

HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

September 6, 2011



God's work. Our hands.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Special Event at SU Coming Soon called "And Abraham Ran to Welcome the Visitors": Jewish, Christian and Muslim Perspectives on Social Justice

On Tuesday, September 6, Susquehanna University Chaplain Mark Radecke and University Rabbi Kate Palley will be joined by Dr. Sanaullah Kirmani, Islamic Scholar and Muslim Student Advisor at Towson University, to discuss the approaches to social justice from the three Abrahamic Faiths. This panel presentation will be followed by a period for dialogue, questions and answers. All are invited to engage with this visiting scholar and campus clergy. The session begins at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Rooms of the Degenstein Campus Center, and is open to the public. No tickets are required.

Save the Date: The Synod Youth Retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be February 3-4. All youth in 6-12 grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. More details will be available this fall. Contact Pastor Patrick Sipes at sgtmuddy@gmail.com with questions.

Celebrating Muhlenberg: The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) is celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (www.muhlenberg300.org) starting on his birthday, September 6. LTSP will be live streaming the Tuesday, September 6, celebration worship and lecture by Martin Marty. Worship is at 10:45 a.m. and the lecture with Dr. Marty is at 1:30 p.m. Go to www.ltsp.edu/LTSPLiveStream to view the live events, or to www.ustream.tv/channel/ltsp-convocations for schedules and recordings of live streamed events. Recordings will also be posted online after the event.

New Column to Appear: *Headwaters* will soon debut a new feature called "Best Practices." It will be a chance for leaders to share ideas with others about what works best in the congregation, especially when it comes to such church issues as evangelism, worship, Christian education, social ministry, personnel, property, or any other relevant topic. If you have a best practice you'd like to share, please contact Chad Hershberger at news@uss-elca.org with your name, phone number, and e-mail so we can be in touch and share your best practice.

Seminary Partners with Network: Gettysburg Seminary announced that it is joining forces with Odyssey Networks in Manhattan, NY, in its launch of a new weekly online resource featuring interpretations of scripture in light of current issues. Professor Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, will be the featured writer first with commentary to appear on Wednesday at www.odysseynetworks.org, www.huffingtonpost.org/religion, and <http://day1.org/>. Gettysburg Seminary Professor Susan Hedahl will be contributing later this year.

On Thursday, September 15, Gettysburg will host the first ON Scripture continuing education event. Hoffman will be joined by three members of the ON Scripture editorial team: Professor Eric Barreto, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN; TextWeek Editor Jenee Woodard, Jackson, MI, and Pastor Mary Brown, Odyssey Networks, Manhattan, NY. The all-day session, called Preaching Perspectives, will focus on the lectionary texts for Proper 21 through Proper 27/All Saints Sunday. To register, find information at www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Preaching-Perspectives.

MILESTONES

Pastors Anke and Eric Deibler (St. Luke, Williamsport) have received and accepted a call to Calvary Lutheran Church in Mount Airy, Maryland (DE-MD Synod). Their last Sunday at St. Luke's was August 21. Godspeed, Deibler family!

Pastor Curtis Zemencik has received and accepted a call to serve the Stone Valley Parish (Salem Zion Church, Pillow and Stone Valley Church, Hickory Corners), beginning October 14, 2011. Pastor Zemencik is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ. Welcome!

Pastor Adrian Shearer (retired) began serving Grace, Point Township, and Trinity, Oak Grove, as stated supply and part-time interim pastor on August 1, 2011.

Pastor Edward Rehrauer (retired) is now serving as interim pastor and half-time supply of St. Luke, Sunbury. He also continues as interim at the Stone Valley Parish until October 14.

Pastor Sonja Ware (on leave from call) has received and accepted a call to Epiphany Lutheran Church in Temple, PA, through the Southeastern PA Synod Council, beginning August 16, 2011. As a result, she is transferring to the roster of the Southeastern PA Synod. Blessings!

Pastor Amanda K. Range (Salem Parish) will be installed as pastor of the Salem Parish (Salem Lutheran Church, Salem, and St. Peter, Kreamer) on Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 PM. Clergy are invited to vest (green) and process.

Pastor Leah D. Schade will be installed as pastor on Sunday, October 9, at 4:00 PM. Clergy are invited to vest (green) and process.

