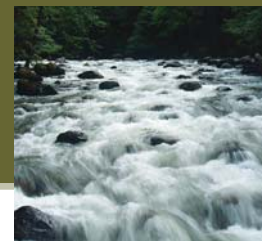


# HEADWATERS



Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837  
 Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone, editor; e-mail: bethann@USS-ELCA.org

## Celebrating Milestones

Pastor James Fladland has been called to serve as Pastor of First, Watsontown, effective May 1, 2009. He will be installed at a Eucharist service at First on Sunday, May 17, at 4:00 PM. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is white.

Pastor Ron Shellhamer (ELCA missionary to Liberia) has returned to the U.S. to be with his wife, Kathie, who suffered a head injury after a fall at their Sunbury home in late March. At this writing, Kathie is in rehabilitation at HealthSouth at Geisinger.

Pastor Frank Showers (Lutheran Church of the Savior & St. Matthew, Williamsport) will soon be moving to Chicago to pursue a new ministry as a spiritual director. His last Sunday in his parish will be April 19. Blessings and Godspeed!

Chad Hershberger (Director, Camp Mount Luther) will begin a part-time position as U.S.S. Communications Director on April 15, 2009. Chad will continue his full-time position as camp director, but will also be responsible for synod newsletters and publications. Welcome, Chad!

Pastor Lois Martin (intentional interim, Beaver, Beaver Springs) has assumed the chair of the synod's Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis Companion Synod Taskforce. Pastor Martin follows Pastor Kerry Aucker's able leadership of the taskforce since the beginning of this companion synod relationship. Thank you, both!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet the Tour de Revs Cyclists!	3
Upcoming Events	4
The Next Generation of Leaders	5
Lutheran Day at the Capitol	8
Being Lutheran Disaster Response	10
U.S.S. Congregations in Transition	11

Susan Mahserjian-Smith was added to the synod staff at the end of September, 2008 as the part-time bookkeeper. We're tardy in announcing her presence, but thankful for her work among us!

## Things to do in April!

- ✓ Registrations are due NOW for the May 7-8 Bishop's Retreat in Wellsboro featuring Dr. Mark Allan Powell. Please don't count on last-minute accommodation - event planners need firm numbers in a timely manner.
- ✓ Submit registrations for Synod Assembly participants by April 15 to pay the reduced registration fee. Indicate interest in Saturday childcare option, singing in Assembly choir, or serving as an Assembly page, if interested.
- ✓ Check out the store-closing sale at the Augsburg Fortress bookstore in Harrisburg. Reportedly most items are 75% off, including clergy apparel, until April 18. Future purchases from AF must be made via phone or website.

## U.S.S. Conference Happenings

### Buffalo Valley Conference

Dean: Pastor John Yost

([pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com](mailto:pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com))

Secretary: Pastor Jill Seagle

([pastorjills@windstream.net](mailto:pastorjills@windstream.net))

Next ministerium meetings:

- Thu. May 14, 9:00 AM Worship, followed by Conference meeting, the Village Common at Buffalo Valley, Lewisburg.

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 3, 3:00 PM, Trinity, Milton.

### Juniata Valley Conference

Dean: Pastor David Pennebaker

([pastordave3@verizon.net](mailto:pastordave3@verizon.net))

Secretary: Pastor Erin Bovendam

([ebovendam001@luthersem.edu](mailto:ebovendam001@luthersem.edu))

Next ministerium meeting:

- Sun. May 3, 7:00 PM, St. Mark, Alfarata (Conference Assembly).
- Tue. Sept. 15, 9:00 AM Pericope study; 10:00 AM Conference meeting, Messiah, Mifflintown.

Pericope study: Thursdays, 10:15-11:30 AM, at St. John's, Lewistown.

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 3, 7:00 PM, St. Mark, Alfarata.

