NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS

- The latest prayer petitions by the Upper Susquehanna Synod Liberia Committee are available. Please use them in your congregation to lift up our companion synod program; for example, include them in your intercessory prayers, print them in your bulletin or newsletter. https://www.uss-elca.org/liberian-prayers-september-december-2018/

- ELCA Advocacy released a significant new ELCA votes resource. It focuses on the barriers to voting for people without permanent addresses, which includes people who are homeless, previously incarcerated and more. You can access it here: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Voter%20guidelines%20Homeless%202018%20Final.pdf

- Don’t leave money on the table – Portico plan members and spouses with ELCA-Primary health benefits have until November 30 to complete Portico’s 2018 Live Well Challenge and earn up to $400 wellness dollars. These wellness dollars help you pay for eligible out-of-pocket medical, mental health, and dental costs. Complete Your Biometric Screening by November 30 and Earn $200. A biometric screening gives you the facts about your health strengths and risks, so that you can discuss potential concerns with your doctor and make the right choices for you. Schedule an appointment at one of 2,200 Quest Patient Service Centers for your screening (by November 30), or have your doctor gather your information and submit a form to Quest (by November 15). Save or Implement a Retirement Plan With Your Spouse by Nov. 30: Earn $200 Each. Portico’s Retirement Planning Tool is designed to help you create a customized retirement savings plan by combining information in our system with information you provide. Annually, it helps you determine if adjustments are needed, like increasing your savings, reallocating assets, or changing your planned retirement date. Learn more at www.PorticoBenefits.org/LiveWell.

- Financial wellness is a vital part of a healthy life. Ministers who are in a financially sound position experience greater satisfaction in their work and their relationships, and are more able to freely serve the church and its mission without being encumbered by financial anxiety. Two Savings Matching programs share financial resources with rostered ministers. These programs match rostered ministers’ contributions to a dedicated emergency savings account and/or increased contributions to their ELCA retirement plan accounts. Find out more at www.resourcefulservants.org.

MILESTONES

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, Williamsport, as of September 1. Most recently, he was Director of Spiritual Life and Community Service at Lycoming College. Prior to his college ministry, he was pastor of First United Methodist Church in Jersey Shore.

Rev. Robert Kerchoff has resigned as interim at St. Peter, Columbia Hill and been 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. Arrangements for a memorial service are pending.

With thanks to God for their ministry, we celebrate with these children of God the anniversaries of their ordination or consecration (note: anniversary years listed are in multiples of five only):

Kenneth Longfield (10/10/1973) retired
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
Updated September 30, 2018

Seeking Candidates/Interviewing
• Messiah, Mifflintown
• St. John, Belleville
• St. John, Montgomery
• St. Mark’s, Williamsport

Served by Interim/Preparing Profiles
• Beaver, Beaver Springs
• Messiah, New Berlin
• Milton Lutheran Parish (intentional interim)
• St. John, Northumberland

Currently Served by Interim Pastor
• Christ, Buckhorn/St. Paul, Danville
• East Kish Parish
• Faith, Lewisburg
• Faith, Richfield
• Grace, Point Township
• Pine Street, Danville
• Port Royal Parish
• St. James, Jersey Shore
• St. Luke, Williamsport
• Trinity, Oak Grove
• Trinity, Point Township
• Trinity, Shamokin
• Zion, Herndon

Geisinger Medical Center (Danville) is currently searching for qualified spiritual leaders interested in providing consistent, compassionate spiritual support to patients, families, and staff members. The Flex Chaplain position is per diem, with expectations of serving at least one shift per month (may be overnight). If interesting work in an interfaith hospital environment is appealing to you, please visit the Geisinger website and look for Flex Chaplain Associate in the employment listings for job description and requirements. Questions can be directed to Rev. Vicki Reeser, Manager of Spiritual Care at GMC either by phone: 570-214-6427 or email: vreeser@geisinger.edu.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: Oct. 4, 9:00 a.m., Synod Office; Lectionary study on Oct 14, 10:00 am, Faith, Lewisburg

Juniata Valley: Nov. 15, 10:00 a.m., Evangelical, Reedsville; Breakfast on Oct. 18, 8:30 a.m., at JP’s Pancake House, Mifflintown

Middle Creek: Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m., St. John, Mt. Plea. Mills

North Branch: Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg

Tulpehocken: Oct. 2, 10:00 a.m., Grace, Shamokin

West Branch: Oct. 9, 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:

October 7: Bishop at St. Peter, Columbia Hill.

October 14: Bishop at St. John, Unityville. Pastor Miller at St. John, Jersey Shore.

October 21: Bishop at Christ United, Catawissa.

October 28: Bishop at Evangelical, Reedsville. Pastor Miller at St. Peter, Columbia Hill.

