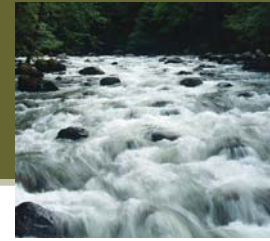


HEADWATERS



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

Celebrating Milestones

Elizabeth Yenchko has been hired by Human Resources and the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) Unit of the ELCA, in consultation with and with the approval of Bishop Driesen, to serve on a half-time basis as the “Director for Evangelical Mission”. Her position will be fully funded by the ELCA with an annual grant to the U.S.S. for office and travel expenses. Ms. Yenchko will serve our synod exclusively and will no longer be shared by us and the Lower Susquehanna Synod. (In the past, she served both synods on a quarter-time basis.) Beth’s new email is Eyenchko@uss-elca.org. Welcome!

Pastor David Byerly (Grace, Shamokin) will be installed as Pastor of Grace (with a purchase-of-service arrangement to serve as pastor at St. Paul, Gowen City) at Grace on Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 PM. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is purple.

Pastor Matthew Schuster (Messiah, Troxelville) is finalizing plans with St. Mark, Dormantown to begin serving as their interim pastor this month.

Pastor Detlef Huckfeldt (St. Michael, Cogan Station) began serving as interim pastor for the Liberty Valley Parish on January 1, 2009.

Holy Spirit, Turbotville will celebrate their last worship service in their old building on Feb. 8, and will dedicate their new building in a worship celebration on Feb. 15 (both services at 9:15 AM). They will host an open house for the community on March 15.

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Things to Do in February

- ✓ Elect/select voting members from your congregation for the June 19-20 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly, in the manner determined by your congregational constitution. Registration forms have not yet been mailed.
- ✓ Register for and encourage other church leaders to attend the March 12 continuing education event, “Leadership and Anxiety in the Church” (see pg. 4 and attachment).
- ✓ By March 1, send to the synod office the names and contact information for senior confirmands for their personal invitation from the Bishop to attend Bishop’s Day for Confirmands and their Families on March 29, 2:30 - 5:00 PM at Zion, Kratzerville.
- ✓ Rostered leaders complete and send a confidential report to the synod bishop: (<http://tiny.cc/bishopsreport>). Email completed reports to bishop@uss-elca.org.

U.S.S. Conference Happenings

Buffalo Valley Conference

Dean: Pastor John Yost

(pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com)

Secretary: Pastor Jill Seagle

(pastorjills@windstream.net)

Next ministerium meetings:

- Thu. Feb. 5, 9:00 AM Worship, followed by Conference meeting, Mazeppa Union, Lewisburg/Mazeppa.
- Thu. Mar. 5, 9:00 AM Worship, followed by Conference meeting.

Juniata Valley Conference

Dean: Pastor David Pennebaker

(pastordave3@verizon.net)

Secretary: Pastor Erin Bovendam

(ebovendam001@luthersem.edu)

Next ministerium meeting:

- Tue. March 17, 9:00 AM Pericope study; 10:00 AM Conference meeting, Trinity, McAlisterville

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

Bishop's Conversation with Congregation Council members: Sun. Feb. 22, 4:00 PM, St. John, Lewistown.

Pericope study: Thursdays in February, 10:15-11:30 AM, Evangelical, Reedsville.

Middle Creek Conference

Dean: Pastor Breen Marie Sipes

(breenmarie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Pastor Patrick Sipes

(sgtmuddy@gmail.com)

Next ministerium meetings:

- Wed. Feb. 11, 9:30 AM Conference meeting, Sharon, Selinsgrove.
- Wed. Mar. 4, 9:30 AM Conference meeting, Trinity, McClure.

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

Bishop's Conversation with Congregation Council members: Feb. 3, 2009, 7-8:30 PM, Beaver, Beaver Springs.

