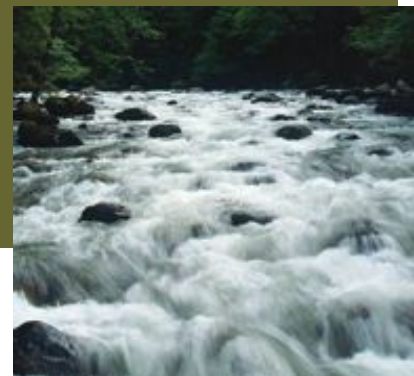


HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

October 6, 2011



God's work. Our hands.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Resource Available: A downloadable booklet called "Light Our Way" is available online. It is a resource for spiritual care during times of disaster. Go to http://www.ldr.org/care/Light_Our_Way.pdf. Printed devotional books from LDR for disaster survivors and volunteers are also available from the synod office.

Oasis Ministries Develops New Network to Prevent Clergy Burnout: Ministry in any form is a 24/7 job and stretches people thin, even to the point of breaking. Oasis Ministries is creating a healing network of people in any form of ministry, where they can experience a sabbatical without taking months away from their ministry. Under the direction of Rev. Bonita Rose Collins-Hobbs, participants will come away for R.E.S.T.:

- + Restoration
- + Experience
- + Sabbath
- +Transformation

The hope of the REST program is that as ministers gather together to find renewal of passion and purpose, they will be building a network of trust and support, with peer groups in safe, sacred space. The group meets the third Thursday of every other month beginning September 15, 2011, (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) at Mt. Zion CME Church, 701 Felton Avenue, Sharon Hill, PA.

Cost: \$45 of each gathering covers leadership and facility expenses.

To request additional information or to register, contact Betsy Keller, Oasis Ministries, 419 Deerfield Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011; phone 717-737-8222 or email betsykeller@oasismin.org. Or visit the website www.oasismin.org/REST.htm.

Kitchen Help Needed: St. John's, Espy, remains in the middle of one of the hardest hit neighborhoods from the recent flooding in the Bloomsburg area. The church has also been serving a vital ministry to the community since the flood waters receded, particularly in providing three meals a day for flood victims, clean-up and work crews, and anyone else who needs a meal or a place to connect with their neighbors. The need to provide meals will remain for the foreseeable future. The churches of our synod are blessed with many good cooks. If your church might be able to provide some kitchen help, such as cooking or bringing and serving a meal, it would be a great contribution to the flood relief effort. Also, being present to eat with folks who have had their lives turned upside down can be a great way to minister to our neighbors in need. For more information, please call Merrill Smith on her cell phone at (570) 205-9284.

In Christian Sympathy: We celebrate the life of Jean Glass, 92, of Merced, CA. She died on Thursday, September 29, 2011. Surviving are her daughter, retired **Associate in Ministry Constance Fladland** of Watsontown and her husband, The Rev. James H. Fladland who serves as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Watsontown. Jean was born and raised in Jersey Shore, PA. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Rev. and Mrs. James H. Fladland, 404 Main Street, Watsontown, PA 17777.

Ordination Milestone: With thanks to God for his ministry, we celebrate with this child of God the anniversary of his ordination in October (note: anniversary years listed are in multiples of five only): 5 years - **Pastor Stanley L. Bower**, retired. (10/28/2006)

Moving Forward with Christ

An upcoming event that you are encouraged to attend!

Upper Susquehanna Synod Bishop Robert L. Driesen and his colleague 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. It will feature:

- Bible study under the leadership of Dr. Wally Taylor. Taylor is the Ernest W. and Edith S. Ogram Professor of New Testament Studies and Director of Graduate Studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.
- Conversation with Bishop Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- The chance to talk with leaders from other synods about how you envision both living your life of discipleship and leading others to experience the love of Christ in ways that encourage them to share their faith in daily life.



The purpose of this event is to re-energize and focus rostered leaders on how we are a part of the ELCA; to build on the collegiality we share within the Region; to share with one another what we do here in the Region; to express our joys and our struggles in mission here in Region 8; and to allow Bishop Hanson the chance to listen to us. Finally, we'll take a hope that one byproduct of this all is a trust between rostered leaders in Region 8 and the larger churchwide expression.

