Ark Celebrates Milestone

June marks the 30th anniversary of the USS Ark! The first edition of the newsletter of the Upper Susquehanna debut with the June/July 1988 edition. It featured a letter announcing the Ark from then Bishop A. Donald Main. It shared that ELCA Presiding Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom would be the ELCA Representative at the first Synod Assembly. And, it gave news about a grant awarded to the synod, commissions formed within the synod, rostered clergy changes, the story of a refugee family being helped by Trinity, Danville, and some notices of upcoming events.

K.J. Reimensnyder-Wagner was the synod’s first Director of Communications and worked to gather, write, and edit news for use by local media and this newsletter.

Reimensnyder-Wagner served as the newsletter’s editor until George R.F. Tamke began as editor in 1989 and served until his retirement in 2003. In 2004, Rev. W. Stevens Shipman took over as editor and served until October 2007. Rev. Beth Ann Stone served briefly as editor until the current editor, Chad Hershberger, began as the synod’s Director of Communications in April 2009.

In his opening article, Bishop Main talked about the importance of communication throughout the synod. “The ARK represents an important step forward in our synod’s commitment to provide effective avenues of communication. Communication is always important, but especially as we move through these days of brand new life for the Upper Susquehanna Synod. It is important for the members of our 142 congregations to be informed of the structure we have together, of the programs and ministries that are to be provided and the opportunities which are available,” Main wrote.

The physical look of the USS Ark has changed over the years, but the purpose has remained the same. We continue to share the stories of the synod and how we all are on the way together.

Visit from ELCA Representative

Mr. Nick Kiger, from the ELCA Mission Support team, visited in our synod for several days in late April to learn more about the work supported by mission support dollars. He visited Zion, Turbotville (Pastor Erwin Roux) to learn more about new ministries the church is leading thanks to a synod small church grant. Zion is one of the leading congregations in mission support to the synod. Kiger also took a walking tour of Camp Mount Luther with Director Chad Hershberger to learn about one of the synod’s top recipients of granted support. The second day of his visit, he was with Pastor Tom Glasoe at the Follmer Parish, learning about their ministries and plans for redevelopment. He also visited with Pastor Stina Schaeffer at Salem Lutheran Church, learning about their work and new ideas in which this relatively new pastor to our synod and her congregation are engaged. Kiger enjoyed lunch with Chaplain Scott Kershner at Susquehanna University and preached at two services that Sunday at St. John’s, Lewistown (Pastor Jerri Carlin). St. John’s is also among the leaders in mission support to the synod. That weekend, he also led a Mission Support Symposium in State College. Bishop Collins and several members of synod committees as well as synod council attended the event with representatives of the Allegheny Synod.

Some of those who attended Kiger’s Saturday workshop
Presbyterians and Lutherans Join To Prepare Disaster Supplies

A combined effort of Northumberland Presbytery (PCUSA) and Upper Susquehanna Synod (ELCA) recently filled two pickup trucks with relief supplies which were shipped to the Church World Service warehouse. The only way that Church World Service can respond quickly when there is a need is to have these supplies ready before the need arises. The churches filled 76 clean-up buckets, 35 hygiene kits, and 25 school kits, which were loaded into the CWS truck to be ready for the next disaster. The CWS warehouse had been emptied after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in the Fall of 2017. The supplies collected now will be needed to help get families back into their homes after the next disaster.

Up and Down the Valleys

At their May meeting, Synod Council awarded a Small Church Grant to United In Christ, West Milton (Pastor Justin Lingenfelter) for their OAKS program. The congregation hosts a monthly senior citizen gathering at which they have speakers on various topics of interest, play bingo for small prizes, and share lunch prepared primarily by the leader of the program. Attendees of the program come mostly from outside the congregation. This is the third year the congregation received this grant, which this year totaled $1,000.

As part of the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, this summer, Lutheran Campus Ministry and Habitat for Humanity will engage in the “LCM Builds” Project, in which youth will join campus ministers and students in building three homes. Alicia Anderson, Campus Minister for Penn State Lutheran Campus Ministry will be one of those participating.

Clergy Notes: Rev. Vickie Brown is now the called pastor of St. Peter’s, Kreamer. Rev. Elinor Allison is now the interim pastor of Zion, Herndon. Rev. Don Snyder now serves as pastor of Holy Spirit, Turbotville, under a contract for extended service. Snyder is a newly ordained minister in the Central Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ who had been serving as a supply preacher for Holy Spirit.

St. Matthew, Williamsport (Pastor David Byerly), has sold their building and held their final service on May 27. The date of closure is not yet set.