North Branch Conference

Acting Dean: Pastor Gordon Smith

(gordotad555@aol.com)

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

Next ministerium meetings:

- Wed. Feb. 18, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. Luke, Blooms.
- Wed. Mar. 18, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. Luke, Blooms.

Tulpehocken Conference

Dean: Pastor Michael Ware

(wraithmaster777@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Pastor Christophe Teille

(christoph_teille@hotmail.com)

Next ministerium meetings:

- Tue. Feb. 3, 9:00 AM Pericope study, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. John's, Northumberland
- Tue. Mar. 3, 9:00 AM Pericope study, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. John's, Danville (Elysburg)

Bishop's Conversation with Congregation Council members: Sun. Feb. 8, 2:30 PM, United, Wolf's Crossroads (Sunbury)

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

West Branch Conference

Dean: Pastor Anke Deibler

(deiblers@verizon.net)

Secretary: Pastor Steve Shipman

(prsteveshipman@gmail.com)

Next ministerium meetings:

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

Changes to previously announced information are underlined, when possible.

Synodical Continuing Education Events

Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective

Thursday, March 12, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Lutheran Church
167 Seven Points Road
Wolf's Crossroads (Sunbury)



Since the publication of Dr. Edwin Friedman's *Generation to Generation*, many pastors and other church leaders have become aware of Bowen family systems theory as a way of understanding congregational dynamics. Family systems theory identifies differentiation of self and anxiety as two key variables impacting human functioning. The seminar on *Leadership and Anxiety in the Church* looks at the challenge presented by the rising levels of anxiety being experienced in churches today, as well as the role that self-differentiated leadership can play in calming such anxiety.

The seminar is comprised of a series of PowerPoint presentations originally conceived for LMPC's *Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process*. Works of art from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras are integrated at various points to facilitate theological reflection on the themes being presented.

The facilitator for the seminar is Rev. Richard Blackburn, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's Executive Director. He has led hundreds of workshops on conflict transformation and mediation skills, and serves as a mediator and consultant for individuals, churches, and other organizations.

Registration Fee:

Thanks to a generous grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the registration fee is \$35 for the first participant from a parish; \$25 for each additional participant from a parish (includes manual and lunch). Rostered leaders, elected congregational lay leaders, and others are encouraged to attend.

Registration forms are attached to this newsletter. Please register by mailing the form and fee to Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, 500 Reitz Blvd., PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Final Boundary Training Sessions Rescheduled for February 21

The last scheduled event for Boundary Issues training for USS rostered leaders in active service is February 21 (rescheduled from January 10). If you plan to attend any of the sessions that day, please let Karl-John Stone know by email karljohn@uss-elca.org or by calling the synod office (570-524-9778).

- Sat. Feb. 21, Synod Office, Lewisburg
 - Session 1, 10:00 AM
 - Session 2, 11:00 AM
 - Noon-1:00 PM lunch break
 - Session 3, 1:00 PM
 - Session 4, 2:00 PM

Those missing only one or two sessions may arrange to view those videos at the synod office to complete their training.

USS World Hunger Taskforce Seeks Food Pantries Across Synod

Please help the synod's World Hunger taskforce by letting us know about the food pantries in your area. We are compiling a list for the synod that is current. Please email Pastor Sarah Hershberger at sarahvhershberger@yahoo.com. Please respond to this even if you are concerned that we might have duplicate information. We'd rather have several of the same responses than none at all. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

U.S.S. Assembly to Highlight "Best Practices" in Mission and Ministry

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly at Susquehanna University on June 19-20, 2009 will convene under the theme, "God's Work, Our Hands: Mission in Action". Assembly planners and synod staff are looking to congregational leaders to share their programs, events, and outreach projects with others. What is God doing in your congregation that people are excited about? What are your members passionate about? What is your church most proud about accomplishing? Please share your ideas with Beth Ann, Karl-John, or Beth Yenchko as soon as possible so that we can pass them on to assembly planners.

