Thanks for Your Mission Support

Who would have predicted the year we had in 2020; that we would live through a global pandemic that continues to take the lives of so many while wreaking havoc in our communities and congregations? Even seeing COVID 19 coming into our region, we never expected we would have to suspend our gatherings for worship, nor that so many congregations would remain apart for so long.

Still, we witnessed the courage and creativity of many who quickly learned ways to stay connected to one another. Congregations moved their worship to online platforms such as Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Modern communications technology enabled us to remain a gathered community even if we could not physically come together.

We are grateful for the members of our congregations who continued their support of God’s mission throughout 2020. With a spirit of generosity, you gave even when, to many, the church was “closed”. These contributions enabled the wonderful creativity and adaptation that we continue to see in our congregations.

And the generosity we saw in congregations flowed to our synod through congregational Mission Support. Thanks to 117 of our 122 congregations our synod received nearly $750,000 in 2020, exceeding congregation commitments by $17,000. Although we fell short of our budget projections by approximately $12,000, the greater shortfall we feared from the pandemic did not occur.

Congregational Mission Support to our synod benefits the work of our wider church as it enables us together to fund programs and initiatives that share the love of Jesus beyond our localities. The USS Ark shares stories of what Mission Support does in our North-Central Pennsylvania region. You can read about the work of the wider church in Stories of Faith in Action at https://www.elca.org/sofia.

Calling All Young Adults!

Are you fresh out of high school? Or have you recently graduated college? Or are you starting a family? Do you long to be part of a meaningful community but feel like you haven't been able to find one that speaks to you? Do you wish you could find people your own age who want to have deeper conversations about life and faith? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, then come and join the Upper Susquehanna Synod's new Young Adult Group (no, we couldn't think of a better name than that yet...but at least it's descriptive)!

We will connect once-a-month on Zoom to talk about the things that matter to you. Pastor Jim Vitale, a fledgling, twenty-something pastor fresh out of seminary (who, incidentally, also answered yes to many of the above questions) will be your companion in your search for authenticity, community, spirituality, or maybe just a break from the crazy nonsense of everyday life.

If you're interested in seeing what this new group is all about, send an email to Jim at beaverlutheranpastor@gmail.com or shoot him a text at 518-935-7409. We will have our first meeting soon. There's no prep-work and no homework. Just promise to come as you are (as if you could come any other way!).
Learning about Missionaries

Sunday, January 10, the Middlecreek Conference Confirmation Youth met, via Zoom, with Rev. Viking Dietrich. Many of you may remember Pastor Dietrich as the pastor at St. John’s, Montgomery during his time on the Upper Susquehanna Synod territory. He also served on the then Liberia Global Mission Committee. Upon leaving our synod for a call with the ELCA to serve as Regional Representative for Europe, Middle East and Northern Africa, he and his wife, now live in Germany.

They adjusted our meeting time because of the time difference, but it was well worth it. Pastor Dietrich shared his previous experience serving as an ELCA missionary in Senegal for 17 years focusing on making bridges between Muslims and Christians. His interest in diversity and learning different cultures suits him well with the ELCA unit for service and justice.

His presentation focused on the ELCA: Where we work; How we work; Support for minority churches; Support for refugees; Support for Roma people; Central Europe Teachers and Young Adult in Global Ministry; Scholarships, Camp Counselors; and Companion Synod. He emphasized the accompaniment model with our global partners and the importance of presence to our Ansbach/Wurzburg Kirchenkreis and Liberia partners.

Many of our congregations are using Zoom for worship, Confirmation Classes and Bible Studies. You are encouraged to reach out to our missionaries and have your own Zoom session to learn more about their call and mission to do God’s work in the Kingdom.

- Rev. Viking Dietrich: Viking.Dietrich@elca.org
- Rev. Linda Johnson-Seyenkulo: ljseyenk@gmail.com
- Rev. Brian Palmer: tryingsmall@gmail.com

Up and Down the Valleys

The congregation and children at St. John’s, Northumberland (Interim Pastor Jerri Carlin and Vicar Karla Leiby) recently collected money and items for infants and toys to assist Birthright families. Pictured are Peggy Campbell, Heidi Kerchoff, and Owen White.

Camp Mount Luther News: the camp received financial help at the beginning of this year thanks to a $9,000 grant from the ELCA’s Total Inclusion! Program. The program is an opportunity to inspire, educate and resource camp organizations as they move toward a wider and more intentional inclusion of people who have been historically marginalized in the church. And the camp’s website now has information about summer camp programs. Brochures were also mailed in January to churches and campers.

Congregational Leaders! Don’t forget to submit your statement of intent, congregational leaders’ form and parochial reports due February 15 to the synod office if you have not already done so.

