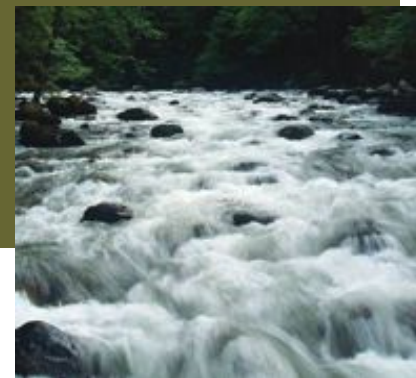


HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

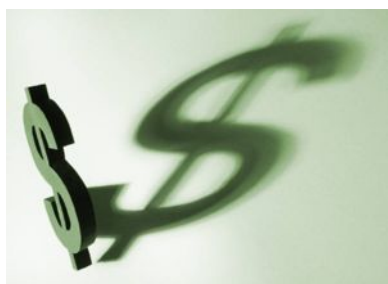
March 25, 2010



God's work. Our hands.

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

Earn Wellness Dollars with GO!



Invite your congregation to take the Board of Pensions' brand-new, four-week GO! Challenge. This wellness campaign, founded on the Wholeness Wheel concept of whole-

person health, invites participants to log their activity related to a list of healthy behaviors (exercise, nutrition, sociability, learning, centeredness, and rest), and enables them to earn stars along the way.

Each participant does four important things: takes stock of their current healthy activities, identifies one or two "stretch" activities they'd like to work on, tracks their activity for four weeks, and considers which new behavior they'll continue.

ELCA-primary plan members, participating in the GO! Challenge after taking the 2010 health assessment will help you earn points toward personal wellness dollars. Download additional copies of the GO! Challenge at www.elcabop.org/livewell.

MILESTONES

Pastors Erin Bovendam (Trinity, McAlisterville) and **Chris Mathiason** (St. Stephen, Mifflintown) welcomed their second son, Benjamin Orrin Bovendam Mathiason, born February 27, 2010, weighing 6 lbs., 10 oz. at birth, 21 inches long. Praise God for new life!

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

5 years: **Pastor Catrina L. Ciccone** (4/16/2005)
(United in Christ, West Milton)

10 years: **Pastor Louise L. Reynolds** (4/1/2000)
(Centre, Mifflintown)

TO DO IN APRIL

→ Register for 2010 USS Synod Assembly by April 15 to enjoy reduced registration fees.

Two LSTC Faculty to receive Distinguished Alumni Award at LTSG

The Rev. Dr. Mark N. Swanson and the Rev. Dr. Rosanne Amnell Swanson will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service in Specialized Ministry from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (LTSG) as part of its Spring Convocation, April 20-21. Mark Swanson is the Harold S. Vogelaar Professor of Christian-Muslim Christian Studies and Interfaith Relations at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He also serves as associate director of A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice at LSTC. Rosanne Swanson is director of Field Education and lecturer in Pastoral Care at LSTC. Both received the master of divinity degree from Gettysburg. The Swansons lived and worked in Cairo, Egypt, for 14 years. Rosanne was ordained in Egypt and served at St. Andrew's United Church; her ministry there included work with immigrants and refugees. Mark taught at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo.

Disaster Considerations

Rev. Kevin Massey of Lutheran Disaster Response offered the following helpful considerations for disasters both locally and internationally:

Dear sisters and brothers, The Lenten season is a time in which we feel particular solidarity with those in suffering and sorrow. This Lent, we have accompanied in prayer and service the many persons affected by disaster overseas. Unfortunately, the possibility of disaster is always present here at home, too. It's a difficult combination -- heavy rains in the fall, followed by heavy snowfall throughout the winter, leave the ground soggy and saturated. As things begin to thaw, rivers and streams rise quickly, and there is no place for all the water to go. Flood advisories or warnings have been posted in more than a dozen U.S. states. The National Weather Service predicts a greater than 90% chance of major flooding along the Red River of the North, likely to affect the Fargo/Moorhead area and other parts of North Dakota and Minnesota. Several river gauges in Iowa are already recording moderate flood stage and rising. And states in the Mid-Atlantic region could face flooding as early as this weekend as the many feet of snow continue melting. The blessing of these early forecasts is that it provides extra time to get ready. I encourage individuals and families living in flood-prone areas to review their disaster plans. Helpful information about how to get ready can be found at <http://www.ldr.org/ready>. If you could be flooded and don't already have flood insurance, find information about the National Flood Insurance Program at <http://www.floodsmart.gov>. (Please note -- new flood insurance policies include a 30-day waiting period for coverage to begin so don't delay.)

