Applications for Seminary/Educational Debt relief for 2019 are due to the bishop by December 1. Rostered leaders who wish to apply should use this form: https://tinyurl.com/yaxpnanw

Small Church Grants assist congregations to maintain ministry in strategic areas, encourage faith development, develop educational materials, leadership and outreach to community. Congregations wishing to be considered in the first round of 2019 must complete an application and submit it with appropriate documentation by January 31. Grants are approved by the synod council based on a review and recommendation by the Small Church Mission Team until allocated funds have been depleted. Click here for an application form: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Small-Church-Grants-application.pdf

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary would like to begin to raise up new generations of Protestant (and Lutheran!) spiritual directors. With this sense of calling, they are offering their Spiritual Direction Certification Program. You can find out more information here: www.lr.edu/ltss/aff

The 2019 budget calls for a task force to identify funding sources to meet our commitment to Campus Ministries. The success of this task force will determine our ability to have a balanced budget. We need recommendations to serve on this task force. Contact the synod office. Recommendations are also wanted for the Fiscal Management and Constitution committees.

Check out November’s Stewardship Toolkit here: https://tinyurl.com/y9zz784r

Creation Corner Column by Lutheran layman Michael Ochs began 21 years ago this month under the auspices of the United Churches of Lycoming County. You can check it out here: http://lutheransrestoringcreationblog.blogspot.com/

Give a gift and change a life through LWR Gifts. Did you know that chicks take just 120 days to mature and provide a lasting income for farmers and their families? In just 4 short months, a whole flock of chickens can start producing their own chicks! Choose from various critters, farming equipment and supplies to help farmers and their families thrive with LWR Gifts. Check out the full catalog online at https://gifts.lwr.org/ to support Lutheran World Relief in finding long-term, sustainable solutions to poverty.

Karl Vaters gave two presentations in our synod in late October. You can access his notes and more information that he presented at www.NewSmallChurch.com/USS-ELCA.

We are looking for nominees from our synod for ELCA Church Council (lay male), which will be voted on at Churchwide Assembly in 2019. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the synod office as soon as possible.

Gretchen Johanson is now the interim pastor of Pine Street, Danville.

Pastor Elinor Allison has finished her interim at Zion, Herndon.

Plans are underway for a Disaster Response Mission Trip to Puerto Rico on January 5-12. Participants will stay at Eduardo Roig, the Lutheran camp in Dorado, where beds and two meals will be provided each day. We expect the work will include digging, mixing concrete and mortar, and carrying cement blocks, among other tasks. Cost for this trip is estimated at $350 plus airfare. Anyone interested should attend an introductory meeting at 7:00 p.m. on November 15, at the synod office.
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated October 29, 2018. This is not an all-inclusive list. Visit our website for a complete list. It was requested that we occasionally list the long-term interims in Headwaters so that is what we are doing this month.)

Long-Term Interim
- St. Mark, Alfarata and Oak Ridge, McClure
- Centre, Mifflintown
- Christ, Canby
- Emmanuel, Thompsonstown
- Grace, Jersey Shore
- Grace, Mount Carmel
- St. Paul, Allensville
- St. Paul’s, Erdleys, and St. Paul, Middle Creek Dam
- St. Paul, Numida
- St. Peter, Aristes
- St. Peter, West Cameron
- Trinity, Cowan
- Trinity, Sunbury
- Zion, Trevorton

Without Interim, Synod Staff Covering
- Freeburg Parish
- St. Luke, Sunbury
- St. Mark, Dormantown
- St. Peter, Grovania

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: Nov. 1, 9:00 a.m., United In Christ, West Milton; Lectionary study on Nov. 12, 10:00 a.m., Faith, Lewisburg

Juniata Valley: Nov. 15, 10:00 a.m., Evangelical, Reedsville; Breakfast on Dec. 20, 8:30 a.m., at Red’s Diner, Lewistown

Middle Creek: Not meeting in November

North Branch: Not meeting in November

Tulpehocken: Nov. 6, 10:00 a.m., St. John’s, Danville

West Branch: Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m., Messiah, S. Williamsport

SYNOD STAFF

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

Rev. Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission
prcmiller@uss-elca.org

Brenda Krouse, Office Manager
Brenda@uss-elca.org

Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications
news@uss-elca.org

The bishop and assistant like to make Sunday and other congregational visits. Here is the schedule:

November 4: Bishop at Follmer Parish. Pastor Miller at Good Shepherd, Berwick.