You can help tell the stories of our ministries within the synod. We welcome your submissions for USS Ark. If you have a ministry that you’d like to be featured, please send information to news@uss-elca.org. To help, perhaps you could answer one of these questions: What is your best memory of being a member of your congregation? What does your congregation do best? What ministry projects are you planning to do in your congregation this year? Pictures are welcomed but please get permission of those pictured before sending. Thank you for your partnership and for reading Ark!
**Upper Susquehanna Synod Events**

**Precautions and Vaccines**
We give thanks that the number of COVID-19 cases in our territory is decreasing. But the number of deaths being experienced in our congregations is on the rise. We need to continue to take the necessary precautions to help keep one another safe. This may mean holding off in-person worship and gatherings a bit longer. At a minimum, it means not gathering in large groups, continuing to wear masks and physically distancing from one another. And let’s not forget about singing, which is known to be a huge spreader of the virus. We aren’t in the clear yet, but hope is on the way as we see vaccines being distributed. Bishop Collins has heard from a number of our folks that they are getting their shots. This is wonderful news. But there are still many who are waiting to be scheduled, or to be placed on a list. Most of our rostered leaders, the Bishop and staff included, are in that waiting pattern. When the vaccine becomes available to you, please step up to get your shots. With more and more of us receiving the vaccine, we will have one more layer of protection against this virus and be one step closer to being able to safely gather together. Be safe, wear your mask, and be patient.

**March 10-11, 2021: Help Camp Mount Luther During Raise the Region**
Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA’s “Raise the Region” on March 10-11, 2021. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 p.m. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Mount Luther over these days to the camp’s Annual Fund, unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause. To be part of Raise the Region, visit [www.raisetheregion.org](http://www.raisetheregion.org) during the event and make an online donation to camp. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for eight years and has garnered about $119,000 in donations during this event. The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year! Promote it on CML Sunday (February 14) with this bulletin insert/flyer: [https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Raise-the-Region-Flyer.pdf](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Raise-the-Region-Flyer.pdf)

**May 2, 2021: CML Spring Open House**
New and former campers, family, and friends are invited to the Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House on Sunday, May 2, 2021, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. to enjoy a nice spring day at camp. Come see what it is like to be a camper, tour our facilities, ask questions, and participate in fun “camp” activities. If you are a returning camper, consider bringing a friend who has never been to camp. Want to get a taste of camp before the summer season? This event is perfect for new campers who are a little apprehensive about leaving home for the first time. First time campers who attend can get a coupon for a discount on their summer registration! To download a flyer for the event, click here: [https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf)

**May 10, 2021: Bishop’s Open Golf Tournament**
The annual Bishop Open’s Golf Classic is set for May 10, 2021, 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/2021/01/2021-Golf-Tournament-Flyer-DRAFT-2.pdf](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Golf-Tournament-Flyer-DRAFT-2.pdf). The camp’s golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole 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 22, 2021: CML Spring Work Day
Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 22, 2021, 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 17 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587. Promote it: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Work-Day-Flyer.pdf

June 19, 2021: Synod Assembly
The 2021 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place digitally on June 19, 2021. The planning team has been busy working on preliminary preparations for the event. Voting members from each congregation will need to be identified by mid-March. Serve your church by being part of this historic event! Talk to your pastor about being your congregation’s representative. Please know that you will need to be able to use technology and/or have someone next to you to help you navigate this digital experience. Registration materials will be available soon. 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.

October 28, 2021: Lutheran Day at the Capital
As we continue to move through the pandemic, we look forward and invite you to mark your calendar for this year’s Lutheran Day. We will gather in Harrisburg on Thursday, October 28, 2021. We have moved this annual event from the spring into the fall in prayerful anticipation that we may safely gather by then. Learn more here: https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/save-the-date-for-lutheran-day-2021-october-28/
Camperson Meeting
Will Be Virtual!

The annual camperson meeting at Camp Mount Luther will be on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. We have decided to do a virtual meeting so that we might be safer as well as get more people involved. If you are planning to be your congregation’s camperson, please email chad@campmountluther.org to get the Zoom link.

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. Campersons will get Camel Bucks to the camp store for all those who attend from their congregation!

Register Now for Summer!

Mount Luther is gearing up for our summer camping season for 2021 and we are accepting registrations for all programs until they are filled. Campers who register before April 15th will receive a discount on their camp fee. The camp is planning to have a summer season utilizing pandemic precautions. This year’s camping season will begin on June 20, 2021. Resident and Day Camps run until August 6. There are programs for all ages from kindergarten to senior high, adults, and families. Most sessions run for one week, but there are also half-week and day-only sessions.

