



## **Report of the Bishop**

### **New Jersey Synod Assembly 2019**

*Paul writes: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather, a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."*

*(2 Timothy 1:5-7)*

The passage above is from the beginning of Paul's second letter to Timothy -- a letter of encouragement and perseverance. Timothy was encountering false teaching, to which his community was susceptible, and he was doubting his own leadership in the face of community members chasing after money, power, and their own desires. This letter seeks to encourage Timothy to remember the faith of his ancestors and, in doing that, boldly face the hardships ahead of him by sticking to the truths of Jesus Christ. Timothy's time could be our own!

As I write this, my sixth report to you, I echo Paul's encouragement: remember the faith given to generations of disciples who have gone before us, and in that remembering, be encouraged in the same faith given to us – a gift that compels us to boldly live out our faith, even in the midst of hardships.

Boldly live out our faith! That's our response to the love and grace and mercy poured into our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Be bold is what we do together as the NJ Synod. We are bold to name the name of Jesus, and in that name, to love and serve God's people. Through our congregations, in our daily lives, with partners in our communities, we go where Jesus sends us and follow where Jesus leads us.

Our bold witness to the gospel means that lives are changed and communities transformed. Sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ means we stand our ground in places of poverty and violence – places where we find God already at work. Boldly living our faith means congregations dare to do things differently to reach new populations with a message of radical welcome. Being bold means we listen to those who cry out for justice and raise our voices together to affect change. A bold witness to the gospel means we gather for worship regularly and often to hear the old, old story in new and innovative ways. Boldly living our faith means we are generous, not as a transaction from which we benefit, but because we are disciples of a generous God. Being bold in the face of fear and uncertainty means we trust the one who promises to always be with us.

Since our last synod assembly, we have been practicing boldness in our faith: congregations have made decisions to partner with one another in new ways; EMU phase 1 impacted the financial literacy of our pastors while EMU phase 2 will take the next step with our congregations; leaders

have stepped into supportive cohorts to explore deeper faith practices; an ad hoc team met and recommended priorities for our work; synod staff changes continue to happen; congregations have closed and used their legacy assets to expand ministry in other places; LEAMNJ is looking to re-imagine advocacy work in our synod; and more. You can get a fuller picture of our common work by reading through the entire Bulletin of Reports.

It is a joy to serve as bishop, an office which allows me to see the whole picture of this synod. There are surprises at every turn! The Holy Spirit is alive and well across NJ breathing new life into us every day. Built on a foundation of those who have gone before us, we are bold to walk together into a new future. I am grateful for the ways you have invited me to lead (and accompany) you. If re-elected, I am sure the next six years together will be full of changes and challenges as we boldly follow where our Lord leads.

While most of my time is spent in New Jersey, visiting congregations and working with our leaders, we are an interdependent and global church which means I participate in churchwide ministries as well. Serving as vice-chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops (COB) allows me a seat at the joint leadership table with the executive committee of the ELCA Church Council and the senior leadership of ELCA Churchwide. I continue to serve on the bishop formation committee of the COB whose task is to walk with those newly elected into this office by providing resources and mentoring. I also serve on the immigration and middle-east ready benches – groups of bishops who gather to learn more about particular topics and stand ready to address congress and others on these issues. Being a part of the wider church provides opportunities locally and globally to make a difference in Jesus’ name.

I could not serve in this role without the blessing of a wonderful team of people working together. Please join me in thanking the other members of the synod staff without whom much of our common work would not happen. First, we contract with a few people for specific “tasks” – to help manage property, Bob Poole and Matt McDevitt work as needed; Pastor Carol Petersen retired as candidacy coordinator in February and Pastor Becky Resch has come on board; Pastor Mark David Johnson schedules our supply pastors for congregations in transition; and Bob Baer served as synod statistician for 23+ years, until December 2018.

Our full-time staff includes: LuAnn Barnes, my Executive Administrative Assistant; Lois Parrett, Director of Operations and Accounting; Dawn Roberts, Administrator for Mission and Ministry; Jason Reed, Youth Ministry Specialist; Pastors Scott Schantzenbach and Kimberly Vaughn, Assistants to the Bishop; and the Sapon family, Custodians and Groundskeepers of our synod office.

We claim two others who are not wholly ours: Pastor Maristela Freiberg is deployed from the ELCA to serve as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, while Pastor Sara Lilja serves as Executive Director for LEAMNJ (and whose compensation is shared by several partners).

