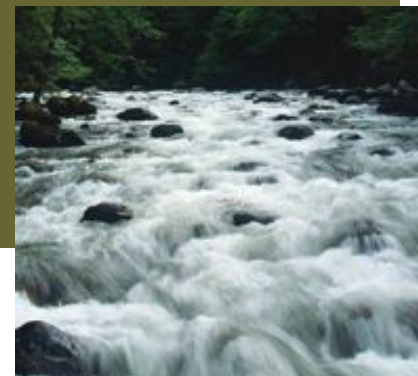


HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

July 27, 2010



God's work. Our hands.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Congregations Can Now Befriend Liberian Partner Parishes: What's it like to be a Lutheran Christian living in western Africa? Find out and get to know our Liberian brothers and sisters by initiating a "Congregation-to-Parish Relationship" between your congregation and a parish of the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL). The USS and LCL share a 20-year history as companion synods and now we are beginning to link individual congregations with specific parishes for the purpose of developing closer ties and greater understanding. After many months of development, a formal partnership agreement regarding these "Congregation-to-Parish" relationships was signed this month by Bishops Robert Driesen and Sumoward Harris. Interested members of USS congregations might start by reading through the "Congregation-to-Parish Partnership Resource" developed to assist them in the process. The document is available from Pastor Beth Ann Stone (bethann@uss-elca.org).

Survey Says: Pastor Beth Ann Stone is sending USS ordained ministers an important survey this month by email. The email includes a link to an online survey that takes only a minute or two to complete and submit. The survey covers three areas on which the surveyed group's opinions are desired to aid in future planning: the Lay Ministry Institute, Mutual Ministry Committees, and the annual Bishop's Retreat. When you see the email with the subject heading, "USS Ministry Survey," please take a moment to click through to the survey and answer the questions. Your opinions and cooperation are highly appreciated!

Information Request: Tim Nikitin, Chairman for the Definitely Able Advisory Committee for the national Lutheran Youth Organization is asking for help in getting information from congregations about youth with disabilities in our synod and agencies who work with youth with disabilities. If you have information to share, e-mail Tim at timnikitinfordac@gmail.com

MILESTONES

The Revs. Patrick (Arbogast-Leiningers) and **Breen Sipes** (Zion, Kratzerville) welcomed the birth of their daughter, Ruona Elizabeth, on July 6. At birth, Ruona weighed 9 pounds, 8 oz., and was 20 inches long.

The Rev. Dr. J. Jeffrey Zetto (Bethany, Montoursville) has received and accepted a call to Memorial Drive Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas (Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod), effective July 6, 2010. His final Sunday at Bethany was July 4. Godspeed, Pastor Zetto! Interim ministry and Sunday worship leadership are being provided by **Pastor James Bramer** (July 6 through August 9, and November 28 through December 26) and **Pastor Bruce Amme** (August 10 through May 31, excluding November 28 through December 26).

Pastor Kenneth Longfield (Evangelical, Reedsville) will conclude his ministry at Evangelical on July 31, 2010 as he begins his retirement. Pastor James Park Bricker will begin to serve the congregation as interim pastor and half-time stated supply on August 9, 2010.

Pastor Robert P. Doll has received and accepted a call to Sharon, Selinsgrove, effective August 1, 2010. Pastor Doll comes to us from the Southeastern PA Synod, having most recently served as pastor to Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield, PA. Welcome!

Pastor Cinda J. Brucker was ordained at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 19, 2010. She has been called to Trinity, Hughesville, with the purchase of services by Mt. Zion, Hughesville, effective July 1, 2010. Her installation will take place at Trinity, Hughesville, on Sunday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m. Pastor Cinda formerly served as a commissioned associate in ministry in the ELCA, and is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod welcomes **Pastor Frederick H. Bigelow** to the roster of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Pastor Bigelow, now retired, transferred from the Allegheny Synod to Upper Susquehanna Synod, effective February 15, 2010. Fred and his wife Janice live in Lewisburg at Buffalo Valley.

