

HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

February 2017



NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS

- Does your congregation have paraments or vestments in good shape that you no longer use? How about communion ware? Pastors, do you have stoles or clergy shirts that you no longer use? If you have items like those and would like to donate them to the Lutheran Church in Liberia, please bring them to the Synod Office by March 10. Bishop Emeritus Main will be collecting those items and giving them to Moses Goba, who will be visiting Liberia this spring.
- Backpack Buddies programs meet an immediate need for food, but they also can be a witness that God provides us all we need for us and our neighbors. ELCA World Hunger's Backpack Buddies guide gives step-by-step instructions on how to start a backpack ministry and tips from those who have already started a program in their congregation. Find this resource online soon at www.ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the "Hunger Ed" tab.
- Beginning in August 2017, Gettysburg Seminary's Dean, the Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen, will also serve at Gettysburg College as Associate Dean of Religious & Spiritual Life/Chaplain, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Donnella, who has served as the College's chaplain since 1997. Largen has agreed to continue in the deanship through 2017 in partnership with the Philadelphia Seminary Dean Jayakiran Sebastian. Once a new president for United Lutheran Seminary is selected, a permanent dean will also be appointed.
- If you have ELCA-Primary health coverage, follow these three steps to earn up to \$400 wellness dollars by completing Portico's Live Well Challenge. Find everything you need at PorticoBenefits.org/livewell. Take stock of your physical and emotional health via the health assessment and earn \$100 in wellness dollars. Take stock of your retirement readiness via Portico's Retirement Planning Tool; at the end of step 4 in the tool, you can either implement changes or save the plan for future consideration to earn \$200 in wellness dollars. Identify and work towards a positive lifestyle change, and report your progress on myPortico and earn \$100 in wellness dollars.
- As Earth Day April 22, 2017 approaches consider the materials for caring for creation at www.creationjustice.org. Or, consider the resources at the Earth Day Network and its 2017 campaign theme of "Environmental and Climate Literacy" (March for science, green schools and cities, endangered species, reforestation, communities of faith for the environment, etc.). For more, look at the blogs at <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/blogs>

MILESTONES

The installation of Rev. Lisa Barnes, pastor of United in Christ Lutheran Parish, Snyder/Juniata Counties, will take place on February 26 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's, Richfield. The color of the day is white.

The Installation Service for Pastor James West, the new intentional Interim Pastor at St. Mark's, Williamsport, is being planned for Saturday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m. Clergy will process wearing purple for Lent.

The installation of Rev. David Byerly, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Williamsport; St. Matthew Lutheran, Williamsport; and St. Michael's Lutheran Cogan Station, will occur on Sunday, March 26 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran in Newberry. Clergy will process wearing purple.

At the last Synod Council meeting, Rev. Bill Esborn (on-leave from call) was granted retired status.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated February 21, 2017)

Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Pine Street, Danville
- St. Mark's, Williamsport

Currently Served by Interim Pastor

- Christ, Buckhorn/St. Paul, Danville
- Christ White/Christ Brick (Hassinger's Parish)
- Faith, Richfield
- Grace, Point Township
- Messiah, Mifflintown
- St. James, Jersey Shore
- St. John, Leck Kill
- St. Luke, Sunbury
- St. Peter, Kreamer
- Trinity, Oak Grove
- Trinity, Point Township
- Trinity, Shamokin
- Zion, Herndon

Served by Interim Pastor and Seeking Candidates

- Christ & Trinity, Milton (Milton Lutheran Parish)
- Christ United, Catawissa, and St. Peter, Grovania
- Holy Spirit, Turbotville
- Salem, Selinsgrove
- St. John, Belleville
- St. Luke, Bloomsburg

Served by Interim Pastor/Preparing Ministry Profiles

- Messiah, Mifflintown
- United In Christ, West Milton (first call)
- St. John's, Lewistown

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: Mar. 2, 9:00 a.m., Follmer, Milton

Juniata Valley: Mar. 16, 10:00 a.m., Evangelical, Reedsville

Middle Creek: Mar. 8, 9:30 a.m., Place TBA

North Branch: Mar. 22, 9:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bloomsburg

Tulpehocken: Mar. 7, 10:00 a.m., St. Luke, Sunbury

West Branch: Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m., Messiah, S. Williamsport

SYNOD STAFF

Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop
BpCollins@uss-elca.org

Rev. Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission
prcmiller@uss-elca.org

Brenda Krouse, Office Manager
Brenda@uss-elca.org

Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications
news@uss-elca.org

The bishop and assistant like to make Sunday visits and during other congregational events. Here is the schedule:

February 19: Bishop at Grace and Trinity, Point Township

February 26: Bishop at Messiah, Troxelville (AM) and Pastor Lisa Barnes installation (PM). Pastor Miller at Christ (White), Middleburg

March 1: Pastor Miller at Hassinger's Parish for Ash Wed.

