The deadlines have passed for the following forms to be turned in:
- Mission Intent Forms
- Parochial Reports
- Pastor’s Report to the Bishop
- Congregation Leaders’ Form
If you have not returned these forms, please do so ASAP!

ELCA’s stewardCast 2019 will be held on Saturday March 9, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon CST. As in the past three years, there will be a 90-minute webcast on stewardship topics to enhance vitality in your congregations. The purpose is to thank, inform, teach, inspire and connect steward leaders with fresh perspectives, practices and skills that address the challenges and issues faced today. On the morning of March 9, simply go to http://www.elca.org/stewardship and click on the widget titled stewardCast2019. You will be connected immediately. Each participant will be given an opportunity to submit questions through the chat feature and to receive resources after the event. If you have any questions, please contact Keith.Mundy@elca.org or Neil.Bullock@elca.org.

Intentional Interim Ministry training will take place March 18-22, 2019. This will be the fourth annual training cycle offered by the Northeastern Ohio Synod in conjunction with the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors (NALIP). There are convenient airport options, full meal plan, and reduced-rate hotel accommodations available. For more information, visit https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/registration-packet-NALIP-2019.pdf

Continuing Ed Opportunity- Learning Retreats for Church Leaders: http://www.leadingwell.net/learning-retreats

UCC Boundary Training Opportunities: https://pccucc.org/lifelong-learning/


March’s Stewardship Toolkit from the Lower Susquehanna Synod is available: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019_03_March_Stewardship_Kit_ELCA.docx

Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest has two annual intensives in May and June. Here is information: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Intensive-2019.pdf

Lower Susquehanna Synod Boundary Training workshops will be offered February 28 in York (http://tinyurl.com/vxhmmlzt) and April 30 in Chambersburg (http://tinyurl.com/y42mtgx0)
**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**
*(Updated February 19, 2019)*

**Seeking Candidates/Interviewing**
- Messiah, Mifflintown
- Milton Lutheran Parish (intentional interim now)
- Port Royal Parish
- St. John, Montgomery
- St. Mark, Williamsport

**Served by Interim/Preparing Profiles**
- Beaver, Beaver Springs
- Messiah, New Berlin
- Pine Street, Danville
- St. John, Delaware Run
- St. John, Northumberland
- St. Luke, Williamsport

**Currently Served by Interim Pastor**
- Christ, Buckhorn/St. Paul, Danville
- East Kish Parish
- Faith, Lewisburg
- Faith, Richfield
- Grace, Point Township
- St. James, Jersey Shore
- Trinity, Oak Grove
- Trinity, Point Township
- Trinity, Shamokin
- Zion, Herndon

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**CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

**Buffalo Valley:** Mar. 7, 9:00 a.m., St. John, Pottsgrove; Lectionary study on Feb. 19, 10:00 a.m., Faith, Lewisburg.

**Juniata Valley:** Breakfast on April 18, 8:30 a.m., at Red’s Diner, Lewistown.

**Middle Creek:** Mar. 12, 10:00 a.m., TBA

**North Branch:** Mar. 27, 9:30 a.m. St. Luke, Bloomsburg.

**Tulpehocken:** Mar. 5, 10:00 a.m., Trinity, Pt. Twp.

**West Branch:** Mar. 12, 9:30 a.m., Messiah, S. Williamsport.

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**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:*

**March 3:** Bishop Conference of Bishops. Pastor Miller on vacation.

**March 6:** Bishop Collins at Messiah, Mifflintown for Juniata County Ash Wednesday Service.

**March 17:** Bishop at Grace, Sunbury. Pastor Miller at Christ & White, Middleburg.

**March 24:** Bishop at Grace, Sunbury. Pastor Miller at Trinity, Shamokin.

**March 31:** Bishop at Grace, Berwick. Pastor Miller at Grace, Sunbury.

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**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

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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
Available from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center and the ELCA

After more than a year in development, the Ecumenical Stewardship Center (ESC), an organization of twenty denominations in the United States and Canada, has released Generosity 365 for 2019. Developed by a team of practitioners and writers from several denominations, this annual collection of resources provides congregations and synods with a year-round approach, theme materials for a financial response and access to a digital library of past stewardship publications and resources. The primary ELCA representative on this project is Rev. Erika Uthe, DEM for Southeastern Iowa Synod.

