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January, 2023 LMD NL news will be due Dec. 16, 2022. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Muhlenberg College's Candlelight Carols Advent Service will take place this year on **Dec. 3rd at 7:30pm** and **Dec. 4th at 3:30pm and 7:30pm**. We are currently taking reservations and community members can reserve up to 4 tickets on a first come, first serve basis. Please call **484-334-3121** for more information or visit <https://www.muhlenberg.edu/student-life/religiouslife/egnerchapel/candlelightcarolsinformation/> to reserve tickets online.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING: Wed., Dec. 7, 2022. St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut St, Emmaus, PA 18049. Thank you for all your support in making this Outreach Ministry possible. From our home to yours, Thanksgiving Blessings to All!

Family Game Night: Fri., Dec. 9, 2022 7-8:30pm, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott Street, Allentown, PA. For any questions call the church **610-435-6512** or visit www.sttimothyhc.org **Please see attached flyer.**

Community Free Dinners – St. John's Lutheran Church, 1028 Church Street, Fogelsville. Dinners will continue on the **3rd Friday, every other month** (except November, when it will be held on the 2nd Friday) from 5-7 PM. Dinners are served "to-go", while supplies last. All are welcome.

The Clothes Closet is open: We only have one person trying to help a lot of people at one time. **Another person is needed to help people shop.** The hours are **Thursday mornings 9:30-11:30.** 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** or email LETalago@StLukesLuth.org. Thank you to all who help contribute things!!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk News

Inspiring CROP Hunger Walk photos and report from St. John's Lutheran Church-Emmaus!

Faith Drescher, CROP Hunger Walk recruiter for St. John's Lutheran Church-Emmaus, submitted the inspiring report below, along with 2 great photos (attached) that Pastor Jeff Carstens took of their congregation's CROP Hunger Walk

crew that walked on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, during the Sunday School hour:

The rains from Hurricane Ian held off; and Pastor Jeff led our CROP Hunger Walk up and down Main Street, Emmaus, from St. John's to 2nd St., around the Triangle to 6th Street, and back to church with our signs made the week before after a combined Sunday School/confirmation hunger awareness activity. We hope our presence raised awareness of food insecurity and the need to help end hunger. Parents, kids, confirmands, and congregants joined together – 40 in all. (The photos captured almost everyone, but I guess we did not squeeze together enough because some were missed.)

Following the CROP Hunger Walk, Pastor Jeff and I spent a few minutes with the confirmands debriefing the experience. And that afternoon I dropped off at St. Timothy Lutheran Church the food that we collected for Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank.

A few weeks prior to Oct. 2, I had the opportunity to promote the walk from the lectern. We also had 2 fellowship opportunities to approach congregants, and any students attending worship were recognized as walkers. In addition, there were 3 donation containers in strategic spots throughout the church, as well as posters advertising the event.

Thank you, St. John's Lutheran Church-Emmaus, for your life-giving ministry and for sharing some great ideas about how to increase awareness and enthusiasm for the CROP Hunger Walk and the AAE Food Bank to help our food insecure neighbors near and far!

Do you or your congregation/group have **CROP PHOTOS, VIDEOS, EXPERIENCES**, or **IDEAS** to share? Please **POST THEM** on social media and **SEND THEM** to 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/group leaders for delivery ASAP to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

Compounded by COVID-19 and its variants, as well as the war in Ukraine, hunger and malnutrition are life-threatening problems in our community, nation, and world.
THANK YOU for making a difference and helping our neighbors in need!

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...”
John 1.14

Ding! “I have a question for you in regards to my linguistic class. What do you think of the Bible verse in Genesis 11.9?”

That text came from my son in college.

The Genesis text in question reads, “Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

The Babel story can be picked up from Genesis 11.1-9. Basically, the people on all the earth spoke one language. They wanted to make a name for themselves. So, they decided to build a tower to reach the heavens. God did not like their plan and confused their language.

Ding! “I am talking about the implications this statement has with language being a divine source rather than a physically learned trait of the human race.”

He is a preacher’s kid. You gotta love him.

Certainly, the Babel story can be viewed from both an origin of multiple languages and an evolutionary process of language by the human race.

My son’s points of view enlightened me to take a look at how we Christians use language in worship. (In another article we can discuss the social, political, and theological ramifications of language.)

Take, for example, after each biblical reading, we conclude with the phrase The word of the Lord. Then again, after the reading of the Gospel, we conclude The Gospel of the Lord. Another liturgical church respond during worship is Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

In Scripture from John’s Gospel we read, “And the word became flesh and lived among us.” Jn. 1.14. Here is an evolutionarily human process that echoes a divine source in the language.

God’s language found in God’s Word, Jesus. The Word that became flesh. This divine source forms part of the written language and embodies the essence of God’s presences in the world.

Through Advent to Christmas Seasons, we seek Love. Joy. Hope. Peace. These words echo the divine. In these words, are the embodiment of The Word that became flesh.

Jesus as the embodiment of God is the divine source of the word of God. The Emmanuel, God is with us. Matthew 1.23

Feliz Navidad,

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

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Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers.

2023 Trips coming January 2023. They are in the Works!