Congregations can also take important steps to prepare for flooding and mitigate potential losses. Lutheran Disaster Response provides a guide for congregations to do these preparations that can be downloaded at <http://www.ldr.org/prepare/prepdisaster.pdf>. Even as we prepare, we remember communities that continue to rebuild from previous flooding. If you or members of your congregation are interested in volunteering with Lutheran Disaster Response, consider the upcoming Church World Service rebuild project in Cedar Rapids. More volunteers are needed for nearly every of the six weeks. For more information, visit http://www.ldr.org/volunteer/states/ia_vols.html. As we reflect, repent, and prepare ourselves for the coming joy of Easter, let us also take time to prepare ourselves for disaster. And let us love and serve our neighbors by helping them prepare also.

If you have prayerfully considered how your congregation might work on disaster response and preparedness, please call Rev. Sarah Hershberger, Diakon Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator, at 570-922-1929.

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

- **Intentional Interim:** Beaver, Beaver Springs; Sharon, Selinsgrove; Salem Parish; St. Matthew's and Church of the Savior, Williamsport; First, Mifflinburg; St. John's (Brick), Montgomery
- **Preparing Materials:** First, Mifflinburg; Stone Valley Parish; Salem Parish; Beaver, Beaver Springs
- **Preparing to Interview:** Trinity, Hughesville w/POS by Mt. Zion, Hughesville
- **Interviewing:** Grace/St. Luke, Sunbury; Sharon, Selinsgrove

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

April 4 (Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter)

- Bishop at Zion, Trevorton

April 11

- Bishop at St. John, Mifflinville

April 18

- Bishop at United, Lock Haven, in PM

April 25

- Bishop in Liberia for LCL 150th Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Holy Tuesday Chrism Mass:
March 30, 2010**

The annual Holy Tuesday Chrism Mass service for leaders (rostered and lay) in the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be held on Tuesday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m. at **Christ Lutheran Church, Lewisburg**. Bishop Robert L. Driesen will preside at this Eucharist service that includes the blessing of oil for use in anointing. RSVP to the synod office (secretary@uss-elca.org or 570-524-9778) to reserve a spot for lunch following the service. **PLEASE NOTE: parking that morning will be at a premium, as cars parked on streets marked for street cleaning may be ticketed. You are encouraged to meet with others at the synod office beginning at 10:00 AM for carpooling, and to consider parking in the municipal lot behind the Lewisburg Post Office (8-hour meters, quarters only), or on St. Louis St. (no cleaning Tuesdays) or St. Catherine St. (no meters).**

Lutheran Day at the Capitol 2010: April 14, 2010

Lutheran Day at the Capitol gives you the opportunity to gather in Harrisburg with Lutherans from all across the Commonwealth to raise a Voice for Justice. Don't miss this day full of speakers, workshops, and networking that will equip you for a face-to-face visit with your legislators or their staff. Join lay leaders, pastors, social ministry organization leaders, students, and bishops as we work together on behalf of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens. Sponsored by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), this year's event features the Keynote Speaker Dr. Christopher P. Borick, Professor of Political Science, Muhlenberg College & Director of the Muhlenberg Institute of Public Opinion. More details and online-registration may be found at the LAMPa website... [click here](#)

Interim Ministers Gathering: April 21, 2010

The next gathering of interim ministers ("intentional interim ministers" or otherwise) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod—ELCA, the Penn Central Conference—UCC, and the Diocese of Central PA—Episcopal Church (and beyond those bodies, if interested), will be held at the USS office in Lewisburg on Wednesday, April 21, 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. Our topic for discussion this day will be "What does it mean to be church in the 21st century?" We will explore how our concepts/assumptions—and therefore identity—as church may be changing. Pastors Andy France, Mike Beynon, and Beth Ann Stone will offer some food for thought as conversation starters.



Bishop's Retreat: May 6-7, 2010

The annual Bishop's Retreat for rostered leaders will take place on Thursday-Friday, May 6-7, 2010, at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro, PA. Dr. Erik Heen, Professor of New Testament and Greek at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will present "Lutherans and the Bible: Past, Present, and Future," about Lutheran interpretations of scripture and resources for meeting the challenges of scriptural interpretation in the ELCA today. Cost per person is \$110.00 double occupancy (add \$25 for a single room); commuter cost is \$75.00 (includes all meals, program; no housing). Registrations MUST be received by Mar. 24 to ensure housing. Registration info is available at: <http://www.uss-elca.org/bishops-retreat-for-rostered-leaders>

Rostered Leaders/Families Healing Service: May 24, 2010

A Healing Service with Holy Communion will be held at the synod office in Lewisburg on Monday, May 24, at 7:00 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.

