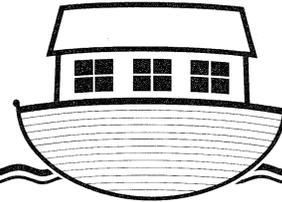


# USS ARK

News of God's People in Action



January  
2017

God's work. Our hands. + Upper Susquehanna Synod + Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 2016 Year in Review

Here is the *USS Ark's* look back at the past year's highlights:

**COLLINS ELECTED BISHOP:** The Rev. Barbara Jeanne Collins was elected as the third bishop of the synod for a six-year term beginning September 1, 2016. She succeeded Bishop Robert L. Driesen, who retired on August 31, 2016, after nine years in office. Collins was elected with 133 votes to 122 votes for Rev. William Henderson, pastor of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, on the fifth ballot. Collins was Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission for the synod prior to her election. She was installed by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at a service at Zion, Sunbury, in October.

**TRANSITION TEAM COMPLETES WORK:** The synod's transition team, appointed by Vice President Karla Bohmbach, created a profile of the synod and the leader we sought to highlight directions for those discerning a call to the Office of Bishop. Those profiles were shared broadly before the election.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY:** The Annual Synod Assembly was held at Susquehanna University in June. The theme was "Freed and Renewed in Christ." The Camp Mount Luther Staff was installed for their summer work and two people were ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. A memorial was passed in "Support for Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine." A memorial was also sent to Churchwide Assembly asking for action on advocacy efforts to end gun violence. Actions taken at Churchwide Assembly, where nine USS members including Bishop Collins attended, are here: <http://www.elca.org/en/CWA-2016?qa=1.176299053.961077637.1481815160/>

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED:** The synod signed a new five-year agreement with their companion synod in Bavaria. Pfr. Dr. Philipp Hauenstein, the Regional Bishop of the Kirchenkreis Ansbach-Würzburg, Gisela Bornowski, along with USS Bishop Robert L. Driesen and Rev. Lois Martin signed the covenant. This is the fourth signing of five-year partnership agreements with the last one being done in 2011 in Germany.

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION:** Friends, family, and colleagues gathered at Messiah, South Williamsport, on Saturday, July 16, 2016, to honor and celebrate the ministry of Bishop Robert L. Driesen. The event included a worship service and dinner meal. ELCA Secretary Wm. Chris Boerger was the preacher at the service. A program was held as part of the meal, where the synod gave Bishop Driesen a gift certificate for a local bike shop, a gift in his honor to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg's scholarship fund, and an artistic fraktur that is traditionally given to synod guests. *Continued on next page*

## LAMPa Welcomes Terry Brown to Policy Council



Terry Brown, a member of St. John's, Potts Grove (*Pastor Tom Glasoe*), has been appointed to represent Upper Susquehanna Synod on the Policy Council of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania. Recently retired from a Fortune 50 pharmaceutical manufacturer, where he served as Chief of Emergency Services, Terry has served his local communities since the age of 16 as a firefighter, E.M.T. and as a volunteer fire chief. He also instructs in the fire and hazardous materials fields. He has been married to Linda Sue Brown for 31 years, and enjoys "travelling the world, old cars and trucks, making and selling wine, mowing grass, spending time with friends and meeting new people."

When asked to serve on LAMPa's policy council by Bishop Collins, Terry said, "I was honored." Since attending his first meetings, he said, "I now realize many of my life experiences lend very well to come to the aid of others. Recently things became very clear to me in the verse from John 15: 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.' I look forward to serving the greater church and making the world a better place."

## 2016 Highlights Continued

**NEW TREASURER APPOINTED:** Pastor Jeffrey Bohan, synod treasurer, resigned as synod treasurer effective July 1, 2016, due to relocation to Upstate New York. Pastor Chad Hebrink, pastor of Grace, Berwick, took over for Bohan in July.

**ECUMENICAL UNDERSTANDING URGED:** Roman Catholics and Lutherans of Central Pennsylvania were urged by their bishops to study, discuss and preach about how the two traditions are moving toward greater understanding and fellowship. Three bishops, Bishop Driesen of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, Bishop James S. Dunlop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and the Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, together released a pastoral letter calling on Roman Catholic and Lutheran clergy and laity to explore the joint statement *Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist* "in their preaching, teaching, and parish planning."

**"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS" DAY OF SERVICE:** As part of a national observance of the ELCA, several synod congregations participated this year in "God's work. Our hands" Day of Service in September. Volunteers took time to offer service to others in their community.

