

HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

May 25, 2011



God's work. Our hands.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Health Discount Achieved: Barb Debski, ELCA Board of Pensions, reports that the Upper Susquehanna Synod successfully reached the 65 percent participation goal for completing the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by April 30, 2011, to earn the two percent discount on ELCA health contributions. This equates to a total savings of about \$10,100 across the synod. She said the USS was one of three Region 8 synods to do so. The Board of Pensions offered the discount for the fourth year in a row to reward seminaries, churchwide ministries, and employers in synods that have 65 percent of their eligible ELCA-primary health plan members complete the online Mayo Clinic Health Assessment January 1- April 30. More than \$2.4 million in savings is available to ELCA employers this year. A two percent credit for January- May of this year will appear on your May statement, with the remainder reflected in monthly discounts each month in 2011. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Creation Corner: A column about the environment, written by a member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, appears monthly in an online newsletter. This column, called the "Creation Corner", is under the auspices of the United Churches of Lycoming County (UCLC). It is written by Michael Ochs, a member of its Christian Social Concerns Committee. It is published monthly, September to May, in the UCLC ecumenical print newsletter, sent to over 1,000 recipients, and can be found online at www.uclc.org. This month's article is about combating Nature Deficit Disorder in children.

Want to Use the ELCA Emblem? The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has guidelines on using their name, emblem, and the tagline "God's work. Our hands." To find out what these guidelines entail, read the document on the "Resources" page under "For Rostered Leaders, Church Administration" on the synod's website: www.uss-elca.org.

Ideas and Brainstorming Wanted: The Upper Susquehanna Synod is hosting the annual assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Ministry in Appalachia (ELCMA) next April 23-25, 2012, in the Lewisburg area. The committee planning this event is inviting people in your congregation to attend (so put these dates on your calendars) AND they are also asking for HELP! ELCMA's mission is to support, develop, and encourage the gifts in Appalachia for ministry and celebrate Appalachian heritage and culture; advocate for God's people and natural resources in the region, demonstrating faithful stewardship; and serving as the primary networking tool in the Appalachian region for the ELCA. The planning team is already working, but they realize that our synod congregations have expert knowledge about their communities, which would help us accurately present who we are as the Upper Susquehanna Synod to the 80+ delegates and visitors whom we expect as guests. The committee is holding a brainstorming session (complete with great refreshments) on Thursday, June 9, 2011, from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. at the synod office in Lewisburg. There, they will brainstorm on:

- ♦ Ideas for local food recipes to feature/serve.
- ♦ Kinds of service projects that could be done by a group of people for 2-3 hours in and around the greater Lewisburg area.
- ♦ Ideas which highlight local culture/history that can be incorporated into the worship service.
- ♦ Suggestions on what materials to put into the ELCMA assembly information packets.
- ♦ Ideas for a congregational mission fair at the ELCMA assembly (similar to the one held at the 2009 synod assembly) on Monday or Tuesday of the assembly.

Ideas can also be shared with Rev. Dan May at revdan@dejazzd.com or with Pastor Karl-John Stone or Beth Yenchko at the synod office. If you are attending the brainstorming session, please RSVP to the synod office so they have an idea about how many folks are coming.

Congratulations to New Authorized Lay Leaders

Upon completion of the Lay Ministry Institute (LMI) programs for Lay Worship Leaders and Evangelists, and upon the recommendation of the LMI Board of Directors, Bishop Robert L. Driesen will authorize the following members of the 2011 graduating class, blessing and sending them into ministry on Saturday, June 18, during worship at the synod assembly:

Authorized Lay Worship Leaders:

Donna Batschlet (Trinity, Avis)
Richard Beck (St. Mark, Alfarata)
Carol Black (Sharon, Selinsgrove)
Christopher Davis (St. John, Mifflinville)
Wendelin Davis (St. Peter, Bloomsburg)
Valerie Jeske (St. Luke, Bloomsburg)
Karla Leiby (St. Peter, Grovania)
James Slusser (St. Matthew, Bloomsburg)

Authorized Lay Evangelists:

Brent Edgar (Christ United, Catawissa)
Linda Everitt (Zion, Sunbury)

Thanks be to God for gifting these lay people with gifts and a calling to serve God in this way!