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish (Pastor John Yost) held a community block party at the Mifflinburg Community Park on Sunday, June 10. They began the day with worship, followed by a picnic and games and events for kids and adults. The community pool was also open.
Upper Susquehanna Synod Events

Seeking a Business Manager
St. Luke Lutheran, 1400 Market St., Williamsport, PA, is seeking to fill the position of Business Manager. This is a part time position whose hours may be arranged as desired. The position description is available from the church office at (570) 323-7309. If interested, please complete the standard application (available from the office) and attach a resume. The deadline for applying is July 15th.

Volunteer Gardeners Sought
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Lewisburg, is looking for volunteer gardeners to help care for the flower gardens around the sign at the entrance to the cottages off of Reitz Blvd. in Lewisburg. The need is for two days in each of the following months – July, August and September. If you are interested, please contact Charlene Fisher at 570-523-4244.

Grants Available
The Campbell Foundation is excited to announce the opening of their first Chesapeake Office unsolicited grants cycle. This opportunity is open to new grantees (organizations that are not current or previous grantees of the Campbell Foundation) that would like to submit a proposal for projects that improve water quality and promote healthy communities in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna River Basin. Project award requests can be up to $25,000. Proposals are due no later than Monday, October 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. EST. Guidelines, FAQ, and instructions on how to apply are available at http://www.campbellfoundation.org/apply/.

Looking Ahead to July at Mount Luther
Camp Mount Luther is gearing up for the summer camping season for 2018 and are still accepting registrations for all programs. Some highlights of programs in July and August include:
- Family Camp, a great vacation for the family!
- Susquehanna Canoe, a new trip with a daylong trek down the mighty river.
- Tracks, our new program where you pick extra activity time around H2O, Mountain Adventure, Music/Art/Drama, or a sampler of all four.
- Senior High X-Teen, a traditional program for that age group.
- Night Owl, where campers stay up later each night and do nighttime activities.
- Pioneers celebrating a different holiday daily.
- Craft, Lego, and Wild Sports (CLAWS) camp, doing more of those three activities.
- Pick Your Days Day Camp when you pick how many days you want to come from 9:00 to 3:00.
- SURE for campers who want to Survive Using the Resources of the Environment
- Mini-Base Camps, a half week camp for our youngest campers.
- Intern for our senior high campers who want to learn what it’s like to be on staff.
- Tour de Crème, a bike trip taking rides to local ice cream establishments.

For more information, visit the camp website at www.campmountluther.org or call 570-922-1587. Stay connected to camp this summer and find out what is happening during our various programs, visit Facebook (www.facebook.com/mountluther), Twitter (@mtluther) and their blog (www.campmountluther.wordpress.com). They try to update these daily but please realize that the staff is quite busy and if updates are not posted, it’s because the campers and staff are so busy that they can’t get an update posted. And, don’t forget, daily First Light devotions will continue to be posted each weekday. Check them at www.cmfaithformation.weebly.com.

July 3, 2018: Camp Mount Luther’s 55th Birthday Celebration
The camp staff invites everyone to come to camp on Tuesday evening, July 3, 2018, to celebrate the camp’s 55th birthday. As part of our annual Family Camp, we’ll be having a campfire and worship service
to commemorate the birthday. K.J. Reimensnyder-Wagner will be here to provide some special music as well. It all gets underway at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so bring a lawn chair. To help us plan, it would be helpful to have an RSVP to chad@campmountluther.org or call 570-922-1587.

**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/)

**July 25-27, 2018: Rethinking Stewardship**
People today are asking hard questions about giving to the church such as: Who should we give to? Should we give at all? What’s the future of the church if giving decreases? Are you prepared to face these changes? Rethinking Stewardship will be held on July 25-27, 2018, at Luther Seminary. It is an event for leaders like you to find new ways to understand and adapt to changing perspectives about giving. Speakers include:

- Jennifer Kaalund, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies at Iona College
- Martha Moore-Keish, Ph.D., associate professor of theology at Columbia Theological Seminary
- Mark Teasdale, Ph.D., associate professor of evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Learn more or register at [https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/?utm_source=bm23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Rethinking+Stewardship&utm_content=Adapt+to+changing+attitudes+about+giving&utm_campaign=20180503++Rethinking+Stewardship+Email+2](https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/?utm_source=bm23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Rethinking+Stewardship&utm_content=Adapt+to+changing+attitudes+about+giving&utm_campaign=20180503++Rethinking+Stewardship+Email+2). Scholarship are available until June 29. Interested persons should contact Craig Miller in the synod office before registering.

**August 9, 2018: Boundary Awareness Training**
The Lower Susquehanna Synod is holding a boundary awareness training on August 9, 2018, at Hill Lutheran Church in Lebanon. Cost is $ 25. For more information, visit [www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2/](http://www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2/)

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.

