

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-653-5858
610-266-5101

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-550-0057
610-437-9927

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

Basket & Gift Card Social – Sat., Oct. 24th - 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. and Sun., Oct. 25th - 12:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, 535 W. Emaus Ave, Allentown, PA 18103. Tickets \$5.00 for a sheet of 25 chances, if purchased before Oct. 24th - 5 sheets for \$20.00 (a \$5 savings). For more information call the church office at [610-797-4774](tel:610-797-4774). **Masks are required, we will be social distancing.**

Community Free Dinner – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be holding our last free dinner for the year on **Friday, November 13th from 5-7 PM**. Menu will include turkey BBQ with roll, mashed potatoes, corn, applesauce, 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.

CROP Walk: Thank you for all you have done during this challenging year to help spread the word about our 2020 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk/Drive-By.

Anyone can still contribute online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

We have already raised over **\$21,000** to support the wonderful ministries of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen, and Church World Service's disaster and development assistance programs in the United States and throughout the world. Thank you, and may God continue to bless and guide you and your ministry!

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

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.

Clothes Closet - In NEED of Volunteers – St. Luke's, 417 N 7th 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).

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 / Cell: [908-310-4228](tel:908-310-4228), Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

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.



**“...A wind from God swept over the face of the waters.”
Genesis 1.2b**

I write this newsletter article on the vigil week of the upcoming Online 2020 Synod Assembly, as the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and its 9 mission districts venture to meet virtually to elect a new bishop.

The 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in 2020 will be like no other assembly in our lifetime. First, the Synod Assembly will be held online for the first time under virtual platforms. Second, the Assembly will be the first to virtually elect a new bishop in the NEPA Synod. It seems like God’s Spirit swept over us to the waters of a baptismal renewal in this virtual assembly.

The Lutheran Center and its Deans are set with the technology platforms to use over the two weekends. There are 525 registered voting members ready to use their virtual accounts. The Lehigh Mission District has 62 voting delegates registered to participate for the Online 2020 Synod Assembly gathering.

There was wisdom to foresee and project an online assembly given the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The pandemic has created havoc with meeting face to face at Kalahari Resorts. As of October 14th, 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 215,194 deaths in the United States.

Amidst death God’s creative Spirit in the human heart has led us to come as a virtual community to gather to worship, to talk about church business and, in the process, elect a new bishop.

In the meantime, as God’s Spirit swept the Church to gather as a community, by this time next month we will have a new bishop in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Stay safe and healthy,

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, LMD Dean

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.

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 4TH QUARTER OF 2020.

SAVE THE DATES!

MAINE – JUNE 7-10, 2020

Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse 3 Nights lodging, 3 full course dinners including a “Downeast” Lobster Bake, Narrated Harbor Cruise of Casco Bay, Boothbay Harbor Tour, Eartha Revolving Globe, Maine Narrow Gauge Railway, LL Bean and Dexter Factory Outlets, Nubble Lighthouse, taxes, and gratuities included.

Call the Skelly’s at [610-433-6878](tel:610-433-6878) for a complete itinerary and pricing.

Psalms 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