New programs this year include Retro Day Camp where young campers will do activities that were done “back in the day;” Outdoor Quest, a new adventure camp sampler with biking, hiking, low ropes course, nature study, and canoeing; Traditional and New Things (TNT), a new joint week between the camp, Upper Susquehanna Lutheran Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA; and SALT (Service and Learning Training) and SALT2 with service work and leadership development. For more information on this summer’s programs, visit www.campmountluther.org.

This year’s theme at Mount Luther is “From Generation to Generation.” Campers will explore the stories of familiar Bible characters and their responses to God’s call and promised faithfulness in their lives. They’ll see how the enduring love instilled in the promise to Abraham and Sarah continues through Old Testament characters, to Jesus, to the early church, and on to them!
It’s Raise the Region Time!
Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA’s “Raise the Region” on March 10-11, 2021. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 p.m. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Mount Luther these days to the camp’s Annual Fund unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause. To be part of Raise the Region, visit www.raisetheregion.org during the event and make an online donation to camp. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for eight years and has garnered about $119,000 in donations during this event. The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!

Another Way to Help CML: Thrivent Choice
Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible Thrivent members the power to recommend Thrivent Financial distribute some of its charitable funds each year to Camp Mount Luther or other enrolled non-profit charities. Last year, Camp Mount Luther received $2,662 through this program, which unfortunately was about $10,000 less than the prior year. If you are an eligible member, please consider us when directing Choice Dollars. Choice Dollars for 2020 must be directed by March 31, 2021. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Straight from the Camel’s Mouth
By Kyros T. Camel
The camels are looking forward to this summer! It’s been so quiet at camp, although we have seen a few people using the facilities lately, which is good.

With summer coming, Chad is accepting applications for summer staff. Candidates must possess a commitment to Christ, a passion for the outdoors, and strong leadership and teamwork skills. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the camp office or submit an application online at www.campmountluther.org/application

As you may have heard, the Camp Mount Luther Board decided to budget in thirds and appeal to our friends to help us meet the financial needs of our outdoor ministry. We are looking to raise $135,000 before the end of April. At the end of December, we had been gifted $27,540. Thanks to all who have helped so far.

Interested in learning more about our programs this summer? Check out our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Videos are being posted about each age group’s tentative programs for Summer 2021. We are excited that we already have a few registrations in hand for this summer.

Speaking of this summer, we will soon have information out on all our pandemic precautions for camp. Be looking for that document on what you need to do to prepare for a week at camp and how we will help keep you safe while you are here.

Until next time, the camels and I will hold down the fort and can’t wait for warmer weather!

Camp Mount Luther
355 Mt. Luther Ln., Mifflinburg, PA 17844
Phone: (570) 922-1587  FAX: (570) 922-1118
E-Mail: cml@campmountluther.org
Please remember Mount Luther in your gift plan.
MOUNT LUTHER ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

2020

Listed on the following pages are those individuals, businesses, churches, and organizations that donated to Camp Mount Luther at the various giving levels during this past year. We are grateful for your support so we can do ministry in this place! Giving that grows out of our relationship to God is part of living as faithful servants and stewards. Evidence that the camp is part of people’s stewardship is here in this report. Gifts include those made to the Annual Fund, Raise the Region, Designated Gifts, Youse Campership Fund, Doyle Campership Fund, Synod Congregation Mission Support, Endowment Fund, New Facilities, Wish List items, and Adopt-A-Building donations. If for some reason you note an error on these lists, please contact the camp office and we will make the correction. Unless otherwise noted, churches listed are Lutheran congregations. We thank you for your continued support, through financial giving and your prayers.

CIRCLE OF FAITH GIVING CLUB

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Gifts totaling between $100-$249

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- Cheryl and Alex Anderson
- Jennifer Aram
- Janice Austin
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- Union
- St. John, Milroy
- St. John’s, Deck Kill
- St. John’s, Mt. Pleasant Mills
- St. John’s, Northumberland
- St. Luke’s, Sunbury
- St. Matthew, Bloomsburg
- St. Michael’s, Cogan Station
- St. Paul’s (Erdley’s)
- St. Paul’s, Gowen City
- Sunbury Broadcasting Corp
- T-Ross Brothers Construction
- The Table, Bloomsburg
- Trinity, Northumberland
- Wolfe Brothers
- Women of the ELCA - St. Mark’s Lutheran Church

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Gifts totaling between $250-$499

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- Daniel and Julie Eriksson
- Jere and Marilyn Eshleman
- Melissa Eshleman
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- Joel Stahl
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- Ty Turner
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- Juniata Valley Bank
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- PA Church Insurers, LLC
- Port Royal Lutheran Church
- Service Electric Cablevision
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- St. Mark, Williamsport
- St. Paul, Allensville
- The House Washers
- Trinity, Cowan
- Trinity, Danville
- United, Lock Haven
- Versant Strategies LLC
- (MeeCee Baker)
**Bishop’s Club**

