgiveness to yourself for not getting everything right, everything done or being everything to everyone...Be sure to pass this one along to others...

I leave you in light and Love,
Connie

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Learning Ministries Day

Held on Saturday, January 27, at Christ Hamilton United in Stroudsburg, this year's theme was: "Church as Wonder-Land."

Pr. David Danneberger led the opening worship and welcomed attendees to a day that included a keynote address, workshops, meals, and time to share ideas and excitement.

Keynote speaker Pr. Lori Kochanski (former NEPS Pastor and Assistant to the Bishop) spoke about "Transforming Faith Communities from 'Places to Go for Answers' to 'Places to be with the Big Questions.'"

Afternoon workshops included Special Needs Ministries, Caring for Creation, and Wonder: "Godly Wonder," "Science and Wonder," and "Wonderful Crafts."

An offering raised \$625 for scholarships to Bear Creek Camp.

Learning Ministries Day 2019 will be Saturday, January 26, at Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven. Save the date!



Inside Outside Gift Giving



Caren (not her real name) told Pastor Sue Ruggles of St. John, Easton that her daughter has trouble with an addiction and is incarcerated. While her daughter is in jail, Caren cares for her children, trying to keep them together in one house. Christmas is especially hard because there is not enough money. This is just one of many stories told in December.

Members of St. John downtown historic Easton, one block from the Northampton County jail, believe the children should not be punished because of their parent's mistakes or addictions. So every year, those inside the jail can request their family members receive gifts. This year, St. John expanded their work and filled the requests from 56 people inside the jail. Over 150 children received gifts that were wrapped and deemed age appropriate.

Toys for Tots helps with some of the toys; and a Thrivent Action Team Grant helps with the rest, including mailing seven packages for families out of the area. Children received love and prayers for every gift wrapped, and the caregivers who picked presents up were able to share their stories and receive encouragement. "Inside Outside Gift Giving" enables parents inside the jail to show children outside the jail they are loved while someone is trying again.

Talking About Racism

The White Privilege Conference April 4-7, 2018

In 2016 the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team of the Synod received a grant to help young people learn about racism, and how they could help heal the wounds of racism. Several of them attended the "White Privilege Conference" which was held in Philadelphia. The next conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 4-7, 2018. Take a team of folks from your congregation. For more information visit: whiteprivilegeconference.com.

ORGANIZATION - Race Forward

Taken from their website:

"Race Forward's mission is to build awareness, solutions, and leadership for racial justice by generating transformative ideas, information, and experiences. We define racial justice as the systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all; and we work to advance racial justice through media, research, and leadership development."

Check out their website at raceforward.org for all kinds of resources including links to training. A small group of youth and adults from our synod attended a training event in 2016 and found it helpful.

Evacuees to PA following Maria: LCS Helps Congregations Connect



Like many before who have sought refuge with friends and family following disaster, over 2,500 people have evacuated from the Caribbean to Pennsylvania following Hurricane Maria. As of mid-January, the number of displaced students in the Allentown school district was 367; in Reading, 229; and in Bethlehem, 160. There are also displaced students in Hazleton, Scranton, Wilkes Barre, and other places.

Because of support from strong Hispanic communities here, many families are becoming self-sufficient quickly. There are some circumstances, however, where the most vulnerable have significant needs, especially related to housing. LCS is seeking to be an ally to organizations and churches who are caring for newcomers. Some of the efforts underway include:

- Supporting the Reading Lutheran Parish in hosting Camp Noah this summer. Camp Noah is a disaster camp developed through the Lutheran Disaster Response network to support children recovering from disaster.
- Forming partnerships with Lutheran leaders who are leading outreach efforts to families who are providing temporary housing to friends and family from Puerto Rico.
- Helping congregations connect with the most vulnerable families in their communities in order to help them with rental assistance and other support.
- Working with Pennsylvania Emergency Management, FEMA, and other faith based and disaster organizations to coordinate efforts for helping people make decisions for their families.

