

**Happy
New Year**

REMINDERS to the Lehigh Mission District Rostered Leaders

*Please keep the following
dates on your calendars:*

**January 10, 2024 -
Legacy & Ministry**
Deacon Travis Woodfield,
Director of Congregation
Legacy & Purpose

**February 5-7, 2024 -
Bishop's Conference**
"Finding Holy Focus in
Hungering Times"
at Shawnee Inn and Resort

**March 13, 2024 -
Wholesome Attitudes
Toward Other Religions**
The Rev. Dr. Roger Timm

**April 10, 2024 - Collapse &
Restructuring of the ELCA**
The Rev. Thomas Busted

**May 5, 2024 - LMD Spring
Assembly 2024 at 4:00 P.M.**
Lutheran Center, Allentown

June - Synod Assembly - TBD

July/August - off

*Event updates will be made
available at meetings and
here, in the LMD Newsletter.*



*February 2024 LMD NL news
will be due January 15, 2024.*

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

Photo credit: Ricki Rosen, Amer. photojournalist

The Holy Innocents

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

As the world comes together to celebrate the New Year this 2024, I have wondered how can we celebrate a new year when the issues from last year trail right behind us?

Many Christians around the world celebrated Christmas a couple of days ago. We celebrated the birth of the Christ child coming into the world. Now move over Christmas fiesta! It is New Year's Day!

But the church liturgical calendar does not allow us to jump over that one prickly church festival - The Martyrs of the Holy Innocents.

The story is about Joseph and Mary taking their child Jesus to Egypt for safety. Herod had "sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under." Matthew 2:16

The parent's shelter in Egypt served as a reminder of yet another massacre of innocent children under Pharaoh.

The death of one child is one too many. The Israel-Hamas War has caused the massacre of many holy innocent children.

According to Professor Geoffrey Claussen, "As a rabbi, Jewish ethicist, father, and human being, I am horrified by the continuation of attacks killing innocent children. While I understand responding to heinous crimes by attacking those who perpetrated them, I believe that all children deserve to live and thrive, whether they are Israeli or Palestinian. In the Jewish communities in which I travel, this view is widely shared."

The writer points out that "at least 7,000 Palestinian children have been killed by the Israeli military." ("In My Words: Killing children in the Israel-Hamas war is not justified" by Geoffrey Claussen.)

Happy New Year?

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean



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.

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Learning Ministries Day
Trusting God: Doing a New Thing
Saturday, January 27, 2024
(Snow date: February 3)
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Atonement Lutheran Church
(5 Wyomissing Blvd
Wyomissing, PA 19610)

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Maggie Wellert

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

Presenter: The Rev. Dr.
Nathan Swenson-Reinhold

Registration now open-
register by January 2nd

From LMD Christmas Ingathering:
Thank you to all who made this ministry possible.

Christmas gifts and needed items were collected and distributed to many agencies. We want to thank St John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus for sponsoring the Ingathering. It is a blessing to see God's work in action by serving and helping others.

A Blessed Christmas and Healthy New Year to you!



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.

All the 2024 shows are currently SOLD OUT!!!

If you are still interested, we encourage you to put your name on a wait list as we invariably have cancellations, especially this far out.

See attached newsletter or website for details.



THANK YOU again 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!



BIRTHDAY OR 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>

The CROP 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 and their life-saving disaster assistance, displacement assistance, and long-term development assistance with our neighbors in need throughout the United States and around the globe, including victims of floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes, wars, and other humanitarian crises.

THANK YOU for making a difference!