



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
1930 Highway 33, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

July 1, 2020

Dear NJ Synod members,

After prayerful deliberation, we have made the decision to postpone and not hold a 2020 NJ Synod Assembly. The Synod Council reviewed several options for holding an assembly but given the realities and uncertainties of our time, this seemed the best way forward. No one is pleased about not having this annual event which celebrates our being church together for the sake of the world.

Included in this decision is the commitment that we will post a series of recordings that highlight the work God is doing through our synod ministries. These recordings will include: reports from the bishop, the treasurer and financial folks; changes to our advocacy ministry; a celebration of feeding ministries; ongoing work of anti-racism; conversation around proposed changes to our constitution and bylaws; etc. Some of these videos will be celebratory and informational while others may be webinars that are more educational and interactive.

In preparation for our May 2021 assembly, we will begin working now for a Plan A (in person) and Plan B (electronic) format. Having 44 weeks to prepare will give us the time needed to feel comfortable should we need to use an electronic format, including finding ways to be sure everyone has access to the tools required to fully participate.

In Christ,

Tracie L. Bartholomew

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew

Bishop