On Campus: Penn College
By Tammey Aichner, United Campus Ministry Campus Minister

As I sit down with my cup of tea to write this, I have just finished packaging three baskets of baked goods and packing a supply bag for our weekly Jesus and Java tomorrow morning. While each campus ministry looks different, per the needs of the students and what the Holy Spirit is moving us towards, our ministry of presence has been extremely rewarding.

Every Wednesday morning, students and I gather outside the cafeteria to hand out free baked goods, free coffee and a devotion. Not only do the students on campus appreciate this, but staff and faculty stop by. Over the 2 years we have been doing this, we have heard some amazing stories of how it has impacted people.

One student shared a story with us a few weeks after stopping by our table for the first time. She had been having a rough day. You know the kind...nothing goes right, the world is against you, bad hair, overslept and playing catch up, too many things to do and not enough time...your insides just start screaming! She stopped for coffee (because she didn't have time that morning to have any before leaving the dorm), grabbed a packaged snack and devotion and just threw them in her bag as she rushed off to class. She didn't think about them again until late that night when she returned home, after working, and sat down to do tons of homework and studying. She was hungry and remembered the snack. But God's timing is amazing, and it wasn't only her physical hunger He was going to satisfy that night. She glanced at, and then began to read, her devotion. That particular day was a devotion for a weary soul!

Colleagues in Ministry, we are called to be faithful! People are placed in our path for a reason and God's timing is always perfect! Don't miss your opportunity to point others to Him in the sharing of physical and spiritual nourishment.

Penn College Campus Ministry is one of the campus ministries that synod funding supports. As part of this year’s synod budget, Synod Council is initiating an appeal for Campus Ministries that the synod supports. To balance the budget and not make cuts to these ministries, council decided to ask individuals and congregations to support the work of campus ministries through this appeal. The goal is $6,000. To contribute to this appeal, please send donations to the synod office.

Mission Trip in Puerto Rico

Susquehanna Interfaith Network for Disaster Response is a ministry of the Presbytery of Northumberland and the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Recently, a mission trip was held in Puerto Rico, with some members of our synod congregations participating. They helped Dona Carmen, 86. Her house has been covered with a tarp for over a year, and the tarp was torn and funneled rain into the house. FEMA has still not budgeted to do any repair except to provide a new tarp.

Here’s the SIDRN work group in Puerto Rico with Presbyterians and Lutherans together. The woman seated is Dona, who the team helped.
Synod Assembly in June

The 32nd Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be held at Susquehanna University on June 14-15, 2019. 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. Register by May 20! 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.

Live Tweet from Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly: We will live “tweet” and invite others to as well using this hashtag: #usselca19. If you’d like to see what is happening at assembly, search for the Twitter hashtag or visit www.facebook.com/usselca.

Along the Way Bookstore: Sandy Grier will operate her bookstore at assembly. She’ll have cards, gift items, books, bulletins, flower charts, Sunday School attendance charts, CDs, DVDs, plays, church supplies, Bibles, Sundays and Seasons and much more. Visit her in the Degenstein Campus Center.

Bulletin of Reports: The bulletin of reports will be available for download at www.uss-elca.org/assembly.

Strategy Update: The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council adopted a new strategy to present to our synod at the assembly in June. Church/Unity is the first focus area of the strategy. One of the ways we will look at enhancing church unity is to encourage our congregations to strengthen worship and outreach practices. We also want to focus on the words that conclude our liturgies: “Go in peace; serve the Lord.” Some of the goals include:

1. Provide an annual workshop that helps congregation leaders improve their worship practices;
2. Train laity—especially youth and young adults—in skills for worship leadership.
3. Assist congregations in training laity about the mission of the church through faith formation and catechesis.

More details on the strategy will be shared in the USS Ark in the coming months in preparation for the discussion that will take place at Synod Assembly. If you would like to see a copy of the strategy, visit https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-Mission-Strategy.pdf

Up and Down the Valleys

Pastor Notes: Kris Brown has resigned as pastor of Grace, Sunbury, and has resigned from the roster of the ELCA. Rev. Thomas Glasoe will serve as the interim of Grace, Sunbury. Rev. Trevor Hahn is now the interim of St. Peter, Columbia Hill. Rev. Paul Kampa is now the interim pastor of Trinity, Cowan. Rev. David Pennebaker has resigned as the interim at the East Kish Parish.

