**News**

**“Not a Silent Night” Advent Study**

Pastor Tormod Svensson and Pastor Kate Drefke will be co-leading a mid-week study this Advent season. The study will take place via Zoom 8:15-9:15pm on the four Wednesdays in Advent, starting December 2.

Suitable for youth and adults, the study will consist of teaching, video clips and discussion in large and small groups format. Participants are encouraged to purchase the accompanying Adult Study Guide or Youth Study Guide, which will be helpful, but not necessary.

Adult study guide: https://www.amazon.com/Not-Silent-Night-Paperback-Bethlehem/dp/150187957X/ref=sr_1_37

Youth study guides: https://www.amazon.com/Silent-Night-Youth-Study-Book/dp/1501815695/ref=sr_1_17

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89226218719?pwd=aEmaU0JiLUJRuR3pVM81OWFFdFoZ09

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**Lessons and Carols for the First Sunday of Christmas**

Our synod staff will provide a recorded service of Lessons and Carols for the First Sunday of Christmas. Congregations that wish to use this service in place of their usual Sunday worship. The recording will drop on December 26 at 5:00pm on the synod’s YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Congregations are invited to participate in this service by providing recordings of hymns. Whether instrumental or vocal, by a member, a virtual choir, or otherwise, those who want to participate in this way can contact Craig Miller for instructions on how to submit a recording. Submissions must be received by December 15.

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**Another Advent Series**

During the Advent season we often talk a lot about the Holy Land of the past without talking much about the Holy Land of the present. What is going on in Bethlehem today? How are we called to accompany our Palestinian siblings in love, joy, hope, peace, and justice? What does this mean for our own advent journey?

Join ELCA Young Adults and ELCA Peace Net Walls starting Nov 30 for an Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine. Over the course of the 4 weeks of Advent young adults from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land will lead us on this pilgrimage through story, education, and theological reflection. Every Monday of Advent we will share a video reflection and every Wednesday of Advent we will share a written blog post, accompanied by discussion questions and actionable items you can use with small groups.

Register here to receive Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine resources by email and/or to register for our opening educational webinar on Monday, November 30 8:30-9:30pm EST. Follow at #AdventInPalestine

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**Let LWR Help You This Advent**

Lift up the experience of our neighbors in each of the regions your love reaches: Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Lutheran World Relief will provide you with a full suite of resources that can be used digitally or in-person each week: sermon illustrations, powerful videos, candle lighting litany and at-home engagement. Visit lwrd.org/congregations to download these free resources and make plans for your congregation to experience a Season of Hope.

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**From Missionary Viking Dietrich**

Find below my November Newsletter. It is in some ways a Thanksgiving letter. There are a few links that are shared: one, to a 3 minute feature on a study on Luther’s document. The newsletter reflects the continued challenges of travel restrictions. Despite them and the advance of dark and cold days, Marissa and I are doing well, and we hope you are too.

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**Global Missions**

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**More Global News**

YAGM application process is open! The application process opened on November 1 and concludes January 15th. Will be sooner here then we know it! The application description can be found [here](https://www.uss-ark.org/yagm/).
The ELCA Wittenberg Center has just completed its first webinar series and thanks to many of you for your attendance! The series was recorded and is now on Vimeo for viewing. This is an excellent series showcasing Martin Luther's Freedom of a Christian. Consider this a short term Bible study for your congregation, or adding this your synod's continuing education program. Or connecting with your seminary as an additional resource. Or connecting with the presenters outright for additional presentations. You can also find free additional resources for individual and group study of The Freedom of a Christian on the ELCA 500 site: https://www.elca500.org/. There is a lot of great things to work with here! Also, if you’d like to receive updates from the ELCA Wittenberg Center – please let Robert Moore, robert.moore@elca.org know – also copied in this email.

Annual Report Covers
The new 2020 annual report covers are now available. Both can be found in the Stewardship resources here: https://www.elca.org/Resources/Stewardship#Leadership.

Job Posting
EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION
Chicago, IL

The ELCA seeks its next Executive for Administration (EA), who will serve as the chief operating officer for the ELCA’s churchwide headquarters located in Chicago. The EA will work closely with the presiding bishop and all ELCA staff leaders. Importantly, the EA position presents the unique opportunity to be deeply involved in the redesign of the churchwide leadership structure and to serve as a primary driver of the strategic planning process, including addressing challenges facing congregations such as an aging membership and diversity in membership. To apply, send a current resume and letter of introduction to Kittleman & Associates, LLC at https://bit.ly/3JHyQiu. For best consideration, interested parties should submit their resume and cover letter ASAP.

Next Zoom: December 2
The next monthly Zoom meeting with the bishop will take place at 11:00 a.m. Here's the login information: https://www.uss-elca.org/bi-weekly-zoom-instructions/

Weekly Online Gathering for ELCA Leaders
Research from Fuller Youth Institute has shown that people ages 15-29 are looking for a role to play right now in the church, and they want to learn alongside other leaders who can show them the way. Those leaders are taking keys off their own keychains and handing them over to young people – keys of responsibility, authority, influence, and access. On November 18, we will be meeting Kendyl Ward, an 11th grade high school student from Havertown, Pennsylvania, and Kash Campbell, a young adult from Orlando, Florida, who will share with us who has given them the keys to leadership within the church.

https://wp.me/p9Gqgm-1kk

Prayers
For the following congregations in our synod and their pastors:
- Milton Lutheran Parish (Pastor Gary Schaeffer)
- Evangelical, Reedsville (Pastor Carla Volland)
- Christ, Brick and White (Pastor Gary Owens)
- Good Shepherd, Berwick (Interim Pastor Christine Kirchner)
- Himmel's, Rebuck (Pastor Jane Compton)
- Gethsemane, Arnot (Pastor Sandra Olson)

We randomly list nominations from our synod each time in Headwaters.

Links
Continuing Education
- Check out the latest offerings from the Stevenson School for Ministry here: https://dioceseepa.org/ssfm/
- Check out the latest offerings from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center of their course and webinars at https://lmpeacecenter.org/
- Check out the latest offerings of the Interim Ministry Network here: https://imnedu.org/

Mediation Skills Training Institute
Announcing our tentative dates for MSTI 2021:
March 1-5, May 3-7, June 21-25, August 2-6, October 11-15, and November 15-19
All our events will be conducted online until it has been deemed safe to travel and to congregate in large groups. For updates we invite you to visit our website often at https://lmpeacecenter.org/brochures/.
Take advantage of this unique opportunity to attend our highly popular and practical workshop without the added expenses of travel and lodging!
For the current MSTI Brochure, please click here.
To make sure you receive this newsletter, please put Upper_Susquehanna_Synod@mail.vresp.com in your contact list.