

HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

November 2017



NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS

- **Reformation Reflections:** A Susquehanna University student commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in England. He wrote to Zion, Sunbury, with some reflections and those can be read here: <http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Reformation-Letter.pdf>
- **Visit the Tropics in January!** Openings still exist both on our USS work-team and in our "hand-in-hand" general familiarization tour of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Dates are January 18 to February 5, 2018 with the maximum cost \$2500. It's not too late! (Pastors please announce this in your congregations.)
- **Stories of Faith in Action** is an annual publication highlighting how God is changing lives through ministries funded by Mission Support. Mission Support is a portion of ELCA members' unrestricted offering dollars that is shared with their synods and the ELCA churchwide organization. This collection of stories is a tool to help ELCA members understand how important their weekly offering is in sustaining and growing global and local Lutheran ministries. Stories, videos, bulletin inserts and an infographic explaining "Where does my offering go?" are tools congregations can use to encourage giving. Order free printed copies of the resource—just pay shipping and handling—or download a free pdf. Visit ELCA.org/SOFIA now to read Stories of Faith in Action and download additional resources.
- **Input Needed!** The Synod's Mission Strategy Team is asking congregations for some input. Each congregation will receive a packet of multiples of small pieces of yellow and green paper squares. Included are instructions to ask two questions for folks to provide a one word answer for each question. Please complete this exercise and return the squares of paper to the Synod office by December 20. Results of this exercise will be revealed at next year's Synod Assembly. If someone can type up the words for each separate list, that would be helpful. Please type each word each time it appeared. Do not just put a number beside how many times it was listed.

MILESTONES

Pastor Mark Galbraith, an Intentional Interim, has been extended a call through Synod Council to serve the Milton Parish. He began on November 1, 2017.

St. Luke, Bloomsburg, had a call vote on November 12 and extended a call to **Rev. Luther Martell**. His start date is January 15.

Rev. Bruce Amme (retired) began work as Visitation Pastor at Messiah, South Williamsport (*Pastor Joshua Reinsburrow*) in October.

Pastor Jan Moody is now interim at St. Paul, Allensville. **Pastor Vickie Brown** is serving as interim at St. Peter, Kreamer.

Votes have taken place at Christ United, Catawissa; Hidlay; and Washingtonville congregations to create a new three-point partnership, with Christ United and Hidlay entering into a new purchase of service agreement with Washingtonville. Catawissa's relationship with St. Peter, Grovania, has therefore been severed and **Pastor Melody Sell** will no longer serve as Grovania's interim.

With thanks to God for their ministry, we celebrate with these children of God the anniversaries of their ordination or consecration (note: anniversary years listed are in multiples of five only):

15 years: Scott Kershner (Chaplain, Susquehanna University) 11/2/2002

15 years: Karl Runser (Southern Clinton County Parish) 12/15/2002

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated November 21, 2017)

Served by Interim/Seeking Candidates

- Holy Spirit, Turbotville
- Messiah, Mifflintown
- St. John, Belleville
- St. Mark's, Williamsport (Intentional Interim)

Served by Interim/Preparing Ministry Profiles

- Pine Street, Danville

Currently Served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Christ and Trinity, Milton
- Grace, Shamokin, and St. Paul's, Gowen City

Currently Served by Interim Pastor

- Beaver, Beaver Springs
- Christ, Buckhorn/St. Paul, Danville
- Faith, Richfield
- Grace, Point Township
- St. James, Jersey Shore
- St. John, Leck Kill
- St. John, Montgomery
- St. Peter, Kreamer
- Trinity, Oak Grove
- Trinity, Point Township
- Trinity, Shamokin
- Zion, Herndon
- Zion, Trevorton

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: December 7, 9:00 a.m. at Christ's, Lewisburg

Juniata Valley: January 18, 10:00 a.m., Trinity, McAlisterville

Middle Creek: December 13, 10:30 a.m., Sharon, Selinsgrove

North Branch: December 13, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg

Tulpehocken: December 5, 10:00 a.m., Trinity, Point Township

West Branch: December 12, 9:30 a.m., Messiah, South Williamsport

SYNOD STAFF

Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop
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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 and other congregational visits. Here is the schedule:

December 3: Bishop at St. Paul, Allensville, and St. Paul, Milroy; Pastor Miller at St. John, Leck Kill

December 10: Bishop at Grace and Trinity, Point Township

December 17: Pastor Miller on vacation

December 24: Bishop at St. John, Leck Kill (evening)

