Parish Takes First

The Milton Lutheran Parish (Interim Pastor Mark Galbraith) took first place in the church division of the Milton Harvest Festival Parade in September. They received a $100 check and a trophy for their efforts. Many volunteers donated supplies, food, and time. The float featured Jesus, angels and fisherpeople while other members walked alongside the float, handing out candy and flyers inviting folks to attend the parish’s services and community meals. More than 22 volunteers also helped to build the float.

LMI On The Road Again

The Lay Ministry Institute of the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be ON THE ROAD AGAIN early in 2019 with a Synod-wide Bible Study with Ray Vander Laan. This will be an opportunity to participate in a short term (4-6 weeks) with people in your own conference and get excited about the scriptures. Since 1998 Vander Laan has taken over 10,000 people to Israel, Turkey and Egypt to study the Bible in the places it was written. The videos of these trips open up the geography, culture and history of the people while giving new insights into the Biblical Text. Following the video presentation (55 minutes) there will be a time of discussion and fellowship. Can you imagine hundreds of people across the synod studying the Bible at the same time? Watch for the details and plan to be part of this life changing, church energizing adventure.

East Kish Holds Annual Picnic

A Mifflin County parish held their annual picnic in late August in Bender Park in Reedsville. The East Kishacoquillas Lutheran Parish (Interim Pastor David Pennebaker) is made up of St. John’s, Siglerville, and St. Paul’s, Milroy.

Each year they gather at the park for a service and picnic. This year, 48 people gathered. A three-piece band provide the music for hymns sung during the service.

At the conclusion of the service, a buffet style meal featuring fried chicken and covered dishes was served. The band played gospel songs during the afternoon and older children played games. At the event’s conclusion, a white elephant auction generated funding to cover the rental fee and cost of the chicken, which was purchased from a local vendor. Members gave thanks for their many blessings and the close of the summer season.
Himmel’s Volunteers with TEAMeffort

Himmel’s, Rebuck (Pastor Jane Compton) recently sent its youth, adults, and friends to Brunswick, GA, to volunteer with TEAMeffort. The theme for this year’s camp was “Cast Your Nets.”

The group cast their nets by doing outdoor work for a family in need. A deck was rebuilt and painted, power washing and weeding was also done. The team made wonderful friends on this mission, still keeping in touch with the family and a very special person they met at their home base! They all say “God is good!”

The GodSquad is already prepping for their next mission trip to Gatlinburg, TN. Anyone interested in more information about the trip and joining the group next year can contact Coordinator Sarah Snyder at 570-863-8612.

Participants included: Autumn, Crystal, Dillon & Kayla Bohner; Cassandra, Cody, Rachel, Sarah & Tim Snyder; Kylie Troutman; Wes Long; Alex Schreffler; Haley Seedor; Sadie Walshaw; Emily Shepley; Arletta & Bill Ney. Pictured with the group is the Moon Family on the 'work in progress’ deck.

Up and Down the Valleys

St. Peter’s, Grovania had a summer festival in July featuring homemade soups, BBQ, hotdogs, cake and ice cream. They have both an eat-in area with waitresses and many folks come for take outs! They sell their soups and ice cream by the quart. This year, they sold out of three of the five ice creams. It is a great time when everyone comes together to pitch in to help and they get to visit with many of their neighbors!

Beaver, Beaver Springs (Interim Pastor Matthew Schuster) is planning a Fall Fest at the church on Sunday, October 21. They have a hayride, fun activities, and a chili cookoff.

Rev. Elizabeth Polanzke, ELCA Regional Gift Planner, resigned as of August 24. She was gift planner for 3 ½ years and worked with individuals and congregations to raise $17 million in deferred and current gifts for ministries of the church. Polanzke accepted a position with the York County Bar Foundation as the Director of Development to help build up a legacy that will provide legal support to financially challenged individuals.

At their meeting in September, Synod Council approved a roster status change for Deacon Sandra Grier to retired. In addition, they approved Rev. A. Elisabeth Aurand to go on-leave-from call following her resignation as pastor of St. Luke, Williamsport. Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone is now the interim pastor of St. Luke.

Rev. Robert Kerchoff has resigned as interim at St. Peter, Columbia Hill, and will be transferred to the roster of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Rev. Ray Jones, a retired pastor and resident at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village in Lewisburg, died on August 30, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Shirley. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 1 at Faith, Lewisburg.
Books Available
Thanks to a generous gift from the Frantz family, Virginia’s religious library is now in the lobby at the synod office. Knowing how much Virginia loved to learn, these books, DVD, VHS tapes, and Sunday School materials are now available to other learners for a simple donation per book. All donations from these resources will be designated for future continuing education events that the synod hosts.

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. A freewill offering will also be collected. You are encouraged to bring a friend! 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: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018-Womens-Retreat-Flyer.pdf

October 20, 2018: Keep and Till Headwaters Conference
Keep & Till is hosting their Headwaters Rural and Agrarian Conference on October 20 at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. One of the speakers will be Matt Lenahan, who manages Wittel Farm in Lancaster and an ordained Lutheran. More information is forthcoming. Sam Chamelin, who was presenter at May’s Bishop Retreat, is one of the organizers.

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.

