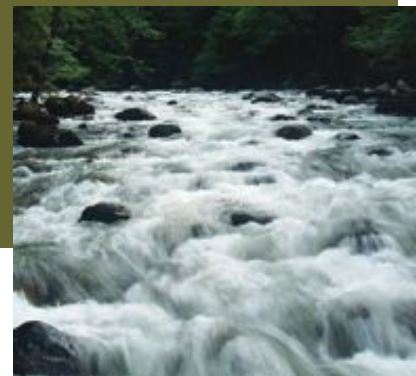


HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

August 26, 2010



God's work. Our hands.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Take Survey Today: Pastor Beth Ann Stone sent out to USS ordained ministers an important survey by email earlier this month. She's asking for your feedback and opinion on three things: the use of supply preachers in our synod, mutual ministry committees in our congregations, and the annual Bishop's Retreat. Pastors NOT currently serving a congregation need not respond to the first two issues, but your response is appreciated for the third. Please click on the link below to take a brief survey about these things. Your response is requested by Friday, August 27, 2010. Click here to begin the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/22kz8jy>

Still Working on Your Sermon for Sunday? Don't sweat it. [Sermon starters](#) from ELCA World Hunger are here to help. New each week, the sermon starters find ways to connect lectionary readings to themes of hunger, poverty and justice. You can also [sign up](#) to have these sermon starters delivered to your inbox.

MILESTONES

Pastor Cinda Brucker will be installed as pastor of Trinity, Hughesville, on Sunday, September 26, at 4:00 p.m. Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is green.

Pastor MarthaSue Moll will begin to serve as intentional interim pastor at St. John (Brick), Montgomery on August 31, 2010.

Aaron Werner (former vicar at St. James, Rauchtown) will be ordained on September 19, 2010, at St. Paul's, Alpena, MI, having been called to serve as Associate Pastor of St. Luke's, Grand Rapids, MI.

With thanks to God for her ministry, we celebrate with this child of God the anniversary of her ordination in September (note: anniversary years listed are for multiples of five only):

10 years - **Pastor Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle** (9/24/2000) (Christ, Milton)

With Sympathy:

Velma M. (Albright) Shearer, mother of **Pastor Adrian J. Shearer**, died on Sunday, August 1, 2010, at York Hospital. Funeral services were held on August 5, 2010, at St. Jacob's (Stone) Church, Glenville, PA with her pastor the Rev. Paula L. Murray, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to St Jacob's (Stone) Lutheran Church, 5152 Stone Church Road, Glenville, PA 17329. Pastor Shearer is a retired pastor, currently serving part-time as the intentional interim pastor for the Salem/Kreamer Lutheran Parish (Salem Lutheran Church, Salem; and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Kreamer). Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Rev. Adrian J. Shearer & Family, 415 Susquehanna Road, Northumberland, PA 17857.

Mrs. Miriam Frank, widow of **The Rev. Samuel Frank**, died in July 28, 2010, at the National Lutheran Home for the Aged, Rockville, Maryland. The funeral service was held in Rockville, with a private interment in Lewisburg. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her daughter and son-in-law: Michael & Rebecca Carpenter, 904 River Road, Newport News, VA, 23601. Pastor Frank served congregations in our synod, and he and his wife served as our synod's first supply coordinators for vacant congregations in the early years of our synod.

A Memorial Service for **The Rev. Paul L. Reaser** was held on Saturday, August 28, 2:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2349 North Old Trail, Shamokin Dam, Pennsylvania. Pastor Reaser, a retired pastor on the roster of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, died on Sunday, June 27, 2010, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, L. Joy and Ron Mertz, Northumberland, PA. Paul was 102-years-old and recently celebrated his 75th Anniversary of Ordination, one of five pastors in the ELCA celebrating that milestone in 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 31, 2010

Rostered Leaders/Families Healing Service: A Healing Service with Holy Communion will be held at the synod office in Lewisburg on Tuesday, August 31, at 1:30 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.