**Gifts totaling over $5,000**

Andy and Ruth Gates
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Trinity, Sunbury
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- Joe and Leanna Muscato
- Chris and Megan Sands
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- Joan Voorhees
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Diocese of Central PA
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St. John’s, Lewistown
St. John’s, PottsGrove
St. Luke’s, Williamsport
St. Paul, Milroy
St. Paul’s, Nook
St. Peter’s, Kreamer
St. Stephen’s, Licking Creek
Trinity, Hughesville
Trinity, McLasterville
United, Sunbury

- Don & Carol Main
- Rev. A. Donald and Carol Main
- Rev. Karl-John Stone
- Sandra Westover
- Seth and Heather Reitz

**Thriftv Choice**

**Those who designated Choice dollars to CML**

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- Andrew Moschitta
- Ann Zimmerman
- Bethanie Bewad
- Betty Longfield
- Carl Ruck
- Carol and Paul Kampa
- Chad Hershberger
- Darwin Guyer
- David and Donna Rothermel
- David Herbert
- David Sloat
- Debbie and Guy Winey
- Dennis Metz
- Donald and Susan Athey
- Ernest King
- Gale Buck
- Gene Roberts
- George and Rose
- Halfred Wertz
- Harry Wolfe
- Harvey Ilgen
- Jacqueline Benscoter
- Janice Austin
- Jeffrey and Kathy Whitesel
- John Collins
- Judy and Ronald Updegrove
- June Kauffman Diehl
- Kathryn Scholl
- Kay Cotner
- Linda Fisher
- Lois Buck
- Louise Nogle
- Marie Klinger
- Marion Spenkle
- Mary Fera
- Mary Louise Wagner
- Maryann Reier
- Melitta Hagenbuch
- Michael Cotner
- Nancy Ard
- Nancy Wood
- Neil Raup
- Pastor Detlef Huckfeldt
- Paul Aungst
- Ray Hayes
- Rev. A. Donald and Carol Main
- Rev. Karl-John Stone
- Sandra Westover
- Seth and Heather Reitz
Susan Brandau
Theodore Menges
Thomas Parker
Thomas Watters
Timothy Dutrow
Timothy McWilliams
William and Nancy Jorakie

Naomi Main & Carolynn Main
Donald & Carol Main
Rev. A. Donald & Carol Main
Donal, Stacie, Naomi, and Carolynn Main
Ruth & Andy Gates
Karen Yeake
Shirley Heasley
John & Diane Blaschak
Messiah Lutheran Church
Shirley Rowe
Joel Stahl
Susan Phillips
Sara Phillips
Their children: Ethan, Jocelyn, and Patrick
Kirk and Sondra Fisher

In memory of
Bambie Flickinger Kauffman
Donna and Lee Wingard
Beverly J Deitz
Harry Deitz
Carl E Schroeder
Hugo and Evelyn Schroeder
Leo & Dorothy Balesstri
Trinity Lutheran Church, Sunbury
Lynn C. Phillips
Sara Phillips
Mr. Harry & Mrs. Dorothy Przekop
William and Nancy Joraskie
Nelson Aurand
Genevieve McCardie

Reed Reynolds
Carol Heintzelman
Rev. Glenn Heasley
Carl and Nancy Miller
Susie Hutchinson
Gary Hutchinson

Tribute Gifts
Gifts in honor or memory of loved ones

In honor of:
Chad Hershberger
Nancy Morgan and Craig Miller
Joel Stahl
Shirley Rowe
John Knouse
Linda Macdougall

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Chad Hershberger
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Joel Stahl
Shirley Rowe
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In memory of
Bambie Flickinger Kauffman
Donna and Lee Wingard
Beverly J Deitz
Harry Deitz
Carl E Schroeder
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Leo & Dorothy Balesstri
Trinity Lutheran Church, Sunbury
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Sara Phillips
Mr. Harry & Mrs. Dorothy Przekop
William and Nancy Joraskie
Nelson Aurand
Genevieve McCardie

Spring Open House
New and old campers, family, and friends are invited to the Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House on Sunday, May 2, 2021, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. to enjoy a nice spring day at camp. Come see what it is like to be a camper, tour our facilities, ask questions, and participate in fun “camp” activities. If you are a returning camper, consider bringing a friend who has never been to camp. Want to get a taste of camp before the summer season? This event is perfect for new campers who are a little apprehensive about leaving home for the first time. First time campers who attend can get a coupon for a discount on their summer registration! To download a flyer for the event, click here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Spring-Open-House-Flyer.pdf

Bishop’s Open Golf Tournament
The annual Bishop Open’s Golf Classic is set for May 10, 2021, 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. The camp’s golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole 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.

Spring Work Day
Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 22, 2021, 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 17 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587. Promote it: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Work-Day-Flyer.pdf