

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



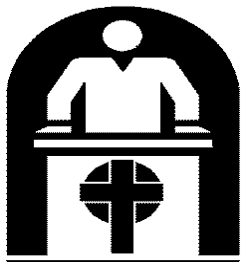
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MARCH 2021



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dear Members and Friends,

We are now into our Lenten season. In just a few short weeks we will be entering Holy Week, my favorite week of the liturgical year. As we head into Holy Week, we picture in our minds what Christ went through during His last days on this earth. God's entire plan of salvation would come to completion during this short span of time,

as His Son would take our punishment upon Himself, die the death that we deserved, and make us right with God again. Let the images below fill your minds as you pray and meditate on the events of this most holy of weeks.

Palm Sunday: The people of Jerusalem waved palm branches and welcomed Jesus with the words, "*Hosanna to the Son of David!*" Wave your palm branches this day to remember this parade of praise before Christ's Passion.

Maundy Thursday: On the night He was betrayed, Jesus shared His Last Supper with His disciples in an upper room. In the simple forms of bread and wine, which are His body and blood, Christ would share the forgiveness of sins. By partaking of the bread and wine of Holy Communion with fellow believers in Christ on this day, we remember our Lord's sacrifice and receive His redemption.

Good Friday: Wearing a crown of thorns, Jesus was mocked by soldiers as He went to the cross to die for our sins. "*Hail, King of the Jews!*" they said with a laugh. "*Hail, King of all!*" we say with great awe this day as we recall what Christ has done! We lift our eyes to the cross of Christ on this Good Friday 2000 years later and recognize that our sins were nailed to it and the ways of wickedness were put to death there forever.

Easter Vigil: As Christ lies buried in a garden tomb we wait in silence on this Holy Saturday and remember what Jesus said, "*I shall not die, but live.*" The beautiful lilies shaped like mini trumpets prepare us for the good news of salvation and everlasting life that will be trumpeted throughout the world on Easter morning: "*He is risen. Alleluia!*"

As we journey together in this Lenten season may God's Holy Spirit guide you, inspire you, and bring to you the Good News of the resurrection.

Blessings, Pastor Miller

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbville.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPE

Extra envelopes are available in the church office or from a parking lot assistant.

THE FOOD BANK

With the church being closed for meetings and worship at this time, we are not collecting food items for the Allentown Food Bank. We ask that you don't bring anything until we ask you to bring food in again.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

March 14th Daylight Savings begins. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night (March 13th.)



THRIVENT T-SHIRTS

A few Thrivent T-shirts were found in the storage closet. They are various sizes. If you are interested, call the office or speak with a parking lot assistant.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

“Quick Facts and Update on the COVID-19 Vaccines”

Peggy Saylor, RN

Updates on the COVID-19 vaccines occur frequently but I thought I would take the opportunity this month to do a “quick facts and update” based on a bulletin issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as of February 10, 2021. It will probably be outdated by the time you are reading this but at least we will be “in the know” within a few weeks time span!

1. As of 2/15/21 – the two vaccines currently approved are Pfizer-BioNTech (16 years of age and older) and Moderna (18 years of age and older.)
2. The second dose of Pfizer is recommended for 21 days after the first, Moderna at 28 days. If a delay is unavoidable or it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, the CDC states that the second dose may be administered up to 6 weeks after the first dose.
3. Doses of a mixed product series (one dose of Pfizer and one of Moderna) have not been evaluated for efficacy and safety so both doses should be of the same product.
4. Unless the benefits are outweighed by the risks, there should be a minimum of 14 days between the COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine.
5. Most local reactions (sore arm) and systemic post-vaccination symptoms (fever, fatigue, chills, etc.) are mild to moderate in severity, usually occurring within the first three days of vaccination and resolve within 1 – 3 days. It appears that the symptoms are more frequent and severe following the second dose and among younger persons compared to older persons (ages over 55 years of age.)

Continued on page 5

6. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as Tylenol can be taken for side effects after the vaccination. However, routine taking of medication prior to vaccination to prevent symptoms afterwards is NOT recommended at this time.
7. There is no contraindication for persons having a latex allergy to not have the vaccine. The vial containing the vaccine does not have a latex stopper.
8. Fully vaccinated persons with exposure to someone having COVID or suspected of having COVID are not required to quarantine if they meet ALL of the following criteria: are 2 weeks past their 2 dose series or 2 weeks past a 1 dose series, are within 3 months of the last dose in the series and have remained without symptoms following exposure. This being said, these are CDC guidelines so if you are in this situation – please check with your employer prior to return to work. The exception to this is if you are presently an inpatient or resident in a healthcare setting where quarantining is still recommended.