Generosity 365 includes:
† A quarterly electronic magazine entitled Giving. Articles focus on current topics for congregations including missional perspectives, education, communication, giving, new practices and reaching future generations. Each issue is about forty pages.
† Theme material for 2019 is entitled Devoted to Generosity. There are more than 230 pages that focus on scripture, youth/adult studies, storytelling, preaching, generational approaches, letters, electronic giving, website/social media templates, worship resources and children’s stories. There are both spring and fall stewardship emphases.
† A digital stewardship library provides access to ESC resources curated over the last twenty years. This includes theme materials, response methods and a few videos from recent ESC conferences.

These resources are available from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center at www.stewardshipresources.org.

The cost is $25 for each resource. This includes four issues of Giving Magazine.

A limited number of each resource above is available from the ELCA to individual congregations and synods at no cost. Simply send a request to https://goo.gl/forms/rFYsyORRrYhqtRF83

As a way to track the effectiveness of these resources, we ask all those receive free materials to provide contact information so we can collect data and stories about how Generosity 365 grows joyful stewards in your setting. Please indicate clearly which of the resources above your congregation would like to receive. An electronic copy of the latest issue of Giving Magazine and/or Devoted to Generosity will be sent to you within a week. For the Digital Stewardship Library, a unique code for specific use will be provided.

We look forward to hearing how a spirit of generosity will transform your congregation. If you have questions, please contact Neil.Bullock@elca.org or at 773-380-2884.
Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

Conference Assembly Schedule
All voting members to Synod Assembly are expected to attend their conference assembly.
- Buffalo Valley: Sunday, April 7, 2:00 PM, Zion, Turbotville
- Juniata Valley: Sunday, March 31, 6:00 PM, Trinity, McAlisterville
- Middle Creek: Sunday, March 31, 5:00 PM, Salem, Selinsgrove
- North Branch: Sunday, March 31, 2:00 PM, Pine Street, Danville
- Tulpehocken: Sunday, April 7, 1:00 PM, Grace, Shamokin
- West Branch: Sunday, March 31, 3:00 PM, Messiah, South Williamsport

Musicians Wanted
Messiah, South Williamsport, is planning to start a monthly contemporary service, called Renew, on the first Saturday of each month, beginning March 2 at 4:00 p.m. They are also beginning a monthly dinner church that will meet the 3rd Sunday of each month and will be called Messiah’s Table. They have several job opportunities for musicians as part of the praise team for the Renew service that they need to fill as soon as possible. Guitarist, pianists, drummers, and anyone else interested in leading contemporary music and traditional hymns with different instrumentation would be welcome. If interest, contact the church office at 570-326-9171. They are paid positions.

Youth Director Sought
St. Luke, Williamsport, is looking for a Youth Director for approximately 12 hours a week. The Youth Director is responsible for nurturing youth and their families to enact the mission of St. Luke to be "the hands and feet of Christ." This person will work with youth in 7-12 grade (junior and senior high school) and will foster a faithful, safe and supportive environment while executing monthly gatherings, service opportunities, and mission trips that are in keeping with the church's mission. For a more detailed job description and/or application please contact Sarah Young, office manager, at info@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net or 570-323-7309. St. Luke Lutheran/Williamsport is located at 1400 Market St. Williamsport, PA 17701.

Handbells Wanted
Sharon, Selinsgrove is looking for a set of used handbells. If you have any, contact Judd Williams, choir director at 570-847-2021.

