

HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

June 28, 2011



God's work. Our hands.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Mileage Rate Increase: The Internal Revenue Service has announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2011. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and other purposes. The rate will increase to 55.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2011. This is an increase of 4.5 cents from the 51 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2011, as set forth in Revenue Procedure 2010-51. In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2011.

Gettysburg Seminary Begins First Major Green Project: The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg began its first major construction project designed to make the campus greener and more efficient today. The project will replace the heating and cooling systems (HVAC) of the Seminary's chapel, the Church of the Abiding Presence, built in 1942 and fitted with steam heat from the central boiler facility. The chapel closed June 20th for construction and will remain closed until the interior work is done in late August, before the school year begins. The work on the chapel's heating and cooling systems are a part of larger plans held by the Seminary to refurbish all the worn finishes, make the building more accessible, and make the accommodations of the facility safer and more comfortable for users. Geothermal heat pump based HVAC systems turned out to be good for this application on several fronts. Seminary staff noted their particular efficiency, reduction of the seminary's carbon footprint, and the ability to control both temperature and humidity. This is especially significant for the long-term preservation of the Andover tracker organ, its concert piano and harpsichord, as well as all the wood in the chapel.

Little Red Book Available: The Augsburg Fortress Little Red Book for 2012 is now available as a free downloadable resource in a variety of formats at www.augsburgfortress.org/redbook Or, if you prefer the traditional "ink on paper" format, you may pre-order one for only \$9.95 including shipping. Orders must be received no later than July 31, 2011.

Items for FREE! United In Christ Lutheran Church, West Milton, formed in 2001, as a consolidation. They are finally cleaning out closets of items that were gathered that are no longer used or needed in their congregation. Items are available first come, first served. Please call the office at 570-568-2254 if you are interested in any of these things:

- 1 Processional Cross
- 16 wooden trays that hold 22 communion cups
- 5 offering plates, different sizes, metals, and condition (although 2 match)
- Various white linens
- 1 Altar cross, brass, with 3-stepped base
- 1 box heavy plastic communion cups
- Misc. numbers and liturgical season names, 3 1/2" high for hymn boards

Paraments:

- Red silk, 2 Pulpit, 1 @ 38" long, 1 @ 34" long, both 18" wide with gold symbols and fringe
- Green weave, 2 Pulpit, 21" wide, 38-39" long, Altar frontal 54" long, all with gold symbols and fringe
- White Altar Frontal 52" long, weave, gold symbols and fringe, shows some age

MILESTONES

Pastor Brian Beissel (Grace, Pt. Township) will conclude his call at Grace (with “purchase of service” by Trinity, Oak Grove) on July 31, 2011, to take a new call as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Valley View, PA (NE PA Synod). He and his wife, Pastor Michelle Beissel (United Methodist Church), will reside in Shamokin. Godspeed, Pastor Beissel!

Seminarian Jennifer M. Kopacz has received and accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Mountain Grove Parish beginning July 11, 2011. She will be ordained a minister of Word and Sacrament, and installed as the parish pastor, at Trinity, Mountain Grove, at 2:00 PM, Sunday, July 10, 2011. Clergy are invited to vest (red) and process. The parish includes the congregations of Trinity, Mountain Grove; Emanuel, Mainville; and St. Peter’s (Harger’s), Mountain Grove (all Bloomsburg area). Welcome!

Pastor Amanda K. Range (Salem Parish) was ordained a minister of Word and Sacrament on June 18, 2011, at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly. She is a recent graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and comes to us from the North Carolina Synod. She begins her call to serve Salem Lutheran Parish, Salem and St. Peter, Kreamer on July 5. Welcome!

Pastor Adrian “A.J.” Shearer has concluded his service as the Intentional Interim minister of Salem Parish, under call from the Synod Council.

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity will begin to serve his call to Beaver Lutheran Church in Beaver Springs on July 10, 2011. He will be installed on Sunday, August 7, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. Clergy are invited to vest (green) and process. Welcome!

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, starting July 31, 2011. Pastor Schade is studying for a PhD in Homiletics with a minor in ecological theology at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, from which she also received her Master of Divinity degree. She had previously served as Associate Pastor at Reformation in Media, PA. Welcome!