On the first day Bishop Hanson will listen to all that occurs from worship through the synod mission moments. Then as he shares his thoughts with us he can reflect what he's heard and express his vision for how the ELCA will '***Move Forward with Christ in Mission***'.

The synod group discussions on the morning of the 2nd will be led by the Directors of Evangelical Mission and their bishops and will focus in the areas of leadership, stewardship, and renewal. Particularly, Pastor Hirsch hopes to focus conversation using these concepts: where do we draw traction for our future together? When we talk about identity - what are the things that all of us claim? What grounds us? What are our weaknesses and what are our strengths?

Registration for this exciting event is now open for your use. This will be accomplished through Constant Contact's Event Marketing service. You'll see the link to the Event's homepage below. We urge you to save this homepage as a 'favorite' so that you might return to it and stay abreast of additional details for the gathering.

- Late registration is \$125.00 through October 14
- Registration closes October 14, 2011. Click here for [Moving Forward with Christ Registration:](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3wuyv36b0d9e0bd&llr=whcklncab)
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3wuyv36b0d9e0bd&llr=whcklncab>

As a reminder: the registration form indicates that you must make your own overnight motel reservations. A list of Altoona area motels is a part of the Event's homepage. The Blair County Convention Center is a state of the art convention center, which hosts the Allegheny Synod Assembly, and, is highly rated by participants at that event.

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTINUING ED

Preaching Perspectives at LTSG on November 17, January 26, and May 17: 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>.

- **Thursday, November 17, 2011, *Through the Lenses of the New Testament, Theology and Ethics: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany***
 - The Rev. Dr. Richard P. Carlson, The Rev. Dr. James M. Childs, Jr.
- **Thursday, January 26, 2012, *ON Scripture Lectionary Presentation: Tying the Biblical Text to Current Events Through Exegesis and Interpretation***
 - The Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Skinner, Dr. Greg Carey
- **Thursday, May 17, 2012, *Modern Day Miracle-Makers: Preaching on the Power of Community and Ephesians: Cultural Context Then and Now***
 - The Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann, The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann

Muhlenberg 300 CONGREGATION DAY!

October 15th, 2011

“Who was Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and Why is He Important?” Celebrate the 300th anniversary of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg’s birth from 9 a.m. to 4:14 p.m. at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia! Learn about his importance in the “planting” of the Lutheran Church in North America and how his influence as the Patriarch of the North American Lutheran Church is still apparent today. We are excited about our two tracks of learning opportunities:

The **Confirmation/Catechetical Track** offers a bus trip in the morning to explore the oldest unchanged Lutheran church in use in the US established by Muhlenberg and the cemetery where Muhlenberg and family are buried. Then, back to LTSP for fun learning experiences including a campus scavenger hunt.

The **Adult Track** offers a variety of opportunities to learn about the history of Muhlenberg through lectures, exhibits and workshops. An afternoon bus trip to Old Trappe Church is available if interested.

For registration and information: www.ltsp.edu/CongregationDay2011 or call Ellen Anderson, Director of Alumni and Congregation Relations at 215-248-7301.

October 16-26, 2011

Children, Family, and Faith: PEAK is a Partnership for Education And Knowledge between Wartburg Theological Seminary, Rocky Mountain Synod, and Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado. This course is an opportunity to be immersed in a 10-day learning community to develop a deeper understanding of children's faith development. Participants will construct a theology that regards children as valuable persons, gifted by God for a life and ministry in the Church and God’s world. The implications for ministry to and with the children and families in one’s congregation and personal life will be explored. Led by faculty from Wartburg Theological Seminary, this course may be taken for academic credit or continuing education. For more information, contact ben@rainbowtrail.org or 719-431-0050 or visit <http://www.rmselfca.org/files/PEAK%20Brochure2011.pdf>

Sunday, October 16, 2011

World Food Day: World Food Day is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. Church World Service will help church members organize a meal on or around World Food Day by providing free resources, including special 10” by 16” placemats you can order at no cost. The placemats can be ordered from Church World Service by calling 1-800-297-1516 and requesting resource EA 1137. Downloadable resources at www.churchworldservice.org/wfd, including the following:

- How to Organize a Meal
- Discussion Questions
- A bulletin insert
- Sample worship resources
- A link to an action alert for sending a

message to Congress in support of small-scale agriculture

If you prefer, organize a meal using these resources later this year between now and Thanksgiving. Five million children die each year because of hunger and malnutrition, and nearly 1 billion people go hungry. There is a critical window of opportunity in the 1,000 days from pregnancy and age two during which nutrition can have a measurable, lasting impact on growth, brain development, incidence of disabilities and susceptibility to disease or infection. The impact of malnutrition during the first 1,000 days is irreversible—but these consequences are preventable. We can help end hunger by investing in the world's small-scale farmers, many of whom are women. With access to resources like land, credit, water and appropriate technology, they can feed their families and help ensure a healthy and nutritious food supply for generations to come.

