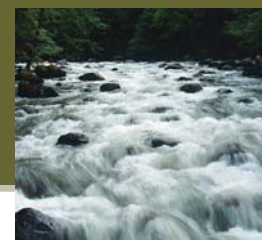


HEADWATERS



Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Chad Hershberger, editor; e-mail: news@USS-ELCA.org

Celebrating Milestones

Pastor James Fladland will be installed as pastor of First, Watsonstown on Sunday, May 17, at 4:00 PM. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is white.

The congregation of St. Luke, Bloomsburg will vote on Sunday, May 17, to confirm **Pastor Jeff Bohan's** call to serve as their senior pastor. Pastor Bohan previously served as the congregation's associate pastor, and has served as the interim senior pastor since November 2008. Pastor Bohan's installation service is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, at 4:00 PM, followed by a reception/tea.

A luncheon for retired rostered leaders, their spouses or widows will be held on Friday, May 15, 12:15 PM, at the Country Cupboard restaurant in Lewisburg. RSVP to Shirley Heasley at 570-966-1008. (Note: a scheduled outing preceding lunch has been cancelled.)

With thanks to God for their ministry, we celebrate with the following children of God the anniversaries of their ordinations in May (note: anniversary years listed are for multiples of five only):

55 years -

Pastor John Ballantine (5/20/54)
(retired)

Pastor Preston Dusman (5/26/54)
(retired)

Pastor Bernard Engelhardt (5/23/54)
(retired)

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Pastor Dan May Receives Award

Just so you know...this synod can keep a secret! For months, many had known that **Pastor Dan May** had been selected to receive a Glenn Heasley Award at the 2009 ELCMA (Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Ministry in Appalachia) Assembly in Morristown, TN. This award is presented to a nominated pastor or lay person who best exemplifies the traits and love of ministry in Appalachia that are the legacy of the late **Pastor Glenn Heasley**. A number of USS people conspired to get Pastor May to attend the ELCMA Assembly this year for the surprise presentation of the award, including his wife, council president, and friends. Shirley Heasley asked Pastor May to present the Glenn Heasley Award to Pastor Larry Hoover of the Allegheny Synod, which he did with typical grace and humor. Then, a video featuring **Pastor B.J. Collins** was shown in which she announced that a second award would be presented to her friend and colleague, Pastor May. Shirley Heasley and ELCMA Director Dory Campbell presented the award to an astonished Dan. Congratulations!

USS Conference Happenings

Buffalo Valley Conference

Dean: Pastor John Yost

(pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com)

Dean-Elect: Pastor Jill Seagle

Secretary: Pastor Jill Seagle

(pastorjills@windstream.net)

Secretary-Elect: Pastor B.J. Collins

Next ministerium meetings:

- Thu. May 14, 10:00 AM Worship, followed by Conference meeting, the Village Common at Buffalo Valley, Lewisburg.

Juniata Valley Conference

Dean: Pastor David Pennebaker

(pastordave3@verizon.net)

Dean-Elect: Pastor Erin Bovendam

Secretary: Pastor Erin Bovendam

(ebovendam001@luthersem.edu)

Next ministerium meeting:

- Tue. Sept. 15, 9:00 AM Pericope study; 10:00 AM Conference meeting, Messiah, Mifflintown.

Pericope study: Thursdays, 10:15-11:30 AM

Middle Creek Conference

Dean & Dean-Elect: Pastor Breen Marie Sipes (breenmarie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Pastor Patrick Sipes (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.

North Branch Conference

Acting Dean: Pastor Gordon Smith

(gordotad555@aol.com)

Dean-Elect: Pastor Chad Hebrink

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

Next ministerium meetings:

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

Tulpehocken Conference

Dean: Pastor Michael Ware

(wraithmaster777@yahoo.com)

Dean-Elect: Pastor Brian Beissel

Secretary: Pastor Christoph Teille

(christoph_teille@hotmail.com)

Next ministerium meetings:

- Tue. June 2, 9:00 AM Pericope study, 10:00 AM Conference meeting, All Saints, Kulpmont.

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

Conference Youth at Knoebels: Wed. June 10

West Branch Conference

Dean: Pastor Anke Deibler

(deiblers@verizon.net)

Secretary: Pastor Steve Shipman

(prsteveshipman@gmail.com)

Next ministerium meeting:

- Tue. Sept. 8, 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

Flu Scare Impacts Congregations

By Pastor Sarah Hershberger, Diakon's Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator

An interesting term arose at a workshop about the H1N1 swine flu last week. A pastor mentioned what he called "apathetic panic." He defined it as "the feeling that since we don't know what to do, we won't do anything." I have heard lots of people express concern over the H1N1 flu virus, but most feel as if they just don't know what to do.