**NEW ASSISTANT BEGINS WORK:** Rev. Craig A. Miller began his work in October as Assistant to Bishop Barbara J. Collins and Director of Evangelical Mission. Pastor Miller comes to our synod from Brooklyn, New York, where he served at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for 20 years. Miller, along with other members of the synod staff, were installed at a service at Christ's, Lewisburg, in early November.

**STRIKE OUT HUNGER:** Bishop Collins made a challenge before the World Series to raise funds for ELCA World Hunger. The Strike Out Work Hunger Challenge asked synod members to give a dollar amount per strike out for their favorite team.

**SEAFARERS COLLECTION CONTINUES:** Members in 42 synod congregations and two individuals filled a total of 551 Christmas At Sea gift bags for the ministry of Seafarers' International House. The bags are given to merchant seamen who come into port to off-load their cargoes during the Christmas season. This is a ministry of the ELCA whose port chaplains go aboard ships to distribute the gift bags, conduct worship services, and to offer other forms of assistance and hospitality to the crews.

**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER:** Campers to our synod camp this past summer learned about border places as they studied under the theme, "La Frontera." The camp enjoyed increase use during the non-summer months and by year's end was poised to pay off their Evergreen Center debt in the new year.

## Up and Down the Valleys

**Clergy Notes:** Rev. Matt Schuster is now the interim pastor for Christ (Brick) and Christ (White), Middleburg. Rev. Vicky Schaffner has resigned her call at St. John, Leck Kill, and Rev. Peter Bergstresser is interim. Rev. Timothy Bingman has retired as pastor of the Freeburg Parish (Zion/Grubbs/St. Peters). United in Christ Lutheran Parish voted on December 4 to call the Rev. Lisa Barnes to serve as the pastor of the parish. Her official start date will be January 23, 2017.

**The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish** (First, Mifflinburg, and Christ's United, Millmont) voted on October 9 to form a parish with the official start date of January 1, 2017. On December 11, the congregations officially voted to call Pastor John Yost to serve as the pastor of the parish.

**Rev. Robert L. Driesen** (retired) was bestowed the title of Bishop Emeritus of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, at the Synod Council meeting on November 18.

Both companion synods of the Upper Susquehanna Synod sent holiday greetings to us at Christmastime. You can read their greetings here: <https://www.uss-elca.org/companion-synods-send-greetings/>

The American Camp Association (ACA) has announced that **Camp Mount Luther**, has received ACA Accredited Camp Status following their site visit this summer. The Keystone Regional Local Council of Leaders of ACA voted to re-accredit the camp this fall. Mount Luther has been accredited by ACA since 1989.

**Camp Mount Luther and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village** in Lewisburg held a "Breakfast with Santa" in December at The Village Common. Children and their parents enjoyed pancakes, craft tables, cookie decorating, and pictures with Santa!

**USS ARK** is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce this newsletter. Send mission stories and ministry ideas by the first of the month to Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications, at [news@uss-elca.org](mailto:news@uss-elca.org).



**Upper Susquehanna Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop

PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-524-9778 [www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org)

# Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

## **January 22, 2017: Camp Mount Luther Camperson Meeting**

The annual meeting for Camp Mount Luther Campersons is Sunday, January 22, 2017, starting at 3:00 p.m. The camp is an extension of local congregational ministry and wants every member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod to know what is happening with this important ministry. To do that, Mount Luther has CAMPERSONS! A camperson is a liaison between CAMP and your CONGREGATION, who is interested in camp and wants to regularly share camp news with others. Parents of campers, past campers or staff, or someone with a genuine interest in outdoor ministry makes a great camperson. Campersons are ambassadors and promote camping ministry in your congregation. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more. Campersons will

- Share Information
- Plan and Coordinate a Camp Sunday
- Recognize Campers
- Reach Out to promote outdoor ministries
- Support camp fundraising efforts

Each congregation who sends a camperson to this event will receive Camel Bucks for the camp store for each camper. For more information, visit <http://wp.me/P7aFC9-y2>

## **January 22, 2017: Camp Mount Luther Turkey Benefit Dinner**

This event will celebrate Benjamin Franklin's Birthday. Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of our country. Camp Mount Luther thought it would be fitting to have a turkey dinner to honor his January birthday! You are invited to come to his birthday party and support camp at the same time! The dinner will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Center at Mount Luther. The menu will consist of turkey and all the trimmings. Cost for the meal is \$14 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. To download a bulletin insert/flyer at the dinner, click here: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017-Turkey-Dinner-Flyer.pdf>

## **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 FamilyWorks: 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 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 500<sup>th</sup> 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.