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FOR ELCA CHURCH LEADERS

Do you receive "Administration Matters"? *Administration Matters* is a bimonthly e-newsletter for ELCA congregational and synodical leaders. It addresses common, practical issues including finance, governance, risk management, tax, legal concerns and topics of interest about day to day operations and management in church settings.

The May 2011 issue includes these topics:

- Stewardship: Getting Started
- Photo Guidelines for Congregations
- HR Record Retention - Critical and Complicated
- Kalos: The ELCA Legacy Society
- Notes to Board of Pensions on Benefits Payments
- Operating Reserves Guidelines
- Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering

To subscribe (or unsubscribe), go to:
<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Treasurer/Administration-Matters.aspx>.

Reminders for Arranging for Supply Preachers

How do pastors or congregations obtain a supply pastor? Any pastor regularly serving a congregation, including a stated supply pastor or an interim pastor who is the stated supply, should contact the synod office when seeking a supply preacher.

- Synod office staff will provide you with the names and phone numbers of supply preachers with known availability for that Sunday, beginning first with available clergy and next with available authorized lay worship leaders.
- To keep costs lower (for mileage reimbursement), staff will try to suggest supplies who live within easy driving distance of the congregation(s).
- Pastors will then make arrangements themselves with one of the supply names given.
- It is helpful to alert the synod office when a supply is contacted, so that the person's name may be removed from the availability list.
- If an arranged supply is an authorized lay worship leader who will preside at the Eucharist, the pastor should contact the synod office to request the Bishop's authorization for the ALWL's presidency on this occasion.

Congregations without a regularly called or stated supply pastor have their worship leaders arranged by the Supply Coordinator on behalf of the synod.

What are the costs for a Supply? Supply preachers should be reimbursed for mileage both to and from their home to the congregation, and between congregations (if they lead at more than one in a parish). Mileage is reimbursed at the current (as of Jan. 1, 2011) IRS rate of .51 cents per mile. The synod supply rate is \$100 for one service, \$125 for two services, and \$140 for three or more services (per Synod Council action on April 29, 2007). In a multiple-point parish, the grand total is equally shared among the congregations.

What information should a Supply Preacher be provided? It is helpful to develop a letter for supply preachers, providing them with such details as directions to the church, Sunday morning schedule, a worship service outline (including hymns), notes on the sound system, practices around children's sermons (if used), practices around the Eucharist, announcements, prayers, whom to contact in case of an emergency or bad weather, and the church musician's name.

What should a pastor or congregation do if a supply is needed in an emergency? In case of emergencies requiring Sunday morning absence—a last-minute illness, for example—please contact the Bishop to arrange for coverage.

Robbing Peter to Pay Paul?

A State Budget Update

From Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania



The PA House of Representatives is poised to pass its budget this week. Their proposal sticks to the \$27.3 billion spending limit proposed by Governor Tom Corbett, primarily by restoring some of his cuts to education while taking a corresponding chunk out of public welfare. This move pits education and anti-poverty advocates against one another as they now compete for the same funding, forcing an either-or conversation that ignores the long term implications of deep cuts to either area.

Human Services Impact: Department of Public Welfare (DPW) programs, including Medical Assistance, County Child Welfare and Behavioral Health, are cut by \$471 million from the Governor's March proposal. This includes reductions for Domestic Violence services, Rape Crisis centers and Homelessness Assistance. Welfare cash assistance was cut another 3.4% on top of the Governor's 10% cut at a time when many rely on it to get them through a tough time. It restores \$20 million of the \$23 million cut which would have eliminated the Human Services Development Fund, a source of flexible funding for county human services that address homelessness, a move LAMPa supports. But at the same time it cuts the county child welfare line by \$22 million and hits Medical Assistance hard, resulting in a projected 96,800 people being cut from Medicaid rolls (and added to the 40,000 recently cut from adultBasic).