John F. Kennedy once said, "The time to fix a leaky roof is when the sun is shining." While the H1N1 flu seems to be less severe than anticipated, experts in the field of infectious disease are saying that our country is due for a major strain of influenza. The Spanish Flu of 1918-1919 had a milder, weaker strain in the spring before it hit the hardest; so many diseases specialists are considering the "swine flu" a warning signal that a more threatening version is just around the corner. Please take this season with your congregation and develop some basic preparation in case it is inadvisable to gather in large groups when flu season comes in the fall.

Cultures that have good preparation are not impacted as heavily by a pandemic. There are basic things that we can do to help our region be prepared and reduce infection to our population. "Social Distancing" is one way that Mexico helped curb the spread of the H1N1 virus, and it may be encouraged in the fall in this country.

Julia Menzo, LDR Coordinator in Southeastern PA offered the following thoughts to that synod:

...This is a good time for congregations to think about how to minister in the face of situations that might arise out of any pandemic like suggested or mandated social distancing. If the impact of swine flu progresses:

Limit exposure

- *Consider how Communion is administered; think about how to minimize person-to-person contact.*

- *Sharing the peace; consider "sharing the Purell" as well.*
- *Limit potlucks, and other non-essential large gatherings.*
- *Give permission not to shake hands.*
- *Leave offering plates in the back of the church*

Creative ways to worship

- *Make use of Eucharistic ministers to do more small group visits and Communion.*
- *Hold worship on-line; include a worship outline, sermon, music; maybe use Power Point.*

To think about now

- *Make best use of your website. Think about ways to hold conference calls for meetings.*
- *Pull out your congregational calling tree and test your email distribution list.*
- *Research blogging, and other means of online communicating.*

(Thanks to Pastor Dan Bodine, Community of Love Lutheran Church, for many of these tips.)

In addition to these thoughts, consider your own plan at home for when social distancing may be encouraged. Do you have some extra back-up food in your pantry in case a trip to the grocery store would not be warranted? If you have small children, do you have a supply of diapers and baby needs? Do you have a supply of bottled water? Please take a few minutes to develop a plan for your home, or an area where some backup supplies might be stored.

If your congregation has been considering developing a plan for disaster preparation, now is the time to begin this project. Summer is a great time for congregation councils to put aside some of the regular church business and focus on a different project. For assistance in organizing this disaster plan, please call Pastor Sarah Hershberger, Diakon's Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator, at 570-922-1929 or email at sarahvhershberger@yahoo.com.

Vacations and Supply Preachers

Summer months are soon upon us, and many called pastors will soon be looking for supply preachers to fill their pulpits on vacation Sundays. Here are a few reminders:

- Synod office staff can provide you with the names and phone numbers of supply preachers with known availability for that Sunday, beginning first with available clergy and next with available authorized lay worship leaders.
- To keep costs lower (for mileage reimbursement), staff will try to suggest supplies who live within easy driving distance of the congregation(s).
- Pastors will then make arrangements themselves with one of the supply names given.
- It is helpful to alert the synod office when a supply is contacted, so that the person's name may be removed from the availability list.
- If an arranged supply is an authorized lay worship leader who will preside at the Eucharist, the pastor should contact the synod office to request the bishop's authorization for the ALWL's presidency on this occasion.
- Congregations without a regularly called or stated supply pastor will have their worship leaders arranged by the supply coordinator on behalf of the synod.

What are the costs for a Supply?

Supply preachers should be reimbursed for mileage both to and from their home to the congregation, and between congregations (if they lead at more than one in a parish). Mileage is reimbursed at the current IRS rate of .55 cents per mile. The synod supply rate is \$100 for one service, \$125 for two



services, and \$140 for three or more services (Synod Council action on April 29, 2007.)

In a multiple-point parish, the grand total is equally shared among the congregations.

What information should a Supply Preacher be provided?

It is helpful to develop a letter for supply preachers, providing them with such details as directions to the church, Sunday morning schedule, a worship service outline (including hymns), notes on the sound system, practices around children's sermons (if used), practices around the Eucharist, announcements, prayers, whom to contact in case of an emergency or bad weather, and the church musician's name.

