

# HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

April 2017



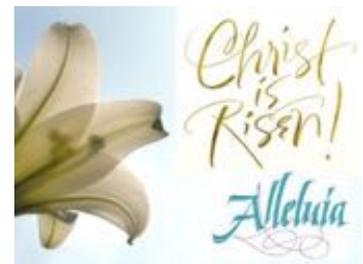
## NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS

- The United Lutheran Seminary named the Rev. Dr. Theresa F. Latini as the first president to lead the unified Seminary with campuses at Gettysburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. President-elect Latini will officially begin July 1, 2017, which is also the inaugural date of United Lutheran Seminary (ULS), a consolidation of two historic Lutheran Seminaries in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. ULS is the oldest seminary of the 3.8 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), dating to 1826.
- Continued prayers for Dawn Doll, Pastor Josh Reinsburrow and his family. Also, prayers for Pastor Don Nice and Pastor Gary and Elinor Roth.
- Three video clips of Bishop Collins' installation, taken by Pastor Andy Weaver, are now available. You can use the following link, but will need to download the files to your computer in order to watch them. <http://tinyurl.com/krlhkf7>
- April 2017 includes many opportunities for people to express their concern for the Earth. In the 5th century a religious practice began, known as Rogation Days, prior to Ascension Day, that raised up prayers asking God to bless agricultural practices to insure later crop harvests would be free from lightning, blight, plagues, pestilence, etc. so that there would be no famine. A recent bibliography of books selected at the BelovedPlanet web site can be found at <http://belovedplanet.com/resources/>.

## MILESTONES

Salem, Selinsgrove, voted to call Rev. Kristina Schaeffer. She will begin her call on April 24, 2017.

Rev. Mike Sigler is now the interim at Botschaft ("Grubbs"), Mt. Pleasant Mills; St. Peter's, Freeburg; and Zion (McKees), Mt. Pleasant Mills.



The bishop's Easter message is available at <http://www.uss-elca.org/bishops-2017-easter-message/>

## NEWS FROM PORTICO

### Turning 65 Webinar on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Join Portico as they explore the options you'll have and the steps you'll need to take as you approach age 65. They'll take a deep dive into the world of Medicare and the Medicare Supplement options available to you through Portico's ELCA Medicare-Primary health coverage. They'll discuss the action steps you'll need to take – whether you'll be retired or still in active ministry when you turn 65. Throughout the session, they'll break each topic down into bite-sized, manageable pieces.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3529655907207097346>

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated April 28, 2017)

### Currently Served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Pine Street, Danville
- Grace, Shamokin and St. Paul's, Gowen City
- St. Mark's, Williamsport

### Currently Served by Interim Pastor

- Christ, Buckhorn/St. Paul, Danville
- Christ White/Christ Brick (Hassinger's Parish)
- Faith, Richfield
- Grace, Point Township
- Messiah, Mifflintown
- St. James, Jersey Shore
- St. John, Leck Kill
- St. Peter, Kreamer
- Trinity, Oak Grove
- Trinity, Point Township
- Trinity, Shamokin
- Zion, Herndon

### Served by Interim and Seeking Candidates

- Christ & Trinity, Milton (Milton Lutheran Parish)
- Christ United, Catawissa, and St. Peter, Grovania
- Holy Spirit, Turbotville
- St. John, Belleville
- St. John's, Lewistown
- St. Luke, Bloomsburg
- United In Christ, West Milton (first call)

### Served by Interim/Preparing Ministry Profiles

- Messiah, Mifflintown

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## CONFERENCE MEETINGS

**Buffalo Valley:** Apr. 27, Noon, Lewisburg Hotel

**Juniata Valley:** Sept. 21, 10:00 a.m., Home of Jim Bricker

**Middle Creek:** May 10, 10:00 a.m., TBA

**North Branch:** May 24, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg

**Tulpehocken:** June 6, 10:00 a.m., Zion, Sunbury

**West Branch:** May 9, 9:30 a.m., Messiah, S. Williamsport

## SYNOD STAFF

Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop  
[BpCollins@uss-elca.org](mailto:BpCollins@uss-elca.org)

Rev. Craig Miller, Assistant to the  
Bishop/Director of Evangelical  
Mission  
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Brenda Krouse, Office Manager  
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Chad Hershberger, Director of  
Communications  
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*The bishop and assistant like to  
make Sunday visits and during  
other congregational events. Here  
is the schedule:*

**May 7:** Bishop at Beaver, Beaver  
Springs and LMI Ministry  
Celebration; Pastor Miller at Faith,  
Lewisburg

**May 14:** Bishop at Faith,  
Lewisburg

**May 21:** Bishop at First,  
Mifflinburg; Pastor Miller at St.  
John, Leck Kill

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## CONFERENCE DEANS

Rev. William Henderson, Buffalo  
Valley [pastor.celc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.celc@gmail.com)