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 in multiples of five only):

15 years - **Pastor Mary A. Peterhaensel** (9/20/1996)
(retired)

*And a belated recognition of **Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity** (Beaver, Beaver Springs) on the fifth anniversary of his ordination on July 15!*

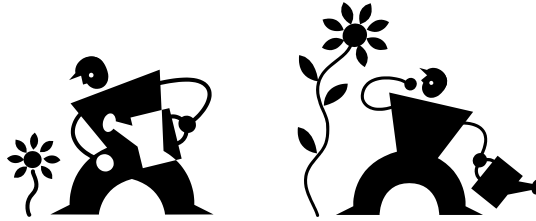
IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Rev. Robert C. Linke, a retired pastor of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, died on Friday, August 12, 2011. He was born July 29, 1927, in West Haven, Connecticut. On May 12, 1953, he married Georgie Rae Stroeck who survives. Pastor Linke graduated from Upsala College, New Jersey, with a Bachelor Degree in Sociology in 1949 and from Augustana Theological Lutheran Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, in 1954. He was ordained by the Augustana Synod in 1955. He served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Smethport, and Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Port Allegheny, Pennsylvania (1955-1959); Zion Lutheran Church, Portland, Connecticut (1959-1975); and First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania (1975-1990). In retirement Pastor Linke served as interim pastor at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dry Valley, Winfield, Pennsylvania. The funeral was held on Monday, August 22, at 1:00 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Georgie S. Linke, 304 Front Street, New Berlin, PA 17855. Click here for Daily Item obituary: <http://dailyitem.com/obituaries/x850299155/The-Rev-Robert-Crawford-Linke-84-New-Berlin>

Lois C. Aucker, 79, of Riverside, passed away Sunday, August 21, 2011. Surviving are her husband, Marlin C. Aucker; and two sons, the **Rev. Kerry R. (Karen) Aucker** of Lock Haven and Kevin L. Aucker of Milton. (Pastor Aucker serves as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church of Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania.) She was a life-long member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Turbotville. Memorial contributions may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, PO Box 277, Turbotville, PA 17772. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Rev. and Mrs. Kerry R. Aucker, 229 S. Broad Street, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-1899. Click here for Williamsport Sun-Gazette obituary: <http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/567592/Lois-C--Aucker.html?nav=5012>

September 17, 2011

Stewardship in Trying Times: Practices for Faithful Living (Part 3)



When: Sept. 17, 2011 8:30 a.m. Gather! 9:00 a.m. Begin! 12:00 p.m. End!

Where: St. John Lutheran Church, 196 Brick Church Rd., Montgomery, PA 17752

Throughout the Bible, we see that Creation is a sign of God's creativity and love, and that God wants us to serve as its protectors and stewards. The Story of Stuff is intended to help individuals, groups, and churches as well as communities understand the impact and implications of their choices as consumers as well as protectors and stewards of Creation. God calls us to make a real difference not only in our own lives but in the lives of others' as well, both at home and around the world.

Participants will take home practical, hands on tools to use in their own homes and congregations.



GOD'S ECONOMY

- The Story of Stuff – The part each of us plays in the stewardship of God's earth and people**
- What are we doing with what we have been given?**
- Let's take a realistic inventory of what we have!**
- ELCA's "Make It Simple" resource from ELCA puts theology into practice in the congregation!**
- Back by popular demand: More of Pastor Patrick Sipe's "stewardship of food" (including taste testing!)**

There is no fee for this workshop!
Light refreshments will be served during the course of the workshop.
Please register by September 12, 2011

For more information contact:

Rev. Karl-John Stone karljohn@uss-elca.org 570-524-9778

Beth Yenchko eyenchko@uss-elca.org cell- 717-579-3845

Why not gather a group from your congregation to attend together?

We look forward to looking at stewardship with you through new eyes!

Moving Forward with Christ

An upcoming event that you are encouraged to attend!