Education Impact: The protests against higher education programs cuts have been heard, as they receive \$370 million above the Governor's proposal, with Penn State seeing a 21% cut and the State-related Universities with cuts of 25%. This plan would still reduce current year higher education funding by \$269 million.

In public education, only \$243 million of the \$1.2 billion in cuts are restored. The House budget restores \$100 million (of a \$550 million cut) to Basic Education Funding and \$100 million (of \$259 million) to the Accountability Block Grant (ABG) program - the Commonwealth's key funding stream for school districts to offer pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten. Nearly 350 school districts across rely on the Accountability Block Grant to fully or partially fund their full-day K programs. The House plan leaves intact a \$224 million cut to the charter school reimbursement, which disproportionately hurts low-income urban schools. Also of note is nearly \$40 million of funding is diverted away from quality early learning education, such as Keystone STARS and Child Care Works, which provides child care subsidy for low-income working parents.

Budget Advocacy: As the House's Republican majority ensures smooth passage of its spending plan, LAMPa will focus budget advocacy on the Senate where there is a greater chance of shaping the conversation and making an impact. Advocacy is tricky in a budget with a fixed spend number, where paying Paul will mean robbing Peter and cutting other important programs. LAMPa advocacy will address this in two ways:

1. LAMPa advocates can raise a unique voice that gets beyond the 'either-or' of education vs. welfare, by pointing out that a good education is the surest pathway out of poverty, while welfare programs contribute to providing stable family and community environments for learning. While many advocacy groups are focused on their particular piece of the pie, we have an opportunity to lift up the ways in which human services and education reinforce one another. Investments in early childhood education pay off when children's nutrition, health and safety are also addressed and supported. Workforce training or education programs require supports for childcare, transportation or learning materials in order to be successful. Our advocacy will incorporate God's shalom and a vision of holistic well-being for all.

2. LAMPa's budget advocacy will frame the issue as a revenue problem, with multiple solutions at hand. It will emphasize the availability of additional revenue sources currently not included in the budget. These include tapping the \$506 million accumulated revenue surplus, which is curiously absent from either version to date, closing corporate loopholes, instituting a drilling tax and taxing smokeless tobacco, to name a few. LAMPa does not support diversion of Tobacco Settlement Funds, formerly used for the adultBasic program, into the General Fund.

As the budget bill moves to the Senate, LAMPa will advocate for both education and welfare investments that will combat poverty and improve lives in the long term. Pennsylvania has options. We can be fiscally responsible and do better to care for vulnerable citizens than what is currently being proposed.

MILESTONES

Pastor Ralph Heagy (Grace, Jersey Shore and Garman) will conclude his ministry with the parish on June 5, 2011. His retirement will take effect August 1, and the Heagys are relocating to Florida. Godspeed!

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity has accepted a call to Beaver Lutheran Church in Beaver Springs, beginning on July 10, 2011. Pastor Nathan and his family are moving from Winger, Minnesota, where he has been serving a two-point parish. Nathan's wife, Jennifer Baker-Trinity, has been approved by our synod's Candidacy Committee, available for call as an Associate in Ministry (Music/Worship). Welcome!

Pastor Lois Martin has concluded her service as the intentional interim pastor of Beaver Lutheran Church, Beaver Springs, under call from the Synod Council.

The **Dornsife Parish** (St. Peter, Red Cross and Emmanuel, Hunter Station) has taken the required votes to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In accord with constitutional requirements, the Synod Council approved this decision on May 17, 2011. The parish has joined Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

Emmanuel, Williamsport (Pastor Beverly Cotner) has voted to close, effective December 31, 2011. The congregation has been in a ministry partnership with St. James, Pennsdale.

Pastor Gunther Bernhardt (Christ, Montgomery) will serve as interim pastor at Bethany, Montoursville, starting June 1.