MORE MILESTONES:

Pastor Martin Kessler (retired) will begin serving as interim pastor and stated supply at Canby, Bloomsburg, effective August 1, following the dissolution of the Buckhorn Parish.

Pastor MarthaSue Moll will begin serving as the intentional interim pastor at St. John, Montgomery, effective August 31.

Vicar Anna Haugen begins to serve as pastoral intern at St. Luke, Bloomsburg in August, supervised by Pastor Jeffrey Bohan. **Vicar Gary Shumway** also begins to serve in August as pastoral intern at St. James, Rauchtown, supervised by Pastor Kerry Aucker.

Sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of **Rev. Paul L. Reaser**, a retired pastor of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, who 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.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of **Robert R. Swope**, father-in-law of **Pastor Phil Zimmerman** (retired). Swope died on July 21 and his service was held on July 26 at St. John's, PottsGrove.

Synod Council in July affirmed, with regret, the request of St. Andrew, Muncy, to disaffiliate with the ELCA effective July 22. **Rev. Dr. Donald Edwards** (St. Andrew, Muncy) resigned from the roster of the ELCA effective July 22.

And with apologies for the delayed notice, we celebrate with Ms. Sandra L. Grier this year the tenth anniversary of her commissioning as an Associate in Ministry (4/2/2000), giving thanks to God for her ministry!

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

- 5 years - **Pastor Gregory Davidson** (7/30/2005)
(Faith, Lewisburg)
- Pastor Sarah Hershberger** (8/19/2005)
(Penn State Campus Minister)
- Pastor Sonja Ware** (7/17/2005)
(Christians United Parish)
- 10 years - **Pastor Michael Greenauer** (7/8/2000)
(Trinity, Danville)
- 20 years - **Pastor Gregory Kramer** (8/11/1990)
(ELCA Foundation)
- 50 years - **Pastor Martin Kessler**
(retired)

UPDATING YOUR CONSTITUTION

At the 2010 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly, voting members approved a recommendation of the Synod Council to amend the synod's constitution to comply with changes required by action of the most recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The first change effectively requires background checks and screening for all persons nominated for and elected as synodical officers. The second change tasks the Synod Council with establishing a plan to effect the goal to include at least 10 percent of voting members of Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and synod committees as youth and young adults.

Nearly every Churchwide Assembly results in some (usually minor) changes to the ELCA model constitutions for synods and for congregations. Congregations should review their own constitution annually to ensure that they include the most current language requirements as congregations of the ELCA. Congregations who wish to call a new pastor **MUST** have an up-to-date constitution...a process that does not happen overnight! Procedures for updating a constitution are usually found in the constitution itself. Proposed changes should be reviewed by the synod's Constitution Committee (which meets quarterly) before going before the congregation. Once your amendments are reviewed, your constitution may require that they be distributed to the congregation with 60 days advance notice of a specially-called congregational meeting to approve them.

For a helpful guide for congregations wanting to update their constitutions, look on the synod webpage under "For Congregations - Resources," or click on <http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/congregational-constitutions.pdf>. Changes are described on the next two pages.



**2009 Amendments to the
Model Constitution for Congregations**

**as approved by the Eleventh Churchwide Assembly
August 17–23, 2009**

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~.

To amend C12.03. to make it consistent with C12.02.:

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. ~~Individuals who have served less than one-half of a regular term shall be eligible for nomination and possible election to a full term.~~

*To amend *C15.02. because a member cannot be compelled to appear:*

***C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. ~~A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council after having received a written citation at least ten days prior to the meeting.~~ The written citation that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council and requests the presence of a member charged with the offense shall be sent at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.

To amend and add the following to allow for expanded roles for youth and young adults in the governance in all expressions of this church:

To amend:

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s)[, the officers of the congregation,] and [members] [not more than nor fewer than members] of the congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member . . . [*the rest unchanged*].