New Bishop for Companion Synod

The new Bishop-Elect of the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis (U.S.S. companion synod) is the Rev. Christian Schmidt. Rev. Schmidt was from 1991-1998 the Dean of Pegnitz; from 1998-2006 the Dean of Nuremberg-City (St. Lorenz). For the past two years he worked 50% at the Institute for Worship in Nuremberg and the other 50% at "The Museum-Church in Frankonia" in Bad Windsheim. He is also Prior of the "Evangelischer Konvent Kloster Heilsbronn" that was founded last year. Bishop-Elect Schmidt's installation service will be held on April 26 at St. Johannis Church in Würzburg.

Ideas for Lent

U.S.S. Book of Faith Advocate, Pastor Steve Shipman, warns, "Lent is coming fast. If you are looking for something that will be effective for individuals, small groups, and congregations, consider the *Book of Faith Lenten Journey* from Augsburg Fortress. Participants will trek individually and together through the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer. They will discover biblical and theological insights, pause for silent meditation, and reflect on the Word of God in their personal journal. Check out augsburgfortress.org or contact Sandy Grier of Along the Way at (570)220-5039."

There are a number of Lenten resources on the web site for St. John, Lewistown, reports Pastor Gary Roth. Go to <http://www.stjohns-online.org>. Click on "Worship" on the sidebar. Link to "Lent and Holy Week" is at the bottom of the page.

Looking for Lenten midweek or Sunday services with a global focus? The ELCA Global Mission Website (www.elca.org/globalmission/lent) offers eight Lenten services (Ash Wednesday through Good Friday). Ideas include worship outlines and liturgies, sermons, bulletin covers, PowerPoint-ready images and recipes for global suppers. The Easter service includes a sermon by an ELCA missionary teaching at the Coptic Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo, the largest Christian Arabic-language theological training institute in the world. Stories and sermons highlight the work of ELCA missionaries in Senegal, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, India, Germany, Brazil, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Prayer Intercessions for Camp Mount Luther

This summer, in assembly at Susquehanna University, our synod passed a resolution encouraging all congregations to support the ministries of Camp Mount Luther. The following intercessions are offered as one means by which congregations can support the camp--by raising prayers in worship. In general, there will be one prayer a month. 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.

Alternative intercessions are offered for the month of February.

Please choose whichever prayer fits better into your liturgical calendar.

For use on February 15, 2009: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

This intercession for CML is a continuation of a petition in Sundays and Seasons. The combined petition is offered here.

Reveal the goodness of your creation to all people, and help us to be good stewards of your precious gifts of land, water, and air and of the people and animals that depend on them. We thank you especially for revealing yourself in Camp Mount Luther and for the stewardship of that resource you entrust to us. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

OR

For use on February 22, 2009: Transfiguration of Our Lord

This intercession for CML is a continuation of a petition in Sundays and Seasons. The combined petition is offered here.



You make your creation awe-inspiring and beautiful. Show us your glory in every living thing, so that we may treat all of creation with humility and deep respect. We are especially grateful for the gift of Camp Mount Luther. Guide us to care for it with grace. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

For use on March 22, 2009: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Give to our youth and families the encouragement to consider participating in outdoor ministries this summer at Camp Mount Luther. May they see a camping experience as an opportunity for growth in faith and knowledge of the Lord and the church. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Camp Brochures Now Out!

Summer Brochures are being mailed to all campers and churches. If you have not seen one, or you are on the Camp's Go Green! List you can also download it from the Camp's website at <http://www.campmountluther.org>.

2009 BOP Health Assessment: What's 30 minutes?

What's 30 minutes? We all know that 30 minutes of your time holds a lot of personal value. Now, 30 minutes of your time is not only valuable to you, but to each congregation in this synod as well. Thirty minutes of your time can actually help save us \$12,000.

ELCA-primary health plan members and spouses with ELCA health benefits, please take 30 minutes of your time by March 29 to complete the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment at www.elcaforwellness.org. By doing so, you are taking stock of your health, and you are getting us one step closer to the 75% participation we need to each earn a 2% discount on ELCA health contributions for 2009.