September 11 and October 9, 2010

Synod Evangelism Events: The Lay Ministry Institute invites rostered leaders and members of congregations to participate in one or both of these Evangelism events from 9:00 a.m.-noon at the Washingtonville Lutheran Church, Washingtonville, on the following Saturdays. Cost is \$30 per participant. Register by contacting the Rev. Melody Sell at pmsell@chilitech.net. Checks should be made payable to the "Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA" with Lay Ministry Institute noted on the memo line.

September 11, 2010 - The Rev. Anthony and Kimberly Chatman, Columbus, Ohio: formerly employed by the NFL, Anthony's call to the ministry has brought him to serve congregations in Oklahoma and Ohio. Pastor Anthony has served in the Southwestern Synod working with Mission Developers and the Division for Outreach.

October 9, 2010 - The Rev. Chi-Shih Chen, Chicago, IL: born on Taiwan; president of a corporation; Vice President of American Express; parish pastor at 50+; Pastor Chen brings a broad variety of experience to bear on the evangelistic effort. He has served as an advisor to the ELCA Church Council and is President of the Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders.

September 12, 2010

Genetics Social Statement Hearing: A public hearing on the ELCA's draft social statement on Genetics will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Bellefonte, PA, (Allegheny Synod) on Sunday, September 12, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (A previously-announced hearing to have been held in Williamsport on that day has been canceled.) A member of the Genetics Task Force will be present for the hearing to listen to responses and answer questions. To view the draft social statement on Genetics, [click here](#). Hearings provide an opportunity for participants to share with the task force their concerns, appreciation, and suggestions about the draft of a social statement. They also provide a place of sharing in which participants can hear what others are thinking. A record of comments from each hearing is shared with the task force, who will consider this feedback while developing a revised document called a "proposed" social statement. The proposed statement is scheduled to be finished in

February of 2011. Individuals and congregations may also study the document and submit their comments to the Genetics Task Force online. To send a response to the Genetics Task Force, click on this website: <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/Genetics/Respond-Online.aspx>. Comments on the draft social statement will be received until October 15, 2010.

October 20, 2010

Intentional Interim Ministers Gathering: The next gathering of interim ministers of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, the Penn Central Conference of the UCC, and the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA will be held at the USS office in Lewisburg on Wednesday, October 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with refreshments and fellowship, and 10:00 a.m. for our meeting. Those who wish may remain afterwards to share lunch (at your expense). All are welcome. Because attendance at this gathering changes frequently and the gatherings happen quarterly, there's a low threshold for "joining" if you've never before attended. Father Paul Donecker of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania will present a case study that focuses upon a congregation that was engaged in a flawed discernment and call process. He will also share information about how they recovered. Devotions will be provided by Rev. Kerry Aucker, St. John, Jersey Shore. The group plans to gather again on January 19.

October 22, 2010

"Helper Hearers Hear: The Roles of Relevance and Rhetoric": The Rev. Dr. Hank Langknecht presents a continuing education event for preachers, Friday, October 22, 2010, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 S. 3rd Street, Lewisburg, PA. Cost: \$25 for registrations received by Oct. 8; \$30 after Oct. 8. *One of the labels attached to the last two decades' worth of homiletical research and writing is, "The Turn to the Hearer." A major research project and scores of smaller efforts have sought to increase our understanding of how sermon audiences listen to (and hear) sermons and also to what preachers can do to make sermons more hearable and memorable. In this workshop we will briefly review current research and then discuss two areas of possibility: relevance (managing the gap between "what needs to be said" and "what hearers are able and wanting to hear") and rhetoric (attending to language and matters of sermon form and style).*

Dr. Langknecht serves as Associate Professor of Homiletics and Christian Communication at Trinity Lutheran Seminary (ELCA) in Columbus, Ohio. [Click here to download a registration form.](#)

November 12-13, 2010

“Glocal” Mission Gathering: This event at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, will enhance your connections with the worldwide Lutheran family, give you practical skills for mission, lead you to discover how changes in the world are transforming the way churches like the ELCA proclaim and serve, inspire you toward inviting worship that includes global voices and teach how to travel internationally in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive. This event will have a workshop track centered in worship. Registration is \$35 per person. For more information and online registration, go to: <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Global-Events/Glocal-Mission-Gatherings.aspx>.