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

10 years - **Pastor Beth Ann Lechtenberger Stone** (7/14/2001)
(Assistant to Bishop Driesen)

Pastor Cheryl L. Berner (7/28/2001)
(Trinity, Milton)

25 years - **Pastor Richard C. Fangmann** (7/27/1986)
(Zion, Sunbury)

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

July 4, 2011

St. Mark’s Fourth of July Front Lawn Celebration:

The congregation of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, invites the Williamsport community to join them for their Independence Day celebration, beginning with refreshments at 6:00 p.m. For over 10 years now, St. Mark’s has extended their hospitality during the downtown festivities: popcorn, hotdogs and beverages were shared with over 400 people last year. Another part of the traditional festivities at St. Mark’s is a patriotic program inside at 7:30 p.m. The chief musician is Jungwha Kim, their recently appointed

Director of Music. Participants include Donna Zierdt Elkin, Nick Buckman, Bernadette Haas Jones, and others. The program includes audience favorites, such as “Stars and Stripes Forever,” the national anthem, patriotic readings, other organ and instrumental works, as well as some sing-a-longs. There is no admission charge for the program in the nave or for the refreshments served on the front lawn as we wait with our friends, old and new, for the fireworks to follow. Refreshments start at 6:00, followed by the patriotic program at 7:30 and fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

July 18-22, 2011

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

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

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

The full week's institute will also include presentations on Biblical and Theological Perspectives, Infusing Disability in Theological Education, and Worship and Disability. Download the registration form here:

<http://www.ltsg.edu/getattachment/Lifelong-Learners/Theology-and-Disability/TheologyandDisabilityBrochurefinal.pdf.aspx>.

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

- After the Benediction: Journeying with People with Disabilities in Faith and Life (Erik Carter)
- Strategies for Establishing a Ministry for People with Hearing Loss in a Hearing Church (Peggy Johnson)
- After Disability Theology: What's Next? (Hans Reinders)
- Moving Through the Sadness: Theological Reflections on Depression, Suicide, and the Dark Night of the Soul (John Swinton)
- The Spirit Poured Out Upon All Flesh: Disability and the Renewal of the Church (Amos Young)
- Beyond Normalcy (Tom Reynolds) PDF document file
- Better Together: Inclusive Christian Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities (Eric Carter)
- Rediscovering the Old in the New: Biblical Themes Emerging in Inclusive Ministries (Bill Gaventa)
- The Bible and the Deaf (Peggy Johnson)
- Educating Care: Transformation and Disability in Theological Education (Thomas Reynolds)
- 'Whose Story am I?' Spirituality, Personhood and Dementia (John Swinton)

- Theology and Disabilities: Signs of Hope amidst Struggle at Gettysburg (Leonard Hummel)
- Two Kinds of Communities, Two Kinds of People (Hans Reinders)
- Re-Enabling the Hermeneutics of Suspicion and of Charity: Disability and the Renewal of Theological Education (Amos Young)

To download any of these presentations, go to:

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

July 31- August 4, 2011

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Biennial National Conference:

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians will be meeting in Seattle, Washington, for their biennial national conference. The public is invited for the July 31 through August 4, 2011, conference at Seattle University. The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is a strong and successful service and professional organization with approximately 1,500 members, dedicated to the cause of strengthening the ministry of music in the Lutheran Church. It serves through a wide range of publications, conferences, and local, regional, and national events. ALCM is widely recognized as a significant force in Lutheran church music. Once every two years ALCM comes together for a national conference. This summer we will convene at Seattle University. It is the perfect combination of affordable housing, walkable campus, and tourist-friendly location - an ideal location.

Worship spaces are close, plenary and workshop spaces are comfortable, and the Space Needle is only 15 minutes away. We have assembled a great faculty: Plenary session presenters are Christian Scharen, teacher, and Pam Fickenscher, pastor. Hymn Festival leaders are Anton Armstrong, conductor, and John Ferguson, organist. For more information about the conference, please go to our web site at: www.alcm.org or call the ALCM office at (800) 624-2526.

August 1-3, 2011

Summer Conference on Faith Formation, Discipleship, and Baptismal Living:

August 1-3, pastors, worship leaders, and educators will gather at the Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA (south of San Francisco International Airport), for the Annual Gathering of the North American Association for the Catechumenate. Featured speakers are Mark Stamm (SMU/Perkins School of Theology) and Jessicah Duckworth (joining the faculty at Luther Seminary in July). More information and online registration available on the NAAC website at www.catechumenate.org.

