

# HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

April 27, 2011



*God's work. Our hands.*

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**We are fast approaching the Board of Pensions April 30 deadline!!!** We need 65% of the eligible ELCA-primary health plan members and spouses in our synod to complete the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by April 30. Doing so will help all of our synod's congregations and organizations save on ELCA health contributions this year. And remember, by taking the assessment, you'll earn \$150 in your personal wellness account and will be taking stock of your health. Healthy leaders do enhance lives and ultimately create a healthier ELCA community. Take the assessment at [www.elcaforwellness.org](http://www.elcaforwellness.org). Find instructions for taking the assessment in "Understand My Benefits" at [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org).

### **Memorials and Resolutions Deadline for Synod**

**Assembly:** The deadline for submitting 2011 Synod Assembly memorials and resolutions to the Committee of Reference and Counsel is May 13, 2011. Submissions should be in electronic form (if possible), and sent to the synod office ([office@uss-elca.org](mailto:office@uss-elca.org)) by the deadline to ensure the review of the Committee.

### **Domestic Hunger Grant Applications Available May**

**16:** Congregational food pantries and feeding programs (and other similar programs) may apply for a 2012 Domestic Hunger Grant through the ELCA World Hunger program beginning May 16 when the application is posted at [www.elca.org/domestichungergrants](http://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants). All application materials must be postmarked on or before July 15, 2011. Applications may be funded in one of the following four categories: Development Services, Congregation/Community Organizing, Relief Services, Education and Advocacy.

**Devotional Available:** Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries' 2011 Easter Devotional Booklet is now available on Diakon's website at the following link: <http://www.diakon.org/for-church-professionals/documents/Diakon2011EasterDevotional.pdf>. If you would like a printed copy, you may request one by contacting Joann Stage at [stagej@diakon.org](mailto:stagej@diakon.org).

**New President:** Wartburg Theological Seminary inaugurated its thirteenth president, The Rev. Stanley N. Olson, PhD, on Saturday, April 2, 2011. Dr. Olson was installed during a worship service of Holy Communion at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Dubuque by The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Olson most recently worked in Chicago at the churchwide organization as the Executive Director for the former Vocation & Education Unit.

### **Webinar to Be Posted Regarding Small Business**

**Health Care Tax Credit:** The ELCA Board of Pensions will soon post on its website ([www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org)) a recording of an April 19 webinar. The webinar explains the opportunity for congregations and other church employers to potentially save money through the new Small Business Health Care Tax Credit. Up to a 25% payroll tax credit may be available to your congregation or church employer. The webinar leader is nationally recognized benefits attorney Danny Miller, who provides insights about the tax credit and answers questions that can help you determine your next steps in pursuing this money-saving opportunity for your congregation or church employer. Miller has advised numerous church denominational benefit plans and is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Connor & Winters, an Oklahoma-based law firm with a full-service practice.

## MILESTONES

*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 in multiples of five only):*

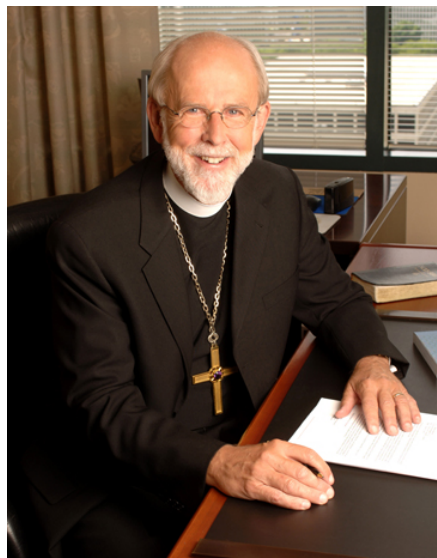
60 years - **Pastor Clifford R. Miller Jr.** (5/23/1951)  
(retired)

**Pastor David E. Bomboy** (5/23/1951)  
(retired)

65 years - **Pastor John W. Harkins** (5/14/1946)  
(retired)

### Diakon Seeks Disaster Worker

Diakon is seeking to hire a part-time (up to 10 hours per week) Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator for the Upper Susquehanna Synod territory. Responsibilities include representing Diakon at regional and state disaster response meetings, coordinating the synod's disaster roundtable, educating and training congregations in preparedness and response, and leading the agency's response during a time of disaster. For more information contact Rev. Cindy G. Camp, Diakon's Director of Disaster Response Ministries, at 610-573-0981. To apply, please go to [www.diakon.org/employment](http://www.diakon.org/employment).



