Visiting our Companion Synod in Liberia

*Bev Hoffman Reflects on a Mission Trip*

On January 18, 2018, I was part of a team of six people from the synod that traveled to Liberia. Liberia, located on the West Coast of Africa, is a third world country. The civil war led by President William Taylor, destroyed their country killing more than 250,000 people. After 14 years of conflict the people are still struggling.

The temperature when we were there was 95 degrees with 100 percent humidity. The homes are not air conditioned and are without fans because their homes don’t have electricity. Their meals usually consist of rice, chicken, or fish in a spicy sauce.

During our visit, the women visited churches, schools, hospitals, chapels, a leper colony, and acres of agricultural fields where rice, palm trees, potatoes, bananas, ochre and plantain were growing. At the leper colony, a local pastor was teaching the Liberians to clean out six large ponds so they would have fish to eat and sell. Another area they showed us a fish hatchery. As the fish grow they keep moving them to the next area of water. When they reach maturity they will have fish to eat and sell.

The men of our group were at the Lutheran Training Institute installing a roof and doing other construction work. They had some Liberians working alongside of them.

We had supper with a group of Pastor’s wives. These women are not educated and are trying to better themselves in order to assist their husbands in their ministry.

We met a group of teens returning from a retreat. They were singing and waving their arms as they were walking towards us. These were the words to the song: Yea, I want to be a Lutheran. Yea, yea, I want to be a Lutheran. This is the church I want to be with!

This was a very educational trip as well as an eye opener for all of us. Liberian’s are very hospitable, friendly people. They have very little but seem very happy.

You can read more about Beverly’s trip at [www.uss-elca.org/reflections](http://www.uss-elca.org/reflections). She reminds us to keep the Liberians in our prayers as our synod has a strong relationship with them. She says that we need to thank the Lord every day for the many blessings bestowed on each of us and this was even more evident to her after her trip to Liberia. You can get prayer petitions for Liberia on our synod website at [www.uss-elca.org/liberian-prayers-january-april-2018/](http://www.uss-elca.org/liberian-prayers-january-april-2018/).
Synod Assembly in June

The 31st Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be held at Susquehanna University on June 15-16, 2018. The theme of this year’s assembly is “On the Way Together: Open Ears, Open Hearts.” Rev. Amy Reumann will be our ELCA Churchwide representative. The second day of the assembly will focus on strategic directives for the coming years. Register by May 21! 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.

Singers Needed for Assembly Choir: You are invited to sing as part of the choir that will provide musical leadership for the Eucharist on Saturday, June 16, at 2:30 p.m. in Degenstein Dining Hall at SU. The choir will participate in singing specific pieces of music for our closing worship. Adult and high school singers who would like to sing in the Assembly Choir should have some choral experience in church and/or school. Being able to read music is helpful but not required. Two rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday, June 3, and Sunday, June 10, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the chapel of Zion, Sunbury. A warm-up rehearsal will take place prior to the service. If you plan to sing in the choir or have questions, please contact David Reier at dreier@ptd.net or 570-847-3435.

Live Tweet from Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly: We will also live “tweet” from our synod assembly. This year, we invite others to also tweet from the assembly and use this hashtag: #usselca18. If you’d like to see what is happening at assembly in June, search for the Twitter hashtag or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usselca.

Along the Way Bookstore: Sandy Grier will operate her bookstore at assembly. She’ll have cards, gift items, books, bulletins, flower charts, Sunday School attendance charts, CDs, DVDs, plays, church supplies, Bibles, Sundays and Seasons much more. Many items will be 50-75 percent off, while supplies last. The bookstore will be located in the Degenstein Campus Center.

Bulletin of Reports: We are going paperless again this year with the bulletin of reports so materials will be available for download at www.uss-elca.org/assembly.

Up and Down the Valleys

Clergy Notes: Synod Council granted retirement status to Rev. Pat Pittsnogle (St. John, Northumberland) effective June 1. They also granted on-leave-from-call status to Rev. L. Keith Pittsnogle (Interim, St. Paul’s, Erdleys), effective the same day. Rev. Vicky Schaffner is now the interim at the Columbia-Montour Parish. Rev. Mike Sigler started this year as the new interim at St. Mark, Alfarata and St. John, Ridge. In late February, the East Kish Parish (St Paul's, Milroy, and St. John's, Siglerville) held a joint worship where Assistant to the Bishop Craig Miller led a Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call for Pastor Jan Moody on her last Sunday.