August 7, 2011

Companion Synod Sunday: Congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod are encouraged to recognize this August 7th as "Companion Synod Sunday", celebrating

our partnership with the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL). The LCL is one of two partner churches of our synod who are remembered biannually in rotation on the first Sunday of August. The following downloadable resources have been created to assist congregations in marking August 7th as a day of celebration with our Liberian brothers and sisters:

- [Four half-sheet, reproducible bulletin inserts](#) tell stories of our synod's partnership in Liberia. Use one insert each Sunday beginning July 17.
- Choose from a [list of suggested hymns for worship](#). Select all hymns for that Sunday from the list, or highlight just one hymn, noting its significance for the day.
- Prayer is one of the most important ways to celebrate this day. Consider using one of these [prayers or the litany](#) that follows. Lift up by name Bishop Sumoward E. Harris of the LCL, the pastors, deacons and evangelists of the LCL, and our sisters and brothers in the LCL.
- Consider entering into a "Congregation-to-Parish Relationship" with a Liberian parish, pairing your congregation with theirs in a more personal relationship. (See the ["Congregation-to-Parish Partnership Resource"](#) for more details.) Brainstorm ways this ministry could enhance your congregation's own.
- Ask someone to conduct basic research on Liberia through the library or internet and offer a Sunday School class or adult forum on the topic. Try www.elca.org/liberia, <http://gmwat.wetpaint.com/>; and <http://www.lcl-thrp.org/>.

Please share these resources with worship planners from your congregation, encouraging them to incorporate "Companion Synod Sunday" into plans for worship this August 7th. For video/DVD resources on Liberia, please contact Dr. Bob Bradford at bradford@evenlink.com. Thanks to Pastor Mary Peterhaensel, Carol Bradford, Nancy Hoffman, Ruth Koble, and Pastor Beth Ann Stone for their contributions to these materials.

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.

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 Larson, ben@rainbowtrail.org or 719-431-0050 or download the pdf brochure at <http://www.rmselca.org/files/PEAK%20Brochure2011.pdf>

November 1-2, 2011

Moving Forward with Christ: The 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, to experience Bible study under the leadership of Dr. Wally Taylor, (Ernest W. and Edith S. Ogram Professor of New Testament Studies and Director of Graduate Studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary), to have conversation with Bishop Mark Hanson (Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and 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. 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.

- Early Bird registration is \$80.00 through August 12
 - 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](#). 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.

**CREATING
BETTER...**

Connections with Facebook

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

Before we move to tips for church newsletters in this feature, let's take a quick look at how your congregation could use Facebook. This information has been passed onto us from the ELCA's Communicators Network:

1. **Be intentional about your use of Facebook.** Congregations often set up a Facebook page without a staff person or volunteer committed to developing it as a resource for congregational communication. Outline your intentions for the presence:
 - a. **Is it mainly for outreach** to reach people who would never end up on your congregation Web site? If this is true, how can staff and members be encouraged to post regular updates, questions, and information on your Facebook wall that will provide a window into congregational life.
 - b. **Is it mainly for members?** If this is true, is it primarily for member socializing, or committee work? Are active members and leaders using other collaboration tools now? Would the Facebook presence undermine the effectiveness of those groups? If it is mainly for socializing and connecting between all members, how can you stimulate that sharing and connecting? Is there a "member care" or "fellowship" group who could intentionally post reflections, event images and videos, questions for members to respond to?
 - c. **Is it an electronic bulletin board?** In the least, your Facebook presence might be a convenient way to get announcements out to members in a place where they are already visiting (and each announcement can be used to drive people to more information on your congregation Web site). The idea is that, in addition to collecting together updates for occasional publication in the Sunday bulletin or congregation newsletter, as soon as you hear about some event, deadline, news item, update, etc., you would do a wall post on the Facebook page. The best posts are ones that also invite members to comment.
2. **Be careful about staff and volunteer use of Facebook.** The main concerns here are for privacy issues and appropriate behavior. Use a password-protected service as a way to share directory information, photos with captions, etc. only among members. Facebook could be your more open community presence, but monitor it to make sure that member privacy is respected. This involves common sense concerns:
 - a. Don't post images of children without the consent of their parents.
 - b. Don't caption photos with full names of children.
 - c. Don't post member e-mail addresses or phone numbers.
 - d. Help protect members from fraud.
 - e. Make sure that church staff and volunteer leaders are using church computers appropriately.
3. **Look for models of effective use of social media in congregations.** A good example of a congregation with well-developed e-communication tools is Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, Minn (<http://www.zionbuffalo.org/>). A church staff person does regular Facebook posts and members occasionally comment (<http://www.facebook.com/ZionBuffalo>). It's interesting to note that, in general, discussion boards seem fairly quiet on Facebook, but people are often willing to comment and "like" wall posts. Polling congregation staff and lay leaders to see if others are willing to post and comment is an important step; otherwise, by default all posts will be from you, which may be helpful for members, but not as interesting as the variety you have with many people contributing. The "Welcome" page is useful for people who may be new to Facebook. Facebook has become the most popular photo-sharing site. Zion has built up a large library of albums that help provide a window into congregational life. Facebook's "tagging" feature lets parents or the people pictured decide if they will be identified in a photo.