### 2011 Easter Message

from ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

*So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. - Matthew 28:8*

Mary Magdalene and Mary walked to Jesus' grave, expecting to find death. It's understandable. Images of violence filled their minds. Thoughts of their vulnerability and mortality deadened their spirits. Death had become the defining story of their lives.

Instead of death, the women met a resurrection messenger who said, "He is not here: for he has been raised, as he said." As they hurried to tell others, the risen Jesus met them. They were changed. Now resurrection, not death, would define their lives.

Jesus lives! Now resurrection, not death, defines our lives. Jesus continues to meet you in resurrection messengers, just as Jesus met me in Pastor Josephus Livenson Lauvanus, president of the Lutheran Church of Haiti. As we walked through the ruins and rubble that lie in the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake, Pastor Livenson Lauvanus proclaimed, "We will not be defined by rubble, but by restoration, for we are a people of the resurrection."

Baptized into Jesus' death and raised to newness of life we, too, are people of the resurrection. We, too, are resurrection messengers. We, too, are about God's work of restoration.

The world aches to hear the message we have to tell. Sing with joy! Jesus lives! We are a people of the resurrection.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

**May 2-4, 2011**

**The Psalms at Valparaiso University:** The Institute of Liturgical Studies will explore the ways Psalms weave their way through our corporate and individual worship lives, giving us voice and connecting us to this rich biblical tradition. In the Eucharist we sing the Psalms as a response to the first reading; in Daily Prayer we sing Psalms as our sung prayer, praise, and lament. Throughout our reading of Scripture we hear the Psalms as a song of the people, as quotations in the New Testament, and in the Psalm-like material of the canticles. The church's liturgy is filled with Psalms, accompanying our processions, forming our greetings and responses, providing for our communal song. This year's Institute will explore the richness of the Christian practices around the Psalms through Psalm singing at liturgies, through plenary presentations, seminars, and workshops. It is the Institute's vision to present the richness of the church's tradition, while, at the same time, pushing forward the edges of the church's practice into new and creative expressions of worship. For additional information, please go to the ILS website at <http://www.valpo.edu/ils/>

**May 3-4, 2011**

**Gettysburg Seminary Convocation:** Christopher Hedges, a journalist and war correspondent and Pulitzer Prize winning writer for the New York Times, will keynote the 2011 Spring Convocation at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg May 3-4, 2011. Hedges will be joined by scholars Marty Stevens, and Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman in a story telling oriented convocation entitled "I Tell to Love the Story."

The convocation will explore the power of communally-held memories, considering how these get transmitted in our institutions, schools, churches, families, and neighborhoods, and the influence they carry in shaping our lives. On Wednesday, Hedges, Stevens and Vitalis Hoffman will focus on the role of leaders as story-brokers in congregations and communities.

Hedges, who also possesses a theological degree from Harvard Divinity School, is an American journalist and author, specializing in American and Middle Eastern politics and societies. His most recent book is *Death of the Liberal Class* (2010). Hedges is also known as the best-selling author of *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (2002), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. A quotation from the book was used as the opening title quotation in the critically acclaimed and Academy Award-winning 2009 film, *The Hurt Locker*. He is currently a senior fellow at The Nation Institute in New York City and spent nearly two decades as a foreign correspondent in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans. He has reported from more than fifty countries, and has worked for *The Christian Science*

*Monitor*, National Public Radio, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *The New York Times* (1990-2005). Stevens will unpack some scripts within familiar scripture reminding us that it's not always "your grandmother's Bible," and Kathryn V. Hoffman will lead the discussion of the implications of the presentations for ministry in local settings. Stevens, who holds a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, is Associate Professor in The Arthur L. Larson position of Stewardship and Parish Ministry, and Chief Financial Officer for the seminary. The Rev. Vitalis Hoffman, D.Min., is senior pastor of Zion, Middletown, MD.

All lectures and presentations are free and open to the public. More information is available online at [www.Ltsg.edu](http://www.Ltsg.edu) or [www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Spring-Convocation](http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Spring-Convocation).

**May 5-6, 2011**

**Bishop's Retreat for Rostered Leaders:** The annual Bishop's Retreat for Rostered Leaders will take place on Thursday and Friday, May 5-6, 2011, in Wellsboro, PA. The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Meese Peterson, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will present on our changing culture's implications for ecclesiology. This year's Bishop's retreat will take place at the Penn Wells Hotel. It will begin with morning worship on Thursday morning and conclude before noon on Friday. Lunch is not included on Friday. Commuters may still register, however, housing is booked and those who register late can only be put on a waiting list should there be a cancellation.

