Next Zoom: January 6

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/

Mission Support Deadline

All 2020 Mission Support is due to the synod office by January 12, 2021.

Annual Reports Due

Don't forget to complete annual reports which can be accessed through our website at https://www.uss-elca.org/annual-reports/. Interims are responsible to see that the information is submitted from these congregations. Retired leaders are expected to complete this report.

The parochial report login information will come directly to the congregation from ELCA. This mailing will include hardcopy forms and instructions on how to complete them. **Online submission of the information is preferred.**

The Statement of Intent can be filled in on a computer. It appears the ‘Submit’ button does not work, but the form can be sent to Brenda@uss-elca.org as an email attachment.

There are two versions of the Report to the Bishop, long and a short. Most rostered leaders should try to complete the long form as it provides more information to the bishop. The long form (please choose the one appropriate to your call) is designed to be completed on a computer. These forms can be submitted directly to the bishop as an email attachment or mailed to the synod office. The information included is kept confidential.

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 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

**North Branch:** Fourth
New Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2021 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning on January 1, 2021, the standard mileage rates for the use of a vehicle is:

- 56 cents per mile driven for business use, down 1.5 cents from the rate for 2020,
- 16 cents per mile driven for medical, or moving purposes for qualified active duty members of the Armed Forces, down 1 cent from the rate for 2020, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2020.

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Weekly Online Gathering for ELCA Leaders

As we turn the calendar to a new year, to a new decade, we have a new perspective with which to look back over the year, the decade, our lives, the generations. We can take this opportunity to reflect upon what did and did not happen, what we did and did not receive, what was present and what was sorely and painfully absent. In this session (5 of 7), Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin will reflect on one of Francis Weller's five Gates of Grief: "What We Expected and Did Not Receive," and we will engage in a practice of seeing with eyes of love as a way of responding to this often unrecognized source of grief in our lives.

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

Be Ready

Faith-based organizations are invited to a FEMA webinar that will provide communities of faith with the knowledge and tools to develop a continuity plan and sustain continuity of operations before, during and after an incident or emergency. It will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, from 11 am-12:30 pm ET. Register here

Prayers

For the following congregations in our synod and their pastors:

- Mazeppa Union (Pastor Ricky Phillips)
- St. John, Lewistown (Pastor Allen Hulslander)
• Emmanuel, Middleburg (Interim Pastor Craig Miller)
• Hidlay, Bloomsburg (Interim Pastors Joel Zeiders and Chad Hebrink)
• St. Luke, Sunbury (Interim Pastor Ann Zimmerman)
• Southern Clinton County Parish (Pastor Karl Runser)

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

Links

Continuing Education

• Check out the latest offerings from the Stevenson School for Ministry here: https://dioceseecpa.org/ssfm/
• Check out the latest offerings from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center of their course and webinars at https://impeacecenter.org/
• Check out the latest offerings of the Interim Ministry Network here: https://imnedu.org/

To make sure you receive this newsletter, please put Upper_Susquehanna_Synod@mail.vresp.com in your contact list.