March 5: Bishop at Conference of Bishops. Pastor Miller at Grace, Shamokin

March 8-April 3: Bishop leading Mid-Week Lenten Services for Tulpehocken Conference

March 11: Bishop at Pastor James West's installation

March 12: Pastor Miller at DEM ALL Staff – Chicago

March 19: Bishop at St. John, Montgomery. Pastor Miller at Evangelical, Reedsville

March 26: Bishop at St. John, Unityville (AM) and Pastor David Byerly installation.

CONFERENCE DEANS

Rev. William Henderson, Buffalo Valley
pastor.celc@gmail.com

Rev. James Park Bricker, Juniata Valley
gymbri@embarqmail.com

Rev. Robert Doll, Middle Creek prdoll2@gmail.com

Rev. John Koons, North Branch revjrk@hotmail.com

Rev. Richard Fangman, Tulpehocken pastorrich@ptd.net

Rev. Kerry Aucker, West Branch kaucker1@comcast.net



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Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

Reminder: Get Your Forms Turned into Synod and ELCA Office

For pastors: It's that time of year to complete several forms for the synod office to report on the year that just passed and the new year. Please submit names of new or continuing congregational leaders to USS on "Congregational Leaders Form." And, confidential reports to the bishop are now due, too, as is the Statement of Intent if it was not turned in yet. E-mail completed reports to BpCollins@uss-elca.org. Parochial reports for 2016 to the ELCA were due on February 15. If they haven't been completed, please do so ASAP.

February 26, 2017: Mount Luther Sunday

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be recognized as "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on this day, February 26, 2017. Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that is done in local Lutheran congregations. The camp asks that congregations promote the camp on that Sunday or designate another Sunday this spring to do so. Ways to promote the camp include bulletin inserts to share with congregation members, Temple Talks, camper testimonials, bulletin board displays, special camp music during Sunday school and church services, as well as special offering being collected. Ideas are available here:

<http://www.campmountluther.org/event/mount-luther-sunday/>

February 27, 2017: Alice Pope Shade Lecture at Susquehanna University

CNN political analyst David Gregory will present the 2017 Alice Pope Shade Lecture on February 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Degenstein Center Theater on the campus of Susquehanna University. Based on his critically acclaimed memoir of the same name, *How's Your Faith? An Unlikely Spiritual Journey* will explore Gregory's attempts to deepen his faith amid the rough-and-tumble world of broadcast news. The event is free and open to the public; no tickets are required. Best known for his nearly 20 years at NBC News, Gregory served for six years as the moderator of *Meet the Press* and as chief White House correspondent during the presidency of George W. Bush. He traveled with President Bush on 9/11 and during his first visit to Ground Zero after the attacks. From the White House, David covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and earned a reputation as the toughest questioner in the press corps. As a correspondent, Gregory covered the trials of O.J. Simpson and Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, as well as other breaking news around the country. He contributed anchoring duties to all of the network's major programs, including *TODAY* and *NBC Nightly News*, and served as a political analyst. The annual Shade lecture is made possible by the Alice Pope Shade Fund, established in 1983 by her daughter, Rebecca Shade '54 Mignot, to bring nationally and internationally renowned religious scholars and leaders to campus. Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and the Office of the Chaplain, the lectures explore the role religion plays in various aspects of public life and in the formation of individual character.

March 8-9, 2017: Camp Mount Luther is Helped by Raise the Region

Camp Mount Luther is participating in "Raise the Region" on March 8-9, 2017. The event, coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, helps the community support local nonprofit organizations' fund raising efforts. FCFP, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, will be launching the 30-hour fundraising event on March 8 and 9, 2017, starting at 6:00 p.m. on March 8 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on March 9. Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships has donated \$150,000 that will be used to stretch a portion of donations made to pre-registered nonprofits. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded throughout the entire event. This program is designed to help organizations, like Camp Mount Luther, kickoff our 2017 fundraising campaigns and increase donor bases. Proceeds from this event will go to the camp's Annual Fund, unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause. How It Works:

1. On March 8 and 9, donors will visit www.raisetheregion.org from a computer, smart phone, iPad, etc. to learn more about the nonprofits participating and how their work is impacting our community.

2. You can then make an online donation to support one or more of those nonprofit organizations on the Raise the Region website. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website.
 3. At the end of the donation period, a pro-rated match per gift will be determined and the Community Foundation will send checks to all participating nonprofits with the amount raised, the pro-rated match, and any EXTRA money from prizes awarded throughout the day.
- Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for four years and has garnered about \$50,000 in donations during this event. The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!

March 12, 2017: Re-Creation in Mifflin County

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reedsville will host the musical group, Re-Creation on March 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at their church. Re-Creation is a group of dynamic young people who present both religious and family oriented music. Re-Creation was founded in 1976 and since that time has appeared in churches of all denominations in all 50 states. The Re-Creation sacred program is structured with a sensitive presentation of an enduring faith in the Christian message. The group's remarkable blending of voices and dynamic presentation contribute to a unique and memorable worship experience. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be received.

March 22, 2017: Norma Wood Lecture

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., Mary J. Streufert will present "Fire, Rape, and Moral Authority: Rape Law and Lutheran Theology" in the Gettysburg Seminary Chapel. It will be preceded by afternoon workshops on "Structural Sexism and Patriarchy" and "Language and Imagery of God." The 2017 Norma Wood Lecture and workshops are free and open to the public. Mary J. Streufert serves as Director for Justice for Women in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Publications include *Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives*, ed. (Fortress Press, 2010) and articles, chapters, and encyclopedia entries on Lutheran and feminist theology. She contributes to gender-related social policy and teaching development in the ELCA and serves as the North American regional coordinator of the Lutheran World Federation Women in Church and Society program. From 2010 to 2016, Streufert served on the Schleiermacher Group steering committee of the American Academy of Religion, and from 2010 to 2013, she co-chaired the National Council of Churches Justice for Women Working Group. Streufert earned a doctorate in theology from Claremont Graduate University, an interdisciplinary master's degree from Oregon State University, and a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University. The Norma Wood lecture is an occasional offering of Gettysburg Seminary, in honor of the Dean Emerita, Norma Schweitzer Wood, on topics exploring social justice. For more information contact Chelle Huth, Director of Lifelong Learning at chuth@Ltsq.edu.

March 24-26, 2017: Marriage Encounter Weekend

When is the last time the two of you did something to enrich and revitalize your marriage? Make 2017 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8:00 p.m. to Sunday around 3:00 p.m. and have been enriching marriages for over 40 years! There is a \$100 per couple registration fee; plus, toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included.

The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:

- **March 24-26, 2017** at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.
- **April 28-30, 2017** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
- **September 15-17, 2017** at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.
- **October 6-8, 2017** at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake – an hour north of Hartford, CT.

To sign up online, go to: www.Godlovesmarriage.org and pay the \$100 registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net. Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!

April 5, 2017: Institute for Lifelong Learning Program

Susquehanna University's Institute for Lifelong Learning is a series of programs designed for senior community members. Members gather in SU's Campus Center on Wednesday to enjoy a social hour, presentation, and lunch, beginning at 10:15 a.m. There are three options for membership in the institute. For further details, please contact Joe Herb at kapajoe@ptd.net or 570-374-9911 or Jayme Long at longj@susqu.edu or 570-372-4354.

April 5 Program: Dr. Philip Mackowiak, author of *Diagnosing Giants*; Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine: "Beethoven and the Sound That Failed."

April 11, 2017: Chrism Mass

The annual Chrism Mass with Renewal of Ministry Vows will take place on the Tuesday of Holy Week, April 11, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. It will be held at Trinity, Hughesville. Lunch will be provided after the service. Please reserve your place for lunch by contacting the synod office. Whereas all are welcome to participate in this service, Pastors, Deacons, and Authorized Lay Worship Leaders are especially invited to renew vows and recommit to worship leadership. The service will include the blessing oil, which will be available to rostered leaders to take with them following lunch.