We will need to continue to wear masks, social distance, and perform good hand washing for the unforeseeable future. However, hang in there; we will get through this with the help of God!

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

We are starting to take bulletin sponsorships for 2021. Because the building is closed for worship and we are only having one parking lot service, we are dropping the price to \$10.00. When the building opens again the price will return to \$20.00.

Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor. I ask that you wait to pay for the bulletin until that date. Just in case you pick a future date and we open, it will save you from having to write another check. Don't worry if you forget to pay, I give reminder calls.

PRAYER CHAIN COMMITTEE



A note to let you know that if anyone is in need of additional prayers for someone in your family or someone you know, please call Judy Walker at 610-351-6040 or cell # 610-573-7117. She will start the prayer chain by calling the people who serve on that committee. They in turn will keep extra prayers going for that person. All we need is a name of someone in need of prayer; a reason does not have to be given as to why you want the extra prayers.

If you would like to become a member of this committee, just let me know. I am contacting the Prayer Chain Committee electronically using text messages and email from my cell phone. If you do not have a cell phone or computer, we can still contact you by phone. So if you want to be of service to those who need extra prayers, just contact me using the numbers above or see me at Church. This only takes a brief amount of time and there are no meetings to attend! We all need extra prayers and they do not take a lot of time but are of great comfort.

HOSPITALIZED?

Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the pastor can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

Please take note, that if you are admitted on a Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the pastor will not be aware that you are hospitalized until Monday mid-morning, since the church does not have office hours on Friday, and the hospital pastoral care office is not available on Saturday or Sunday.

This means, if you would like the Pastor to know you are hospitalized on the weekend, please call the church office or the Pastor.

PASSING OF ESTHER NOLFE

Esther Nolfé passed away on Saturday, February 20th. There will be a graveside service on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's U. C. C. cemetery.



Even though we are not physically attending church, we are still taking care of sending cards to the members of the congregation. If you know of someone who is ill or hospitalized, please let the office know. Judy Szukics will be contacted and she will send a card signed from the congregation.

PASSING OF LOIS BORTZ

The church has been notified by Scott Bortz, son of Lois Bortz that she passed away on Monday, February 15th peacefully after a long battle with an illness. She relocated to South Carolina to be closer to her family a few years ago.

Lois also had two more sons, Gary and David.

If anyone is interested, memorials in her name can be sent to:
Univ. of South Carolina
Gift of body program
Columbia SC 29208

A BREATH OF FRESH PRAYER



Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most.”

Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”

LAUD & HONOR ON PALM SUNDAY

The Palm Sunday anthem “All Glory Laud and Honor” is one of Christendom’s oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer “because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor.”

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.

SETTING CAPTIVES FREE

Though St. Patrick’s Day has become a secular “holiday,” March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn’t very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. “The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes” in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, “I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God’s promises.”

PAYING IT BACK — AND FORWARD

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

GOD IN MY HANDS

When I was ready to give up on the Church, it was the sacraments that pulled me back.

When my faith had become little more than an abstraction, a set of propositions to be affirmed or denied, the tangible, tactile nature of the sacraments invited me to touch, smell, taste, hear, and see God in the stuff of everyday life again. They got God out of my head and into my hands. They reminded me that Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people. They reminded me that, try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own.

—Rachel Held Evans

THE COMFORT CONNECTION

Amid suffering, we might feel alone and wonder what good can come of it. But later we may discover ourselves equipped to serve precisely because of what we experienced.

Writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin stated: “You think your pain and heartbreak are unprecedented ... but then you read. [Books] taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive or who had ever been alive.” Whether through books or direct human interaction, we often learn that our suffering connects us to other people and that our pain gains meaning by moving us to support someone else who’s hurting.

Paul writes of such connection: “Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV). May you share the comfort you have received from God with others in pain. As a bonus, along the way you’ll realize you’re not — and never have been — alone.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NORTHEAST PA SYNOD

CORRECTION ON CONVENTION DATE FOR 2021

- Proposed June 12 for Convention and Justice Event.
 - o Would have convention in a.m. and justice event in the p.m.
 - p.m. would be a bible study on racial unity. Peter and Cornelius from Acts chapter 10.
 - Possibly a catered lunch.
 - o The board is expecting to know by March if we can have an in-person event.



