**NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS**

- The Synod Office has some clergy shirts of various sizes, an alb, and an organist’s robe to be given to someone who can use them. See Brenda for more information.

- By the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, Shelby Wyland has been called to serve as chaplain at UPMC Susquehanna, Williamsport. You are invited to join in worship for a service of Consecration and Installation at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1400 Market Street in Williamsport. The service will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. All rostered and community ministry leaders are invited to vest, dress, and process. Please arrive early if you plan to process. A light reception will follow in Bell Hall.

- Missionaries from Liberia to visit USS: Rev. Linda Seyenkulo and Rev. Brian Palmer are returning to our synod in June for home-leave from their posts in Liberia - Linda for two weeks in mid-June and Brian for most of the month. Both will attend our June 15-16 Synod Assembly. If you wish to invite them to speak to your congregation please let Bob Bradford know as soon as possible. Sunday dates are already filled up, so think about week-day or evening events such as a church picnic, youth group, women’s meetings, or cook-out. Each of them would welcome invitations to private homes for lunch or dinner or summer-time drinks and conversation. Contact Bob at (570) 473-9505 or at bobandcarolbradford@gmail.com.

- “Current 4 Curran:” Two years ago, a WELCA unit in a Minnesota synod spearheaded a fund raising campaign to provide solar panels for Phebe Hospital in Liberia. The objective was to supply a steady source of electricity for Phebe so that its unreliable generators could be eliminated. Ten congregations in the Upper Susquehanna Synod contributed $2,607.00 to this project. Now the very same group in Minnesota has launched a similar campaign to raise money to duplicate this effort so that Curran Lutheran Hospital in the interior of Liberia can also have the advantage of a reliable source of 24-hour electricity. Please alert your congregation to this new project and urge members to again support it through their special gifts. If at all possible, look at your annual budget to see if a donation can be squeezed out. The staff and patients at Curran will “thank you plenty” for your prayers and financial support. First built in 1924, Curran Hospital is named for a native-born Pennsylvania missionary, Rev. Joseph Daniel Curran. He graduated from Susquehanna University in 1911 and immediately left for what turned out to be a 19-year ministry in Liberia. On September 20, 1930 he met a tragic death by drowning in Liberia’s St. Paul river.

**MILESTONES**

- **Rev. Rick White** is now the interim pastor of Messiah, New Berlin.
- **Pastor Thomas Morningstar** (retired Methodist pastor) is serving as interim at the East Kish Parish.
- **Rev. Ann Zimmerman** is now interim at St. Paul Lutheran, Middle Creek Dam.

*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):*

- **65 years:** Deane Shively (retired) 5/27/1953
- **55 years:** LeRoy Reitz (retired) 5/26/1963

Do you know an ELCA member who has a unique story to tell? Living Lutheran is looking for nominations for the monthly “I’m a Lutheran” feature. Past features have included people with interesting vocations, impressive accomplishments or exciting experiences. They’re looking for people who are passionately living and showing their faith in their everyday life and are comfortable talking about it. Send the name and contact information for your nominee, as well as a little bit about why you think they’d be a great candidate to megan.brandsrud@elca.org.
Ministry Opportunities

Updated April 23, 2018

Call Vote Imminent
- Holy Spirit, Turbotville

Served by Interim/Seeking Candidates
- Messiah, Mifflintown
- St. John, Belleville
- St. Mark’s, Williamsport (Intentional Interim)

Served by Interim/Preparing Profiles
- Pine Street, Danville

Currently Served by Intentional Interim
- Milton Lutheran Parish (Christ and Trinity)
- Grace, Shamokin, and St. Paul’s, Gowen City

Currently Served by Interim Pastor
- Beaver, Beaver Springs
- Christ, Buckhorn/St. Paul, Danville
- East Kish Parish
- Faith, Richfield
- Grace, Point Township
- Messiah, New Berlin
- St. James, Jersey Shore
- St. John, Montgomery
- St. Peter, Kreamer
- Trinity, Oak Grove
- Trinity, Point Township
- Trinity, Shamokin
- Zion, Herndon

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Executive Director Job Posting:
https://www.nlom.org/edsearch

Conference Meetings

Buffalo Valley:  May 10, 12 p.m. at Lewisburg Hotel
Middle Creek:  May 9, 10:30 a.m., Camp Mt. Luther
North Branch:  May 23, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg
Tulpehocken:  May 1, 10 a.m.
West Branch:  May 8, 9:30 a.m., Messiah, South Williamsport

Conference Deans

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

Rev. James Park Bricker, Juniata Valley
gymbri@embarqmail.com

Rev. Robert Doll, Middle Creek
prdoll2@gmail.com

Rev. John Koons, North Branch
revjrk@hotmail.com

Rev. Andrew Weaver, Tulpehocken
airweaver@ptd.net

Rev. Theodore Cockley, West Branch
tcockley@comcast.net

Synod Staff

Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop
BpCollins@uss-elca.org

Rev. Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission
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Brenda Krouse, Office Manager
Brenda@uss-elca.org

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:

May 6:  Bishop at St. John, Richfield and St. John, Mt. Pleasant Mills (AM) and St. Luke, Williamsport for Deacon Consecration Service and West Branch Conference Assembly (PM); Pr. Miller at Faith, Lewisburg

May 13:  Bishop at Arborgast and Leiningers

May 20:  Bishop on Vacation; Pr. Miller at Christ and Trinity, Milton

May 21:  Bishop at Lutheran Day at the Capitol

May 27:  Bishop at St. Matthew, Williamsport

Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-524-9778
Fax: 570-524-9757
Web: www.uss-elca.org
May 15 is an important ELCA Youth Gathering deadline!

