

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean  
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**October 2020 LMD NL news will be due September 15, 2020.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Community Free Dinner** – St. John’s Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be holding another dinner on **Friday, September 18th from 5-7 PM**. Menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and desserts. **CURBSIDE PICKUP ONLY**. Everyone is welcome...hop in your car and stop by. We hope to see you there! Contact us with any questions: [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or [stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net)

**It is with heavy heart** that the Christmas Ingathering Committee, with the approval of the Lehigh Mission District Council and Dean, **have agreed to cancel Christmas Ingathering for 2020**. We cannot with good conscience follow through with this program this year. Too many churches have not opened their doors yet for worship, the volunteers are 65+, and the group that we used to help unload the gifts donated are no longer available. Our goal will be to hold a Christmas in July 2021 pending the outcome of this pandemic. A decision will be made in January 2021. Please bear with us during this time. We are doing our best to make this work.

**LMD Ingathering Committee**

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

**Due to Covid-19 precautions, participants may choose to:**

**Walk** anytime, anywhere October 1-11, 2020, carrying CROP Hunger Walk signs and posting photos/videos on social media.

**Register** – to participate in the walk or the drive-by at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa/>

**Drive or ride** - Sunday, October 11, 2020 in a vehicle decorated with CROP Hunger Walk signs. **A 10-mile/30 minute loop, starting from St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S Ott Street, Allentown, PA 18104**

**Signs** are available at

<https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/resources/promote-your-walk/>

**Register** – for drive-by time at

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/xynzkE7/CROPDriveBy> to receive your unique vehicle number and time assignment.

**Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank** – Nonperishable food items will be collected at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on Oct 11, 2020.

**ONLINE DONATIONS** at

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa/donate>

**CHECKS** for “CROP Hunger Walk” may be given to congregation/team leaders for delivery during October 2020 to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

**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 Piccurro 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.** [ferdpiccurro@ptd.net](mailto:ferdpiccurro@ptd.net) / Cell: [908-310-4228](tel:908-310-4228), Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

**Clothes Closet - In NEED of Volunteers** – St. Luke’s, 417 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, PA 18103. They have gradually lost all their volunteers since they have had to close for Covid. Volunteers needed to come in **1 or 2 mornings a week for two hours** to help sort and organize the backlog of clothing for its upcoming reopening this fall. And also, **volunteers to staff it on Thursday mornings** when they open to the public. There is a great need for at least one bi-lingual volunteer. For more information please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943).

**St John’s Lutheran Church in Emmaus** has 32 gently used black and white choir gowns that are available free to a good home. If anyone is interested, please contact the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) or email to [officemanager@stjohnsemmaus.org](mailto:officemanager@stjohnsemmaus.org).

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

##### **The Rev. John Eric Lamb**

Gratefully not many calls to active service are terminated with an obituary. But, unfortunately, this past month has seen an exception to this tradition here in our Mission District. Pastor John Lamb, who has been serving on our territory for more than a decade, died quite suddenly on Monday, August 3, as a result of complications surrounding an aggressive brain tumor. John was only 66 years old and was serving as the called pastor of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Allentown and since 2018 he has also been serving as pastor of the Lutheran Congregation of Cedar Church, Cetronia. In addition, his service has included service as a member of the Housing Association and Development Corporation of the Lehigh Valley, the Mayoral Interfaith Clergy Group, and as the founder of the English Language Learners program of St. Luke’s. Former service included a major volunteer effort in El Salvador and as pastor to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of San Pablo in Puerto Rico where he met his wife Dr. Maritza Robert. They settled initially in Harrisburg, PA, in 1993 where they gave birth to son Robert James Lamb, and where John served as pastor of two churches before moving to Allentown. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the initial service honoring John was private. It is expected that Memorial Services will be held at a later date at both St. Luke’s and Cedar Churches.

**RESURRECTED HOPE  
Projecting for the Future**

Dean Quinones's article in our July/August Newsletter projected several positive responses to the COVID-19 dilemma which he suggested we should anticipate as we moved on through the summer and even into the fall. As of his writing on June 16 the CDC was reporting 116,140 deaths in the United States from the virus. At that point it was hoped, even anticipated, that the continuing death toll would decline as we continued through the summer. Unfortunately, the numbers have continued at a similar pace. Let's hope and pray that they will decline as we move on into the fall.

As of the Dean's contribution there were very few churches involved in worship either in their facilities or outdoors. But that led to his revelation of the 36 page booklet projecting very thorough and meaningful procedures by means of which congregations could plan and project a return to worship, although in a very different format than that to which we have been accustomed throughout history. Titled *Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life During a Pandemic: The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments*, this document provides a detailed guideline regarding the planning of worship and music, preaching, Holy Communion, baptism, confirmation, weddings and funerals as we continue to cope with COVID crisis. Uniquely this effort is a result of an Ecumenical Consultation which involved the United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, and Roman Catholic traditions. Once again we remind you that these materials are available through the Synod website or by clicking the link <http://nepasynod.org/virus-resources/>

Appropriately an increasing number of congregations of all traditions have become involved in worship opportunities, both indoor, and especially outdoor, during these last weeks. Uniquely, we have learned how to make use of various viral resources in accompanying and supporting these unusual worship efforts. Obviously, we are all wishing that we will be moving beyond the use of these guidelines and support systems in the near future, but the evidence is that we are likely to be using them at least through the end of 2020.

Dean Quinones's article continued by calling our attention to several unusual projects which had been developed to provide support for neighborhood projects within our Mission District, including those developed by Pastor Samantha Drennan and Grace Lutheran Church of Macungie which she serves as pastor. And he included announcement of a project involving the support of students at Muhlenberg College who were needing to remain in place during the summer months.

Needless to say, we are all looking forward to significant adjustments in this unusual world, but there is no evidence that anything of major consequence is going to change in the near future. This suggests that we need to look for those opportunities which are ours to help one another adjust to the circumstances with which we are confronted. Furthermore, we thank God for the sustaining presence which we are continuing to experience.

**God Bless!  
Pastor Stough**

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**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.**

**MULTI-DAY TRIP – POSTPONED TO 2021**  
MORE TO FOLLOW

~~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.