**August 12-17, 2018: Roman Catholic Camp Seeks Help**
CAMP VOL_NTEERS...all that is missing is U! The Diocesan Summer Camp for Adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities is seeking volunteers willing to assist at its residential camp, August 12-17, 2018. The camp takes place at Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon County and serves the needs of approximately 40 adults of all faiths. The camp has been held annually for the past 32 years, and is primarily dependent on volunteer support. Last year, volunteers from 21 parishes participated alongside volunteers from other faith communities to make this event a success. Anyone 16+ is welcome to volunteer for full-time or part-time duties; there is a particular need for male volunteers, 18 or older, who are able to spend the night, and for volunteers skilled at running an arts & crafts program. All volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearance process and attend a brief training session prior to
helping at camp. A deadline of June 30, 2018 for expressing volunteer interest is requested in order to facilitate planning efforts.

Sponsor a Camper - Would you like to sponsor a campership for a person with a disability who might not otherwise be able to afford camp? The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking donations to defray the cost for campers to ensure that each individual who would like to attend camp is able to do so, regardless of finances. A full week of camp costs $575, but donations in any amount will be welcomed. They can be sent to the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg. For more information on volunteering or sponsoring a camper, please contact Larry Kiley at 717-657-4804, Ext. 322, or email lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.

https://www.hbgdiocese.org/disabilities-ministries/annual-summer-camp/

September 1, 2018: Dandelion Trail Run at CML
Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg will be holding a 5 and 10 kilometer trail run race at the camp on Saturday, September 1, 2018. This is an entry-level trail race on Mount Luther grounds with proceeds going to the camp. The start time for the race is 9:00 a.m. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K run). The 10k distance is included in the new Rocksylvania 10k race series. More details on that are available at http://midpentrailblazers.com/links.html. Race day registration is $25. Pre-register by August 8 and pay only $20. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on race day. Spectators are welcome as well. A kid’s fun run will also be held with two age categories: six and under and 7-10. Special awards will be presented to every participant in the fun run. Again this year, a one mile fun walk on a dirt road will be held with the same registration fees and amenities applying (or you may just walk without receiving amenities for $10). Awards will be given for overall male and female race time, three awards for each age group and an overall master’s for male and female in both the 5K and the 10K. The awards ceremony will be immediately following the race. Shower facilities are available after the race. All miles for the course will be marked and there is one water stop on the course. Timing will be electronically done. To register, visit http://midpentrailblazers.com/trail-race-events/dandelion-run/dandelion-run.html. The Dandelion Run, begun in 2002, is organized by Joel and Shelley Heasley of Middleburg. It was named in honor and memory of Rev. Glenn E. Heasley, Jr., former Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Glenn’s favorite “flower” was the dandelion. Heasley’s widow, Shirley, is also involved in the planning of the race.

September 14-16, 2018: Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend
Marriage is a journey! A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Sign up TODAY to be sure to get the weekend of your choice.
• September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style retreat center with many acres of woodlands in the heart of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown, PA. Two nights lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. For further information or to sign up, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the $100 registration fee with your credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

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. There are a limited number of scholarships for first call and small church pastors!
October 1, 2018: Boundary Awareness Training
The Lower Susquehanna Synod is holding a boundary awareness training on October 1, 2018, at Zion Church in Marietta. Cost is $25. For more information, visit [www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2018-10-1/](http://www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2018-10-1/)

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October 19-21, 2018: Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend
Marriage is a journey! A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Sign up TODAY to be sure to get the weekend of your choice.

- October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat center adjacent to the Olmsted Mansion in the Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Two nights lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. For further information or to sign up, go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and pay the $100 registration fee with your credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

October 20, 2018: Lay Boundary Awareness
The Penn Central Conference (UCC) is holding a lay boundary awareness workshop on October 20, 2018, at First UCC in Middleburg. Cost is $15. For more information, visit [https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef6x4q4i42dab86d&oseq=&c=&ch=](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef6x4q4i42dab86d&oseq=&c=&ch=)

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November 9-11, 2018: Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend
Marriage is a journey! A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Sign up TODAY to be sure to get the weekend of your choice.

- November 9-11, 2018 at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts. Situated on the edge of a nature preserve in the heart of the Berkshires, an hour northwest of Springfield MA.

Two nights lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. For further information or to sign up, go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and pay the $100 registration fee with your credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

November 12, 2018: Educating Educators
The Penn Central Conference (UCC) is holding a lay boundary awareness workshop on educating educators on November 12, 2018, at Trinity UCC, Dalmatia. Cost is $10. For more information, visit [https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef772o1za50d4803&oseq=&c=&ch=](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef772o1za50d4803&oseq=&c=&ch=)
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December 7, 2018: Boundary Awareness Training
The Lower Susquehanna Synod is holding a boundary awareness training on December 7, 2018, at Good Shepherd in Liverpool. Cost is $25. For more information, visit https://www.lss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-3/

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