

SEPTEMBER 2020



One of the fun things we have discovered living here in the mountains is hummingbirds. It didn't take long to learn: if you feed them, they will come. We now have two hummingbird feeders to fill the bellies of these little flying gluttons.

However, in watching the behavior of the hummingbirds, not everyone gets fed equally. While there is plenty of nectar that is provided by the generosity of my wife. And, while the supply is inexhaustible. Lisa will make more as soon as they run out. We have observed that there are certain hummingbirds that seem to do nothing all day but keep the other hummingbirds from getting a drink. These bullies actually sit on a branch or wire nearby and, when one of the 'unworthy' birds come to get a drink, they chase them off with dives, noise, and displays of their tailfeathers. There is plenty for everyone and more where that came from, but certain dominant birds have to try to hog it all for themselves, even though they don't seem to be eating any of the nectar themselves.

Watching this bird-world unfold reminded me of how the church can be at times. We too have received an endless supply of grace, mercy, peace, and love from God who delights to see us gather at the feeding place. There is more than enough of the gifts of God to go around and plenty more where that came from. Nevertheless, I have often seen churches treat outsiders with suspicion and try to retain the good gifts of God for themselves. It is as though they are afraid that if they are generous toward outsiders, they may run out of everything that God has provided that they so enjoy.

I wonder if we could find ways during these days of struggle to help our people see behind the windowpane. Perhaps we can be thinking about how we will begin now to prepare for an influx of new hummers as the church begins to open up again. Maybe we can help our gate keepers to develop an attitude of bounty and generosity instead of scarcity and control. One thing that I am sure of is that moving forward will require us to have an "everyone is welcome here" posture to our churches and ministries. Maybe these days of separation will help us to long for the days when every bird will be gathering again at the feeder, with no one trying to set boundaries about who gets in and who must stay away.

In His Service
Dr. Larry Lacher

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Please be in pray for the Leonard Marjerison family,
We were saddened to hear of his passing suddenly last week.
He will be dearly missed by those of us on the New Mexico
District, his family and friends.

Save the Date!
See information inside

Save the Date!

New Mexico District Leadership Retreat November 14-16, 2020 Bonita Park Camp and Conference Center

are making plans to restart the annual leadership retreat this year. We will be following COVID-safe principles, but plan to gather in person at Bonita Park for a time of worship, fellowship, and equipping. Our theme this year is “Robust Discipleship.” Hal and Debi Perkins will be our guests and will lead us in learning how to be Discipled by Jesus and to disciple others in the same manner. Detailed Information is coming. Mark Your Calendars!

NMI



ALABASTER IS
MORE THAN
BUILDINGS,
IT CHANGES
LIVES!

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER IS ALABASTER!!!

The Alabaster Offering gets to the mission field via several avenues. The most widely used is the Alabaster Box. Individuals are challenged to regularly contribute the cost of items they desire but do not need. The boxes also serve as reminders to pray for those people who will benefit from Alabaster buildings.

In September and February, the money is collected. Many churches receive regular offerings throughout the year that are designated as Alabaster funds. (This is often a part of the Faith Promise plan for missions giving.) However, the semi-annual offerings in September and February are tradition in the Church of the Nazarene.

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT 9:00PM Dr. Lacher is leading a Prayer Meeting on Zoom. Everyone is invited to be a part of this worship in prayer.

The ZOOM meeting link is: <https://zoom.us/j/338982217>

If you already have the ZOOM app just select: Join a meeting and enter the numbers.



Greetings NM NYI,



Our 2020-2021 quiz season will look a little different, but encouraging our young people to write the Word of God on their hearts remains the core purpose of this ministry. Our quiz meets will take place virtually at least through the end of the year and I have listed some of the key elements about this format below. You will notice that we have made some adjustments to the chapters that will be quizzed on at each meet which should allow our students to study approximately one chapter of Matthew per week throughout the season.

^^^^If you are interested in participating in youth quizzing this year, it is crucial that you email our quiz director, Penny Pogue, at nmquiz.nyi@gmail.com to ensure that you are on her communication list.

Schedule:

September 19th (Virtual)- Matthew 1-3

October 10th (Virtual)- Matthew 1-6

November 14th (Virtual)- Matthew 1-11

December 5th (Virtual)- Matthew 1-14

January 23rd (TBD)- Matthew 1-21

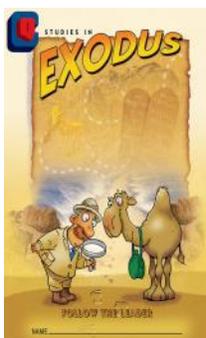
February 20th (TBD)- Matthew 1-25

March 6th (TBD)- Matthew 1-28



Teen Quiz Leaders:

Please read the instructions for the “Virtual” Quiz meets on the next page!



Children’s District Quiz Dates for this year

10/10

11/14

1/9

2/13

3/6 District Quiz Meet



ATTENTION EVERYONE!!
CHILDREN’S QUIZZING TIME HAS ARRIVED

<https://www.thefoundrypublishing.com/children-s-bible-quizzing.html>

SDMI

Pastors and SDMI leaders,

Historically, churches have provided monthly statistical reports to their district with at least three key figures: average worship attendance, average Sunday school attendance, and the responsibility list. Each district then reported these numbers to the SDMI office at the Global Ministry Center each month.

