

New NEPA Synod Director for Evangelical Mission

Welcome to the NEPA Synod and to the Lehigh Mission District, Deacon Kathleen Tigerman.

Deacon Kathleen Tigerman is the New NEPA Synod Director for Evangelical Mission.

In 2012, Deacon Tigerman was consecrated as a deacon by The Lutheran Deaconess Association. In 2016, Deacon Kat was rostered in the ELCA.

Deacon Tigerman undergrad is a BA from Valparaiso and a MATS from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

In addition, Deacon Tigerman brings experiences as an executive director with non-profit organizations.

Welcome to the Lehigh Mission District!

Construction has started at Luther Crest on their new Greenwood building. This building will hold an additional 70 independent living apartments and is estimated to be completed in early 2024. Luther Crest is also in the process of renovating their existing facilities. If you are interested in learning more, contact 610-391-8229 or visit their website at www.luthercrestgw.org



*June 2023 LMD NL news
will be due May 15, 2023.*

Please email any information to
lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com

A Bottomless Coffee

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

After arriving in Philadelphia one summer for a two-week course on preaching, I went out in search of breakfast. I grabbed my Mt. Airy Restaurant Guide. My fingers cruised the pages to see where I could grab a coffee and a bagel.

From the plethora of options, I stopped at InFusion: "A Coffee & Tea Gallery." The coffee shop's theme was "Think Globally, Meet Locally."

The barista, a young woman with a bronze Indian complexion, greeted me and took my order. "A Bottomless Coffee, a muffin, and a newspaper," she replied, "Is that all?"

An African bass accent resounded in a conversation around the corner talking about Buddha. Interesting, I thought. His bass voice had the cadence of James Earl Jones.

I sat down on a chair, took a sip of coffee and a huge bite of my muffin. "Mmm, que rico - delicious." As I looked around, two women walked in. They were holding hands and smiling at each other. From the counter a loud shout from the barista called out, "Latte and bagel!"

An Anglo woman sat at the table in front of me. We greeted each other with pleasant smiles. I resumed my search for what I was looking for -- an encounter with God in a non-traditional space, as that was the preaching assignment.

My ears were zeroing in in anticipation of the first sound of what be the voice of God. "Ole!" The barista shouted another coffee order.

The couple sitting to the left of me were discussing next year's school semester. "Language is a requirement," he told her. An African-American woman was typing on her MacBook. She looked serene and at the same time wise with her grayish dreadlocks.

A young college-age man shouted to the barista that he was going to the patio. He waved to the barista at the counter, who tore the ticket order form from her notebook. The blender goes off with a blast. Then the coffee grinder. I wanted to scream, "People stop the noise! I am trying to listen to God! I've got a project to do here, por favor!"

I decided to take a break and stretch. I walked over to take a look at the patio. "Nice tent," I thought as I gave it a quick inspection. I walked back inside and noticed a book on a table called *Every Living Thing*. Nearby was a children's table with books and toys in bins. The petite chairs were waiting patiently for children to arrive.

I approached the counter for another cup of bottomless coffee and regrouped my thoughts. I noticed a fellow classmate deep in thought reading a book. I heard the African voice talking about a soccer team. By the excitement in his voice, it seemed like his team won.

An older woman walked in and stood next to me. She smiled. "Just a cup of coffee." She says to the barista. "Yes, to go." *(continued on the next page ⇒)*

LMD Announcements:

**Leslie Elizabeth Talago,
LMD Treasurer**
April 4, 1957 - April 7, 2023

I bring you the sad news that Leslie Talago, LMD Treasurer, passed away on Good Friday. Her funeral service will be held Saturday, April 15th at 12:00 Noon at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Calling hours will be from 10 A.M. to Noon. The link below is Leslie's obituary. Please keep Leslie's family, friends, and St. Luke's congregation where she was the parish administrator in your thoughts and prayers.

<https://www.stephensfuneral.com/obituary/leslie-elizabeth-talago/>



Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly

Lutheran Center, Allentown
Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 4PM
Register Now:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflGShqeQh_fbVrcb_YWJAMPNaZWsvR3Z4cZ8r7Oy9RIVme9w/viewform

Rostered Leaders, Lay Delegates, and visitors are welcome to attend the Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly. Come and hear our guest speaker: Growing Young Coordinator, Stacy Burke.

Synod Assembly "Going Beyond 2023"

Set for June 1-3 at Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. *Register Now:*
<https://nepasynod.org/assembly23/>

(continued from previous page) And as I waited to hear God's voice the thought of Jesus' prayer that he taught to his disciples came to mind, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread."

There I was surrounded by a global community that hinted at a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth. The aroma of incense from the ground coffee beans filled the air. Here was an atmosphere that was indifferent to our differences, a heaven as God intended: to be in community with one another; a kingdom blended and ground by the hands of a divine coffeemaker.

This brief celestial moment brought many to become one, free as we were meant to be, and smiled to see the sparkle of the divine within. This corner of the world, as in many corners in the world, served as a reminder of God's heaven on earth.

As I glanced around the coffee shop, the chatter from the voices for a second seemed muted. The aroma of this blend was distinctive. The Bottomless Coffee became my daily bread.

That evening as I gathered my thoughts, I stopped at Wawa for my evening coffee. As I waited in line to pay the cashier, the person behind me began to talk to me. "I'm sorry," I said, "You look familiar." "Yeah, you came in this morning to the coffee shop."

I was looking for God's voice locally and encountered an infused global community. Jesus said, "For behold the kingdom of God is within you." *Luke 17:21*

Enjoy your coffee,
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Lehigh Mission District Dean

SPRING FILM FEST

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya

Thursday May 11, 2023
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (OR) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
At Christ Lutheran Church
(1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown)

View and discuss this classic, award winning film with other spiritual seekers, led by Rev. Tom Lichner

See flyer for details.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING:

Mark your calendars: This year's date is
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
At St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus
Thank you for all your support!



OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155

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

Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Website: 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.

June 13 – Doolan's Shore Club
COUNTRY HALL OF FAMERS:
CASH, PARTON AND DENVER

September 17 to September 23, 2023
CHICAGO WITH 2 OVERNIGHTS IN CLEVELAND

See website for details.

CROP Hunger Walk: Helping Neighbors Near and Far

Thank you for helping our 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$32345.87** 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.

Please Save These CROP Dates:

Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 8, 2023**, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104

Find more **information** about the life-saving work of Church World Service at www.crophungerwalk.org

CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 27, 2023, 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