What should a pastor or congregation do if a supply is needed in an emergency?

In case of emergencies requiring Sunday morning absence—a last-minute illness, for example—please contact the bishop to arrange for coverage.

Two-Year Training Program on Spiritual Direction Set

Oasis Ministries of Camp Hill, PA this fall will again offer "Spirit Direction for Spiritual Guides", a two-year training program in contemplative prayer and spiritual direction. "During the two years, participants will experience and learn to practice the disciplines of contemplative prayer and the art of contemplative spiritual direction. Through both years, participants will discover the richness of contemplative community, the intimacy of small group interaction, and the depths of contemplative prayer." The program takes place in Lebanon, PA, beginning with an Opening Retreat on October 1. Class size is limited to 30. For more information, click on: <http://www.oasismin.org/Assets/Direction%20for%20Guides.html>.



"Forward by Faith: Continuing Your Congregation's Ministry During These Challenging Times"—June 7, Camp Mount Luther, Millmont

A number of congregations have recently approached the synod staff requesting accompaniment in discerning what God is calling their congregations to do in light of recent economic and other challenges. At this workshop, Sunday, June 7, 2 to 6 PM, at the Evergreen Center at Camp Mount Luther, congregational leaders will explore and develop possible strategies, like aligning/cooperating with other congregations, through a participative workshop together with other leaders from across the synod. Congregational teams of 3-6 people are invited to attend. RSVP by June 4 to Rev. Karl-John Stone at karljohn@uss-elca.org, Beth Yenchko at Eyenchko@uss-elca.org, or by calling the synod office at 570-524-9778.

"Mission in Action: Congregational Ministry Happening Across the Synod"—June 20, Selinsgrove

Your congregation is invited to "come and see" what's happening in other congregations of our synod—what exciting ministry programs and ministries are lay people spearheading for the sake of Christ! The event takes place on Saturday, June 20, beginning with worship at 10:00 AM celebrating the ministry of the laity, continuing with lunch and a "Ministry Fair" featuring displays of successful congregational ministries. Choose your favorite idea and attend a workshop about it at 1:20 PM to cap off the day. Registration is free, but lunch is \$8.00, paid in advance. Please encourage your congregational leaders to "come and see!"



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

"Teaching a Living and Active Word"—July 6-10, Gettysburg

The 2009 Summer Institute for Ministry at LTSG welcomes presenters Erik Heen, Sarah Henrich, and Paul Lutz under the theme "Teaching a Living and Active Word". This event for rostered leaders features a week of conversation and reflection on biblical interpretation and pedagogy, to encourage and empower participants in their ongoing call to invite others into a deeper engagement with the scriptures. The schedule will include daily workshop, class sessions in the mornings and early afternoons, as well as open time for rest, study, and relaxation. For more information, visit www.ltsg.edu.

“Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry”—August 25-27, Harrisburg

A training event will be offered by the Interim Ministry Network on August 25-27, St. Thomas United Church of Christ, Harrisburg, for ministers interested in working with churches in transition and for pastors who want to be intentional about a particular transition in their congregation. The event is a 3-day self-contained course, designed as a commuter course; lodging is not included in the \$385 registration fee. The fee does include materials and program, lunches, and morning and afternoon snacks. This course is a prerequisite for those seeking to complete the Intentional Interim Ministry Course offered by the Interim Ministry Network. For more details, visit www.imnedu.org. A registration form is attached to this newsletter.

“Claiming the After Pastor Role”—November 18-20, Columbus, OH

Where professional boundary violations by a pastor serving a congregation have occurred, there develops an emotional landscape requiring the next pastor to come into the congregation with eyes and ears wide open. Suspicion, distrust, anger, resentment, and several other fear-based emotions greet the next pastor be s/he the intentional interim pastor or the conventionally-called resident pastor. The “After Pastor” Seminar, hosted by Trinity Lutheran Seminary, is designed to review the emotional dynamics, the behavioral repercussions, the key leadership insights, and the range of responses appropriate to the adaptive challenges required of a congregation following the professional misconduct of a pastor. This seminar is open to both interim and conventionally-called church leaders. Registration Fee--\$495.00 which includes program, materials and coffee breaks. Housing and meals are the responsibility of the participant.

