

# HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

October 28, 2010



*God's work. Our hands.*

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Gettysburg Seminary Names New Admissions and Lifelong Learning Director:** The Rev. Virginia K. Price of Jefferson, Maryland, will oversee the process in which persons interested in ministry, and in theological education in general, apply for enrollment in the Seminary's educational program. She will also provide initiative and leadership for the Seminary's ongoing lifelong learning programs, including lay schools, preaching perspective events, and other special public lectures and presentations. Price, who received her theological education at Gettysburg Seminary (M.Div. 1988), served on the staff of the Delaware Maryland Synod, specializing in leadership development, campus ministries, candidacy for ministry processes and stewardship. From 1997-2006, she served as parish pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jefferson, MD and before that Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick. In addition to her theological education, she received both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees at Geneva College, Beaver, PA. She engaged in additional specialized training, including extended study in forgiveness and reconciliation in the South African and Namibian contexts in 2005. Price will begin in her new role November 9, 2010 and will be part of the Seminary's Enrollment Services and Student Life staff team.

**Resources Now Available:** The Society of St. Andrew, the national gleaning ministry, is now offering its two Christmas-related programs that support the ministry of gleaning fields and supplying fresh food to the hungry. The advent devotional booklet, *Preparing the Way*, is designed for individual and family use, and may be distributed by local congregations. And the *Alternative Gift Christmas Card program* provides original cards sent to friends and loved ones, with the proceeds supporting the gleaning ministry. Details about these programs can be found at <http://www.EndHunger.org/AdventOffers.htm>.

## MILESTONES

In November, **Pastors Michael and Sonja Ware** will conclude their ministry with the Christians United Cooperative as Pastor Michael begins a new call to serve Robeson Lutheran Church in Mohnton, PA, (NE PA Synod) on December 1, 2010. Pastor Sonja is completing her training in intentional interim ministry, and will be available for call. Their last Sunday with the parish is November 21, 2010. The parish includes the congregations of St. John, Leck Kill; St. Peter, West Cameron; Zion, Trevorton; and Zion, Herndon.

**Pastor Stanley Bower** (Mountain Grove Parish) will conclude his ministry with the parish and move to the roster of retired pastors on November 15, 2010. The Mountain Grove Parish includes the congregations of Trinity, Bloomsburg; Emmanuel, Mainville; and St. Peter (Harger's), Mountain Grove.

**Pastor Robert Doll** (Sharon, Selinsgrove) will be installed as pastor of Sharon on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 3:30 p.m. Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is white.

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

15 years - **Pastor Beverly D. Cotner** (11/26/1995)  
(Emmanuel, Williamsport; St. James, Pennsdale)

20 years - **Pastor Rosalie N. Smith** (11/11/1990)  
(retired)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

**October 30, 2010**

**Stewardship in Trying Times:** Biblical stewardship is a way of life. It means belonging to God, letting God rule our lives, including being in charge of our activities, our time and our money. "Letting go and letting God lead" allows for the best possible outcome and takes anxiety out of our lives. When we know and practice what the Bible teaches about the care and stewardship of God's creation and all God has provided for us, we find that everything works out better than we could have planned ourselves! This free workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30, 2010, at Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg. The workshop will:

- Encourage participants to identify and talk about what economic and other stressors are affecting their congregations and them personally
- Help participants understand stewardship in the light of letting God lead - and in ways you may have never thought of before - both personally and in your congregation
- Provide unique and practical tools to help people learn about and deal with issues of stewardship of what God has given us - for use at home - and especially in the congregation (using the "Make It Simple" resource from ELCA)

For more information contact Rev. Karl-John Stone ([karljohn@uss-elca.org](mailto:karljohn@uss-elca.org)) or Beth Yenchko ([eyenchko@uss-elca.org](mailto:eyenchko@uss-elca.org)) or call 570-524-9778.

