**NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS**

- During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the synod is trying to keep you updated on the latest information and resources that can help you in your ministry. Please visit [https://www.uss-elca.org/coronavirus/](https://www.uss-elca.org/coronavirus/) to see videos from Bishop Collins, letters from Presiding Bishop Eaton, resources to help you in these times, and cancellation notices for upcoming events.

- Camp Mount Luther also has a resource webpage for things kids and their families can do during these days. Resources are added almost daily. Visit [www.campmountluther.org/coronavirus](http://www.campmountluther.org/coronavirus). The camp board is committed to having some type of camp this summer, whether it can be in person or will have to be virtually. Stay tuned for details. They also are extending the early registration deadline and discount until the end of the summer. So, everyone can take advantage of the early registration discount of $25 no matter when you register. There will also not be any late fees added this summer. Camp continues to be open from 9-3 weekdays for people to take hikes. The bathrooms on the back porch of the A-Center will be open and cleaned daily. Please bring your own portable filled water bottles. Park in the A-Center parking lot and sign in and out on a form posted on the back porch. All children must have an adult with them. PLEASE STILL PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING - with 400 acres and miles of trails, it is possible to hike and get some fresh air without being in a crowd of people.

- Stewardship Resources in a time of pandemic are being added to our stewardship webpage at [https://www.uss-elca.org/stewardship/](https://www.uss-elca.org/stewardship/)

- A decision has not yet been made about Synod Assembly. For now, registrations are still being accepted, but checks are not being cashed until we know what is going to happen. Further information on assembly is at [https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/](https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/)

- The deadlines have passed for the following forms to be turned in: Mission Intent Forms, Parochial Reports, Pastor’s Report to the Bishop, and Congregation Leaders’ Form. If you have not returned these forms, please do so ASAP!

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**Be still and know that I am God.**

In these days, we are not only reminded to be still, and rest assured that God is with us, we are being asked to shelter at home and to practice safe distancing throughout the month of April. As the church, let us be good examples of this to our communities while we, at the same time, discover new ways of being church together for the sake of our congregations and our communities. Suspension of in-person worship and meetings of ten or more people will continue throughout the month of April. May we all stay safe while we strive to be the church.

Shalom, Bishop Collins

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**MILESTONES**

Canby Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, voted to leave the ELCA and it was affirmed by Synod Council at their January meeting. Their pastor, Stan Bower, also left the roster of the ELCA.

*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):*

**20 years:**
- Sandy Grier (retired) 4/2/2000

**15 years:**
- Ann Zimmerman (retired) 3/19/2005

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**COUNCIL REMOVES V & E**

The ELCA Church Council voted to remove “Vision and Expectations” from use. Disciplinary standards for rostered ministers are outlined in “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” and should be distinguished and recognized by the whole church as the document by which leaders, members of congregations, and candidates for rostered ministry are held accountable, as established by the ELCA constitution. All relevant documents and manuals, will be updated by June 1, 2020, to reflect the change.
• There is now a Region 8 Facebook page. Like it today!  
https://www.facebook.com/ELCA-Region-8-109505760653382/

• ELCA World Hunger is announcing the immediate launch of Daily Bread Matching Grants. Through these grants, ELCA congregations can raise funds for their feeding ministries using an online fundraising platform and will receive a grant of $500 from ELCA World Hunger to help drive. Up to 100 Daily Bread Matching Grants are available for ELCA congregations on a first-come, first-served basis, with the possibility of more grants becoming available in the future based on the success of this first round. Learn more here:  
https://support.elca.org/site/TR?fr_id=1360&pg=entry

• The PEMA website has information on security grants that are now available. The purpose of this program is to provide funding to eligible nonprofit organizations, generally limited to target hardening and physical security enhancements. The focus is on organizations that are at high risk of a potential terrorist attack. Visit https://tinyurl.com/s3jawzg

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
(Updated January 20, 2020)

SEEKING CANDIDATES/INTERVIEWING
• Good Shepherd, Berwick
• St. John, Delaware Run
• St. John, Mifflinville
• St. John, Montgomery
• St. John, Northumberland
• St. Luke, Williamsport

