**NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS**

- **Items Available:** A spreadsheet and photos of items the synod office wants to offer for congregations to take is now available. The items are available through January 31, after which we will dispose of them by other means. These are only for congregations - not individuals. Call Brenda at the synod office if you have interest. Pictures are here: [https://www.uss-elca.org/items-available-from-synod-office/](https://www.uss-elca.org/items-available-from-synod-office/)

- **Portico Reminders:** The Annual Enrollment deadline is Friday, October 25, 2019, for Sponsoring Congregations. Please enter a 2020 ELCA-Primary health benefit option on Employer Link as soon as possible, and no later than Fri., Oct. 25. Members will make your selections from October 29 to November 13. Starting October 29, you’ll be able to consider options for next year and make your 2020 selections. If you’d like to review 2020 benefit information now, we offer the links below. Important: If you anticipate any change in your employment status between now and Jan. 31, 2020, such as retirement or a new call or position, please contact Portico immediately at 800-352-2876 because the change may affect your 2020 benefits.

- **Don’t forget!** The following prayer petitions are prepared and sent by the Upper Susquehanna Synod Liberia Committee. Please use them in your congregation to lift up our companion synod program; for example, include them in your intercessory prayers, print them in your bulletin or newsletter. The committee welcomes suggestions for petitions. [https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LIBERIA-PRAYER-PETITION1.docx](https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LIBERIA-PRAYER-PETITION1.docx)

**MILESTONES**

- **Pastor Lisa Barnes** is now interim at Grubbs and Halls, Freeburg.

- **Pastor Ann Zimmerman** is now interim at St. Peter’s, Freeburg.

At their meeting in September, Synod Council approved a roster change for **Rev. Mark Galbraith** to On-Leave-from-Call. Rev. Galbraith resigned his call as Intentional Interim for the Milton Parish and has moved to Iowa to serve a Presbyterian congregation as an Intentional Interim. Other changes to share: **The Rev. Catrina Ciccone** has been transferred to Northeast Minnesota Synod. **The Rev. Luther Martell** has been transferred to Southeast Michigan Synod. **The Rev. David Kingsborough** has been transferred to Nebraska Synod.

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):

- **40 years:**
  - Timothy Bingman (retired) 11/18/1979
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
(Updated October 17, 2019)

Seeking Candidates/Interviewing
• Milton Lutheran Parish
• St. John, Delaware Run
• St. John, Montgomery
• St. John, Northumberland
• St. Luke, Williamsport

Served by Interim/Preparing Profiles
• Pine Street, Danville
• St. John, Mifflinville

Served by Traditional Interim Pastor
• East Kish Parish
• Good Shepherd, Berwick
• Grace, Sunbury
• St. John, Ridge
• St. Mark, Alfarata
• St. Peter, Columbia HIl
• Trinity, Oak Grove
• Trinity, Shamokin

Long-Term Interims are listed here: https://www.uss-elca.org/ministry-opportunities/

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: November 7, 9:00 a.m., First, Mifflinburg.

Juniata Valley: December 5, 10:00 a.m., Trinity, McAlisterville

Middle Creek: November 12, 10:00 a.m., Site TBA

North Branch: November/December meeting TBA

Tulpehocken: November 5, 10:00 a.m., United, Sunbury

West Branch: November 12, 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

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:

Nov 7: Bishop at Zion, Herndon; Bishop and Pastor Miller at Tulpehocken Conf. All Saints event

Nov 10: Bishop at ELCA Church Council, Chicago

Nov 17: Bishop at East Kish Parish and Preaching for Allegheny Synod’s Worship Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women; Pastor Miller at Himmels, Rebuck

Nov 24: Bishop at Pine Street, Danville; Pastor Miller at Messiah, New Berlin

CONFERENCE DEANS

Rev. Erwin Roux, Buffalo Valley
zionlc39@windstream.net

Rev. Carla Volland, Juniata Valley
vollandcarla@gmail.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
Pianist Wanted
Arbogast (Zion) Lutheran, Mount Pleasant Mills, is looking for a pianist to provide accompaniment for our Sunday worship service. Familiarity with Lutheran liturgy is appreciated. There is also the opportunity to provide accompaniment at one of our sister churches on an as-needed basis, if interested. Applicants are invited to contact us via email, UCLPpastor@gmail, or call (570) 259-4473 for more information.

With One Voice and Pascal Candle Available
United In Christ, West Milton, has about 125 copies of With One Voice in storage that anyone would be welcome to have (you know, if they are looking for a change from the green book.) They also have an extra stand for a paschal candle base/stand available that is free for the taking. If interested, please contact the church office at 570-568-2254.