December 31: Bishop at Zion, Kratzerville

CONFERENCE DEANS

Rev. William Henderson, Buffalo Valley
pastor.celc@gmail.com

Rev. James Park Bricker, Juniata Valley
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Rev. Robert Doll, Middle Creek
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Rev. John Koons, North Branch
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Rev. Andrew Weaver, Tulpehocken
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Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

Ministry Opportunities in the Synod

Do you have a passion for a particular area of ministry such as advocacy, constitutions, disaster relief, coach training, assembly planning or worship planning? We are looking to engage more leaders from across the synod, with a number of these areas of ministry that take place within our synod, in order to grow and empower leaders. If you would like to be more involved in any of these areas of ministry, please contact Bishop Collins at the synod office (bpcollins@uss-elca.org).

Organ Available

The Well Church in Williamsport, formerly Church of the Savior Lutheran Church, is looking to donate a pipe organ. It is believed that the organ was built by the former congregation with elements from several other historical churches in the area. It contains a Great, Swell, Choir and Pedal Organ, Compass of Manuals CC-61 Notes, and Compass of Pedals CCC-32 notes. The organ was serviced regularly by Fritzsche Organ Co. until 2015. Please contact Stacey Noltee at 570-601-4739 if you would like more information.

November 27, 2017: Deadline for Seafarer Bags

Nearly 500 ship workers docked at the Port of New York/New Jersey last December received a reminder of God's love for them during the Christmas season, thanks to the generous contributions of USS congregations who contributed gift bags last fall. The synod invites congregations and individuals to join together in collecting "Christmas-at-Sea" Gift Bags for seafarers this Christmas through the Seafarers and International House (SIH) in New York City (<http://www.sihnyc.org/>). Sturdy, imprinted plastic bags for this project are available now at the Synod Office. **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH BAG!** Each gift bag should contain one sweatshirt (L-XL), three pairs of crew or knee socks (no ankle socks), one casual t-shirt (M-L), one knit heavy winter cap, one can of nuts or bar of chocolate, and a personalized Christmas card from you. Filled sacks should be brought to the Synod Office by November 27 (the Monday after Thanksgiving) so that they may be transported to NYC in time for holiday distribution. Thank you for taking part in this ministry to some of the hardworking, lonely freighter crews who are responsible for 90 percent of the world's trade via merchant ships.

December 9, 2017: Holiday Breakfast

Diakon's Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village and Camp Mount Luther are teaming up to provide a fun morning of food, fellowship, and Christmas crafts and games on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The breakfast will feature an appearance and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, chocolate chip pancakes, craft stations, and cut-out cookies. Space is limited. Call Gretchen at 570-523-4285 to RSVP. The event will be from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common Building. For more information and a flyer to help publicize this event to your friends, visit <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017-4.pdf>.

December 18, 2017: Active Shooter Response Training

In light of recent mass shooting events, church leaders have asked to have training in how to respond if an active shooter comes into the building. United Lutheran Seminary will offer this training at the Gettysburg campus December 18th led by the Safety & Security team of Gettysburg College. This event is open to all interested persons who wish to receive such training. Questions can be directed to Chelle Huth, Director of Lifelong Learning, United Lutheran Seminary at chuth@uls.edu. It is a busy time of year, but ULS wanted to offer this in a timely manner. Another training will be scheduled in the new year. The Active Shooter Response Training will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Abiding Presence on the United Lutheran Seminary Gettysburg Campus. Cost is \$10 per person, payable at the door (reservations/registration not necessary).

January/February 2018: Worship at the Center

This coming January/February, you can attend "Worship at the Center: Journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter." During these days, the ELCA will worship using the services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, and join in reflection, study, and discussion of the cross and empty tomb, baptism and the Bible—the meaning of this journey for ourselves and the world. Come and be refreshed in your planning and leading of these worship services that are central to our worship together as Christ's church! The events are as follows:

January 18-20, 2018, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Winter Park, Florida
February 1-3, 2018, at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas

For details of the event and to register, visit <https://elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/Worship-at-the-Center>: For questions, contact BethAnn Lynch at 773-380-2590.