1 Monica Parker	12 Betty Moyer
5 Aaron Parker	17 Mitzi Younger
6 Larry Schneider	19 Maddox Rampen
8 Joe Flores	20 Jennifer Schmoyer
9 Dawn Wertz	20 Pamela Zahour
10 Bruce Wagaman	25 Matthew Morgenstern
11 Rita Miller	27 Joyce Bastain
12 Ruth Berghold	27 Liam Nemeh
12 Avie Cope	28 Ellie Pisauro
12 Susan Ferguson	



31 Westley & Laurin Mironov

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Carole Beck	Frank Bennighoff	Brooke Brumbach
Helen Kessler	Martha Lindenmuth	Heather Sedlak
Larry Schneider	John Thomas	Marilyn Thomas

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Ina Knoll:

Henry & Flora Lichtenwalner
Daisy Pearson
Kay Schlenker

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Roland Grammes:
William & Marie Klotz

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
MARCH 14, 2021**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THIS DATE.**



Preparing for Easter

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE





EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org

STAFF

Pastor..... The Rev. Carey L. Miller
Organist/Choir Director Ms. Judy Noll
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz
Parish Secretary Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky

MARCH 2021 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
	1	2	3 7:00 p.m.-Back To Worship Committee	4	5	6																																										
7 3 RD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship	8	9	10 7:00 p.m.-Council	11	12	13																																										
14 4 TH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 	15	16	17 	18	19	20 																																										
21 5 TH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27																																										
28 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 	29 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	30	31			<div> <div>April 2021</div> <table> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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PARKING LOT ASSISTANTS

March 2021

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month - Anita Eisenhard - 484-221-0445

Sunday, March 7, 2021

10:00AM

Jennifer Bentsen
Calvin Fetherolf
Tom Kellogg
Daisy Pearson
Carl Seibert

Sunday, March 21, 2021

10:00AM

Jennifer Bentsen
Anita Eisenhard
Richard Hartley
Angie Kropf
Calvin Fetherolf

Sunday, March 14, 2021

10:00AM

Frank Bennighoff
Sharon Bortz
Bob Nickisher
Peggy Saylor
Sandi Wagaman

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

10:00AM

Tom Kellogg
Daisy Pearson
Janine Ritter
Ken Ritter
Carl Seibert
Sandi Wagaman

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Save the Dates: June 4 & 5, 2021

Online Synod Assembly

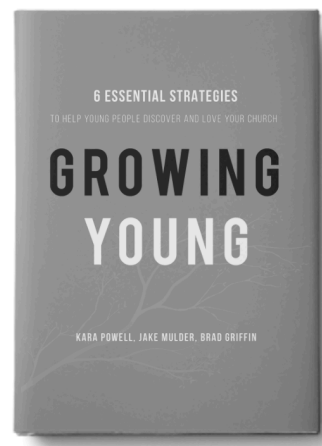
We are moving forward on our Synod Assembly for June 4-5, 2021. The decision has been made to once again conduct our assembly online, for the safety of all participants. The theme will be "Growing Young and Vital" and will feature new ideas for ministry around three *vital signs* – healing the hurting, loving the land, and engaging the stranger. Registration will begin after March 31. We will also know by the end of March, more details about the program and the hours of each day's schedule. For now, save the dates and stay tuned for more information coming soon, over the next few weeks.



Growing Young & Vital
Northeastern PA Synod

Growing Young

Want to reverse the effects of aging? Need more energy in your life? Sick of fine lines and wrinkles? Check out Growing Young! **What is Growing Young?** It is a movement in NEPA and throughout the greater ELCA and beyond that is based on a book of the same name which studied churches of all sizes, denominations and locations throughout the country who are maintaining and attracting youth and young adults in their congregations.



The authors of Growing Young have identified **6 key strategies** that these congregations have and that others congregations can utilize to help youth and young people discover and love the church. They are: **Unlocking keychain leadership, Empathizing with today's young people, Taking Jesus' message seriously, Fuel a warm**



Meet Deacon Travis Woodfield, Director of Congregational Legacy

Hello! I have been fortunate to have a colorful adventure of a life, so, here's a little of my story. I studied Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University. I've been fortunate to have life experience ranging from a fishmonger, admissions counselor, Franciscan friar, hospital chaplain, and Campus Minister. I also have a MDiv. from Wake Forest University. Studying at Wake allowed me the chance to intern and work with the Center For Congregational Health. While I was working there, I found a vocation that combined many of the things I was interested in. When I was a hospital chaplain, I loved getting to walk alongside people when they were making meaning of changes in their life. I am honored that I get to do the same with churches in their meaning-making work, whether that be launching to a new vision, reconsidering what ministry the church is called to, or even considering what end-of-life care and legacy-making might look like.

Rachael, my wife, and I have been married 7 years. We have one cat who runs the house. In my spare time I love to play video games, cooking dinner, and playing guitar. I am also an amateur magician. When I get the pleasure of meeting you ask me if I have a deck of cards and I'll show you something!

community, Prioritize young people everywhere, and Be the best neighbors. These are not just strategies to help you attract young people, but are also 6 great strategies for great ministry, regardless if another young person ever walks through the doors of your church building or logs onto your worship service.