### Middle Creek Conference

Dean: Pastor Breen Marie Sipes

([breenmarie@hotmail.com](mailto:breenmarie@hotmail.com))

Secretary: Pastor Patrick Sipes

([sgtmuddy@gmail.com](mailto:sgtmuddy@gmail.com))

Next ministerium meetings:

- Wed. May 13, 9:30 AM Conference meeting at Messiah, Troxelville
- Wed. Sept. 9, 9:30 AM Conference Meeting at Zion, Kratzerville

Pericope study: Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, Emmanuel, Middleburg.

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 3, 2:00 PM, Emmanuel, Middleburg

### North Branch Conference

Acting Dean: Pastor Gordon Smith

([gordotad555@aol.com](mailto:gordotad555@aol.com))

Secretary: Pastor Tom Light ([GOPNO1@aol.com](mailto:GOPNO1@aol.com))

Next ministerium meetings:

- Wed. Apr. 15, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. Luke, Bloomsburg.
- Wed. May 20, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. Luke, Bloomsburg.

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 3, 2:00 PM, St. Matthew, Bloomsburg (123 N. Market St.).

### Tulpehocken Conference

Dean: Pastor Michael Ware

([wraithmaster777@yahoo.com](mailto:wraithmaster777@yahoo.com))

Secretary: Pastor Christoph Teille

([christoph\\_teille@hotmail.com](mailto:christoph_teille@hotmail.com))

Next ministerium meetings:

- Tue. Apr. 14, 9:00 AM Pericope study, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, Zion, Stone Valley (Dalmatia).
- Tue. May 5, 9:00 AM Pericope study, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, Trinity, Shamokin.

Pericope study: Tuesdays at 9:00 AM, Jay's Tiffany restaurant, Sunbury (breakfast at 8:00 AM)

Conference Confirmation Camp: Camp Mount Luther, April 24-26

Conference Youth at Knoebels: Wed. June 10

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 3, 1:00 PM meal and meeting, Trinity, Sunbury.

### West Branch Conference

Dean: Pastor Anke Deibler

([deiblers@verizon.net](mailto:deiblers@verizon.net))

Secretary: Pastor Steve Shipman

([prsteveshipman@gmail.com](mailto:prsteveshipman@gmail.com))

Next ministerium meetings:

- Tue. April 21, 9:00 AM Worship; 10:00 AM Conference meeting; Church of the Savior, Wmspt.

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 17, 3:00 PM, United, Lock Haven

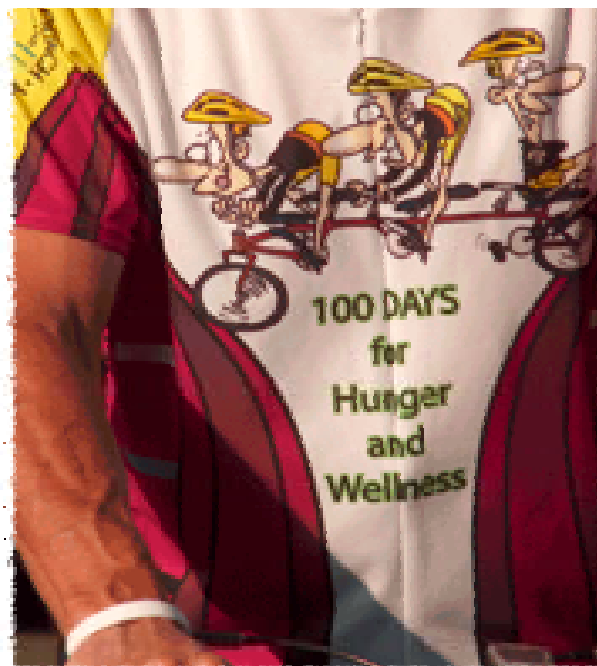
## Meet the Tour de Revs Cyclists!