These staff members are part of the joy I have serving this synod. We are a team and see our common call as supporting vital congregations and the leaders needed for those congregations. We

come at our work in various ways but our goal is the same. We are bold to believe we can make a positive difference in the lives of those who call NJ home.

The Synod Council is your elected leadership to carry on the work between synod assemblies. When you read the report of actions of the synod council say a word of thanks to these volunteers for their commitment and leadership. Particular thanks to our officers – Arundel Clarke, vice-president; Cassandra Mack, secretary; and James (Jim) Harris, treasurer. Arundel and Cassandra are standing for re-election to a second four-year term. Jim was re-appointed in January to a second four-year term.

Listed below are activities from my calendar since last assembly in order to give you a small picture of where I spend my time. I have not included personal appointments with pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. If you have questions about any of the items listed, please ask me.

I am bold to ask for your continued prayers for me, our synod, and the work we are called to do together. Please know I pray for you every day.

Your sister in Christ,



The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop

### *A Look inside the bishop's calendar*

**Ordinations and Installations:** 9/16 Pastor Heather Sugden, Redeemer, Vineland (installation); Pastor James Jacob, Holy Trinity, Wildwood (installation); 9/23 Ordination of Serena Rice and Paul Miller, St Timothy, Wayne; 11/4 Paul Miller, Church of the Savior, Paramus (installation); 12/2 Serena Rice, Abiding Peace, Budd Lake (installation); 2/17 Pastor Maggi Edwards, Resurrection, Hamilton Square (ordination and installation); 3/10 Pastor Tammy Harmer, St. John, Williamstown (installation); 3/17 Pastor José Escalera, Epiphany, Pleasantville (installation) 4/7 Pastor Mark Johnson, Emanuel, New Brunswick (installation)

**Congregation Visits, Dedications, and Anniversaries:** 6/10 Cross of Life, Plainfield closing worship; 6/17 St. Bartholomew, Trenton farewell to D. Eisenberg; 9/9 St. Bartholomew, preach; 9/23 Pastor Nancy Nardi farewell, Messiah, Parlin; 10/20 Bethany, Jersey City Anniversary service; 10/21 Preach, St. Paul, Millville and Christ, Bridgeton; 10/25 Worship, Lord of Life, Tabernacle; 11/11 Preach, Holy Trinity, Rockaway; 11/18 Preach, Our Savior, Edison Anniversary; Anniversary celebration, Trinity, Bogota; 3/30 Funeral for Bishop Emeritus Ronald Diggs, Redeemer, Trenton; 4/14 Preach, Christus Camden; 5/5 Zion, Garfield closing; 5/12 St. John, Summit, Preach; 5/26 St. John, Ocean City, Pastor Mark Bruesehoff farewell

**Our Life Together:** 6/11 Bishops' Cup Golf Outing for Cross Roads; 6/12 Holy Nativity, Wenonah council; 6/13 St. Luke, Dunellen council; 6/19 Colleague group; 6/20 staff training, Cross Roads; 7/9 Confirmation Camp visit; 7/17 Fiscal Management meeting; 8/3-5 St. James, Phillipsburg; 8/7 Cluster Counselors and Deans; 8/8 Detention Center Visit, Elizabeth; 9/10 Ad Hoc team meeting; 9/12 Zion, Saddle River, council and call committee; 9/15 LEAMNJ Justice gathering; 9/17 Fund for Mission Committee; 9/18 Colleague group; Fiscal Management Committee; 9/19 Grace, Phillipsburg, council; 10/6 Candidacy Committee; 10/9 Congregation council, Reformation, Absecon; 10/13 Synod Council, St. Matthew, Union City; 10/15 Retirees' Lunch; Synod Council Ad-Hoc Team; 10/16 Colleague Group; 10/20 Latinx Coaching, Santa Isabel, Elizabeth; 10/23-24 Leadership for Faithful Innovation initial retreat; 11/1 Confirmation Conversations; 11/3 Candidacy Committee; 11/16-17 Mission Advocacy Table retreat; 11/17 Among the Wolves; 11/19 Synod Council Ad-Hoc Team; 11/20 Colleague group; 12/10 Synod Council Ad-Hoc Team; 12/13 EMU dinner; 12/17-18 Staff Retreat, Cross Roads Camp; 12/24-1/1 Synod Office Closed; 1/28 First Call pastors retreat; 2/3 Emanuel, New Brunswick call meeting; 2/9 EMU retreat; 2/9 Winter Youth Assembly; 2/10 LEAMNJ gathering; 2/12 St. Michael, Cherry Hill council; 2/19 Colleague Group; 2/19 Ad Hoc team; 2/21 Leadership for Faithful Innovation NJ cohort meeting; 2/26 Mutual Ministry; 3/6 Justice Gathering; 3/19 Colleague Group; 3/23 Faith, Hope, Love event, Ewing; 3/26 Ad Hoc team; 4/4 Mutual Ministry; 4/4 Churchwide Assembly voting members; 4/6 Synod Council; 4/9 Nominating Committee; 4/9 Our Savior, Edison council; 4/11 EMU leader; 4/13 Reformation, West Long Branch dedication of expanded food pantry; 5/7 Leadership for Faithful Innovation (LFI); 5/9 EMU leader; 5/21 Colleague Group; 6/6 Synod Assembly