To amend and add the following to make the process for establishment of additional sites for worship parallel to the process for relocation:

To amend:

***C6.06.** If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

To add the following to provide an interdependent process for the establishment of additional sites for worship:

***C6.07.** If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

To amend the following to provide for the termination of a call when a parish arrangement terminates:

- *C9.05.**
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons: .
..
6) the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
[with the rest unchanged]

*To add *C20.04. to make explicit what happens to a call when a parish dissolves:*

***C20.04.** Whenever a parish arrangement is terminated, the call of any rostered person serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that formerly was part of the parish arrangement desire to issue a new call to that rostered person, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1, 2010

German Partnership Picnic: The Ansbach-Würzburg Partnership Committee is planning a picnic on August 1 at 3:00 p.m. at St. James Church Pavilion in Rauchtown. Pastor Lois D. Martin, chairperson, says Pastor Klaus Kuhn will be visiting our synod as the representative of Bishop Schmidt in Germany. We are inviting pastors and their families and interested lay persons to join us in welcoming him on August 1. This year we celebrate our Global Missions partnership with the Lutheran Church in Bavaria. We have many things in common with them, and there are some differences as well. Our continuing conversations lead us to new discoveries with each other, while celebrating our unity in Christ. As we continue our partnership, we hope to grow new links between churches and pastors. We look forward to celebrating the renewal of our partnership covenant next year in Rotenburg, Germany. You are invited to bring a covered dish for this event. It will be held rain or shine (the pavilion is covered). Beverages and hot dogs will be provided.

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.

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, with Rev. Lois Martin being the presenter.

November 12-13, 2010

"Glocal" Mission Gathering: 2010 brings with it a full slate of "Glocal" Mission Gatherings. These exciting events bring experience and resources in global and domestic ministry together in convenient locations across the country, so leadership teams can build the skills needed to be a part of God's mission, no matter where service happens. Launched in April in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, six more "Glocal" Mission Gatherings are planned through November. The events cost just \$35 per person for 1-1/2 days of programming. A significant part of the gatherings are skill-building workshops. These workshops focus on specific mission skills to be used at both the local and global levels of ministry. The closest ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering is in Camp Hill, PA, on November 12-13. More information can be found on the Global Missions page on the ELCA website (www.elca.org)

CONTINUING ED

"The ELCA and Homosexuality: What People Believe and Why," A Presentation by Dr. Mark Allan Powell:

The Upper Susquehanna Synod has received a copy of a marvelous resource provided by the North Carolina Synod: a video recording of Dr. Mark Allan Powell's presentation to more than 600 people who gathered at St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC, on May 2, 2010. Dr. Powell does not try to convince anyone about the "rightness" or "wrongness" of their current position regarding the actions of the ELCA churchwide assembly, but he does an excellent job of describing what he believes those positions "really" are. He suggests that most in the ELCA mischaracterize the positions of those with whom they disagree, and argues that he believes most in this church hold either

"moderately conservative" or "moderately liberal" positions with relatively few arguing from the extremes. Carefully describing four positions and why they are held, Powell also carefully relates what the ELCA actually decided. He claims that he almost never hears anyone arguing, regardless of their position, that the scriptures are no longer relevant or are no longer the sole source and norm for faith. Indeed, such an argument, for him, would be confessionally impossible for a Lutheran. Instead, we are arguing about differing interpretations and using the scriptures themselves to make the argument. If you would like a copy, send an email to Bishop Driesen at bishop@uss-elca.org.

Internet Courses in Congregation Administration: Did you ever wonder how to start building a congregation archive? What the best way is of maintaining the congregation membership registry? How to implement a records management system? The ELCA offers a

selection of free, online courses through The Fisher's Net that address many basic issues faced by pastors and staff of congregations. Check them out at: <http://moodle.fishersnet.net/course/category.php?id=33e>

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

August 1

- Beth Ann at Mission Developers Event, MN

August 8

- Bishop at Mt. Grove Parish
- Beth Ann at Zion, Kratzerville

August 15

- Bishop at Grace, Sunbury
- Karl-John at Zion, Kratzerville

August 22

- Bishop on vacation

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

Position Posting: The ELCA is currently accepting applications for a **SALES AND ACCOUNT MANAGER**. The primary responsibility of this position is to coordinate and drive assigned sales-related activities for the ELCA financial service units, ELCA Foundation, the Mission Investment Fund and the ELCA Board of Pensions. The position is responsible for coordinating sales activity and monitoring and reporting on the sales pipeline for each product sold on behalf of the financial service units. If you are interested, visit www.elca.org/humanresources or contact Letty Villalon, Director for Staffing, at Letty.Villalon@elca.org or 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2986.