Rev. James Park Bricker, Juniata  
Valley  
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Rev. Robert Doll, Middle Creek  
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# Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

## **Information on the ELCA Youth Gathering/Volunteer Registration Opening Soon**

Next month (in May), volunteer applications for the ELCA Youth Gathering will go live and close on July 15. Current high school seniors and older are eligible to apply as volunteer staff. The gathering will be held in Houston, TX, from June 27- July 1, 2018. Congregations should start to identify youth, leaders, and a primary contact person. You can sign up for gathering news at [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering). Now is also the time to set a budget and begin fundraising efforts. The gathering staff suggests budgeting between \$900-\$1200 to get youth to and from Texas. This includes a range in the cost of hotel rooms of \$99-\$150.

Charlene Rineer, our synod's Gathering Coordinator, will be presenting workshops at Synod Assembly to share more details. On July 15, financial aid registration will open on the Gathering website. No congregation is too small to send kids. The average size group at the Gathering is 3-7 kids. If you are concerned about not having enough youth, you can also join in with a nearby congregation. More questions? Want more information? Check out [www.elca.org/YouthGathering](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering), join the Facebook group USS ELCA Youth Gathering Leaders (for adult leaders only) or contact Charlene Rineer at [ckrorange@yahoo.com](mailto:ckrorange@yahoo.com) or 717-880-2872. (Please note the phone number area code was incorrect in last month's USS Ark). For congregations who do not have youth attending the gathering – consider helping to support other youth of our synod by sponsoring a youth participant from a neighboring congregation. After all – we are church together!

## **May 3-5, 2017: Bishop's Retreat**

The annual bishop's retreat for rostered leaders will be held on May 3-5 at Camp Hebron, Halifax PA. The focus of the retreat will be: *Relationship with God. Relationship with each other. Relationship with the world.* Cost for the two and a half days, meals included, is \$115/person for double occupancy and \$225/person for single occupancy. The registration date has passed, but if you are interested in attending, contact the synod office ASAP to see if space is available. Spouses are invited to attend this event.

## **May 8, 2017: Bishop's Open Golf Classic**

The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 8, 2017, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available here: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-Golf-Tournament-Flyer.pdf>. The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, door prize sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. Get involved and help our synod's outdoor ministry!

## **May 12, 2017: Adam Miller Concert in Belleville**

Adam Miller, a legendary folksinger, storyteller, and autoharp virtuoso will present a concert at St. John's Lutheran Church in Belleville. The concert will be held on May 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. A freewill donation will be taken to benefit St. John's Christian Day Care and Preschool.

## **May 17, 2017: Pre-Retirement Seminar**

Together with their partner, Ernst & Young, Portico is holding a day long pre-retirement seminar. They will cover all phases of retirement planning in simple, understandable terms — from establishing a retirement budget, to discussing investment strategies, to reviewing health care options. And, they leave plenty of time to address your retirement questions. The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2221 N. Oak Lane, State College, PA, on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 6:00 p.m. Register at <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/Events/Pre-RetirementSeminars>.

Once registered, you'll receive an invoice for \$35 per person. Please make your check payable to Portico Benefit Services and mail the check or bring it to the seminar.

### **May 20, 2017: CML Spring Work Day and Youth GROW in the Son**

Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther at their Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 20, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served. RSVP by May 12 if staying for lunch to [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org) or 570-922-1587.

NEW THIS YEAR! We are inviting youth to stay overnight on Friday night, May 19, through Saturday afternoon. We call it GROW In the Son and we'll have a short campfire program, complete with S'mores, you'll sleep in the cabins, help with our work day, and then we'll have GROW Time for you after lunch. The GROW Time will be a chance to reflect on how God calls us to serve one another! We will finish around 3:00 p.m. Cost for GROW in the Son is \$20. You must register by May 12, 2017, by e-mailing [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org) or calling 570-922-1587. We ask that each registered youth group provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. To download a bulletin insert/flyer for both events, click here: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017-Work-Day-Flyer.pdf>

### **May 20, 2017: Health Congregations #3**

The third Healthy Congregation Workshop follows the first two workshops in providing a deeper understanding of the qualities and traits of healthy congregations. This workshop will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport. The third workshop focuses on healthy leadership in healthy congregations. This workshop will give insights that will:

- Equip leaders to promote health through their presence and functioning.
- Equip leaders to challenge people.
- Equip leaders to build resilience in their congregation for the sake of mission.

Together, the six Healthy Congregation workshops enable leaders to:

- Gain a renewed sense of mission and vision.
- Cultivate strong leadership capacities to challenge the congregation.
- Learn how to develop healthy patterns of living together in community.
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources and options for the future.
- Boost confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities.
- Learn how to lead calmly and with thoughtfulness.
- Reflect theologically about relationships.
- Move the congregation toward even healthier functioning.

