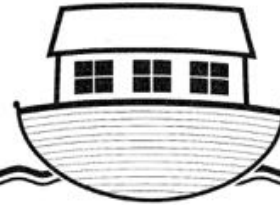


USS ARK

News of God's People in Action



December
2017

God's work. Our hands. + Upper Susquehanna Synod + Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Charity Event Hits 10th Year

By Gary Womelsdorf

Messiah-St. James Lutheran Parish

I went through the Lay Ministry Institute as an authorized Lay Evangelist. As a Lay Evangelist, I was required to have some sort of project that would include our parish and the community. Rev. Carla Volland was my pastor then and we came up with the idea of a supper and a live auction following. Pastor Carla issued us a challenge: if we would make a profit of \$10,000, she said she would shave her head.



Well, we held the first event and went over that amount and so she kept her promise. Her beautician was a member of our church and cut her hair off (well, close, but not a complete shave.)

We had members that could cook for a large amount of people and another member that was an auctioneer who volunteered his services. We had members who are active in the local fire company, so we got the use of the social room.

We decided the best way to distribute the profit was to divide profit. Fifty percent stays in the parish, divided between the two churches and 50 percent was given to local and world hunger. Everybody makes out!

This event has been very successful and has grown considerably. We now have a quilt raffle, which is hand quilted by members of our church, a silent bid basket auction, a children's Chinese auction as well as the supper and live auction. One of the reasons we do well is most items are donated so our expenses are not high. Another reason is all the people in the parish work well together and enjoy the event. This is where the evangelism part comes in. It takes a lot of people working together to make this a success!



7TH Seafarers Collection

Members in 43 synod congregations and three individuals filled a total of 564 Christmas At Sea gift bags for the ministry of Seafarers' International House. The bags are given to merchant seamen who come into port to off-load their cargoes during the Advent/Christmas season. This is a ministry of the ELCA whose port chaplains go aboard ships to distribute the gift bags, conduct worship services, and to offer other forms of assistance and hospitality to the crews. Thanks to all those who supported our efforts this year! This is the largest number of bags collected in the seven years the synod has been participating in this program.



Camp Mount Luther and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village in Lewisburg held a "Breakfast with Santa" in December at The Village Common. Children and their parents could visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and get their picture taken. They also enjoyed a pancake breakfast and could make crafts, including God's eyes, cereal ornaments, and could decorate sugar cookies!

Camp Affects Lives; Start Planning for 2018

Now is the time to think about being part of the Camp Mount Luther's summer programs in the coming year. The brochure for Summer 2018 has just been published to the camp's website

(www.campmountluther.org) in the summer camp section.

Chad Hershberger, Executive Director of Camp Mount Luther, says this summer is shaping up to be one that affects even more campers' lives.

"At Mount Luther, you'll make new friends and get unplugged from home, focusing on developing life-long relationships. We do this through small group camping, where a cabin of boys and their counselor works with a cabin of girls and their counselor and forms a tight-knit community for the week. Our well-trained college-age staff and volunteer chaplains serve as role models. You live and play outside, eat good meals, get good rest, and use leisure time effectively. We are excited that again in 2018 we will be in many Lutheran congregations of this area, providing day camp programming in local congregations as we bring the camp experience to your neighborhood. I hope everyone takes advantage of all that Mount Luther has to offer in the coming year, as they grow with God and serve with smiles!" Hershberger said.

This year's summer camp season will begin on June 17 and run until August 16. There are programs for all ages from preschool to senior high, and for adults and families. Camp Mount Luther is a special place where kids and families come together to grow with God and serve with smiles! Camp provides a safe place for people of all ages to relax and unwind in nature, discover God's love, sing around the campfire, learn more about themselves, and make new friends while at the same time being renewed in mind and spirit.

Up and Down the Valleys

Clergy Notes: **Pastor Mark Galbraith**, an Intentional Interim, has been extended a call through Synod Council to serve the Milton Parish. St. Luke, Bloomsburg, had a call vote on November 12 and extended a call to **Rev. Luther Martell**. **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.