**May 16, 2011**

**Bishop's Open Golf Tournament:** The sixth annual Bishop's Open Golf Tournament is set for May 16, 2011, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther. A brochure and registration form is available on the camp's website at [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org). The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, door prize sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please contact the camp office. Congregations are also encouraged to become a hole sponsor this year. Get involved and help our synod's outdoor ministry!

**May 17, 2011**

**Lutheran Day at the Capitol and PA Hunger Summit:** Lutheran Day at the Capitol 2011 will focus on hunger in Pennsylvania and strategies for Lutheran congregations, synods, and leaders to address it through direct action and advocacy. The keynote speaker is David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and 2010 World Food Prize laureate. He is an

economist, a Lutheran pastor, and one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hungry people in the United States and worldwide. Beckmann is also president of Bread for the World Institute, the organization's research and education arm, which works on agriculture, trade policy, and other hunger-related issues. Workshops will offer opportunities to learn more about hunger in the Commonwealth, best practices for addressing hunger in congregations and synods, resources for preaching and teaching about hunger, and training for advocacy on current hunger issues. More at [www.lamp.org](http://www.lamp.org)

#### May 20-21, 2011

**Pre-Retirement Seminar:** The two-day Pre-retirement seminar will demonstrate how financial decisions can help you achieve your retirement dreams. This event will take place from noon on Friday (please eat lunch prior or bring with you) until 8:15 p.m., and again on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Cost is \$30 per person and \$55 per couple and includes Friday dinner and refreshments. It will be held in the Shearer Dining Rooms at Susquehanna University's Degenstein Campus Center. All ELCA plan members age 50 and over should attend. Financial partner (i.e. spouse) participation is strongly encouraged so both members of the couple are involved in the retirement planning process. For the location/dates of events held around the ELCA, go to: [https://www.elcabop.org/news\\_events/preretirement\\_seminars.aspx](https://www.elcabop.org/news_events/preretirement_seminars.aspx). This event is nearly full, so please contact Pastor Beth Ann Stone if interested.

#### June 13-16, 2011

**"Transitions: A Time for Courage" Interim Ministry Network 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference:** Sessions at this conference in Nashville, TN, will include presentations by Rev. David T. Olson, Rev. Susan Nienaber, and Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke. To register, visit <http://www.imnedu.org/registration.htm>.

#### June 14-16, 2011

**Who Do You Say That I Am? Proclaiming and Following Jesus Today:** The annual conference of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology will be held June 14-16, at Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, on the theme "Who Do You Say That I Am? Proclaiming and Following Jesus Today." Speakers will include Carl Braaten, Fleming Rutledge, Dale Alison, and Michael Root. The meaning of Jesus for our faith and discipleship will be addressed from various angles - New Testament studies, contemporary theology, pastoral care, preaching, and ethics. Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian traditions will be represented. The conference is particularly aimed at pastors. Further information can be found at the Center website [www.e-ccet.org](http://www.e-ccet.org). Online registration is at [www.acteva.com/go/ccet](http://www.acteva.com/go/ccet).



**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER**  
and the  
Upper Susquehanna Synod  
Youth Council  
present

## CALLED! '11

*Future Pastors and Church Leaders Camp*

### June 10-12, 2011

*Event runs 7:00 p.m. Friday to Sunday 1:30 p.m.  
Pine Village ~ Camp Mount Luther*

Calling all high school youth who are completing Grades 9-12 with an interest in serving God by exploring what it is like to work in the Church as a pastor or leader.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod's Youth and Candidacy Committees, along with Camp Mount Luther, will sponsor this interactive, exciting weekend retreat for high school-age youth who show potential for church leadership. Many pastors can point to experiences at this time of life as the "seed" that was planted for their calling to ministry. Congregations and pastors are asked to personally encourage young people whom they may identify with potential gifts for ministry. The event will include visits with area congregations and their pastors, service projects, activities, interacting with the camp staff, and more!



#### **CAMP MOUNT LUTHER**

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587 Fax: (570) 922-1118  
E-Mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

*Registration forms are available on the synod and camp websites*

#### June 17-18, 2011

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly:** The 2011 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove on Friday, June 17, and Saturday, June 18, 2011. The theme, "The Church Must Be Planted," was a motto of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, known as the patriarch of Lutheranism in North America, whose 300th birthday is celebrated this year.