Please sign up at the synod office either by emailing or calling. The cost is \$20 per person. The fee includes workbook and lunch. Registration deadline is May 8.

### **May 22, 2017: Lutheran Day at the Capital**

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA will hold their annual event on May 22 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. We mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a time of great upheaval and division at home and around the globe. On May 22, we gather to consider how the Holy Spirit is re-forming us as the Word of God continues to change and renew the world. How can we be Church Together, for the sake of the world, in Pennsylvania? Bring your faith to the table, and join advocates from across the Commonwealth for a day of worship, learning and inspiration to ground and deepen your call to faith-rooted advocacy. The day will feature a keynote address by Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Professor of Theological and Social

Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University, legislative briefing and visit training, issues and faith formation workshops, a continental breakfast, lunch and special advocacy celebration. Come to be inspired, prepared and equipped to act on issues that matter. Bring a team from your congregation, or partners from other traditions in your community. You don't have to be Lutheran to benefit from the issues and advocacy training! Most other bodies do not have their own state advocacy offices, and many would appreciate this opportunity. To learn more and register, click here:

[http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event;jsessionid=17463E35FB25ECEAF7D5944045D62165.worker\\_registrant?llr=lvflt5dab&oeidk=a07edukmq05a668eb65](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event;jsessionid=17463E35FB25ECEAF7D5944045D62165.worker_registrant?llr=lvflt5dab&oeidk=a07edukmq05a668eb65)

### **Looking Ahead to June at Camp**

Camp Mount Luther is gearing up for their summer camping season for 2017 and are accepting registrations for all programs. Late fees will begin to be accessed on June 2, so register soon to avoid the late fees! The summer camping session will be in full swing in June! This summer's staff will arrive in late May for their two weeks of training. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the first campers for this year will arrive for Fishing Camp and Tour de Crème, a new bike adventure camp. On June 18, the camp schedule will have a classic week featuring juniors and intermediates as well as day camp on-site, all under the theme of "Scooby Doo Week." Rock, Raft, and Roll will also take place. Beginning on June 25, campers will participate in Explorers, Night Camp Sampler, Morning Glories, Sprouts, Nomads, and SCUBA Adventure. The Canada Adventure Trip begins on June 30. For more information, visit [our website](#) or call the camp office at 570-922-1587. There is still time to register for all these and other summer programs! This year's theme at Mount Luther is "The Water of Life." The theme will give campers a new awareness of how water and life are gifts from God. The Bible is filled with stories involving water as a powerful means by which God sustains, heals, revives, and saves us. God surrounds us and fills us with literal waters and spiritual waters that remind us how we are part of God's life. Campers will dive into five Bible stories and daily themes that will show them God's goodness, birth and belonging, enough for everyone, seeing and being the light, and resting in God.

### **June 10, 2017: Steward Leaders Gathering**

The Upper Susquehanna Synod invites all steward leaders to a gathering on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Christ's United (4 Bells) Lutheran Church, 13765 Old Turnpike Road, Millmont PA. The event will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Steward leaders may include council members, Stewardship Committee members, pastors, or anyone in the congregation interested in caring for what God has given to us. Our gathering will provide an opportunity to network and to share best practices in Stewardship. Through Bible study and conversation we will learn about how stewardship happens in our synod. Lunch is included. RSVP by June 2, 2017, to Brenda Krouse ([Brenda@uss-elca.org](mailto:Brenda@uss-elca.org) or 570-524-9778).

### **June 16-17, 2017: Synod Assembly**

Now is the time to register for this year's Synod Assembly. The registration mailing has been sent from the synod office. The 2017 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place at Weber Chapel on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on June 16-17, 2017. This year's theme is "Together in Mission: Relating and Reforming." Guest speakers and musicians from the ELCA's Global Mission Team will be with us, including Sunitha Mortha as our ELCA Churchwide representative. More information will be provided as it becomes available and will be posted on the synod assembly page at [www.uss-elca.org/assembly](http://www.uss-elca.org/assembly). Remember, we are striving to go paperless this year with the bulletin of reports so materials will be available for download from the website listed here.

### **August 7-10, 2017: Rostered Ministers Gathering**

The ELCA will hold its first ever Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta at the Sheraton Downtown. This will be an opportunity for Rostered Ministers to assemble for worship, education, and fellowship. The theme will be "On the Way...Together," using the Road to Emmaus story. There will also be two pre-gathering events for federal chaplains and young rostered ministers (20's and 30's). Early registration is open now and will be \$245 per person which includes coffee breaks, four meals, keynotes, Bible studies,

workshops, evening concert, worship, and interaction center. Registration fee increases on June 1 to \$295 per person. Room rates will be \$119 per night (plus taxes). Questions about this event can be sent to [2017MinistersGathering@elca.org](mailto:2017MinistersGathering@elca.org) or you can call 1-800-635-3522.