

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean  
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**December 2021 LMD NL news will be due November 12, 2021.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**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.**

**Basket & Gift Card Social** – Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, 535 W. Emaus Ave, Allentown, PA 18103, **Sat, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sun, October 24, 2021.** For more information or to have tickets held for you at the door, call the church office [610-797-4774](tel:610-797-4774). **Masks are required, we will be social distancing.**

**IMPORTANT CHANGE:**

**LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING**

Lehigh Mission District Advent Christmas Ingathering - This year's Ingathering will be held at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church 535 W. Emaus Ave Allentown, PA. 18103, Wednesday, December 1, 2021. We thank Trinity Memorial for sponsoring this year's Ingathering. Any questions please contact Penny Newhard, [newhardp@ptd.net](mailto:newhardp@ptd.net). **NOTE:** This will be a Covid safe event this year. It will be a **DROPPING OFF OF THE GIFTS ONLY** and **Limited Small Items**. Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale** - Looking to add some St. John's favorites to your meal? Place your orders for the following: 3lbs. potato filling in a conveniently packaged, oven ready aluminum baking pan for \$7.00. (Remove the lid, put the container in the oven, bake, and enjoy!) Applesauce will be available in quarts for \$5.00 each. Bacon dressing is available to order in a pint for \$4.00 or a quart for \$6.00. **We are taking orders now until they are filled** – contact Carol Moyer [610-398-0569](tel:610-398-0569). **PICK UP: Saturday November 20th** from 9 AM to 12 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville).

**Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:** Share your CROP Hunger Walk photos and videos! Post them on social media and send them to [karehad@gmail.com](mailto:karehad@gmail.com) to include in our CROP follow-up emails to congregations and other CROP supporters!

Also, there's still time to give online at

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

Alternatively, **checks for "CWS/CROP"** may be given to congregation/team leaders for delivery during **October 2021** to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103. **Thank you for your CROP efforts so others will have the resources they need to create better lives for themselves and their families.**

**DON'T SPEND ANOTHER WINTER HOME ALONE!** LUTHER CREST offers all you could ever want ... stunning accommodations | chef-prepared dining | convenient amenities exciting events—and new friends! Because Luther Crest is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, you will have peace of mind in the coming years. Don't miss out ... If you decide on this great deal now, you can move in later in the year. Come discover why our residents are fond of saying, "This is the Way to Live" \* Entrance fee starting at \$99k on one-bedroom apartment. Limited Time offers. Please contact Mary Louise Drosdak at [610-391-8258](tel:610-391-8258) or Toll free [800-606-3424](tel:800-606-3424).

The **Clothes Closet** is now open again. We are going to **still need volunteers during the week to help sort and organize our donations**. This can be as little as an hour or two per week. We want to keep this vital ministry to the community going. For more information, please contact Leslie Talago, Parish Administrator at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or email to [LETalago@StLukesLuth.org](mailto:LETalago@StLukesLuth.org). Thank you to all who help contribute things!!

**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](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.



**Dear Lehigh Mission District**  
***The Bible, Jesus, and Critical Race Theory***

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19

The current topic of conversation in our nation and around our local school districts is the claim that teachers are teaching critical race theory to elementary and high school students.

This has led activists to ban children's picture and story books from classrooms that have been written by Black, Latino, Jewish, Asian, and Native American writers. It should be noted that CRT is not taught in any school districts, nor does it form part of the school's curriculum. Many state departments of education set the academic standards for school districts and teachers to follow. Furthermore, any donated books to a school or its library does not imply an endorsement of said books, the person donating the book, or of the organization. Many school boards have this disclaimer in their policies and bylaws.

So, why are some angry Christians disrupting school board meetings to ban children's picture and story books? Is it because these books are written by people of color?

If so, what are we to do with the Bible written by people of color? What do these angry Christians do with a Jewish Savior? Jesus didn't speak English. He spoke Hebrew and Aramaic. Jesus dressed in his ethnic clothing. He ate his ethnic food. He worked as a carpenter; a profession mostly exercised by many immigrants today. He was an immigrant child whose father and mother sought safety for the family in Egypt. Jesus is not a white Lutheran man. Have these angry activists read the Bible? This Jewish Savior called Jesus would have had black hair and a cinnamon complexion.

The opening verse above from Matthew is known as the Great Commission. The word nations is the Greek word ethnos from which we get the word ethnic. Ethnos can be translated as nations, peoples, gentiles, or tribes.

In Jesus' time the disciples would have understood ethnos as nations. They would have recalled their history either in captivity or in exile in Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Syria, and Lebanon. They would have also understood ethnos to mean gentiles since they lived within the gentile government of the Roman Empire. They would have also understood ethnos in relationship to their own Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Since the Greek word ethnos is in the Bible text, let's translate ethnos as ethnicities. "Go therefore and make disciples of all ethnicities." I believe using the word ethnicities is clear for our time. What comes to mind is walking through the grocery store with a shopping cart and encountering the aisle sign above that reads - ethnic foods. What do we do? God calls us not to turn our shopping cart around but to go right in and as one community in Christ be fed.

Today ethnicities are highlighted by some in society only to be regarded with discontent, biases, prejudices, and racism. In contrast, Jesus's Great Commission to the disciples is a call to embrace all ethnicities, tribes, gentiles, peoples, and nations. Jesus commands his disciples to welcome all ethnicities.

I think that's what makes Jesus's Commission to the Christian Church GREAT.

Jesus' disciples were commissioned to come out of their ethnic circle to proclaim to other ethnicities, nations, peoples, gentiles, and tribes the teachings of Christ.

Jesus's Great Commission is the teaching of acceptance of God's ethnic diversity in this world. The Great Commission is God's call of acceptance of one another and in the process being transformed into the beautiful community God intended. Christ tells his disciples that all ethnicities are welcomed to the waters of baptism. God accepts all ethnicities.

We need to step out of our ethnic circles and into another ethnic circle. In this approach, Jesus gave us His own example when Emmanuel became one of us. Jesus's Great Commission is a transformation. It is divine acceptance. It is a shower of love for all ethnicities to come together and celebrate.

Blessings,

***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](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 NOTE THAT MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED ON THE BUS AND AT ALL VENUES\*\***

**December 9, 2021 (Thurs.) – American Music Theatre – WINTER WONDERLAND - American Music Theatre's 2021 Christmas Show:**

Winter Wonderland will recapture the Christmas spirit! This highly anticipated and critically acclaimed live music production will ignite your spirit and set your heart aglow! Once you step through our doors, you'll gaze upon the magical sights and sounds of the season and be transported to a wonderland of music and enchantment – from a Bavarian mountain village to the festive, holiday excitement at the North Pole. Our extraordinary costumes, gorgeous gowns, and stunning sets will make you feel like you're really there. And ... the young ones can even catch a glimpse of Old Saint Nick himself! Winter Wonderland is AMT's newest Original Show, featuring the secular and sacred holiday songs you know and love, with all-live performances by our sensational cast of Singers and Dancers, as well as the remarkable AMT Orchestra. Bring the entire family and discover a new holiday tradition! Family Style lunch at the fabulous Fulton Steamboat Inn.

**Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:30 AM**

**Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs. November 4, 2021**