

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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www.LMDopsunshine.com

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

Can you believe it is November 2023 already and the holidays are just around the corner. Well, here's an early Christmas present. Attached you will find the Operation Sunshine 2024 Newsletter for January through June.

Have a great holiday season! We are looking forward to traveling with you soon.

Paula & Dick Skelly (Co-Trip Coordinators) and the Operation Sunshine Volunteers

Upcoming Trips Include:

- **Mar. 21, 2024** (Thursday)
Fulton Theatre – 9 TO 5
- **April 4, 2024** (Thursday)
Bristol Riverside Theatre – BIG, THE MUSICAL
- **May 9, 2024** (Thursday)
Fulton Theatre – SOUTH PACIFIC

See website or attached newsletter for more dates and trip details.



January 2024 LMD NL news will be due December 11, 2023.

Please email any information to imd_newslettereditor@gmail.com

A Christmas Message from the Dean

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

Can you believe it? The Christmas Season is upon us. Although, the Christmas Season arrived at our home with my wife, Jessica, beginning to decorate the Christmas Tree a week before Halloween. I am sure you have seen the photos of her beautifully decorated Christmas Tree on her Facebook page.

As one who follows the church liturgical calendar year, I have to say I couldn't wait to hear some Christmas carols. After I took out the Christmas ornaments and my wife began to decorate the tree, I went on to Netflix and put on the movie Elf as background to continue the merry atmosphere.

My spirit felt soothed seeing the Christmas Tree come alive. The rumors of wars in the world were hushed for a moment.

By the beginning of the second week in November radio stations were already playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving Day.

Let me add to the festive mood that Christmas came early to me and St. John's Fogelsville in November. We dedicated a 1883 Martin Luther Statue. We received the gifts of a new sidewalk, a new landscape, a new coat of paint on the railings and on the entrance steps, and repairs to the parking lot. Merry Christmas!!!

Should people wait and be patient and hold on to the liturgical church calendar year? Many of my colleagues think so.

However, the Christmas Season is but a brief moment in the calendar year. The candles on the Advent Wreath defines the season as one of hope, joy, love, peace, and Jesús.

That is the Christian belief.

If you ask me, the people who begin Christmas early are awake to these expectations that define the Christmas Season.

Why would some ministers of the gospel want to be a scrooge because some people started the Christmas Season before Halloween and Thanksgiving?

The Christmas spirit is to be awakened to the hope, joy, peace, love, and The Christ of Christmas. In this short Christmas Season, we are to be awake of the life we share together.

Merry Christmas!!!
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

Reminders:

ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

Wednesday, December 6th
St. John's Lutheran Church
(501 Chestnut St, Emmaus)

Thank you for your support
with this Ministry. We wish
all a most Blessed
Thanksgiving!



UPCOMING NEPA SYNOD EVENTS:

details and registration on
<https://nepasynod.org/events/>

**Generosity Extravaganza
2024: Tools For Today**
January 20, 2024
8:30 AM to 3:45 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church
(1000 W. Main Street, Lansdale)

You will learn usable ideas
and programs to help develop
a culture of generosity in your
congregation. Keynote
speaker Grace Duddy Pomroy
on creating Alternative
Funding Methods for
congregations.

Bishop's Conference 2024
February 6-7, 2024
Shawnee Inn and Resort
(100 Shawnee Inn Drive,
Shawnee on Delaware, PA)

Topic: Finding Holy Focus in
Hungering Times

Registration now open-
register by January 2nd



A fun night out...String Art by Lisa
Friday, December 1st at 6:30 PM
St. Mark Lutheran Church
(201 E. Juniata St, Allentown)

Call the church office, if you have any
questions or to sign-up: 610-797-6440

\$45 for each design
PAYMENT IS DUE THE NIGHT
OF THE EVENT!!

18 different designs to choose from.

There will be refreshments and a special
raffle basket (bring non-perishable food
items and you will receive a ticket).

You can check it out or make a reservation
at: [String Art with Lisa at St. Mark's
Lutheran Church Fundraiser Allentown](#)
on Facebook.

Grace Notes Gospel Big Band Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 PM
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
(140 S. Ott Street, Allentown)
*Parking available on the street
& across the street*

PLEASE JOIN US!
A free will offering will be accepted.
Stay for a Christmas Cookie
Reception afterwards!



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.
Next meal: January 19th. Free dinners are
served "to-go", while supplies last.
All are welcome.



THANK YOU to all the faithful walkers, community
leaders, support crew, sponsors and other donors
who participated in the Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023,
Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk!

If you or your congregation/group took any CROP
Hunger Walk PHOTOS or VIDEOS, please POST
THEM on social media and SEND THEM to
karehad@gmail.com to include in our follow-up
emails to congregations and other CROP supporters!

CONGRATULATIONS to all who received awards at
the Opening Ceremony! And special thanks to Mark
and Linda Held for making the awards!

2022 Golden Sneaker: Asbury Spirit, Allentown
2022 Silver Sandal: Calvary Moravian, Allentown
2022 Bronze Booty: Church of the Mediator, Allentown



Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!



CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA:
In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life!
DONATE to the CROP Hunger Walk at
<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

Alternatively, CHECKS FOR "CWS/CROP"
may be given through your congregation/group for
delivery ASAP to Linda Held, Allentown CROP
Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road,
Allentown, PA 18103.

The Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk helps
food-insecure neighbors locally through the
LEHIGH CHURCHES' CONFERENCE KITCHEN
and the ALLENTOWN AREA ECUMENICAL
FOOD BANK. Our CROP Walk funds also
supports CHURCH WORLD SERVICE.

THANK YOU for making a difference!