



Christ's Corner on the News

AS IN YEARS PAST we'll combine the July and August church newsletters into one summer newsletter. The deadline for getting articles to be included is Fri., June 12. *Make sure to include August events that you want publicized.* The July/August newsletter will be assembled and mailed out on Tues., June 23.

A MESSAGE FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY: Back in early March, Brenda & Charlene helped Social Ministry by placing the Health Kit collection barrel in the Atrium. Little did anyone know how much or how fast things were going to change. When there is easier access to the barrel, anyone with dark, lightweight towels, wrapped bar soap, metal nail clippers, large tooth combs, or toothbrushes may drop them in the barrel at any time.

Hopefully, in October, the Sew 'n Sews will be able to assemble the items for shipment to Lutheran World Relief in Maryland. If we don't have needed items, there is always 2021. We will have quilts that were completed before the shutdown ready to be sent off. The sewing ladies are looking forward to gathering safely on Wednesday mornings to prepare the annual shipment of items. This has certainly been a year of uncertainty so far! But need never seems to take a break, so we will do what we can with your help. We just won't be asking for specific items at the usual times. Thanks for your support of this project over the years.

SUMMER YOUTH LUNCH PROGRAM: Our church will take a turn providing extra food for families with children who qualify for the school lunch program over the summer or those who need extra help because of the pandemic. **Volunteers from our church will distribute this food on Friday June 19** at the First Baptist Church. Volunteers are needed to pack bags with food in the morning and to distribute bags from 1:30 -3:30. Distribution takes place out of doors. There are no signatures needed, social distancing is observed and masks are required. If you would like to be involved or wish to make a donation contact Sue Smalley (570-490-1053) or Charlene Rineer at the church (570-524-0745, ext. 303).

THE DINNER BY THE RIVER event for June 25 at the 1st Presbyterian Church has been cancelled. We will update you on the September event as that date approaches.

Christ's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

100 South Third St.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

570.524.0745

christchurch@dejazzd.com
christlutheranlewisburg.org

Dear Disciples of Christ's Church,

With the ever changing landscape regarding our world's battle with Covid-19, I know we at CELC must stay in touch with the latest information, and this includes what is happening with our worship life.

Governor Wolf has begun to relax restrictions placed on business activity, and as I write, Snyder and Montour counties in particular has been given a "green" designation as of this week. Union County and others locally are hopefully to follow soon.



What has not changed is the recommendation from the Pa. Dept. of Health that gatherings of people should not be larger than 25, and on that basis, our Congregation Council acted at our May 21 meeting to maintain a schedule of video recorded worship services in the coming weeks. The planning process has begun for what worship in our Nave will look like when we resume physical worship. The Council also affirmed a plan to continue to make video recordings of worship services even when we resume physical worship, and the Tech Committee will be meeting to plan for the equipment needed to make this happen.

So, while I am not writing today to tell you that physical worship is almost upon us, we know that the day will come when more than 25 of us may meet in worship more safely. There are congregations in various parts of the country who have begun to worship in large groups again, and discussions about doing so have unfortunately been more about political issues than public health safety. We don't yet know what the price for restarting right now will be for churches which do so. I told the Council on May 21 that I would rather have it be said 2 years from now "we waited a little longer than we had to" instead of "we restarted worship too soon and paid the price". The health of the members of CELC in the midst of a pandemic is my largest single concern.

Once again I thank you all for your patience and for your support of the congregation's ministries! I hope that, years from now, 2020 will be remembered for many acts of unselfishness and love as we worked through this pandemic.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the continuing fine efforts of our Church Staff during these challenging times. In addition to all of us who are on staff, Shawn Baker, Tom Booth, Chad Hershberger, and Tim Vasey have been so very helpful in the recording of worship services – as have Council President Tim Goff and Vice President Bill Borys. I will be on vacation from June 8 – 21, and you will have the blessing to see Pastor Petry and Tom Booth leading video worship during that time. My thanks to Pastor Bill and to Tom!

May God bless us all during this challenging month of June, 2020!