Upper Susquehanna Synod Bishop Robert L. Driesen and his colleague bishops of Region 8 invite all rostered leaders to attend ***Moving Forward with Christ***, to be held November 1 and 2, 2011, at the Blair County Convention Center (BCCC) in Altoona, PA. ***Moving Forward with Christ*** is an exciting opportunity for all rostered leaders from across the Region to gather to celebrate the diverse ministries that occur on our territory. It will feature:

- Bible study under the leadership of Dr. Wally Taylor. Taylor is the Ernest W. and Edith S. Ogram Professor of New Testament Studies and Director of Graduate Studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.
- Conversation with Bishop Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- The chance to talk with leaders from other synods about how you envision both living your life of discipleship and leading others to experience the love of Christ in ways that encourage them to share their faith in daily life.



The purpose of this event is to re-energize and focus rostered leaders on how we are a part of the ELCA; to build on the collegiality we share within the Region; to share with one another what we do here in the Region; to express our joys and our struggles in mission here in Region 8; and to allow Bishop Hanson the chance to listen to us. Finally, we'll take a hope that one byproduct of this all is a trust between rostered leaders in Region 8 and the larger churchwide expression.

On the first day Bishop Hanson will listen to all that occurs from worship through the synod mission moments. Then as he shares his thoughts with us he can reflect what he's heard and express his vision for how the ELCA will '***Move Forward with Christ in Mission***'.

The synod group discussions on the morning of the 2nd will be led by the Directors of Evangelical Mission and their bishops and will focus in the areas of leadership, stewardship, and renewal. Particularly, Pastor Hirsch hopes to focus conversation using these concepts: where do we draw traction for our future together? When we talk about identity - what are the things that all of us claim? What grounds us? What are our weaknesses and what are our strengths?

Registration for this exciting event is now open for your use. This will be accomplished through Constant Contact's Event Marketing service. You'll see the link to the Event's homepage below. We urge you to save this homepage as a 'favorite' so that you might return to it and stay abreast of additional details for the gathering.

- Registration is \$100.00 through September 16
- Late registration is \$125.00 through October 14
- Registration closes October 14, 2011. Click here for [Moving Forward with Christ Registration:](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3wuyv36b0d9e0bd&llr=whcklncab)
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3wuyv36b0d9e0bd&llr=whcklncab>

As a reminder: the registration form indicates that you must make your own overnight motel reservations. A list of Altoona area motels is a part of the Event's homepage. The Blair County Convention Center is a state of the art convention center, which hosts the Allegheny Synod Assembly, and, is highly rated by participants at that event.

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

Contemplative Living: Oasis Ministries offers program in how to notice the sacred in all of life, not simply certain aspects. "Contemplative Living: The Spirituality of Daily Life," now in its 4th year, is open to all. No experience required. Participants meet monthly between October and May to learn skills and practices to become more aware of God's presence. The goal of the program is to raise contemplative awareness in participant's individual lives. Learn more about the program at www.oasismin.org or by calling (717) 737-8222. Oasis Ministries (Camp Hill, PA) is an ecumenical, contemplative community that has been training people in the art of spiritual direction and prayer practices for over 22 years.

Preaching Perspectives at LTSG on September 15, November 17, January 26, and May 17: This continuing education series offers valuable insights and resources for the task of preaching. Each presenter engages the biblical texts from the perspective of his or her particular discipline. Registration and refreshments begin at 9:00 a.m. These sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 per session/\$100 for all four sessions. Information at: <http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Preaching-Perspectives>.

- **Thursday, September 15, 2011, *On Scripture Lectionary Presentation: Tying the Biblical Text to Current Events Through Exegesis and Interpretation***
 - The Rev. Dr. Eric D. Barreto, The Rev. Dr. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, The Rev. Mary Brown, Ms. Jenee Woodard
- **Thursday, November 17, 2011, *Through the Lenses of the New Testament, Theology and Ethics: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany***
 - The Rev. Dr. Richard P. Carlson, The Rev. Dr. James M. Childs, Jr.
- **Thursday, January 26, 2012, *ON Scripture Lectionary Presentation: Tying the Biblical Text to Current Events Through Exegesis and Interpretation***
 - The Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Skinner, Dr. Greg Carey
- **Thursday, May 17, 2012, *Modern Day Miracle-Makers: Preaching on the Power of Community and Ephesians: Cultural Context Then and Now***
 - The Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann, The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann



**September 17, 2011
Women's Retreat at Camp Mount Luther:** All women are invited to be participants at Camp Mount Luther's Fall Women's Retreat. The retreat will feature a presentation by Rev. Sarah Hershberger.