SERVED BY INTERIM/PREPARING PROFILES
• St. John, Ridge
• St. Mark, Alfarata

SERVED BY TRADITIONAL INTERIM PASTOR
• East Kish Parish
• Grace, Sunbury
• Milton Lutheran Parish
• Pine Street, Danville
• St. Peter, Columbia Hill
• Trinity, Shamokin

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

SYNOD STAFF
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BpCollins@uss-elca.org

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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:

VISITS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

VISITS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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
Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

Conference Assembly Schedule (Tentative)
Voting members to the Synod Assembly are expected to attend their own Conference Assembly, held prior to the synod assembly. Conference Assemblies review and discuss any memorials/resolutions being proposed to the synod assembly, elect conference leaders, nominate conference members to the ballot for synodical elections, and conduct other business as needed by the conference. Please share the date/time/location for your own Conference Assembly with your voting members:
- Buffalo Valley: Sunday, April 26, 2:00 p.m., Zion, Turbotville
- Juniata Valley: Sunday, April 26, 6:00 p.m., Evangelical, Reedsville.
- Middle Creek: Sunday, April 26, 5:00 p.m., St. Matthew, Shamokin Dam.
- North Branch: Sunday, May 3, St. Peter, Columbia Hill, 2:00 p.m.
- Tulpehocken: Sunday, May 3, 2:00 p.m., Himmel’s, Re buck
- West Branch: Sunday, April 26, 3:00 p.m., Garman, Jersey Shore

2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced
Give your spouse the gift of YOU at a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! The Northeast US spring events are scheduled for April 24-26, at the lovely Country Inn & Suites in Ithaca, NY, and May 1-3, at the recently renovated Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, PA. (Applications are also being accepted for our fall Weekends: October 2-4, at the Comfort Inn just north of Albany, NY, and October 16-18, at the Ludlow, PA (retreat center 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.) Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org. Scholarships are available for those in need of financial assistance--simply email or call us at the information below. Registrations are limited, so sign up today! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

Churchwide Summer Internships
It is time to put the word out....2020 ELCA Churchwide summer internships are posted! Here are a few of the details:
- The ELCA summer internship program provides the opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to develop and refine their professional skills in their areas of study while experiencing the work of the churchwide organization.
- Start date will be June 8, 2020 (end dates will be decided based on needs of the unit and the intern).
- Hourly rate is $14.00. Yes, they are paid internships!
- These are full-time, 40 hours/week internships.
- Interns will have the chance to join Bishop Eaton for lunch, participate in lunch and learn sessions with units and offices and attend a field trip or two to some of our local ministry sites.
- Prospective summer interns must be at least 18 years of age and should be enrolled in an undergraduate/graduate degree program.
- If selected, interns are responsible for securing housing for the summer.
- Individuals who have held internship positions with the churchwide organization in the past are not eligible.

If you know someone who might be interested, please feel free to share this information and the link to the job board (https://tinyurl.com/u46mqjj). Questions? Please contact Andrea Young at 773-380-2471 or andrea.young@elca.org

April 25, 2020: Generosity 365 Academy
(This event may be rescheduled to a later date because of restrictions related to the coronavirus. Registrants who cannot attend the new date will be able to request a refund.)
Academy attendees will have the opportunity to interact with keynote and workshop presenters with questions and comments on April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Synod Office. In addition, participants will have ongoing and unlimited access to the presentation recordings following the Academy. Generosity365 Academies are fast-paced, workshop-based events on stewardship-related topics that every church should know more about, such as connecting mission, ministry, and money; annual, legacy, and major gifts; what clergy need to know about money; fiscal transparency and accountability; and much more. The April Academy includes the following keynote and workshops:

- **Keynote:** “Connecting Mission, Ministry, and Money” presented by the Rev. Dr. Janet Long, Generosity Coach for the Disciples’ Center for Faith and Giving
- **Workshop:** “Leading as Steward” presented by Davey Gerhard, Executive Director for the Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)
- **Workshop:** “Cheerful & Creative Sparks: Engaging New Stewards” presented by Gretchen Colon, Senior Consultant for Cramer & Associates
- **Workshop:** “Offering Invitations that Ignite the Joy of Generosity” presented by Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith, retired Executive Pastor of stewardship & generosity for Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas
- **Workshop** “New Channels of Giving” presented by Keith Mundy, Assistant Director for Stewardship for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Ken Sloane, director of stewardship & connectional ministries for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship

All participants attend all four workshops and the keynote. Register at [https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1306253](https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1306253) by April 20 for $25. Or, to pay by check, click here: [https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1308887](https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1308887)

**May 2, 2020: Creating Healthy Boundaries**
The Northumberland Presbytery is hosting a boundary training event from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on May 2, 2020, at the Montoursville Presbyterian Church. Cost is $30 per person and snack and lunch are provided. Registration is required in advance and the deadline is April 25. Make reservations by contacting the Presbytery Office at 570-368-3906 or presbynorth@comcast.net. This training is led by David Olsen, Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling Center in Albany, New York since its inception in 1985. He holds an M.S. in counseling from Oneonta State University, an M.S.W. from the University of Albany, and a M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in psychology and religion from Drew University. Dr. Olsen is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and author or co-author of six books, including *Saying No to Say Yes: Everyday Boundaries and Pastoral Excellence.*

**May 3, 2020: Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House (Tentative)**
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, May 3, 2020, 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/2020/01/2020-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf)

**May 6-8, 2020: Bishop’s Retreat**
Reflection, Rest, and Renewal: A time away along streams of living water
*Camp Hebron (www.camphebron.org)* 957 Camp Hebron Road, Halifax PA 17032
The Bishop’s Retreat for 2020 will be held May 6-8 at Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA. Nestled along the Appalachian Trail just north of Harrisburg, they have 340 acres of wooded sanctuary. Camp Hebron is only 8 miles northeast from the bridge at Duncannon and just a few miles from the junction of Routes 147 and 225 south of Halifax. We will stay in the Sylvan View all-in-one retreat center, which features 35
comfortable motel-style rooms accommodating up to 4 people each. There is a private bath in each room and linens are provided. The camp has hiking and walking trails for various abilities. Other possibilities include walking the Prayer Labyrinth, a full-size gymnasium, bike riding, and sitting by a campfire. Our Retreat begins on May 6 at 9:30am and concludes at 11:30am on May 8. The agenda includes worship, prayer, group discussions, conversation with the bishop, and plenty of time for personal and group reflection and recreation. You will have opportunities for spiritual direction and massage at an additional cost. This year we will be joined by colleagues from Lower Susquehanna and Allegheny Synods.

"Jn 7:37b "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

How do you make space for creativity and imagination? Are there practices that you can experience that will allow you to make space for inspiration and writing? Are there ways to dialogue with a scripture text that will open you to the movement of the Spirit to spark your own creativity in inviting others to hear the word of God’s promises in Christ along with you. We want to invite you to a time away for reflection, rest, and renewal that will have a two-track approach to opportunities for experiencing creative, reflective writing and poetry and concrete dialogues with texts for deepening approaches to preaching and teaching. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Kevin Shock from the Allegheny Synod to facilitate the track on dialogues with the text. Kevin is one of the contributors to the Sundays and Seasons and has a passion for thinking deeply about scripture texts. Barb Debski and Rev. Robert Doll will facilitate the creative writing track as ones who have a love for poetry and the spiritual practice of writing.

Cost for registration by April 15, is $310 single; $200 double; $70 commuter. Registration before March 1 will receive a 10% discount – use code RENEWAL. Online registration is now open! To pay by credit card use this link: https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1170589 To pay by check (to Upper Susquehanna Synod) use this link: https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1170642. (Before March 1 make check out for $279, $180, $63 respectively)

Click here for a schedule

May 10-16, 2020: Spring Mission Trip
Susquehanna Interdenominational Network For Disaster Relief, made up of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, and Northumberland Presbytery PCUSA, will go back to the continuing work in hurricane ravaged Eastern North Carolina. ALL SKILL LEVELS ARE NEEDED and you can learn new skills by helping. All work is coordinated by North Carolina UMCOR in coordination with other denominations and agencies. Travel on Sunday, work Monday-Friday, then return on Saturday. Cost is $100 plus travel. For more information, contact Doug Orbaker at 570-768-6436 or dougorbaker@yahoo.com.

