

# HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

November 29, 2011



God's work. Our hands.

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Reminder of Child Protection Policy Resource:** In light of recent events in the Penn State community, this is a reminder that the Upper Susquehanna Synod recommends that every congregation develop a child protection policy appropriate to its own setting. A resource intended to assist congregations in developing such a policy is available on the synod website:

[http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/child\\_protection\\_policy.pdf](http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/child_protection_policy.pdf).

This document contains the recommendations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod for its congregations, as well as providing an example policy which may serve as a resource as your congregation designs its own policy. The example provided is meant to be a guide as you wrestle with the issues inherent to the topic. Every congregation should design a policy that can be applied to its particular setting; therefore, do not include items which cannot or will not be enforced. For additional ELCA information regarding policy development, visit <http://archive.elca.org/safeplace/> and

<http://archive.elca.org/legal/congregations/safeguarding.html>.

### **Pastoral Care for Those Struggling with Infertility**

Many people struggle with infertility issues and clergy need to be ready to supply pastoral care to those who are dealing with these issues. A lay member of our synod recently suggested the following resource for pastors who may provide pastoral care for people dealing with infertility:

<http://www.resolve.org/support-and-services/family-friends/infertility-etiquette.html>. The article provides information and resources to help clergy know what is helpful and what is not helpful when offering care and concern.

**Board of Pensions Gets New Name:** This winter, you will start to see the ELCA Board of Pensions going by a new name. They're changing their name to Portico Benefit Services. This change follows recommendations heard over several years from plan members, advisers, church leaders, and its own employees. "We believe a new name will help people better understand what we do as this church's provider of health, retirement, disability, and survivor benefits and related services," said Jeff Thiemann, the organization's new president and CEO as of October 1. He added, "Though our name is changing, our connection to this church remains strong."

Why *Portico* Benefit Services? A portico is a covered space where people gather. A portico is also an entry point to something larger, like the portico of Solomon's temple where Jesus gathered his disciples, taught and ministered.

There are many references to porticoes in the Bible. John 5:2-9 directly connects to the organization's focus on well-being. Jesus made the man well and tells him what steps he can take to stay well. As a ministry of the ELCA, they exist to serve, to help people live well.

"For us, a portico symbolizes the partnership we share. We design benefits that support you in times of need. They also empower you to steward your many gifts – specifically your physical, emotional, and financial well-being. We do this to help you lead a whole, healthy life, better able to serve, for the sake of the world," said Thiemann.

Access to ELCA benefits will not be interrupted during this transition. Expect to see the new name appear gradually in communications over the next year, as they use up existing benefits materials.

## MILESTONES

**Christ, Montgomery (Pastor Gunther Bernhardt)** has voted to close. The congregation's last worship service will take place on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, 2012.

**Pastor W. Stevens Shipman, Jr.** has resigned as pastor of the **Southern Clinton County Parish** effective December 31, 2011, and will move to the roster of retired ordained ministers. Pastor Shipman has accepted the position of Director of Lutheran CORE. Godspeed!

**Pastor Maurice "Chip" Frontz** has submitted his resignation as pastor of **Messiah, South Williamsport**, effective December 31, 2011. Pastor Frontz will begin to serve the **Southern Clinton County Parish** as their interim pastor on January 1, 2012.

**Zion, Renovo**, has entered into a contract with the **Rev. John Harwood**, Episcopal priest serving Trinity Episcopal Church, Renovo, to serve as their pastor. Father Harwood is able to serve the congregation under contract due to the ELCA's full-communion agreement with The Episcopal Church, USA. Welcome!

The congregations of **Zion, Herndon (ELCA and UCC)** and **St. John's, Leck Kill** have now formed the **Zion-St. John's Parish**. The new parish will be creating a call committee and entering the call process. Their interim pastor is **Pastor Fred Faust**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

### January 14, 2012

**FLOOD SU:** Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Council present *FLOOD SU: Friends Living Out Our Discipleship at Susquehanna University*. This annual event will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Field House at Susquehanna University. Doors open at 3:45 p.m. The event is open to youth in grades 4 through 12. FLOOD SU features a praise band, service project, swimming, open gym, racquetball, hot dogs, snacks, Rock Band, and Guitar Hero. Each youth group should bring a reasonable amount of snacks to share, clothes for swimming, a loud voice to sing God's praises, hands to do God's work, games, and sports equipment. We'll provide service project materials, hot dogs and drinks, basketballs, volleyballs, Rock Band, and Guitar Hero! Cost is \$5 if registered by Tuesday, January 3, 2012; \$10 at the door, with free admission for adult chaperones. It is requested that adult chaperones have their PA State Police Criminal Background and Childline Child Abuse Clearances. Each congregation should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth. Registration forms are available on the synod's website ([www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org)) or the camp's website ([www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org)).

### January 18, 2012

**Interim Ministers to Discuss Walking with Closing Congregations:** The quarterly gathering of pastors serving as interim ministers will welcome Pastor Jean Kuebler from Big Spring United Lutheran Church in Newville, PA, on Wednesday, January 18, at the synod

office. Pastor Kuebler will discuss her experiences in working with congregations in the dying and closing process in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. This gathering is open to any interested pastor, interim or not. The group begins to gather for coffee at 9:30 a.m., and with devotions and program starting at 10:00 a.m. Those who wish may gather to go out to lunch together after the morning meeting.

### January 26, 2012

**Bishop's Day:** The annual Bishop's Day event will take place on Thursday, **January 26**, (note change from earlier announced date of Jan. 12) at the Buffalo Valley Common in Lewisburg. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for coffee/gathering, with worship at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone will present two sessions on "Ministry with Young Adults," looking at recent research into the culture, worldviews, and lifestyles of today's 20-somethings, and their implications for ministry through our congregations. **Please reserve your place for lunch by January 18** (\$10) by contacting the synod office ([secretary@uss-elca.org](mailto:secretary@uss-elca.org), or call 570-524-9778). The day's events will conclude by 3:00 p.m. (USS Discernment Advocates will meet after the event for follow-up conversation until 4:00 p.m.) Snow date is Feb. 2, 2012.

