Synod Gathers to Listen and Celebrate Ministries

Gathering under the theme, “On the Way Together: Open Ears, Open Hearts,” the Upper Susquehanna Synod gathered in assembly at Susquehanna University on June 15 and 16, 2018. The assembly featured a new format, allowing participants to have table conversations, sharing their best experiences of Church.

Bishop Barbara J. Collins led the proceedings. During her annual report, Collins talked about the synod and how we are all in this together and it’s all about relationships, which she has worked to build in the past two years since she has been bishop.

The assembly kicked off with worship led by the Camp Mount Luther Summer Staff. The worship service included camp songs, scripture and prayer and was created by the 20-member staff. Bishop Collins installed the camp staff for their work on behalf of the synod. An in-gathering offering was received for the camp’s Sewer Special Appeal totaling $1,970.50.

Greetings were extended from Dr. Jonathan Green, Susquehanna University’s president. About 260 lay persons and clergy who are members of congregations of the synod attended plenary sessions, workshops, conversations, and worship during the two-day event. During both days, workshops were held over the lunch period and provided information that attendees could use in their congregations, including advocacy, global missions, and Healthy Congregations.

Actions of the 2018 Assembly

- Passed a resolution regarding the treatment of migrant children in the custody of the United States, urging its congregations and members to call for humane, compassionate treatment of persons designated as undocumented minors. See page 2 for more details.
- Passed the 2019 Budget, balanced at $905,990. Also adopted the 2019 Salary, Housing, and Health Benefit Guidelines for rostered leaders and those on the lay roster.
- Passed several constitutional amendments. One aligned the synod constitution with the United Lutheran Seminary bylaws for elections to the Board of Trustees. And, the nominating committee will now nominate the synod secretary instead of the synod council.
- Passed revisions to the synod’s Rostered Leaders’ Ethics Policy.
- Approved a resolution of thanks for all those who planned and led various aspects of the assembly.
Assembly Passes Resolution on Migrant Children

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly passed a resolution encouraging synod congregations and members to call for humane, compassionate treatment of persons designated as undocumented minors. The resolution called for the U.S. Congress, the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to halt the policy of separating children from their parents at the border or anywhere undocumented children and their families are found. They urged Bishop Collins to make the synod’s position known throughout the synod and the public-at-large and called upon synod leaders, pastors, deacons and congregations to support the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and the Evangelical Lutheran Church’s Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) program. The resolution also called for the synod to assist in equipping congregations, institutions, and ministries to engage in advocacy to welcome strangers as they would the Lord.

Advocacy was also highlighted during the report of the ELCA Churchwide Representative, The Rev. Amy Reumann. She gave greetings on behalf of ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and shared ways that we are Church together through the various ministries that the synod supports. She also highlighted Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) and had Tara Barnard speak. Barnard, a recent college graduate and member of Trinity Lutheran, McAlisterville, will begin her yearlong YAGM experience in South America in August.

Deans Installed

On Friday afternoon, Rev. Kristina Schaeffer and Rev. Erwin Roux were installed as deans of the Middle Creek and Buffalo Valley conferences. Outgoing deans, Rev. Robert Doll and Rev. William Henderson were recognized.

Reports were also given by Rev. Andrew Fitch, Admissions Associate for United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. He reported on the seminary’s first year after combining the Lutheran Theological Seminaries of Gettysburg and Philadelphia. Pastor Craig Miller, assistant to Bishop Collins and Director for Evangelical Mission, spoke to the assembly as well, on mission in the synod. Reports were heard about the companion synod in Germany, candidacy, and Camp Mount Luther. Rev. Marsh Drege of Seafarers International House reported that of nine synods that support Seafarers, Upper Susquehanna is number one in providing “Christmas at Sea” bags, with over 550 last year. Friday evening at the Synod Assembly featured “dinner church” with recognition of congregations celebrating significant anniversaries. The following congregations were recognized: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Aristes (125 years); Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport (150 years); Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Thompsontown (175 years); and Follmer Lutheran Church, Milton (225 years).