“Building An Ethical Economy”—Jan. 27-29, 2010, New York City

With unprecedented economic challenges all around us, what role does theology have in defining a new economy? Trinity Institute’s 2010 Conference will bring together leading theologians and economists to talk about the relationship between economics and Christian belief and action. Register before June 8 and save...visit trinitywallstreet.org/institute to take advantage of special early registration discounts.

Join Email List for Weekly Exegetical Notes from Pastor Stoffregen

ELCA Pastor Brian Stoffregen has written and continues to update helpful exegetical notes on the pericope Gospel texts each week. These notes are available by joining the Ecunet meeting group, “Gospel Notes for Next Sunday”, where you can also read and add your comments to postings by other pastors. Or, just send a note to Beth Ann Stone at bethann@uss-elca.org to be added to the mailing list to receive “Gospel Notes” by email every Monday (or so).

Sixteen More Needed to Meet Goal

Our synod is only sixteen people shy of our goal of 75% of ELCA BOP health care plan members taking the online health assessment at www.elcaforwellness.org! It’s not too late for your congregation to see financial benefits from our synod meeting this goal. Can you help? If you or your spouse have not yet taken the assessment and are eligible (because your health insurance is with the Board of Pensions), PLEASE get thee to a computer and spend 15 minutes completing the assessment. You’ll earn \$100 for each assessment, and help other congregations save money. What’s holding YOU back!?

Encouraging Discernment for Adults

God calls people of all ages into ministry, by virtue of their Baptism into Christ. But God calls some people into public, professional, “rostered” ministry in the church. How do we help them hear God’s call?

Naming the Possibility

When adults begin to acknowledge that maybe they are being called to rostered ministry, it’s rarely the first time they’ve ever considered such a thing. They may have abandoned earlier thoughts of pursuing ministry for one reason or another. For older women, ordained ministry may not have been a possibility for them in their youth.

But when we know adults who show potential for rostered leadership—a mature faith, a passion for the Gospel, love for God’s people, a pastoral presence, good communications skills, etc.—their dormant discerning might get a jump-start from a well-timed question: “Have you ever considered becoming a minister?”

It’s Been Done Before!

For someone who’s already had a “career” or long-term job that has sustained them and their family, it may be hard to imagine anything else. The idea of returning to school or picking up and starting over may seem an insurmountable obstacle. Indeed, it’s not for the faint of heart!

But many hundreds of seminarians and now pastors have entered the ministry as “second career” students. Some have left lucrative careers. Others had been downsized, were former stay-at-home moms, or had tried several different career paths before starting candidacy. Any seminary has current students who are making it work, more or less successfully. Many are willing to share their stories, if asked.

Seminary admissions counselors can also let prospective students know what’s involved in



returning to school on a part-time or full-time basis, and share the benefits and downsides to either path.

“Visit Seminary” Days

Each of our ELCA seminaries has a version of “Visit Seminary” days—events designed for prospective students to attend classes, meet current students, eat a meal, even stay overnight in campus housing. Adults in discernment can meet people like them, share their stories with others, and begin to explore whether the seminary environment feels “right” for them.

Lay Theological Education

Any offering of theological education is an opportunity for a discerning adult to experience the challenge of deepening their understanding. Continuing education events, programs of the synod’s Lay Ministry Institute, lay theological education programs of the seminaries, and other opportunities serve to “whet the appetite” of someone considering a possible call to rostered ministry.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction may be offered by trained “listeners” who can help participants discern better how God is at work in their faith life. Spiritual direction usually happens in intentional, monthly meetings facilitated by a spiritual director. Our synod staff may be able to suggest possible spiritual directors for adults in discernment.

(Continued on page 11)



Prayer Intercessions for Camp Mount Luther

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

For use on May 10, 2009: 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 those who gather at camp this Saturday for workday. May they be safe in their work as the camp is prepared for summer ministries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For use on May 31, 2009: Day of Pentecost

Breath of God, you gather the staff of Camp Mount Luther today. Bless them as they enter two weeks of training for making Christ known through the summer camping ministry. We pray for the leadership staff: Chad Hershberger, Amy Dressler, Thad Swinehart, Charlene Rineer, Jim Bricker, Kevin Whitman, Coleen Kampa, Troy Swinehart and Adam Swenson. We pray for our counselors: Caitlyn Croyle, Krista Myhre, Anna Powlus, Lera Romig, Courtney Schrey, JaTanna Seyler, Akeem Clark, Arthur Erickson, Mike Jensen, Chris Porter and Kegan Polastre. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Website Provides Space for Exchanging Ministry Ideas

<http://uss-elca.ning.com/>

Where can USS members go to share their ideas for ministry, ask questions of others, start conversations about issues that concern them, and interact with other USS members? Just click on the link above to join the USS "Ning" social network community. The future is here! Your input is needed to make this new online community a success. Check it out, and add your two cents!

