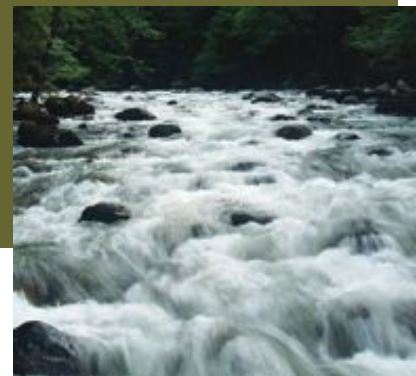


HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

April 29, 2010



God's work. Our hands.

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Synod Assembly Approaching

The 2010 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will be held at Susquehanna University on Friday-Saturday, June 18-19, 2010. Due to renovations to take place in Weber Auditorium, the assembly will be held in the Degenstein Campus Center Theatre. A *Stream of Information* highlighting this change was sent via e-mail last week.

Important Notice: The deadline for Memorials and Resolutions is May 14, 2010. Please submit them electronically in Word format to office@uss-elca.org. Memorials or resolutions received later than the deadline will be dealt with at the Synod Assembly as last items on the agenda.

Looking for a Pipe Organ?

Holy Spirit, Turbotville, has a deal for you! Call Pastor Dan May at 570-490-9788 to discuss the possibilities! It's a seven rank Moller Organ, built in the late 1920's. It needs some work and a new home soon! Please call with questions, possibilities, and hopes! Pastor Day will have approximate costs for you to move, rehab, and enjoy this fine instrument. They need to move it soon, as they hope to be selling the building it is in shortly.

Sign Up and Save Today!

The deadline is April 30 for ELCA-primary plan members to take the online health assessment in order to help our synod reach a goal of 65 percent and enjoy savings! **OUR SYNOD STILL NEEDS 16 PEOPLE TO DO THE SURVEY.** Do it today and help save money for you, your congregation, and the synod! It takes about ten minutes. Take the assessment at <http://www.elcaforwellness.org>. Find instructions for how to register and take the assessment in *Understand my benefits* at www.elcabop.org.

MILESTONES

Sympathy is expressed to **Revs. Brian and Michelle Beissel** on the death of Brian's mother, Donna Marie Beissel. Brian is the pastor of Grace, Point Township, and through a purchase of service arrangement, Trinity, Oak Grove.

The Reimherr Family wishes to announce a memorial service for **Rev. Otto and Beulah Reimherr**. The service is scheduled for Sunday, June 20, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. in Seibert Hall at Susquehanna University. A reception will follow. The service will be a "coming home" to the area and people they loved. Bishop Robert Driesen has agreed to participate in the service as well as Pastor Ricky Phillips.

Amy Dressler has been hired as part-time interim youth director at First, Mifflinburg. She follows **Brian Connelly** who resigned to take a position in York.

With thanks to God for their ministry, we celebrate with these children of God the anniversaries of their ordination in May (note: anniversary years listed are for multiples of five only):



30 years: **Pastor Christopher G. Milarch** (5/25/1980)
(Trinity, Avis)

50 years: **Pastor Clinton E. Chu** (5/18/1960)(retired)

75 years: **Pastor Paul L. Reaser** (5/16/1935)(retired)

Wartburg Theological Seminary Announces Interim President

The Board of Directors at Wartburg Theological Seminary have announced the appointment of Dr. David Tiede as Interim President for the seminary beginning July 1, 2010. Dr. Tiede is currently the Bernhard M. Christensen Professor of Vocation at Augsburg College. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary, and Harvard University. Dr. Tiede is President Emeritus and Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary.

Dr. Tiede comes to Wartburg Theological Seminary with much recognition in theological education for his expertise in governance and board empowerment. He will serve as an advocate for Wartburg's strengths and continue to build relationships internally and externally for the good of the institution. The interim presidency begins as current President Duane Larson begins his retirement at the end of June.

Diakon's new CEO Installed



Mark T. Pile was installed in March as president/CEO of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Pile, who was formerly the organization's chief operating officer, became president/CEO Jan. 1. The installation involved the bishops of the six Evangelical Lutheran Church in America synods in which Diakon serves. Participating in the installation ceremony at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, were Bishop Samuel Zeiser of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Bishop Claire Burkat, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Bishop Robert Driesen, Upper Susquehanna Synod; Bishop B. Penrose Hoover, Lower Susquehanna Synod; Interim Bishop Theodore Schneider of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, and Bishop Gregory Pile of the Allegheny Synod, Mark Pile's brother.

