

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean
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April, 2023 LMD NL news will be due March 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.

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!!

Allentown Collaborative Ministries
Journey Through the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday

12PM - Muhlenberg College - Brief Worship & Confession with Imposition of Ashes

12PM - Redeemer Lutheran Church - Worship with Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

7:30PM - Muhlenberg College - Worship with Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Midweek Food & Faith Gatherings

12PM - St. Timothy Lutheran Church - Lenten Series Discussion with Soup & Salad Lunch

Maunder Thursday

12PM - Redeemer Lutheran Church - Worship with Holy Communion

7:30PM - Christ Lutheran Church - Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday

12PM-3PM - St. Luke’s Lutheran Church - Open Prayer & Contemplation

7:30PM - St. John’s Lutheran Church - Tenebrae Service

Easter Vigil

7:30PM - Christ Lutheran Church

CROP Thank You, Update, and Gift Idea

Thank you for helping our 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$32262.54** (as of 1/31/23) to help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe!

As a result of your faithful efforts, the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and

Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen will each receive **over \$4000** for their vital ministries, and our food insecure neighbors who have survived floods, drought, war (including our **Ukrainian** neighbors), earthquakes (including our neighbors in **Turkey** and **Syria**), and other disasters are receiving life-giving assistance.

Let’s 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.

BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY 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>



**Dear Lehigh Mission District
Why do you strike me?**

“One of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face.” John 18.22 (NRSV) The Gospel of John bears witness that Jesus was struck on the face by a police officer.

Jesus was arrested and bound. He was under investigation. He was taken to the authorities for questioning at the courtyard. As Jesus answered questions, out of nowhere - Pow! Boom! Slap! - a police officer struck Jesus in the face. All because the police didn't like the way Jesus answered the authorities. One would think that while Jesus was under the custody of the authorities at the courtyard that he would be safe during the interrogation proceedings.

This police violence in the courtyard is not something of the past. Recently, police violence was caught on body cameras released by the Memphis Police Department. The footage showed five police officers brutally beating Tyre Nichols while under their custody. The nationally televised video showed five Black officers punching, kicking, tasing, and striking with batons a young Black man. Three days later Nichols died from the beating received from the five officers. It all started from a traffic stop that led to a foot chase.

From antiquity to our present day, the cycle of police violence and destruction continues in societies.

Let's be clear: we need to differentiate between good police officers who protect and serve civilians every day and the rogue officers who have created a culture of police violence and destruction.

The police violence Jesus experienced at the courtyard took place in the presence of the authorities during his preliminary hearing. Jesus was abused under the hands of the police while in front of the authorities.

The officer was out of line. Yet the authorities were silent. The officer was not reprimanded. No corrective action plans. There was no write up. No disciplinary action. No accountability. The police officer was not even removed from his post at the scene. The authorities implicitly granted the police qualified immunity. The officer was free to violate Jesus' rights in their presence. Jesus didn't stand a chance.

The courtyard scene showed a culture of police violence that embodied the personality of the authorities. These patterns of complicity between officers and their precincts continue to violate human rights today.

Jesus was a victim of police violence. As constituents cry out for police reform, the hope is for police officers, precincts, and legislators to honorably see justice.

Have a safe Lenten Journey,
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.

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 - Return approx. 5:15 PM
Cost \$117 - Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 16, 2023

April 27 (Thur.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS: The exotic Orient Express is about to go off the rails! With a train full of suspects and an alibi for each one, it's the perfect mystery for detective Hercule Poirot, n'est ce pas? Adapted from Agatha Christie's masterpiece. Private Buffet Luncheon at The Stage Tavern in Mountainside featuring main courses of House-Made Cheese Ravioli, Chicken Piccata and Herb Roasted Pork Loin with Mushroom Gravy. All this served buffet style with soup and salad, some sides and assortment of desserts.
Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM - Return approx. 5:00 PM
Cost \$130 - Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar. 9, 2023

MULTI-DAY TRIPS

April 20 to April 23, 2023 (Thru - 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! 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.**