Yours in Christ's Service,

PASTOR HENDERSON

Congratulations, Graduates!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADS:

Chloe Michaels is graduating from Lewisburg Area High School. She will be attending Bucknell University in the fall.

COLLEGE GRADS:

Caitlin Apple graduated from Gettysburg College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Science. She will begin classes at the University of Delaware, on September 1, to earn her doctorate of Physical Therapy.

Vanessa Lloyd graduated from Susquehanna University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. She plans on teaching at a public school and teaching private piano lessons.

Ciel Smith has earned a BBA, International Business with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship and French and a minor in Music/Vocal Performance from Belmont University, Nashville, TN. Her plans are to live in Nashville and work as a private chef while finalizing plans to open a French bakery.

Kennedy Snyder has graduated from Mount Aloysius College School of Nursing. She is an Emergency Department Technician at Evangelical Community Hospital.



JUNE 80+ BIRTHDAYS:

Virginia Mutschler	June 01
Sandy Wunder	June 02
Leola Dornsife	June 05
Marian Thomas	June 06
Bob Harrison	June 10
Theron ("Tex") Winter, Jr.	June 12
Patricia Prichett	June 24
Carol Keefer	June 26

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Leroy & Maxine Gilbert	June 01, 1963
David & Sally Holmes	June 05, 1954
Gerald & Julie Albright	June 06, 1992
Adam & Amanda Geer	June 08, 2013
Dale & Peggy Biesecker, Jr.	June 10, 1972
Gary & Barbara Baylor	June 14, 1969
Tim & Jackie Goff	June 14, 1986
Jeff & Julie Rowe	June 14, 2003
Mark & Adelyn Elliott	June 18, 1978
Tim & Carol Apple	June 19, 1993
Dave & Vicki Heberlig	June 21, 1969
Gregg & Debra Wetzel	June 21, 1980
Brian & Diane Miller	June 22, 1996
Bill & DeeDee Wagner	June 24, 2005
Bruce & Ruth Ann Wallis	June 26, 1965
Michael & Jan Brown	June 28, 1980
Dr. Todd & Julia Stefan	June 30, 1990

THANK YOU from Emma Gearhart:

Thank you to all of you who sent me cards for my recent birthday. It really made my day! All told I received 97 of them (22 in one day)! They were all lined up around the living room, so even though no one was present I didn't feel alone or deserted.



DEPARTED MEMBERS ~

Gloria R. Slonaker: 94, of Lewisburg, died Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at her home. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2 in the Lewisburg Cemetery with the Rev. William S. Henderson officiating.

Jack E. Solomon: 91, of Lewisburg, died on Friday, May 8, 2020, from complications of a stroke. A private service with full military honors was held at the New Berlin Cemetery on May 12 with the Rev. William S. Henderson officiating.

MEMORIAL GIFTS:

Memorial gifts in loving memory of **Gloria Slonaker** and **Jack & June Solomon**, were received from Bill & Julie Borys of Lewisburg.

A memorial gift in loving memory of **Gene Hoffman** has been given by his daughter and son-in-law Robert and Annette Nedwick of Jefferson, MD.



June Newsletter Information for Faith Formation

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Take out Ziti Dinner and Silent Auction. We had 30 items on the on-line auction block and served 65 meals. We also had some other generous monetary donations. At the time of this writing we raised \$1068.66. Thanks for supporting the mission projects for the youth this summer.

FAITH FORMATION BOXES: Since we do not have Sunday school during the summer, we have a unique way for children to explore their faith. That is by using "Faith Fix Boxes". These will help parents explore faith with their children. The first Sunday of the month these will be available in the atrium for you to pick up. Inside you will find devotional materials and various supplies for the activities. Hopefully parents will find these helpful and it can be great family time together.