November 14, 2010

Bishop’s Day for Rostered Leaders: The annual fall Bishop’s Day event for rostered leaders will be held on Thursday, November 18, at Christ’s United Lutheran Church (a.k.a. “Four Bells”) in Millmont (near Camp Mount Luther), from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (A more definite time frame and event description will be publicized in the next issue of Headwaters.) Lunch will be provided, and donations received to cover the cost of the meal.

November 20, 2010

Advocating for Daily Bread - LAMPa Training Event: Together with the ELCA Washington Office and ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania invites you to participate in an advocacy training day, Saturday, November 20, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. During this event, you can explore the Gospels and Lutheran tradition of serving our neighbor (bring your Bible);

learn from state and national advocates how to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters living in poverty and struggling to feed their families; and do advocacy on the spot! To encourage participation from those traveling a distance, the cost is just \$10 with lunch included. Students are free. [Download the flier here.](#)

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. Registration information will be available starting in 2011.

June 17-18, 2011

2011 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly: The 2011 Synod Assembly will take place at Susquehanna University on Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, 2011. Mark your calendars today!



CONTINUING ED

October 17-19, 2010

Churches Planting Churches Conference

Question: What is the true fruit of an apple tree? How about...another apple tree! Often we have a limited vision of what our own "fruits" of ministry might be; God's vision is always broader and wider than we can even imagine! Explore the possibilities of your congregation giving birth to another community of faith - maybe to a group of young people who don't feel that they fit in to your congregation's ways of doing things or to a group of immigrants who have no faith-family roots in this country! Or to even another new congregation in an area nearby that might be growing and is currently under-served.

The ELCA "Churches Planting Churches" Conference, October 17-19, 2010, in Vancouver, Washington, just might open a new world. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to call Beth Yenchko, USS Director for Evangelical Mission, at 570-524-9778 or eyenchko@uss-elca.org. You can also register and find more information, including a brochure by visiting <http://www.messiahvancouver.org/component/content/article/52-spotlight-news-2/180-churches-planting-churches-conference.html>

February 18-19, 2011

"Come to the Water": Ecumenical Catechumenal Process Training Event: The catechumenal process is a journey of faith formation for those new (and not so new) to Christianity. It goes beyond the traditional study of "what Christians believe" and incorporates worship, prayer, small groups, reflective Bible reading, sponsors, and ministry in daily life into a process that changes lives and makes disciples. This process not only transforms lives, but it can transform congregations as well. Speakers for the event, held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington, are Bishop Rob Hofstad, Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA and Ann McElligott, Episcopalian and author of *The Catechumenal Process: Adult Initiation and Formation for Christian Life and Ministry*. Other leadership will be provided by pastors and lay leaders from the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and the Oregon and Southwest Washington Synods of the ELCA. This training event is recommended for congregation teams of two or more and will provide participants with the background and resources they need to begin a catechumenal process in

their congregation. The cost hasn't been set, but will be around \$30/person and will include some meals. For more information on the training event, contact Pastor Martha Maier, maierm@comcast.net or 360-892-7160. For more on the catechumenate, visit www.catechumenate.org.

January 27-29, 2011

Calvin Institute for Christian Worship: Symposium on Worship: This year's theme is "Every Time I Remember You" (Philippians 1:3) Worshipers and worship leaders from around the world gather each January for a time of fellowship, worship, and learning, seeking to deepen and integrate all aspects of worship, develop their gifts, encourage each other, and renew their commitment to the full ministry of the church. For more information visit the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship. Online registration opens in October. The event will be held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

Sept. 12

- Bishop at Christ United, Catawissa

Sept. 19

- Bishop at St. John, Espy
- Beth Ann at Susquehanna University

Sept. 26

- Bishop at Christ (White), Middleburg in AM
- Bishop at Installation of Pastor, Trinity, Hughesville in PM
- Karl-John at St. Luke, Bloomsburg