The Tour de Revs will be riding through the Upper Susquehanna Synod on Thursday, June 4th. That evening, each of the three ELCA pastors, who'll be riding a three-person bamboo bike through all 65 synods in the ELCA, will appear at a different event in three different congregations. Everyone is welcome at any of the following events:

- Christ, Milton will host a 6:00 PM potluck, with a TDR cyclist sharing about their journey into hunger advocacy. Participants are asked to bring a potluck dish to share and a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry.
- St. Luke, Williamsport will host a TDR cyclist who will share about World Hunger issues at a 7:00 PM event. Please bring food pantry items for donation. Refreshments will be served.
- St. Luke, Sunbury will host a 6:30 PM potluck meal, with a TDR cyclist and local food pantry coordinator sharing about hunger ministry. Food pantry donations will be accepted at the door. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Check out the new TDR website for more information about their journey!

<http://www.tourderevs.org/tdr/Welcome.html>.



**Ride along with the Tour de Revs from Mifflinburg to Lewisburg!**  
Meet in the Christ's United (Four Bells), Millmont parking lot for the ride beginning at 3 PM, Thursday, June 4. The ride will take back roads to the synod office in Lewisburg (about 10 miles). Cyclists, please wear red, and consider your own return arrangements.

### Women Clergy Group Meeting

A monthly support group for U.S.S. women clergy is reorganizing and welcomes new participants. The group meets this month on April 29 at the home of Debbie Best (Montoursville) at 2:00 PM, and will discuss the best meeting times/dates for future group meetings. Meetings usually consist of devotions led by a group member, and discussion of a case study presented by another member. To be added to the group mailing list or for more information or, please contact Debbie at [BestD@Diakon.org](mailto:BestD@Diakon.org).

### Interim Ministers' Gathering

An ecumenical group of pastors serving in interim ministries meets at the U.S.S. office quarterly for support and skill enhancement. This group is open to all, and next meets on Wednesday, April 15 at 9:30 AM. The gathering involves devotions, followed by a presentation by an interim minister on a topic determined by the group. This month's presentation will be an overview of the five tasks of "intentional interim ministry", presented by Pastor Sarah Hershberger. To be added to the group mailing list or for more information, please contact Beth Ann at [bethann@uss-elca.org](mailto:bethann@uss-elca.org).

### **“Jesus & the Kingdom of God” —**

**April 17-18**

A “Jesus Seminar on the Road” event, “Jesus & the Kingdom of God” will feature a Friday evening lecture (April 17) and Saturday workshops (April 18) at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Lewisburg (1050 Buffalo Road, across from the U.S.S. office). How did Christianity grow from a small dissident band led by a peasant-prophet-teacher named Jesus into a religion worshipping Jesus Christ that served both the political needs of the Roman Empire and the religious needs of Christian people throughout many centuries? Joanna Dewey and Robert J. Miller will address that question and discuss how, in the modern era, advances in the sciences, experiences of religious pluralism, and the historical criticism of the Bible challenge the intellectual and religious adequacy of traditional Christianity. Registration is \$60 by Mar. 27, \$75 after Mar. 27, or by single sessions. Register at <http://www.westarinstitute.org/Events/JSORs/lewisburg2009.html>.

### **LTSG Spring Convocation—**

**April 21-22**

“Like a Braided River: Tributaries of Renewal”, this year’s Spring Convocation speakers—Diana Butler Bass, Bernadette Brooten, William Avery, and Mark Vitalis Hoffman—will lead us in explorations which reach well beyond institutional maintenance to the heart of what frees or enslaves human community. For detailed schedule and registration, go to [www.ltsg.edu](http://www.ltsg.edu).

### **Bishop's Open Golf Tournament—**

**May 11**

The fourth annual Bishop Open's Golf Tournament is set for May 11, 2009

beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam.

Sponsors and teams for the four person scramble are needed. Registration forms were sent to all congregations, and more info is found on our website. We are also looking for congregations to become hole sponsors this year. Promote It!