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

- **Intentional Interim:** Beaver, Beaver Springs; Sharon, Selinsgrove; Salem Parish; St. Matthew's and Church of the Savior, Williamsport; First, Mifflinburg; St. John's (Brick), Montgomery
- **Preparing Materials:** First, Mifflinburg; Stone Valley Parish; Beaver, Beaver Springs
- **Preparing to Interview:** Trinity, Hughesville w/POS by Mt. Zion, Hughesville; Salem Parish;
- **Interviewing:** Grace/St. Luke, Sunbury; Sharon, Selinsgrove

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

May 2

- Karl-John at St. John's, Booneville

May 9

- Karl-John at United, Lock Haven

May 16

- Bishop at Elysburg Parish
- Karl-John at St. Paul, Mill Hall & Salona

May 23

- Bishop at St. Paul, Mill Hall & Salona
- Beth Ann at St. Luke, Bloomsburg

May 30

- Karl-John at synod's "Called" retreat



Phillips Chosen for Preaching Fellowship

Rev. Ricky Phillips (Mazeppa Union/St. John's, Dry Valley) has been selected to attend the Engel Institute of Preaching as an Engle Fellow. He will attend the 8th Annual Engle Institute in June. The institute is designed to nurture and strengthen the craft of those who preach. Phillips said, "This is probably the best preaching seminar in the world. I hope that other people take advantage of it next year." Phillips will be studying Luther's writings during the seminar.

ELCA Global Links

Want to promote global ministries to your congregation? Try these resources from the ELCA:

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Watch or download this compelling two-minute video introducing the theme of the LWF Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, July 2010. See <http://www.elca.org/lwf> and click the link in the upper right.

GLOBAL LINKS POSTCARD

Help people stay informed, be inspired, and get involved through this brief monthly e-newsletter. Distribute these postcards to gatherings large or small. For 25 or 50 postcards call 800-638-3522. For larger quantities, contact 773-380-2651 or lanny.westphal@elca.org

GLOBAL MISSION MAP BROCHURE

See how your church is engaged around the world. Call 800/638-3522 to order 25 or less. For larger quantities, call 800/328-4648 and request ITEM001691.

Vacations and Supply Preachers

Summer months are soon upon us, and many called pastors will soon be looking for supply preachers to fill their pulpits on vacation Sundays. Some reminders:

- Synod office staff can provide you with the names and phone numbers of supply preachers with known availability for that Sunday, beginning first with available clergy and next with available authorized lay worship leaders.
- To keep costs lower, staff will try to suggest supplies who live within easy driving distance of the congregation. Supply preachers should be reimbursed for mileage both to and from their home to the congregation, and between congregations (if they lead at more than one in a parish). Mileage is reimbursed at the current IRS rate of .50 cents per mile. The synod supply rate is \$100 for one service, \$125 for two services, and \$140 for three or more services. In a multiple-point parish, the grand total is equally shared among the congregations.
- Pastors will then make arrangements themselves with one of the supply names given.
- It is helpful to alert the synod office when a supply is contacted, so that the person's name may be removed from the availability list.
- If an arranged supply is an authorized lay worship leader who will preside at the Eucharist, the pastor should contact the synod office to request the bishop's authorization for the ALWL's presidency on this occasion.
- Please provide your supply with details such as directions to the church, Sunday morning schedule, a worship service outline (including hymns), notes on the sound system, practices around children's sermons (if used), practices around the Eucharist, announcements, prayers, whom to contact in case of an emergency or bad weather, and the church musician's name.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bishop's Retreat: May 6-7, 2010

The annual Bishop's Retreat for rostered leaders will take place on Thursday-Friday, May 6-7, 2010, at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro, PA. Dr. Erik Heen, Professor of New Testament and Greek at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will present "Lutherans and the Bible: Past, Present, and Future," about Lutheran interpretations of scripture and resources for meeting the challenges of scriptural interpretation in the ELCA today.

Rostered Leaders/Families Healing Service: May 24, 2010

A Healing Service with Holy Communion will be held at the synod office in Lewisburg on Monday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m. for rostered leaders and members of their families. The service is provided by the synod's Spirituality Task Force and is open to all.

CONTINUING ED

Stages of Spiritual Development: May 6 and 13, 2010

Can a person be spiritually immature as differentiated from spiritually mature? The scriptures of all the world religions indicate such to be the case. What would be the characteristics of 'spiritual' maturity, and how would it be attained? Employing the developmental model, an evolving international and interdisciplinary consensus among theologians, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, and neuropsychologists suggests a paradigm of six stages of spiritual development.