Camp Mount Luther Updates: Raise the Region was another huge success in March. The event was coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania. We raised $17,225 (a new record) from 115 gifts and just recently received our check from the foundation with stretch dollars. The total amount from this event was $18,540.12! Thanks to all who donated and supported our efforts. We appreciate it. The camp is also gearing up for their summer camping season for 2018 and is accepting registrations for all programs. This year’s camping season will begin on June 17, 2018. Resident and Day Camps run until August 7 with programs for all ages from kindergarten to senior high, adults, and families. Most sessions run for one week, but there are also half-week, day-only, and ten day sessions. New programs this year include Tracks, where campers will choose from four activity areas to focus their attention during the week. Susquehanna Canoe, a new trip camp, will allow middle school-aged campers the opportunity to paddle for a day on the Susquehanna River. 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. Campers also get to do crafts, go swimming, play games, camp out, and sing songs during their time at camp.
Upper Susquehanna Synod Events

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 fill several positions this summer. Below is a brief description of the positions we still need to fill for Summer 2018.

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. **We are in desperate need of male applicants!!!**

If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, 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/](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](mailto:jmountain@pccucc.org) or 717-652-1560) or register online [https://www.pccucc.org/leadership/boundary-training/](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/](http://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/](http://www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2018-10-1/))

April 15, 2018: Bradnick Speech
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reedsville presents an evening with Mrs. Peggy Jackson on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Jackson is better known throughout Central Pennsylvania as Peggy Ann Bradnick. As a 17-year-old girl, she was kidnapped during the spring of 1966 near Shade Gap, PA. Please join them as Peggy tells her story about the tragic events surrounding her kidnapping and its impact upon
her life over the past 52 years. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Evangelical Lutheran Church, Reedsville.

April 16, 2018: Retirement Planning Seminar
Retirement planning can seem daunting without someone to walk you through it. Portico’s day-long pre-retirement seminar for plan members age 50+ does just that. And it’s coming to your area soon! The seminar covers many facets of retirement planning in understandable terms — from establishing a retirement budget to reviewing health care options. You’ll breathe easier when you know the steps to take to retire with confidence. Take advantage of this opportunity by attending the seminar on April 16, 2018 at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, Pennsylvania. Go to https://www.porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/Events/Pre-RetirementSeminars to register! Cost is $35/person or $70/couple.

April 21, 2018: Women of ELCA Day of Learning and Renewal
The Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization presents their Day of Learning Renewal on April 21, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Christ, Milton. The theme is "Bring Peace" and the presenter is Mary Woods. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. Cost is $5. Lunch will be provided.

April 22, 2018: Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House
Have you ever wanted to see Mount Luther’s site and facilities? Do you miss camp and want to visit in the springtime? Are you interested in coming to camp this summer but want to get more information and see the place first? Well, this is your chance. The Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. You can ask questions, tour camp, and see what it’s like to be a camper! First time campers who are not yet registered for the summer and who attend the event can get a $30 discount on their summer registration! To download a flyer for the event, click here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-CML-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf.

April 24-27, 2018: Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry
This Forum gathers Christian leaders who are passionate about young people and the church. Youth ministers, Christian educators, pastors, ministry innovators, and emerging scholars from the USA and beyond gather annually for this 4-day event on the campus of Princeton Theological Seminary. This year, the theme is IMAGE. They will explore what it means to practice youth ministry in a visual age. Hear from speakers like Matthew Milliner, Brian Bantum, and Katie Douglass. Renew your energy for ministry as you create vocational friendships, stretch your imagination, and give Sabbath to your soul. For more information, visit http://iymforum.com.

April 25, 2017: GROW Writer’s Retreat
Anyone wishing to come and write devotions for Camp Mount Luther’s First Light Digital Devotions is welcome to join other writers on April 25, 2018. The retreat will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Center. It will be a day of writing and sharing resources for devotional writing. Please RSVP to the camp office at cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587.