The retreat will take place at the camp on Saturday, September 17, 2011. It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The day will begin with refreshments and registration at 9:30 a.m. There will be three sessions during the day led by Pastor Hershberger. Her topic will be "**Daily Spiritual Life: A Lutheran Woman's Perspective.**" There will be singing, prayer, and devotions. The day will end around 2:30 p.m. following lunch and devotions. Cost for the retreat is \$16.95 which includes coffee and tea, snacks, lunch and the program. We encourage you to bring a friend! Registration deadline is September 3. To register, contact Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. Checks should be made payable to Camp Mount Luther. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587 or e-mail cml@campmountluther.org

**September 17, 2011
Face-to-Face with Youth Gathering Coach & Coordinator plus Youth Ministry Training:** Youth Gathering Coordinator Ricki Stringfellow and Coach Robin Kunkel will offer up-to-date ELCA Youth Gathering information complemented by support and training for ALL youth leaders of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, regardless of your participation in the gathering. Join us at Christ's Lutheran Church, South Third Street in Lewisburg, on September 17, 2011. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon. The workshop is compliments of the synod; there is no cost to you. Come alone or bring a group and meet new peers in ministry. To register, please contact Robin Kunkel at 570-374-8444 or robinkunkel@sharonlc.org.

**September 22, 2011
Power of Forgiveness Conference:** A one-day conference, "The Power of Forgiveness: Lessons from Nickel Mines," will be held at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, on Thursday, September 22, 2011. The event features presentations by speakers from a variety of perspectives. The conference will benefit all those

interested in the process, challenge, and potential of forgiveness. Conference details are available at <http://www.etown.edu/forgiveness2011>. The registration deadline is September 8.



September 25, 2011

Worship in a New Key: The Susquehanna University Office of the Chaplain and the Department of Music present “Worship in a New Key”, a series of special worship events providing opportunities for pastors, congregational leaders, worship and music committees and parishioners to experience a variety of liturgies. All services begin at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Chapel on the SU campus.

- September 25, 2011—Taizé Eucharist
- November 20, 2011—Jazz Vespers
- February 12, 2012—Contemporary/Alternative Worship

September 26, 2011 Author Robert Putnam Lecture at SU:

Robert Putnam, author of the best-selling *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, will deliver Susquehanna University’s 2011 Alice Pope Shade Lecture on Monday, September 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Weber Chapel. Putnam recently co-authored *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, and his lecture will address the findings of the research that informs this book.



Based on two of the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted on religion and public life in America, the book includes a dozen in-depth profiles of diverse congregations across the country, which illuminate the trends described by Putnam and co-author David Campbell in the lives of real Americans. Nearly every chapter of *American Grace* contains a surprise about American religious life. Among them:

- Between one-third and one-half of all American marriages are interfaith;
- Roughly one-third of Americans have switched religions at some point in their lives;
- Young people are more opposed to abortion than their parents but more accepting of gay marriage;
- Even fervently religious Americans believe that people in other faiths can get to heaven;
- Religious Americans are better neighbors than secular Americans—more generous with their time and treasure, even for secular causes—but the explanation has less to do with faith than with communities of faith;
- Jews are the most broadly popular religious group in America today.

Sponsored by Susquehanna University’s Department of Religion and the Office of the Chaplain, the lecture is free and open to the public; no tickets are required.

September 28-30, 2012

Trinity Days: Registration is now open for Trinity Days, “After Religion”, at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, September 28-30, 2011. Presenter Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. Registration is \$50 per person, and \$25 for a spouse. For more information, go to www.TLSohio.edu.