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- **Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor:** Beaver, Beaver Springs; Salem, Selinsgrove; St. Matthew and Church of the Savior, Williamsport; First, Mifflinburg; St. John's (Brick), Montgomery
- **Preparing Materials:** Stone Valley Parish
- **Interviewing:** Beaver, Beaver Springs; Salem, Selinsgrove; First, Mifflinburg

End Childhood Hunger in Your Community

Federal nutrition programs help families in the United States who struggle with hunger and poverty. Tens of millions of children rely on these meals each school day. But what do families do when school isn't in session? For many families with low incomes, "gap times"—evenings, weekends and summers—are especially challenging. You can help by speaking in support for [child nutrition programs](#) or by opening a feeding site at your church. [Contact ELCA World Hunger staff for more information.](#)



Worship Renewal Grants Applications Due December 2010

The Worship Renewal Grants Program of the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship fosters well-grounded worship renewal in congregations and worshipping communities throughout North America. Made possible through the generous support of Lilly Endowment Inc., these grants serve to stimulate thoughtful and energetic work for worship that exhibits renewed creativity, theological integrity, and relevance. Grants are awarded once a year. Proposals for 2011 will be accepted between December 1, 2010, and January 11, 2011. They note, "While we are interested in receiving a wide range of proposals, we are especially interested in projects related to intergenerational worship practices and projects related to the Psalms." It's not too early to begin planning and writing a proposal if you have a project in mind! For more information, go to <http://www.calvin.edu/worship/grants/wrgp.php>.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Be Like Jesus When Dealing with Your Local Media

The third in a series of articles about telling your congregation's story through your local media.

Once you identify stories that you'd like covered in the media and contacted them via a news release, they may just call you to do a story. You need to be prepared to deal with the media and serve as an expert on your topic or event. If a reporter contacts you to do an interview or wants to come to your event, please respond to them quickly. If they leave a message, get back to them as soon as humanly possible.

Things to do when talking to a reporter:

- Feel free to ask what the topic will be and the kinds of questions that will be asked. Don't walk into an interview blind.
- Give true and complete answers to questions asked. Don't conceal negative information, either.
- If you don't know an answer, say so. Guessing can get you in to trouble and will hurt your reputation with the media.
- Spell your name and provide your correct job title or affiliation with the church or event.
- Think like an average reader or listener. Don't assume everyone knows as much as you about the subject. Don't talk down to the audience but be clear and understandable in your speaking.
- Respect the reporter. Make your case without being overly zealous.
- If you are uncertain of something, ask questions. If a reporter's question is confusing to you, ask for clarification.
- Consider visual and audio elements to accompany a story. Make suggestions for possible photos and/or soundbites.
- Be warm and polite and professional.
- Tell the reporter to call back if they have additional questions or ambiguities after the interview.
- After the story has been printed or aired, call or write the reporter and thank him/her. Reporters, like most of us, appreciate feedback.

How do you know your story is going to accurate?

You don't. You should not assume that you will see the reporter's story before it is published or broadcast. The reporter is under no obligation to show the copy to you. Reporters and editors have the ultimate decision in what to print/air.

If you are concerned about being misquoted, just say so, and ask the reporter's cooperation. Get the reporter to understand and be engaged in your position. That way, he or she may be more sensitive. Also, don't ask to see a copy of the story before publication.

Use short, direct words as much as possible. If you do, you are more likely to be quoted accurately.

Ask the reporter a question or two near the end of the interview. You can often tell from his or her answers whether your remarks have been understood.



What if Jesus had been interviewed by CNN?

He would have asked Larry King about the parameters of the interview. He wouldn't have walked into it blind, although he may have brought a blind man to give sight during the interview. He would have been truthful- and answered Larry's questions completely (after all, God is all-knowing!) He probably would tell a parable here and there to prove his point. He would make sure that Larry knew exactly how to spell his name. You can bet he would speak in layman's terms and would have been respectful of his interviewer and his time. I can't imagine Jesus would be anything but polite and professional.

Following the interview, I'm sure Jesus would get in touch with Larry to thank him for telling the Good News to the large CNN audience. He may even ask Larry to go fishing with him sometime to gain a good working relationship with him. The two "Kings" would have caught a lot of fish, don't you think?