This year's assembly will gather an "in-kind" offering of health kits for Lutheran World Relief. LWF distributed 174,975 such kits in 2010 through partner agencies in fourteen countries around the world, providing these items of comfort and hygiene to refugees and victims of natural disasters. Congregations are encouraged to collect kits together, sending a box full (or more!) with their voting members on the first day of the assembly. Our synod's goal is to collect 3,365 kits (the average

number of kits distributed by LWR in one week in 2010). Go to <http://www.uss-elca.org/usslwr-health-kit-in-kind-offering> for more details about collecting LWF health kits.

Reports for the 2010-2011 Bulletin of Reports will be mailed to voting members in two mailings prior to the assembly. Reports are also available online, as they are submitted. View the online Bulletin of Reports here: <http://2011-assembly.uss-elca-bulletin.org/> Click on one of the four section headings to view available reports, using the left-hand sidebar to navigate between reports.

### July 18-22, 2011

#### **Theology and Disability: Exploring the Intersection of Personal Experience, Ministry, and Theological Education:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Institute on Theology and Disability will take place at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, July 18-22, 2011. A one-day event, "Personal, Biblical, and Theological Reflections on Disability", will take place on Monday, July 18.

Presentations will include:

- Encountering God in Disability (Debbie Creamer)
- A Personal Discussion of the Advantages of Disadvantage (Tom Graves)
- Implications of Blindness on Participation in Church Life from the Perspective of a Personal Experience (Sam Kabue)
- Healing in the Hebrew Bible (Jeremy Schipper)
- Christ (and) the Disabled: Reconsidering the Divine Physician in the Gospel (Candida Moss)
- Caring Differently: Toward a Spirituality of Attentiveness (Tom Reynolds)

The full week's institute will also include presentations on Biblical and Theological Perspectives, Infusing Disability in Theological Education, and Worship and Disability. Download the registration form here: <http://www.ltsg.edu/getattachment/Lifelong-Learners/Theology-and-Disability/TheologyandDisabilityBrochurefinal.pdf.aspx>.

Audio recordings of presentations at the 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability are available for download from The Boggs Center website. The 30-45 minute presentations include:

- After the Benediction: Journeying with People with Disabilities in Faith and Life (Erik Carter)
- Strategies for Establishing a Ministry for People with Hearing Loss in a Hearing Church (Peggy Johnson)
- After Disability Theology: What's Next? (Hans Reinders)
- Moving Through the Sadness: Theological Reflections on Depression, Suicide, and the Dark Night of the Soul (John Swinton)

- The Spirit Poured Out Upon All Flesh: Disability and the Renewal of the Church (Amos Young)
- Beyond Normalcy (Tom Reynolds) PDF document file
- Better Together: Inclusive Christian Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities (Eric Carter)
- Rediscovering the Old in the New: Biblical Themes Emerging in Inclusive Ministries (Bill Gaventa)
- The Bible and the Deaf (Peggy Johnson)
- Educating Care: Transformation and Disability in Theological Education (Thomas Reynolds)
- 'Whose Story am I?' Spirituality, Personhood and Dementia (John Swinton)
- Theology and Disabilities: Signs of Hope amidst Struggle at Gettysburg (Leonard Hummel)
- Two Kinds of Communities, Two Kinds of People (Hans Reinders)
- Re-Enabling the Hermeneutics of Suspicion and of Charity: Disability and the Renewal of Theological Education (Amos Young)

To download any of these presentations, go to:

<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/2010SummerInstituteonTheologyandDisability.html>.

### July 31- August 4, 2011

#### **Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Biennial National Conference:**

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians will be meeting in Seattle, Washington, for their biennial national conference. The public is invited for the July 31 through August 4, 2011, conference at Seattle University. The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is a strong and successful service and professional organization with approximately 1,500 members, dedicated to the cause of strengthening the ministry of music in the Lutheran Church. It serves through a wide range of publications, conferences, and local, regional, and national events. ALCM is widely recognized as a significant force in Lutheran church music. Once every two years ALCM comes together for a national conference. This summer we will convene at Seattle University. It is the perfect combination of affordable housing, walkable campus, and tourist-friendly location - an ideal location. Worship spaces are close, plenary and workshop spaces are comfortable, and the Space Needle is only 15 minutes away. We have assembled a great faculty: Plenary session presenters are Christian Scharen, teacher, and Pam Fickenschier, pastor. Hymn Festival leaders are Anton Armstrong, conductor, and John Ferguson, organist. For more information about the conference, please go to our web site at: [www.alcm.org](http://www.alcm.org) or call the ALCM office at (800) 624-2526.