October 26, 2019: LIRS Entertaining Angels
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will be hosting an Entertaining Angels training at First Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, on October 26, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a new LIRS initiative to accompany people of faith as they hear a call to welcome and love their neighbor and extend hospitality to alien, sojourner, and stranger. Lunch will be provided and registration is $15 per person. This event is shaped by examining the biblical mandate for hospitality; our Lutheran heritage of hospitality; and social and cultural responses to migrants and refugees. To register, email brenda@uss-elca.org.

October 28, 2019: LARC Day of Dialog
LARC Day of Dialog is set for Monday, October 28, 2019. The event is held at the Catholic Center on Union Deposit Road in Harrisburg, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This year’s Day of Dialogue topic will be: "Division in Society, Division in the Church: Healing and Hope for the 21st Century". Speakers will be:
- Dr. Maria Erling, Professor of Modern Church History and Global Mission, United Lutheran Seminary
- Mr. Eric Failing, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
- Very Rev. Dr. Amy Welin, Rector of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Cathedral, Harrisburg
The day will also feature prayer together according to the three traditions represented by LARC, as well lunch together and time for dialogue and discussion. A flyer and registration form is available here: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-LARC-Registration-form.pdf

November 1, 2019: Church Women United’s World Community Day
Church Women United's World Community Day service will be held Friday, November 1, 2019, at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine Street, Williamsport at 1:30 in the afternoon. The theme is The Time is Now! "Resolve to Love." The scripture is Colossians 3:14. World Community Day 2019 focuses on global peace and justice. As women of faith we have a responsibility to reach beyond Christian denominations to brothers and sisters who are Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish and many others. It is a move from an ecumenical to an interfaith orientation. Through mutual respect we can create an inclusive community that is just, caring and supportive. World Community Day began in 1943 from discussions at meetings of denominational presidents and executive secretaries asking that a day be set aside for the study of peace by church women. Although we come with different cultures, family traditions and religious practices, those differences provide gifts that we can share with one another. Join us as we honor and rejoice in those differences that will unite us in new ways and courageously resolve to love all our neighbors as a way to peace. Refreshments will be served in the church fellowship hall following the celebration.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING PROJECT: We will be preparing gift items for over 1,125 nursing home residents. We are asking for a $4.00 donation per resident. Items included in the stockings are: pen,
notebook, hand cream, emery board, tissues, comb and a Christmas card. We also prepare 50 gift bags for children who have mothers in the State Correctional Institute at Muncy. All donations will be used for the Christmas Stocking Project.

WORKDAY MONDAY: Filling of the Christmas stockings will be on Monday, November 18th at Pine Street United Methodist Church, Williamsport at 9 am. Thanks to everyone who will be working on this project. (Parking permits will be available at the church.)

**November 1, 2019: Evening at Shade Mountain to Benefit Mount Luther**

Come to Shade Mountain Winery to share fellowship, entertainment, and enjoy locally produced wine, all to benefit Camp Mount Luther. The event runs from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner, a local musician who sings folk music. The menu will include heavy appetizers, dessert, and one glass of wine per person. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please make your reservations with the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, a portion of the proceeds will be given to Mount Luther. We ask all participants to make a donation to the camp that evening, equal or greater to the food and entertainment provided. Download a flyer/bulletin insert here: [https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-Shade-Mountain-Winery-Flyer.pdf](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-Shade-Mountain-Winery-Flyer.pdf).

**November 2, 2019: Fall Women’s Retreat**

All local women are invited to be participants at the Fall Women’s Retreat sponsored by Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization. The day-long retreat will feature a presentation led by Rev. Sarah Hershberger titled, “We All Are One in Mission.” The retreat will take place at the camp on Saturday, November 2, 2019. It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The day will begin with refreshments. The cost of $20.00 per person includes coffee and tea, snacks, lunch, and the program. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Registration deadline is October 25. To register, contact Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. Checks should be made payable to Camp Mount Luther. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587 or e-mail cml@campmountluther.org. To view a flyer/registration form, click here: [https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Womens-Retreat-Flyer.pdf](https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Womens-Retreat-Flyer.pdf).