CONTINUING ED

Pastoral Care for the Returning Veteran: April 7, 2010

Pastoral Care for the Returning Veteran can require special sensitivities, knowledge and skills, according to some military chaplains. Gettysburg Seminary will offer a special event April 7, 2010, in the Seminary's Valentine Hall Alumni Auditorium from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. designed to help current and future church leaders provide wise pastoral care that aims for reintegration and hope for health and healing. Those returning from military service are the mothers and fathers, the wives and husbands, the daughters and sons of many in our society and in our congregations. In this presentation and panel discussion, six chaplains of the Walter Reed Army Hospital and the Bethesda Naval Medical Center will focus on the experiences and needs of returning veterans and the ways in which pastoral care may be provided for them. For more information contact Professor Leonard Hummel, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology lhummel@tsg.edu or Kathleen Reed, Director of Lifelong Learning, kreed@tsg.edu.

Teaching the Bible: April 8, 2010

The Rev. Susan Briehl will keynote the 2010 Hein Fry Lectures at Gettysburg Seminary April 8, 2010, in a day long exploration of teaching the Bible in the Parish and Beyond. Responding in the afternoon lectures will be the Rev. Dr. Mark Vitalis Hoffman and the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman. The Hein-Fry lecture topic for 2010 is "Hearing the Word: Teaching the Bible in the Parish (and Beyond)" was chosen in order to explore the important conversations throughout the ELCA concerning the various ways Lutheran communities in diverse North American contexts are sharing the biblical narratives, truths, and messages of the gospel through their teaching ministries. The hope for these presentations is that they will raise awareness about the many ways the Lutheran churches have traditionally taught the Bible as well as offer innovative contemporary approaches to teaching the Bible that Lutherans might use today. More information, directions, and a schedule are available at <http://www.Ltsg.edu>

Stages of Spiritual Development: May 6 and 13, 2010

Can a person be spiritually immature as differentiated from spiritually mature? The scriptures of all the world religions indicate such to be the case. What would be the characteristics of 'spiritual' maturity, and how would it be attained? Employing the developmental model, an evolving international and interdisciplinary consensus among theologians, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, and neuropsychologists suggests a paradigm of six stages of spiritual development.

In this two-session workshop, held from 1:00- 3:00 p.m., participants will examine this paradigm as it applies to the nature of the divine, human nature, good and evil, divine-human and human-to-human relationships, salvation and the meaningful existence. Illustrations of the stages will be offered from Judaism, Buddhism and Christianity.

Location: St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 255 South Derr Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Canterbury Room (parish hall - 2nd floor). Parking is available next to Curtain Ave. An elevator is available on the right inside the red doors.

Registration: Limited Enrollment. Reservation absolutely required. To register, call Tina or the voice mail at 570-271-3700 and leave the workshop title, your name, contact phone number, and email address in a slow, clear voice.

The Morally Divided Body: Ethical Disagreement & the Disunity of the Church: June 14-16, 2010

This is an ecumenical conference for clergy and laity sponsored by the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology. It will be held Monday evening, June 14, through Wednesday noon, June 16, 2010, at Loyola University, Baltimore, MD. While doctrinal issues have often in the past been the most ecumenically neuralgic topics, increasingly today ethical issues - abortion and homosexuality most prominently - have become a focus of difference between the churches and of potentially splintering debate within churches. These issues are more laden with emotion than many traditional doctrinal disputes, but ecumenical discussions have yet to address them in detail. We have little sense of just when and how ethical disputes rightly impact communion within and among the churches. When can we live together with difference over such matters and when does unity in Christ require common teaching? These questions will be addressed from a variety of perspectives. Accommodations will be available on the Loyola Campus. Conference cost (including banquet): \$210; reduced price for early registrations, retired clergy (\$175), and students (\$95). For more information, contact Michael Root at 803-735-1178 or mroot1@sc.rr.com. Online registration at <http://www.acteva.com/go/ccet>. More information and mail-in registration at <http://www.e-ccet.org>.

Festival of Liturgical Arts of the Western Reserve: June 16-20, 2010

The Festival of Liturgical Arts of the Western Reserve was created as a cooperative effort between Episcopalians and Lutherans in northeastern Ohio for clergy, musicians, and all others who plan and execute worship in parishes and churches. FLAWR is a five-day synthesis of worship, workshops, discussions, and master classes for musicians and clergy who are devoted to the continual development of their craft. Festival personnel include Ms. Phyllis Tickle, Dr. Thomas G. Long, The Rev. Mitties McDonald DeChamplain, Dr. Gerre Hancock, Mr. Todd Wilson, and Bishop Robert Rimbo. For more information and online registration go to <http://www.flawr.org>.