## Web Pages

*The third in a series of articles about improving your congregation's printed communications*

Two months ago, we began a new series of articles in *Headwaters* with tips and ideas to improve your congregation's printed communications. Our first two articles dealt with web pages and how you can create better websites (or start one if you don't have one). We continue that discussion this month.

**HOME PAGE:** Make sure the home page generates quickly so the reader does not have to wait for photos or elaborate graphics to load. Web surfers get bored fast. Let them get to the "meat" as fast as possible. The home page should command attention and hook the surfer!

**BASIC INFORMATION:** Make sure contact information for your organization is easy to find and that maps, directions, and service times are easy to find.

**MISSION:** Will people be able to tell what your mission is? Do you identify yourself as an ELCA congregation?

**BIOGRAPHIES:** Users want to know the people behind the website. Biographies and photographs make the web a less impersonal place and increase trust.

**PHOTOS:** Use the best photos you have with good composition and clarity. Pick photos that draw the reader in through his or her emotions. Make sure they are not a huge file that take a long time to load. Make sure you have written permission to use that individual's image on your website.

**FRAMES:** Splitting a page into frames is confusing for users; try to avoid them.

**FONTs:** Don't use a font smaller than 10 pt. For headlines, use a font size that is 2-4 times the size of the text font. Make it bold. Use the same font throughout. Use bold, italics, and underlining sparingly.

**COUNTERS:** Who cares how many people have visited your site since 1996? Get rid of them.

**FAQs:** Consider a Frequently Asked Questions page that will answer virtually any question that is routinely asked.

**SHOW AND TELL WHAT IS GOING ON NOW:** Show who regularly comes to worship. Show people working on a current project. Tell about your most immediate commitment as a congregation. Tell about the great things your members are accomplishing.

### Resources for Website Development:

ELCA Web Ministry: [www.elca.org/webministry](http://www.elca.org/webministry)

Top Ten Mistakes in Web Design: [www.useit.com/alertbox/9605.html](http://www.useit.com/alertbox/9605.html)

Web Design Features: [www.ratz.com/features.html](http://www.ratz.com/features.html)

### SOURCES FOR WEB INFORMATION GIVEN:

*Tips for Great Looking Publications* by Rod Boriak (Former ELCA Staff); *Web Design and Guidelines* by Jon Skogen (Former ELCA Staff); *Your Web Site* by Steve Cony (Communications Counselors LLC); *The Parish Paper*, March 2009; *ELCA Seeds for the Parish*, July-August 2009

### The Top Ten Church Website Mistakes

1. Incomplete church address. Include your city, state, and zip code on the Website's front page. A home page with only "First Baptist Church" could be anywhere.
2. An unusual and difficult-to-remember Website address. A [www.FirstPresbyterianTulsa.org](http://www.FirstPresbyterianTulsa.org) address is far better than a [www.fpctok.org](http://www.fpctok.org) address.
3. No contact information for a human being. Provide a staff name and telephone number.
4. No information about the church's denomination or affiliation. If people have to guess, they often look elsewhere for a church!
5. Outdated information and small print. Poorly maintained church calendars and old content give a boarded-up windows impression.
6. Jargon or insider abbreviations. One church lists WBSAM. Only an insider knows the translation—Women's Bible Study on a weekday-morning.
7. No outside-the-building information, such as where to park, or enter the building for worship, or find handicapped access.
8. No inside-the-building information, such as nursery location, pre-school childcare, or a separate children's worship during services.
9. Inappropriate content. Confidential information such as prayer lists with members' names, illnesses, and surgeries; children's photos without their parent's permission (whether or not they are identified); new members' photos without prior consent; staff photos that detract from their professional image; and home telephone numbers.
10. E-mail addresses. "Spiders" or Web crawler computer programs read through Web page content looking for E-mail addresses. These programs then send ads and other SPAM that floods inboxes. Protect your staff and volunteers by creating a user link for sending E-mails.