**Our Life Together Beyond the Synod:** 6/24-7/1 ELCA Youth Gathering, MYLE and tAble; 7/8 Bishop Claire Burkat farewell dinner; 7/10-14 ELCA Bishop Formation, Chicago; 7/18 Region 7 DEM gathering; 9/2-4 Region 7 Bishops' gathering; 9/22 Installation of SEPA Bishop; 9/24 ULS meeting; 9/24-10/2 Conference of Bishops, Chicago; 10/4-5 Confirmation Conference, Princeton Seminary; 10/11 Dedication, Lutheran Crossings, Moorestown; 10/16 LSMNJ Executive Committee; 11/13 LSMNJ Board meeting; 12/11-12 Leadership for Faithful Innovation, Luther Seminary; 1/2 – 9 Conference of Bishops' Academy, San Antonio, Texas; 1/29-30 United Lutheran Seminary Board meeting, Philadelphia; 2/5-7 ULS Region 7&8 Bishops' visit, Gettysburg; 2/19 LSMNJ Exec committee; 2/27-3/5 Conference of Bishops' meeting, Chicago; 3/12 LSMNJ Board meeting; 4/1-2 LFI gathering, MN; 4/9 LSMNJ executive committee; 5/14 LSMNJ Board meeting; 5/15-16 United Lutheran Seminary Board meeting; 6/10 Cross Roads Golf Outing

**Vacation:** 8/10-31; 4/21-29 (30<sup>th</sup> seminary reunion and preach St. Mark, Roanoke 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary)

## **PARISH AND ROSTER EVENTS**

### **ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**

The Rev. George L. Garver	November 29, 1915 – October 29, 2018
The Rev. Ronald J. Diggs	September 11, 1934 – March 1, 2019

### **ORDINATION**

The Rev. Paul A. Miller	St. Timothy, Wayne	09/23/2018
The Rev. Serena Gideon Rice	St. Timothy, Wayne	09/23/2018
The Rev. Heidi A. Link	Synod Assembly, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick	06/06/2019

### **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

The Rev. Marjorie C. Edwards	Resurrection, Hamilton Square	02/17/2019
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### **ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL CALL**

The Rev. Rachel Zarnke	Chaplain, United States Army	01/01/2019
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### **CONGREGATION CALL**

The Rev. Heather Sugden	Redeemer, Vineland	06/01/2018
The Rev. James F. Jacob	Holy Trinity, Wildwood	06/03/2018
The Rev. Paul A. Miller	Church of the Savior, Paramus	09/23/2018
The Rev. Serena G. Rice	Abiding Peace, Budd Lake	09/23/2018
The Rev. Ingrid F. Wengert	Zion, Long Valley	11/25/2018
The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer	St. John, Williamstown	01/30/2019
The Rev. Marjorie C. Edwards	Resurrection, Hamilton Square	02/01/2019
The Rev. Mark David Johnson	Emanuel, New Brunswick	03/01/2019
The Rev. Dale Selover	Prince of Peace, Princeton Junction	03/04/2019
The Rev. Beau D. Nelson	St. Mark, Morristown/Good Shepherd, Florham Park	05/02/2019
The Rev. Heidi A. Link	Reformation, Absecon	02/28/2019

### **CONGREGATION CALL TERM CALL CONTINUATION**

The Rev. Pamela Werner	St. James, Folsom	01/20/2019
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### **SYNOD COUNCIL CALL**

The Rev. Andrew Gordon	Greenwood Hospice, Ewing	02/26/2018
The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy II	St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken	10/09/2019
The Rev. Jose L. Escalera	Epiphany, Pleasantville	01/01/2019
The Rev. Donald Egan	Christ Our Saviour, Jersey City	01/01/2019
The Rev. Elijah Mwitanti	Lord of Life, Tabernacle	01/26/2019