### January 26, 2012

**Preaching Perspectives at LTSG:** This continuing education series offers valuable insights and resources for the task of preaching. Each presenter engages the

biblical texts from the perspective of his or her particular discipline. Registration and refreshments begin at 9:00 a.m. These sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 per session/\$100 for all four sessions. Information at: <http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Preaching-Perspectives>. This session will be *ON Scripture Lectionary Presentation: Tying the Biblical Text to Current Events Through Exegesis and Interpretation*. Presenters are The Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Skinner and Dr. Greg Carey.

May 17, 2012

**Preaching Perspectives at LTSG:** This continuing education series offers valuable insights and resources for the task of preaching. Each presenter engages the biblical texts from the perspective of his or her particular discipline. Registration and refreshments begin at 9:00 a.m. These sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 per session/\$100 for all four sessions. Information at: <http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Preaching-Perspectives>. The May session is titled, *“Modern Day Miracle-Makers: Preaching on the Power of Community and Ephesians: Cultural Context Then and Now”* and will be presented by The Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann and The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann.

## Mark Your 2012 Calendars

- Annual Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ministry Vows, Tuesday, April 3, location TBA
- ELCMA Assembly, April 23-25, Holy Spirit, Turbotville
- Bishop’s Retreat, Monday-Tuesday, April 30-May 1, Days Inn, State College
- Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly, June 15-16, Weber Auditorium, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove



## USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle <a href="mailto:pastorjills@windstream.net">pastorjills@windstream.net</a>	Pastor B.J. Collins <a href="mailto:collins_bj@hotmail.com">collins_bj@hotmail.com</a>	Thursday, December 1, Christ, Lewisburg, 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Thu. Jan. 5, location TBA.
Juniata Valley	Pastor Gary Roth <a href="mailto:garoth142@yahoo.com">garoth142@yahoo.com</a>	Pastor James Park Bricker <a href="mailto:gymbri@embarqmail.com">gymbri@embarqmail.com</a>	Tuesday, January 17, Trinity, McAlisterville, 10:00 a.m.; Mar. 20, St. John, Lewistown. Post Epiphany Pastoral Party, January 20, 6:30 p.m. at Eleanor and Gary Roth's home.
Middle Creek	Pastor Wayne Muthler <a href="mailto:pwayne@ptd.net">pwayne@ptd.net</a>	Pastor Patrick Sipes <a href="mailto:sgtmuddy@gmail.com">sgtmuddy@gmail.com</a>	Wednesday, December 14, Sharon, Selinsgrove, 9:30 a.m.; Jan. 11, St. Matthew, Shamokin Dam.
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink <a href="mailto:pastorchad@verizon.net">pastorchad@verizon.net</a>	Pastor Keith Pittsnogle <a href="mailto:prkeith@ptd.net">prkeith@ptd.net</a>	Wednesday, December 21, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg; Wed. Jan. 25.
Tulpehocken	Pastor Constantine Havir <a href="mailto:revhavir@yahoo.com">revhavir@yahoo.com</a>	Pastor Rich Fangmann <a href="mailto:pastorrich@ptd.net">pastorrich@ptd.net</a>	Tuesday, December 6, Grace, Shamokin, 9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Tue. Jan. 3, Zion, Sunbury.
West Branch	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt <a href="mailto:prbernhardt@gmail.com">prbernhardt@gmail.com</a>	Pastor Maurice Frontz <a href="mailto:frontz@comcast.net">frontz@comcast.net</a>	Tuesday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Church of the Savior, Williamsport; Tue. Jan. 10.

*This publication will not be published in December due to the Christmas Holiday. The next edition of "Headwaters" will be published in mid-to-late January. Deadline for materials to include in that edition is January 10, 2012.*

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
**From the Upper Susquehanna Synod Staff**

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES	SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Updated November 23, 2011)</i></p> <p><b>Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Luke, Williamsport</li> <li>• Evangelical, Reedsville</li> <li>• St. John's (Brick) Lutheran Church, Montgomery</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviewing Candidates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evangelical, Reedsville</li> <li>• St. John's (Brick) Lutheran Church, Montgomery</li> <li>• Bethany, Montoursville</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Synod Staff Lead Worship</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The bishop and 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 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.</i></p> <p><b>December 11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beth Ann at Trinity, Shamokin</li> </ul>

## IN CONCLUSION

### The Bread of Life

By Chad Hershberger

*"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."  
--John 6:35*

So often during family holiday meals, my mom bakes rolls to go with the dinner. Recent holidays have been no exception, as we have enjoyed both white and wheat rolls to accompany our large dinners. It's a family joke, though, to remind my mother of a particular meal in the past which she has never lived down.



As per our usual tradition, mom bought the brown-and-serve rolls to go with dinner. She even got them out of the freezer to get them ready to bake. She busily prepared the rest of the meal and when we sat down to eat, she remembered the rolls. Problem was, she had forgotten to put them in the oven. So, we did not get to enjoy the rolls for that holiday. We laugh about it to this day.

I'm sure we all could tell similar stories about times when we forget something. And, as in this passage from John, we could probably tell a story when we needed something and didn't have it at our disposal. But we can rest assured that God is not one of these missing items. Jesus says He is the bread of life. He will provide our "daily bread" and will be with us as we journey through life. When we sit down to the dinner table, we can be sure that Jesus will be there, providing the rolls to nourish us on holidays and every day.

*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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