April 23, 2016: Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House

Have you ever wanted to see Mount Luther's site and facilities? Do you miss camp and want to visit in the springtime? Are you interested in coming to camp this summer but want to get more information and see the place first? Well, this is your chance. The Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. You can ask questions, tour camp, and see what it's like to be a camper! First time campers who are not yet registered for the summer and who attend the event can get a \$25 discount on their summer registration! More details will be shared on their website at www.campmountluther.org!

April 24-28, 2017: Gettysburg Seminary Spring Academy

The year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation calls for a new examination of the church's mission and task in the world. This Spring Academy, under the theme "Re-Formation is Local" brings the question home to each believer and congregation. What is our mission and task in this world, right here? Our "Re-formation" is in our own hands; we have what we need right here and now to follow God's call to us in this place. The week will offer everything from biblical vision to practical work sessions on the neighbor and what the Gospel means to those nearby sojourners. Preaching Perspectives, a Croquet Tournament, and great food and fellowship are also part of the week. Check this page often: www.ltsg.edu/springacademy as schedule, registration and presenters' details are soon posted. Wednesday evening worship will recognize the years of the seminary being LTSG with Michael Cooper-White preaching.

April 29, 2017: Food Packaging Event

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, will be hosting a meal packaging project on Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. – noon or possibly longer. Their goal is to package 20,000 pasta and tomato basil meals that will be donated to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and area food pantries. These highly nutritious soy-fortified meals have a shelf life of two years and cost 25 cents each to produce. Their goal is to raise

\$5,000. If they raise more, then they can package additional meals. The counties the northern Central Pennsylvania Food Bank serves are counties of high food insecurity. The term food insecurity means children come home from school with little or no food in the house. One in four children in Clinton County are food insecure. Lycoming County is slightly better. While we cannot solve all the causes of hunger, packaging a meal and giving something nutritious to a family is a physical act to serve our neighbor. The Outreach committee of St. Mark's Lutheran invites you to participate. They will need volunteers on Saturday, April 29. Please contact the following for more information.

Michele Owen, 570-323-4619, mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org, St. Marks Youth & Family Ministry
Becky Miller Pryor, 570-971-4585, murphy173@verizon.net, St. Marks Outreach Chairperson

Donations to cover the meals can be made out to St. Mark's Lutheran or "Outreach, Inc." and given to either Michele or Becky or mail to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport PA 17701.

May 3-5, 2017: Bishop's Retreat

Mark your calendar now – The annual bishop's retreat will be held on May 3-5 at Camp Hebron, Halifax PA. The focus of the retreat will be: *Relationship with God. Relationship with each other. Relationship with the world.* Cost for the two and a half days, meals included, is \$115/person for double occupancy and \$225/person for single occupancy. Space is limited. Registration and more information will be mailed next week.

May 22, 2017: LAMPA Lutheran Day

The rancor of this year's campaign season has uncovered divisions that will not disappear by swearing-in day. It is critical that our voice, as the people of God, be heard. At a time of such great need, how do we model mutual respect and attend to the issues confronting us and our neighbors near and far? Marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we consider how the Holy Spirit is re-forming us as the Word of God continues to change and renew the world. *How can we be Church Together, for the sake of the world, in Pennsylvania?* Lutheran Day is Monday, May 22, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. Registration opens in early 2017. Bring a friend – or a team – and join Lutheran advocates from across the Commonwealth for a day of worship, learning and inspiration to ground and deepen your call to faith-rooted advocacy. The keynote speaker will be Cynthia Moe-Lobeda.

May 8, 2017: Bishop's Open Golf Classic

The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 8, 2017, 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: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-Golf-Tournament-Flyer.pdf>. The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, door prize 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!

June 16-17, 2017: Synod Assembly

The 2017 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place at Weber Chapel on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on June 16-17, 2017. Guest speakers and musicians from the ELCA's Global Mission Team will be with us, including Sunitha Mortha as our ELCA Churchwide representative. More information will be provided as it becomes available and will be posted at <http://www.uss-elca.org/our-synod/synodassembly>. Remember, we are striving to go paperless this year with the bulletin of reports so materials will be available for download from the website listed here.