*In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll give tips for social networking*

## USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle <a href="mailto:pastorjills@windstream.net">pastorjills@windstream.net</a>	Pastor B.J. Collins <a href="mailto:collins_bj@hotmail.com">collins_bj@hotmail.com</a>	Conference Assembly, May 1, 2:30 p.m., Holy Spirit, Turbotville. (No more ministerium meetings until the fall.)
Juniata Valley	Pastor Erin Bovendam <a href="mailto:Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu">Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu</a>	Pastor James Park Bricker <a href="mailto:gymbri@embarqmail.com">gymbri@embarqmail.com</a>	Conference Assembly, May 1, 7:00 p.m., St. John, Lewistown. (No more ministerium meetings until the fall.)
Middle Creek	Pastor Breen Marie Sipes <a href="mailto:breenmarie@hotmail.com">breenmarie@hotmail.com</a>	Pastor Patrick Sipes <a href="mailto:sgtmuddy@gmail.com">sgtmuddy@gmail.com</a>	(9:30 a.m. worship, meeting follows) Wednesday, May 11, The Haven, Mt. Pleasant Mills. Conference Assembly, Sunday, May 1, 2:00 p.m., St. John, Richfield.
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink <a href="mailto:pastorchad@verizon.net">pastorchad@verizon.net</a>	Pastor Keith Pittsnogle <a href="mailto:prkeith@ptd.net">prkeith@ptd.net</a>	(9:30 a.m. worship, meeting) Wednesday, May 25, St. Luke's, Bloomsburg. Conference Assembly, Sunday, May, 1, 2:00 p.m., Washingtonville Lutheran Church.
Tulpehocken	Pastor Brian Beissel <a href="mailto:brianthepastor@gmail.com">brianthepastor@gmail.com</a>	Pastor Constantine Havir <a href="mailto:revhavir@yahoo.com">revhavir@yahoo.com</a>	(9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting) Tuesday, May 3, Trinity, Shamokin; June 7, Grace, Point Township. Conference Assembly, Sunday, May 1, 1:30 p.m., Trinity, Sunbury.
West Branch	Pastor Eric Deibler <a href="mailto:deiblers@verizon.net">deiblers@verizon.net</a>	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt <a href="mailto:prbernhardt@gmail.com">prbernhardt@gmail.com</a>	(10:00 a.m. worship and meeting) Tuesday, May 31, Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg (RSVP for lunch to Ted Cockley). Conference Assembly, Sunday, May 15, 3:00 p.m., Siloa, Morris Run.

## SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

### *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.*

#### May 8

- Bishop at Siloa, Morris Run

#### May 15

- Bishop at Buffalo Valley Conf. event in PM, CML
- Karl-John in Israel

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*(Updated April 18, 2011)*

### Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Beaver, Beaver Springs
- Salem Parish
- Church of the Savior, Williamsport
- St. John's (Brick), Montgomery
- Evangelical, Reedsville

### Preparing Materials

- Evangelical, Reedsville
- St. John's (Brick), Montgomery

### Interviewing Candidates

- Salem Parish (First Call)
- Mountain Grove Parish (First Call)
- Bethany, Montoursville
- Stone Valley Parish
- United in Christ, West Milton

### Voting on a Candidate (May 1)

- Beaver, Beaver Springs

## IN CONCLUSION

### Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

By Chad Hershberger

*“Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it!” --I Corinthians 9: 24*

In this time after Easter, when the grass is getting greener and the plants and trees are coming back to life, my mind lately has turned to bicycling. I've had the opportunity to attend several bike races, shortly after I graduated from college. One bike race I attended for a number of years was the Core States (later First Union) Race in Philadelphia. It was always exciting to watch the hundreds of bicyclists race for several hours. I definitely was amazed at the endurance they showed, being able to ride a bike for that long without stopping. They definitely are physically fit! At the finish line, only one bicyclist wins. He or she is crowned the champion and wins some money, a trophy, and some other goodies. The victor had a goal-- to win the race-- and when the finish line was crossed, the bicyclist was triumphant.

Those bike racers also remind me that we, too, are in a race as Christians. We are pacing ourselves as we run this race called life. At the “finish line” of our earthly existence, we will achieve eternal life and see God face-to-face.

As we go through life, we must be like the bikers. We must have endurance and be fit in mind and body. After our long Lenten season of repentance, we've seen the light at the empty tomb. We should be reminded of the race that Jesus ran while He was on earth. We should remember that our race, too, is long; but, at the finish line, we will be rewarded. Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed!

*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.*

## Upper Susquehanna Synod

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Website: [www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org)

Bishop

Rev. Robert L. Driesen

[bishop@uss-elca.org](mailto:bishop@uss-elca.org)

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