- Registration fees must be paid in full. To check your congregation’s balance, log in to your congregation’s registration account and print the payment letter. Don’t forget to make sure checks are mailed to the correct address in Hagerstown, Md., – many checks have been mistakenly sent to our old P.O. box in St. Louis!
- Hotel reservation forms and deposits are due to your hotel! The reservation form can also be found on your congregational account. If you would like to request housing assignment changes, you must email gathering@elca.org. Hotels are not authorized to increase or decrease your assigned rooms or change the room type (e.g., a king for a double).

Male Counselors Desperately Needed at Camp

Mount Luther, the camp of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, is looking for qualified individuals to serve as male counselors this summer. Counselors serve as the heart of the camp staff, tasked with making the camp run smoothly in its daily mission; provide for the care of the basic needs of campers either in camp or on a trip camp; exemplify a positive Christian witness. If you or someone you know is interested in being a male counselor (should be a graduate of high school and/or 18-years-old), please contact Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, at 570-922-1587 or chad@campmountluther.org. An application packet is available on the right hand side of the following webpage: http://www.campmountluther.org/programs/summer-camp/.

Boundary Awareness Training Reminder

Rostered leaders of the ELCA are required to remain current with Boundary Awareness training. As part of their continuing education rostered leaders should participate in a training every three years. Bishop Barbara J. Collins encourages all rostered leaders of this synod to take advantage of trainings offered by our ELCA and full-communion partners. Please be sure to send a copy of your certificate of completion/participation to the bishop’s office when you have completed a workshop. As we learn of opportunities we will make them known.

The Penn Central Conference (UCC) offers workshops in various locations. To register for one of their trainings contact Janice Mountain (jmountain@pccucc.org or 717-652-1560) or register online https://www.pccucc.org/leadership/boundary-training/. Cost varies from $10 to $40, depending on the workshop.

- **Boundary Awareness** training will take place May 19, 10-3 at Hummelstown UCC
- **Engaging Scripture as LifeForce and Financing Life and Ministry** June 9, 9-1 at Susquehanna University
- **Lay Boundary Awareness**, October 20, 10-3 at First UCC in Middleburg
- **Educating Educators**, November 12, 9:30-12 at Trinity, Dalmatia

Lower Susquehanna Synod workshops are currently scheduled for two times and locations. Cost is $25.

- August 9, 8:30-3 at Hill Lutheran Church in Lebanon (www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2/)
- October 1, 8:30-3 at Zion Church in Marietta (www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2018-10-1/)

May 2-4, 2018: Bishop’s Retreat for Rostered Leaders

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 Tippett, “Science Mike” McHargue, and Kenda Dean. For more information, visit ScienceYM.org

May 12, 2018: CML Spring Work Day
Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 12, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed in getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Thrivent members are asked to apply for and use Thrivent Action teams to do some of the projects. If you are interested in doing that, please contact chad@campmountluther.org. 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 7 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587. To download a bulletin insert/flyer, click here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-Work-Day-Flyer.pdf

May 14, 2018: Bishop’s Open Golf Classic
The annual Bishop Open’s Golf Classic is set for May 14, 2018, 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: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-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. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. Get involved and help our synod’s outdoor ministry!

May 20-27, 2018: Mission Trip
Susquehanna Valley Interfaith Disaster Relief, a joint effort of the Upper Susquehanna Synod – ELCA and the Presbytery of Northumberland, is organizing a trip to Daytona, Florida, May 20—27, to help in the recovery from hurricane damage in Volusia County. The team of six to twelve members will stay at the Union Congregational Church (UCC) in Holly Hill in dormitory style rooms and work with the Florida Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disaster (VIND). Cost for the trip is approximately $325. Those interested must complete the registration forms and submit a deposit of $150. Registration will close May 1 or when the maximum number of participants has been reached. More information and registration forms are here: http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-5-20-Work-trip-forms.pdf