I have received communications that the **SDMI office in the Global Ministry Center will no longer be requesting monthly SDMI statistics from the districts in the USA and Canada region.** The only statistical reporting to the GMC will be through the Annual Pastors Report.

Dr. Lacher and I have discussed this topic, and have agreed that we will no longer ask our churches to report the monthly SDMI Statistics to the NM District for at least the rest of the 2020 – 2021 church year.

Thanks to those who have worked so diligently in the past to gather and provide the SDMI Statistics. I appreciate all the hard work you have been doing.

In addition, Dr. Lacher recently sent a note to pastors giving an update that “Our governor has allowed Houses of Worship to open to 40% of capacity. Please remember that 40% capacity means 40% of the capacity of the room in which you are meeting.” Dr. Lacher goes on to point out that this may allow many of our churches to restart Sunday School.

Thank you,

Mark Asplund

Teen Quizzers Virtual Quizzing Guidelines (to be elaborated on in future communications):

****Each student will need to be logged into Zoom on their own separate device (one per student, not per team). The video component of Zoom must be utilized at all times while a quiz is taking place. Free Zoom accounts are available at zoom.us.

****Students will type their assigned number (given at the beginning of each quiz) into the chat function on Zoom and when they desire to "jump" to answer a question, they will simply hit enter. The quizmaster will unmute the individual who "jumps" first and call on them. As always, if the quizmaster has not finished the question, the student will need to do so before giving their answer.

****WiFi connection will inevitably be an issue, so please consider where it is best for your students to login. If there are multiple people on one internet connection, it may slow it down.

If you have any questions or we can help in anyway, please contact Penny or myself.

We hope this explanation finds you well and abiding in the Lord during this time!

You are loved and prayed for often!
Blessings,
Jordin

Women in Ministry Virtual Fellowship

Saturday Oct. 24 10:00am. We will enjoy a time together on Zoom.

Meeting ID on zoom ; 831 5944 5875

Passcode: 806233

Invite link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159445875?pwd=S1jCOXMya0JOUmFhYnlGMVKUT09>

This Fellowship is for all our Women in Ministry– Ordained, Licensed, Pastors, Pastor’s wives including Staff. If you have not received an invite to this then I don’t have your email address. PLEASE send it to me ASAP. lacherlisa@yahoo.com Looking forward to seeing you all in Oct!!

Lisa Lacher



EVERY MONDAY Dr. Lacher leads a Leadership ZOOM for our ministry leaders at 2 different times to better fit your schedules.
10:00am and 7:00pm

The Monday 10:00am link is: <https://zoom.us/j/678230148>

The Monday 7:00pm link is: <https://zoom.us/j/598220646>

Getting to know our pastoral families on the New Mexico District

In January of 1997 Greg and I joined the Hobbs Church of the Nazarene. We had been in Children’s Ministry for many years when God moved us to the Hobbs Church. I remember Pastor Ken saying, “Sometimes God moves the furniture around”. One Sunday as we visited the Church God spoke to me and said, “This is where you are to worship Me.” As in all things that God orchestrates, it was a perfect fit.

Greg and I served as Lead Children’s Ministers for several years working in Caravans, Quizzing, VBS, and leading Children’s Worship. It was a blessed time of learning more and more about the Church of the Nazarene. The more I learned about its ministries, the more I found that this was the place for us.

In 2003, God began to once again call me to ministry. As a teen God had told me that I was to “feed and care for his lambs”. Now He was saying that “all His people where His Lambs. This was confirmed by a dear Saint, Mrs. Fisher from Carlsbad, God had told her to tell me “all His people are His lambs.” I had shared this word with no one.

In 2007 I received my first District License and was given the position as Children’s Pastor. In 2010 I was Ordained as an Elder in the Church of the Nazarene. In 2017 I was installed as the Lead Pastor of Hobbs Church of the Nazarene. We are blessed with 2 children (Rachel and Stephen) and 7 grandchildren. It has been an incredible journey that has yet to end.



Rev. Sharla and Greg Parker

Wade & Jayme Elftman have been serving at Las Cruces First Church of the Nazarene since 2014. They have two boys; Gavin, who enjoys basketball, Legos, and playing video games, and Riley, who enjoys soccer, Legos, and drawing. Jayme is a teacher who currently teaches first grade and was voted teacher of the year in 2019 by her peers at University Hills Elementary School. Wade has been serving in ministry in one capacity or another since 2005 and was ordained in 2009.

Wade & Jayme met while attending Goddard High School in Roswell, NM, while both were on the drumline in the marching band. The summer before Wade’s senior year of high school, he surrendered to God’s call to ministry during our district teen camp at Bonita Park. Wade went on to attend Southern Nazarene University, earning a bachelor’s degree in Theology & Ministry in 2005. Jayme attended Eastern New Mexico University, earning a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education in 2006. After five years of dating, most of it long-distance, they were married in Roswell, NM in July of 2005.

They have served in three different ministry assignments in Roswell, NM, Farmington, NM, and currently in Las Cruces, NM. As a family, they enjoy hiking and riding bikes on the trails around Las Cruces. They also enjoy traveling and watching movies together as a family. They love serving on the New Mexico District, especially with our district NYI and at Bonita Park. God has been faithful to them through each and every bend in the journey as they have served the Lord. At Las Cruces First, they have been leading the Church toward revitalization and outreach to their community through a variety of ministries.



Rev. Wade and Jayme Elftman,
Gavin and Riley