<http://www.campmountluther.org/program/pdf/2009GolfFlyer.pdf>

### **Stewardship Education Workshop—**

**May 16**

Roger Smith, ELCA Stewardship Specialist, will be leading a Stewardship Educational Workshop on Saturday, May 16 from 9:00-Noon at Christ’s United (Four Bells) Lutheran Church, Millmont, PA. This event is open to anyone interested in financial stewardship in the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Topics covered will include: Six Competencies of a Steward; Individual Stewardship & Leadership: Principles of Stewardship, & Money Autobiography; Congregational Stewardship; and Proven Effective Stewardship Resources and Programs. The cost is free, but please register by May 8 so we may prepare enough materials. The registration form is attached.

### **Summer Chaplain Opportunity**

“We are in need of a chaplain from May 22–September 6 at R.B. Winter State Park and Pine Valley Camp Ground. This is a ministry of the Summer Campground Ministries of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Training is scheduled for May 26-28 at Hartman Center, Milroy. There is housing at the Pine Valley site. If interested, please contact Ron Warfle at 570-966-2746 or 570-966-2712 (email at [miffpastor@aol.com](mailto:miffpastor@aol.com)) or John Lee at 570-538-1664.”

## The Next Generation of Leaders

*“Every pastor shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel” (ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, C9.03.c.2).*

How does God call ministers? Through Baptism. Through the Word . . . proclaimed, in scripture, and offered in the way of encouragement by fellow disciples of Jesus.

We are each called to minister in our own walks of life, in Christ’s name. But some are also called to particular service to the Gospel through the church. And it is the task and joy of every pastor (and of many others) to “seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare” for professional, “rostered” ministry. How do we do that?

### The Joy of Ministry

We say much before we even say a word. A rostered leader’s attitude toward their own calling speaks volumes to others whom God may also be calling into service. Are we joyful about the ministry we’re privileged to do? Do we project our sense of gratitude for the blessing of our calling?

Every job has aspects of drudgery. A ministry task that comes quite easily to one leader requires more from another. But it’s easy to forget that even these mundane or difficult experiences invite a rostered leader to step onto holy ground.

God sets a rostered leader apart to cultivate intimate, faithful connections with people, between people, and with God. It is awesome work. When we keep in mind our calling as a gift, we unconsciously invite others to respond more positively to this same gift, as God may be extending it to them.

### The Unexpected Leader

In scripture, God calls old people, young people, killers, adulterers, traitors, harlots, and otherwise completely inappropriate folks to lead God’s people. Are we so open to those whom God may be calling? Are we open to those who don’t remind us AT ALL of ourselves?

The church of tomorrow will need some leaders who don’t look like leaders of the church today. They’ll need different skills and personalities and experiences to help draw the church forward with new energy. Even if we can’t envision the call they may one day serve, we can still encourage and support the unexpected person who senses God calling them to explore ministry.

### Planting Seeds

*Me? A minister?* It may have never even entered their minds that professional ministry is a possibility for their lives. How can someone begin to imagine it if no one ever suggests it?

Leaders today may begin rostered ministry at one of many different points in their lives . . . right out of college; after finding various other occupations unfulfilling; after retiring from a successful career in another field; after gaining an “empty nest”; after losing their job; after a life-changing experience... We can encourage their discernment of God’s next call by listening, sharing tools for discernment, and introducing them to others who’ve tread a similar path.

### Our Vested Interest

*Love God, love Christ’s Church.* Our service to Christ implies our commitment to God’s people long-term . . . beyond our own abilities to serve. We therefore have a vested interest in intentionally lifting up and encouraging new leadership for Christ’s church. See the next pages for more concrete ideas for meeting this challenge.

