On Campus: Bloomsburg University
By Rev. Jill Young, Protestant Campus Minister

It’s not every year that I have two seniors interested in pursuing ordination upon graduation from Bloomsburg University. Though PCM’s Vocation Exploration Initiative, I joy in journeying with various students (both those in our fellowship group and others on campus) who have a range of majors and career interests, equipping them with tools for prayerful discernment and space to listen both to their truest selves and to the needs in the world. But it is music to a campus minister’s ears when a student begins to ask about seminary options and possibilities for a career in ministry. This was the case with both Maddy and Craig, two of PCM’s student leaders. Maddy began BU with plans to become a high school English teacher, but her plans gradually began to shift through her leadership experience in campus ministry, and as she participated in our Vocation Exploration Circles on campus and two of our Vocation Exploration Retreats at Princeton Theological Seminary. A cradle ELCA Lutheran, Maddy decided to test her growing sense of call through an internship this semester with a LuMin campus ministry in Montana and is now actively looking at seminaries, including Gettysburg. Similarly, Craig came to BU to become a high school history teacher and museum curator. After serving as a PCM leader and intern and participating in our Vocation Exploration programs, Craig now plans on pursuing ordination in the UMC to be a pastor and chaplain in the National Guard! Through two of our church visits this semester, he had the opportunity to give his first sermon. Further he planned and helped lead our Vocation Exploration Retreat in the PA Wilds this semester. What a joy to see both of these gifted students who love Christ grow through the ministry leadership experiences that campus ministry has offered them. I delight in anticipating the gifts they will bring to the Church.

Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University 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.
Young Adults Wanted

LEVN, the Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network, is looking for young adults (age 21-30) with bachelor’s degrees for an 11-month program of non-profit volunteer service and learning about social justice. From the end of August 2019 to the end of July 2020, corps members will be provided housing, utilities, health coverage, spiritual direction, and a $535/month living stipend. They offer a $1,000 re-entry grant at the completion of the program. The placement sites for the upcoming program year include faith-based non-profits, secular non-profits, congregations, outdoor ministry, and our campus ministry at UC Davis. These service sites address issues of homelessness, food insecurity, unemployment, children and youth ministries, and other important social justice issues facing our communities. They gather each week for evening prayer, dinner, and formation. The corps members live in intentional community in one of two residences: The Belfry, an apartment attached to our campus ministry center in Davis, CA, or The Priory, an apartment at All Saints Episcopal Church in Sacramento, CA. They are an ecumenical program in the Episcopal Service Corps network; applicants needn’t be either Lutheran or Episcopal to apply. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until July 31, 2019. Visit levn.org or contact Program Director Casey Dunsworth at 530-756-1550 or pastor@thebelfry.org for more information!

Up and Down the Valleys

The Upper Susquehanna Synod has several committees, teams, and task forces established by the synod assembly or synod council. We are looking for nominees for these groups. Visit this link to get more information and nominate someone to volunteer! https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Committee-recommendations-form-refillable.pdf

Christ’s United Lutheran, Millmont (Pastor John Yost), will hold a benefit Turkey Dinner on May 25. Proceeds will support their “Hopes Haven Food Ministry,” a food pantry outreach ministry of the church.

The “Day of Learning” for the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization was held in April as they gathered to hear first-hand stories of accompaniment with our partner synod Lutheran Church of Liberia! The event was held at Messiah, New Berlin (Interim Pastor Rick White), and featured a panel discussion of people who have been to the country.

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 the ELCA and a grant of $20,000.
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.

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 so please RSVP 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, 2019: Resume Writing Workshop and Dinner
Particularly for those affected by Wood-Mode’s closing: A Resume Writing Workshop and Dinner will be held at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Kreamer, on May 19th, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. They will help with resume writing and provide supper! HR Professionals will be on hand from various local organizations to help. They will also be offering a listening ear to hear the needs of the community. For a flyer about the event, click here: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Resume-Writing-Workshop-and-Dinner.pdf

May 27, 2019: Synod Office Closing
The Upper Susquehanna Synod Office will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of Memorial Day. The office will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 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.

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 9, 2019: Summer Camp Kickoff and Circle of Faith Dinner
On Sunday, June 9, 2019, Camp Mount Luther will have a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at which time they 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. If you would like information on the Circle of Faith Giving Club, contact chad@campmountluther.org.
June 14-15, 2019: Synod Assembly
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. Other notes as we prepare for this June event:

- **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.

