NEWS AND LINKS

- **Resolutions and Memorials**: The deadline for resolutions and memorials for Synod Assembly is May 1 so that the Committee of Reference and Counsel can properly prepare them for assembly.

- **ELCA Primary Health Plan Members Make a Jump Start on Earning 2019 Wellness Dollars**: For those of you who are on the ELCA Primary Health Plan and have not started earning your wellness dollars you can start today and join the 29 percent of eligible plan members and 19 percent of eligible spouses who have already begun using the 2019 Live Well Tool. Get started by logging in: [https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/?redirectUrl=%2Fcampaign%2Flive-well](https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/?redirectUrl=%2Fcampaign%2Flive-well)

- **Another Portico Update**: Portico’s 2016 social impact first (SIF) investment made through Impax Asset Management continued to deliver valuable environmental impact in 2017. Impax, a global stock investment manager, is making a world-wide difference by investing in companies that employ measurable positive environmental strategies, including wind farms, solar technology, and wastewater-reduction and -treatment techniques. The strategy for Portico’s Impax investment is long-term growth, achieved by investing in these cleaner, more energy-efficient markets. [https://porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/News/2019_02_17_ImpaxInvestmentContinuesToDeliver](https://porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/News/2019_02_17_ImpaxInvestmentContinuesToDeliver)

- **USS Funding for Leaders** - In this changing climate for our church, our synod has recognized the need for strong leaders who can help our congregations to proclaim the Good News in our rapidly changing world. We have committed two funds to support our rostered leaders. The USS Fund for Leaders, established in 2013, supports candidates for rostered leadership from our synod. Synod Council expanded that fund to include continuing education for rostered leaders. And, since many of our rostered leaders serving in our congregations and other ministries leave seminary with large educational debt, Synod Council established the USS Rostered Leaders Seminary/ Educational Debt Reduction Fund as a way for our synod to assist these leaders, easing their burden and enabling them to put more of their focus into leading our church to adapt to our changing world. We encourage our congregations and individuals to consider a contribution to either of these funds along with your normal Mission Support.

- **ELCA Global Mission** has an immediate need for volunteer teachers. Volunteer teachers serve in Central Europe in partnership with the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. These national churches, as well as their national governments, have set English language learning as a high priority. In partnership with the national churches, the ELCA volunteer teachers prepare the senior high students for a future in the church and in society as well. Typical class size can range from 8 to 20 students. There are currently three small-town sites and two urban sites in Slovakia, and one small-town site each in Poland and Hungary. Click for the application: [http://elca.atsondemand.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=512830.viewjobdetail&CID=512830&JID=659824](http://elca.atsondemand.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=512830.viewjobdetail&CID=512830&JID=659824)

MILESTONES

**St. Luke, Bloomsburg**, voted on March 31 to disaffiliate with the ELCA. They also voted to affiliate with the North American Lutheran Church.

**The Table**, a new mission start congregation in Bloomsburg, received approval from ELCA and a grant of $20,000.

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):

Bernard Engelhardt (retired) 5/23/1954

James Fladland (First, Watsontown) 5/27/1979
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
(Updated April 16, 2019)

Seeking Candidates/Interviewing
- Beaver, Beaver Springs
- Messiah, Mifflintown
- Messiah, New Berlin
- Milton Lutheran Parish (intentional interim now)
- Port Royal Parish
- St. John, Montgomery
- St. John, Northumberland
- St. Luke, Williamsport
- St. Mark, Williamsport

Served by Interim/Preparing Profiles
- Pine Street, Danville
- St. John, Delaware Run

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

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: May 7, Lewisburg Hotel; Lectionary study on May 20, 10:00 a.m., Faith, Lewisburg.

Juniata Valley: No meeting until September

Middle Creek: May 15, 10:00 a.m., Site TBA

North Branch: May 24, 9:30 a.m., Site TBA

Tulpehocken: May 14, 10:00 a.m., Himmel's

West Branch: May 14, 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

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news@uss-elca.org

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

May 5: Bishop at Trinity and Mount Zion, Hughesville.

May 12: Bishop at United In Christ, West Milton (grandchild’s baptism)

May 19: Bishop at LAMPA Days

May 26: Bishop on vacation

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
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Rev. Andrew Weaver, Tulpehocken
airweaver@ptd.net

Rev. Theodore Cockley, West Branch
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Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

Organist Wanted
An organist is needed for Grace, Sunbury who can play weekly and some additional services. Organ, piano and guitar music accepted. Students welcome. Send resume to gracelutheran@live.com. Call 570-286-7346 with any questions.