### **TERMINATION OF CALL**

The Rev. Andrew T. Gordon	Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care of NJ	02/25/2018
The Rev. Ryan Paetzold	Holy Trinity, Audubon	05/23/2018
The Rev. Heather Sugden	Reformation, Absecon	05/31/2018
The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch	Abiding Presence, Ewing	06/02/2018
The Rev. Peter Olsen	Trinity, Bogota	07/01/2018
The Rev. Daniel Eisenberg	St. Bartholomew, Trenton	07/08/2018
The Rev. Bernard Kelly	St. James, Phillipsburg	07/09/2018
The Rev. Peter R. Beeson	St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken	08/30/2018
The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy II	St. Paul, Teaneck	10/08/2018
The Rev. Nancy A. Nardi	Messiah, Parlin	09/30/2018
The Rev. Ingrid F. Wengert	St. Matthew, Moorestown	11/24/2018

The Rev. Rachel Zarnke	Trinity, Bogota	12/31/2018
The Rev. Donald Egan	Waterfront Ministry, Jersey City	12/31/2018
The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer	St. Stephen, Woodbury	01/29/2019
The Rev. Franklin Eric Wester	Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, ELCA	02/01/2019
The Rev. Mark David Johnson	St. Mark, Hamilton (St. Michael Episcopal, Trenton)	02/28/2019
The Rev. Tristan (Young) Shin	Bethany, Palmyra	02/24/2019
The Rev. Dale Selover	Christ the King, Kendall Park	03/03/2019
The Rev. Beau D. Nelson	Bethany, Jersey City	05/01/2019
The Rev. Karen M. Sease	United Lutheran Seminary	05/02/2019

#### **TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SYNOD**

The Rev. Daniel Eisenberg	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	07/09/2018
The Rev. Peter Olsen	New England Synod, ELCA	07/09/2018
The Rev. Charles M. Austin	Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA	07/11/2018
The Rev. Peter R. Beeson	South Central Synod of WI	09/01/2018
The Rev. Dana Reardon	Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA	02/13/2019
The Rev. Franklin Eric Wester	Florida Bahamas Synod, ELCA	03/22/2019
The Rev. Cheryl L. Johnson	North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA	03/22/2019
The Rev. Karen M. Sease	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	05/03/2019

#### **TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER SYNOD**

The Rev. Jose L. Escalera	Caribbean Synod, ELCA	01/01/2019
The Rev. Elijah Mwitanti	Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA	01/26/2019
The Rev. David W. Bennett	Slovak Zion Synod, ELCA	02/11/2019

#### **RETIREMENT**

The Rev. Mary Jane Hastings	St. Mark, Morristown	06/01/2018
The Rev. Kenneth L. Regan	Holy Nativity, Wenonah	07/01/2018
The Rev. David W. Jones	Lord of Life Tabernacle	11/01/2018
The Rev. Margaret Hayes	Our Redeemer, Dumont	02/01/2019
The Rev. Karina Ramins		03/01/2019
The Rev. Carol A. Petersen	Grace, Mendham	03/01/2019
The Rev. Mark P. Bruesehoff	St. John, Ocean City	06/01/2019
The Rev. Gary V. Ettlemeyer	Spruce Run, Glen Gardner	07/01/2019
The Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach	Assistant to the Bishop	07/01/2019
The Rev. Penelope Pusateri Stechmann	Our Savior's, Edison	07/01/2019
The Rev. Mark R. Summer	Zion, Oldwick	07/01/2019

#### **ON LEAVE FROM CALL**

The Rev. Ryan Paetzold		05/24/2018
The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch		06/03/2018
The Rev. Bernard Kelly		07/09/2018
The Rev. Nancy A. Nardi		10/01/2018
The Rev. Tristan (Young) Shin		02/25/2019

#### **VICE PASTOR/STATED SUPPLY APPOINTMENT**

The Rev. Jeffrey Ziegler	Apostles, Turnersville	05/01/2018
The Rev. Margaret A. Niederer	Church of the Savior, Paramus	05/01/2018
The Rev. Jennifer McLellan	Zion, Saddle River	05/01/2018
The Rev. J. David Knecht	St. Mark, Morristown	05/27/2018
The Rev. Glenn Englehardt	Reformation, Absecon	05/29/2018