## Encouraging Discernment for Young Adults

*Young adults engage in faith and even the world a little bit differently than other generations. Some characteristics of this generation are: comfort with and expectation of use of technology/Web/multitasking; preference for working collaboratively; more strongly value authentic experience than logical explanation. With these (not admittedly universal) characteristics in mind, here are some resources for encouraging their discernment of God's next call for their lives.*

### Project Connect website

<http://www.projectconnect.org>

Project Connect, a Lilly Foundation-funded project of the ELCA Easter Cluster of Seminaries, provides an excellent website. Through this website, young adults may browse the call stories of rostered leaders; learn about paid internship-like opportunities called "Immersion"; register for free discernment retreats held regularly on the East Coast (with assistance for travel expenses); read blogs by other young adults about their discernment experiences; discover ministry job opportunities; find tools for discernment; and much more.

### Young Adults in Global Mission

<http://tiny.cc/YAGM>

Young adults (*ages 19-29*) are appointed to serve in an international program for a period of one year (11-12 months). Each country program has between 4-8 volunteers, except for the U.K. program which is much larger. A country program coordinator facilitates the in-country logistics and makes arrangements for the work assignments, housing, and looks after stipend and meal allowances. A key role for the coordinator is to provide support to the volunteer throughout the year. This includes regular communication, occasional site visits, and planning retreats or seminars for the group.



### ELCA Imagine Yourself website

[www.elca.org/imagineyourself](http://www.elca.org/imagineyourself)

Click on profiles of young adults asking the questions—and living the answers—as they search out God's calling for their lives. A portal to a Ning social networking site (<http://imagineyourself.ning.com/>) enables young adults to join or start conversations with others about specific topics of faith interest.

### Lutheran Volunteer Corps

<http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org/>

LVC, a national volunteer service program, partners with full-time volunteers and over 100 social justice organizations and ministries in twelve cities in the United States. In addition to working for justice, LVC Volunteers live together in intentional household communities of 4-7 people, deepen their spirituality, and encourage simple, sustainable living.

### U.S.S. Discernment Advocate

Pastor Andrew Fitch, Messiah, New Berlin (email: [pastorfitch@dejazzd.com](mailto:pastorfitch@dejazzd.com))

Pastor Fitch is working with Project Connect as a designated resource contact for young adults in our synod who wish to talk with someone about discernment.

## Encouraging Discernment for Youth

*Many professional church leaders can point to experiences as young people that first got them thinking about ministry in their futures. Confirmation is a prime time for rostered leaders to share their call stories and introduce the language of “call” and “vocation” to a young person’s vocabulary. Congregational, synodical, and Churchwide youth ministries help broaden their faith perspectives, and introduce youth to a variety of professional church leaders. Here are a few more resources particular to discernment and faith formation of youth.*

### Camp Mount Luther

<http://www.campmountluther.org/>

An ELCA outdoor ministries site in Mifflinburg, PA, Camp Mount Luther offers a variety of programs for youth year-round. Summer programs are offered for school-aged children to adults, with half-week, full-week, ten-day and two week sessions. Traditional, specialty and trip camps are offered.

### Synod Senior High Retreat, “CALLED ’09”—May 29-31

“Called ’09—Future Pastors and Church Leaders Camp”, welcomes high school students of our synod who have considered (or SHOULD consider) becoming a church leader. The event will take place at Camp Mount Luther on May 29-31; registration is \$20. Participants will meet a variety of professional church leaders, take part in service activities, and much more. For more information, contact Pastor Karl-John Stone ([karljohn@uss-elca.org](mailto:karljohn@uss-elca.org)).

### TEY Crossroads Event—June 20-27 (for current 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> graders)

<http://www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com/crossroads.htm>

*(see next column for information)*

### TEY Summer Theological Academy—June 27- July 11 (for current 10 or 11<sup>th</sup> graders)

[http://www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com/summer\\_theological\\_academy.htm](http://www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com/summer_theological_academy.htm)

Theological Education with Youth (TEY), a joint initiative of two ELCA schools, creates spaces for high school disciples to engage in theological conversation and vocational discovery. This summer TEY offers two programs; The Crossroads Event (June 20-27, at Gettysburg Seminary) is a one-week event for youth completing 9th or 10th grade in which they encounter faith in action and Christian vocation in a variety of settings. The Summer Theological Academy (June 27 - July 11, at Susquehanna University) is a two-week event where youth completing 10th or 11th grade take part in courses that range from liberation theology to Christian practices of formation, blended with worship and rich community life into an experience of theological discovery.

