News

Next Zoom on July 22: Link below

The previously "weekly" Zoom meetings with the bishop are now bi-weekly meetings. The next of these will take place on July 22, at 11:00 a.m. Here's the login information: https://www.uss-elca.org/bi-weekly-zoom-instructions/

Continuing Ed this Fall

As part of the Collaborative Mission Center, Fall online learning opportunities through the Stevenson School for Ministry are now open for registration and information is available here: https://dioceseecpa.org/shaped-by-faith-courses/. There are some great courses you might want to promote (nice mix of Lutheran and Episcopalian teachers!). Please check them out. There are still 2 opportunities being formed and will be added soon (5-week anti-racism module will run late September through October) and an Introduction to the Enneagram (running August 24 – September).

Register for Rostered Leaders’ Day of Renewal

Register now for a Renewal Day on August 13, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Camp Mount Luther. Current events have added tension to the already stressful lives of our rostered leaders. Thanks to our synod council, the Bishop’s Retreat planning team, and the generosity of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund we will provide a day of relief for rostered leaders and their families. Click here for more information: https://www.uss-elca.org/event/rostered-leaders-renewal-day/

Register for Generosity Academy

Milestones

With thanks to God for their ministry, we celebrate with these children of God the anniversaries of their ordination or consecration (listed in multiples of five only):

NONE AT THIS TIME

Conference Meetings

Buffalo Valley: First Thursday of the month, 9:00 a.m., Site TBA

Juniata Valley: The third Thursday of the month at 10:00 to noon with lunch following, Site TBA

Middle Creek: Second Wednesday of month, 10:00 a.m., Site TBA
generosity365 Academies focus on essential topics that help churches and their leaders create a culture of faithful generosity. The generosity365 Academy EXTRA on Saturday, August 1 will consider current issues impacting the church and how they inform best practices related to faithful generosity. "Faithful Generosity: Moving Forward" will include presentations on new ideas for stewardship, resourcing, and engagement. Participants will hear from:

- Joe Park, CEO of Horizons Stewardship and Lisa Greenwood, Vice President for Leadership Ministries for the Texas Methodist Foundation and Executive Director of the National Association of United Methodist Foundations;
- Sidney Williams, CEO of Crossing Capital Group, Pastor of the Bethel AME Church in Morristown, New Jersey, and author of Fishing Differently: Ministry Formation in the Marketplace
- Meredith McNabb, Associate Director for Educational Programming for the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving at Indiana University

Online registration closes Tuesday, July 28. Registrants will be invited to make a donation to support the ministries of the Academy sponsors. Click here to register: https://stewardshipresources.org/generosity-365-academy/

Weekly Online Gathering for ELCA Leaders

Being Church in Times of Crisis, a weekly online gathering for ELCA leaders is held on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m EDT. On July 15, we are honored to have Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II and Rev. Dr. Richard N. Stewart present with us to share The Untold Story of Black Lutheran History. https://wp.me/p9Gqqm-1kk

Police Chaplain Basic Training

The Police Chaplain Basic Training Program of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains is intended to prepare Law Enforcement and First Responder Chaplains for their specialized work. The next training is July 27-28 at the Chapel of Four Chaplains at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. See the brochure for more details: https://tinyurl.com/yad89k5v

Prayers

- For the following congregations in our synod and their pastors: Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish (Pastor John Yost); Evangelical, Reedsville (Pastor Carla Volland); Emmanuel, Middleburg (Pastor Bill Jones); Good Shepherd, Berwick (Interim Pastor Christine Kirchner); Grace, Shamokin (Pastor Sarah Hershberger); and Garman and Messiah, South Williamsport (Pastor Joshua Reinaburrow).

- Upper Susquehanna Global Ministry Team offers prayer
intercessions for your weekly worship services or personal devotions. Our mission is to provide opportunities to learn more about and uplift prayers for our ELCA global partners: Ansbach/Wurzburg in Bavaria, Lutheran Church in Liberia, Lutheran World Federation; Young Adults in Global Mission; Global Health Ministries; Camp Mount Luther; and Seafarer’s International. Click here for prayers: https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Prayers-7.8.9.20.docx

Prayers for 2020 Staff Training

The staff of Camp Mount Luther asks for congregational and personal prayers as we begin training and virtual camp for the 2020 summer camping season. We gather July 15 for three weeks of leadership training, service work, and development of a virtual camp for this summer. Here is an intercession that we hope you will use in your congregation’s prayers on July 12-July 26. We are sending this to our entire mailing list to encourage pastors and lay persons to see that this petition is included in your congregation this weekend or next. Please feel free to adapt it to your congregation’s prayer practice.

We pray today for the staff of Camp Mount Luther as it gathers for the 2020 summer camping season. Grant each staff member your Holy Spirit that the mission of your church may be edified in the work of the summer. Give them wisdom that your grace blossoms among the staff and their virtual campers. Strengthen them in their faith practices. Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

And, if you can include this in your upcoming congregational bulletins and newsletters:

Mount Luther’s “Camp COVID-19 in ’20” continues with Virtual CML from July 28- August 4. Be watching the camp website (www.campMountLuther.org) and social media sites for information on how you can participate! There are also three pre-camp worship services that will be posted each week leading up to Virtual CML. Have a great summer, growing in faith and God’s grace.

Links

A Pastoral Call to Dismantle Racism & End Violence Against People of Color

Below you will find a statement from the Pennsylvania Council of Churches calling to dismantle racism and end violence against people of color. It is posted on our website at https://www.pachurches.org/a-pastoral-call-to-dismantle-racism-end-violence-against-people-of-color/. Please feel free to share.

Missionary Update

Here is Linda Johnson Seyenkulo’s newsletter from Liberia. Catch up on what is going on in our companion synod.