30 minutes is all it takes! Learn more about the health assessment and how to take it at <https://www.elcabop.org/UnderstandMyBenefits/Health/ELCAPrimary/HealthAssessment/Overview.aspx>

Embargoed Social Statement Viewable with Correct Email Address

Rostered leaders should soon receive an email from the ELCA Office of the Secretary indicating how they may access an embargoed, pre-public-release copy of a proposed social statement on human sexuality and related recommendations on Feb. 14. To ensure that the Secretary's office has your correct email address, you may look yourself up using the site tool "Find a Person" on the ELCA webpage, www.elca.org. Please contact the Office of the Secretary directly (not the synod office) to correct any errors.

Geisinger CPE Extended Unit Offered this Spring

Pastor Gregory Davidson (Faith, Lewisburg) commends the upcoming **Spring-Summer '09 CPE Extended Unit** at Geisinger Medical Center...an 18-week unit on Tuesdays, beginning May 5 through September 1. CPE Extended Group members will have the option to complete 100% of their Clinical Hours at a Geisinger hospital. With supervisory approval participants may choose a second option to complete a minimum of 50% of their Clinical Hours at Geisinger and a maximum of 50% of their Clinical Hours at their home ministry site. To apply, complete in full an application form found on the ACPE website: <http://www.acpe.edu/forms.htm>. Attach a \$20 non-refundable, non-transferable application fee payable to: Geisinger Medical Center; mail these materials to: Geisinger Medical Center Spiritual Care Department, Danville, PA 17822-2801, Attn: Tina Kester, Administrative Assistant.

\$500 Extended Unit Tuition:

\$100 payable upon acceptance into CPE program

\$400 balance payable on or before May 5, 2009

Lutheran Day at the Capitol Save the Date: May 12, 2009

Meet with PA bishops, legislators, and fellow advocates in Harrisburg for the annual LUTHERAN DAY at the CAPITOL event. Breakfast at the Capitol will be followed by lunch, speakers, and workshops at the Crowne Plaza Hotel...and visits with legislators in their offices. Andrew Genszler, Director of the ELCA Washington Office, will be the keynote speaker. As plans progress, more information will become available on the *Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA (LAMPa) website*: www.lamp.org, and a brochure with registration form will be available mid-March.

Disaster Readiness: Are you really prepared?

Lots of churches think that they are generally prepared for lots of things if they just know who to call in the event of an emergency. Disasters are much more far-reaching and, often, paralyzing to congregations and their members. Here is a list of questions to consider either for you as a leader in your congregation, or for your congregation council to consider regarding your level of readiness for a disaster.

1. Does your church have an updated all hazards/disaster readiness and response plan?
2. Do you have an active all hazards/disaster committee?
3. Do you know the name of your appointed, local emergency management coordinator?
4. Do you know what role you and your congregation will have in case of a disaster?
5. Does your congregation have a members' skill bank (list of persons and skills) that would be available in the relief and response phases of a disaster?
6. Does your church have an emergency generator that will enable the essential services of the church to operate?
7. Do you know the name of your judicatory representative who coordinates congregational disaster efforts?
8. Has your congregation ever experienced or been directly involved in a disaster (fire, flood, blizzard, etc)?
9. Is your congregation a certified Red Cross shelter? If so, primary or secondary shelter?
10. Does your family have and/or practice a family disaster plan and have a disaster supplies kit?
11. Do you know the established role of your denomination in the NVOAD (National



Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters)?

12. Based on your above answers, do you feel you and your congregation are sufficiently prepared if a disaster struck today?

If your answer to more than three of these questions was “no”, you may need some help developing a disaster plan. Please contact me to come and speak with your council and work with your congregation on developing a disaster plan. Congregation readiness has the potential to help our entire synod to be more prepared in the event of a disaster.