Please let your congregation know about this opportunity! If you have any questions please be in touch with Martin Shupack, Director of Advocacy for Church World Service at 1-202-481-6934 or Mshupack@churchworldservice.org.

October 18-20, 2011

Technology Conference: The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, is excited to announce an innovative technology event called, "A Byte of the Future - A Conference on Using Technology in Worship and Education." The conference will be held on our Richmond campus October 18-20, 2011, and features keynotes, workshops, and model worship and education segments to show what can be done with technology in the church while remaining faithful. Visit website at <http://www.upsem.edu/Leadership/workshops/index.html> for more information and to register.

October 24, 2011

"Hopes, Facts and Fears: Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict:" Dr. Bruce Chilton, Episcopal Priest and internationally renowned New Testament scholar, author, and professor at Bard College, will be the presenter for the annual LARC Day of Dialogue in Central Pennsylvania. The meeting will be held on October 24, 2011, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Chilton will be speaking on the history and background of the Middle East peace process and the efforts of Lutherans, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics in regard to the peace process. Here is a registration form for the event: <http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/updated-LARC-2011-brochure-registration-2.pdf>

October 25, 2011

Centennial Celebration of the PA Council of Churches:

This event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, and focus on the topic "Grateful Past—Bold Future: Meeting God in the Winds of Change." The schedule will be as follows:

1:30-3:30 p.m.-- Ecumenical Forum with the Rev Dr. Michael Kinnamon (General Secretary, National Council of Churches) on "The Future of Conciliar Ecumenism"

4:00-5:30 p.m.—Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving, with reflections on Council's past, present, and future. Sermon by Dr. Kinnamon

5:30 p.m.-- Reception with greetings and introductions of special guests

To help better plan for the event, please let them know if you plan to attend any or all of the day's public events. Send an email to pcc@pachurches.org with "celebration" in the subject line; give us your name, address, and how many will be attending—and we'll look forward to greeting you that day!

October 26, 2011

"Fifty Years After the Berlin Wall: Luther, Lutherans and Freedom in 'Lutherland'":

Presenters Martin Treu, Gunther Gassmann, Claudia Bergman, Scott Moore, and Dirk Lange will offer lectures on "Luther, Lutherans and Freedom in 'Lutherland'" at the 41st annual Luther Colloquy on the campus of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Wednesday, October 26, from 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM. Lunch reservations must be made by October 12 (\$7.). For more information, go to:

<http://www.ltsg.edu/Programs/LutherStudies>.

November 14-16, 2011

PA State Pastors' Conference: The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is now accepting registrations for the 2011 State Pastors' Conference. Scheduled for November 14-16 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, (4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111), this year's conference will explore "Practical and Practiced Awe: Reclaiming the Joy and Wonder of Our Call." 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.

A diverse selection of workshops fills out the rich menu of learning opportunities. Cost for the event is \$150 (with a \$25 late fee for registrations received after November 7). Visit <http://tinyurl.com/6h6cxhf> for more details, including a registration brochure you can download, a news release that tells more about the conference, and links to a site where you can register for the conference and arrange to pay with your

MasterCard, Visa, or Discover credit card and reserve an overnight room at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East. Or, if you prefer, email pcc@pachurches.org to request a brochure by snail mail. (Be sure to include your postal mailing address.)