October 25, 2018: Karl Vaters’ Presentation
Karl Vaters, pastor of the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship and founder of the New Small Church and the New Small Church Blog, will be in our synod on October 25. He will be doing a presentation, similar to our annual Bishop’s Day gathering, during the day. It will be held at Faith Lutheran, Lewisburg, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This session is geared for rostered church leaders (but lay leaders are welcome). Registration fee of $25.00 per person includes lunch. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Then, Vaters will offer a
second presentation in the evening from 6:00-8:30, also at Faith, Lewisburg. This session is open to all. The registration fee for the evening session is $10.00 per person. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Send registrations to: The Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Deadline to register is Monday, October 15th. A flyer and registration form are available here: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Karl-Vaters-Flyer-and-Registration.docx

October 29–November 2, 2018: EQ-HR Workshop
EQ-HR Center is sponsoring an intensive four or five-day session designed to enable participants to learn about, build and practice emotional intelligence skills in a small group setting. The program provides the space for faith based leaders to openly explore their relationships with self, their communities and congregations, and experiment with new behaviors. Participants will receive multiple level feedback: in session coaching from experienced facilitators, 360 degree ESCI Analysis, group feedback, and partner feedback. As group life unfolds, participants give and receive feedback regarding the impact they have on others in the group. Participants will learn both inter-personal and intra-group communication skills. The event will take place at the Bishop Clagget Center in Adamstown, MD. Cost is $695 for early bird tuition, $750 regular, $199 ESCI Assessment (required) and $550 for lodging and meals. Payment plans are available. More information at https://www.eqhr.org/registration/5-day-maryland-2018.

November 2, 2018: Evening at Shade Mountain to Benefit Mount Luther
Come to Shade Mountain Winery to share fellowship, entertainment, and enjoy locally produced wine, all to benefit Camp Mount Luther. The event runs from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Jason Yoder, a local musician who sings blues and acoustic music. The menu will include heavy appetizers, dessert, and one glass of wine per person. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please make your reservations with the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, a portion of the proceeds will be given to Mount Luther. We ask all participants to make a donation to the camp that evening, equal or greater to the food and entertainment provided. Download a flyer/bulletin insert here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018-Shade-Mountain-Winery-Flyer.pdf

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&oseq=&ch=](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef772o1za50d4803&oseq=&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/](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.

**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 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 **CAMPERSON 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.
Family Camp Was a Blast!

Submitted by Malea Haflett

This summer was our third year attending CML’s family camp, and each year we look forward to the first week in July when we go to camp to spend time together in God’s beautiful creation.

We know the routine of worshipping and singing, playing and relaxing, feasting and sleeping! My husband, Matt, is always so surprised how much rest he is able to get during those three nights in the A-frame cabin. We both agree that we leave feeling rejuvenated, especially in spirit! My daughter agrees.

“I loved everything about frisbee and frisbee golf! And, I saw God at work during our GROW time because everyone was really nice and kept encouraging each other,” Lilia, 10, said.

“My favorite part about camp was when we first got there. I was really excited, and I knew I was going to have a good time,” my son, Dex, 7, said.

This year, we also left camp inspired to daily practice FAITH5™, which was a new thing the camp introduced in 2018. This time together has been a terrific blessing, and thus far we haven’t missed a night! It gets everyone talking, and currently we’re reading through the Gospel of John.

Finally, we’ve made a Family Camp tradition to take a nighttime hike! It’s fun to get our flashlights and venture out in the dark. We stop by the nurse’s station to see if Aunt Sharon can join us. This year we walked to the pond. We stood on the dock, and the kids shined their flashlights into the pond, finding fish and gigantic spider webs. For a moment, we turned off our lights and got really quiet. We couldn’t miss the funny, deep bellowing sound of the bullfrogs, but my favorite part was seeing the stars in the sky and the fireflies twinkling in the trees. I was reminded that even in darkness, God’s light shines around us...awesome God, awesome love!

Women Invited for Fall Retreat

All local women are invited to be participants at the Fall Women’s Retreat and Cluster Gatherings, sponsored by camp and the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization. The 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. 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. A freewill offering will also be collected. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Registration deadline is October 12. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587 or e-mail cml@campmountluther.org. A registration form is on our website.

Make Your Reservation for an Evening at Shade Mountain

In less than a month, we’ll have our annual Evening at Shade Mountain Winery. The night is one of fellowship, entertainment, and of course, locally produced wine. Proceeds that night go to our annual fund. The event runs on November 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Jason Yoder, a local musician who sings blues and acoustic music. The menu will include heavy appetizers, dessert, and one glass of wine per person. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please make your reservations with the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, a portion of the proceeds will be given to Mount Luther. We ask all participants to make a donation to the camp that evening, equal or greater to the food and entertainment provided. A flyer for this event is available on our website.
NEW!!!
Summer Brochure Release Party Set

Sunday, December 30, 2018
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Evergreen Center at Mount Luther

Everyone, but most especially campers, parents, alumni staff, and potential campers and families are invited to come to a new, exciting winter camp event! 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 staff, we’ll have our annual CAMPERSON MEETING 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, we’ll release details 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!

Straight From the Camel's Mouth
By Kyros T. Camel

We had another successful Whoopie Pie stand at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival in late September. It was a nice day weather-wise and we were able to raise about over $500 for the campership fund. Thanks to all those who donated pies, staffed the stand, and contributed in any way to our efforts.

Our summer staff continued a tradition of giving money towards a gift to camp. The staff gave $770 towards a new Burma Bridge for the ropes course. A gift from the closing of St. Matthew’s Lutheran, Williamsport, will supplement the gift so this project can be completed this spring in time for next year’s summer camp!

As we get closer to Christmas, you may get some catalogs to do your shopping. Our Care of Creation and Environmental Sustainability Committee continues to share tips in the coming months on how you can be “more green.” Catalogs are great if they are from companies you like to place orders. But if you are getting catalogs from companies you don’t ever buy from, call them and tell them to take you off their list.

Thrivent Financial has a program geared toward helping members engage in service projects in their communities. Members are encouraged to think about an unmet need in your community (for instance, at camp) and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including a promotional banner, invitations, thank you cards, T-shirts, and a $250 Community Impact Card that you can use as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials. All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. For more information on this program, visit https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/. If you'd like to do an action team for camp, contact chad@campmountluther.org.