Interested in learning more about Camp Noah or other ways to support those affected by Hurricane Maria? Contact Julia Menzo at 267-464-7740 or jmenzo@libertylutheran.org.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030
 The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair 484-358-5720
 Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

April 2018 LMD NL news will be due March 16, 2018.
 E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Lenten Morning Reflections...Paying attention to God – Sat. Feb. 24, 2018, 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18102. For more information contact, Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, tlchiner@rcn.com or 610-533-9362.

There's Room for You in a Centering Prayer Group - Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some teaching about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Friday of each month - starting Mar. 2nd - Apr. 6th - May 4th - Jun. 1st - Jul. 6th, 10:30 - 11:30 AM.** Led by Rev. Maritza Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102. Parking available in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening tlchiner@rcn.com / 610-533-9362

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers 2018 - Do you provide part time or full-time care for an elder? Would you like a safe place to share your joys and struggles with other care-givers? Would you appreciate companionship in nurturing your spirit?

In today's American culture, many adults are providing full-time or part-time care for their elder parents, relatives, friends, or neighbors. Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. This every-other-month gathering will provide participants with a time of guided prayer, supportive conversation around joys and struggles, and sharing new ideas for offering care. Come and go to these gatherings as you might need and desire. There is no need to make a commitment to each one.

Parking is available in a lot across Hamilton Street from the church. Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, [1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102](http://1245.W.Hamilton.St.,Allentown,PA.18102). 1:30 - 3:00 PM **Wednesday's: March 14th, May 16th, July 18th, 2018.**

Each gathering will be led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Tom Lichner at tlchiner@rcn.com OR 610-533-9362.

Roast Beef Dinner – Sat., March 24th, 4:00-6:30p.m., Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA. Call 610-865-4144 for more information. Proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County. Please see flyer located at your church.

Contemplative Prayer - Prayer Around the Cross - You are invited to join with others for a time of contemplative opening to the Spirit of God in and around us. We invite God's Light to shine in our hearts and to awakening our consciousness to live lives of mercy, justice, and love. Please join together in this brief time of sacred reading, silent reflection, poetry, chanting, candle lighting, intercessory prayer, and ample space for quiet reflection. **Third Sat. of each Month, 5:00 - 5:45 PM** at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa, 18102. Parking lot across street from church. Address inquiries to Rev. Tom Lichner at tlchiner@rcn.com.

Can you provide an hour or two per week to help someone who wants to change their life? St Luke's at 417 N 7th St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. **ELL days and hours are, Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** We always need help. We are especially looking for people who a comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net.

Crossroads at St. Paul's-Allentown: "Lord, when did we see you?" Crossroads is Allentown's only day shelter, where the homeless can gather out of the cold, and hopefully improve their lives. Thanks to our partners, we are pleased to announce that Crossroads is now open **Monday-Thursday - 9am-4pm, Friday - 11am-4pm and Saturday - 11am-3pm!** Additionally, a lite breakfast is served **Monday-Wednesday - 8:30am.** Just 30 or 60 minutes can make such a difference! Contact St. Paul's-Allentown at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 14, 2018, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 12:45 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, [140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA](http://140.S.Ott.St.,Allentown,PA)

Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need locally and around the globe!



CROSSROADS
Special Ministry
ST. PAUL'S IN ALLENTOWN
Continued....

Last month's Pastoral Article from Pastor Steven Shussett of St. Paul's, Allentown, concluded with a paragraph that noted "Crossroads opened four years ago...starting as simply a place to be out of the cold, but growing year by year, now hosting up to 60 people a day. Thanks to partners like those in the Lehigh Mission District, St. Paul's has expanded the drop-in center in a variety of ways." Following is the conclusion of his article.

Crossroads is the anchor for a multitude of ministries to care for body, mind, and spirit, from Sacred Heart Parish Nurses and nursing students from throughout the Valley and from Lehigh Valley Medicine to mental health and other health care providers. Stephen Flowers of Suddenly Samantha Salon in Easton cuts hair at least once a month and Synergy Services for Homeless Youth is onsite weekly.

What was once a Monday through Thursday ministry just expanded to include Friday and Saturday, thanks to our partners at Ripple Church (who worship at St. Paul's on Sunday afternoons). Ripple provides service opportunities for those staying with us, so they are giving, not just receiving. And all the while, contributions from Ingathering and other benefactors allow us to provide food and health care items to the many who have so little, to the point that we now provide a light breakfast on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

We could not do what we do at St. Paul's without the help of those who contribute goods, time, and energy. The seeds were planted long ago, but watering by our many partners means the world when it comes to bearing fruit. And in so many ways our cup runs over, *thanks to the One "who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).*

God is doing more than any of us could have imagined! Since it began at St. Paul's, the overflow shelter has moved several times, from one rented space to another. No place is perfect, and while there have been annual improvements, the instability has meant everything was looked at as temporary.

St. Paul's is moving to bring that uncertainty to an end. The Council of St. Paul's agreed to use our Education Building as the next, and theoretically last, warming station. This building has more space than any of the previous efforts, enough to increase women and family space. Moreover, being permanent means that capital improvements can be made with an eye toward the long term. With the help of our partners, the third largest city in Pennsylvania will come a step closer to providing all of its citizens with the resources they need.

The seeds were planted long ago, and so many people, from St. Paul's and beyond, have watered in common purpose. Thank you to all who work alongside us as God's servants, working together in God's field, creating something unique in God's special "home."

Pastor Steven Shussett
St. Paul's in Allentown

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

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.

Tuesday, May 15 to Thursday, May 17 – RIDE THE RAILS OF WEST

VIRGINIA – This exciting trip includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and not one, but two train trips, the Cheat Mountain Salamander with lunch on board the train and the Durbin Rocket. On day three we will visit the Seneca Caverns before heading home. **Contact the Operation Sunshine office for a flyer with the full itinerary and pricing.** Travel Protection is available and suggested.

May 22 (Tues) – Mount Airy Lodge – ELVIS JAILHOUSE ROCK -

Come spend an afternoon with young Elvis. Not just any Elvis, but "The Worlds #1 Elvis". Performing all over the world, he was cast as Elvis in the hit musical "Million Dollar Quartet". Our Elvis won multiple Elvis competitions around the world. This high energy Elvis Tribute is filled with all your favorite hits such as: "Jailhouse Rock", "Blue Suede Shoes", "Don't Be Cruel", "Love Me Tender" and so many more. Our Elvis has the looks, the charisma, and the moves that will leave you all shook up! Lunch Buffet and \$15 slot play included with this trip.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM

Cost \$ 64.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 3

June 27 (Wed) – Fulton Theatre - Hunchback of Notre Dame-

The musical begins as the bells of Notre Dame resound through the famed cathedral in 15th-century Paris. Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer who longs to be "Out There," observes all of Paris reveling in the Feast of Fools. Held captive by his devious caretaker, the archdeacon Dom Claude Frolo, Quasimodo escapes for the day and joins the boisterous crowd, only to be treated cruelly by all but the beautiful gypsy, Esmerelda. Quasimodo isn't the only one captivated by her free spirit, though - the handsome Captain Phoebus and Frolo are equally enthralled. As the three vie for her attention, Frolo embarks on a mission to destroy the gypsies - and it's up to Quasimodo to save them all. Lunch at The Pressroom.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30am and will return approximately 6:30pm

Cost \$97.00 Payment Deadline: Thursday, May 17

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Holy Communion Service Coffee Hour	5 6:30pm - Christian Ed & Youth 7:00pm - Music & Worship 5:30pm-8pm - Drum Line	6	7 12-3PM – Sharing Life Craft Event 6pm – Lenten Dinner 7pm – Lenten Service	8	9	10
11 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Holy Communion Service 11am to 4pm – Private Event	12 5:30pm-8pm - Drum Line	13 10am-12pm – Open Door	14 6pm – Lenten Dinner 7pm – Lenten Service	15	16	17
18 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Holy Communion Service	19 5:30pm-8pm - Drum Line	20	21 6pm – Lenten Dinner 7pm – Lenten Service 8pm – Council Mtg	22 4pm-6pm – Open Door	23	24
25 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Holy Communion Service	26 5:30pm-8pm - Drum Line	27	28	29 7pm – Maundy Thursday Service	30 7pm – Good Friday Service	31 10am – Egg Hunt

God's people: believing, caring, loving and serving

Saint Mark Lutheran Church
201 East Juniata Street
Allentown, PA 18103-5163

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