**November 5, 2010**

**Clergy Day of Mutual Care:** A group of self-described "orthodox/traditionalist" ELCA pastors from the SW PA Synod, troubled over the ELCA's decisions in regard to human sexuality, have organized a "Clergy Day of Mutual Care" as a way of providing mutual support. The event will be held on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's, Butler, PA. They have arranged for some impressive speakers to be present to address the group: The Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor from Trinity Seminary, Dr. David Yeago from Southern Seminary, and Lynn Holden, a professional counselor and spiritual director. The question to be addressed is "How do the orthodox/traditionalists journey together with faithfulness and integrity?" Responses to this question may well differ, but this event is hoped to be a resource to assist all participants in the struggle. To view the brochure and registration, go to: <http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/BrochureFaithResponse1.pdf>

**November 6, 2010**

**"Where Do We Go Now?" A conference for congregations seeking to do young adult ministry:** 2010 is the Year of the Young Adult in the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod. As the Year of the Young Adult comes to a close, we want to think about where we go now. How can congregations do young adult ministry in their communities? What will that look like? What resources are available? Who's doing this well? What's already happening in the synod? This conference will address these questions and many more. The speaker will be [Pastor Matt Miofsky](#) of [The Gathering United Methodist Church in St. Louis, MO](#). Pastor Miofsky will tell the story of his congregation, which started with young adults and grew into a growing, thriving, multigenerational congregation. He worked with the denomination to re-open a congregation which had closed. The cost of the event is free! Due to the synod's emphasis on young adult ministry and its generous support for young adult ministry in the year 2010, we are able to offer this event at no cost to participants! We hope this will enable congregations to bring as many people as possible to dream about what is possible in your congregations and communities! To register, go to: <http://wheredowego.eventbrite.com/>.

**November 8-10, 2010**

**State Pastors' Conference:** The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is now accepting registrations for the 2010 State Pastors' Conference. Scheduled for November 8-10 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, this year's conference will explore "Gifts of Gospeling and Generosity: Rethinking Evangelism and Stewardship for Today." With a rich menu of plenary presentations and workshops, the conference will help clergy to rethink these core practices and set them in more faithful and celebrative contexts. Keynote speakers for the conference are the following: Shane Claiborne, founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped to organize and network radical faith communities around the world; and Eric H.F. Law, founder and director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, established to develop competent leadership in a diverse, changing world. For more information, see [http://www.pachurches.org/What/Events and Services/Pastors Conference/pastors\\_conference.htm](http://www.pachurches.org/What/Events and Services/Pastors Conference/pastors_conference.htm). The website includes a registration brochure, a news release, and links to a secure site where you can register for the conference and pay with your credit card and reserve an overnight room at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East. Or, if you prefer, email [pcc@pacouncil.org](mailto:pcc@pacouncil.org) to request a brochure by snail mail. (Be sure to include your mailing address.) Register by September 30 and receive a discount of \$25 per person!

November 12-13, 2010

**“Glocal” Mission Gathering:** This event at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, will enhance your connections with the worldwide Lutheran family, give you practical skills for mission, lead you to discover how changes in the world are transforming the way churches like the ELCA proclaim and serve, inspire you toward inviting worship that includes global voices and teach how to travel internationally in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive. This event will have a workshop track centered in worship. Registration is \$35 per person. For more information and online registration, go to: <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Global-Events/Glocal-Mission-Gatherings.aspx>.

November 13, 2010

**Emerging Church Conference:** The “Emerging Church Conference” at Gloria Dei Church (ELCA) of Huntingdon Valley, PA, asks the questions: Have we focused more on worshipping Jesus rather than actually following him? How does a commitment to Jesus’ radical vision of love, compassion, and forgiveness change the way we live our lives? How can the church change to become relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Presenters Brian McLaren and Tony Jones will share their experiences at this event, Saturday, November 13, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Cost is \$30 (includes box lunch). [For more information and registration, click here.](#)

November 15, 2010

November 22, 2010

**Preaching Perspectives in USS: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany:** Don’t miss LTSG’s Preaching Perspectives presenters for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany texts, offering their Nov. 18 presentations (at LTSG, same day as Bishop’s Day) on our synod territory on two Monday evenings, November 15 and 22, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at the Evergreen Center at Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg. Rev. Dr. Mark Radecke (Nov. 15) and Rev. Dr. Gil Waldkoenig (Nov. 22) will take an earthy and ecological look at the seasonal lectionary texts, connecting the hot atmosphere of the biblical

texts to the hot atmosphere now. Register for one evening’s event for \$20, or both for \$30. Registrations are appreciated before November 10. See the flier: <http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/September-2010-Headwaters.pdf>.