Pastor Sarah V. Hershberger
 Diakon Disaster Response and Preparedness
 Coordinator
sarahvhershberger@yahoo.com
 570-922-1929

**Chrism Mass—April 7
 Change-of-Location**
 The annual Chrism Mass and
 Renewal of Vows Service on Holy
 Tuesday will be relocated from the
 previously-announced location.
 New location TBA next month.

Free Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter *Administration Matters*

Administration Matters addresses common, practical issues including finance, governance, risk management, tax, legal concerns and other topics of interest about a congregation's day-to-day operations and management. The e-newsletter's first issue was distributed widely across the ELCA. If you are interested in receiving future bimonthly issues by e-mail, you must [subscribe](#) to *Administration Matters*. Click on [subscribe](#) to add your address to the mailing list. For more information, go to:

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Treasurer/Administration-Matters.aspx>

“Bold Women Day” at Susquehanna University—Feb. 15

“Throughout history women have impacted religion and spirituality through their strong leadership and example of faith. Together we wish to pause and celebrate those bold women whose stories have influenced our own stories. An evening celebration and vespers service will be held in Weber Chapel at Susquehanna University beginning at 7:30 PM on February 15th. The service will feature stories by Marissa Harris, an Advocacy Developer with LAMPa, Rev. Beth Ann Stone, an Assistant to the Bishop for the Upper Susquehanna Synod, and Dr. Karla Bohmbach, an Associate Professor of Religion and Director of the Women's Studies Program at Susquehanna University. Reception and fellowship to follow. All are welcome and we hope to see you there. Contact Alina Gayeuski (gayeuski@susqu.edu) or Karen Ward (wardk@susqu.edu) for more info.”



Report on Bishops' Middle East Visit

Bishops of the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada recently released "Report and Reflections from the Bishops' Academy Visit to the Holy Land," an account of their January visit to the Middle East.

The 44 bishops visited Israel and the West Bank Jan. 6-13, and a few visited Jordan Jan. 3-6. The visit focused on supporting the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), learning about what life is like for Israelis and Palestinians, and advocating for peace and justice for all people there.

The complete text of the bishops' "Report and Reflections" is at

<http://www.ELCA.org/bishopstatement>.

LAMPa Director Position Opening Re-Posted

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the position of director of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania...a ministry of the ELCA. This position directs the day-to-day operations of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), in close collaboration with the policy council, synods, social ministry organizations, seminaries, colleges and universities, and the ELCA Washington Office. For more information, see the position description at <http://tiny.cc/LAMPa>.

“Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” : Strengthening Ministry to Deployed & Returning Veterans and Families

An educational event for clergy and others interested in ministering to returning veterans and their families, “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” will be held on Tuesday, March 24 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at The Common at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village (Reitz Blvd.) in Lewisburg. Chaplain (MAJ) Max Furman, US Army, will provide the keynote address, followed by Mark Shaffer, LCSW, Diakon Family Life Services, speaking on “Recognition and Treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder”. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Registration forms are available from Debbie Best at 570-320-0520 or bestd@diakon.org.



U.S.S. Child Protection Policy Updated

The synod’s Child Protection Policy is a resource for your congregation to use in developing its own Child Protection Policy. Page 27 in the current policy (“Obtaining an FBI Fingerprint Card”) has been updated. Page 27 is now entitled “Obtaining Child Abuse, Criminal, and FBI Clearances”, and the information in it has been made more current. For the updated page or a complete copy of the policy, please call or email Pastor Karl-John Stone (karljohn@uss-elca.org; 570-524-9778).

