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.

YOU are on college and university campuses every day!

College campuses are filled with students encountering new studies, unfamiliar challenges, different people, and sorting out a challenging and exciting time of life.

Campus Ministry is the church’s presence on college campuses. Through campus ministry, YOU are there with students gathering for meals and discussions together, serving their neighbors, exploring the Bible and other study areas relevant to life and faith, participating in prayer and worship, and discerning how God is using their gifts and work to serve the world.

Though campus ministry looks different in each place, campus ministers reach out to students to help build a supportive and faithful community, offer opportunities for them to learn and grow in faith, and provide pastoral care and support when students encounter a struggle or crisis. Through important connections with the wider campus community, campus ministers help provide support in times of crisis and help shape the campus climate, providing an important and faithful voice.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod supports campus ministries at Lock Haven University, Mansfield University, Bloomsburg University, Penn College in Williamsport, and Penn State at State College where a wide variety of events and activities engage students and encourage them to live their faith in college and the years to come.
United as Christ’s Disciples, we
Support one another; and
Serve God in the world.

Strategy for Mission

At Synod Assembly this month, voting members and guests will look at our new synod strategy and discuss ways to implement the ideas behind the strategy, particularly in local conferences.

Church/Unity is the first focus area of the strategy. One of the ways we will look at enhancing church unity is to grow a stronger sense of our unity and awareness of our common calling to love of neighbors.

The goals in this area include

- Using time at Assembly to recognize our common heritage as Lutherans in mission, and lift up the connection to the churchwide expression;
- Organize at least two synodical gatherings per year other than Assembly in which we celebrate our Lutheran unity and receive the diversity of worship and proclamation in our church;
- Establish multiple Sundays a year in which we recognize and celebrate our domestic companion (ELCA) synod—the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod;
- Develop resources for deepening our companion global relationships.

More details on the strategy will be shared in the USS Ark in the coming months. 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

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish (Pastor John Yost) held a community block party at the Mifflinburg Community Park on Sunday, June 2. They began the day with worship, followed by a picnic and games and events for kids and adults. The community pool was also open.

During Lent, Salem, Selinsgrove (Pastor Stina Schaeffer), had a Battle of the Pop-Tarts. They voted for their favorite type (frosted or plain) by buying boxes of the breakfast treat, which then was donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Danville.

In her June column for Living Lutheran, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reflects on why we worship: “[Liturgy is] a discipline Lutherans willingly undertake because it helps individuals and the entire community express our connection with other Christians throughout the world and across the ages.” Read her column at https://tinyurl.com/y26a9lst.

Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program provides $20.00 in free produce vouchers to Union-Snyder County Seniors age 60 and Older with a gross household income at or below $23,107 for a single individual, and $31,284 for a two-person household. For more information, visit https://wp.me/a9Gqgm-WS

Registration is still open for all programs this summer at Camp Mount Luther. Make sure that you register online at www.campmountluther.org or mail your registration form soon as some sessions are filling up! In other camp news, the Middle Creek Conference adopted a cabin at camp and replaced two porches on it this spring. This followed the adoption of another cabin by the Zion, Turbotville (Pastor Erwin Roux) Disaster Relief Team after they spent an April week replacing porches on other Maple cabins.
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. 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. Some highlights of programs in July and August include:

- Paws and Tracks, 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 at Mount Luther
- 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. Timothy Wengert. Register online (and get more information) at www.virginialutheranepiscopal.wordpress.com.

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 is available on the United Lutheran Seminary website under the heading “Academics” and “Lifelong Learning” tab.

**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 is available on the United Lutheran Seminary website under the heading “Academics” and “Lifelong Learning” tab.

**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, beginning with registration at 7:30 a.m. 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 Forth 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/](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/2K3iobE](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.

**August 31, 2019: Dandelion Trail Run at CML**
Camp Mount Luther will be holding a 5- and 10-kilometer trail run race at the camp on Saturday, August 31, 2019. This is an entry-level trail race on Mount Luther grounds with proceeds going to the camp. The start time for the race is 9:00 a.m. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K) run. The 10k distance is included in the Rocksylvania 10k race series. More details on that are available at [http://midpentrailblazers.com/](http://midpentrailblazers.com/links.html). Race day registration is $30. Pre-register by August 28 and pay only $25. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on race day. Spectators are welcome as well. A kid’s fun run will also be held with two age categories: six and under and 7-10. Special awards will be presented to every participant in the fun run. Again this year, a one-mile fun walk on a dirt road will be held with the same registration fees and amenities applying (or you may just walk without receiving amenities for $10). Awards will be given for overall male and female race time, three awards for each age group and an overall master’s for male and female in both the 5K and the 10K. The awards ceremony will be immediately following the race. Shower facilities are available after the race. All miles for the course will be marked and there is one water stop on the course. Timing will be electronically done. To register, visit [http://midpentrailblazers.com/trail-race-events/dandelion-run/dandelion-run.html](http://midpentrailblazers.com/trail-race-events/dandelion-run/dandelion-run.html). The Dandelion Run, begun in 2002, is organized by Joel and Shelley Heasley of Middleburg. It was named in honor and memory of Rev. Glenn E. Heasley, Jr., former Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Glenn’s favorite “flower” was the dandelion. Heasley’s widow, Shirley, is also involved in the planning of the race.
November 20-21, 2019: ESC Generosity Next
“Spiritual Generosity: Offering Vitality in the 21st Century” will be held in November. Some of the questions that will be addressed include:

- What changes have you noticed in your offerings?
- How is the role of offering evolving in worship?
- What new practices can bring vitality to your offerings?

The Ecumenical Stewardship Center (ESC) sponsors this conference in Atlanta, GA, on November 20-21, 2019. In an effort to reach a broader audience this fall, a new format for this conference is being introduced – engagement via live streaming at multiple host site locations. Does your church have the ability to serve as a live streaming host site? Contact Craig Miller for more information or to indicate your ability to host.

Basic Format: A two-day event with Day 1 being presentations onsite in Atlanta by four speakers, followed by the use of guided questions and open conversation. Presentations will be live streamed to offsite locations. Each offsite location will have their own conversations in context. Questions from these conversations can be submitted for discussion with each presenter on Day 2 as part of deeper reflection and discussion time. The presentations on Day 1 would be live streamed starting at 9:15 a.m. EDT. Day 1 will conclude by 4:30 p.m. EDT and Day 2 by 12:30 p.m. EDT.

The synod will identify facilitators for the events. Host sites will need to arrange internet connection and projection audio & video for both days, as well as lunch on Day 1 (Day 2 lunch optional).