The Rev. James R. Krombholz	St. Luke, Dunellen	06/14/2018
The Rev. Peter Froehlke	St. Bartholomew, Trenton	06/18/2018
The Rev. Daniel A. Congleton	Holy Nativity, Wenonah	07/01/2018
The Rev. Karol L. Van Wulfen	St. James, Phillipsburg	07/09/2018
The Rev. Gomes Pedro	Holy Trinity, East Orange	09/01/2018
The Rev. Jessica D. Lambert	St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken	09/01/2018
The Rev. Charles E. Romanowski	Holy Spirit, Manahawkin	09/02/2018
The Rev. Jill E. Collict	Messiah, Parlin	09/30/2018
The Rev. Margaret A. Niederer	St. Paul, Teaneck	09/24/2018
The Rev. Charles Ferreri	Lord of Life, Tabernacle	11/01/2018
The Rev. Janet E. Blair	Trinity, Bogota	01/01/2019
The Rev. Beate Storck	Our Redeemer, Dumont	01/28/2019
The Rev. Matt Thiringer	Messiah, Parlin	01/29/2019
The Rev. Jaye Newbold	Grace, Mendham	03/01/2019
The Rev. John Mack	Bethany, Jersey City	05/01/2019

#### **PASTORAL MINISTRY APPOINTMENT**

The Rev. Sue Ann Riley	Ascension, New Brunswick	06/15/2018
The Rev. Lorraine Harris	St. Paul, Collingswood	08/01/2018
The Rev. Glenn Waskow	St. John, Phillipsburg	09/01/2018
The Rev. Bernard Kelly	Grace, Phillipsburg	10/09/2018
The Rev. Alexandra King	St. Matthew, Moorestown	11/05/2018
The Rev. Elijah Mwitanti	Lord of Life, Tabernacle	01/01/2019
The Rev. Damaris Ortega	St. Luke, Dunellen	03/01/2019
The Rev. Valerie Balling	Christ the King, Kendall Park	03/04/2019
The Rev. Jeffrey Van Orden	Bethany, Palmyra	04/01/2019

#### **INSTALLATION**

The Rev. Heather Sugden	Redeemer, Vineland	09/16/2018
The Rev. James F. Jacob	Holy Trinity, Wildwood	09/16/2018
The Rev. Paul A. Miller	Church of the Savior, Paramus	11/11/2018
The Rev. Serena G. Rice	Abiding Peace, Budd Lake	12/02/2018
The Rev. Ingrid Wengert	Zion, Long Valley	01/13/2019
The Rev. Tammy Harmer	St. John, Williamstown	03/10/2019
The Rev. Jose Escalera	Epiphany, Pleasantville	03/17/2019
The Rev. Mark David Johnson	Emanuel, New Brunswick	04/07/2019

#### **CONGREGATION RELOCATION**

St. Paul (61 Church Street, Teaneck, NJ) to 1200 River Rd., Teaneck, NJ 07666	04/22/2019
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#### **CONGREGATION/MINISTRY CLOSING**

Holy Trinity, Audubon	1913 – May 23, 2018
Cross of Life, Plainfield	1989 – June 10, 2018
St. Stephen, Edison	1872 – December 31, 2018
Waterfront Ministry, Jersey City	2004 – December 31, 2018
Zion, Garfield	1919 – May 5, 2019
Our Redeemer, Dumont	1927 – June 2, 2019

## **2019 ROSTERED LEADER ANNIVERSARY REPORT**

We have been blessed with many faithful servants. We rejoice with them in their many achievements through the years, and assure them of our prayers that God will continue to bless them richly with many more years of fruitful service.

### **ANNIVERSARIES OF WORD AND SERVICE MINISTRY**

#### **Fifty Years - 1969**

Geraldine B. Frank

#### **Fifteen Years – 2004**

Kathryn A. Prinz

#### **Five Years - 2014**

Karen Beth Kelly

### **ANNIVERSARIES OF WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY**

#### **FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION - 1969**

Carl Joecks, James McKinley, Stanley Ellison

#### **TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION - 1994**

John Anderson, Arnd Braun-Storck, Maristela Freiberg, Beate Storck, Birgit Solano, Moacir Weirich