November 11: Bishop at Himmels, Rebuck. Pastor Miller at Zion, Turbotville.

November 18: Bishop on vacation. Pastor Miller at Sharon, Selingrove.

November 25: Bishop at Holy Communion, Yeagertown.

CONFERENCE DEANS

Rev. Erwin Roux, Buffalo Valley
zionlc39@windstream.net

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

Rev. Stina Schaeffer, Middle Creek
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Rev. John Koons, North Branch
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Rev. Andrew Weaver, Tulpehocken
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Rev. Theodore Cockley, West Branch
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Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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November 4, 2018: Luther Rose Lectures
Dr. Vincent Evener, Instructor in Reformation and Luther Studies at United Lutheran Seminary, will present the 2018 Luther Rose Lecture at Palm Lutheran Church, Palmyra. It will be from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Evener will speak on Luther, Mysticism, and the Social Order.

November 5, 2018: LARC Day of Dialog
As part of our 1993 covenant among Lutherans, Anglicans, & Roman Catholics (LARC), the Upper Susquehanna Synod participates in an annual Day of Dialogue with the Dioceses of Harrisburg (RC) and Central Pennsylvania (Episcopal) and the Lower Susquehanna Synod. This year’s Day of Dialog will take place on Monday, November 5, 9:00-3:00, at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg, with the theme A Christian Response to Violence. This event is open to all. Registration information and a flyer is available here: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-LARC-Registration-form.pdf

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=a07ef772o1za50d4803&oeseq=&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.

November 26, 2018: Deadline for Seafarer Bags
This is our 8th year of providing Christmas-at-Sea gift sacks for ships’ crews that come into East Coast ports during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The synod invites congregations and individuals to join together in collecting "Christmas-at-Sea" Gift Bags for seafarers this Christmas through the Seafarers and International House (SIH) in New York City (http://www.sihnyc.org/). Plastic gift sacks, with instructions, are available at the Synod Office. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH BAG! Please make sure you follow the instructions exactly. Substitute items should not be included. This year we are also appealing for homemade cookies or brownies, packed in tins. Inexpensive tins, though not necessarily Christmas-themed, are available at the big "Community Aid" store next to Walmart on “the strip” (Routes US 11/15) just north of Selinsgrove. Deadline for turning in both gift sacks and cookie tins is November 26. We encourage congregations to bring their filled Seafarer’s Bags to
the synod office as soon as they are ready. With the volume of bags expected, please do not wait until the last minute.

**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/](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.

**December 8, 2018: Holiday Breakfast**
Diakon’s Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village and Camp Mount Luther are teaming up to provide a fun morning of food, fellowship, and Christmas crafts and games on Saturday, December 8, 2017. The breakfast will feature an appearance and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, food, and craft stations. Space is limited. Call Gretchen at 570-523-4285 to RSVP. The event will be from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common Building. For more information and a flyer to help publicize this event to your friends, visit [https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017-PRINT.pdf](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017-PRINT.pdf)

**December 30, 2018: CML Summer Brochure Release Party**
Camp Mount Luther is hosting a new event this year for everyone to learn about their Summer 2019 programs. Everyone, but most especially campers, parents, alumni staff, and potential campers and families are invited to come to this new, exciting winter camp event! It will be held on Sunday, December 30, 2018, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Center. Celebrate the holidays and meet up with camp friends to do crafts, games, singing, eating, and more. Members of the 2018 Summer Staff will lead this program! While the kids are playing with the camp staff, the annual CAMPPERSON MEETING will be at 3:00 p.m. A camperson is a liaison between camp and your congregations. They are our ambassadors, regularly promoting camp news. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more about Mount Luther! At 3:30, details will be released for everyone about Summer 2019’s schedule and theme. You can get your own copy of the summer brochure and start making plans. You won’t want to miss it! Camel Bucks for the camp store will be given to those who attend this event. Campersons will get Camel Bucks for all those who attend from their congregation!

**February 8-9, 2019: GROW in the Snow**
Save the date! This year’s synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 8-9, 2019. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year’s retreat is “The Apps on God’s Tablets,” dealing with the Ten Commandments. More details will be available soon. We are also offering a one-day option for those youth and leaders who just want to come on Saturday. Contact Chad Hershberger at chad@campmountluther.org with questions.