The cost for the one week Crossroads Event is \$300, and for the two week Summer Theological Academy is \$600. Scholarships and aid is available. Registration for both programs begins with a nomination from the young person’s pastor or other leader in the congregation.

### TLS Summer Sampler Program

<http://Sampler.TrinityLutheranSeminary.edu>

Summer Seminary Sampler is a three-week residential program offered by Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH for current high school students. Through service projects, workshops, and seminary courses, teens learn to explore, grow, and live in their faith. The faith-centered nature of the program and a wide variety of recreational activities makes for an experience of a lifetime! See the website for details and application information.

**NEXT MONTH: “ENCOURAGING DISCERNMENT FOR ADULTS”**



## Lutheran Day at the Capitol—May 12

*It's time to register for Lutheran Day!*

Plan to be in Harrisburg on Tuesday, May 12 for this annual event to meet with legislators, and learn about the public policy priorities of the ELCA. This is a great opportunity for you and members of your congregation/organization to live out your baptismal calling to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

We are excited to have the opportunity to hear from Andrew D. Genszler, Director for Advocacy and the Washington Office for the ELCA, whose keynote address will explore “Whose Community? Lutheran Advocates and the State Fiscal Crisis”.

To see a schedule for the day and to register, visit the [LAMPa website](#). You can download a [PDF](#), fill it out, and mail it in with your \$20 check. Or you can download the registration in [MS Word](#), e-mail it back to us ([lampa@lamp.org](mailto:lampa@lamp.org)) and bring your check with you when you arrive at Lutheran Day!

Even if you are not able to attend, please do your best to promote Lutheran Day to one or more members of your congregation or organization who show(s) an interest in the intersection of church and society. For your convenience, [download our Lutheran Day Bulletin Insert](#). If you need any further assistance in order to publicize in a bulletin or newsletter, please contact the LAMPa office and we will be happy to assist you.

We are grateful that the event is once again being co-sponsored by our PA social ministry organizations—Lutheran Services in America-PA (LSA-PA).

In order for us to send you all the information you will need in a confirmation packet, we ask that you register by Friday, May 1.

We look forward to seeing you on May 12. Thank you for your partnership in advocacy ministry with and for people living in poverty, vulnerable populations, and on behalf of all God’s creation!

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA  
900 S. Arlington Avenue, Suite 117  
Harrisburg, PA 17109  
717-545-3500  
717-545-3501(fax)  
[lampa@lamp.org](mailto:lampa@lamp.org)  
[www.lamp.org](http://www.lamp.org)

### Words to Ponder

“Injustice is like having an eye gouged out, but looking the other way is losing both eyes.”

—Russian proverb



## Prayer Intercessions for Camp Mount Luther

The following intercessions are offered as one means by which congregations can make Christ known--by raising prayers in worship for Camp Mount Luther. You are encouraged to use these as they are offered here or adjust them to fit the style of prayer of your congregation. If you have any questions, comments or ideas for future intercessions, contact the author at [jimbricker@embarqmail.com](mailto:jimbricker@embarqmail.com).

For use on April 19: Second Sunday of Easter

Blessed by those who work in outdoor ministries, let us give thanks for Camp Mt. Luther. Let us pray for the camp's Board of Directors that decisions and plans made at this week's meeting will bring new life to our ministries in that place. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

For use on May 10: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Nourished by the ministries of Camp Mount Luther, let us pray for the success of tomorrow's golf tournament. May participants recreate themselves while the camp is blessed abundantly with new resources. And let us pray for those who gather at camp this Saturday for workday. May they be safe in their work as we prepare the camp for summer ministries. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

**New Synod Website to Launch May 1!**  
You may have noticed the synod website, [www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org), looking rather staid of late. (No new updates since end of 2008.) But prepare for the May 1 (2009) launch of a whole new website with tools for rostered leaders and congregations alike! A new map of congregations will direct newcomers to a USS congregation near them! Learn whom to contact about various ministries in our synod! See what the Synod Council is doing! Find archived copies of synod publications! This is one to bookmark! Watch for it!

