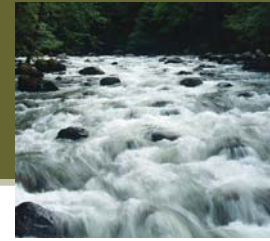


HEADWATERS



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 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. A dinner will follow. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is purple.

Holy Spirit, Turbotville will host an open house for the community on March 15, 2-5:00 PM. Tours by Holy Spirit members as well as their hopes and dreams for the future will be shared.

Rostered Leaders - Note Your ID Number!

Rostered leaders will soon receive in the mail an updated, wallet-sized ELCA Identification Card. The card will contain your "Leader Key" - seven characters unique to each leader, for use in ELCA paperwork in lieu of one's Social Security Number. This number will stay the same throughout your ministry, and will be requested on ELCA forms in the future, such as mobility papers or designated gifts for ELCA World Hunger. If this card has not previously merited a noteworthy spot in your wallet, please note this new information, and file it accordingly!

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Deadlines!!!

✓ Registrations for the March 12 continuing education event, "Leadership and Anxiety in the Church," are due immediately in the synod office. Facilitators need a final count no later than Friday, March 6, to ensure materials arrive on time. If mailing your registration after today (March 5), please call the synod office immediately to add your name to the count.

For complete directions from the synod office to United, Sunbury, please click on: <http://www.mapquest.com/mq/6-niDG4bBO1G7fjngOu1Ud> (change the "start" location for personalized directions)

✓ Please contact the synod office by April 1 to reserve a place if you will be attending the luncheon following the 10:30 AM Chrim Mass and Affirmation of Vows on Holy Tuesday, April 7 at Messiah, Mifflintown.

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. Apr. 2, 9:00 AM Worship, followed by Conference meeting, Holy Spirit, Turbotville.
- Thu. May 14, 9:00 AM Worship, followed by Conference meeting, location TBA.

Conference Assembly: Sun. May 3, 3:00 PM, location TBA

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

Pericope study: Thursdays, 10:15-11:30 AM, Mar. 5, 12 at Trinity, McAlisterville

Mar. 17 (TUE) from 9-10 AM at Trinity
(no meeting Mar. 19)

Mar. 26 at Messiah, Mifflintown.

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

Middle Creek Conference

Dean: Pastor Breen Marie Sipes

(breenmarie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Pastor Patrick Sipes

(sgtmuddy@gmail.com)

Next ministerium meetings:

- Wed. April 1, 9:30 AM Conference meeting, St. Matthew's, Shamokin Dam.
- Wed. May 13, 9:30 AM Conference meeting, Messiah, Troxelville

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)

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

Next ministerium meetings:

- Wed. Mar. 18, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. Luke, Blooms.
- Wed. Apr. 15, 9:30 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, St. Luke, Blooms.

Tulpehocken Conference

Dean: Pastor Michael Ware

(wraithmaster777@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Pastor Christoph Teille

(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 Day at Knobels: Wed. June 10

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

West Branch Conference

Dean: Pastor Anke Deibler

(deiblers@verizon.net)

Secretary: Pastor Steve Shipman

(prsteveshipman@gmail.com)

Next ministerium meetings:

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



Calling All Synod Cyclists!

The Tour de Revs will be riding through the Upper Susquehanna Synod on Thursday, June 4th. Their ride will begin at Christ's United (Four Bells), Millmont (Mifflinburg) at 3 PM and will end at the synod office in Lewisburg at 4 PM. If you are a cycling enthusiast, please plan on joining them for this 10-mile stretch. Cyclists are asked to wear red. More details to come in synod communications. Questions? Please contact Rev. Sarah Hershberger at 570-922-1929 or anyone you know who is connected to our synod's World Hunger Committee.

What Are YOU Doing for ELCA World Hunger?

Pastor Jeff "Mc" Bohan and Tommy "O'" Markowski (St. Luke, Bloomsburg) have pledged to wear KILTS all Sunday morning, March 22 if the congregation can raise \$1,000 by March 15 for ELCA World Hunger. Pastor Carla Volland shaved her head a couple of years ago when her congregations met their challenge goals for ELCA World Hunger. What will YOU put on the line for a good cause? What is YOUR congregation doing to help meet our synod's goal to raise \$55,000 for World Hunger by June 4, 2009?

Health Assessment Progress

While it's true the 2009 Mayo Clinic Health Assessment is open until Sept. 30, it's also true that our synod needs you to take it by March 29. It's the difference between a synod-wide savings of \$12,000 for all of 2009, or having that amount be reduced by \$1,000 per month. As of Feb. 10, 12 people have taken the assessment. We need 45 more people to do so to reach 75%. (Note: Southern Seminary was in the lead among organizations with 42.3%, and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod among synods with 25%. See more results at:

https://www.elcabop.org/Home/BenefitsAdmin/2_percent_progress.aspx.)