In this two-session workshop, sponsored by Geisinger's Spiritual Care, will be held from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. Participants will examine this paradigm as it applies to the nature of the divine, human nature, good and evil, divine-human and human-to-human relationships, salvation and the meaningful existence.

Location: St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 255 South Derr Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Canterbury Room (parish hall - 2nd floor). Parking is available next to Curtain Ave. An elevator is available, too.

Registration: Limited Enrollment. Reservation absolutely required. To register, call Tina or the voice mail at 570-271-3700 and leave the workshop title, your name, contact phone number, and email address in a slow, clear voice.

Interim Ministry Network's 30th Annual Conference: June 5-7, 2010

Pastors and Congregations Uniting in Transition will take place on June 5-7, 2010, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. There will be daily worship services and keynote addresses as well as professional workshops. There is also pre-session bonus classes and a post-session mini-seminar. More information at:

<http://www.imnedu.org/conferences.htm>

The Morally Divided Body: Ethical Disagreement & the Disunity of the Church: June 14-16, 2010

This is an ecumenical conference for clergy and laity sponsored by the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology. It will be held Monday evening, June 14, through Wednesday noon, June 16, 2010, at Loyola University, Baltimore, MD. While doctrinal issues have often in the past been the most ecumenically neuralgic topics, increasingly today ethical issues - abortion and homosexuality most prominently - have become a focus of difference between the churches and of potentially splintering debate within churches. These issues are more laden with emotion than many traditional doctrinal disputes, but ecumenical discussions have yet to address them in detail. We have little sense of just when and how ethical disputes rightly impact communion within and among the churches. When can we live together with difference over such matters and when does unity in Christ require common teaching? These questions will be addressed from a variety of perspectives. Accommodations will be available on the Loyola Campus. Conference cost (including banquet): \$210; reduced price for early registrations, retired clergy (\$175), and students (\$95). For more information, contact Michael Root at 803-735-1178 or mroot1@sc.rr.com. Online registration at <http://www.acteva.com/go/ccet>. More information and mail-in registration at <http://www.e-ccet.org>.

Disability and Theology: July 12-16, 2010

The Call and Promise for Pastoral Leadership and Theological Education will be held on July 12-16, at Gettysburg Seminary. There is also a one-day event on "New Voices in Disability and Theology: An Introduction" on July 12, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The one-day conference open to the public. Registration is required. Information on both events at: <http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Summer-Institute>

Festival of Liturgical Arts of the Western Reserve: June 16-20, 2010

The Festival of Liturgical Arts of the Western Reserve was created as a cooperative effort between Episcopalians and Lutherans in northeastern Ohio for clergy, musicians, and all others who plan and execute worship in parishes and churches. FLAWR is a five-day synthesis of worship, workshops, discussions, and master classes for musicians and clergy who are devoted to the continual development of their craft. Festival personnel include Ms. Phyllis Tickle, Dr. Thomas G. Long, The Rev. Mitties McDonald DeChamplain, Dr. Gerre Hancock, Mr. Todd Wilson, and Bishop Robert Rimbo. For more information and online registration go to <http://www.flawr.org>.

North American Association for the Catechumenate (NAAC) Annual Gathering: July 29- August 1, 2010

NAAC is an ecumenical organization that provides training and support for churches engaged in the process of baptismal conversion and making Christian disciples. ELCA Pastor Rick Rouse serves as president. Rouse is co-author of *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008).

The theme of the annual gathering, "When Heaven Touches Earth: Reclaiming the Mysteries of Faith for Baptismal Living Today," focuses on the triduum--especially the Easter Vigil--as a highpoint of the catechumenal journey. The event features Dr. Gail Ramshaw, Professor of Religion at LaSalle University and author of the new book *Christian Worship: 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals* (Fortress Press, 2009). A sample of topics for her sessions includes "2000 Years of Easter: The Vigil In, Out, and Back Again" (a Christian history of the triduum and why it is returning in the 21st century) and "12 Readings: Are You Kidding?!" (focusing on the meaning and importance of the readings appointed for the Vigil). Dr. Gordon Lathrop, faculty emeritus at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, will serve as preacher and presenter. Mark Mummert, ELW composer and organist at Christ the King in Houston, will head up the Music and Worship Team.