Looking Ahead to Summer at Mount Luther
Camp Mount Luther is gearing up for the summer camping season for 2019 and 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 weekend 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. Some highlights of programs in July and August include:

- Paws and Tracks, our programs where you pick extra activity time around several specialties.
- Craft, Lego, and Wild Sports (CLAWS) camp, doing more of those three activities.
- Pick-A-Day Day Camp when you pick how many days you want to come from 9:00 to 3:00.
- Classic Juniors and Intermediates for campers who want to experience the best Mount Luther has to offer.
- Intermediate Ten Day for middle schoolers who want to stay longer!
- SURE for campers who want to Survive Using the Resources of the Environment.
- High Adventure, featuring some climbing and bouldering and a high ropes course.
- Mini-Base Camps, a half week camps for our youngest campers.
- Intern for our senior high campers who want to learn what it’s like to be on staff.
- Tour de Crème, a bike trip taking rides to local ice cream establishments.
- Buffalo Gap Adventure, a small hiking trip to the state forest near camp.

For more information, visit the camp website at www.campmountluther.org or call 570-922-1587. Stay connected to camp this summer and find out what is happening during our various programs, visit Facebook (www.facebook.com/mountluther), Twitter (@mtluther) and our blog (www.campmountluther.wordpress.com). We try to update these daily but please realize that our staff is quite busy and if updates are not posted, it’s because the campers and staff are so busy that they can’t get an update posted. And, don’t forget, our daily First Light devotions will continue to be posted each weekday. Check them at www.cmlfaithformation.weebly.com.

June 24-26, 2019: 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.
July 2, 2019: Celebrate LOM’s 100th!
July 5 is the date of the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry. In 1919 on that day, the first Lutheran camp was held near Zelienople, PA. The Camp Mount Luther staff invites everyone to come to camp on Tuesday evening, July 2, 2019, to celebrate. As part of our annual Family Camp, we’ll be having a campfire and worship service to commemorate the birthday. It all gets underway at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so bring a lawn chair. To help us plan, it would be helpful to have an RSVP to chad@campmountluther.org or call 570-922-1587.

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.

July 20, 2019: USSWO Convention
The Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019, at the Evergreen Center at Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg. Women are asked to be present for this one-day convention as it brings an excellent opportunity for you to meet your sisters from neighboring churches and become informed about the workings of the Women of the ELCA. The theme for this year’s convention is “Go Worth in Faith,” based on 2 Corinthians 5:7. Pastor Jerri Carlin is the worship leader. The ingathering offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Relief and an in-kind offering will be items for Camp Mount Luther as suggested by the camp. Registration forms are available at http://www.uss-elca.org/upper-susquehanna-synodical-womens-organization/

August 12-14, 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/2K3jobE. 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.
Golf Tournament in May

The annual Bishop’s Open Golf Classic is set for May 14, 2018, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. We hope to have about 100 golfers at the event, which includes a luncheon, golfing, snacks, and prizes. About ten volunteers will also be involved, helping with registration, the putting contest, and the hole-in-one contest. There is still time to sign up if you do it today. Email chad@campmountluther.org.

Summer Kickoff Worship and Circle of Faith Dinner

On Sunday, June 19, 2019, we will have a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at which time they 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.

Immediately before the worship service, we’ll hold our Annual Circle of Faith Giving Club Dinner. Members of our giving club were sent invitations about details for this event, which will include a delicious dinner and a relaxed evening of fun and fellowship. After the dinner, we will have a short program of stories and the staff will provide some lively entertainment singing camp songs and maybe even do a skit or two. We’ll also award our Cloud of Witnesses Award as we recognize the giving spirit of Mount Luther supporters. If you would like information on the Circle of Faith Giving Club, contact chad@campmountluther.org.

Come to Work Day

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.

Celebrate LOM’s 100th!

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- **SURE** for campers who want to Survive Using the Resources of the Environment.
- **High Adventure**, featuring some climbing and bouldering and a high ropes course.
- **Mini-Base Camps**, a half week camps for our youngest campers.
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- **Tour de Crème**, a bike trip taking rides to local ice cream establishments.
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Straight From the Camel’s Mouth

By Kyros T. Camel

As I write this, there are fifth graders here in camp for Shikellamy Outdoor Education. It’s great to have kids in camp again, learning about nature and building relationships.

We had about 11 people at our annual Open House in April. Several were first time Mount Luther campers and some are going to be part of Setebaid, the diabetes camp that shares our site with us during Week 7. Thanks to our volunteer tour guides that day: Lindsay Hartman, Claire and Aaron Hershberger, Noah and Grace Roux, Ty Turner, and Zack Zimmerman.

Three fundraising updates, first on Raise the Region. We finally received the check for that March on-line fundraising campaign, totaling $21,854. Second, through Reach 25, we’re trying to raise $12,500 to give camperships to some first-time campers. So far, we have $4,000 raised toward our goal. If you are interested in contributing to Reach 25, please contact the camp office! And, third, we now have 17 new benches “adopted” for the amphitheatre. We are seeking people to sponsor a bench for $75. 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, was here in April and replaced porches on most of the Maple cabins. A work crew from Zion, Kratzerville, is coming soon to finish the last cabin, which they recently adopted. We thank both group for their time, talents, and materials.

Our summer ministry team is not quite finalized yet, as we usually print their names in this newsletter. Be looking on our Facebook page for pictures of them when staff training starts on June 2!