### Wheat Ridge Ministries Launches Online "Conflict and Change Management Toolbox"

Wheat Ridge Ministries recently launched a Conflict and Change Management Toolbox on its website at [www.wheatridge.org/conflict](http://www.wheatridge.org/conflict). Congregational health is a key factor in having the energy to be outwardly focused and to create and maintain new ministries. Two factors that affect the health of a congregation are conflict and dealing with change. This new online resource is meant to address conflict and manage changes that may be present in congregations.

### Bishop's Retreat Registration Deadline Looms April 10

This year's Bishop's Retreat at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro will feature Dr. Mark Allan Powell, author of "Loving Jesus", speaking to us on "The Spiritual Lives of Rostered Leaders". Cost is \$90 for double occupancy, \$115 for single occupancy, \$65 for commuters. Final registration deadline is Good Friday, April 10.

## Being Lutheran Disaster Response for Your Community

After a long and difficult winter, the rivers and streams in many Midwestern communities are quickly rising, and in some places, flooding has already begun. Cities in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois have already experienced flooding in the last week while locations throughout Wisconsin, the Dakotas, and elsewhere set new monthly snowfall records this winter, meaning a heightened possibility of severe flooding throughout the spring and summer.

So what can you do? Well, any time that Lutherans serve their neighbors in preparation for (or in response to) disaster, they are being Lutheran Disaster Response for their community. So don't just wait for disaster to happen...take action today! Before floods come, consider the ways in which you and your congregation can help your neighbors become better prepared. There are some easy steps you can take to be better prepared today.

First, visit Ready.gov (<http://www.ready.gov/>), a site sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The site has lots of helpful information about preparing your home and your family for disaster. There is even specific information for what to do in the event of certain types of disasters, like floods <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html>

And for a specific checklist of ways to protect your home against flood damage, click here [http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/preparation\\_recovery/before\\_a\\_flood.jsp](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/preparation_recovery/before_a_flood.jsp) to visit FloodSmart, the Web site of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Next, talk with members of your congregation and consider canvassing your community to share information with neighbors about flood preparedness. This will also help you to



identify members of your community who may need special assistance in preparing, and you can organize teams of volunteers to help them.

Finally, consider partnering with your local chapter of the American Red Cross. Local chapters are always looking for places to serve the community in time of disaster. One particular way that they do this is through establishing partner shelters with local places of worship or community centers. As a partner shelter, you can be a primary place of welcome and assistance for those in need. Visit the American Red Cross Web site <<http://www.redcross.org/>> to find a chapter near you.

As always, you can find this information and more on the Lutheran Disaster Response website at [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org). Thank you for being Lutheran Disaster Response. Working together to be prepared, we will be more resilient together in our time of need.

Lutheran Disaster Response  
Bringing Help and Hope...  
Phone: 773-380-2748  
Fax: 773-380-2493

Are you on Facebook? Join the cause <<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/59523>>.

## ELCA Launches 'Brand Campaign' on National Cable, Local Television

The ELCA will launch a national television "brand campaign" March 30 on national cable channels and in selected television markets. A second campaign will follow beginning May 11.

"The purpose of the ELCA brand campaign is to grow awareness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and inspire members to invite others to a worship service," said Kristi S. Bangert, executive director, ELCA Communication Services. "After two years of research, testing and tweaking, the ads are ready for prime time."

Through April 19 two ELCA television spots featuring the tag line "God's work, our hands," will air on the Cable News Network (CNN), Headline News (HLN), the Fox News channel, Home & Garden Television (HGTV) and the Do It Yourself (DIY) Network.