Church Organists Wanted
Christ's United, Millmont, is looking for a church organist/choir director for one service per Sunday. Choir practice is one Sunday per month following the worship service. Occasional extra services. Pay dependent on experience and education. They have a Rodgers Cambridge 785 Organ. For more information, call Gary at (570) 768-2781.

Zion, Herndon, is looking for an organist/pianist. If you are interested, please call the church at 570-758-1575.

Attention Married Couples
Time is running out to sign up for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! Don't delay--remember that because Marriage Encounter is celebrating 50 years of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, they are offering 50 percent off on all registration fees for 2019! Learn how to create more joy and intimacy in your marriage by attending a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! The 2019 Northeast US spring Weekends are: April 5-7, 2019 at the lovely Country Inn & Suites just off of Hwy 99 in State College and April 26-28, 2019 at the newly-remodeled Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. We are also taking
reservations for our fall weekends: **October 11-13, 2019** at the Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry in Cranberry Township, PA, and **November 1-3, 2019** at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, MA. Please go to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org), click on "view all weekends" and select the weekend of your choice to see the very reasonable, group-rate cost for that weekend. Two nights lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included, and financial assistance is available for those in need. Simply fill out the form, and complete your registration with a credit card, or you may choose the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or 724-325-3166. Act TODAY while there are still openings!

**March 3, 2019: Mount Luther Sunday**

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be recognized as “Mount Luther Sunday” to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on this day, March 3, 2019. Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that is done in local Lutheran congregations. The camp asks that congregations promote the camp on that Sunday or designate another Sunday this spring to do so. Ways to promote the camp include bulletin inserts to share with congregation members, Temple Talks, camper testimonials, bulletin board displays, special camp music during Sunday school and church services, as well as special offering being collected. Ideas are available here:


**March 3, 2019: Buffalo Valley Conference Lay School of Theology**

This event will be from 2:00-5:30 p.m. at Christ’s, Lewisburg, and will feature workshops and educational opportunities. The conference extends an invitation to all to participate in this day of learning and conversation. Continuing Ed contact hours are available. To see the schedule and sessions, click here: [https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/BV-Lay-School.pdf](https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/BV-Lay-School.pdf). You may direct further inquiries to Rev. John Yost, 570-837-9232, prjohnyost@gmail.com. Freewill offering for refreshment costs. Advanced registration is helpful but not necessary. Call 570-837-9232 or 570-524-9778.

**March 5, 2019: Volunteer Chaplain Assistant Training**

UPMC Susquehanna’s Pastoral Care Department announces their Volunteer Chaplain Assistant Training on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the UPMC Sunbury Hospital in the ground floor conference room (use main entrance, take elevator to ground floor). Topics include: UPMC Susquehanna’s mission, the structure of a pastoral patient visit, assessing a patient’s spiritual needs, patient-centered listening, and when to pray with a patient. Following the training, Volunteer Chaplain Assistants will be scheduled to shadow with their staff chaplains. If you or someone you know would enjoy being a UPMC Susquehanna VCA please contact JoAnn Welch at 570-546-4128 by February 26, 2019, at welchja2@upmc.edu.

**March 5, 2019: Webinar on Non-Profit Rights to Engage in Faith-Based Advocacy**

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania and United Methodist Advocacy are co-sponsoring a webinar on March 5 to help congregations and faith-based non-profits in Pennsylvania understand their right to engage in advocacy. The webinar includes a presentation from noon-1 p.m. and will continue till 1:30 for questions. It is free to participants, but registration is required. Click here to register: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6494308707192223234](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6494308707192223234). Registrants will receive follow-up materials, including slides to reference. Join us as we explore options to make you more confident in your advocacy. In this webinar, prepared and presented by attorneys at Alliance for Justice, we’ll discuss:

- The ways in which congregations and faith-based organizations can maximize their advocacy work
Examples of faith-based lobbying, including ballot measure work  
Non-lobbying advocacy, including coalition-building  
Election-year activities for 501(c)(3) organizations.