May 21, 2018: Lutheran Day of Advocacy
Registration is open for the annual Lutheran Day of Advocacy. It will be held on Monday, May 21, 2018, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, with shuttles to the State Capitol. The day runs from 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This year’s theme for Lutheran Day of Advocacy is “Roll Down Like Waters.” Bring your faith to the table and join Lutherans from around the state for worship, learning, advocacy and action. Lutheran Day at the Capitol will focus on our baptismal call to ministry in the public square and the unique voice of Lutheran Christians addressing hunger and poverty. We will explore how we can be church together in Pennsylvania, so that justice might, in the words of the prophet Amos, "roll down like waters." The day will include worship, a keynote address, legislative briefing and visit training, workshops, a continental breakfast and lunch. The Keynote Speaker will be Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf, Chair, PA Senate Judiciary Committee, on a vision for criminal justice reform. Come to be inspired, prepared and equipped to act as church together, for the sake of the world. Registration closes on May 14 at https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=lvflt5dab&oeidk=a07ef6kqxin0e5936eb. A note to rostered leaders: Certificates of participation hours will be available at the registration table.
June 10, 2018: Summer Camp Kickoff and Circle of Faith Dinner
On Sunday, June 10, 2018, Camp Mount Luther will have a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at which time they will kick-off the 2018 Summer Camping Season. The worship service is open to anyone who would like to attend to support our synod’s outdoor ministry and this year’s summer staff. The service will be held outdoors, if the weather permits, so please bring a lawn chair. The worship will be immediately following the annual Circle of Faith Giving Club Dinner, which is by invitation.

June 15-16, 2018: 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 2018 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on June 15-16, 2018. Special attention needs to be made to the meal registrations. Meal tickets will not be available after the late registration date or at the door on the days of the assembly. Registration deadline is May 21. And we will again go paperless this year. This year’s theme is “On the Way Together: Open Ears, Open Hearts.” Rev. Amy Reumann will be our ELCA Churchwide representative. More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available and will be posted at http://uss-elca.org/assembly. Again, we are going paperless this year with the bulletin of reports so materials will be available for download from the website listed here. All rostered leaders and voting members from every congregation are expected to attend. Clergy need to write an excuse to the bishop if you cannot attend.

Attention Rostered Leaders: We will be updating our photo directory of rostered leaders during the assembly. A photographer will be set up ON FRIDAY ONLY in Weber Chapel Auditorium, just outside of the Greta Ray Lounge. Please take five minutes, or so, to step in and get your photo taken for our synod directory. There is no charge for this and you will not be expected to purchase anything. The Photo Directory company is not charging us for this and will be providing the synod with a free directory.

June 17-22, 2018: Joint Confirmation Camp at Camp Mount Luther
In the spirit of uniting together as a synod, Camp Mount Luther and synod pastors are endeavoring to have a fun-filled, educational and spirit-filled week of camp for all youths currently in confirmation in the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA. Pastors and camp staff will join forces to bring about a week’s worth of education and activities that will foster a better sense of the confirmand’s Christian faith, Lutheran heritage and the fellowship with the larger community of the synod. For more information about Confirmation Camp feel free to Rev. Thomas M. Glasoe at tomglasoe@hotmail.com or 570-238-2116; or Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mount Luther at chad@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587. You can also download a flyer with a tentative schedule here: http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Joint-Confirmation-Camp.pdf

Looking Ahead to June at Camp
Camp Mount Luther is gearing up for their summer camping season for 2018 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 on June 3rd for their two weeks of training. June 17, the first campers for this year will arrive for the season, including Crazy Day Campers, Nature Detectives (for younger campers to explore the outdoors), LOGIC/Nature Photography (where campers Live Outside in God’s Incredible Creation and take pictures), and Morning Glories. Rock, Raft, and Roll will take place from June 20-24. Beginning on June 24, campers will participate in Mini-Junior Base Camp, Night Owls, and Nomads. This year’s theme at Mount Luther is “Awesome God, Awesome Love.” Campers will look at five Bible stories to see the awesome love that our Awesome God gives each of us. Through the camp’s method of studying the Bible, called “GROW Time,” staff will help campers Gather and Reflect On the Word throughout their day, culminating in an evening worship service. Campers also get to do crafts, go swimming, play games, camp out, and sing songs during their time at Mount Luther. For more information, visit www.campmountluther.org.
**July 21, 2018: USSWO Convention**
The Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, July 21, 2018, at the Evergreen Center at Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg. Women are asked to be present for this one-day convention as it brings an excellent opportunity for you to meet your sisters from neighboring churches and become informed about the workings of the Women of the ELCA. The theme for this year’s convention is “Called to Serve,” based on 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 and 1 Peter 4:10. The Bible Study leader is Jodi Ellis and Pastor Ann Zimmerman is the worship leader. Registration forms are available at [http://www.uss-elca.org/upper-susquehanna-synodical-womens-organization/](http://www.uss-elca.org/upper-susquehanna-synodical-womens-organization/)

**September 24-26, 2018: Stewardship Kaleidoscope’s Transforming the Face of Generosity**
Pastors and lay leaders are invited to attend this event at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac in St. Louis, MO on September 24-26. Keynoters will be Diana Butler Bass and Chick Lane and there will be 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, and capital campaigns. Cost is $275 before August 1, and $300 after. For more information and to register, visit [www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org). There are a limited number of scholarships for first call and small church pastors!