2010-2011  
**PREACHING  
PERSPECTIVES**

PREACHING THE  
LECTIONARY:  
ENGAGING WORD  
AND WORLD



November 18, 2010

**Bishop’s Day for Rostered Leaders**

The annual fall Bishop’s Day event for rostered leaders will be held on Thursday, November 18 at Christ’s United Lutheran Church (a.k.a. “Four Bells”) in Millmont (near Camp Mount Luther), from approximately 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The day will include worship, and presentations under the theme, “Pastoral Leadership in the 21st Century: Seeking Wholeness Amid Our Changing Context”. Pastor Sue Lang is the presenter. Lunch will be provided, and donations received to cover the cost of the meal. RSVP by November 8 to Brenda Krouse at the synod office (570-524-9778 or [secretary@uss-elca.org](mailto:secretary@uss-elca.org)).

*Gone are the days when the church was a central institution in the life of American society and the role of the pastor was clearly defined. We now live in a highly secularized culture in which most people are unfamiliar with the very basics of a Judeo-Christian heritage and what it means to be a Christian. Join us as we identify some of the contextual changes we face in ministry today and how they affect us in our roles as pastors. We’ll consider both the challenges and opportunities these changes present for ministry in our 21st century world.*

Pastor Sue Lang serves as a consultant and coach through her ministry, RevWriter Resources, LLC through which she offers leadership and congregational support across all expressions of the ELCA and ecumenically. She is the author and co-author of several books and curriculum resources including, most recently, the leader guide for The Greatest Story (Augsburg Fortress, 2010), which she co-authored with her husband, Tom. She is available for congregational retreats and leadership events and can be contacted at [sue@revwriter.com](mailto:sue@revwriter.com). Her website is [www.revwriter.com](http://www.revwriter.com).

### November 18, 2010

**Preaching Perspectives:** The 2010-2011 Preaching Perspectives (“Preaching the Lectionary: Engaging Word and World”) will present its second session on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. The Rev. Dr. Mark Radecke and the Rev. Dr. Gil Waldkoenig will present “Strange Things in the Air: The hot atmosphere of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany”. The presenters will take an earthy and ecological look at the texts, connecting the hot atmosphere of the biblical texts to the hot atmosphere now. Cost is \$30 per session, with refectory lunch available for \$7.00 with reservation. For more, visit <http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Preaching-Perspectives>. For those attending the Bishop’s Day event in Millmont this day, you may register for these same Preaching Perspectives offered in our synod on Monday, Nov. 15 and 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Camp Mount Luther.

### November 20, 2010

**Advocating for Daily Bread:** Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) invites you to take part in a two-part event, focusing on “daily bread” advocacy and natural gas drilling advocacy, on Saturday, November 20, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove (Degenstein Center, meeting rooms 3-5). Sponsored by the ELCA Washington Office and ELCA World Hunger, and to encourage participation from those traveling a distance, the cost is just \$10 with lunch included. Students are free. Attend one or both session: 9:30 - Noon, “What is advocacy, and why is it important for Lutherans?”; and/or 1:00 -3:30 PM, “Natural Gas Drilling in Pennsylvania: An Advocacy Case Study”. [Click here for registration form.](#)

### January 19, 2011

**Sustaining the Commitment to Social Justice:** After members of the Salvadoran military killed six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter in 1989 at the University of Central America in San Salvador, Fr. Dean Brackley volunteered to take the place of one of the martyred Jesuits. He has taught at the Universidad Centroamericana in San Salvador ever since, and now serves as pastor of the university parish. Lecturing extensively in the U.S.A. and Europe, Brackley has done much to keep the memory of the martyrs of El Salvador alive and to continue their struggle for social justice. Fr. Brackley will speak at Stretansky Concert Hall on Wednesday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. on the topic, “Sustaining the Commitment to Social Justice” on the campus of Susquehanna University.

### January 19-21, 2011

**Reading Scripture through Other Eyes:** How do we read scripture? Do we read them on our own, deciding what do believe? Do we read them as part of a group, with a similar mindset? Do we read them with a worldview? Join us for Trinity Institute’s 41<sup>st</sup> National Theological Conference where, led by our international panel of distinguished speakers, we will explore the theology and practice of Bible study that is authentic and transformative. Visit [trinitywallstreet.org](http://trinitywallstreet.org) to see video interviews with our speakers, find out more information about the conference, and register to attend in New York. Trinity Institute takes place at Trinity Wall Street, an Episcopal parish in NYC.