**March 13-14, 2019: Camp Mount Luther Helped by Raise the Region**
Camp Mount Luther is participating in “Raise the Region” on March 13-14, 2019. The event, coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, helps the community support local nonprofit organizations’ fundraising efforts. FCFP, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, will be launching the 30-hour fundraising event on March 13 and 14, 2019, starting at 6:00 p.m. on March 13 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on March 14. Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships has donated money that will be used to stretch a portion of donations made to pre-registered nonprofits. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded throughout the entire event. This program is designed to help organizations, like Camp Mount Luther, kick off 2019 fundraising campaigns and increase donor bases. Proceeds from this event will go to camp’s Annual Fund, unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause.

1. On March 13 and 14, donors will visit www raisetheregion org from a computer, smart phone, iPad, etc. to learn more about the nonprofits participating and how their work is impacting our community.
2. You can then make an online donation to support one or more of those nonprofit organizations on the Raise the Region website. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website.
3. At the end of the donation period, a pro-rated match per gift will be determined and the Community Foundation will send checks to all participating nonprofits with the amount raised, the pro-rated match, and any EXTRA money from prizes awarded throughout the day.

Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for six years and has garnered about $82,000 in donations during this event. The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!

**March 15, 2019: Day of Remembrance Essay Deadline**
The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council supports the work of Days of Remembrance, a member of the Association of Holocaust Organizations. Synod Council encourages congregations to publicize the organization’s essay contest, which has a deadline of March 15, 2019. Go to www.daysofremembrance.org/essay-contest for more information. Awards will be announced in early May. There are financial prizes.

**March 18, 2019: Meeting on Disaster Response Work Trip**
A disaster response work trip to North Carolina will take place on May 19-25, 2019. A planning meeting for anyone interested in attending will take place March 18 at First Presbyterian Church in Milton. Click here for a flyer/more information: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Poster.pdf

**March 21, 2018: LARC Lunch**
Lutheran Anglican and Roman Catholic representatives will hold the next LARC Lunch on Thursday, March 21, at that Harrisburg Diocesan Center (4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA). RSVP by noon on Friday, March 15.

**April 5-7, 2019: New Beginnings #2**
“New Beginnings” is a unique ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA that shares the love of Christ with the middle school-aged (grades 6-8) youth of today. Because of the synod and camp’s partnership with the diocese, Lutheran youth are welcome and encouraged to attend. Throughout the retreat weekend, the high school youth will minister to the middle school youth. “New Beginnings” speaks, listens, and challenges middle school youth to be positive about themselves, their friends, families and their communities, in a critical time in their lives. This ministry reminds them that we are all children of God,
we are special, we are loved, and there is nothing that we cannot overcome with Christ. The “New Beginnings” check-in begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 5th and continues through a special Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday the 7th. (The entire weekend concludes around 12 noon). The event is held at Camp Mount Luther. Activities include a series of songs, skits, movie clips, and small group discussions. Topics such as God’s love, prayer, self, friends, parents, siblings, and school is explored with talks introduced by the high school youth and adult members of the team. Cost is $100.00 per participant! That includes housing in cabins with other youth, all meals, a t-shirt and an entire weekend of activities! To register, visit https://tinyurl.com/y78dlxy9. Registration deadline is March 29, 2019. After your registration has been sent in and accepted, you will receive a few additional forms to fill out along with a packing list for the weekend. Please feel free to email or call Mary Ellen Kilp or Theda Tallman at cpayouthcom@gmail.com or 717-475-2785 with questions. Here is a flyer for the event: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/New-Beginnings-1-Flyer-002.docx

April 16, 2019: Chrism Mass
The annual Chrism Mass with Renewal of Ministry Vows will take place on the Tuesday of Holy Week, April 16, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Camp Mount Luther. Pastors of the Juniata Valley Conference will take leadership of the worship service. Pastors, Deacons, and Authorized Lay Worship Leaders are especially invited to renew vows and recommit to worship leadership. The service will include the blessing of oil, which is used for anointing. All are welcome to attend this service. Lunch will be provided. Please RVSP to the synod office by April 8.

