



NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Office of the Bishop 1930 Highway 33 Hamilton Square, NJ 08690 609-586-6800 FAX 609-586-3357 www.njsynod.org

September 23, 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with great joy and excitement for our work together, that I write to you about our New Jersey Synod Staff. I have engaged in prayerful conversations with current staff members and colleagues around the synod for help in putting together a design for staffing that would first and foremost strengthen our congregations for mission in the world by gathering faithful, competent staff members who embody our core values.

We changed some job descriptions, redefined expectations and are now living into a new design! I am happy to report that Pastor Aaron Richter will serve as an Assistant to the Bishop for Communication and Mission Interpretation beginning October 16, 2013. Pastor Richter currently serves as Pastor of St. Bartholomew, Trenton. His new position will focus on sharing the story of our life together – celebrating the mission we share with each other and with the world. Expect to see him in your congregation and at cluster and district events gathering information and telling the stories of how we are at work in the world.

Pastor Scott Schantzenbach will continue on staff with the title, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Faith Formation. This means that along with his teaching on stewardship, he will be intentional in walking with congregations as they strive to reach out in Jesus' name to make disciples of all nations.

The ELCA has called Pastor Maristela Freiberg to serve as our Director for Evangelical Mission. Pastor Freiberg currently serves as pastor at St. Stephan - Grace Community in the Ironbound section of Newark. She will begin serving as DEM on October 24, 2013. Pastor Freiberg will not only walk alongside our officially designated mission and redevelopment congregations, she will also be available to walk alongside all of our congregations as they live out their call to engage in God's mission.

We have said good-bye to Ms. Judith Bailey, who served 24 years as the Assembly and Council Meeting Manager. Judy did a meticulous job over these years in taking care of a myriad of details for our meetings. Thank you, Judy, for a job well done.

The list of all our full-time staff members is included at the end of this letter so that you can continue to keep us in your prayers as we work together on your behalf. As with any transition, there will be bumps along the road and situations that will catch us by surprise – please be patient! We commit to working together, listening to and learning from one another and most of all, trusting that our labor in the Lord will not be in vain.

On a more practical note, please remember that the Synod office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30am – 5:30pm. Our staff meets together on Mondays at 11:00am.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew
Bishop

Full-time NJ Synod Staff

Hospitality Manager and Events Coordinator	Debbie Crawford dcrawford@njsynod.org
Bookkeeper	Beth Peroni bperoni@njsynod.org
Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry Director	Rev. Sara Lilja logm@njsynod.org
Youth Ministry Specialist	Jason Reed jreed@njsynod.org
Administrative Assistant for Mission and Ministry	Dawn Appelget dappelget@njsynod.org
Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Faith Formation	Rev. Scott Schantzenbach sschantzenbach@njsynod.org
Assistant to the Bishop for Communication and Mission Interpretation	Rev. Aaron Richter arichter@njsynod.org (after 10/15)
Director for Evangelical Mission (ELCA deployed staff)	Rev. Maristela Freiberg maristela.freiberg@elca.org (after 10/24)
Administrative Assistant and Confidential Secretary to the Bishop	LuAnn Barnes lbarnes@njsynod.org
Bishop	Rev. Tracie Bartholomew tbartholomew@njsynod.org