#### **Sixty-eight Years – 1951**

Arthur Bauer

#### **Sixty-six Years - 1953**

Dallas Dorward

#### **Sixty-five Years - 1954**

Howard Norris

#### **Sixty-four Years - 1955**

Paul Strockbine and Robert Wilson

#### **Sixty-two Years - 1957**

John Johnson and Richard Tupy

#### **Sixty-one Years - 1958**

Richard Holzer, Otto Jacobson, and David Mangiante

#### **Sixty Years - 1959**

Harvey Peters, Joseph Molnar

#### **Fifty-five Years - 1964**

David Burke, Henry Ireland, Ronald Nelson

#### **Forty-five Years - 1974**

Gunnar Anderson, Bruce Davidson, Richard Overcash, E. Roy Riley

#### **Forty Years – 1979**

David Bennett, Daniel Congleton, Bruce Ewen, John Kleist, Marianne Rhebergen

Jack Slotterback, Donald Stiger, Jeffrey Walters



**Thirty-five Years - 1984**

Bruce Bassett, Glenn Boisclair, Gary Ettlemeyer, Fred Lentz, Gladys Moore, Nancy Moore,  
Dennis Olson, Carol Petersen, William Zimmermann

**Thirty Years - 1989**

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Jeffrey Elliott, G. Andrew Engelhart, Michael Gebhart, William Moser,  
Dale Selover, Nancy Truscott, J. Francis Watson

**Twenty Years - 1999**

Wendy Abrahamson, Janet Gasbarro, Louisa Groce, Peter Hutchinson, Laurie Johnson

**Fifteen Years – 2004**

Charles Ferreri, Sue Ann Riley

**Ten Years - 2009**

Kristin Engstrom, Andrew Gordon, Susan Nelson-Colaneri, A. Rebecca Resch,  
Joshua Semovoski, Rachel Semovoski, J. Ignaki Unzaga, Kimberly Vaughn

**Five Years – 2014**

Jacqueline Belzer, Karen Bernhardt, Ian Hill, Alexis King, Jane McCready, Chelsea Miller,  
Blake Scalet, Marc Stutzel, Gary Woodruff

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**ROSTERED LEADERS NEW TO THE SYNOD**

The following rostered leaders have entered the New Jersey Synod since the 2018 Synod Assembly, through ordination, transfer from another synod or through agreement as an ecumenical partner. We welcome each to our community, and offer our prayers and our support for their ministry. Those persons are:

**Ordained for First Call in New Jersey**

Maggi Edwards, Heidi A. Link, Paul Miller, and Serena Rice

**Received by Transfer from Another Synod**

David Bennett, Jose Escalera, Elijah Mwitanti

**Rostered in Another Synod**

Alexis King, Charles Romanowski

**Ecumenical Partners Serving in New Jersey**

Valerie Balling, Dámaris Ortega, Jeff Van Orden

## RECOGNITION

### Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service

The following rostered leaders retired since our last Assembly:  
Mark Bruesehoff, Mary Jane Hastings, Margaret Hayes, David Jones,  
Carol Petersen, Karina Ramins, and Ken Regan

#### **Roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with Retirement Status in the ELCA**

Forty pastors have been ordained fifty years or more (indicated by \*)