ELCA-primary plan members and eligible spouses with this benefit, take the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment today. Earn the \$100 personal wellness account credit and help all of the congregations in our synod earn a 2% discount on ELCA health contributions for all of 2009. Access the assessment at <https://www.elcaforwellness.org>.

**Chrism Mass and
Affirmation of Vows Service
Holy Tuesday, April 7
10:30 AM**

**Messiah Lutheran Church,
3 S. 3rd St., Mifflintown
(note change of location)**

The annual Chrism Mass Service with Affirmation of Vows welcomes participation from all church leaders, pastors, rostered lay leaders, and other lay leaders. A luncheon will follow the service. Please contact the synod office by April 1 to reserve a place at the luncheon.



High School Students to Explore God's Call at "CALLED '09"

The March 2009 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine featured the "Called '08" youth event for middle school students of our synod. (http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article_buy.cfm?article_id=7864.) This year's event, "Called '09—Future Pastors and Church Leaders Camp", will call 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.

A word of encouragement from one's pastor can mean so much to a young person. Please consider the youth of your congregation, and take the time to share the attached registration form with them for this event.

Resource for Finding Free and Reduced Fee Dental Care

To locate dental clinics in your county, use the following link for the PA Dental Association: http://www.padental.org/AM/Template.cfm?Action=Find_Free_Reduced_Fee_Dental_Clinics&template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=6&OriginalID=100&InterestCategoryID=102&ExpList=100,102&ICTitle=Clinics%20by%20County&TPTitle=Dental%20Clinic%20Directory.

Lutheran Youth Day Apr. 18 at Susquehanna University

Susquehanna University welcomes more than 250 youth in Grades 6-12, pastors and advisors to an annual day of fun, music, and exploration of the faith in large and small group settings. Worship and a concert conclude the day's festivities. We hope you and your youth will be part of this year's events scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. We are especially pleased that independent rock artist, songwriter, troubadour and lifelong Lutheran [Jonathan Rundman](#) will be with us to provide music at large group sessions and the concluding concert. Jonathan's many CD's include "Sound Theology" and "Protestant Rock Ethic." Registration opens at 9:00 AM, and the event concludes at 5:30 PM. Registration deadline is April 6. Registration forms and flyers are online at <http://www.susqu.edu/chaplain/luthera/youth>.

Resource for Organizing Mission Trips

Organizing Servant Mission Trips: Is there a group in your congregation that is interested in going on a Servant Mission Trip? Pastor Bill Petry, retired from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and now living in Lewisburg, is experienced in leading these trips, and is available to talk with your congregation about how you can organize youth or other church groups to participate in this kind of ministry. Contact Pastor Petry at (570) 524-1460 or BLPETRY@dejazzd.com.



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.

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.**

For use on April 19, 2009: 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.**

Bishop's Retreat May 7-8, 2009 Penn Wells Hotel, Wellsboro

This year's Bishop's Retreat will feature Dr. Mark Allen 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. See the attached registration form, and return no later than April 1.

Disaster Preparedness

Have you answered the following questions for your congregation in the last five years?

1. Do you have an existing disaster plan?
2. Are your church records protected?
3. Does your congregation have an evacuation plan?
4. What can your congregation do to prepare to care for members and others in your community in response to disasters?
5. Has your congregation identified and trained volunteers capable of responding to a disaster locally or willing to be deployed where needed?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, please contact me to help your congregation develop a disaster plan. I am available to help your council or task force create a plan that will benefit you in a time of crisis.

Rev. Sarah V. Hershberger
Home: 570 922 1929
sarahvhershberger@yahoo.com

“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.



Dr. Cain Hope Felder to Give MLK Jr. Lecture—April 1

The Gettysburg Seminary 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture will be given by Howard University's Cain Hope Felder, professor of New Testament Language and Literature. The lecture will begin at 11:45 AM followed by Dr. Felder's book signing. In a landmark year of African American leadership breaking through the remarkable barriers of the US presidency, this will be a presentation not to miss. An ordained Methodist minister, Dr. Cain Hope Felder is also editor of “The Journal of Religious Thought” at the Howard University School of Divinity. He also serves as chair of the Ph.D. program and immediate past chair of the Doctor of Ministry program. He has been on Howard’s faculty since 1981.

D.Min. Offered in Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue

In January 2010, Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC), in cooperation with the Washington Theological Consortium, will start a cohort on its way to a Doctor of Ministry Degree in Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue.

Those who are called by the Spirit--in ordinary ways--should apply. The professors are distinguished; the cost is reasonable; the program is 'doable' for clergy in local ministry and lay ministers. For a brochure, please contact Pastor Karl-John Stone at karljohn@uss-elca.org.