October 16-26, 2011

Children, Family, and Faith: PEAK is a Partnership for Education And Knowledge between Wartburg Theological Seminary, Rocky Mountain Synod, and Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado. This course is an opportunity to be immersed in a 10-day learning community to develop a deeper understanding of children’s faith development. Participants will construct a theology that regards children as valuable persons, gifted by God for a life and ministry in the Church and God’s world. The implications for ministry to and with the children and families in one’s congregation and personal life will be explored. Led by faculty from Wartburg Theological Seminary, this course may be taken for academic credit or continuing education. For more information, contact ben@rainbowtrail.org or 719-431-0050 or visit <http://www.rmselfca.org/files/PEAK%20Brochure2011.pdf>

October 26, 2011

“Fifty Years After the Berlin Wall: Luther, Lutherans and Freedom in ‘Lutherland’”: Presenters Martin Treu, Gunther Gassmann, Claudia Bergman, Scott Moore, and Dirk Lange will offer lectures on “Luther, Lutherans and Freedom in ‘Lutherland’” at the 41st

annual Luther Colloquy on the campus of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Wednesday, October 26, from 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM. Lunch reservations must be made by October 12 (\$7.). For more information, go to: <http://www.ltsg.edu/Programs/LutherStudies>.

October 18-20, 2011

Technology Conference: The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, is excited to announce an innovative technology event called, "A Byte of the Future - A Conference on Using Technology in Worship and Education." The conference will be held on our Richmond campus October 18-20, 2011, and features keynotes, workshops, and model worship and education segments to show what can be done with technology in the church while remaining faithful. Visit website at <http://www.upsem.edu/Leadership/workshops/index.html> for more information and to register.

October 24, 2011

"Hopes, Facts and Fears: Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict:" Dr. Bruce Chilton, Episcopal Priest and internationally renowned New Testament scholar, author, and professor at Bard College, will be the presenter for the annual LARC Day of Dialogue in Central Pennsylvania. The meeting will be held on October 24, 2011, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Chilton will be speaking on the history and background of the Middle East peace process and the efforts of Lutherans, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics in regard to the peace process. Here is a registration form for the event: <http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/updated-LARC-2011-brochure-registration-2.pdf>

November 1-2, 2011

Moving Forward with Christ: Please see article earlier in this newsletter.

November 14-16, 2011

PA State Pastors' Conference: The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is now accepting registrations for the 2011 State Pastors' Conference. Scheduled for November 14-16 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, (4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111), this year's conference will explore "Practical and Practiced Awe: Reclaiming the Joy and Wonder of Our Call." With a rich menu of plenary presentations and workshops, the conference will help clergy to rethink these core practices and set them in more faithful and celebrative contexts.

A diverse selection of workshops fills out the rich menu of learning opportunities. Cost for the event is \$150 (with a \$25 late fee for registrations received after November 7). Visit <http://tinyurl.com/6h6cxhf> for more details, including a registration brochure you can download, a news release that tells more about the conference, and links to a site where you can register for the conference and arrange to pay with your MasterCard, Visa, or Discover credit card and reserve an overnight room at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East. Or, if you prefer, email pcc@pachurches.org to request a brochure by snail mail. (Be sure to include your postal mailing address.)



November 19, 2011 Front Porchin' Evangelism

Workshop: The Upper Susquehanna Synod will sponsor an Evangelism Workshop with Pastor Jake Jacobson, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northwest PA Synod, on Saturday, November 19, 2011, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church, Milton (1125 Mahoning Street). The session, called "Front Porchin'" will look at how easy evangelism is—it's about sharing a story. It is your story and God's story shared with another. Evangelism is sharing what God in Christ has done in your life. We don't even have to go out looking to evangelize- God provides us with all the places to do this sharing without ever having to go knock on a stranger's door. God gives us natural front porches where we live, work, and play. There, God introduces us to others, and sits with us as we share our lives, our stories, and the Christ within us with those who regularly gather there with us. How do we best utilize the front porches God calls us into or onto? What is our role in this process? How do we repair our damaged or dis-used porches? Front Porchin' is a simple process that helps congregations and individuals reassess their gifts and sharpen their skills for sharing the good news with others (both inside and outside the community of faith). Register through the synod website: www.uss-elca.org.

January 12, 2012

Bishop's Day: The annual one-day Bishop's Day event for rostered leaders, normally taking place in the fall, has been scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012, at Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg. Reservations for lunch will be accepted later in the year. The snow date for this event (in the event of weather-related postponement) is Thursday, January 26, 2012.

Twelfth ELCA Churchwide Assembly Brief Summary of Actions

The 12th Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was held August 15-19, 2011, in Orlando, Fla. The assembly included 1,025 voting members. The theme was "Freed in Christ to Serve."

