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February, 2023 LMD NL news will be due Jan. 13, 2023. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Community Free Dinners – St. John’s Lutheran Church, 1028 Church Street, Fogelsville. Dinners will continue 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.

Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering

We are grateful to all who made this important mission happen.

Our thanks to the 23 Churches in the Lehigh Mission who participated. We are thankful to St. John’s Lutheran church in Emmaus for sponsoring the Ingathering this year and the men from St. John’s who helped.

A lunch was served before some agencies came to pick up their gifts and small items. Thanks to the kitchen “Angel” who served us with the goodies.

We also thank the gentlemen from Keenan House who came to help us as well. They were most helpful and very appreciated.

The Christmas Ingathering serves many in need.

We continue serving the Lord and
all in need.

We wish all a most Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year
Lehigh Mission District Committee

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](tel:610-434-3943) or email LETalago@StLukesLuth.org. Thank you to all who help contribute things!!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk News

Hubert Huang, Director of Children and Families, shared First Presbyterian-Allentown’s 2022 Faith Formation CROP Hunger Walk experience and photos:

On World Communion Sunday, 10/2/22, the children of First Presbyterian Church of Allentown (FPCA) read and discussed scripture from Micah 6:8 that tells us to “do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” The scripture connected to FPCA’s fall sermon series focusing on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s marks of membership, specifically “working in the world for peace, justice, and human

fulfilment.” In their faith formation lesson, the children explored what justice meant, what injustice may look like in the world, and the ways in which they, as disciples of Jesus, can work toward helping others, particularly in relation to food insecurity and water scarcity in their communities and in the broader world.

The children then participated in a mini-CROP Hunger Walk through the church to visit several different stations. Each station had a series of pictures, infographics, and charts as well as activities that demonstrated elements of food insecurity that invited the children to discuss and better understand how food insecurity and water scarcity impact people, especially those in the Lehigh Valley. The lesson served as a springboard to FPCA’s 11/6/22 All Church Fellowship and Faith Formation Event that centered on food insecurity in our local community.

Thank you, First Presbyterian-Allentown, for your life-giving ministry and for sharing some great ideas about how to increase awareness and enthusiasm for the CROP Hunger Walk and other ministries to help our food insecure neighbors near and far!

The 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk has raised **OVER \$27,000 TO DATE!**

Let us continue to increase awareness of the need and encourage family, friends, and others to join us in helping our food insecure neighbors with **ONLINE GIFTS** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

Alternatively, **CHECKS FOR “CWS/CROP”** may be sent ASAP to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA: In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life to neighbors in need with a **GIFT TO “CWS/CROP”** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

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
God's Rainbow Promise of Life**

FIFA banned Pride Armbands from being worn on the soccer field at the 2022 World Cup held in Qatar. The Pride Armband is of rainbow colors with a heart shape and the number 1 inside the rainbow heart. The significance of the Pride Armband was to show support to the LGBTQ community.

Scroll the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod website and you'll find a similar rainbow heart shape with a cross inside center.

The soccer teams who planned on wearing the One Love Pride Armband reconsidered wearing them because of threats of being sanctioned with the possibility of not playing in the World Cup. (Nov. 22, 2022. wsj.com)

One could argue that social statements in solidarity with people who are being oppressed need not to be part of any sport. But such a statement only avoids the issue and encourages perpetrators to continue to inflict injustices to communities.

In the United States in Colorado Springs an LGBTQ nightclub shooting leaves 5 dead and several injured. (Nov. 21, 2022. wsj.com). The hate crime charge is one of hundreds of criminal charges filed against the shooter.

The 5 victims in the Club Q shooting were Daniel Aston, Kelly Loving, Ashley Paugh, Derrick Wayne Rump, and Raymond Green Vance.

One of the victims, Derrick Wayne Rump, was from the Kutztown, Pennsylvania area in the East Berks Mission District of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Sounds close to home, doesn't it? Sí, yes, because Rump and all the other victims belong to a family. We know of LGBTQ friends and relatives who form part of our life and the church who are being discriminated for wanting to live their life.

There's an ancient rainbow in the book of Genesis where God said to Noah, "I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh." Genesis 9.15-16.

God's ancient rainbow that today we see in the sky after a brief rain shower is God's reminder not to destroy humanity, living creatures, and the earth. It appears like God owns up to the idea that it was not good to destroy humanity and all living creatures.

Thus, God's rainbow serves as a promised reminder to God and us to not destroy humanity. God wants a relationship with humanity, and the created world, and all living creatures.

Why then the destructive religious and social discrimination against our LGBTQ siblings? God's rainbow embraces their promised life.

Life and relationships are God's covenant agreement sealed by the sign of a rainbow in the clouds for all to see. We can't miss it.

God makes a promise to enter in a relationship not destruction. To this end, we as humans are called to relationships that bring out our life together. As God made the rainbow a promise for life, we ought to adopt it as our own reminder to provide life for the LGBTQ communities. God's rainbow promise is for us all.

Happy New Year!

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3

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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.

Mar 15 (Wed.) – Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre – SISTER ACT

Based on the musical comedy movie, *Sister Act* tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva, whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look – a convent! Under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps the secluded sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own. A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, *Sister Act* is reason to rejoice!

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 - Cost \$117

Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 16

MULTI-DAY TRIPS

April 20 to April 23, 2023 (Thur - Sun) – PARADE OF NATIONS AND VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

This trip includes a 3-course dinner on The Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise, Reserved seats for the 70th Annual Parade of Nations, a performance of the Virginia International Tattoo Show (the term "Tattoo" here is a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands from around the world including acrobats, choral groups, and precision military drill teams), and much more. **Call the office to receive a full itinerary and pricing. Final payment is due by March 1, 2023**

September 17 to September 23, 2023 (Sun.-Sat.) – CHICAGO WITH AN 2 OVERNIGHTS IN CLEVELAND - Join Operation

Sunshine to visit one of the great cities of the US, Chicago, IL. This fun-filled trip is packed with activity. On our way out to Chicago, we will stop for an overnight in Cleveland where we will visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In Chicago, we will have a guided bus tour of the city, a visit to the Navy Pier is also in our itinerary. We will visit Chicago's famous "Skydeck," the Shedd Aquarium, the Lincoln Park Observatory, a cruise on Lake Michigan and More!

For pricing and complete itinerary please call the office. Our overnight in Cleveland on the return trip will include a bus tour of the city. Call the office to receive a full itinerary and pricing. Final payment is due by July 31, 2023.