May 11, 2020: Bishop’s Open Golf Classic
The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 11, 2020, 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/2020/02/2020-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 16, 2020: CML Spring Work Day
Practice stewardship through service at camp at our work day on Saturday, May 16, 2020, 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 11 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587. A bulletin insert/flyer will be available on the camp website.

May 18, 2020: Lutheran Day at the Capital
Lutheran Day at the Capital is set for Monday, May 18, 2020. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA invites you to save the date and start promoting the event in your congregation. Bring your faith to the table and join Lutherans from around the state for worship, learning, advocacy and action. Learn more at https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/event/save-the-date-for-lutheran-day-2020-bring-a-team/

June 12-15, 2020: Naming Project Adult Camp
July 26-31, 2020: Naming Project Youth Camp
The Naming Project, a leading LGBTQ youth and faith-based organization, has announced its first-ever summer camp for adults taking place from June 12-15 at Bay Lake Camp in Deerwood, MN. After fifteen successful summers providing a place for LGBTQ youth to explore their identities and religion, The Naming Project will expand to serve adults over 21. The expansion comes after years of adult interest in The Naming Project and will serve as a fundraiser for the ongoing ministry of The Naming Project, benefitting the youth camp as well as consultation for LGBTQ-inclusive youth ministry. To learn more, visit: https://www.thenamingproject.org/adult-camp/. The theme for the inaugural adult camp is ‘Believe the Truth.’ Campers will explore the beautiful truth about who they are, and reveal the truth of God’s love to the rest of the world. Camp-goers will experience large and small group conversation, personal quiet time as well as campfires, crafts, swimming, games, and summer camp fun.

The Naming Project also announced that it will hold its trademark youth camp from July 26-31. The youth camp is designed for 14-18 year-olds or those who have completed 8th-12th grades who are of any sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Campers are interested in discussing and understanding sexuality and gender in terms of their own spiritual journey and are excited to spend time with other teen campers and staff while canoeing, swimming, hiking, singing, doing arts and crafts. Since its founding, The Naming Project Summer Camp has hosted over 200 campers from 21 states and was the focus of the award-winning documentary ‘Camp Out.’ For more information on the youth camp, visit: http://www.thenamingproject.org/summer-camp

June 14, 2020: Portico Retirement Seminar
Retirement takes planning. Whether it feels light years away or just around the corner, Portico’s Plan for Retirement Seminar can help you prepare. And it’s coming to Scholl Auditorium at Passavant Retirement Center in Zelienople, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. In the morning, learn how to balance investing for your future with your current financial goals. In the afternoon, discover ways to create a sustainable income in retirement. Portico will guide you through the topics to focus on, and when. Join for the morning, afternoon, or both. Learn more and register by June 14 at http://prs-paz.eventbrite.com

June 19-20, 2020: 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 2020 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on June 19-20, 2020. Our ELCA Representative will be Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop. 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. 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. Visitors are always welcome and encouraged to attend. This year’s theme will be “Discipleship Now.” This focus area lifts up that we are a church called to lead others to the profound grace of Jesus and that we are to recognize leaders in our congregations and beyond. With that as a focus, you will experience opening worship led by confirmation youth from across the synod, Bible studies
with The Rev. Cheryl M. Peterson, Ph.D. (who is the Associate Dean for Academics and Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University), reports from newly established ministry teams of the synod, and the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the Lutheran Church. There will also be workshops to attend and information-packed displays to visit, a Friday evening barbeque...and of course worship together. You and your congregation can add to the excitement and focus of this assembly by lifting up leaders to attend as voting members, maybe for the first time, and to encourage others to attend as visitors – there is ample space to fill up in Weber Chapel! Be intentional about inviting youth and young adults, new members of your congregation, and those who have served in years past to come and be part of Discipleship Now!

**July 20-23, 2020: Rostered Ministers Gathering**
Registration is now open for the 2020 Rostered Ministers Gathering, July 20-23, in Phoenix! All ELCA rostered pastors and deacons are invited as we gather under the theme “Rekindle the Gift Within You” (2 Timothy 1:6). The gathering includes over 100 workshops, an expansive Interaction Center, daily worship and keynote presentations. Early registration is $245 (through May 20). Three conference hotels offer a rate of $139/night plus tax. A limited number of scholarships are available. Visit [ELCA.org/RMG](https://ELCA.org/RMG) for more information.