Growing Young cannot help you personally look or feel younger; it will not get rid of your wrinkles. But these strategies can help your congregation feel and be younger by reigniting energy in your members and attracting new younger worshipers that will reverse the effects of aging within our congregations.

For more information about Growing Young, read the book "Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church" by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad M. Griffin from Fuller Youth Institute.

Join the "Growing Young"
BOOK STUDY hosted by
Sammy Kelly and YoYoFa

The first, third, and fifth
Wednesdays of the month starting
March 3rd at 12 p.m. (March 3, 17,
31, April 7, 21, May 5, 19). All at 12
p.m. and all via Zoom.

For more information or to sign up
contact sammy@nepsynod.org
or sign up for the "Youth" emails
for updates and links, which can be
accessed through our Synod
website.

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-653-5858
610-704-5133

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-550-0057
610-437-9927

April 2021 LMD NL news will be due March 15, 2021. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

****REOPENED** – Thursdays 9:30-11:30am. Clothes Closet - St. Luke's, 417 N 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18103. Volunteers are needed to come in 1 or 2 mornings a week to organize donations for two hours (Tuesday or Wednesday mornings).** There is a great need for at least one bi-lingual volunteer. For more information, please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943).

COME AWAY TO A QUIET PLACE... A Brief Pause for Prayerful Renewal in Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, All Are Welcome. **First Friday of each month** led by Ferd Piccuiro and hosted by Pastor Maritza Dolich via Zoom, **10:30 - 11:30 AM** (Sessions held via **Zoom** temporarily until we can all meet together again in person at the Center for Spiritual Awakening). **Please contact Ferd to be placed on the email list with the Zoom information.** ferdpiccuiro@ptd.net / Cell: [908-310-4228](tel:908-310-4228), Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

Save These Dates!

Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 10, 2021,**
1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown,
PA 18104

CROP Recruiters' **Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 29, 2021,**
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.

For more information about Church World Service/CROP,
go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/page/about-the-walk>

SUSPENDED - St. Luke's ELL and Naturalization Test Study groups have been **SUSPENDED** due to cautions regarding large gatherings during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) for more information.

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. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT DUE TO CANCELLATIONS OF PERFORMANCES BY OUR VENUES, AND FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR TRAVELERS, ALL OPERATION SUNSHINE DAY TRIPS FOR 2020 HAVE BEEN CANCELED.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TRAVELING WITH YOU AGAIN IN 2021. WE PLAN TO STARTUP OPERATION SUNSHINE AGAIN IN JUNE 2021.

SAVE THE DATES!

MAINE – JUNE 7-10, 2021

Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse 3 Nights lodging, 3 full course dinners including a "Downeast" Lobster Bake, Narrated Harbor Cruise of Casco Bay, Boothbay Harbor Tour, Eartha Revolving Globe, Maine Narrow Gauge Railway, LL Bean and Dexter Factory Outlets, Nubble Lighthouse, taxes, and gratuities included.

Call the Skelly's at [610-433-6878](tel:610-433-6878) for a complete itinerary and pricing.

Financial Gifts

Dear LMD Colleagues & Congregations.

I want to express my gratitude for your financial gifts that support the ministry endeavors in the Lehigh Mission District.

Financial gifts can be sent to our new mailing address to the attention of our new Lehigh Mission District Treasurer Leslie Talago at:

**Leslie Talago, LMD Treasurer
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
417 North Seventh Street
Allentown, PA 18102**

Leslie Talago was elected as LMD Treasurer this past fall at the Mission District Assembly. Early this year the financial books were transferred to our new treasurer. *We bid Godspeed to Richard Skelly who served 24 years as treasurer.*

Talago has been a LMD Council Member. She along with council members planned and organized the LMD Spring Assembly. Welcome, Leslie Talago, to your new position.

I am aware of the challenges our congregations in the Mission District are facing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Congregations have adjusted their worship services to new experiences.

Congregations have provided worship in parking lots, worship via some form of online streaming, and hybrid virtual worship combined with in-person gathering. Pastors and lay delegates even elected a new bishop virtually last fall at our Online Synod Assembly 2020.

This March marks a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread in the United States. As of February 11, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reported 470,110 death from COVID-19 in the United States. Every facet of our daily life has been affected by the pandemic.

Together we know how the pandemic has placed a hold on in-person gatherings for worship in sanctuaries.

It is for this reason that I want to express my gratitude for your generous financial gifts in these challenging times. Thank You! Your financial support shows your congregations' faithfulness and commitment to the Mission District.

Grace be with you.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, LMD Dean



Holy Week

**March 28 – April 2,
2021**