### January 27-29, 2011

**Calvin Institute for Christian Worship: Symposium on Worship:** This year’s theme is “Every Time I Remember You” (Philippians 1:3). Worshipers and worship leaders from around the world gather each January for a time of fellowship, worship, and learning, seeking to deepen and integrate all aspects of worship, develop their gifts, encourage each other, and renew their commitment to the full ministry of the church. For more information visit the [Calvin Institute for Christian Worship](http://Calvin Institute for Christian Worship). Online registration opens in October. The event will be held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### February 18-19, 2011

**“Come to the Water”: Ecumenical Catechumenal Process Training Event:** The catechumenal process is a journey of faith formation for those new (and not so new) to Christianity. It goes beyond the traditional study of “what Christians believe” and incorporates worship, prayer, small groups, reflective Bible reading, sponsors, and ministry in daily life into a process that changes lives and makes disciples. This process not only transforms lives, but it can transform congregations as well. Speakers for the event, held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington, are Bishop Rob Hofstad, Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA and Ann McElligott, Episcopalian and author of *The Catechumenal Process: Adult Initiation and Formation for Christian Life and Ministry*. Other leadership will be provided by pastors and lay leaders from the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and the Oregon and Southwest Washington Synods of the ELCA. This training event is recommended for congregation teams of two or more and will provide participants with the background and resources they need to begin a catechumenal process in their congregation. The cost hasn’t been set, but will be around \$30/person and will include some meals. For more information on the training event, contact Pastor Martha Maier, [maierm@comcast.net](mailto:maierm@comcast.net) or 360-892-7160. For more on the catechumenate, visit [www.catechumenate.org](http://www.catechumenate.org).

**March 31- April 2, 2011**

**Music That Makes Community:** Music That Makes Community is proud to hold its first event at a Lutheran congregation at [St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge \(Chicago\), IL, March 31 - April 2, 2011](#). Now is the time to plan your budget and put this event on your calendar. ELCA Associate Director for Worship, Scott Weidler, is one of the team of presenters for Music that Makes Community, a three-day conference dedicated to exploring a style of singing that transforms worship and more deeply forms Christian community. Sponsored by All Saints Company, San Francisco, these conferences are perfect for anyone -- pastors, lay leaders, choir directors, Sunday school teachers, organists, and more -- who seek to find ways of engaging an assembly in song in a truly authentic way.

"We are starting a movement in the Church, rekindling an ancient practice of singing...a way of music making that has been central to folk traditions for centuries. Taught and sung from memory, it is simple and beautiful, faithful and traditional. Sung without the use of a book, these songs allow congregations to focus on listening to one another, being attentive to the Holy Spirit, and singing from their hearts."

What is experienced and taught at these conferences is an incredible balance with the use of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* or other print/projected worship resources. Community is truly developed at the conference, and is something that can change congregations in a powerful way.

Check out: [www.allsaintscompany.org](http://www.allsaintscompany.org) for more information.



**April 9-10, 2011**

**Making Mutual Ministry Work:** Pastor Dick Bruesehoff, of the ELCA Vocation and Education unit, and Pastor Sue Lang, of RevWriter Resources, LLC, two of the co-authors of *Pastor and People: Making Mutual Ministry Work* (Augsburg Fortress, 2003), will offer two workshops guiding participants through an exploration of mutual ministry and its exciting ministry possibilities for your congregation. There are two opportunities to attend:

- Saturday, April 9, 2011 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6671 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, PA
- Sunday, April 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 20 Dill Avenue, Perkasié, PA

The cost of the event is \$20 per person. Participants who register prior to the deadline of April 1, 2011 will receive a copy of *Pastor and People*. A free will offering will be taken for the meal. The seminar conveners ask that congregations bring 3-4 leaders, as you will be engaging in small group work during the seminar. These should include the pastor and members of a mutual ministry committee and can also include council members and officers so that they might renew their understanding of mutual ministry and what it means to be the church, together. For additional information and a downloadable brochure, check the synod's website at <http://www.ministrylink.org/article/making-mutual-ministry-work/>

**May 5-6, 2011**

**Bishop's Retreat for Rostered Leaders:** The annual Bishop's Retreat for Rostered Leaders will take place on Thursday and Friday, May 5-6, 2011, in Wellsboro, PA. The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Meese Peterson, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will present on our changing culture's implications for ecclesiology. Registration information will be available starting in 2011.