The Rev. Gunnar L. Anderson	1974	The Rev. Henry A. Ireland, Jr.	1964 *
The Rev. Bruce W. Bassett, Jr.	1984	The Rev. Otto W. Jacobson, Jr.	1958 *
The Rev. Arthur O. F. Bauer	1951 *	The Rev. Neil Jaggie	1975
The Rev. Barry N. Benson	1977	The Rev. Carl E. Joecks	1969 *
The Rev. Stephen F. Blank	1967 *	The Rev. John W. Johnson, Jr.	1957 *
The Rev. H. Wayne Brady	1995	The Rev. David W. Jones	1978
The Rev. George H. Brand	1961 *	The Rev. Richard W. Kitiz	1966 *
The Rev. Carol L. Brighton	1972	The Rev. John D. Kleist	1979
The Rev. Mark P. Bruesehoff	1977	The Rev. Kent R. Klopheus	2001
The Rev. Paul L. Brndjar	1970	The Rev. Gerald P. Kramer	1968 *
The Rev. Richard C. Brunzell	1972	The Rev. Robert O. Kriesat	1965 *
The Rev. David G. Burke	1964 *	The Rev. John D. Larson	1973
The Rev. Ulrich C. Columbus	1966 *	The Rev. Daniel R. Leslie	1968 *
The Rev. David F. Confer	1977	The Rev. Walter J. Maier	1960 *
The Rev. Bruce H. Davidson	1974	The Rev. David D. Mangiante	1958 *
The Rev. Jack A. Denys	1967 *	The Rev. Margaret M. Marks	1985
The Rev. Peter J. DeRuiter	1963 *	The Rev. Russell L. McIntyre	1965 *
The Rev. Dallas D. Dorward	1953 *	The Rev. James H. McKinley	1969 *
The Rev. Louis W. Dunkle	1965 *	The Rev. Patricia S. Medley	1976
The Rev. Jeffrey C. Eaton	1972	The Rev. Ronald R. Miller	1975
The Rev. Sharon R. Eckhardt	2003	The Rev. Ruth E. Mohring	1982
The Rev. Raymond J. Elbertson	1975	The Rev. Joseph Molnar III	1959 *
The Rev. Stanley E. Ellison	1969 *	The Rev. Nancy S. Moore	1984
The Rev. John M. Elstad	1963 *	The Rev. Rafaela Morales-Rosa	1983
The Rev. Glenn Englehardt	1975	The Rev. Ronald C. Nelson	1964 *
The Rev. D. Randolph Etwaroo	1976	The Rev. Howard M. Norris	1954 *
The Rev. Bruce T. Ewen	1979	The Rev. Jerold L. Nugent	1981
The Rev. Cynthia Fazzini	1991	The Rev. Richard W. Overcash	1974
The Rev. Triffel L. Felske	1977	The Rev. John E. Pearce	1977
The Rev. Charles A. Ferreri	2004	The Rev. Harald Peeders	1974
The Rev. John C. Fischer	1976	The Rev. Harvey S. Peters, Jr.	1959 *
The Rev. Mary Forell-Davis	1978	The Rev. Carol A. Petersen	0984
The Rev. George W. Freyberger	1962 *	The Rev. Karina Ramins	1986
The Rev. Janet Gasbarro	1999	The Rev. Kenneth Regan	0983
The Rev. Louisa D. Groce	1999	The Rev. E. Roy Riley, Jr.	1974
The Rev. William A. Hanson	1965 *	The Rev. Jose Israel Sanchez	1993
The Rev. Mary Jane Hastings	2002	The Rev. Rudolph M. Schneider	1965 *
The Rev. Margaret Hayes	2008	The Rev. Glenn Schoenberger	1977
The Rev. Richard B. Holzer	1958 *	The Rev. Jack Slotterback	1979
The Rev. Jesse G. Houck III	1968 *	The Rev. Christine A. Stiger	1980
The Rev. Gordon L. Huff	1961 *	The Rev. Donald Stiger	1979
The Rev. Robert G. Hughes	1962 *	The Rev. Karen E. Strietelmeier	2008
The Rev. Peter Hutchinson	1999	The Rev. C. Paul Strockbine	1955 *

The Rev. Thomas Tomlinson	1980	The Rev. Walter Wiklund	1963 *
The Rev. Richard R. Tupy, Jr.	1957 *	The Rev. Robert H. J. Wilms	1990
The Rev. David W. Vikner	1973	The Rev. Robert H. Wilson, Jr.	1955 *
The Rev. Burton H. Vincent	1960 *	The Rev. Linda F. Wood	1996
The Rev. Glenn A. Waskow	1998	The Rev. Robert Zimmermann	1970
The Rev. Timothy J. Wengert	1977		
The Rev. Edgar G. Wiker	1963 *		

### **Retired Ministers of Word and Service with Retirement Status in the ELCA**

One deacon has been ordained fifty years or more (indicated by \*)

Geraldine Frank, Deacon \*  
Carol Kasabach, Deacon  
George W. Moser, Deacon  
Lynne M. Rogers, Deacon  
Virginia Sheppard, Deacon  
Lindsay Shopland, Deacon  
Linda K. Walker, Deacon

### **Upcoming Retirements – July 1, 2019:**

The following rostered leaders have requested and been approved for retirement status in the ELCA:  
Gary Ettlemeyer, Scott Schantzenbach, Penelope Pusateri Stechmann, and Mark Summer

## 2018-2019 NECROLOGY REPORT

The Rev. George L. Garver and The Rev. Ronald Diggs have entered the Church Triumphant since our last Assembly:



### **GEORGE LEWIS GARVER**

NOVEMBER 29, 1915 – OCTOBER 29, 2018

Ordained: MAY 19, 1943

Pastor – Gladstone Park, Chicago, IL: 1943-1947

Pastor – Ascension, Pontiac, MI: 1947-1956

Pastor – Temple, Pennsauken: 1956 – 1965

Pastor – St. Luke, Willingboro: 1965 – 1968

Career Counselor – Philadelphia, PA: 1968

Div. for Professional Leadership, Lutheran Church in America: 1975-1981

Retired: JANUARY 1, 1981

The Rev. George Lewis Garver, Retired, entered the Church Triumphant on October 29, 2018 at the age of 102 while under hospice care. Pastor Garver, born in York, PA, was a 1940 graduate of Gettysburg College followed by a Master of Divinity degree from Gettysburg Seminary in 1943. Later that same year he and his wife Anna were married in Gettysburg.