November 19, 2011

Front Porchin' Evangelism Workshop: The Upper Susquehanna Synod will sponsor an Evangelism Workshop with Pastor Jake Jacobson, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northwest PA Synod, on Saturday, November 19, 2011, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church, Milton (1125 Mahoning Street). The session, called "Front Porchin'" will look at how easy evangelism is—it's about sharing a story. It is your story and God's story shared with another. Evangelism is sharing what God in Christ has done in your life. We don't even have to go out looking to evangelize— God provides us with all the places to do this sharing without ever having to go knock on a stranger's door. God gives us natural front porches where we live, work, and play. There, God introduces us to others, and sits with us as we share our lives, our stories, and the Christ within us with those who regularly gather there with us. How do we best utilize the front porches God calls us into or onto? What is our role in this process? How do we repair our damaged or dis-used porches? Front Porchin' is a simple process that helps congregations and individuals reassess their gifts and sharpen their skills for sharing the good news with others (both inside and outside the community of faith). Register through the synod website: www.uss-elca.org.

November 20, 2011

Worship in a New Key: The Susquehanna University Office of the Chaplain and the Department of Music present "Worship in a New Key", a series of special worship events providing opportunities for pastors, congregational leaders, worship and music committees and parishioners to experience a variety of liturgies. All services begin at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Chapel on the SU campus.

- November 20, 2011—Jazz Vespers
- February 12, 2012—Contemporary/Alternative Worship

January 12, 2012

Bishop's Day: The annual one-day Bishop's Day event for rostered leaders, normally taking place in the fall, has been scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012, at Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg. Reservations for lunch will be accepted later in the year. The snow date for this event (in the event of weather-related postponement) is Thursday, January 26, 2012.

THIS MONTH'S LUTHERAN MAGAZINE FEATURES...

- Looking for some new thoughts on stewardship? Bob Sitze, a former ELCA staff member in the ministries of hunger education, Christian education, stewardship education and family life, has added entries titled "Simple Stewardship" that walk alongside his "Simple Enough" blog for The Lutheran. He suggests congregations use these blogs as part of their annual efforts at stewardship education or their preparations for funding God's mission in their congregation. He noted: "These entries dare to test the boundaries of ordinary thinking so you can test the boundaries of the extraordinary times in which God places you!" To read his blogs, go to www.thelutheran.org and click on "Blogs" in the left-hand column.
- In The Lutheran's October issue, meet 11 Lutheran writers who share how their work "faces the world." And learn about the Lutheran Writers Project, which offers resources and events for writers, readers, church groups and institutions. A study guide is available for this article (and for more than 300 others) at www.thelutheran.org; click on "study guides." It's free to print and Web subscribers.
- Find resources in The Lutheran for individual or group community ... see how the church is living into the future together ... and say a "Table grace" with Lutherans who run a restaurant that feeds the soul.
- The Lutheran is a resource for your congregation and members. Look for these ideas and resources in the magazine's October issue: learn how a Baltimore congregation is weathering four staff retirements ... get ideas for Christmas by reading how one congregation honors St. Nicholas and how another collects "Meals at the Manger" ... discover how stoles connect confirmands with people who have a significant part in the fabric of their lives ... get advice on taming clutter and on what to do with a shy child during the children's sermon ... and read reviews of the band Burlap To Cashmere, the movie Queen to Play and the children's book Naamah and the Ark at Night.

Best Practices

Sharing What Works in Our Congregations to Further the Gospel of Jesus Christ

New Column Begins: With this edition, *Headwaters* debuts a new feature called “Best Practices.” It will be a chance for leaders to share ideas with others about what works best in the congregation, especially when it comes to such church issues as evangelism, worship, Christian education, social ministry, personnel, property, or any other relevant topic. If you have a best practice you’d like to share, please contact Chad Hershberger at news@uss-elca.org with your name, phone number, and e-mail so we can be in touch and share your best practice.

Church-Goer Reflects on Being a Visitor: Donna Treaster, a synod council member and member of St. John’s, Lewistown, has been visiting a congregation in New York state for the past couple of years. She’s there about twice a year and recently visited and shared these reflections:

The congregation has a time of sharing. Over the years I have noticed that few people spoke. It seemed like an awkward time but there were always a few who told about blessings or concerns. In my recent visit, a lot of people spoke and the quality of their talking with each other was on a deeper level. There are always some who mention relatives or neighbors who need prayers. People also mention birthdays and anniversaries. I am guessing there were about 100 people in the congregation. One man stood immediately and began talking and conveyed his strong faith in God. (Imagine that! A member of the congregation standing up and talking about his faith with us! Unheard of! I quickly checked the bulletin to make sure I was in a Lutheran Church!)