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

5 years - **Pastor Christopher D. Mathiason** (6/10/2006)
(St. Stephen, Mifflintown)

Pastor Erin L. Bovendam (6/24/2006)
(Trinity, McAlisterville)

10 years - **Pastor David M. Byerly** (6/9/2001)
(Grace, Shamokin w/POS by St. Paul, Gowen City)

20 years - **Pastor Ronald E. Shellhamer** (6/22/1991)
(St. Matthew, Williamsport)

25 years - **Pastor Wayne C. Muthler** (6/13/1986)
(St. Matthew, Shamokin Dam w/POS St. Paul, Erdley's)

30 years - **Pastor William S. Henderson** (6/13/1981)
(Christ's Evangelical, Lewisburg)

35 years - **Pastor Dale F. Biesecker Jr.** (6/27/1976)
(St. John, Northumberland)

Pastor James K. Rill (6/6/1976)
(Interim, Evangelical, Reedsville)

45 years - **Pastor Donald G. Nice** (6/1/1966) (Retired)

50 years - **Pastor Alfred J. Bashore** (6/30/1961)
(Interim, All Saints, Kulpmont)

Pastor Carl E. Miller (6/18/1961) (Retired)

Pastor Robert A. Kerchoff Sr. (6/16/1961) (Retired)

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Camp Mount Luther Kickoff Open House and Chicken Barbecue: Come to camp for an afternoon of fun. You'll be able to participate in camp activities, like a camp tour, volleyball, swimming, Frisbee golf, field games, challenge course, and a camel hunt! You can also meet this year's summer staff. This is an especially good event for first-time campers. These activities will take place from 2:45-5:00 p.m. Then, there will be a Chicken Barbecue from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Price for the meal is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12. The menu includes barbecue chicken, side dishes, roll, dessert, and beverage. TO ORDER TICKETS, contact the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. A limited number of walk-ins will be available.

June 13-16, 2011

"Transitions: A Time for Courage" Interim Ministry Network 31st Annual Conference: Sessions at this conference in Nashville, TN, will include presentations by Rev. David T. Olson, Rev. Susan Nienaber, and Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke. To register, visit <http://www.imnedu.org/registration.htm>.

June 10-12, 2011

Called: Future Pastors and Church Leaders Camp '11: Calling all young people who are completing 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades! From June 10- 12, 2011, the synod's youth and candidacy committees and Camp Mount Luther will host "Called: Future Pastors & Church Leaders Camp '11" on Friday evening and Saturday. This will be an intensive weekend for youth who show potential for ministry.

**THIS EVENT HAS BEEN
CANCELLED DUE TO
LOW REGISTRATION**

Congregations are asked to encourage young people personally whom they may identify with potential gifts for ministry. The event will include visits with area congregations, ministries, and pastors, service projects, and more. Cost: \$25 per person. A registration form is available on the synod website (www.uss-elca.org) and the camp website (www.campmountluther.org).

June 14-16, 2011

Who Do You Say That I Am? Proclaiming and Following Jesus Today: The annual conference of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology will be held June 14-16, at Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, on the theme "Who Do You Say That I Am? Proclaiming and Following Jesus Today." Speakers will include Carl Braaten, Fleming Rutledge, Dale Alison, and Michael Root. The meaning of Jesus for our

faith and discipleship will be addressed from various angles - New Testament studies, contemporary theology, pastoral care, preaching, and ethics. Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian traditions will be represented. The conference is particularly aimed at pastors. Further information can be found at the Center website www.e-ccet.org. Online registration is at www.acteva.com/go/ccet.

June 17-18, 2011

24th Annual Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly: The 2011 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove on Friday, June 17, and Saturday, June 18, 2011. The theme, "The Church Must Be Planted," was a motto of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, known as the patriarch of Lutheranism in North America, whose 300th birthday is celebrated this year.

This year's assembly will gather an "in-kind" offering of health kits for Lutheran World Relief. LWF distributed 174,975 such kits in 2010 through partner agencies in fourteen countries around the world, providing these items of comfort and hygiene to refugees and victims of natural disasters. Congregations are encouraged to collect kits together, sending a box full (or more!) with their voting members on the first day of the assembly. Our synod's goal is to collect 3,365 kits (the average number of kits distributed by LWR in one week in 2010). Go to <http://www.uss-elca.org/usslwr-health-kit-in-kind-offering> for more details about collecting LWF health kits.