LAMPa Announces New Director

The Rev. Amy Reumann has accepted the position of Director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, effective July 1. Pastor Reumann currently serves as assistant to the bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA. In this position, she represented the synod in statewide advocacy efforts and engaged in advocacy around jobs, economic development, and immigration. She views the ministry of advocacy as an "essential expression of baptismal identity to which all followers of Christ are called." She has had considerable personal experience with and dedication to the ministry of the church among the poor and marginalized in society and believes that any advocacy ministry must be done in relationship with those for whom the advocacy is done. Pastor Reumann is a native of Pennsylvania, having attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls and completed her undergraduate studies at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, a school of the ELCA. She did her seminary work at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and received the Master of Sacred Theology degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York City.

ELCA Mobility System Gets a 21st Century Makeover

In early April, 2009, the new ELCA Mobility Database System was launched at www.elca.org/call (click on "Using This Site"). The database uses the ELCA's "Formatta Filler" program to catalogue both mobility papers for rostered leaders and Congregation Mission Profile papers for available ministry calls across the ELCA.

To the uninitiated, this news may generate a response of "Duh!". Hasn't there always been such a database? The answer is no...the database represents a genuine difference in the way the call process may unfold in the ELCA in years to come. How so?

Benefits for Rostered Leaders

The new mobility forms—now known as a "Rostered Leader Profile" or "RLP"—are designed to be more flexible than the old forms. Optional "Twelve Reflections" questions and a "commentary" section allow leaders the space to share more, if desired, about their passions, gifts, and visions for ministry than the standard "drop down" boxes usually allow.

Rostered leaders need only complete an RLP once; a copy will reside in the system even after the leader accepts a new call, and may be retrieved and updated later should the leader decide to seek a new call.

The "RLP" is now one standard form for all four rosters in the ELCA, versus the previously distinctive forms for ordained and lay rostered leaders. Congregations and other ministry sites completing "Ministry Site Profiles" (MSP)—the new mission profile forms—will select through a drop-down menu which among the four rosters they are open to considering for calls.

Approved *candidates* for the four rosters will also be among the options from which ministry sites may select, and profiles may list one or

more such options for consideration. These changes to the system may have the effect, over time, of encouraging congregations who might not otherwise be open to leadership beyond ordained ministers to consider it when appropriate to their setting.

Benefits for Congregations

Separate from the RLP database, the "Ministry Site Profile" database hosts a congregation's call profile information. The complete profile is accessible only by synod staff; but a "snapshot" page of the call resides on a publically accessible site. This page provides a "box" of information provided by the ministry site about the call—allowing a congregation to put its best face forward in "advertising" their position. The "contact" information for each page emphasizes that rostered leaders are not to contact a calling congregation directly, but go through the proper synod channels for sharing their RLP with the congregation. The public MSP database of "snapshot" pages is searchable by type of ministry, roster, or position, type or size of community, and geographical preference.

Getting Started

All rostered leaders who wish to be open to new calls should now complete the online RLP instead of the old mobility paper forms. Congregations open to new calls will be completing the MSP online. Those in either case still seeking calls or candidates using the old forms may choose to re-file using online forms, and will be encouraged to do so if a call process does not unfold in the near future. For more information or assistance with the database, go to www.elca.org/call, or contact Pastor Beth Ann Stone at bethann@uss-elca.org.

Lutherans Grapple with Response to Deadly Flu Virus

Across the ELCA, members are weighing how best to respond to the deadly flu.

"You don't want to overreact and incite panic," said the Rev. Robert G. Moore, pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston. "On the other hand, you need to be proactive to protect people."

But where to draw the line isn't clear.

The World Health Organization raised the pandemic alert to its second-highest level on April 29. In the United States, some states, such as Texas, issued disaster declarations.

Still, health officials aren't certain of how dangerous the flu will become.

Moore's congregation quickly called off a youth trip to Mexico City after the outbreak. Calling off Sunday worship, however, wasn't on the radar. At midweek he was doubtful of foregoing the "passing of the peace" -- usually done with a handshake.