St. Paul Lutheran Scholarships Available
The St. Paul Lutheran Scholarship Program was founded by the congregation of the former St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport. The congregation established this fund prior to its closing to benefit Lutheran students who are graduating seniors of high schools located in Lycoming County. Scholarship recipients will receive an award of approximately $500. Applications are now available for this year’s awards. Complete eligibility requirements and the online application are available at www.inFaithfound.org/scholarships. All applications and necessary documents must be received by April 30, 2019. The scholarship is administered by inFaith Community Foundation.

April 19 and 22, 2019: Synod Office Closing
The Upper Susquehanna Synod Office will be closed on Friday, April 19 and Monday, April 22, 2019 in observance of Good Friday and Easter. The office will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. If you have an emergency, please call the synod office (570-524-9778) and the voicemail will give you phone numbers that you can call.

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

April 27, 2019: WELCA Day of Learning and Renewal
The WELCA Day of Learning and Renewal will be on Saturday, April 27th, at Messiah, New Berlin. The morning panel presentation will include either or both Sharon and Talena Truitt who visited Liberia this past January, in addition to Pastor Ann Zimmerman (Moderator), Dr. Robert and Carol Bradford, Carol Harrison, Esther Bratton and Jean Bahner, all of whom have been in Liberia at various times. They will share their knowledge and impressions. Sandy Nelson has just returned from a three-month stay in Liberia and will have a table of artifacts that she is offering in exchange for money donations. She'll be at the table ready when people arrive and during the lunch hour.

The afternoon will feature a Liberian Fashion Show (with dresses "modeled" by members of the audience) and will have TWO commentators--Ruth Koble and Leilee Boko. Leilee is the daughter of Esther Thomas who visited many WELCA groups and congregations in the synod some 20 years ago while she was President of the Church Women’s Association in Liberia and also Director of the Lutheran Training Institute (LTI) at Totota. Esther brought her school-age son and daughter to relatives in Connecticut so they could escape the dangerous conditions in Liberia that led to the civil war (1990’s) but Esther remained in Liberia. Leilee will be able to share much of her mother’s story, since they are in constant contact. Ruth Koble--affectionately known in Liberia as ”Ma Ruth”--helped to establish a Literacy Program at LTI, distributed "seed money" so Liberian women could start mini-industries, and taught American canning methods to another group of women.
Please register in advance with Deb Hackenberger (cost is $10.00) or notify her that you are coming to New Berlin. Phone Deb at 717-363-0277 or email (dktabb@gmail.com). Payment will be accepted at the Day of Learning and Renewal.

**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](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2019-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf)

**April 28, 2019: Service for Conclusion of Ministry**
A service for the conclusion of 160 years of ministry at Grace, Mount Carmel, will be held on April 28, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. It will be held at St. Matthew’s, 301 West Ave, Mount Carmel. Synod members are invited to attend this worship.

**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/](https://stewardshipresources.org/generosity-transformed-2019/)

**May 1-2, 7-8: Spring Convocation and Preaching Perspectives**
Spring Convocation on both campuses of United Lutheran Seminary are coming up in the beginning of May! Register so you can engage in the great learning opportunities. On the day following each Convocation will be Preaching Perspectives led by Rev. Dr. Bob Robertson on themes, text insights and ideas to help shape your preaching for the summer lectionary. Register for all the Lifelong Learning Opportunities at this link: [www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/lifelong-learning](http://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/lifelong-learning)

**May 5, 2019: Buffalo Valley Lay School of Theology**
The Buffalo Valley Conference has rescheduled their Lay School of Theology. It is now scheduled for Sunday, May 5th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., hosted by First Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA. (Please note location change). They extend an invitation to all to participate in this day of learning and conversation. Continuing Ed contact hours can be for Authorized Lay Worship Leaders or rostered leaders. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 2:00- 2:15 Registration and Refreshments
- 2:15- 3:05 Class Session I
- 3:05- 3:20 Refreshment Break and Conversation
- 3:20- 4:00 Worship: Holden Evening Prayer
- 4:00- 4:50 Class Session II
- 4:50- 5:00 Closing Prayer

Class offerings include:
- Preaching on Gospel Texts of Judgment and End-Times
May 7, 2019: Boundaries Training
A boundaries training will be held by the synod at Camp Hebron for those who need that coursework. Any church workers, including ALWLs are invited to participate. Registration is $30 and includes lunch. To register for that training, please contact Brenda in the synod office at 570-524-9778 or brenda@uss-elca.org.

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. If spouses are interested in attending, please let Bishop Collins know. A registration form is available here: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Bishop-Retreat-registration-form_distributed.pdf. NOTE: A boundaries training will be held the day before at Camp Hebron for those who need that coursework. To register for that training, please contact Brenda in the synod office at 570-524-9778 or brenda@uss-elca.org.