**November 3, 2019: Luther Rose Lecture**

The 2019 Luther Rose Lecture, “Moving Forward in Faith” will be held in November. The fifth anniversary of the Luther Rose Lectures welcomes keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Philip D. W. Krey. He is a renowned speaker with a special history in the interpretation and spirituality of the Bible in the early and medieval church, including the Reformation. Each of the two lectures will focus on historical grounding as well as contemporary relevance. The event will be Sunday, November 3, 2019, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at Palm Lutheran Church, Palmyra. The event is free and all are welcome. Registering prior to the event helps the committee plan appropriate for refreshments, seating, and name tags. Register at PalmLutheran.org/Events/Luther-Rose-Lectures.

**November 6, 2019: Mission Trip Planning**

More than two years ago Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. Thousands of homes are still covered with nothing but a blue tarp. The Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Northumberland Presbytery are going to help on January 4-11, 2020. A planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Office. Here is a flyer about the event: [https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PR-Trip-Poster.pdf](https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PR-Trip-Poster.pdf)
November 20-21, 2019: ESC Generosity Next
"Spirited Generosity: Offering Vitality in the 21st Century" will be held November 20-21, 2019. It will be live-streamed at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Office from the conference in Atlanta, GA. This event is for anyone, not just clergy!

Receiving offerings has been an ongoing part of the church’s story, beginning with the earliest scripture texts. Spirited Generosity: Offering Vitality in the 21st Century will explore the history and theology of the offering, its spiritual significance, and how faith communities can continue to make congregational giving a vital practice in 21st-century culture. 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 event will feature these four plenary sessions and leaders:

- Dr. L. Edward Phillips, Associate Professor of Worship and Liturgical Theology at Candler School of Theology, will present an historical and theological review of the offering in Judeo/Christian culture.
- Robert Hay, Jr., Senior Ministry Relations Officer, Southeast for the Presbyterian Foundation, will share about cultural influences on the offering including technology, generational differences, and the current place of church in society.
- Melvin Amerson, Stewardship Consultant for the Texas Methodist Foundation, will give a presentation about the offering as an act of worship, discipleship, and mission.
- Stewardship and fundraising consultant Lori Guenther Reesor will share a presentation on best practices for the offering and how to make the offering a meaningful moment when faith communities gather.

For more information about the event check out this site [https://stewardshipresources.org/generosity-next/](https://stewardshipresources.org/generosity-next/). To download a flyer for this event, click here: [https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Spirited-Generosity-flyer.pdf](https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Spirited-Generosity-flyer.pdf). For more information and to register, email brenda@uss-elca.org or call 570-524-9778. TO REGISTER ONLINE, click here: [https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/960522](https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/960522). For those coming to the synod office live stream, there is a $30 registration fee, which includes lunch on the 20th.

November 26, 2019: Ordination
The Ordination of James Vitale will take place on November 26 at Beaver Lutheran Church, Beavertown, at 3:30 p.m. Rostered leaders are invited to vest, color of the day is red.

December 2, 2019: Deadline for Seafarer Bags
This is our 9th year of providing Christmas-at-Sea gift sacks for ships’ crews that come into East Coast ports during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The synod invites congregations and individuals to join together in collecting "Christmas-at-Sea" Gift Bags for seafarers this Christmas through the Seafarers and International House (SIH) in New York City (http://www.sihnyc.org/). Plastic gift sacks, with instructions, are available at the Synod Office. **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH BAG!** Please make sure you follow the instructions exactly. Substitute items should not be included.

December 29, 2019: CML Summer Brochure Release Party
Camp Mount Luther is hosting this event again for everyone to learn about their Summer 2020 programs. Everyone, but most especially campers, parents, alumni staff, and potential campers and families are invited to come to this exciting winter camp event! It will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2019, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Center. Celebrate the holidays and meet up with camp friends to do crafts, games, singing, eating, and more. Members of the 2019 Summer Staff will lead this program!
While the kids are playing with the camp staff, the annual **CAMPPERSON MEETING** will be at 3:00 p.m. A camperson is a liaison between camp and your congregations. They are our ambassadors, regularly promoting camp news. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more about Mount Luther! At 3:30, details will be released for everyone about Summer 2020’s schedule and theme. You can get your own copy of the summer brochure and start making plans. You won’t want to miss it! Camel Bucks for the camp store will be given to those who attend this event. Campersons will get Camel Bucks for all those who attend from their congregation!

**February 7-8, 2020: GROW in the Snow**
Save the date! This year’s synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 7-8, 2020. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year’s retreat is “I Believe, I Do Believe,” dealing with the creeds. More details will be available soon. We are also offering a one-day option for those youth and leaders who just want to come on Saturday. Contact Chad Hershberger at chad@campmountluther.org with questions.