There is a tall thin man with white hair who is very active in the congregation. He stood and began to read a prayer, “Good and Gracious Father, this morning we ask for your protection and blessings on our son, Andy as he goes to Iraq this week possibly into harm’s way. (His voice broke and tears came to our eyes.) Keep him safe and well and bring him home safely to his family--his Mom and Dad and brother. We ask this in Jesus’ name! Amen.” What an emotional sharing with us! During the sharing of the peace, I asked him if I could have a copy of his prayer. He was amazed anyone would care about the prayer.

We say that liturgy is the work of the people. Did not the Irish man give the sermon and the older gentleman give the prayer?

This congregation also has a family of developmentally delayed adults. Intermittently though the service, we hear strange sounds from them. During communion the assistants are very good with the individuals in helping them to receive communion. There is the choice of the common cup or individual cups and it is difficult for them to pick up the cups.

The pastor’s sermon was the most dynamic I ever heard. He stands on the floor right in front of the congregation. This time I heard people call out things to him during the sermon. I had never heard them do that before! I think the Holy Spirit was alive in that congregation! And I have only told you parts of this service. There were also other wonderful times during the service.

What strikes you about Donna’s reflections? If they made an impression to her, what kinds of impressions does your congregation make on visitors?

Social Ministry Coach Travels to Trinity, McAlisterville: Sandy Grier, AIM, is the USS Social Ministry Project Coach. That program is funded by Diakon to help congregations discern what outreach ministries will work best with the gifts of your congregation and the needs of the community. If you would like to meet with Sandy, contact her at 570-220-5039 or sandygrier@comcast.net. There is no fee for this service.

I traveled to McAlisterville and was greeted by several folks in the congregation and community at a weekly Lenten meal provided by congregational members. The chairperson of the Social Ministry Committee is Susan H. This is one of many outreach ministries the congregation shares with the community. Another is making 22,000 Easter eggs. The “Willing Workers”(mostly ladies that work in the kitchen) make a variety of flavors of eggs, then dip them in chocolate the next day. Congregational members take them to different establishments to sell and take orders from friends and workers. The group tithes and donates those funds to varied outreach ministries in the community.

In addition to the Lenten meals and the Easter Eggs, the congregation collects dimes for education of children in India and soda can tabs to benefit Susquehanna Service dogs. Food Pantry collections are

taken to the local food pantry once a month-- but collected each week. Susan said that these are very beneficial and ongoing ministries which are not as intense commitments as other ministries of the congregation.

Christmas Angels is a ministry that Children and Youth Services heads in this community, giving names to congregations with clothing being donated for the children each year. Trinity opens up their doors as a drop-off center for congregations and individuals to support. Last year, 70 families (160 children) were given these gifts. This is a great ecumenical opportunity for the congregation, according to Susan.

The congregation also hosts their own certified Day Care Center. In addition to offering space for the day care, the congregation is certainly hands-on with members being on the board of directors, helping financially, helping in the classrooms as needed, and hosting a dinner for the children and their families each night of VBS.

Susan shared a very labor- and time-intense ministry that is hosted by Trinity is Angel Food Ministries. This is not a fundraiser and is strictly a service to the community. Each month the menu is different and consists of fresh and frozen items including meats, fruits, vegetables, eggs and desserts. Each box has a retail value over \$60. One box assists in serving a family of four for a week, a single adult/senior for about a month. Food is not outdated or damaged goods and fresh quality products are provided by the

same distributors that supply the local grocery chains. There is no limit on the number of boxes/specials on the menu purchased, no applications or qualifications, everyone is included. You must have your receipt to pick up your food. So, what you need to do is pick up a menu form for the month - there are a number of packages (boxes) available for a variety of prices. You pick what you want, pay for it, get a receipt and pick up at the allocated time. Susan says that again, the church saw a need in the community, especially with the economy as it is and wanted to be part of this national food program. The food is delivered to the church and the volunteers receive the receipts from the participants and hand out their boxes on a designated day. Again, a specific volunteer receives the form and funds-they can be mailed or hand delivered. That person then places the order with Angel Food Ministries, volunteers are available when the food arrives for distribution. If your church would like to become a host congregation and/or get more information about this ministry contact: <http://www.angelfood.ministires.com/>

As we talked Susan and those present were very animated about the outreach ministry they are doing. It's great to see the excitement and enthusiasm as individuals and congregations are changing lives for the better in Christ's Name.