Due to Grace, Mt. Carmel’s decision to close, Synod Council voted to place the congregation under synod administration in order to oversee the process of closure. Bishop Collins and Pastor Craig Miller will preside over a Celebration for the Conclusion of Ministry at the end of April.

The Lutheran Churches in Juniata County held a joint Ash Wednesday service on March 6. About 170 people attended and $800 was raised for the local food pantry as part of the offering that night. Bishop Collins preached.

Camp Mount Luther Updates: Raise the Region was another huge success in March. The event was coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA. Camp raised $18,881 (#14 overall) from 127 gifts (#7 overall). Both the amount raised and number of donors were new records for CML. A huge THANK YOU to all who made this a success! The camp is also gearing up for their summer camping season for 2019 and is accepting registrations for all programs. This year’s camping season will begin on June 16, 2019, and end August 6. There are programs for all ages from kindergarten to senior high, adults, and families. New programs this year include Buffalo Gap Adventure, a camping and hiking trip in the Bald Eagle State Forest; Paws, where the youngest campers will choose from five activity areas to focus their attention during the week; and High Adventure which includes climbing and rappelling. For more information on this summer’s programs, visit the camp’s website at http://www.campmountluther.org. This year’s theme at Mount Luther is “Transformed Community: God’s Agent of C.H.A.N.G.E.” Campers will look at five Bible stories to see how they can be “superheroes” and change the communities where they live through their actions.

USS ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce this newsletter. Send mission stories and ministry ideas by the first of the month to Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications, at news@uss-elca.org.

The Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop
SUSQUEHANNA INTERFAITH NETWORK FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

*a ministry of the Presbytery of Northumberland and the Upper Susquehanna Synod*

Congregations work with CHURCH WORLD SERVICE to provide kits for disaster survivors. This year we will keep a portion of kits in strategic locations around the Susquehanna Valley.

**Cleanup Bucket**

1 — 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid*
5 — scouring pads
7 — sponges, assorted sizes
1 — scrub brush
1 — pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
1 — box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
1 — liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.
1 — bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 24-28 oz.
1 — 1 pkg. clothespins, 48-50 Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
5 — dust masks
2 pair — latex gloves (like Playtex®)
1 pair — work gloves
1 — 24 to 28 count roll heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon, remove from carton)
1 — bottle insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion; not aerosol), 6-9 oz.

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send only new, unopened materials. Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.

*Some local fast-food restaurants are willing to give pickle buckets (or other 5-gallon buckets with re-sealable lids) or offer them for a small fee. Contractors may have empty paint or joint compound buckets. These can be washed out and used for the cleanup buckets (make sure you have the lid).*

**Hygiene Kit**

1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
1 — washcloth
1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to international Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

*Deliver kits by April 28 to First Presbyterian Church in Mansfield, Bloomsburg, Sunbury, or to Lycoming College. Call Doug Orbaker for more information (570-768-6436) or to arrange for pickup of kits & buckets.*
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.

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.

April 15, 2019: CML Early Registration Deadline
Register for summer camp at Mount Luther by midnight on April 15, 2019 to get a discount on your summer camp registration! Or, if you bring a friend to camp who’s never been there, you and the friend (or sibling or church buddy) can both get $30 off your registration! Or, first time campers who attend the Spring Open House on April 28 can get the same discount on their summer registration! Only one discount per camper. Program information at https://www.campmountluther.org/programs/summer-camp/. Register online at https://registration.campmountluther.org/

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

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/

May 3, 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
Class offerings include:

- Preaching on Gospel Texts of Judgment and End-Times
- History of Holy Communion Practices
- Reclaiming the E(vangelical) Word
- Faith Formation
- Holy Humor
- Real Presence of Christ

Preregistration is encouraged: submit your registration to either brenda@uss-elca.org, 570-524-9778 or prjohnyost@gmail.com. There is no cost for this event but a free will offering will help offset the costs of refreshments.

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 FrJLease@hbgdiocese.org by May 7.

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.

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/

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@uss-elca.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.  Register before April 15 for a $10 discount on registration!  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.

