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**September 2020 LMD NL news will be due August 17, 2020.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Save the Date, please:**

~~Remember the surveys (at the three Info-Gathering meetings throughout the Synod in February, and online) that were completed in advance of the next NEPA Bishop election? Well, given COVID-19, we've adjusted plans FROM in-person meetings to summarize survey results and develop preliminary questions for the Bishop candidates TO Zoom sessions that you can connect to from home.~~

**Those meetings are now set for:**

~~Saturday, 11 July 9 AM to Noon~~

~~Saturday, 18 July 9 AM to Noon~~

~~Registration for these Zoom meetings will be communicated shortly.~~

~~The Information-Gathering Team~~

**COME AWAY TO A QUIET PLACE...** A Brief Pause for Prayerful Renewal in Centering Prayer. 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 discussion 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**, led by Ferd Piccuiro and hosted by Pastor Maritza Dolich via Zoom, **10:30 - 11:30 AM** (Sessions held via **Zoom** temporarily until we can all meet together again in person at the Center for Spiritual Awakening). **Please contact Ferd to be placed on the email list with the Zoom information.** [ferdpiccuiro@ptd.net](mailto:ferdpiccuiro@ptd.net) / Cell: 908-310-4228, Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

**Save These Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Dates and CDC-Compliant Options!**

**CROP Team Leaders' ZOOM Meeting: Sun., Aug. 30, 2020, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

To review new walk and drive-by options, as well as safety procedures to comply with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines

To review how to access online resources and how to obtain walker materials, bulletin inserts, posters, and paint stirrers for CROP signs

**CROP Hunger Walk and Drive-by Options: Thurs., Oct. 1-Sun., Oct. 11, 2020**

Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa> for the most up-to-date information about Church World Service/CROP, as well as dates, times, and options for the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk, and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen Drive-by

**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](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

Web site: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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.

**WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT DUE TO CANCELLATIONS OF PERFORMANCES BY OUR VENUES, AND FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR TRAVELERS, ALL OPERATION SUNSHINE DAY TRIPS FOR 2020 HAVE BEEN CANCELED.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO TRAVELING WITH YOU AGAIN IN 2021. LOOK FOR NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE EARLY 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER OF 2020.**

**MULTI-DAY TRIP**

**MAINE – 4 DAY/3 NIGHT – SEPT. 22-25** - Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse. Call the Skelly's at [610-433-6878](tel:610-433-6878) for a complete itinerary and pricing.

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**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.

## Good News!

In the June newsletter I mentioned that as of May 13, 2020, the Centers for Diseases and Control Prevention (CDC) reported 82,246 deaths from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the United States. Today, June 16, 2020, the CDC reports 116,140 deaths in the United States. With the continual number of deaths in the nation, states are beginning to gingerly open more businesses. To this end, churches are cautiously looking to indoor worship in church sanctuaries.

**Good news!** Our Lutheran Synod has provided a valuable 36 page booklet on how to navigate as we explore resuming indoor worship. Titled *Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life during a Pandemic: The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments*. *Care-Filled* is divided into 9 chapters addressing in detail how to plan worship and music, preaching, Holy Communion, baptism, confirmation, weddings, and funerals. The subtitle points out that the work was an Ecumenical Consultation that involved the United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, and Roman Catholic traditions. This collaborative ecumenical effort shows the level of mutual ministry and care towards one another as we begin to gather in sacred spaces. To that end, the ecumenical group points out, "Yet now, for the sake of the common good, we will have to consider the number and the health status of people who can gather and worship safely in our church buildings. We lament the pain and difficulty of these limitations, and we look forward to the day when we no longer have to maintain such physical distance from one another. We will do everything we can to include by other means those who may not freely gather in our places of worship." p7. I encourage you to read this very important resource by going to the Synod's website or by clicking the following link <http://nepasynod.org/virus-resources/>

**Another good news!** I want to thank Pastor Samantha Drennan along with Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie for their leadership and coordination in putting together kitchen kits, dropping off kits, and collecting the financial gifts received from congregations and organizations in the Lehigh Mission District.

On May 12, Muhlenberg College Chaplain Kristen Glass-Perez put out an urgent call for help. She wrote "Over the summer, we will have approximately 30 students who

remain on campus. Due to social distancing guidelines, they will need to do most of their cooking in separate

kitchens in residence halls. These students are in need of cooking kits and generally don't have any kitchen items at all. We are looking for donations for new or gently used items that could be packaged in a kit to be donated to students. If there are any people in your congregations who would be able to assemble kits and drop them off at the college—we would greatly appreciate it! I realized it is short notice (we need them in a week), but I thought I would reach out. Items can be used—they just need to be clean. Ideally, a person would donate an entire kit."

To this end, Grace Lutheran Church and Pr. Drennan rolled up their sleeves and took on the project and organize it. GLC Team with their pastor completed 30 individual kitchen kits for the students. The GLC Team organized, shopped, and packaged the kits (while taking the proper precautions of wearing masks and gloves). On Monday, May 18th, two volunteers dropped off the 30 kitchen kits at the Muhlenberg College security office, along with 30 \$25 gift cards.

In subsequent weeks donations poured in from all over the Lehigh Mission District, from churches, individuals, and other organizations. Additional gift cards were purchased for the students. The final total of LMD financial contributions totaled \$4,285.75.

Going forward, the need for these students will be financial rather than material. If you'd still like to help, please send your donations directly to the College. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg College and in the memo line put "Student Emergency Fund." Send checks to Muhlenberg College, Egner Chapel, 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104. Let's continue to support this worthy cause.

*In Christ,  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, LMD Dean*



**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**