Time was given to hear presentations on recent Small Church Grant recipients. The following received grants and told their ministry stories on Saturday during Synod Assembly: Zion, Turbotville’s Saturday evening worship service and Stephen Ministry; United In Christ, West Milton’s OAKS Senior Center (pictured at left is Pastor Justin Lingenfelter giving his presentation); St. John’s Lutheran, Potts Grove’s PINERS Senior Program; and St. John, Richfield’s Tiger Treats, giving backpacks of food to children.
Pastors with significant ordination anniversaries were honored on Friday afternoon. They included Rev. Kerry Aucker, Rev. MarthaSue Moll, and Rev. Peter Bergstresser (25 years); Rev. Erwin Roux, Rev. Paul Kampa, Rev. William Jones (30 years); Rev. Kerry Mauer, Rev. Melody Sell (35 years); Rev. John Koons, Rev. Kenneth Longfield, Rev. Nelson Strobert, Rev. W. Stevens Shipman (45 years); Rev. James Park Bricker (50 years); Rev. LeRoy Reitz, Rev. Roy Meyer (55 years); Rev. Charles Heaps, Rev. Robert Logan (60 years); and Rev. Deane Shively (65 years).

Conversations about Church

The second day of the Synod Assembly featured three conversations, sitting around tables in the SU cafeteria. Participants shared their best experiences of Church and visions of what it means to be Church as they talked about “We Are Church,” “We Are Church Together,” and “We Are Church for the Sake of the World.” The responses will help draft a strategic plan for the synod for the coming years.

During a service of Holy Eucharist on Saturday afternoon, Rev. Louise Reynolds was remembered posthumously for her service. Nine persons were inducted as Authorized Lay Worship Leaders. They include Diane Bubb, Roger Dietz, Holly Fry, Kathy Frey, Gary Johnson, Dawn McCloskey, Laura Phelps, Glenn Sadler, and Janet Stroble. An in-gathering offering was received for the ELCA Campaign for Congregational Renewal totaling $1205.02

Reflections on the Assembly from Bishop Collins: Change in format and shared conversations were a big part of this year’s synod assembly and I want to thank everyone for their willingness and courage, as we lived through those two days together. The day of business went well, with folks lifting up as a highlight the opening worship by camp staff. We also appreciated having Rev. Amy Reumann back to our territory and hearing her updates with advocacy ministries across the church. Interesting enough, as human nature plays out, the biggest “complaint” shared – or rather, disappointment – was that folks missed having the popcorn and soda. That part was out of our control as Thrivent Financial, the annual providers of the popcorn and soda, were unable to come this year. But the best part for me was watching the engagement of folks sharing their stories with one another on Saturday. And the result, from the notes shared and the comments on evaluation forms, was a huge positive. So now that we have input from folks around the synod, I ask that everyone keep our synod in prayer, praying for the Spirit’s guidance as we discern our future steps. Please hold in prayer your synod staff and our mission strategy team as we work through what you have shared and where God is leading us.
Blessing of the ELCA Youth Gathering Participants

At the closing worship of Synod Assembly, a blessing was offered for 176 ELCA Youth Gathering participants from the synod. Immediately following, an ice cream social was held outside Degenstein Campus Center at Susquehanna University to greet the gathering participants.

Up and Down the Valleys

Clergy Notes: The following have recently been appointed to serve as interim pastors: Rev. Vicky Reeser at Trinity, Shamokin; Rev. Sarah Hershberger at Faith, Lewisburg; Rev. Ann Zimmerman at St. Paul’s, Erdey’s; Rev. Andrew Weaver at St. John, Northumberland; Rev. Allen Huilslander, a United Methodist pastor, at Port Royal Parish; and Rev. David Pennebaker, East Kishacoquillas Parish.

St. John, Jersey Shore (Pastor Kerry Aucker), was recognized at the Lutheran Advocacy Day this spring for their advocacy efforts to help the hungry and homeless through the New Love Center. Bishop Collins presented the award.