Have a best practice when it comes to worship and music? Please send us your story at news@uss-elca.org as we'd like to feature worship and music stories in our next issue.

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.

October 9

- Bishop at Sharon, Selinsgrove in AM; installation at United in Christ, W. Milton in PM
- Karl-John at Beaver, Beaver Springs

October 16

- Bishop at St. Stephen's, Mifflintown
- Beth Ann at Grace, Sunbury

October 23

- Bishop at United, Sunbury in AM; installation at Salem, Selinsgrove in PM
- Karl-John at Messiah, Troxelville

October 30

- Bishop at Liberty Parish
- Beth Ann at United in Christ, W. Milton



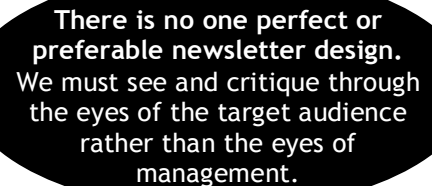
CREATING BETTER...

Newsletters

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

We're spending a couple of months looking at how you can improve your congregation's newsletter. Most congregations have them, so it's important to make them a good tool for members and those who might be interested in your congregation. Here are some more fundamentals of publication and brochure/bulletin design:

- **Ask yourself: "Hey self, can the reader find the important information at a glance?"** Decide what information needs to stand out for the reader. What will they look for first? Use: boxes, graphics, sidebars, color, bullets, dingbats, or "hot spots."
- **Strive for readable copy.** If 70 percent of your copy has words of five letters or less, it's very readable. Keep your writing casual, non-technical, and conversational. Use short paragraphs (but not at the top of the page or column because it looks weird).
- **Use inverted pyramid.** A news writing technique is the inverted pyramid style. Place the most important information at the top and the least important at the bottom. Articles are always easier to edit from the bottom up.
- **The reader needs to rest.** So, give their eyes a chance to rest or refocus at every two or three inches down a column by using paragraphs and graphics. Graphics include photos, shaded boxes, colored boxes, pull quotes, artwork, charts.
- **Use active voice as opposed to passive.** Passive = You will be asked soon to send contributions to the church. Active = Send contributions now! Passive is when you use forms of the verb "to be."
- **Headlines grab reader's attention: DO NOT USE ALL UPPER CASE LINES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO READ.** When you use both upper and lowercase letters, you add texture and readability. Make headlines short and active, but complete thoughts or sentences. Break multi-line headlines logically or as complete thoughts. As a general rule, the headline font should be about 2 ½ times larger than the body text. Speaking of fonts, don't use more than 1-2 different font styles in the same publication. Use 9-12 pt font for text.
- **Columns:** Two or three column grid designs are flexible to lay out and easy to read. One column with a long line of uninterrupted text across a page is hard to read and to follow. It also makes for a very short paragraph.
- **To flush or not to flush, that is the question:** Flush left with jagged right margins are more readable, interesting, and add to the graphic image and white space of your text. It is important to create 20-25 percent white space on each page. Most people prefer flush left columns instead of justified columns.
- **"Say Cheese!"** Never print a photo of someone whose head is smaller than a dime. Large group photos are very difficult to see. Photos of objects or buildings are snoozers. Action shots are preferred to staged photos. Just because you know what the people are doing in the photo, don't assume your readers will. Always include a caption. Make sure you have permission from the people in the picture to publicize it.
- **Other tips:** Use a style sheet for consistency. The ELCA has style guidelines and the Associated Press Stylebook is a great resource. Also, place a dingbat at the conclusion of the article for effect. ❄❄❄



There is no one perfect or preferable newsletter design. We must see and critique through the eyes of the target audience rather than the eyes of management.

In the next edition of Headwaters, we'll critique some church newsletters from our synod as this series comes to a close. Thanks to Jon K. Skogen, former associate director for ELCA Outdoor Ministries, for the information presented above at the 2003 Association of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Professionals Administrative School.