ELCA Malaria Campaign officially launched: The assembly officially launched the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger. Along with our full communion partners, ELCA members will join with Lutheran churches in Africa to work toward a malaria-free future. A goal of the campaign is to raise \$15 million over a four-year period. The assembly acknowledged that gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign are not intended to replace gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

"Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" social statement adopted: The assembly adopted "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility," a social statement on genetics. The statement, described as the first by a North American church, develops a comprehensive ethical framework for addressing advancements in medical and agricultural research. It is the 11th ELCA social statement.

Review process for social statements adopted: The assembly called for a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements. No new social statements will be considered until a review process has been completed and shared with the ELCA Church Council in the fall of 2012, followed by a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this time, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for woman social statement will continue.

Living into the Future Together implementing resolutions adopted: There were resolutions put forth by the ELCA Church Council and the Living into the Future task force, designed to set a course for the ELCA's future and to consider this church's structure and relationships.

- Churchwide Assemblies will transition from a biennial to a triennial cycle, starting after the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- The assembly also approved recommendations that focus on strengthening connections within and across the expressions and partner ministries of this church.
- Voting members of the ELCA Church Council shall include the four churchwide officers and the chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops. Thirty-three members will continue to be nominated by their synods; the council may not exceed 45 members. Additional members may be nominated by the Church Council to ensure diversity and expertise. All will continue to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.
- The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the churchwide organization will review a recommendation for ministry with mentally and physically "handi-capable" children and adults.
- The assembly invited members of the ELCA to initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions of the church and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church.
- The assembly provided a means to continue the work assigned to the Living into the Future Together task force in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops.

ELCA budget proposals adopted: The assembly approved a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900, and approved a 2012 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000. This vote included approving a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400, a 2013 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000, and authorizing the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Memorials adopted: The assembly adopted a variety of resolutions to expand multicultural ministry, acknowledge the International Year for People of African Descent and work to prevent bullying, harassment, and related violence.

- The assembly supported immigration reform and the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would provide a path for citizenship for undocumented high school graduates.
- The assembly received memorials related to investment for positive change in Palestine, and encouraged members, congregations, synods and agencies of this church to achieve a deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- The assembly also recognized and celebrated Lutheran Campus Ministry and the central role of farmers and ranchers in providing an abundant supply of food and fiber for our nation and the world. The assembly declined to change governing documents that would increase the number of voting members to Synod Assemblies and Churchwide Assemblies who are layperson.

Constitutional amendments adopted: The assembly moved to change ELCA governing documents related to Living into the Future Together, the redesign of the churchwide organization and other matters.

Resolutions from the Reference and Counsel committee: The assembly considered and approved a variety of resolutions on topics ranging from suicide prevention to confronting injustices in immigration, from youth-related matters to mission support.

CREATING BETTER...

Newsletters

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

We'll spend a couple of months looking at how you can improve your congregation's newsletter. Most congregations have them, so it's important to make them a good tool for members and those who might be interested in your congregation. Here are some fundamentals of publication and brochure design (which can be helpful with newsletters and bulletins, too).