**North American Association for the
Catechumenate (NAAC) Annual Gathering:
July 29- August 1, 2010**

NAAC is an ecumenical organization that provides training and support for churches engaged in the process of baptismal conversion and making Christian disciples. ELCA Pastor Rick Rouse serves as president. Rouse is co-author of *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008).

The theme of the annual gathering, "When Heaven Touches Earth: Reclaiming the Mysteries of Faith for Baptismal Living Today," focuses on the triduum--especially the Easter Vigil--as a highpoint of the catechumenal journey. The event features Dr. Gail Ramshaw, Professor of Religion at LaSalle University and author of the new book *Christian Worship: 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals* (Fortress Press, 2009). A sample of topics for her sessions includes "2000 Years of Easter: The Vigil In, Out, and Back Again" (a Christian history of the triduum and why it is returning in the 21st century) and "12 Readings: Are You Kidding?!" (focusing on the meaning and importance of the readings appointed for the Vigil). Dr. Gordon Lathrop, faculty emeritus at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, will serve as preacher and presenter. Mark Mummert, ELW composer and organist at Christ the King in Houston, will head up the Music and Worship Team.

A special pre-conference gathering is also being planned for denominational leaders over lunch and early afternoon of July 29. Limited travel assistance is available. For more information, go to <http://www.catechumenate.org>.

**Crossways International Training Workshop
with Dr. Harry Wendt:
August 2-6, 2010**

The Crossways International (CI) Training Workshop surveys the full sweep of the biblical narrative using The Divine Drama and Crossways courses to analyze in greater detail the events and themes that emerge within its unfolding narrative - and grapples with how Jesus finally interprets those events and themes. The workshop equips attendees to use CI's teaching resources comprising hundreds of illustrations, which have been proven to boost biblical literacy. It will examine historical, cultural, and literary nuances within the biblical text to see more profoundly what Jesus was up against in His day - and in ours. The workshop will be held at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 9601 Hull Street, Richmond, VA 23236. To register, call Crossways International at (800) 257-7308.

New Distance Education Program

Wartburg Theological Seminary will launch a Distance Education/Residential Program in the fall of 2010. The program includes online and on campus intensive courses taken over a two-year timeframe to fulfill the first year of degree program curriculum requirements. The Distance Education/Residential Program meets the needs of students who may not be able to relocate to the seminary at this time but expect to do so after completing two years of distance coursework. Students enrolling in the Distance Education/Residential Program can typically expect to take 6 credits of online classes in both the fall and spring semesters as well as come to campus for one or two week intensive classes in September, January, and June. The Distance Education/Residential Program is available for the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry. For more information about these degree programs visit <http://www.wartburgseminary.edu>.

ECO-JUSTICE RESOURCES

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches' Ministry of Public Witness is working with the National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice program (<http://www.ncccojustice.org>) to enlist support for a statement of "Christian Principles for a Healthy Body and Spirit." A pdf version is available for download at http://ncccojustice.org/downloads/health/eh_principles.pdf, and folks are being asked to endorse the statement at http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5415/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=2204. The NCC Eco-Justice program resource "Mindful Living: Human Health, Pollution, and Toxics" is available AT NO COST in pdf format by sending an e-mail to s.strauss@pachurches.org. This is a 12-page resource that provides: a theological rationale for concern; discussion of toxics and their legacy of disease and pollution--particularly the burden on women and children; natural cleaning ideas; information on environmental racism; thoughts on simpler living; and basics on common chemicals. It also provides sermon starters, a bulletin insert, a worship outline, links for learning more, and ideas for youth. If educators and/or pastors find this information helpful, the NCC Eco-Justice has many other resources on a range of environmental issues available as well. Sandy would be happy to get folks connected with this network, which gives subscribers access to download these resources at no cost, and does not result in a glut of e-mails.