NALIP 2009 Conference —June 4-6, Pittsburgh

The National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors (NALIP) 2009 Conference will begin at Noon, Thursday, June 4 and conclude at Noon, Saturday, June 6, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh - Green Tree. “Health and Well-Bring in Interim Times” is this year’s theme. NALIP is made up of two associations: The Interim Ministry Association (IMA) of the ELCA; and the LCMS Interim Ministry Conference (IMC). The annual Conference brings together Lutherans who work with congregations in transition - pastors, laity, judicatory representatives and other interested persons. To register, go to: <http://nalip.net/asp/registration.asp>.

Words to Ponder

“After Jonah, you could never trust God not to be merciful again.”

--Robert Frost

Congregation Observers at 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

According to ELCA Continuing Resolution 12.41.C04, "Each congregation of the ELCA may register with the secretary of this church one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31 in the year of a Churchwide Assembly.

- a. Provision shall be made for such an individual to have reserved seating in the observers section of the plenary hall. Such congregation observers will receive a copy of the report of recommendations for assembly action and also materials distributed on the plenary floor to voting members, advisory members, and non-voting members during the assembly. Such observers shall have neither voice nor vote in plenary sessions of the assembly.

- b. A registration fee shall be established by the secretary of this church for registration and related costs, including enabling observers to receive the same meals as are provided for voting members.
- c. Transportation costs, housing, other meals, and related expenses shall be the responsibility of the registered observer or sending congregation."

The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will take place August 17-23, at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, MN. The registration fee for congregation observers is \$150. The meal package is not included, but may be purchased separately.

For more information, search for "Churchwide Assembly" at www.elca.org.

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.
- **Preparing to Interview**
Nittany Valley - Sugar Valley Parish
- **Interviewing**
East Kishacoquillas Parish
Himmel's Church, Rebuck
(ELCA/UCC)
Trinity, Sunbury w/POS by
Trinity, Pt. Township
- **Ready to Call a Pastor**
First, Watsontown

Synod Staff in Congregations

March 1

- Bishop at Buckhorn Parish
- Stones on vacation

March 8

- Karl-John at Trinity, Cowan
- Bishop at Conference of Bishops

March 15

- Bishop installs Pastor Byerly at Grace, Shamokin in PM

March 22

- Bishop at St. John, Northumberland
- Beth Ann at ELCA Assistants to Bishop Gathering

March 29

- Beth Ann at Project Connect event
- Bishop's Day for Confirmands, Zion, Kratzerville in PM

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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Eyenchko@uss-elca.org

Admin. Asst. to the Bishop
Virginia Frantz
Virginia@uss-elca.org

Secretary Brenda Jeirles
Secretary@uss-elca.org

✚ To the family of **ANDREW ROTH**, who died on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Andrew is the three-year old son of Luke and Kim Roth, and the grandson of **The Rev. and Mrs. Gary Roth** (St. John, Lewistown).

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Andrew's parents and Andrew's twin sister Nora at 2906 Morning Hills Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652; and to Andrew's grandparents, The Rev. and Mrs. Gary Roth, 142 Fawn Road, Reedsville, PA 17084.

In Christian Sympathy

In Christian love and in sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we extend our sympathy...

✚ To the family of **MAE DIGGS**, wife of **The Rt. Rev. Ronald T. Diggs**, former bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Mrs. Diggs died on February 4, 2009, at her home in Trenton, New Jersey.

Bishop Diggs served as national bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia from 1984 to 1995. Following his retirement in 1995, the Diggs came to live in the United States.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to **The Rt. Rev. Ronald J. Diggs**, C/O Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 189 S. Broad Street, P. O. Box 2791, Trenton, NJ 08607.

✚ To the family of **CAROL A. STIERLE**, widow of the late **Rev. Clifford A. Stierle**, who died on February 24, 2009, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Pastor Stierle and Carol resided in Williamsport for many years while Clifford served as pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Williamsport, from January 1974 to April 1997.

Carol is survived by one daughter, Ruth M. Nuss, and one son, James E. Stierle. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Ruth M. Nuss, 2800 Lycoming Creek Road, Williamsport, PA 17701.

✚ To the family of **MILDRED FORSE LUNDGREN**, widow of the late **Rev. Carl Russell Lundgren**. Mildred Forse Lundgren, 91, passed away peacefully in Minneapolis, MN., on February 26, 2009. She is survived and dearly missed by children, Paul (Arlene) and David (Cheryl); four grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Mildred was a long-time resident of South Williamsport and then later in retirement of Montoursville. She will be remembered fondly for her unfailing pleasant disposition and a kind and generous heart.

A memorial service will be held in April at the Forse family reunion in Georgia. Memorials preferred to the Alzheimer's Association or to the donor's choice. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mr. Paul Lundgren, 5133 Lee Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345.