A special pre-conference gathering is also being planned for denominational leaders over lunch and early afternoon of July 29. Limited travel assistance is available. For more information, go to <http://www.catechumenate.org>.

**ALCM Region 1 Conference:
July 26-29, 2010**

The Song of the Church: Bridging All Times and Places will take place on July 26-29, in Pittsburgh for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. The conference will feature presentations by Bishop Robert A. Rimbo (*Metropolitan New York Synod*) and Thomas G. Long (*Bandy Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University*) More information at: http://www.alcm.org/event/Region_1.php.



**Crossways International Training Workshop
with Dr. Harry Wendt:
August 2-6, 2010**

The Crossways International (CI) Training Workshop surveys the full sweep of the biblical narrative using The Divine Drama and Crossways courses to analyze in greater detail the events and themes that emerge within its unfolding narrative - and grapples with how Jesus finally interprets those events and themes. The workshop equips attendees to use CI's teaching resources comprising hundreds of illustrations, which have been proven to boost biblical literacy. It will examine historical, cultural, and literary nuances within the biblical text to see more profoundly what Jesus was up against in His day - and in ours. The workshop will be held at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 9601 Hull Street, Richmond, VA 23236. To register, call Crossways International at (800) 257-7308.

USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle pastorjills@windstream.net	Pastor B.J. Collins collins_bj@hotmail.com	Conference Meeting: No meeting in May due to Bishop's Retreat. Conference Assembly on May 2 at Trinity, Milton. 2:00 p.m.
Juniata Valley	Pastor Erin Bovendam Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu	Pastor James Park Bricker gymbri@embarqmail.com	Conference Meeting: Conference Assembly on May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Messiah, Mifflintown.
Middle Creek	Pastor Breen Marie Sipes breenmarie@hotmail.com	Pastor Patrick Sipes sgtmuddy@gmail.com	Conference Meeting: May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at Messiah, Troxelville,
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink pastorchad@verizon.net	Pastor Tom Light GOPNO1@aol.com	Conference Meeting: May 19 at St. Luke, Bloomsburg. 9:30 a.m. - worship, 10:00 a.m. - meeting. Conference Assembly on May 2 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke, Bloomsburg
Tulpehocken	Pastor Brian Beissel brianthepastor@gmail.com	Pastor Christoph Teille christoph_teille@live.de	Conference Meeting: May 4 at Trinity, Shamokin; 9:00 a.m. - pericope, 10:00- meeting. Conference Assembly on May 2, 1:00 p.m. at Trinity, Sunbury (starting with meal)
West Branch	Pastor Maurice "Chip" Frontz frontz@comcast.net	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt prbernhardt@gmail.com	Conference Meeting: May 11 at 10:00 a.m. - worship and meeting, Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg. Conference Assembly on May 2, 3:00 p.m. at Messiah, Clarkstown.

IN CONCLUSION

You're the Inspiration

By Chad Hershberger

*Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:
"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." -Proverbs 31:
28-29*



In May, we celebrate Mother's Day. It is a day when we remember all the things our mothers do for us and honor them with flowers, candies, or a nice dinner.

Your mother is like your mirror. Someone once made that statement which I thought was pretty profound. If you look at yourself, you will probably see a lot of your mother in you. I know I do.

When I was in my late 20s, I realized that I was turning into my parents. I realized that I had many of the same interests as they did and I acted like they did. Don't get me wrong—that is not a bad thing. It was just a realization that indeed I had turned into my parents. Most of you probably had a similar realization at some time during your life as well.

As we celebrate the special day in May set aside for our moms, remember that one of the most important things they do for us is be prayer-givers. They are worriers about their children and are constantly praying for their our well-being. They would do anything for you and love you no matter what. Sounds a little like our heavenly parent, huh?

I hope you take time out on the second Sunday of May to remember the women in your life who have been the most mother-like to you. And maybe this year we all can work to remember and thank them not just on Mother's Day!

Chad Hershberger is the Director of Communications for the Upper Susquehanna Synod and editor of Headwaters. His reflections "In Conclusion" appear here monthly and are his opinions and thoughts. They do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or opinions of the Upper Susquehanna Synod or its staff.

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Synod Staff Lead Worship

The bishop and his assistants would like to make synod visits on Sunday mornings in congregations. The bishop prefers to both preach and preside; Beth Ann and Karl-John will preach and also preside, if asked. The home pastor is usually also present for these synod visits. Please schedule with at least 6 months lead time for the bishop; less advance notice is required for his assistants.