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of **Harmony Church in Milton**, which was a shared space by Lutherans, Presbyterians, and United Church of Christ and existed from 1817-1866. Four



congregations gathered for a joint Sunday morning worship at First Presbyterian Church in Milton. Pictured with Bishop Collins is Rev. Dr. Stephen Shirk (First Presbyterian), Rev. Mark Galbraith (Milton Lutheran Parish), and Rev. Bonnie Lucas (St. John's United Church of Christ).

Under the theme, "Re-form, Re-store, Re-focus," the full-time director from Camp Mount Luther recently attended the annual Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) Conference. The event was held at Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado. **Director Chad Hershberger** was among nearly 140 Lutheran camp professionals and board members at the conference. This year's theme looked at how outdoor ministries need to be constantly reforming and looking at new ways to do ministry.

The **Upper Susquehanna Synod Office** will be closed from Monday, December 25, 2017, to Monday, January 1, 2018, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The office will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. If you have an emergency, please call the synod office (570-524-9778) and the voicemail will give you phone numbers that you can call. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Upper Susquehanna Synod Staff.

USS ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce this newsletter. Send mission stories and ministry ideas by the first of the month to Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications, at news@uss-elca.org.



Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop

PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-524-9778 www.uss-elca.org

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.

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 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 11, 2018: Mount Luther Sunday

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be recognized as "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on this day, February 11, 2018. Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that is done in local Lutheran congregations. The camp asks that congregations promote the camp on that Sunday or designate another Sunday this spring to do so. Ways to promote the camp include bulletin inserts to share with congregation members, Temple Talks, camper testimonials, bulletin board displays, special camp music during Sunday school and church services, as well as special offering being collected. Ideas are available

here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2018-Mount-Luther-Sunday-Flyer.pdf>. For a bulletin insert to put in your church bulletin, click

here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/General-Bulletin-Insert.pdf>

February 9-10, 2018: 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. 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. Anyone who would like to learn more about Healthy Congregations, or use this as continuing education, may attend this event for 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.

March 7-9, 2018: Radical Inclusion

Progressive Youth Ministry presents "Radical Inclusion" on March 7-9, 2018. Cost is \$199 and will be held at the Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. Keynote speakers include Andrew Root, Monica Coleman, Ben Connor, and Abbi Long. Preachers include Ashley Birt and Alice Conner. For more information, visit ProgressiveYouthMinistry.org.

May 7-8, 2018: Youth Ministry in a Scientific Age

The youth ministry conference, "Jesus Rode a Dinosaur and other Silly Tales," looking at faithful youth ministry in a scientific age, will be held on May 7-8, 2018. Cost is \$99 and will be held at Colonial Church of Edina in Minnesota. Speakers include Krista Tippet, "Science Mike" McHargue, and Kenda Dean. For more information, visit ScienceYM.org

MOUNT LUTHER Camel Tracks



December 2017



Need a Stocking Stuffer?

Are you having a hard time finding just the right gift for a loved one's stocking? You can purchase one of our stocking stuffers for 2017. You have several options, or you could do all three!

- Purchase your child's CML flashdrive, which will be loaded with pictures from their week of camp. Cost is \$13.00.
- Purchase Camel Bucks for the CML Store so that your camper can buy a T-shirt or other item when they come to camp next summer. You can get Camel Bucks in any amount, but a suggested amount is \$15.00
- Make a gift to Camp Mount Luther in the name of your loved one. This gift can be done for any amount.

Buy a Camp Mount Luther Stocking Stuffer and we'll electronically mail you a certificate that you can print, roll up, tie with yarn or ribbon, and put in anyone's stocking. It's a great gift that supports our ministry. Deadline to order stocking stuffers is December 22, at 10:00 a.m. If you'd like to order one, you can either mail a check to Camp Mount Luther at 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA, 17844; or call us at 570-922-1587 and we can process credit card payments.