Reports for the 2010-2011 Bulletin of Reports will be mailed to voting members in two mailings prior to the assembly. Reports are also available online, as they are submitted. View the online Bulletin of Reports here: <http://2011-assembly.uss-elca-bulletin.org/> Click on one of the four section headings to view available reports, using the left-hand sidebar to navigate between reports.

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 Fickenschler, 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.

September 8, 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/forgiveness2011www.etown.edu/forgiveness2011>. The registration deadline is September 8.

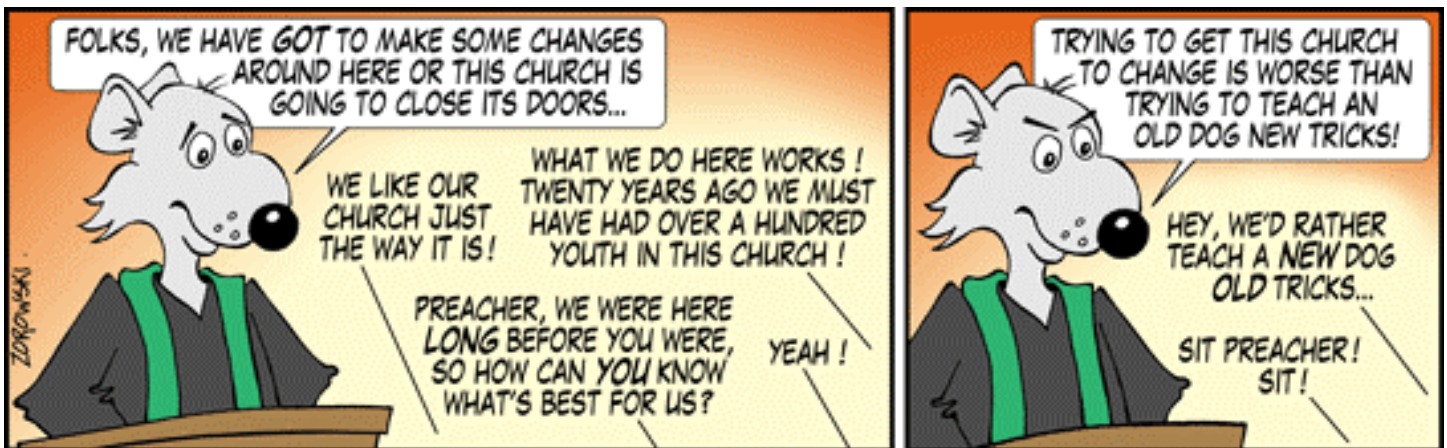
October 16-26, 2011

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



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! We will 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), who will examine with us how the early church experienced conflict and flourished in the face of it. There will also be conversation with Bishop Mark Hanson (Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and the opportunity to talk together 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. In coming weeks, more details about this conference and how to register will arrive in your email inbox; you might check your spam filters every now and then, as well. Estimated fees for this conference are \$100, plus overnight housing at an Altoona hotel.



CREATING BETTER...

Social Networks

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

For three months, we looked at tips and ideas to improve webpages for your congregations. As we continue our series of ways to improve your congregation's printed communications, this month we look at social networking.

As you look at your congregation's presence on the World Wide Web, having a website is only one component that you should consider. Today, there are many avenues on the web to have a presence for your congregation. Some church leaders may wonder if social networking is important in the church today. Many may think it is a waste of time. But the fact remains that over 50 percent of Americans are members of Facebook and younger demographics use Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube on a daily basis. It is also how these demographics interact with one another. To many of them, these relationships online are as important as those of older generations who got together for coffee every day with the same group of friends. Using these services for ministry is an aspect of faith life that's waiting to be tapped! The ELCA's publication *Seeds for the Parish* encouraged congregations to think of your web presence as a farm:

- Physical Brick and Mortar Church = Farmhouse. This is the heart of the farm, the home base for all operations. Notice that most of the work of the farm takes place outside the farmhouse, but most of the planning, preparation and refueling/renewing happens here.
- Your Web site = Croplands. Your Web site requires constant tending, following seasonal waves of the church year, which means more work in the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons. The web site should provide a positive drive-by impression as well as deeper content for those who linger.
- Blogs = Pigsty. The pigs are hungry, but if fed right they can "bring home the bacon" with improved search results in Google. Blogs are "web logs" that allow readers to comment on posts. Blogs can be used to tell mission stories, post devotionals or Bible studies, or can be a way for parishioners to comment on sermons.
- Facebook = Chicken yard. Facebook provides social interactions, quick ways to keep members in touch with each other and with congregational life—but watch out for foxes in the henhouse!