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 14, 2019: LARC Luncheon
The next LARC Lunch will be on Tuesday, May 14, at 12:00 Noon in the Dining Room of the Harrisburg Diocesan Center (4800 Union Deposit Road). All are welcome; you may bring new people as well. RSVP to FrJ Lease@hbgdiocese.org by May 7.

May 14, 2019: Pre-Retirement Seminary
Portico’s Pre-Retirement Seminar is in May! No matter where you’re starting from, you’re not alone on the journey. Join us in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, May 14 and let us guide you through what to focus on, when, and how to get started. Register today at PRS-PA.eventbrite.com. Questions? Call us at 800.352.2876

May 17-18, 2019: RIC Training
The Table, a new ELCA mission start congregation, will hold a Reconciling in Christ Training at 49 E, Main Street, Bloomsburg, on Friday, May 17, and Saturday, May 18. The Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) training helps you design and implement a journey for your faith community to publicly and intentionally
welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout your faith community rather than sparking debate and division. The registration fee of $100 includes training, materials, refreshments, and lunch. Registration, cancellation, and refund deadline is two weeks before the training. Reduced income registrations are available. To download a flyer, click https://www.reconcilingworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Bloomsburg-PA-May-17.pdf

May 18, 2019: CML Spring Work Day
Practice stewardship through service at camp at our work day on Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served. RSVP by May 10 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587. To download a bulletin insert/flyer, click here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-Work-Day-Flyer.pdf

May 19-20, 2019: Lutheran Days in the Capital
On May 19 and 20, join people of faith from around Pennsylvania for inspiration, education and participation — in worship, service, learning and advocacy. We will focus on setting bigger, more welcoming, tables in our lives, our congregations, our communities and our Commonwealth. Come for our traditional Lutheran Day in the Capitol or come early and enjoy a day of service, learning and witness with our neighbors of different traditions. Bring a friend — or a team! Learn more and register here: https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/event/lutheran-advocacy-days-in-the-capital/

Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations & Theological Discernment will keynote Lutheran Day. Lohre will offer a vision of what it could mean to live into the proposed Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment, to be considered at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. She will also lead a conversational workshop around the wisdom and work that went into the proposed policy statement. More information here: https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/kathryne-lohre-to-keynote-lutheran-day-2019/

May 23, 2019: Celebratory Luncheon
Rostered leaders: save the date! On Thursday, May 23rd a special luncheon will be held at The Commons of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village in Lewisburg to celebrate milestone anniversaries of our rostered leaders. Rostered leaders of the synod are invited to join those being honored for their years of ordained ministry. Watch for more information and a registration form in the near future.

June 2, 2019: LARC Vespers
The Lutherans-Anglicans-Roman Catholic (LARC) Vespers will take place this year on June 2 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Liverpool. This annual service is a time for us to gather in celebration of the growing unity we share with brothers and sisters in Christ in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches. Our synod continues to live into the covenant we signed in 1993 with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Harrisburg and Scranton, and the Lower Susquehanna Synod. While registration is not required for this event, we ask that you indicate by emailing info@usselca.org with the number of people from your congregation expected to attend in order that we can plan for sufficient refreshments following the vespers. The time for the event is 4:00 p.m.

June 14-15, 2019: Synod Assembly
Now is the time to register for this year’s Synod Assembly. The registration mailing has been sent from the synod office. The 2019 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on June 14-15, 2019. Special attention needs to be made to the meal registrations. Meal tickets will not be available after the late registration date of May 20
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.” Our ELCA Churchwide Representative will be Rev. Ruben Duran, who serves as the Director for Congregational Vitality.

June 24-26: From Crib to Cross (Lutheran-Episcopal Retreat)
Explore the Lutheran-Episcopal full communion partnership in a relaxed, scenic setting in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia through conversations with participants of each tradition. It will be held at the Shrine Mont Retreat in Orkney Springs, Virginia, with keynote speakers Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan and Dr. Timothy Wengert. Register online (and get more information) at www.virginialutheranepiscopal.wordpress.com.

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.

August 14, 2019: Misconduct Training
The following is a link to information on a valuable and timely training opportunity for rostered ministers: "Misconduct in Congregations: Moving from Hurt to Wholeness," August 12-14, 2019, Stow (Akron), Ohio. For event information, flyer links, and the online registration form link: https://conta.cc/2K3iobE. Workshop presenters include Barbara Keller, therapist and ELCA consultant for the prevention of misconduct; Beth Marie Halvorsen, intentional interim pastor and National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors faculty member; and Marcus Lohrmann, interim pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH, former interim bishop, Florida-Bahamas Synod (2017), retired after 18 years as bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod.