

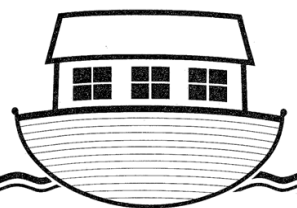


USS ARK

May/June 2024

Ministry Stories from the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

*United as Christ's Disciples, we **Support** one another; and **Serve** God in the World*
More news and events can be at uss-elca.org/uss-ark



ALWLs Commissioned

Bishop Craig A. Miller commissioned four new Authorized Lay Worship Leaders during a worship service at St. John's, Northumberland (*Pastor Karla Leiby*) on Saturday, May 4. The service ended a day of continuing education for other Authorized Lay Worship Leaders. "A Variety of Gifts" was a day of fellowship and learning that included presentations on meetings that matter, worship planning, home communion, and recording keeping and archiving. You can watch the service at https://www.youtube.com/live/RorVy_drzZs?feature=shared



Pastor Karla Leiby, Tina Baucher, Michelle Shearer, Bishop Miller, John Yingling, and Gordon Lee.

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Focus on...

Global Health Ministries



Volunteer



Global
Health
Ministries



Donate

Global Health Ministries (GHM) focuses on strengthening health systems through access to medical equipment and supplies, support for community-based primary health care programs, and expert administrative and leadership consulting.

They've partnered for decades in resource-poor settings and these deep relationships are one of our core competencies. They journey together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, where Lutheran churches manage hospitals, clinics, and grassroots efforts - all focused on improving the health of even the most vulnerable.

GHM focuses on strengthening health systems through three integrated strategies: Leadership, Medical Supplies, and Grassroots Efforts.



Leadership

Leadership is fundamental to effective and sustainable health systems. Through scholarships and investments in appropriate training institutions, GHM partners to raise up new talent for local health promotion and healthcare systems. GHM also organizes expert teams of consultants to come alongside these leaders with the experience and insight they seek.



Medical supplies

Strategic donations of medical supplies and equipment are both sustaining and capacity-building. GHM's supply chain is a lifeline for mission hospitals and clinics that struggle to provide healthcare to some of the world's most vulnerable people.



Grassroots efforts

Mobilizing grassroots efforts to improve community health is even more effective than "healthcare." GHM seeks to help our partners discover ways to train community health workers and mobilize community-based efforts that improve health.

Please pray for our global partners. If you wish to join the USS Global Ministry team, email annzimmerman@hotmail.com

If you'd like to promote Global Health in your congregation, download a bulletin insert here:

<https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Global-Health-Ministries-bulletin-insert.pdf>

Annual Assembly Soon

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will convene on June 14 & 15 2024, in Weber Chapel, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, under the theme "Fed by Jesus to feed the world." At this assembly we will also elect synod council members and voting members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly and conduct other synod business. Prior to the assembly, on Friday morning, workshops will be offered on various topics. The agenda will include Bible Study led by the Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnes, Pastor of the Follmer Parish. The Camp Mount Luther Staff will lead devotions on Friday and will be installed. Our ELCA Representative will be Marie Ann Sliwinski, Senior Director, ELCA Building Resilient Communities. Visitors are welcome at this assembly, especially for the workshops. Updates during assembly will be posted on the synod Facebook page. A full report will appear in the next USS Ark. More information and registration are available at www.elca.org/assembly. Registration deadline is May 20.

From Bishop Craig Miller

"[The Church] is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached, and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel." (Augsburg Confession VII)

The New Testament word "ekklesia", usually translated "church", means "assembly". Thus, we understand ourselves to be church when we gather in assembly. Most frequently, we assemble on Sunday in our separate congregations (synonymous with assemblies) where we hear the gospel preached and share in the sacraments of the church.

Even as we gather in separate communities, we understand that the Church is more than our local gathering: we are part of the "communion of saints" across time and space who also gather. We pray in our communion liturgy "with the church on earth and the church in heaven, we praise [God's] name and join [the Church's] unending hymn."

The ELCA calls itself a church with three expressions, congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, each of which, separately and together, are most fully known in assembly, gathering around the Word and Sacraments where Christ gives himself to us. In our assemblies, we strive to manifest the unity of our faith in Jesus Christ as we faithfully carry out Christ's mission.

Our synod will assemble on June 14-15. We will center our work around the gospel, even as we vote on matters of governance and administration. Through worship, prayer, and study, the gospel will be proclaimed, and we will be fed on Christ's body and blood.

I ask you to pray for our church in all its expressions, especially for those who will assemble in June, that we will be a sign of God's love in Jesus Christ coming into the world, a representation of the assembly of all believers.

Up and Down the Valleys

The Annual Chrism Mass was held during Holy Week at Zion, Kratzerville (*Interim Pastor Stina Schaeffer*) that included a renewal of vows. An additional word of thanks for the offering of \$183, which will go to the USS Fund for Leaders. Bottles of Chrism are available at the Synod Office.



Clergy Notes: Congratulations to **Pastor Katy Moran**, who was ordained on April 27 and is the new called pastor of Christ's, Lewisburg. **Pastor Elizabeth George** will be installed as the new pastor of Zion, Sunbury, on May 19. **Pastor Karen Ward** (*Trinity, McAlisterville*), and husband Greg Neal, welcomed a daughter, Danielle Irene-Ward Neal, on April 11.

Two congregations will celebrate their life and officially close. **St. Luke, Sunbury** will have their final service on May 19. **Emmanuel, Thompsonstown** will have their final service on June 20.

Applications are still being accepted for Summer Staff at **Camp Mount Luther**. Candidates must possess a commitment to Christ, a passion for the outdoors, and strong leadership and teamwork skills. Interested persons should contact chad@campmountluther.org or www.campmountluther.org/jobs. Also from camp, the final results are in and Raise the Region 2024 was a big success. A great big thank you to all who donated to Camp Mount Luther during Raise the Region in March. The intended donations were \$31,125 and they received \$3,856.79 in stretch dollars and an additional \$1,000 random prize. Thanks to all who donated during this online philanthropic event.

The Willing Workers of **Trinity, McAlisterville** (*Pastor Karen Ward*) were busy before Easter making eggs. With a variety of sweet flavors to choose from, they made 17,797 Easter treats.

The following are celebrating ordination anniversaries: 60th- Pastor Frederick Bigelow (retired) on June 28; 55th- Pastor Gary Owens (retired) on June 12 and Bishop Emeritus A. Donald Main (retired) on June 15; 50th- Pastor Theodore Cockley (retired) on June 23; 20th- Pastor Vickie Brown (on leave from call) on June 13; 10th- Pastor Rick White (retired) on June 10; 5th- Pastor Curt Winger (Buffalo Valley Parish) on July 24. Celebrating her 10th Anniversary of Consecration as a Deacon is Mary Lou Byler on June 20.