2009 Lilly Foundation National Clergy Renewal Program

The National Clergy Renewal Program, offered by Lilly Endowment Inc., is intended to strengthen Christian congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the demands of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. They are asked: “What will make your heart sing?” They are invited to plan the steps that will make that happen. The Endowment will provide up to 120 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to congregations for support of a renewal program for their pastor. Applications are now being accepted. They must be postmarked by May 14, 2009, and the award announcement will be made by October 2009. For information, contact the Endowment’s website, lillyendowment.org, click on Religion, then on National Clergy Renewal Program, Request for Proposals; e-mail clergyrenewal@yahoo.com; call 317-916-73023, or write to Program Director, Religion, Lilly Endowment Inc., 2801 N. Meridian St., PO BOX 88068, Indianapolis, IN 46208-0068.

Health Ministry and Parish Nurse Training Event

A seven-session course intended to train individuals to design and implement a health ministry or parish nurse program is being offered by Debbie Best, Congregational Health Ministries and Family Life Services of Diakon. With the first session scheduled for April 4, 2009, the remaining all-day-Saturday sessions are scheduled once a month through December (no classes in July or August). Course cost is \$350. This course is provided by Ephrata Community Hospital Department of Staff Development CME, and has been approved for 49.6 contact hours. For more information, call or email Debbie at 570-320-0520 or bestd@diakon.org.

President and CEO of Diakon to Retire Next Year

The Rev. Daun E. McKee, President and CEO of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and its subsidiaries, recently announced to the Diakon board his plans to retire from his position effective January 1, 2010.

“It has been a privilege and an honor to have served the Church in this position and to have witnessed the creation and growth of the Diakon organizations,” Rev. McKee writes in his letter of notice. “I am especially grateful for the confidence and support the Boards have given me and I will cherish the satisfaction of knowing that together we have raised the standards of social ministry in this country.”

McKee and his wife, Mary Jo, have three

children and eight grandchildren; he indicated in his letter that he looks forward to “having time to do things as a family that we have wanted to do over the years but for which there was never enough time.”

McKee joined the organization in 1995, as president of The Lutheran Home at Topton, then a separate social ministry organization. He led the creation in 1997 of Lutheran Services Northeast through the affiliation of the Topton organization with LWS of Northeastern Pennsylvania, based in Hazleton, Pa. LSN and Tressler Lutheran Services created Diakon in 2000.

As president/CEO, McKee has overseen Diakon’s growth and successful efforts to meet today’s health-care challenges. Each year, Diakon has met the challenge placed before it by its board of directors in 2000: to serve more people.

U.S.S. Congregations in Transition

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

Synod Staff in Congregations

February 1

- Bishop at St. Paul (Erdley’s),
Middleburg

February 8

- Beth Ann at St. Luke, Bloomsburg
- Bishop at United, Wolf’s Crossroads

February 15

- Bishop at Trinity, Danville
- Beth Ann at S.U. “Women of Faith”
event in PM

February 22

- Bishop at Follmer, Milton
- Karl-John at Zion, Kratzerville

March 1

- Bishop at Buckhorn Parish
- Stones on vacation

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.

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Secretary Brenda Jeirles
Secretary@uss-elca.org

“Getting Everyone Covered: PA Health Care Reform Conference”—March 8-9

On March 8-9 in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN) will host *Getting Everyone Covered*, a conference for those who are or want to become part of the movement to make sure every Pennsylvanian has health coverage. The conference will start with an optional reception at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening, will begin at 10:00 a.m. Monday with a keynote speaker, and will end by 3:30 p.m. Monday afternoon. Registration is \$25. For more information, contact Marissa Harris at mharris@lamp.org, or 717-545-3500.

TEY Engages Youth in Theology and Discernment

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. For young leaders in your congregation, these programs can be a formative event in their ongoing discernment.

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. Nomination forms and online nomination submission can be found on the TEY website, www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com, or by contacting TEY Coordinator Sherry Rippman, (717-338-3005, srippman@ltsg.edu). Deadline for nominations is March 15, 2009.

Summer Sampler Program Lets Teens Dig Deeper

Summer Seminary Sampler is a three-week residential program offered by Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. 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! Check out the program at <http://Sampler.TrinityLutheranSeminary.edu>, and nominate your promising young persons for a game-changing event.