Church Mice™

A Christian Cartoon by Karl Zorowski



Church Mice

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www.churchmice.net

EXTRA! EXTRA! Write all about Jesus for Your Local Media

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

One of your goals as a congregation should be to tell the story of how your local church reaches out to the community and spreads the love of Jesus Christ. A good way to do that is to develop a relationship with your local media. And, the most common form of getting information to the media is the news release.

Writing a news release is not a mystery. In fact, getting a good news release out to your media list is quite simple, once you know the format. Remember, news releases are designed for the media; no one else is interested in your information presented this way.

Things you should do in the preparation of a news release:

- Determine your primary message.
- Be sure your news release tells a complete news story, answering the journalist questions who, what, where, when, why, and how.
- News releases are typically no more than one typed page long.
- Write a strong summary lead putting the most interesting news first- most significant or important.
- Amplify the lead (each of the elements introduced- expand upon)
- When writing, use the inverted pyramid style, which means put the most important information first and the least important information last.
- Write short sentences and paragraphs and use common language (avoid technical terms)
- Avoid empty or unnecessary words and clichés.
- Use ACTIVE verbs. Avoid PASSIVE verbs.
- **Double space or 1 ½ space if you can.**
- Double check all your information- EVERY FACT, TIME, DATE, PLACE, ETC. MUST BE ACCURATE!

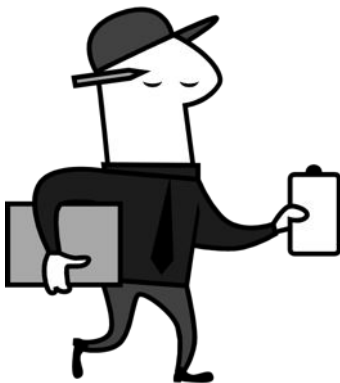
Where Should Your News Story Go?

You should send your news release to a variety of media in your area. Send it to your local newspaper, local radio stations, as well as the local television stations that cover your area. You are probably a consumer of information from many of these sources.

You can also send your news release to church publications. The synod has a publication *USS Ark* that regularly publishes stories of our congregations in action. In addition, you could submit your news release to *The Lutheran* magazine.

The Director of Communications keeps a current media list for our synod. You can request one by e-mailing news@uss-elca.org

Reasons News Releases would be rejected:



- Poor Writing (see the tips above to help)
- Incompleteness (make sure you answer the 5Ws and H)
- Inaccuracies (double check EVERYTHING!)
- Poor Timing (sometimes there is more important news. Try to send it out when you know it will be a low news time- holidays and weekends are typical)
- Little Local Angle (local news outlets like it to be relevant to their listeners/readers)
- Past Events (make sure you send out news releases in a timely fashion or make it sound current)
- Features (media like hard news stories over soft news features)
- Institutional News (media are more likely to publish stories that are not just about what you do all the time)

How to “Write Good”: Style is something you will develop as you write more news releases. A good rule of thumb is, “Never leave a question in the reader’s mind.” **Always have someone else read over your release before it is finalized**, and read it out loud to yourself as well. If you stumble over phrases, rewrite it to make it sound more conversational and understandable.

On the next page see an example of a news release and explanation of the different parts.

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA NEWS RELEASE

State that this is a news release at the top. Can use your letterhead to make it look more "official" if you are going to mail or fax it.

Contact: Chad W. Hershberger, Director of Communication
Phone: (570) 713-5826 E-Mail: news@uss-elca.org

Always list a contact person. This line makes the editor's job much easier. This is the person the media will call to get further information. Always list the best way to contact that person.