In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll give you more tips if you are interviewed by the media.

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: Thursday, September 2, Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg, RSVP by Aug. 30 to Ted Cockley for lunch (9:00 a.m. worship, meeting and lunch to follow)
Juniata Valley	Pastor Erin Bovendam Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu	Pastor James Park Bricker gymbri@embarqmail.com	Conference Meeting: Tue. September 21, Holy Communion, Yeagertown (9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting); pericope study on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m., St. John, Lewistown in September
Middle Creek	Pastor Breen Marie Sipes breenmarie@hotmail.com	Pastor Patrick Sipes sgtmuddy@gmail.com	Conference Meeting: Wed. September 8, at The Haven (contact Sipes' for directions) (9:30 a.m. worship, meeting follows)
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink pastorchad@verizon.net	Pastor Keith Pittsnogle prkeith@ptd.net	Conference Meeting: Wed. September 15, St. Luke's, Bloomsburg. (9:30 a.m. worship, meeting)
Tulpehocken	Pastor Brian Beissel brianthepastor@gmail.com	Pastor Constantine Havir revhavir@yahoo.com	Conference Meeting: Tue. September 7, Grace, Point Township (9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting)
West Branch	Pastor Eric Deibler deiblers@verizon.net	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt prbernhardt@gmail.com	Conference Meeting: Tue. September 14, Church of the Savior, Williamsport (9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. meeting)

■ **Late Breaking News....**

Lutheran World Relief Emergency Update: Pakistan Floods

Dear Friend,

The situation in Pakistan is critical and getting worse. Monsoon flooding that began in late July has destroyed thousands of acres of farmland. Nearly six million people are homeless. They need shelter. They need food. They need clean water. And they need it now.

Will you help? Right now, Lutheran World Relief is working with partners on the ground, delivering food, water, temporary shelter and basic hygiene items to devastated flood victims. We've reached thousands of people so far, but there are many more families to reach. LWR needs to raise \$200,000 by September 15.

Your gift will deliver tents to the homeless, and food to families who saw their farms and livelihoods washed away. It will provide hygiene items like soap and washcloths—simple items that can help save lives after a flood. Please keep the people of Pakistan in your prayers. And please help Lutheran World Relief respond quickly as this devastating crisis unfolds.

****Your gift will be used to respond to the "Pakistan Floods" crisis until needs there are met. After that, further gifts will be used to help LWR respond where the need is greatest. Thank you for your gift.**

In Christ,



John A. Nunes
President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief

IN CONCLUSION

School Days, School Days

By Chad Hershberger

“He who disciplines the nations, he who teaches knowledge to humankind, does he not chastise?” --Psalm 94:10

Remember the excitement that surrounded your first day of school? This is the time of the year when students, young and old, return to the classroom to begin their trek for another academic year. This is the time when you buy new clothes, stock up on school supplies, and buy the all-important lunch box!

I can distinctly remember several “first days of school.” The very first, day one of kindergarten, I felt a little better after my teacher told me she would keep a cup next to the sink so I could get a drink of water at snack time (back then, I was not a big milk fan). Or, my first day of second grade when my mom was my substitute teacher because my real teacher’s father-in-law died. Then there was the first day of sixth grade when I went to a new school (middle school) or the first day of ninth grade when I began my high school career in a new building (and everyone told me just to go through the double green doors-- of course, all the doors at the school were double green doors!) And I’ll never forget my first day of classes in college when I was amazed that people could just walk into class when they wanted to, without a hall pass, and hosts of them smoked right outside the building, which was a no-no in high school!

Since my college graduation, I’ve had several teaching opportunities. And I can honestly say that the first day of school is as exciting for teachers as it is for students. New enthusiastic faces, a fresh start, and open minds are contagious. A thirst for knowledge and further one’s education is indeed a gift from God. Learning is important- even if sometimes we have to learn “the hard way.”

Even though I no longer have to shop for a new lunch box or a new Trapper Keeper, there is an excitement that only the fall and the start of school bring. I hope this year you catch that enthusiasm, especially for studying God’s Word. I must be going now—the bell just rang to change classes.

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.