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

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

Rev. Stina Schaeffer, Middle Creek
stinaschaeffer@gmail.com

Rev. John Koons, North Branch
revjrk@hotmail.com

Rev. Andrew Weaver, Tulpehocken
airweaver@ptd.net

Rev. Theodore Cockley, West Branch
tcockley@comcast.net

Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
PO Box 36
Lewisburg, PA  17837
Phone: 570-524-9778
Fax: 570-524-9757
Web:  www.uss-elca.org
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The chaplains of the Pastoral Care ministries of Riverwoods Senior Living, Lewisburg, Pa and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village CCRC, Lewisburg, Pa recognize your ministry to our communities and are greatly appreciative of the love that you give to our residents. In thanks and praise for your commitment to sharing God’s love, we are celebrating October as Clergy Appreciation Month with a Clergy Appreciation Breakfast.

All clergy and members of ministry in our communities are invited to a Clergy Appreciation Breakfast on **October 25, 2018 at 9 a.m.** on the campus of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Lewisburg, PA. The breakfast will be an informal time of food and fellowship amongst local clergy and members of ministry. It will provide everyone with an opportunity to connect with other workers of the harvest.

The Village Common building on the western side of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village’s campus off of Reitz Boulevard will be the site of the breakfast.

The address of the Village Common building is:

**6 E. Tressler Boulevard, Lewisburg, Pa 17837**

We certainly hope you will be able to join us for this time of fellowship celebrating our shared ministry with the residents of Riverwoods Senior Living and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village.

Please R.S.V.P. by email or phone message to Reverend Kate Morse or Reverend Marian K. Anderson by **October 15, 2018** to be included in the count for breakfast.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Reverend Kate Morse  
Riverwoods Senior Living  
Kate.Morse@AlbrightCare.org  
570-522-6194

Reverend Marian K. Anderson  
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village  
anndersonm@diakon.org  
570-523-4254
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 in 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 Upper Susquehanna Synod studying the Bible at the same time? Watch for the details and plan to be part of this life changing, church energizing adventure in the new year.

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.

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/.

October 4, 2018: Discipleship Workshop
Go … make disciples of all nations …
In a time of declining membership and attendance at worship we struggle to achieve Jesus’ Great Commission. What does it mean to "make disciples" today? At this workshop, on October 4, 2018, from 10:00-2:00 at Messiah, South Williamsport, Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop, will help us to
- Share best practices for discipleship that maintains or increases attendance
- Learn about resources for discipleship

Register now at this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discipleship-workshop-tickets-49397155221 or call Brenda in the synod office (570-524-9778). Lunch will be provided by Messiah Lutheran Church.

October 6 and 20, 2018: Peer Ministry for Youth Training
On October 6 & 20, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg, will host Peer Ministry for Youth Training. Rev. Dr. Kerry Aucker, Certified Peer Minister Trainer, leads this 2 day session to enable 7th thru 12th graders to learn how to overcome barriers that separate people of diverse populations from living, working and ministering together. The training will be held at the church at 9 St. Luke’s Way, Bloomsburg PA 17815. Class size is limited. Call 570-784-5035 to register. Cost is $15. For a flyer/bulletin insert, click here: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Peer-Ministry-b.insert-2018.docx

October 7-13, 2018: Disaster Recovery Work Trip
The Susquehanna Interfaith Disaster Response Network fall work trip will take place October 7-13. Our work team will go to Washington, North Carolina, to help with rebuilding after Hurricane Matthew. The
Susquehanna Interfaith Disaster Response Network is an effort by the Presbytery of Northumberland and the Upper Susquehanna Synod to establish a system for addressing disasters at home and abroad. Formal establishment of the network is planned to take place in September when our synod council and the presbytery will each vote on a resolution. We hope that this network will grow to include other denominations as well. If you are interested in participating in disaster recovery, contact Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission: prcmiller@uss-elca.org.

October 8-12, 2018: Appreciative Inquiry and Transition Ministry
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. Special rate for Upper Susquehanna Synod leaders: $550 plus room and meals ($585 residential, $100 commuter). The synod will offer financial assistance to meet the cost of this workshop. To learn about the Appreciative Way check out www.appreciativeway.com. To register, click here: https://www.appreciativeway.com/registration/reg.cfm?prog=Halifax-Oct-18. USS Synod leaders leave the Discount Option “None” and put “HebSpx18” in the Discount Source box to receive a $200 discount per person. Contact Craig Miller for any questions about this event or for financial assistance. Here is a flyer for the event: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Halifax-Oct-18.pdf

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 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. A freewill offering will also be collected. 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: 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&oeseq=&c=&ch](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef6x4q4i42dab86d&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. 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


**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](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](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 Luthers, 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 Keeler 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](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](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=)

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/](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.