Creation Care Tip

BYOB. Last year Americans went through about 50 billion plastic water bottles. Fill up a reusable water bottle at home and bring it with you. Don't like the taste of your tap water? Buy a filter! Remember, much of the bottled water sold today is filtered tap water anyway. If you don't have a bottle, you could get one from the Camp Mount Luther store. They make great holiday gifts!

Still Time to Sign Up for 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, visit <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017.pdf>.

Plan Now for Mount Luther Sunday

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be recognized as "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on this day, February 11, 2018. Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that is done in local Lutheran congregations. The camp asks that congregations promote the camp on that Sunday or designate another Sunday this spring to do so. Ways to promote the camp include bulletin inserts to share with congregation members, Temple Talks, camper testimonials, bulletin board displays, special camp music during Sunday school and church services, as well as a special offering being collected. Ideas are available here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/event/mount-luther-sunday-2/>

Camperson Event in January

This event gives participants the chance to find out what's going on at camp and tell the story to others! Join us on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Center. Mount Luther wants every member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod to know what is happening with this important ministry. To do that, campersons serve as a liaison between your congregation and camp. They are individuals who are interested in camp and want to regularly share our news with others. Parents of campers, past campers or staff, or someone with a genuine interest in outdoor ministry make great campersons. Campersons are to be ambassadors and promote our camping ministry in your congregation. Each congregation in the Upper Susquehanna Synod is asked to send a representative to this event. Each congregation who sends a camperson will receive Camel Bucks for the camp store for each camper. Campersons are also invited and encouraged to attend the camp's annual Turkey Dinner, starting at 4:00 p.m. that day. To download a bulletin insert/flyer, visit <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017-4.pdf>



Turkey Benefit Dinner

On Sunday, January 21, 2018, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., we'll celebrate Ben Franklin's

birthday with a turkey dinner. Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of our country. We 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 enjoy a winter evening at camp! The price is \$14 per person. The menu will consist of turkey and all the trimmings. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the camp office at cml@campmountluther.org or (570) 922-1587 or. Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, January 16, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Annual Fund Appeal.

Conference Focuses on Reformation

Under the theme, "Re-form, Re-store, Re-focus," the director from Camp Mount Luther recently attended the annual Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) Conference. The event was held at Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado. Chad Hershberger was among nearly 140 Lutheran camp professionals and board members at the conference.

This year's theme looked at how outdoor ministries need to be constantly reforming and looking at new ways to do ministry. Small group discussions occurred as part of the keynote presentations. Keynote speakers included Rev. Dr. Hans Wiersma, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) pastor and Associate Professor of Religion at Augsburg University; Beth Schwartz, who currently works in the capacity of operational excellence for organizations across different industries; and Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills, ELCA Program Associate Director for African Descent Ministries and Interim Pastor for A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Jim Gonia preached at closing worship.

As part of a new recognition program, the inaugural Manlove-Howells Leadership Award was presented. It was given to two recipients this year, the namesakes for the award. Paul Howells, former Outdoor Ministry Director for the Lutheran Church in American, accepted first, via video. Then, Jerry Manlove, former OM Director of ALC, received the award. Manlove commented, "I am more excited now about the future of camping in this church than I have ever been."

During the conference, LOM, a non-profit organization, met in business sessions. LOM is an independent association of outdoor ministry organizations, professionals, board members, businesses and students connected to Lutheran camping, conference and retreat centers. LOM elected new board members and members to the nominating committee. LOM held an auction on Wednesday night of the event. Items donated by LOM organizations raised \$33,605 for LOM's operating budget. Logan Gooch and Brooke Klemetsrud served as auctioneers.



MOUNT LUTHER

355 Mt. Luther Ln., Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587

FAX: (570) 922-1118

E-Mail: cml@campmountluther.org

Please remember Mount Luther in your gift plan.