

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



## Yes, we'll gather at the river!

On May 7, the Creation Care Task Force of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod sponsored a kayak and canoe trip down the Schuylkill River. 50 people from nine congregations around the Synod gathered along the river in Hamburg to connect with this historically significant body of water and live out our Baptismal calling to "care for the world God made."

Bishop Zeiser offered reflections on the river's importance to previous generations and encouraged the paddlers be open to how the trip would connect them to God. The Bishop then led a thanksgiving for Baptism at the water's edge just before the paddlers began their journey downriver to Leesport.

Those who remained behind on land sent the paddlers off with song and spent the rest of the morning reflecting on Genesis 1, playing games, and cleaning up trash along the river. It was an energizing day at the river, as we celebrated how God's gift of water sustains our life and vocation.

## Bike for World Hunger



On Saturday, May 21, nearly one hundred participants of all ages – including spunky pups, Loki and Lucy – representing 19 NEPS congregations, were united for a single purpose as they biked, scooted, unicycled, jogged, and walked at the gorgeous Bob Rodale Cycling & Fitness Park in the Trexlertown area for the synod's 5th annual "Bike for World Hunger" event.

After receiving the official blessing from Bishop Zeiser, many wheels, feet, and hands headed for the macadam tracks inside the lush green fields, tall trees, and sprinkling of buttercups to start the trek of raising money to erase hunger for good.

Participants were especially motivated by the \$15,000 World Hunger challenge, a pledge from two generous individuals in our synod to match donations up to that amount collected by the time of Synod Assembly (June 17-18).

Many thanks to the World Hunger Task Force for organizing this event; to the Bishop for his tireless support; to those who raised monies through their dedicated efforts; to those whose hearts will be opened to give; and to all who will have a "wheelie" fun time joining us in the future.



Photos courtesy of Chip Bachman

**IMAGINE YOURSELF...**  
**in the world!**  
YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

**Luke Swanson**  
**Young Adult in Global Mission**

Luke Swanson, a member of St. Andrew's, Easton, son of of Pastors Mark Swanson and Laura Csellak, has been called to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission through the ELCA to serve in Argentina/Uruguay.

The program, for young adults between the ages of 21 and 29, allows for young Lutherans throughout the ELCA to be unleashed in the world, embracing and serving their neighbors through celebration of the Gospel, making God's story, our story.

Luke's experience will allow him to connect with our brothers and sisters in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay, a companion church of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

He is asked to raise \$4000 as a commitment to the global mission of the church. Congregations and individuals are welcome to join in this commitment. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Luke at [lukeswanson9@gmail.com](mailto:lukeswanson9@gmail.com).

## Anniversary Luncheon



The Rev. George P. Zacharda, Jr.

The Rev. Walton R. Horn

On Tuesday, May 24 the synod hosted a luncheon to celebrate major anniversaries of our rostered leaders. Two pastors celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination shared some remarks with the group. The Rev. Gilbert B. Furst, who retired in the Chicago area, submitted a video with his remarks.

## Donate Online to Mission and Ministry

The synod has established an account with Vanco Payment Solutions to provide the opportunity to donate online. You can donate to Mission Support, the Witness and Service Grant Program, the Student Education Fund (for rostered leader support), and Youth Event Scholarships.

You can also donate to Disaster Relief, both on the domestic and international level; and you can donate to World Hunger. You can even donate to a project that you designate.

The "Donate" button appears at the top of the synod website. You can also use the QR code shown here. Try it out!



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