The best congregation Facebook presence is one that "runs itself," with congregation members and staff contributing regularly in ways that enhance community and help make connections between members. This helps to make visible the real community that gathers on Sunday morning and during the week, and makes others want to get involved more or to consider joining.



In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll give tips for church newsletters

USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle pastorjills@windstream.net	Pastor B.J. Collins collins_bj@hotmail.com	(No more ministerium meetings until the fall.) Thursday, Sept. 1, Trinity, Milton, 9:00 a.m.
Juniata Valley	Pastor Gary Roth garoth142@yahoo.com	Pastor James Park Bricker gymbri@embarqmail.com	(see note below)
Pericope for the rest of June is at Messiah, Mifflintown, on Wednesdays from 10:15-11:30. FOR JULY: It will be at St. John's in Lewistown ON THURSDAYS. The consensus is to return to Thursdays from 10:15-11:30, starting in July. (No more ministerium meetings until the fall.) Tuesday, September 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	(No more ministerium meetings until the fall.) Wednesday, September 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	
Tulpehocken	Pastor Constantine Havir	Pastor Rich Fangmann	(9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting) Tuesday, September 6, Trinity, Sunbury.
West Branch	Pastor Eric Deibler deiblers@verizon.net	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt prbernhardt@gmail.com	(10:00 a.m. worship and meeting) Tuesday, September 13, Church of the Savior, Williamsport.

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.

July 3

- Bishop in Ansbach, Germany

July 10

- Karl-John at St. James, Rauchtown
- Bishop at ordination service in PM, Trinity, Mountain Grove

July 17

- Bishop on sick leave*

July 24

- Bishop at St. James, Rauchtown
- Stones on vacation

July 31

- Bishop at Clarkstown-Lairdsville Parish
- Stones on vacation

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated June 27, 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
- Stone Valley Parish

Called a Pastor

- Mountain Grove Parish
- Salem Parish
- United in Christ, West Milton

**Bishop Driesen will have outpatient surgery on July 14 to remove a benign polyp from one of his vocal chords. The polyp has been determined to be the cause of the raspiness in his voice for the past few years. He is expected to have a short recovery, and to return to the office on Monday, July 18.*

IN CONCLUSION

Fishers of Men

By Chad Hershberger

*“And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’”
--Mark 1: 17*

I don't have much experience when it comes to fishing. My grandfather took me fishing once as a child and I did manage to catch quite a few fish, throwing them all back into the Lion's Club pond. When I was a summer camp counselor, I was assigned to fishing camp one year. We went to several places with my campers to cast our reels. But I did not. I just watched from the shore and helped the campers get the worms on their hooks. I've just never been into the fishing thing.

Even though I am not an avid fisherman, I am a fisherman of sorts. As Jesus said, if we follow Him, we should be fishers of people. We should lead others to Him. I like to think that when others look at the way I live my life and see my personality and disposition that they will wonder what I have in life that they don't have. Maybe they will want that same disposition and try to live a good and godly life in Christ.

Others may go out and try to cast nets by speaking and offering their testimony. They may even preach God's word. I like to remember St. Francis of Assisi who said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Whatever method we use, we should take our job as fisherpeople seriously!

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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