- **Define and survey your readers.** Who is the audience? Establish objectives for the publication, then make decisions about image, format, frequency, graphics, articles, etc.
- **Remember that what works for one audience won't work for another.** Designs may be radically different and contradict what we think is "correct and acceptable."
- **People decide to read or not read mail in a fraction of a second.** Does your newsletter have information the audience wants or needs and cannot get easily from another source? How do you slow the trip to the wastebasket? Layout and design get the reader to the page—good content and writing keep them there.
- **UZ, the reader's eye usually moves in one of two directions when scanning or reading.** One way the reader's eye moves is beginning in the upper left corner and moving down in a "Z" pattern towards the lower right corner. They also tend to look at a page in a big "U" starting from the upper left corner and swooping down the page and back up to the upper right corner. Graphics or photos will draw attention to or away from what you want them to read. Variety is okay if it isn't disruptive to the natural flow of reading.
- **Put 1-3 lead articles on the front page.** Interesting lead articles increase the odds of capturing the reader's attention. Conclude one article on the front page and jump the other article to conclude on page 2 or 3. To help draw the readers in, you should place your best articles on the front page. Use "forward-thinking" articles. Let your readers know what exciting things are happening. Save your "What we did last summer" articles for the inside.
- **Proof. Proof. Proof.** Make sure that there are no mistakes in your copy- proof, proof proof. Use your Spell Check. Find someone to objectively proofread your publication, looking for punctuation, grammar, spelling, and all other mistakes, please!
- **Never assume.** Okay, you can assume... assume that everyone will be reading your information for the first time. Put your church's name, address, phone number, fax number, e-mail, Facebook page, and web address on everything you send out. Remember the obvious.
- **Paper and ink colors.** 60% of newsletters are printed on white stock. 30% are printed on an off-white stock. 10% are printed on other colors. What does that tell you? Beware of these colors. Those obnoxious bright colors are just that. **Yellow, orange, or red inks are difficult to read.** Use them for highlights, accents, and attention-grabbers. Readers have a 40% better retention rate when color is used.
- **HEY!!!** Take it easy on the exclamation points! Not everything has to be exciting! If you use them too often, they lose the impact you are looking for!

In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll give even more tips for church newsletters. Thanks to Jon K. Skogen, former associate director for ELCA Outdoor Ministries, for the information presented above at the 2003 Association of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Professionals Administrative School.



USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle pastorjills@windstream.net	Pastor B.J. Collins collins_bj@hotmail.com	Thursday, Sept. 1, Christ, Milton, 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Oct. 6, Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg (RSVP to Ted Cockley RE: lunch).
Juniata Valley	Pastor Gary Roth garoth142@yahoo.com	Pastor James Park Bricker gymbri@embarqmail.com	Tuesday, Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m., Messiah, Mifflintown; Nov. 15, 10:00 a.m., Holy Communion, Yeagertown.
Middle Creek	Pastor Wayne Muthler	Pastor Patrick Sipes sgtmuddy@gmail.com	Wednesday, Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m., at The Haven, Mount Pleasant Mills.
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink pastorchad@verizon.net	Pastor Keith Pittsnogle prkeith@ptd.net	Wednesday, Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg.
Tulpehocken	Pastor Constantine Havir	Pastor Rich Fangmann	Tuesday, Sept. 6, 9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting, Trinity, Sunbury.
West Branch		Pastor Gunther Bernhardt prbernhardt@gmail.com	Tue. Sept. 13, 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Church of the Savior, Williamsport.

NEWS FROM OUR D.E.M.

As a result of the resignation of the Upstate New York Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission (D.E.M.), Beth Yenchko has been appointed as the Interim D.E.M. for that synod until December 31, 2011, on a half-time basis. So for the next few months, Beth will be spending alternating two-week periods between the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Upstate New York Synod with offices in Syracuse. You can feel free to call or write her anytime with your ideas, concerns, and needs, regardless of her geographic location at that time! She'll be pleased to be in contact with you! Her contact information is: cell: 717-579-3845, email: eyenchko@uss-elca.org.

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.

September 11

- Karl-John at Evangelical, Reedsville

September 18

- Beth Yenchko at Zion, Kratzerville

September 25

- Bishop at Christ, York

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated August 22, 2011)

Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Church of the Savior, Williamsport
- Evangelical, Reedsville
- St. John's (Brick) Lutheran Church, Montgomery

Preparing Materials

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

Interviewing Candidates

- Bethany, Montoursville

Called a Pastor

- Stone Valley Parish (August 7)

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 the first day of school? This is the time of 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, day one of kindergarten, I felt a little better after my teacher told me she’d keep a cup next to the sink so that I could get a drink of water at snack time (back then, I was not a big milk fan). I distinctly remember my first day of second grade when my mom was my substitute teacher because my real teacher’s father-in-law died. Then there is 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 college when I was amazed that people could just walk into class when they wanted, without a hall pass, and hosts of them smoked right outside the building (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. Even though I no longer shop for a new lunch box or a new Trapper Keeper, there is an excitement that only the fall and the start of school can bring.

If only that excitement could be shared by folks when they come to church each week. Wouldn’t that be exciting? What could we do in our congregations to make that happen? Think about those questions this academic year. I must be going now—the bell just ran 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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