If needed, "the peace can also be shared with a smile," said Linda Schoene, Christ the King's congregational nurse.

Congregations should remind people of good health practices, such as frequent hand washing and covering

the mouth when coughing, Schoene said. The bigger challenge is getting people to stay home when they're sick.

"You don't want parents putting kids with colds in the nursery either," she said.

The ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod planned to kick off its regional assembly April 30 in El Paso, Texas. One local pastor, the Rev. L. Wayne Kendrick, said he was asked whether surgical masks would be provided to the 400 participants expected.

"No, we're not," said Kendrick, who leads Peace Lutheran Church. "There's no swine flu, either here or across the border in Juarez."

The synod has reserved eight vans to take some registrants to Juarez on May 1 to view ministry sites. Some people have backed out of the trip because they don't want to cross the border into Mexico, the synod said.

"Most people aren't aware that every day 25,000 residents of El Paso cross the border to work in Juarez," said Madelyn Busse, diaconal minister and assistant to the bishop. As of 3 p.m. April 30, the trip was still on.

The ELCA statement, "Worship in Times of Public Health Concerns" is at <http://www.ELCA.org/worship> on the Web. Guidance on pandemic flu preparation is at <http://tinyurl.com/dcgwq4> on the ELCA Web site.

USS Congregations in Transition

- **Intentional Interim**
Beaver, Beaver Springs
Sharon, Selinsgrove
Stone Valley Parish
Salem Parish
- **Preparing Congregational Materials**
Church of the Savior, Wpt.
St. Matthew, Williamsport
- **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

May 3

- Karl-John at Church of the Savior, Wpt. and St. Matthew's, Wpt.
- Bishop on vacation

May 10

- Bishop at St. Luke, Bloomsburg

May 17

- Bishop at Trinity, Shamokin in AM; installation at First, Watsontown in PM
- Karl-John at St. Luke, Sunbury

May 24

May 31 (Day of Pentecost)

- Bishop at St. John's, Potts Grove in AM; installation at St. Luke, Bloomsburg in PM
- Karl-John at "Called '09" synod youth event

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.

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Virginia Frantz
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Secretary Brenda Jeirles
Secretary@uss-elca.org

Chad Hershberger
Communications Director
News@uss-elca.org

Experience Teaches

"It's easier to act your way into a new way of thinking than to think your way into a new way of acting," Mark Allan Powell recently said at a synod event (noting that he wasn't the first to say it). Adults in discernment may be well served by being asked to take on new leadership roles in the congregation, conference, or synod expressions of the church. Their pastors may need to give them a nudge...or at least feed their names on to others who can nudge them!

Synod Assembly

Adults who are discerning a possible call to ministry may not personally know a wide variety of people in rostered ministry. Attending our Synod Assembly or other gatherings of leaders may help them begin to see themselves as a potential part of the diversity of personalities that make up the ministerium of our church.

Candidacy Websites

The ELCA website, www.elca.org/candidacy, can begin to put language to a person's experience of discerning God's call to rostered ministry. The site also introduces the process by which people become rostered leaders...the candidacy process. Our synod's website, www.uss-elca.org, has a page entitled "Becoming A Rostered Leader", and provides links to the nearest ELCA seminaries' websites.

The Tour de Revs Comes to USS—June 4

The Tour de Revs will be riding through the USS on Thursday, June 4th for Stop 17 of their 13,000-mile journey through all 65 synods of the ELCA, raising money and awareness for World Hunger.

Make a donation to ELCA World Hunger by June 1 for inclusion in the USS presentation to the TDR cyclists on June 4. Gifts may be sent through the synod office to allow for our tabulation, or send notice to the synod office of gifts sent directly to ELCA World Hunger. (Checks sent to the synod office for processing may be made payable to the "Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA" designated for "World Hunger".) Your financial support is needed on an ongoing basis for World Hunger, but our hope is for extra gifts sent prior to June 1.

Cyclists, join Bishop Driesen and the TDR riders for the 17.5 mile final stretch along back roads from Mifflinburg to the synod office. Meet at Christ's United (Four Bells), Millmont in time for the 3:00 PM lift-off. Wear a red shirt!

Attend one of the evening events with TDR cyclists: Christ, Milton's 6:00 PM potluck; St. Luke, Sunbury's 6:30 PM potluck meal; or St. Luke, Williamsport's 7:00 PM event.