

HEADWATERS

News for Upper Susquehanna Synod Leaders

January 2017



NEWS, PRAYERS, AND LINKS

- The 2016 Annual Report Cover has been posted and can be downloaded from the ELCA website. Printed copies can be ordered from www.elca.org/resources. Up to 100 copies can be ordered directly by phone at 800-638-3522, and shipped directly to a congregation within a few days.
- The Internal Revenue Service has issued its 2017 optional standard mileage rates. Effective January 1, the IRS standard rate is 53.5 cents per mile driven for ministry or business purposes (The new rate is down from 54 cents per mile for 2016 because of lower gas prices).
- Annual Congregation Report to the ELCA –The deadline for the report is February 15, 2017! Constitutionally, it is the responsibility of the pastor to make sure the report is completed and submitted. The information provided on these reports certainly helps to provide a picture of the ELCA as a whole – but, it also influences how our synod is perceived. This year, synod staff will be working hard to get every congregation's report submitted. Please help us by getting your report completed on time. Those needing their ID number or password can contact Brenda in the synod office.
- Rostered Leader's Report to the Synod Bishop – This report is handled as a confidential report to Bishop Collins. Each rostered person should complete and return this form by February 15, 2017. If there are matters you wish to discuss, the bishop will schedule a visit with you as quickly as possible. The link to the form is <http://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Rostered-Leaders>. It is also important to know that you need to save the form to your computer before filling it out and emailing to BpCollins@uss-elca.org. If you need a copy mailed to you, please contact the synod office.
- Congregational Leaders Form 2017 – The contact information on this form is being requested so we have updated information about the congregation and can provide congregational leaders with resources to support them in their congregational ministries. It is important that we have an updated list of officers and staff with complete, current, and correct mailing and e-mail addresses. Please complete this form as soon as your new leaders are elected or appointed (by February 15, 2017 at the latest) and return it to the synod office. NOTE: If you wish to complete this form online, you may access it in a fillable format on the USS website at www.uss-elca.org.
- Check out a new report on the "Halo Effect" of Sacred Places: <https://usselca.wordpress.com/2017/01/12/report-describes-halo-effect-of-sacred-places/>

MILESTONES

Rev. David Byerly has been appointed to a term call of four years, with the possibility of a fifth year, as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Williamsport; St. Matthew Lutheran, Williamsport; and St. Michael's Lutheran, Cogan Station. Byerly started January 15, 2017.

Rev. Chris Milarch has accepted a half-time call at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in State College. It is a new North American Lutheran Church plant. Therefore he has left the roster of the ELCA effective January 1.

Rev. James West will begin January 29 at St. Mark's, Williamsport, as their new Intentional Interim Pastor. He comes from Colorado and served as a Navy Chaplain.

Rev. Gilson Waldkoenig will be changing his roster status, moving to the West Virginia/Western Maryland Synod roster. He will continue to teach at the United Lutheran Seminary as Town and Country Professor, but will also serve as the DEM in the WV/WM Synod.

With thanks to God for their ministry, we celebrate with these children of God the anniversaries of their ordination or consecration (note: anniversary years listed are in multiples of five only):

15 years: Thomas Glasoe (St. John's/Follmer, Milton) 1/27/2002

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Updated January 12, 2016)

Currently served by Intentional Interim Pastor

- Pine Street, Danville

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

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

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Buffalo Valley: Feb. 2, 9:00 a.m., Zion, Turbotville

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

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

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

Tulpehocken: Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m., St. Mark, Elysburg

West Branch: Feb. 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:

January 22

Bishop at St. Mark's, Williamsport

January 29

Bishop at Trinity, Oak Grove and Pastor Miler at Grace, Shamokin; St. Paul, Gowen City

February 5

Bishop at home congregation (Sharon, Selinsgrove)

February 12

Bishop available for invitations. Pastor Miller at Assistant's Gathering

February 19

Bishop at Grace and Trinity, Point Township

February 26

Bishop at Messiah, Troxelville. Pastor Miller at Christ (White), Middleburg

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



Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PO Box 36
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Phone: 570-524-9778
Fax: 570-524-9757
Web: www.uss-elca.org

Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

January 29, 2017: Buffalo Valley Lay School of Theology

The Buffalo Valley Conference's Lay School of Theology will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2017, at Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont, beginning with registration at 3:00 p.m. Topics for workshops will include: Introduction to the Apocryphal (Deuterocanonical) Books; Devotional Writing: Writing for Oneself; God and Baseball; Unlocking the Mysteries of I & II Corinthians; and more. The event will include the Holden Village Evening Prayer service and a light supper. Deadline for registration is Friday, January 20, 2017. Contact Pr. Greg Kramer at Faith Lutheran, Lewisburg to register (2349 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 / 570-523-3192 church office). Click here for a registration form: <https://www.uss-elca.org/event/buffalo-valley-lay-school-of-theology/lay-school-2017-registrationii/>

February 4, 2017: Healthy Congregations Workshop

Pastor Tom Glasoe will be leading the second workshop of Healthy Congregations at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Williamsport on February 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost per person is \$20.00 and must be paid in advance. Healthy Congregations is a workshop designed by Peter Steinke, author of the books *How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems* and *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*. A key concept at the heart of *Healthy Congregations* is "self-differentiation," people's capacity to calmly articulate what they think and value, and to act on that basis, while staying in active relationship with those who disagree. Workshop #2 is about Healthy Congregations Responding to Anxiety and Change. The workshop will focus on equipping leaders to respond to anxiety and change rather than react to it. The workshop will also train leaders to manage conflict effectively rather than avoid it and help leaders to act flexibly and creatively. This crucial training for both clergy and lay leaders of all areas of ministry in the congregation is designed for presentation as a single, six-hour workshop starting at 9:00 and going until 3:00 on Saturday, February 4th. Please register by calling the synod office no later than January 27.

February 8, 2017: Institute for Lifelong Learning

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.

February 8 Program: The Fitzwilliam String Quartet (tentative)

February 10-11, 2017: GROW in the Snow

This year's synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 10-11, 2017. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year's retreat is "Our Way of Life," based on Matthew 5: 13-16, and looking at faith practices and living a Christian life. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Cost is \$57 (whole program) or \$40 (Saturday only) if registered by January 31, 2017. A late fee of \$25 added after that date. No refunds will be given after the January 31st deadline. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and number of youth attending. Contact Chad Hershberger at chad@campmountluther.org with questions.

Click here for a flyer and registration form: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017-GROW-in-the-Snow-Flyer.pdf>

Click here for a schedule and additional information: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017-GROW-in-the-Snow-Schedule.pdf>

February 18, 2017: Reinsburrow Fundraiser

A pork and sauerkraut fundraising dinner to benefit the Reinsburrow and Wagner families will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at Messiah, South Williamsport. The dinner will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and be served family style. Cost is \$9.00 for adults; \$4.00 for children under the age of 12. Takeouts are also available. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling 570-326-9171. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged.

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/>

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 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. Pastors, Diaconal Ministers, Associates in Ministry, and Authorized Lay Worship Leaders are especially invited to renew vows and recommit to worship leadership. The service will include the blessing oil and everyone is welcome.

May 3-5, 2017: Bishop's Retreat

The annual bishop's retreat will be held on May 3-5 at Camp Hebron. More details are forthcoming but save the dates!

May 16, 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 Tuesday, May 16 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.