January 21, 2018: Camp Mount Luther Camperson Meeting

The annual meeting for Camp Mount Luther Campersons is Sunday, January 21, 2018, starting at 3:00 p.m. The camp is an extension of local congregational ministry and wants every member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod to know what is happening with this important ministry. To do that, Mount Luther has CAMPERSONS! A camperson is a liaison between CAMP and your CONGREGATION, who is interested in camp and wants to regularly share camp news with others. Parents of campers, past campers or staff, or someone with a genuine interest in outdoor ministry makes a great camperson. Campersons are ambassadors and promote camping ministry in your congregation. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more. Campersons will

- Share Information
- Plan and Coordinate a Camp Sunday
- Recognize Campers
- Reach Out to promote outdoor ministries
- Support camp fundraising efforts

Each congregation who sends a camperson to this event will receive Camel Bucks for the camp store for each camper. For more information, visit <http://wp.me/P7aFC9-y2>

Here is a bulletin insert/flyer to promote this event in your congregation: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018-Camperson-Meeting-Flyer.pdf>

January 21, 2018: Camp Mount Luther Turkey Benefit Dinner

This event will celebrate Benjamin Franklin's Birthday. Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of our country. Camp Mount Luther thought it would be fitting to have a turkey dinner to honor his January birthday! You are invited to come to his birthday party and support camp at the same time! The dinner will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Center at Mount Luther. The menu will consist of turkey and all the trimmings. Cost for the meal is \$14 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. To download a bulletin insert/flyer at the dinner, click here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Turkey-Dinner-Flyer.pdf>

February 9-10, 2017: GROW in the Snow

This year's synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 9-10, 2018. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year's retreat is "Hello God,

It's Me," dealing with prayer. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Cost is \$59 (whole program) or \$40 (Saturday only) if registered by January 30, 2017. A late fee of \$25 added after that date. No refunds will be given after the January 30 deadline. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and number of youth attending. Contact Chad Hershberger at chad@campmountluther.org with questions. Click here for a flyer and registration form: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018-GROW-in-the-Snow-Flyer.pdf>.

February 16-17, 2018: Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training

Interested in investing in your own leadership and the vitality of your congregation? Our synod will host a two-day training for those interested in becoming facilitators for Healthy Congregations. This training will take place at the synod office – 500 Reitz Blvd, Lewisburg. Anyone who would like to learn more about Healthy Congregations may attend this event. Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training provides faith communities with the perspective and challenge that contribute toward health and thoughtful mission and ministry in these exciting and transformative times. An introduction to the thinking behind the workshops will be offered as well as an overview of the resources that facilitators will have access to following the training. Although the registration will indicate that the event is free, the online registration is only to get names and information. The cost is \$450. Those who are willing to serve as a facilitator for the synod will be offered a grant to cover the fee for this continuing education opportunity. When you register, you will receive a schedule for the days and some preliminary materials, as well as a statement of invoice. Registration is available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healthy-congregations-facilitator-training-tickets-40159667647>

February 28- March 3, 2018: ALDE IGNITE in Minneapolis

Learn how to take your mission to the next level at IGNITE: Minneapolis 2018, February 28-March 3. This conference will include top-notch keynote speakers as well as rich curriculum sessions and network building opportunities for those with congregational leadership, fundraising, communications, or marketing roles. If you are looking to grow an already vibrant organization, need to reenergize a once-thriving program or are guiding an organization that's just in its infancy, ALDE is here for you. View the curriculum. Find out more at ignitespark.org. Register now at www.alde.org/register. Early Bird Rates expire January 10. Please note that it is less expensive to become an ALDE member, and then register as a member, than it is to attend as a nonmember. So, you might as well join and take advantage of all ALDE offers year-round. Why ALDE? Click here and find out! Who attends this conference? People just like you who are ready to learn, connect and experience career and mission changing curriculum. In 2017, attendees held such titles as: Pastor, Principal, Board Member, Chief Development Officer, Major Gifts Officer, CEO, Executive Director Consultant, Annual Fund Director, Special Events Coordinator, Director of Marketing, and many more — so you are certain to make a strong peer connection at this event. The conference offers content for every area of the development profession, and for congregational leaders. Can't make it to the full event, or looking to save money? Try the day rate! Attend just one day for a very reduced price. March 1 offers several curriculum sessions designed with pastors and congregational leaders in mind. Topics include: Igniting Donor ATM (Abilities, Time, and Money); Kindling the Spiritual Meaning of Philanthropy; and IGNITING Planned Giving for Churches and Schools. Other days highlight additional focus points. There's even more you can gain from attending IGNITE. We are offering the chance to win a Pro Bono Consultation from Gronlund Sayther Brunkow to someone who is new to ALDE, or has been a member for less than five years. This could be you, but you must attend IGNITE! Learn about the opportunity and sign up now to win at bit.ly/aldegrant (case sensitive). ALDE inspires, educates and mentors the Christian fundraising community to spark generosity for mission. We are an international community of fundraising and communication professionals rooted in the Lutheran tradition of the Christian faith and dedicated to serving God's people in the church and the world.