In June, Bishop Collins was the recipient of the Cloud of Witness Award from Camp Mount Luther. Presented at the second annual Circle of Faith Giving Club dinner, the award recognizes someone who has dedicated their time, talent, and treasure to the camp. Later that evening, a worship service officially opened the 2018 summer camping season.

Pastor Roy Meyer (retired) celebrated his 55th anniversary of ordination. Redeemer, Williamsport, gave $550 to the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation in memory of the Meyers’ daughter, Elizabeth Ann Mitsdarfer, and in honor of Pastor Meyer’s faithful ministry.

More than 200 Port Royal Lutheran Parish members and friends met in the Port Royal Community Building on June 3 to honor retiring Pastor Charles Hershberger and his wife, Paula. The councils of Port Royal and St. Paul, Nook, gave money in their honor to Camp Mount Luther. Accepting the donation was their son, Chad, the camp’s executive director.

Elections Committee Report: Elected to three-year terms on Synod Council were Rev. John Yost, Kay Wetzel, R. Craig Rhoades, and Ray Huff. Malin Kint was elected as youth representative. The following were elected as Voting Members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2019: Camilla Zimmerman, Rev. James Park Bricker, Lowell Leitzel, Rev. Christine Kirchner, Kim Crissinger, Rev. Karl Runser, Jonathan Moser, and Elina Schreffler. Alternates elected to Churchwide Assembly include Terry Gardner, Rev. Jerri Carlin, Rev. Chad Hebrink, and Rev. Theodore Cockley.
**Upper Susquehanna Synod Events**

**Disaster Response Work Team**
The Susquehanna Valley Interfaith Disaster Response Network is planning a work week at the end of October in Daytona, Florida. If you are interested in participating to assist recovery from the hurricanes of the past few years contact Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission: prcmiller@uss-elca.org.

**Volunteers Needed for CML Fundraiser in September**
Camp Mount Luther is once again participating in a local festival to help raise funds for their campership fund. The camp will staff a booth at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Their booth will feature the sale of homemade whoopie pies. Volunteers are needed to make these sweet treats, as well as to staff the booth on the day of the festival. If you are interested in donating whoopie pies (of any flavor) or helping to sell them that day, contact Sarah Hershberger at 570-966-9674 or Chad Hershberger at 570-922-1587.

**Summer is the Perfect Time to Assembly School Kits**
Does your congregation assemble School Kits for Lutheran World Relief? Summer is the perfect time to stock up on supplies! Back-to-school sales are an easy way to pick up pens, notebooks, scissors and more at a discount. Encourage parents to buy extra supplies when shopping with their children and celebrate the start of the school year with a School Kit assembly! Visit https://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/school-kits for more information about packing and sending School Kits.

**July Stewardship Toolbox**
Here is the July "Stewardship Toolbox" that is prepared for congregations by Lower Susquehanna Synod Assistant to the Bishop Robert Blezzard. It's a single Word file that has weekly "Stewardship Snippet" reflections tied to the Sunday RCL readings that can be cut and pasted into bulletins. There's also a "cut and paste" newsletter article and links to resources. This month's theme for the article and resources is "Stewardship of Your Leisure Time." You can download them here: http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018_07_July_Stewardship_Kit_ELCA.docx

**Songbooks Available**
Redeemer Lutheran Church in Williamsport was gifted ELWs when Saint Matthew, Williamsport closed. If anyone is in need for green LBWs, they have 133 of them. Also, they have 116 With One Voice song books, two service books for the green hymnals and the music accompaniment book for the green hymnals. If anyone is interested in them they can email the church at redeemer144@verizon.net to the attention of Carol Johnson or they can email her directly at carolandshuman@verizon.net. They are free to anyone who can use them, they would just have to make arrangements to pick them up or for shipping.

**Director of Music Wanted**
Trinity, Hughesville, is looking for a new Director of Music. The job description is available by calling the church office at 570-584-3490.