April 23-24, 2019: Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry

April 28, 2019: Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House
Have you ever wanted to see Mount Luther’s site and facilities? Do you miss camp and want to visit in the springtime? Are you interested in coming to camp this summer but want to get more information and see the place first? Well, this is your chance. The Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. You can ask questions, tour camp, and see what it's like to be a camper! First time campers who are not yet registered for the summer and who attend the event can get a discount on their summer registration! To download a flyer for the event, click here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2019-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf

April 30- May 2, 2019: Generosity Transformed
At the Generosity transformed! your mission * your ministry * your money Conference, April 30 – May 2, 2019 in Indianapolis, church and organizational leaders will learn how to energize and revitalize their strategies for faithful generosity by connecting their missions, ministries, and resources. More than a typical workshop-based conference, participants will engage deeply in peer discussion groups and subject-based roundtables to develop practical implementation plans and leave ready and able to help their churches and organizations thrive through transformative practices of faithful generosity. The ELCA is offering a limited number of registration scholarships. Contact Keith Mundy (keith.mundy@elca.org) for information on scholarships and the conference. For more information, visit https://stewardshipresources.org/generosity-transformed-2019/
May 8-10, 2019: Bishop’s Retreat
The annual bishop’s retreat will be held on May 8-10 at Camp Hebron, Halifax, on the topic of forgiveness. Rostered leaders are asked to mark their calendars and plan to attend the retreat. Registration information will be available soon. NOTE: A boundaries training will be held the day before at Camp Hebron for those who need that coursework. If spouses are interested in attending, please let Bishop Collins know.

May 13, 2019: Bishop's Open Golf Classic
The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 13, 2019, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp’s annual fund. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Golf-Tournament-Flyer.pdf. The camp’s golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, door prize sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. Get involved and help our synod’s outdoor ministry!

May 19-20, 2019: Lutheran Days in the Capital
Save the dates! Join Lutherans from around Pennsylvania for inspiration, education and participation — in worship, service and advocacy. We will focus on setting bigger, more welcoming, tables in our lives, our congregations, our communities and our Commonwealth. Bring a friend — or a team — so that we might strive for justice together and all might know how good and pleasant it is to dwell in unity! Although Monday, May 20, will be our traditional Lutheran Day in the Capitol, we will partner in learning, service and fellowship with ecumenical and interfaith partners on Sunday, then gather again in the Capitol on Monday for a joint witness. More details and registration coming soon.

June 14-15, 2019: Synod Assembly
The 2019 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on June 14-15, 2019. Registration materials will arrive in congregations soon. Special attention needs to be made to the meal registrations. Meal tickets will not be available after the late registration date or at the door on the days of the assembly. All reports will again be available online. More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available and will be posted at http://uss-elca.org/assembly. All rostered leaders and voting members from every congregation are expected to attend. Clergy need to write an excuse to the bishop if you cannot attend. This year’s theme will be “On the Way Together: United, Supporting, Serving.”

July 13-20, 2019: Theological Education with Youth
This program, sponsored by United Lutheran Seminary, is open to youth in grades 9-12 (completed as of June 2019). The program will focus on how Lutherans read the Bible and engage in response and dialog about our beliefs and how these beliefs meet the needs of our world. Leadership components will build on how to approach advocacy and practice through the Lutheran lens. Registration and more detailed information will be available soon.

July 14-20, 2019: Theological Education with Adults
This program, sponsored by United Lutheran Seminary, is open to all people interested in the topic matter. Registrations are available for one day, part of the week, or the whole week. The theme for 2019 will center around Biblical Hermeneutics (interpretation of the Bible and texts) using historical and cultural knowledge, reading through the Lutheran lens. Registration and more detailed information will be available soon.