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.
Early Registration Deadline Approaching

Register for summer camp at camp by midnight on April 15, 2019 to get a discount on your summer registration! Or, if you bring a friend to Mount Luther who’s never been there, you and the friend (or sibling or church buddy) can both get $30 off your registration! Program information is available on our website at https://www.campmountluther.org/programs/summer-camp/. You can register online at https://registration.campmountluther.org/

Upcoming Events

Our 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 $30 discount on their summer registration!

Practice stewardship through service at camp at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed in getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Thrivent members are asked to apply for and use Thrivent Action teams to do some of the projects. If you are interested in doing that, please contact chad@campmountluther.org. 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 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org.

The annual Bishop’s Open Golf Classic is set for May 13, 2019, at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam, rain or shine! Registration starts at 11 with lunch following and a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Snacks and prizes after golfing. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther’s annual fund. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available on our website. 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. For more information visit our website or call the camp office.

Male Counselors and Nurses Desperately Needed

We are looking for qualified individuals to fill several male counselor positions this summer. Counselors serve as the heart of the camp staff, tasked with making the camp run smoothly in its daily mission. They provide for the care of the basic needs of campers either in camp or on a trip camp and exemplify a positive Christian witness. If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, please contact Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, at 570-922-1587 or chad@campmountluther.org. An application packet is available on the right-hand side of the summer camp page on our website. Also, we could use some volunteer nurses for this summer, too. Please contact Chad as well if you are interested or know someone who might be!
Looking Ahead to June

Mount Luther is gearing up for our summer camping season for 2019 and we are accepting registrations for all programs. Late fees will begin to be accessed on June 2, so register soon to avoid the late fees! The summer camping session will be in full swing in June! This summer’s staff will arrive on June 2nd for their two weeks of training.

June 16, the first campers for this year will arrive for the season, for Scooby Doo Week, solving the Mystery of the Swashbuckling Pirate. This includes campers for a weeklong Day Camp. From June 23-28, programs offered include Night Owls (where campers stay up late and do nighttime activities), Fishing Adventure (with a trip to the Eastern Shore of Maryland), and Mini-Junior Base Camp. Senior High X-Teen begins that week as well. Senior high aged campers can choose to come for ten days, a week, or three days. From June 30- July 3, Family Camp and LEADS, a leadership camp, will also be in session.

On Sunday, June 9, we will have a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at which time we will kick-off the 2019 Summer Camping Season. The worship service is open to anyone who would like to attend to support our synod’s outdoor ministry and this year’s summer staff. The service will be held outdoors, if the weather permits, so please bring a lawn chair. The worship will be immediately following the annual Circle of Faith Giving Club Dinner, which is by invitation.

This Year’s Theme is “Transformed Community: God’s Agent of C.H.A.N.G.E.” The theme conjures up images of a mighty band of superheroes with secret missions. When we take on the mission of being God’s agent of change in the world, we must be ready to be transformed—individually and together. Daily themes will look at what transforms community: generosity, compassion, inclusion, justice, and forgiveness.

Straight From the Camel’s Mouth

By Kyros T. Camel

It’s been a busy couple of months at camp. Believe me, the staff doesn’t slow down too much in the winter months. Here are some updates as to what has been going on:

Raise the Region was another huge success in March. The event was coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA. We raised $18,881 (#14 overall) from 127 gifts (#7 overall). Both the amount raised and number of donors are new records for us. A huge THANK YOU to all who made this a success to provide a great faith-based program for our children, youth, and families!!!

We received some more donations to our new initiative, Reach 25. We’re trying to raise $12,500 to give camperships to some first-time campers. So far, we have $3,500 raised toward our goal. If you are interested in contributing to Reach 25, please contact the camp office!

And, we have a few more new benches “adopted” for the amphitheatre. We are seeking people to sponsor a bench for $75. We will try to make 62 benches during our Spring Work Day. If you’d like to sponsor a bench, contact us! You could even do a Thrivent Action Team to support this project!

The Disaster Relief Team from Zion, Turbotville, is coming in April to help replace some porches on the Maple Village cabins. They usually go do mission work in other parts of the country, but this year decided to stay closer to home and are going to help us out. We look forward to their contributions!

Make sure you sign up for camp. The early registration deadline is in April and I can’t wait to see future campers at the open house. Have a blessed Easter and we’ll see you soon!