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The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Dean  
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## Godspeed, Linda Smith

On behalf of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the Lehigh Mission District Council, and mission district congregations, we want to thank Linda Smith for her service, dedication, and faithfulness as LMD Newsletter Editor.

Being the editor for over 10 years, Smith has overseen the publication of the LMD Newsletter with devotion. As she goes into a new endeavor, we want to once again thank Smith for her service in the Lehigh Mission District. God Bless.

We welcome Linda Gery as the new LMD Newsletter Editor. Gery is a Kutztown University graduate with a BFA in Communication Design.

She is the administrative assistant at St John's Lutheran Church, Fogelsville. For the last 23 years, as a professional administrator she has designed and overseen the web pages, newsletter, and other responsibilities.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,  
Lehigh Mission District  
Dean



May 2023 LMD NL news  
will be due April 10, 2023.

Please email any information to  
[imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com)

## Bipartisan Conversation on Gun Reform

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

*The following letter was mailed out to United States Senators  
Robert P. Casey, Jr. and John Fetterman.*

On behalf of the Lehigh Mission District of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this letter is to ask you to move forward with bipartisan conversation of gun reform in our state of Pennsylvania.

We are asking legislators to discuss and develop common-sense gun safety laws. With assault weapons and guns in the streets and nationwide school shootings we are in need of new gun laws.

As a Lutheran pastor and Lehigh Mission District Dean in the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod, I represent one mission district out of 9 in the NEPA Synod that is composed of 249 congregations.

In 2022, at our annual NEPA Synod Assembly, the gun reform resolution was sent to the deans in the 9 missions districts for action.

Common-sense gun safety laws are an important topic in the Lehigh Mission District and in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Gun reform is personal to me. My wife is a public school teacher. In addition, this year at my alma mater, Louis E. Dieruff High School, a student brought a loaded gun to school. (The Morning Call, February 1, 2023, "Student brought gun to Dieruff High School Wednesday, three intruder incidents at Allen High in the last week" by Jenny Roberts).

I offer the following Lutheran prayer,  
"God of righteousness, you have laid on our elected leaders the responsibility to protect our land. Strengthen their devotion to our common life, and guide legislators to enact policies that address our plague of gun violence. That our government may support our search for domestic harmony, we pray: make us instruments of your peace." (All Creation Sings, 107)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In the Name of the One who came to serve,  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,  
Lehigh Mission District Dean

## LMD Announcements and Registrations:

**Rostered Leaders Meeting** set for Wednesday, April 12 at 9:30 A.M. at the Lutheran Center, Allentown. Bishop Christopher deForest will be joining us as we discuss Michael Girlinghouse's book *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past*. A free copy can be picked up at the Lutheran Center. Please see Laurie Christman.

**Chrism Mass & Affirmation of Call** held at the Lutheran Center. Bishop Christopher deForest invites all Northeastern PA Synod Deacons, Pastors, Synod Authorized Lay Ministers, and Pastoral Care Providers to the Lutheran Center, (2354 Grove Rd., Allentown) on Tuesday, April 4 at 11 AM.

For registration and more information click below:

<https://onrealm.org/NEPSynod/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzRiNmJlMWMtOTZlOS00ODk4LTIkMGltYWZlMDAxMzFIMmE3>

**Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly** set for May 7 at 4 P.M. at the Lutheran Center. The link below is an invitation to Pastors, Deacons, Lay Delegates, and Visitors to register to attend the Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly at the Lutheran Center in Allentown. This year we will need to elect a Lay Male Delegate to attend the Churchwide Assembly [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIGShgeQh\\_fbVrcb\\_YWJAMPNzWsvR3Z4cZ8r7Oy9RIVme9w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIGShgeQh_fbVrcb_YWJAMPNzWsvR3Z4cZ8r7Oy9RIVme9w/viewform)

**Synod Assembly "Going Beyond 2023"** set for June 1-3 at Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. Upcoming information for Registration link: <https://nepasynod.org/assembly23/>

**The Clothes Closet is open:** They 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 or email [LETalago@StLukesLuth.org](mailto:LETalago@StLukesLuth.org). Thank you to all who help contribute things!!

**Allentown Collaborative Ministries Journey Through the Lenten Season:**  
Midweek Food & Faith Gatherings  
12PM - St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
Lenten Series Discussion with Soup & Salad Lunch

Maundy Thursday  
12PM - Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Worship with Holy Communion  
7:30PM - Christ Lutheran Church  
Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday  
12PM to 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

### **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 the hallways of their existing apartment buildings with new carpet, paint and lighting, as well as completely renovating their dining rooms, creating a better dining experience for the residents. If you are interested in learning more, you can contact them at 610-391-8229 or visit their website at [www.luthercrestgw.org](http://www.luthercrestgw.org).

St. John's Allentown is hosting a **Yard Sale** on Saturday, April 29 from 9AM to 1PM.

The proceeds will benefit the Quilting Ministry and Community Social Outreach Programs. They are accepting donations of small household items on Sunday, April 23, Monday, April 24 and Tuesday, April 25.

Questions: please call the church office at 610-435-1587.



### **OPERATION SUNSHINE**

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109  
(note the new address)  
Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3  
Email: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)  
Website: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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.*

May 10 (Wed.) – Media Theatre  
MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

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

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

**See website or attachment for details.**

### **CROP Hunger Walk: Helping Neighbors Near and Far**

**Thank you** for helping our 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$32345.87** (as of 3/7/23) 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.

### **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](http://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