

USS ARK

News of God's People in Action



August 2011

God's work. Our hands. + Upper Susquehanna Synod + Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Learning More About "Jesus Chooses Us" This Summer at Camp

Mount Luther recently ended their summer camp season. Around 748 participants took part in programs during the eight-week session.

Before any campers arrived this summer, 20 members of the summer ministry staff gathered at the camp for two weeks of training. They were installed by Upper Susquehanna Synod Bishop Robert L. Driesen during the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly in mid-June. The assembly was held at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. The staff also participated in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania Annual Convention, held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg.



This summer, 349 campers enjoyed on-site programs including traditional, specialty, trip, and day camps. New offerings this year included Pedal, Pack and Paddle Plus; and Flashback Family Camp. Theme weeks were also held for Mount Luther Heritage and Scooby Doo. Other summer highlights included adventurous hiking, swimming, and the popular night owl camps. A Family Camp was held for participants of all ages. The adult Bible studies were led by Rev. Sarah Hershberger of Millmont. A weekly edition of the camp's Camel Tracks newspaper was also published by campers.



A new joint week, called X-Teen, took place for senior high campers. This week was sponsored by the camp, the Upper Susquehanna Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA. The theme for this program was "God Rocks," as campers looked at finding God in rock music. They were treated to a "fancy" dinner that week and did a lot of singing, sharing, and bonding with one another. During the last week of resident camp, Mount Luther held a joint camping week for elementary and high school aged campers. One of the highlights of the summer was welcoming David Kuhn. David hails from Germany, and is part of the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis, a companion church to the Upper Susquehanna Synod. He provided greetings at this year's Synod Assembly.

As always, there were several Day Camps at local churches, led by Mount Luther staff. This year, 399 campers were able to experience camp through these off-site opportunities. Off-site day camps were held at St. John Lutheran, Belleville; Evangelical Lutheran, Reedsville; Trinity Lutheran, Milton; St. Matthew's Lutheran, Shamokin Dam; Centre Lutheran, Mifflintown; Emmanuel Lutheran, Middleburg; St. John's Lutheran, Bloomsburg; First Lutheran, Watsonstown; St. John's Lutheran, Richfield; Zion Lutheran, Turbotville; Beaver Lutheran, Beaver Springs; United in Christ, West Milton; St. John's Lutheran, Bellefonte (in cooperation with St. John's Episcopal and St. John's United Church of Christ) as well as a day-long event at the Columbia Mall in early August, sponsored by Today's Lutherans in Christ.



This year's theme at Mount Luther was "Jesus Chooses Us." Through the camp's daily morning "First Light" devotions, Bible Studies, and worship services, campers learned more about how Jesus calls and protects us, speaks to, comes to, and walks with us. They studied the stories of Jesus calling the disciples, calming the seas, Mary and Martha, Zaccheus, and the Road to Emmaus.

Camp Mount Luther Celebrates Birthday



Camp Mount Luther celebrated its 48th birthday in late June with a "Birthday Bash" at camp. The bash happened during Mount Luther Heritage Week. During that week,

the campers recreated what it was like to be a Mount Luther camper in the 1960s, the decade of the camp's birth. Local musician, Van Wagner, provided a concert complete with the singing of "Happy Birthday" and a cake. The camp was dedicated on June 30, 1963, and uses this date to celebrate its birthday. Campers swam in the pond that week, ate in Maple Hall and heard stories from the 1960s, including one about Daisy, the donkey that lived at camp.

Up and Down the Valleys

Bishop Robert L. Driesen visited the Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis in late June to be present for the signing of the renewal of covenant companion synod partnership between the Bavarian Lutheran Church and the Upper Susquehanna Synod. He was there at the invitation of Bishop Schmidt.

Pastor Notes: **Pastor Brian Beissel** (*Grace, Pt. Township*) concluded his call at Grace (with "purchase of service" by Trinity, Oak Grove) and now serves a congregation in the Northeastern PA Synod. **Pastor Jennifer M. Kopacz** has received and accepted a call as pastor of the Mountain Grove Parish. **Pastor Amanda K. Range** is new pastor at the Salem Parish, after being ordained at Synod Assembly. **Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity** began to serve his call to Beaver Lutheran Church in Beaver Springs. **Pastor Edwin Rehrauer** (retired) is now serving as the interim pastor of the Stone Valley Parish. **Pastor Leah D. Schade** has received and accepted a call to United in Christ, West Milton.

Kylie Kuhns, a member of **St. Paul, Middleburg** (*Pastor Wayne Muthler*) was featured in the July edition of *The Lutheran* magazine. The article focused on Kuhns' efforts to raise money for Kelsey's Dream, the charity she founded after the death of her sister to cancer. Kelsey's Dream has raised more than \$130,000 to benefit children in need across the country. Kylie said in the article, "I'm lucky because I get such great support from our community, so I don't have to do everything by myself."

Betty Boonie, a member of **Trinity, McClure** (*Pastor Lisa Schuster*) published a story in the local magazine "Common Ground." The story appeared in the Summer 2011 edition. She wrote about her memories of Lewistown.

An update on Kathryn's Kloset in the Upper Susquehanna Synod: statistics were released recently for 2010, which show that the project has served 3,174 families and 10,301 individuals. The total amount of product given to the synod by Diakon was \$80,978.17. The local effort was recently featured on Sunbury's WKOK Radio.



The 2011 Thrivent Builds home on Penn Street in Montgomery is under roof and windows have been installed. The project, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, started in early June and has been progressing with help from volunteers. A United Methodist Church work group from Sterling, VA, worked on the house this summer as well as a Lutheran church group from Doylestown, PA. Pictured here are Peggy Bohart, Thrivent Chapter President; Regina Gross, Thrivent Builds Specialist; and Pastor Detlef Huckfeldt, Thrivent Builds Specialist. The three of them and Keith Wood, Thrivent Representative, labeled the house with prayers and blessings for the house and the family.

USS ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Permission is granted to reproduce USS Ark for congregational communications. Send your mission stories and ministry ideas to Editor Chad Hershberger at news@uss-elca.org.

The Rev. Robert L. Driesen, Bishop



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