MINI MISSION WEEK – June 15-18 – 9:30 am to 2:30 pm: During the summer we will host a time for first graders through fifth graders to do many little service projects. They also will have Bible study, crafts, and games each day. Service projects will include cleaning toys in the nursery, making fleece blankets for Project Linus, litter patrol, make cards for members, and weeding. Call the church office to register your child(ren). This year it will be just for our church members. We will also follow all CDC guidelines. Children do not have to come every day or the whole time. Just let Charlene know when they will be here! We were going to have camp staff come and help, but since they will not be there in June we are looking for a few parents and older youth to help. Just let Charlene know of your availability. Everyone needs to bring a lunch and a water bottle. It would also be good if everyone wore sneakers.



YOUTH MISSION WEEK: I am still working on plans for our youth mission week here. It will take place off and on from Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31. It will include an overnight at the church on Monday and an overnight at the camp on Thursday. Some of the tasks we will be doing includes painting the half way up room, repainting some of the poles in the youth room, road clean up, work at camp, and various jobs members might have for us. Any members who have yard work, painting, or other small projects that the youth can do anytime from July 27 through the 30 please let Charlene know, and we hopefully will be able to help you out!!

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER: Camp plans are still up in the air, but it is not too late to register for camp this summer. Hopefully you can go online at www.campmountluther.org and see a revised schedule. Check out the programs and decide when you want to go to camp. The church gives camperships to those members who attend. Talk to Tom Stahlnecker or Charlene for details. (If camp starts in July we are looking to do a Day Camp here at the church with them)

From the Music Team - Brandy, Amy & Joanne



MUSIC FOR WORSHIP DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS: At this time, there are many unknowns regarding Sunday worship during the month of June. If Sunday worship resumes during June, many aspects will need to be modified. At this time, musicians are not being scheduled to provide anthems for the summer. This may change so please read e-mail messages from the church office for current updates. Prayers for everyone to stay safe and healthy during this difficult time.

USS ARK

May 2020

News of God's People in Action from the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Creativity During COVID

While in-person worship has been suspended and congregational communities across the synod have been unable to meet, lots of creative ways to stay connected have been borne out of this pandemic. Here is a list of some of those activities known to the synod office staff. There are certainly more activities than this so send what innovative things your congregation is doing to news@uss-elca.org!

Pastor Justin Lingenfelter (*United In Christ, West Milton*) has recorded interviews with members and others to post every weekday to allow congregation members to “get to know you.” He also has organized a virtual choir that performs during their online worship.

Pastor Curtis Zemencik (*Stone Valley Parish*) is leading a joint parking lot worship for his congregations utilizing auctioneer sound system. Meanwhile, **Pastor Tormod Svensson** (*The Table, Bloomsburg*) is leading parking lot worship utilizing an FM transmitter and providing worship for a local nursing home. **Pastor Erwin Roux** (*Zion, Turbotville*) started a parking lot worship mid-May and was lifted up on a scissor-lift to lead worship.

Pastor Lowell Chilton (*Messiah, New Berlin*) holds a virtual coffee hour following their online worship service. **Pastor Jim Vitale** (*Beaver, Beavertown*) holds Sunday worship and Bible and Brews via ZOOM. Vitale and **Pastor Andy Weaver** (*United, Sunbury*) holds an evening Zoom check-in with members for their individual congregations.

Pastor Erin Bovendam (*Trinity, McAlisterville*) shares a Chapel Time worship for families with children, in which her sons join in.

Pastor Stina and Deacon Gary Schaeffer (*Salem, Selinsgrove; St. Matthew's, Shamokin Dam; and Milton Lutheran Parish*) lead worship together to share with all of their congregations. Other clergy couples are doing things together too.

Pastor Ela Robertson (*St. John's, Belleville*) has provided a community radio broadcast of worship.

Pastor Gretchen Johanson (*Trinity, Oak Grove; St. Peter, Grovania*) is mailing the lessons to members because many do not have a computer. **Pastor Charles Hershberger** (interim, East Kish Parish) is sending sermons to members of that parish.

