

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean 610-653-5858
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-704-5133

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair 484-550-0057
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

June 2021 LMD NL news will be due May 14, 2021. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

*******IMPORTANT*******

Financial gifts can be sent to our new mailing address to the attention of our new Lehigh Mission District Treasurer Leslie Talago at: **Leslie Talago, LMD Treasurer, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 417 N Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18102.**

****REOPENED** – Thursdays 9:30-11:30am. Clothes Closet - St. Luke's, 417 N 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18103. Volunteers are needed to come in 1 or 2 mornings a week to organize donations for two hours (Tuesday or Wednesday mornings).** 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).

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT ASSEMBLY:

The Mission District Spring Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, April 25th, 2021, starting at 6:00 P.M. The speaker for the evening is our new Bishop Christopher deForest. The ZOOM Invite will be provided as we get closer to the event.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING UPDATE:

Last year it was decided to postpone the 2020 Christmas Ingathering. This year it was the hope of the Christmas Ingathering Volunteers to host the Christmas Ingathering in July. Unfortunately, the passing of one of the co-chairpersons, along with only a few congregations open for in-person worship due to the pandemic have made this event challenging. At this time, the Christmas Ingathering is postponed until further notice. Christmas Ingathering Committee

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 / 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

Save These Dates!

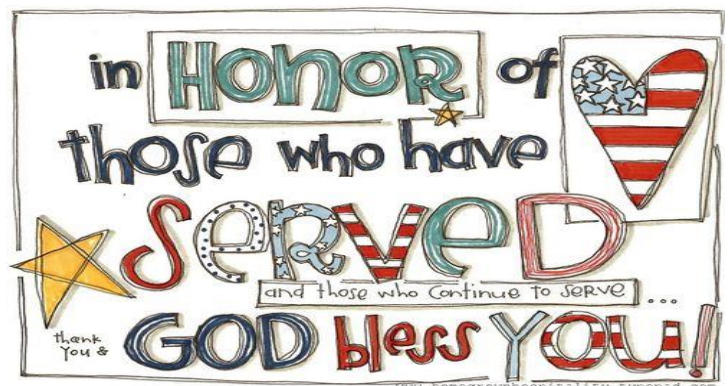
Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 10, 2021**, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104

CROP Recruiters' **Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 29, 2021**, 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 <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/page/about-the-walk>

The CROP Hunger Walk Pages are Live!

Please find your NEW Walk page on our new OneCause Platform at www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa



Stigmata: The Eternal Scars of God

Have you ever wondered about the scars of God? We are a people who believe in a Triune God revealed in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That is our confession. In this Christian understanding of the Triune God, we find one who has been scarred—Jesus the crucified one.

When I read the Scriptures about the Passion of Christ, I think of the scars made by the beating Jesus received in the hands of the authorities. I think of the scars on his forehead from the crown of thorns. I think of the scars on his hands and on his feet from the piercing nails. I think of the scar on his side made by the puncture of the spear to his body.

Then on “The third day he rose again from the dead.” We believe the witness of the men and women disciples, the apostles, and the Church creeds. This is our confession.

Jesus said to Thomas, *“Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe. Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”* **John 20:27-29**. What this text says is that Jesus had visible scars on his body. Jesus’ resurrection did not take away his scars and wounds. These are the eternal stigmata of open wounds and scars on the Christ that continues to be revealed to the world.

We stand in witness of the scars and wounds in our world. We have witnessed the scars and wounds on Asian Americans that have been captured on videos. Many have been attacked while walking by on the sidewalk. We’ve seen the scars and wounds on African Americans recorded on cell phones from traffic stops. Many don’t make it home. We’ve seen the scars and wounds on the victims affect by shootings. Are these scars and wounds difficult to believe? We’ve been traumatized—scarred—from seeing these events played out on media.

The resurrection is an invitation to see the scars and wounds in our world and come to believe. Then our confession like Thomas becomes God’s reconciliation with one another in Christ.

Blessed Eastertide,
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones
Lehigh Mission District 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.

We hope this newsletter finds all of you happy and healthy. It’s hard to believe that it has been over a year since we were able to travel together. With the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines, we feel that with care, we will be able to travel together again. We know the demand to get back to normalcy is out there, and we hope that we can help all of you do that. So, here are the upcoming trips that we have “planned”. Of course, everything depends on current directions from the state and the CDC at the time of the trip. Hope to hear from you and see you soon! Dick and Paula

****PLEASE NOTE THAT MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED ON THE BUS AND AT ALL VENUES****

MULTI-DAY

June 7 – 10 – MAINE – 4 Days/3 Night

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. Contact the Skelly’s via LMDopsunshine@aol.com or call at 610-433-6878 for a complete itinerary and pricing.

Final Payment will be due by April 23, 2021

July 20 (Tues.) – 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, 2021