**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/.

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/

July 26, 2018: Diakon 150 Event
Diakon's Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Lewisburg, will help celebrate Diakon's 150th anniversary with a Hawaiian Festival on July 26, 2018, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information, click to view a flyer, which can also be shared with congregation members: http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/6-26-BV-Diakon150-Event-Flyer-2018-SM-3.pdf

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/. 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.

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://midpenntrailblazers.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 9, 2018: “God’s work. Our hand.” Day of Service**

Save the date! “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday will be Sunday, September 9, 2018. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2018! Access resources to guide your congregation’s planning, promotion and more at https://elca.org/Resources/GWOH-Sunday.

**September 9, 2018: Liberia Organizational Meeting**

Our synod is issuing a first call for anyone interested in joining either a work-team or a familiarization tour to meet the leaders of the Lutheran Church in Liberia and to tour the major facilities of the LCL, including historic churches, schools, and its two hospitals (Phebe and Curran)! A work team will repair the ceiling of Day Memorial Church and continue the renovation of small houses on the campus of the Lutheran Training Center. Don’t freeze at home this January. Visit tropical Liberia and be uplifted by God’s work in our companion synod. Learn more at our first organizational meeting on September 9, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. at our synod office, or phone Sandra Nelson (570)995-9327 or Bob Bradford (570)473-9505.

**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 for the weekend of 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!

**September 25-29, 2018: Reflect, Renew, Recommit (3R)**

Reflect, Renew, Recommit (3R), a week long discernment retreat, will be offered again this year on September 24-29, 2018. This experience creates a safe place for pastors and spouses to process, share,
worship, embrace prayer practices, use tools for vocational support, and discover a newfound community. Deadline to register is August 15, 2018. For more information:


**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.uss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2018-10-1/](http://www.uss-elca.org/event/boundary-workshop-2018-10-1/). 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.

**October 8-12, 2018: Appreciative Inquiry for Congregational Transitions**
The Upper Susquehanna Synod will sponsor a week-long Appreciative Inquiry workshop October 8-12 at Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA. This course, led by the Clergy Leadership Institute, will offer tools to lead through the rapid transitions taking place in our congregations. The synod will offer financial assistance to meet the cost of this workshop. Watch for registration information. To learn about the Appreciative Way check out [www.appreciativeway.com](http://www.appreciativeway.com).

**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 for the weekend from October 19-21, 2018, at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat center adjacent to the Olmsted Mansion in the Allegheny National Forest, two 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: Fall Women's Retreat and Cluster Gatherings**
All local women are invited to be participants at the Fall Women's Retreat and Cluster Gatherings, sponsored by Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization. The day-long retreat will feature a presentation led by Friends of the Heart titled, “Just Say Yes to God.” The retreat is based on the book of Philippians and focuses on balancing work with worship. They will talk about: “Looking In,” issues that keep you from moving on in life, “Looking Up,” developing an ongoing relationship with Christ and “Looking Out,” using your talents, gifts and passion to touch the world. Skit characters are Mary, Martha, and a psychologist who helps them determine how they might best express devotion to Christ. The retreat will take place at the camp on Saturday, October 20, 2018. It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The day will begin with refreshments. The cost of $22.00 per person includes coffee and tea, snacks, lunch, and the program. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Registration deadline is October 12. To register, contact Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. Checks should be made payable to Camp Mount Luther. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587 or e-mail cml@campmountluther.org. To view a flyer/registration form, click here:
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. This training is geared more for lay members of congregations, with their pastors attending with them. 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. Bishop Collins also encourages all ALWL's of this synod to participate in a boundary training event every three years, just as rostered leaders are required to remain current with boundary training. 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.

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 for the weekend of 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 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=a07ef77201za50d4803&oseq=&c=&ch= This training is geared more for lay members of congregations, with their pastors attending with them. 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.

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/. 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. Bishop Collins also encourages all ALWL's of this synod to participate in a boundary training event every three years, just as rostered leaders are required to remain current with boundary training. 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.