Implementation Team Needs Your Help

by Chris Minnich, Team Chair

The synod council adopted a strategy for our synod in 2019 and appointed a Strategy Implementation Team to help us to engage our mission, never imagining that we would find ourselves in a worldwide pandemic. The novel coronavirus has caused us to look anew at how we live together as Christ's church – what we consider essential and how we understand our purpose. In light of the changes brought about by our societal response to COVID-19, the Strategy Implementation Team asks for your input as we look at our synod strategy in a changed context.

We ask you to look at the objectives in our strategy and reflect on whether they resonate with your understanding of our church's purpose in this time. Then provide your ideas for how we might carry out the objectives or recommend new objectives you'd like to see. Are the objectives we set for ourselves valid or do we need to change how we approach our mission?

Please take some time to complete our survey to let us know what you think. Please also share the link with others who might not get this request. We are looking for a broad representation of our synod. On behalf of the Implementation Team and synod council, thank you for your time and ideas. You can also reach the survey by pasting this link into your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/yb25uxgw>

Grants Available from Synod

United, Supporting, Serving: the Upper Susquehanna Synod hears God's call to the church as one to a people called together in order to support one another in service to our neighbor. Saint Paul writes that we are all one body with Jesus as our head. In this time of global pandemic, we are aware that some of the body suffers and that "if one member suffers, all suffer together with it". Thus, we are drawn to care for the suffering members, supporting one another so that together we might serve.

The synod council recognizes the suffering of our members and has made funds available in the form of grants so that congregations and rostered leaders might weather short-term shortfalls of cash until regular operations can continue. These grants will be available until funds run out. Grant applications can be downloaded and completed by visiting this link:

<https://www.uss-elca.org/synod-covid-19-grants/>

Camp Seeks Support

Camp Mount Luther's Staff and Board continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make decisions about their operations. On May 2, the camp board met via Zoom and voted to postpone the start of our summer camping season until around July 1.

They will be working on a new, condensed summer schedule and hope to publish it very soon. The board will meet again before the end of May to evaluate state restrictions and decide whether summer camp is viable for this season.

Now more than ever, the camp needs the support of people like you to help them continue to minister to children, youth, adults, and families. With the loss of income from spring retreats and outdoor education, they invite your donations via mail or their website.

If you are able, we ask that you consider sharing some of your government stimulus check for these needs. Know that those who don't itemize their tax deductions receive bonus deductions for charitable donations of up to \$300 this year. Whatever you can give, it will help Mount Luther ensure the continuation of this ministry that helps so many connect to others, nature, and God.

Up and Down the Valleys

The First Community Foundation and area United Way distributed grants during this time of COVID-19 to support community needs including food, rental and utility assistance; diapers and infant needs; personal protection equipment for staff and clients; laptops, tablets and connectivity devices for telehealth services; and finance assistance for small businesses. Phase I grant awards included \$2,000 to **United In Christ, West Milton** (*Pastor Justin Lingenfelter*).

As part of last year's synod budget, Synod Council initiated an appeal for **Campus Ministries** that the synod supports. The appeal raised \$5,364.75 of the \$6,000 goal. The synod allocation funding helps to support the faith formation of young adults, provide opportunities for leadership development, and to form connections to the larger church.

Check out **Seafarers International's** Annual Report with our bishop on the cover and the news that our synod supplies one-third of the Christmas at Sea bags this year: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtlbql9>.

The response was tremendous and Lutheran World Relief met its 75,000 Face Mask Challenge. To reach even more people, they're collecting 75,000 more masks! How many will you make to help stop the spread of COVID-19? Sign up for more info: www.lwr.org/masks

ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton's Synod Assembly video has been shared and you can view it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans/videos/950402888726253/>

Our webpage of coronavirus resources continues to be updated. Visit <https://www.uss-elca.org/coronavirus/>. They are updated frequently, so check our website and Facebook page for the latest information. Bishop Collins also continues to meet with rostered leaders in a weekly call-in on Zoom. Contact Craig Miller for call-in information (prcmiller@uss-elca.org or call/text 347.327.3777).

USS ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Permission is granted to reproduce USS Ark for congregational communications. Send your mission stories and ministry ideas to Editor Chad Hershberger at news@uss-elca.org.