In May 2018, he celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. Ordained by the Illinois Synod, he began his ministry of Word and Sacrament at Gladstone Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL, followed by serving at Ascension Lutheran Church in Pontiac, MI. In March 1956, he accepted a call back where he grew up and where his parents were still living, as the pastor of Temple in Pennsauken. In 1964, while serving as pastor at Temple, he presided at the wedding of Ernest Evans (Chubby Checker) and Catharina (Rina) Lodders.

Pastor Garver remained at Temple until 1965, followed then by serving at St. Luke in Willingboro. In December 1968, George left parish ministry and worked as a career counselor in Philadelphia. In 1975, he was called to serve as an LCA staff member for the Division for Professional Leadership, where he remained until his retirement in January 1981.

In 1994, the Garvers moved to Bradenton, Florida, and Anne died from Leukemia after only five years of living there. They were married for 59 years. Pastor Garver remained at Freedom Village in Bradenton and married his wife Grace in 2001. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and fought a courageous battle until her death in 2007.

During the time of caring for his wife Grace, George met Betty Szymanski, who had an identical experience with her husband. They were married in 2008 in a quiet ceremony surrounded by family. For many years, Pastor Garver contributed to the Compensation Aid Fund as an expression of generosity. Each year he would keep in touch, sending fresh Florida fruit to the Synod Staff, and completing his annual Report to the Bishop. In a note to Bishop Bartholomew just before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, he wrote of his *"attachment to the New Jersey Synod and sincere, yet remote, concern for it. I am grateful to the New Jersey Synod for its having kept me involved and informed all these years."*

Pastor Garver is survived by his wife Betty and children Dori Barnett, Georgeanne Fischer, Donna Henry, Philip Garver, and Paul Garver, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



**RONALD JOSEPH DIGGS**  
SEPTEMBER 11, 1934 – MARCH 1, 2019  
Bishop Emeritus,  
Lutheran Church in Liberia

Ronald Joseph Diggs was born on September 11, 1934, in Sanoyie District, Bong County, Liberia. “Boyray or Uncle Boyray” as he was affectionately called, was well known as Bishop Emeritus of the Lutheran Church in Liberia and Interim Vice President of the Republic of Liberia.

Bishop Diggs grew up in Sanoyie and Arthington respectively. Later, his family moved to Belefanaï where he received his early education. He went on to graduate from Lutheran Training Institute High School in Harrisburg. Then he matriculated to Cuttington University College in Suakoko, Bong County, Liberia. After graduating college, he launched his religious education in Tanzania and then completed his religious studies in Canada. In May 1959, he married his wife Mae Makor –Diggs.

Before he received his call to serve the church, he was the principal of Totota Lutheran Mission in Liberia. He then followed in the footsteps of his father and became a Lutheran pastor in 1966, at a local parish in Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia. In 1974, he was installed as pastor of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Liberia. In 1980, he was elected as the Secretary General of African Lutheran Churches in Tanzania, Africa. He eventually went on to become the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Liberia from 1984 until 1995. He served as Interim Vice – President of the Republic of Liberia from August of 1990 to April of 1991. In 1997, he migrated to the United States of America, and served as Missionary – at – Large. He served at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Trenton, New Jersey, from December of 2005 to April of 2012.

He was predeceased by his wife Mae Makor -Diggs, and child Choloply, and his siblings Anna, Dorothea, Edmund, and Harvey. He is survived by his children, Sayeh (Kema), Eddie (Eusebia), Harriet (Michael), Myers, Yeacon, Tenneh, and Calvin; sister, Carol Lady Diggs- Obedekah and his brother, Walter George.

An excerpt from his funeral bulletin reads:

“Boyray lived a rich and full life, was a joy to know, and a blessing to be around. He had an infectious nature and impacted everyone in his sphere. His personal ministry was a ministry of education giving, and sharing, and he did it so willingly and effortlessly. His jovial nature was his mantra.”

*“Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants. Acknowledge, we humbly ask you, these sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of saints in light. Amen.”*