USS CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Conference	Dean	Secretary	Meetings
Buffalo Valley	Pastor Jill Seagle pastorjills@windstream.net	Pastor B.J. Collins collins_bj@hotmail.com	Thursday, Oct. 6, Buffalo Valley Common, Lewisburg (RSVP to Ted Cockley RE: lunch) 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Thu. Nov. 10, Christ's United, Millmont.
Juniata Valley	Pastor Gary Roth garoth142@yahoo.com	Pastor James Park Bricker gymbri@embarqmail.com	Tuesday, Nov. 15, 10:00 a.m., Holy Communion, Yeagertown; Tue. Jan. 17, Trinity, McAlisterville. Pericope for October will be as follows: October 13: St. Paul, Allensville, hosted by Earl Pebly; October 20: St. Paul, Allensville, hosted by Earl Pebly; October 27: St. Paul, Milroy, hosted by Jan Moody. They meet Thursdays, from 10:15-11:30 a.m., and then those who are able, go out for lunch.
Middle Creek	Pastor Wayne Muthler pwayne@ptd.net	Pastor Patrick Sipes sgtmuddy@gmail.com	Wednesday, Oct. 12, 9:30 AM, (McClure or Troxelville?); Wed. Nov. 9, Zion, Kratzerville.
North Branch	Pastor Chad Hebrink pastorchad@verizon.net	Pastor Keith Pittsnogle prkeith@ptd.net	Wednesday, October 26, 9:30 a.m., at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg. Future meetings: November 23 and December 21 (date changed due to Christmas).
Tulpehocken	Pastor Constantine Havir revhavir@yahoo.com	Pastor Rich Fangmann pastorrich@ptd.net	Tuesday, Oct. 4, Trinity, Sunbury, 9:00 a.m. pericope study, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Tue. Nov. 8, United, Wolf's Crossroads
West Branch	Pastor Gunther Bernhardt prbernhardt@gmail.com	Pastor Maurice Frontz frontz@comcast.net	Tuesday, Oct. 11, 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. conference meeting; Church of the Savior, Williamsport; Tue. Nov. 8.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated October 6, 2011)

Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Church of the Savior, Williamsport
- St. Luke, Williamsport
- Evangelical, Reedsville
- St. John's (Brick) Lutheran Church, Montgomery

Interviewing Candidates

- Bethany, Montoursville
- Evangelical, Reedsville
- St. John's (Brick) Lutheran Church, Montgomery

MILESTONES

Pastor Sarah Hershberger began to serve as intentional interim pastor, under call of the Synod Council, at St. Luke, Williamsport on September 26.

Pastor Carla Volland (Clarkstown/Lairdsville Parish) began to serve as interim pastor at Church of the Savior, Williamsport on September 14.

Pastor Amanda K. Range (Salem Parish) will be installed as pastor of the Salem Parish (Salem Lutheran Church, Salem and St. Peter, Kreamer) on Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m., at Salem (899 Salem Road, Selinsgrove). Clergy are invited to vest (green) and process.

Pastor Leah D. Shade (United in Christ, West Milton) will be installed as pastor on Sunday, October 9, at 4:00 p.m. Clergy are invited to vest (green) and process.

Pastor Nathan and Jennifer Baker-Trinity (Beaver, Beaver Springs) welcomed newborn daughter Miriam Alice to the world on October 2. She was born Sunday, 6:47 a.m. in Lewisburg, PA. She weighed 6 lb, 13 oz. She joins brothers Thomas and Luke. Praise God for new life!

IN CONCLUSION

Living on a Prayer

By Chad Hershberger

I can never escape from your spirit! I can never get away from your presence!
--Psalm 139: 7

Over the years, I've been able to do some research on prayer. I've studied different styles of prayer, how you "should" pray, and how prayer improves the spiritual well-being of each of us.

A short time ago, I read a devotional book that had a new interesting twist on prayer. The author writes, "A few years back, I started beginning my prayers differently. I began saying to God, 'You go first.' Then I would quietly wait for thought to start crossing my mind. I assumed that God would bring to mind the most important things I needed to pray about. If they were positive thoughts, I would pray them back with joy. If they were negative thoughts, I would pray about them with courage and honesty."

Ever since I read this, I've been intrigued. I occasionally try it and he is right; usually, something comes to mind that I should pray about. I think it is good for us to remember that when we turn to God in prayer, it should not just be a laundry list of things we want. Rather, we should look to God in praise, thanksgiving, and in genuine conversation with our maker. Perhaps if we listened more than we talked, new and interesting things might start happening in our lives!

Prayer: Christ Jesus, our Shepherd and Savior, give us water when we thirst, food when we hunger, and life when we face death. Thanks be to you for satisfying our needs. Amen. *(From the Moravian Daily Texts)*

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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