Education and Training Opportunities in Ministries with People with Disabilities in the Pennsylvania Area in 2010

- April 19-20, 2010** Interfaith, Inter-agency Conference in Trenton, New Jersey, sponsored by Enable, Inc. along with many other providers and faith groups. Email macedo@enablenj.org or check www.enablenj.org
- May 16, 2009** Inclusion Conference, Jewish Community Philadelphia. For more information, contact dgettes@acaje.org.
- June 14-18, 2010** Lancaster Seminary Summer Academy, Lancaster, includes a course led by Bill Gaventa http://www.livingtheadventure.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=26&Itemid=18
- July 12-16, 2010** Summer Institute on Theology and Disability, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Focus: Congregational Leadership and Theological Education. Monday, July 12 will be a one day conference open to clergy, families, people with disabilities, clergy, laity, anyone. Email kreed@tsg.edu for more information.
- September 24-25, 2010** *Honoring a Place in Faith Communities For People with Disabilities and their Families II*, Peaceful Living, Souderton. For brochure, betsyroush@comcast.net. www.peacefulliving.org
- Fall Semester, 2010** Course at Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem. Bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu

If you know of others and/or for more information on these as publicity is developed, join the Faith Community Leadership Project Listserv by emailing Bill.Gaventa@umdnj.edu.

USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS			
Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle pastorjills@windstream.net	Pastor B.J. Collins collins_bj@hotmail.com	Conference Meeting: April 8 at First, Mifflinburg. 9:00 a.m.- worship, followed by meeting with Bishop Driesen present to talk about health of rostered leaders. Conference Assembly on May 6 at Buffalo Valley Commons
Juniata Valley	Pastor Erin Bovendam Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu	Pastor James Park Bricker jimbricker@embarqmail.com	Conference Meeting: Conference Assembly on May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Messiah, Mifflintown.
Middle Creek	Pastor Breen Marie Sipes breenmarie@hotmail.com	Pastor Patrick Sipes sgtmuddy@gmail.com	Conference Meeting: April 21 at Deb Best's Home in Montoursville at 9:30 a.m.
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink pastorchad@verizon.net	Pastor Tom Light GOPNO1@aol.com	Conference Meeting: April 21 at St. Luke, Bloomsburg. 9:30 a.m.- worship, 10:00 a.m.- meeting. Conference Assembly on May 2 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke, Bloomsburg
Tulpehocken	Pastor Brian Beissel brianthepastor@gmail.com	Pastor Christoph Teille christoph_teille@live.de	Conference Meeting: April 6 at All Saints, Kulpmont; 9:00 a.m.- pericope, 10:00- meeting. Conference Assembly on May 2, 1:00 p.m. at Trinity, Sunbury.
West Branch	Pastor Maurice "Chip" Frontz frontz@comcast.net	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt prbernhardt@gmail.com	Conference Meeting: April 13 at Church of the Savior, Williamsport. 9:00 a.m.- Eucharist, 10:00- meeting.

IN CONCLUSION

Once There was a Tree

By Chad Hershberger

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. -Psalm 1: 3

Spring is my favorite time of year. As I write this, it is the eve of the spring equinox and I am excited for the approaching new season. Warmer weather, sunnier days, green grass, and colorful flowers arrive in these days. The birds seem to sing a little louder; the days get longer; spring is a great time to celebrate creation.

When I was in the second grade, I won a contest at my elementary school. I wrote a poem for Arbor Day, which is celebrated in April. Among my prize for winning was \$10 and a small tree to plant. To this day, I can still recite the poem that I wrote so many years ago. It went like this:



Once there was a tree
It was beautiful to me.
Among the green leaves
The oriole weaves
His sticks so round
And then a squirrel found
A little nut for me
Which someday may be another tree.



God created the world and created humans to take care of it. That is one thing we should remember every day of our lives. This summer, I look forward to teaching kids at Mount Luther about environmental stewardship and “Keeping the Earth,” which is our curriculum theme. This spring, I look forward to the trees, and the birds, and the squirrels, and the nuts. They remind me of the awesomeness of our God and that God is present with us each and every day, especially in the beauty of creation.

Chad Hershberger is the Director of Communications for the Upper Susquehanna Synod and editor of Headwaters. His reflections “In Conclusion” will appear here monthly starting this month.

Upper Susquehanna Synod

500 Reitz Blvd., PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837 office@uss-elca.org

Phone: 570-524-9778

Fax: 570-524-9757

Website: www.uss-elca.org

Rev. Robert L. Driesen, Bishop

bishop@uss-elca.org

Rev. Beth Ann L. Stone, Assistant to Bishop

bethann@uss-elca.org

Rev. Karl-John N. Stone, Assistant to Bishop

karljohn@uss-elca.org

Ms. Elizabeth Yenchko, Director for Evangelical Mission eyenchko@uss-elca.org

Mrs. Virginia Frantz, Administrative Assistant

virginia@uss-elca.org

Ms. Brenda Krouse, Secretary

secretary@uss-elca.org

Mr. Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications

news@uss-elca.org

Ms. Sandra Grier, Social Ministry Project Coach

sandygrier@comcast.net

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.