One spot, "Dignity," features Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck, N.D., in its outreach to people who are homeless and hungry. The other spot,

"Hope," features a Lutheran mission in Senegal that teaches business skills to women. The spots can be viewed at <http://www.ELCA.org/ads/ty> on the ELCA Web site.

The television ads are supported with print, outdoor and online advertising artwork that can be used by congregations, Bangert said. These materials will be available at <http://www.ELCA.org/ads> on the ELCA Web site.

Congregations can also help spread awareness of the campaign, she said. A congregational marketing kit, featuring bulletin inserts, postcards, posters and an outdoor banner supporting the campaign will be available online. Components will be posted throughout April at <http://www.ELCA.org/ads/kit> on the ELCA Web site.

The brand campaign is timely given the uncertain economic outlook, Bangert said. "This church wants people to know that we are out there offering hope and care--doing God's work with our hands."

"By putting this comprehensive plan into action, we hope to spread the word about what God is doing in and through the ELCA," Bangert said.

## U.S.S. Congregations in Transition

- Intentional Interim  
Beaver, Beaver Springs  
Sharon, Selinsgrove  
Stone Valley Parish  
Salem Parish
- Preparing to Interview  
Grace/St. Luke, Sunbury  
Liberty Valley Parish  
Trinity, Hughesville w/POS  
by Mt. Zion, Hughesv.  
Nittany Valley - Sugar Valley  
Parish
- Interviewing  
East Kishacoquillas Parish  
Himmel's Church, Rebuck  
(ELCA/UCC)  
Trinity, Sunbury w/POS by  
Trinity, Pt. Township

### Synod Staff in Congregations

April 5 - Palm/Passion Sunday

- Bishop at Trinity, Sunbury and  
Trinity, Pt. Township

April 12 - Resurrection of Our Lord

April 19

April 26

- Stones traveling to ELCMA Assembly  
in Tennessee

May 3

The bishop and his assistants would like to make "synod visits" on Sunday mornings in congregations. The bishop prefers to both preach and preside; the assistants 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 notice for the bishop; less advance notice is required for his assistants.

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

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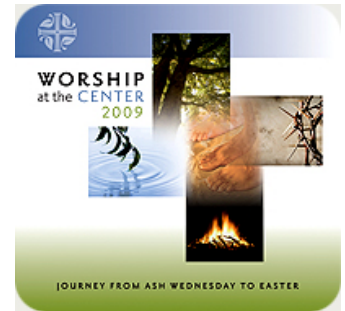
## Registration now open for "Worship at the Center 2009"

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*  
invites us to keep Ash  
Wednesday through Easter in  
a new-old way. At summer  
retreats, participants will

worship using the services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of Easter. There will be opportunities for reflection, study and discussion of the cross and empty tomb, Baptism and Bible. "Worship at the Center" will be held:

- Monday-Thursday, June 15-18, at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota
- Monday-Thursday, June 29-July 2, at Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio
- Tuesday-Friday, July 7-10, at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, California

Each event has its own [registration Web site](#) with information about the schedule, registration options, on-campus housing and local hotels, meal plan, travel and retreat leaders. The online feature allows individual and group registration at any time up until two weeks prior to the event. If you are not able to register online, call 800-638-3522, ext. 2590.



## Pastors-in-New-Calls Lunch— April 16

Pastors who began new calls in the past two+ years have been invited to gather for lunch with Bishop Driesen on Thursday, April 16 at noon at the Victoria House restaurant in Lewisburg. If you've not yet responded to your invitation, please do as soon as possible.

## Retired Pastor/Spouse Lunch—May 15

All retired rostered leaders and their spouses or widows are invited to gather for lunch with Bishop Driesen on Friday, May 15, at 12:15 PM at Country Cupboard in Lewisburg. Invitations will soon be mailed giving more details.

## May and June "Parish Paper" Editions Attached to this Publication

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