April 28, 2018: Messiah, South Williamsport, Anniversary Celebration
Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport, is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2018. On Saturday, April 28, a Festive Eucharist liturgy will be held at 2:00 p.m. Clergy are invited to vest and process; the color of the day is red. Preaching will be The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Domestic Mission, ELCA, and former bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod. Bishop Barbara J. Collins, Upper Susquehanna Synod, will also take part. A dinner will be held, catered by Hillside Catering, at which former staff members will be invited to speak, and a video presentation of the congregation’s history will be shared. Contact the church office at 570-326-9171 or messiahoffice@comcast.net for information on the dinner. Reservations are needed by April 20.
April 28, 2018: An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber in Central PA
Lutheran Pastor and bestselling author, Nadia Bolz-Weber, takes an unusual approach to church. Heavily tattooed and often profane, she is part of what scholar and writer, Diana Butler Bass, calls the “new Reformation.” A recovering addict, Bolz-Weber has created a congregation that is open to those struggling with addiction, as well as persons who are uncomfortable in traditional churches. Bolz-Weber will speak about her own faith journey and her vision for the changing church. Tickets are $35. The event will be held at the Lampeter-Strasburg High School’s Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, PA. The event starts at 7:00 p.m. For tickets, please go to www.parishresourcecenter.org or call 717-299-1113.

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:  

**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=a07ef6kgxin0e5936eb. A note to rostered leaders: Certificates of participation hours will be available at the registration table.

There will also be an evening in the Capitol Rotunda from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. as LAMPA partners with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light to hear from Dr. Richard B. Alley, Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at the Pennsylvania State University, who was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. You can meet advocates and leaders working to steward our air, land and water toward a vision of a healthy future for all. A separate registration is required for this event. More information and registration details are found here: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ef6l781ib38ccdf&llr=lvflt5dab&showPage=true.

**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. 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 in one of the meeting rooms in Degenstein, both days of the assembly. 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/
Upcoming Events

Our Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. You can ask questions, tour camp, and see what it's like to be a camper! First time campers who are not yet registered for the summer and who attend the event can get a $30 discount on their summer registration!

Practice stewardship through service at camp 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 17 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

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Special Appeal Update

Earlier this year, we a launched a campaign to pay off the debt incurred when updates needed to be made to the sewage system last year. Approximately $100,000 was spent to make the repairs. Once the loan is re-paid, Camp Mount Luther will once again be debt-free. Our development team is making visits with some potential donors but we need your help, too! Please consider a gift to this appeal. As of this writing, we have raised $20,805 toward this special appeal. Pledges will also be taken for payment over the course of one year. For more information, contact chad@campmountluther.org.
**Creation Care Tip**

Recycling doesn’t just mean separating your cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second (or third) time. That nice padded envelope you got in the mail, for example? Instead of throwing it away, scratch out the address, tear off the stamps, and use it again!

**Looking Ahead to June**

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**Straight From the Camel’s Mouth**

*By Kyros T. Camel*

Summer is getting closer. The staff arrive in less than two months. Camp runs all-year, though, so here are some things to report.

Raise the Region was another huge success in March. The event was coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA. We raised $17,225 (a new record) from 115 gifts and just recently received our check from the foundation with stretch dollars. The total amount from this event was $18,540.12! Thanks to all who donated and supported our efforts.

Do you read our daily devotions? Anyone wishing to come and write devotions for our digital is welcome to join other writers on April 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Center. It will be a day of writing and sharing resources for devotional writing. Please RSVP to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587.

Pastor Chris Mathiason of St. Stephen’s, Licking Creek, offered a challenge to his congregation. He was willing to pay the half of the deposit $50 for the first two campers from his congregation to sign up for camp. He said, “I did this on a whim to encourage people to consider camp. St. Stephen’s already will pay for the cost of camp after the deposit, but I wanted to see if anyone takes me up on the offer.” He also wants to get more of his church kids to camp. Mathiason and his family have been frequent campers for our Family Camp the past few years.

Last summer, as part of our crafts program, campers constructed blue bird boxes to be installed at camp. Our Care for Creation and Environmental Sustainability Committee came up with the idea, as blue birds eat ticks and may help keep the tick population down on our grounds. The boxes were installed and now adorn our site. A few blue birds have been spotted going in and out of the new boxes! Make sure you look for them this summer.