The 2011 World Hunger Lenten Series, "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" is now online! Available on the synod website at <http://www.uss-elca.org/for-congregations/2011-world-hunger-lenten-series>, you can also find it easily under the "For Congregations" tab at <http://www.uss-elca.org>. With fourteen contributing writers from around the Upper Susquehanna Synod, this versatile collection of materials can be used for mid-week Lenten programs, Sundays in Lent, or at other times of year when you want to focus on God's call to feed the hungry. Materials include: Bible studies, worship services, drama/dialogue sermons, children's sermons, meal ideas, take-home family devotions, and fundraising ideas.

# EXTRA! EXTRA! The Gospel is Key in Telling Your Story

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

When using the media to tell your story about what is going on in your congregation or new ministries starting up, it is important to use the opportunity to spread some key messages about your organization, in this case, the church. Key messages are the short themes you want the media to report. When you talk to news reporters, any of your answers or comments can be quoted. Because the journalist will edit these comments, you never know which quotes will be reported. That's why you need **KEY MESSAGES**.



Create short, memorable 10 to 15 second responses and comments in the vernacular. That way, you can tell your story to the media in a focused way that's both lively and impacting.



Be descriptive and paint vivid word pictures. Boring, tedious comments are a turnoff to reporters and their audiences. Jargon creates barriers.



Keep your messages to no more than 10-12 words. This creates good soundbites.



Prepare one to three key messages and deliver those messages during your interview with a degree of consistency. Don't worry about sounding repetitious-- simply change a word here and there, but maintain your theme in delivering a message.



Substantiate your key messages with facts. After delivering the 10-12 word quote, back it up with examples, anecdotes, case studies, statistics, and third party references.



Make sure your key messages are newsworthy. They should be timely, unusual, draw on the "heart strings," have impact, be helpful, or deal with trends or upcoming events.

**EXAMPLE:** Your congregation is hosting a Mission Mall this holiday season. You get a reporter to come interview you, the pastor, about the event. You jot down the following key messages and at every chance during the interview, you reiterate these three key messages:

- Mission Mall is an alternative gift-giving program, encouraging folks to take consumerism out of their Christmas celebration.
- St. Robert's Lutheran Church is committed to encouraging their members and the community, especially children and youth, to help others who are less fortunate.
- Projects like these are important to this church because we are committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ by showing love in action.

Always make sure a key message talks about your mission and doing God's work through our hands!

## What about submitting photographs?

- Captions and photos are called "points of entry," the thing that catches the reader's eye and makes them read an article.
- Know that readers are seven times more likely to look at pictures and read the caption than read print copy.
- Make sure you submit high quality photos.
- Action shots work best.
- Avoid pictures with lots of people in them. Instead, have a photo that you can see the people. A good rule of thumb is that people's heads should be no smaller than a nickel.
- When you submit a photo, write a suggested caption for the photo. If you physically send in the picture, tape the caption to the back. If you submit a digital photo, send a caption with the e-mail.
- Ideally, captions should be at least two lines long and no more than four lines. Identify the people in the photo and use the opportunity to state one of your key messages.
- Make sure you have a signed release from the people pictured in the photo that says you have permission to use it to publicize your church, free of any claims.

*In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll give you information about crisis communications*

## 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>	(9:00 a.m. worship, meeting and lunch to follow) Thursday, November 4, Zion, Turbotville; Dec. 2, Christ's United, Millmont.
Juniata Valley	Pastor Erin Bovendam <a href="mailto:Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu">Ebovendam001@luthersem.edu</a>	Pastor James Park Bricker <a href="mailto:gymbri@embarqmail.com">gymbri@embarqmail.com</a>	(9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting) Tuesday, November 16, Centre, Mifflintown; Jan. 18, St. Paul, Milroy. Pericope for the month of November at St. Paul, Milroy on WEDNESDAYS from 10:15-11:30 a.m. December at Trinity, McAlisterville.
Middle Creek	Pastor Breen Marie Sipes <a href="mailto:breenmarie@hotmail.com">breenmarie@hotmail.com</a>	Pastor Patrick Sipes <a href="mailto:sgtmuddy@gmail.com">sgtmuddy@gmail.com</a>	(9:30 a.m. worship, meeting follows) Wednesday, November 10, Zion, Kratzerville; Dec. 8, Sharon, Selinsgrove.
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>	(9:30 a.m. worship, meeting) Wednesday, November 17, St. Luke's, Bloomsburg; Dec. 15.
Tulpehocken	Pastor Brian Beissel <a href="mailto:brianthepastor@gmail.com">brianthepastor@gmail.com</a>	Pastor Constantine Havir <a href="mailto:revhavir@yahoo.com">revhavir@yahoo.com</a>	(9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. meeting) Tuesday, November 2, Grace, Sunbury; Dec. 7, St. John, Rural Danville.
West Branch	Pastor Eric Deibler <a href="mailto:deiblers@verizon.net">deiblers@verizon.net</a>	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt <a href="mailto:prbernhardt@gmail.com">prbernhardt@gmail.com</a>	(9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. meeting) Tuesday, November 9, Church of the Savior, Williamsport; Dec. 14.

## SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

### November 7

- Bishop at St. Peter's, Monrovia
- Beth Ann at All Saints, Kulpmont

### November 14

- Bishop at St. John, Richfield, and St. John, Mount Pleasant Mills

### November 21

- Bishop at United, Sunbury in AM; installation at Sharon, Selinsgrove in PM
- Karl-John at Messiah, South Williamsport

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*(Updated October 20, 2010)*

### Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Beaver Lutheran Church, Beaver Springs
- Salem Parish
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church - Church of the Savior, Williamsport
- First Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg
- St. John's (Brick) Lutheran Church, Montgomery

### Preparing Materials

- United in Christ, West Milton
- Stone Valley Parish
- Bethany, Montoursville

### Interviewing

- Beaver Lutheran Church, Beaver Springs
- First Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg
- Salem Parish
- St. Matthew, Williamsport

## IN CONCLUSION

### Built on a Rock- Thanks be to God!

By Chad Hershberger

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” -- Hebrews 13: 8*

Monday, October 11, 2010, was a day off work for many, giving them time to celebrate Columbus Day. For others, it was the day they lost their church job. Early that day, I received word that the ELCA Presiding Bishop was announcing the new structure for the church. I read the official news release and while it understandably lacked specific details of who was getting cut, I could see some themes in the new structure. It made me jump to some conclusions I felt were inevitable and that made me upset. There were cuts in areas that I have deep passions for and I felt my church let me down. It was not the church I had come to know and love and I suddenly felt left out. Which made me think of those who felt the church left them down in the wake of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Or those who felt the church left them down before that assembly's decisions.

I have colleagues who work in the churchwide office and in weeks prior to the restructuring announcement, I talked to one of them about the impending changes. Those folks weighed heavily on my mind that day and were in my prayers. So, I sent an e-mail to those workers, telling them that I was thinking about them and praying for them. I relayed that I couldn't imagine what it was like to be on Higgins Road that day. One responded to me, thanking me for the prayers for him and for the church.

And I was humbled. In the midst of this turmoil and pain for many, that man, who lost his job with the ELCA, reminded me that the church is more than just this decision. The Spirit often blows through in ways that are new and mysterious. The church indeed is more than this one announcement.

That night, walking on the campus of Susquehanna University, the carillon played, “Built on a Rock.” I was reminded of the lyrics, “the church will stand, even when steeples are falling.” And I felt peace, because no matter what was happening in Chicago, the church will survive. It might look different than we're used to, but we can rest assured in the words of the writer of Hebrews, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”

*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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Rev. Robert L. Driesen, Bishop	<a href="mailto:bishop@uss-elca.org">bishop@uss-elca.org</a>
Rev. Beth Ann L. Stone, Assistant to Bishop	<a href="mailto:bethann@uss-elca.org">bethann@uss-elca.org</a>
Rev. Karl-John N. Stone, Assistant to Bishop	<a href="mailto:karljohn@uss-elca.org">karljohn@uss-elca.org</a>
Ms. Elizabeth Yenchko, Director for Evangelical Mission	<a href="mailto:eyenchko@uss-elca.org">eyenchko@uss-elca.org</a>
Ms. Brenda Krouse, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@uss-elca.org">secretary@uss-elca.org</a>
Mr. Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications	<a href="mailto:news@uss-elca.org">news@uss-elca.org</a>
Ms. Sandra Grier, Social Ministry Project Coach	<a href="mailto:sandygrier@comcast.net">sandygrier@comcast.net</a>

**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.*