For Immediate Release: May 21, 2009

Tour De Revs Coming to Upper Susquehanna Synod

This line is needed on every news release. You must list when the information can be used. Typically, you write "For Immediate Release," meaning the media can use it when they get it. Date it, too.

LEWISBURG - The Tour de Revs (TDR) is coming to Union County!!! The Tour de Revs is a bicycle tour of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to raise money and awareness for the synod's work in the region. The tour will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009. Their schedule is as follows:

Always write a headline. This helps catch editors eyes and gives them a quick knowledge of what the story is about.

The first sentence is your lead. It's the most important sentence in your news release. It should grab the reader's attention and tell the most important and most recent information about your story and sum up the whole story.

Use a dateline. That is the place where the story originates. It is used to give the story extra significance by showing that it comes from your area.

At 3:00 p.m., the tour will start at the United (Four Bells) Lutheran Church, Millmont to the Upper Susquehanna Synod office around 4:15 p.m. The tour will be available for news media at the office, the three pastors will be transported throughout the synod for potluck meals and presentations about their journey. Their schedule includes:

Christ's Lutheran Church, 192 and Lewisburg synod, USS Bishop

6:00 p.m.- Potluck dinner and TDR cyclist's presentation at Christ Lutheran Church, Milton (1125 Mahoning St.)

6:30 p.m.- Potluck dinner and TDR cyclist's presentation at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Sunbury (501 Catawissa Ave.)

7:00 p.m.- TDR cyclist's presentation at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport (1400 Market St.)

All events are open to the public! Canned goods donations encouraged at evening events in congregations. The TDRs will be staying with synod members overnight and then traveling to Reading on Friday morning. The pastors are Rev. Reinold "Ron" Schlak Jr., Rev. Frederick "Fred" A. Soltow Jr. and the Rev. David ... congregations in West Virginia. They hope to raise \$5 million in this endeavor.

-30- is a journalistic symbol, used in broadcast style, to mean the end of the story. Sometimes (###) or the writer's initials (CWH) are used. It tells the person inputting the story that there are no more pages.

Information about Tour de Revs is at <http://www.tourderevs.org> on the Web. For more information about the tour, information about the technology of the bamboo bicycle and more...

ap of

The Upper Susquehanna Synod, headquartered in Lewisburg, PA, is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod is made up of 137 congregations in Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga and Union Counties. For more information on the synod and its congregations, visit the www.uss-elca.org

-30-

In the body of your news release, make sure you tell a complete news story. Use quotes from those involved and remember to introduce the quote with a transition, which in news writing is a sentence in its own paragraph, which sets the reader up for the quote. Choose carefully who you quote because the news media will probably want to interview them. You probably will want to develop one standard paragraph about your church which you end most news releases. This is referred to as "signature information" and will help unfamiliar editors (and ultimately readers) know who you are.

In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll give a primer on tips to deal with the media.

IN CONCLUSION

The Sights of Summer

By Chad Hershberger

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” --Romans 8:19

During the late spring and summer months this year, I’ve had babies on my mind. Sure, being the father of a seven-month old, you’d probably expect that. But consider this:

- A mother deer gave birth to a fawn on the back lawn of my office building in May. This summer, I’ve watched the fawn grow up, running around the woods, showing off his or her spots, but never being far from mom.
- As I drove home from work one night, I saw a raccoon and her young ones by the side of the road. They ran away when they saw my headlight, their mother leading the way.
- Several baby snakes have been around our house this year. Scared of the lawnmower, one quickly took cover in a hole in the lawn.

All of these children, including my own, have adults who watch after them and take care of them. This summer, in my job as director of Mount Luther, I’ve watched children play in the woods, stop by the side of the road when their counselors saw a car, and scurry off to the indoors when something scary, like thunderstorms, came rolling through the camp. And I was reminded of how God takes care of us when we need guidance and arms to run into when we are unsure what to do. Just as the baby animals are totally dependent on their parents, so, too, should we be dependent on our Creator who adopts us as a child and is always close by.

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.