- Twitter = Cow barn. Twitter takes consistent, day-in, day-out maintenance. It is a great way to provide a steady stream of congregational updates and emergency info. Twitter allows you to provide short (less than 140 character) updates about what is going on in your congregation.

- YouTube = Horse stable. YouTube allows you to show off the best and brightest in your congregation; creating good videos can take a significant investment, but yields high rewards. YouTube is a place to post videos and could be used for video Bible studies, pastor's sermons, children's programs, etc.



Getting started on any of these is easy. There are free blog tools on the web for you to set up blogs (for free). One such service is www.wordpress.com. Facebook is free, too, but you need to be a registered user to access its services, including creating a "fan page" or a "group" for your congregation. You can sign up for a Twitter account at www.twitter.com. Again, your members would need to be registered users to use this service. YouTube is free and can be accessed by anyone with web access. To post videos, you will need to set up an account, which is also free.

By combining the above, your congregation can have a serious and comprehensive web presence, which will allow your parishioners to communicate with one another more effectively. These services can also be used to remind members of your church about upcoming events, special services, and prayer requests.

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 Erin Bovendam Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu Dean-elect: Gary Roth	Pastor James Park Bricker gymbri@embarqmail.com	(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 Breen Marie Sipes breenmarie@hotmail.com Dean-elect: 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 Brian Beissel brianthepastor@gmail.com Dean-elect: Constantine Havir	Pastor Constantine Havir revhavir@yahoo.com Secretary-elect: Rich Fangmann	(9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting) Tuesday, June 7, Grace, Point Township. 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, May 31, Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg (RSVP for lunch to Ted Cockley).

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.

June 5

- Bishop at St. John, Jersey Shore

June 12

- Bishop at Zion, Sunbury
- Karl-John at "Called 2011" event

June 17-18

- Staff at Synod Assembly

June 26

- Bishop traveling to Ansbach, Germany

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated May 19, 2011)

Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Beaver, Beaver Springs
- Church of the Savior, Williamsport
- Evangelical, Reedsville
- Salem Parish
- St. John's (Brick), Montgomery

Preparing Materials

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

Interviewing Candidates

- Bethany, Montoursville
- Stone Valley Parish
- United in Christ, West Milton (part-time)

Voting on a Candidate

- Mountain Grove Parish (June 12)
- Salem Parish (June 5)

Called a Pastor

- Beaver, Beaver Springs

IN CONCLUSION

Big Cookies and Ceramic Horses

By Chad Hershberger

*“Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord...”
--Exodus 31: 15*

Growing up, Sunday was a day of rest for my family. We would go to church in the morning, have a big meal at noontime, and take it easy the rest of the day. Often we would go for rides in the country or walk down the street to get an ice cream cone.

Another part of our Sunday was visiting with Beulah. Beulah was my childhood babysitter. She was hired by my parents to watch me while they were at work during the day. But Beulah was more than a babysitter to me—she was like a grandmother. Living away from both sets of my real grandparents, I found an adopted grandparent in Beulah.

She treated my sister and me just like her own grandchildren, spoiling us at every chance possible. She would often bring us goodies to eat, including what we called “Big Cookies.” They were the Little Debbie Oatmeal Cream Pies and we loved them as kids. I still do; in college, they even became my breakfast most mornings!

I have very fond memories of Beulah. She was an avid craftsperson, painting many ceramics, which still adorn my home today. She died when I was only 13-years-old after a long battle with cancer. I think of her often and miss her visits with us. It made Sunday even better.

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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