

# Bulletin of Reports

for the

## Thirty-sixth Assembly

of the

# NEW JERSEY SYNOD, ELCA

May 11, 2024



# WELCOME

Welcome to the Thirty-sixth New Jersey Synod Assembly. Please read this Bulletin of Reports so you may be an informed Voting Member.

## *Assembly Vocabulary No Accident*

It is important to note and remember that no delegates will be present for the assembly. “Voting members” are not delegates!

- The terminology related to the legislative process of this church is no accident.
- The words “Synod Assembly,” rather than convention, and “Voting Members,” rather than delegates, were deliberately chosen for our governing documents.

These words not only fulfill certain legal requirements, but also reflect that the ecclesial understanding of the three primary expressions of this church—congregations, synod, and church-wide organization—exist and serve within this *one church*.

The people of this synod are not sent as delegates; they are *not* gathered to act as some politicized delegates to a regional party convention. Rather, they *assemble* as duly selected members of this church with *voting* responsibilities for governance and elections on behalf of the synod. The Synod Assembly is just that, an assembly of the people of this church, some of whom have been granted the responsibility of being *Voting Members* of the *Synod Assembly*.

The people of this church, when gathered as *Voting Members* of the Synod Assembly, have the responsibility of electing the voting members of the *Church-wide Assembly*. Persons so chosen are given the responsibility of doing the work of the Church-wide Assembly on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

They are *not* sent to participate as politicized delegates from some regional or agenda-specific caucus at some national party convention.

The vocabulary that we use both shapes and reflects our understanding of this church.

We need to (a) understand more clearly, and (b) embrace more completely the conviction that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America “shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the church-wide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and, therefore, lives in a partnership relationship with the others.” (ELCA Church-wide Constitutional Provision 8.11.)

Indeed, we together affirm and declare the primary principle of organization of our church, namely: “The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church.” (ELCA Church-wide Constitutional Provision 5.01)

Within this one church, we, as voting members, advisory members, non-voting members, visitors, and staff will gather to carry out the work of this Synod Assembly.

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

April 8, 2024

*“We have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them” (1 John 4:16).*

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your faithful and continuing partnership as we work together to help people discover the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Because God’s grace and love have made a difference in our daily lives, we want others to experience that same love and acceptance. There are many in our communities who feel alone and are searching for love and connection. Sometimes we feel at a loss to know how to make a difference — what do we say, what can we do, how do we share God’s love?

You share this love every day. When you invite others to join in your faith community, to worship, to participate in service activities, to pray together, to share their story — these are all ways our neighbors experience the love of God in community.

There are examples of God’s love throughout our church as we work for healing, peace and justice to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

The Spirit is calling us to move together as one church to share the grace and love we experience every day. May God bless your time together.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

8 de abril de 2024

*“Y nosotros hemos llegado a saber y creer que Dios nos ama. Dios es amor. El que permanece en amor, en Dios permanece y Dios en él” (1 Juan 4:16).*

Estimados(as) amigos(as) en Cristo:

Gracias por su fiel y continua colaboración en tanto que trabajamos juntos para ayudar a la gente a descubrir la diferencia que la gracia y el amor de Dios en Cristo hacen en todas las personas y la creación.

Debido a que la gracia y el amor de Dios han marcado la diferencia en nuestra vida diaria, queremos que otros experimenten ese mismo amor y aceptación. Hay muchos que se sienten solos en nuestras comunidades y andan buscando amor y conexión. A veces nos es difícil saber cómo marcar la diferencia: ¿qué decimos, ¿qué podemos hacer?, ¿cómo compartimos el amor de Dios?

Ustedes comparten este amor todos los días. Cuando invitan a otros a unirse a su comunidad de fe, a adorar, a participar en actividades de servicio, a orar juntos, a compartir la historia de ellos —todas estas son maneras en que nuestro prójimo experimenta el amor de Dios en comunidad.

Hay ejemplos del amor de Dios en toda nuestra iglesia cuando luchamos por sanidad, paz y justicia para marcar la diferencia en las vidas de quienes nos rodean.

El Espíritu nos está llamando a movernos juntos como una sola iglesia para compartir la gracia y el amor que experimentamos todos los días. Que Dios bendiga el tiempo que pasarán juntos.

En Cristo,

La Rvda. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Obispa Presidente  
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América

**NEW JERSEY SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
May 11, 2024  
Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton NJ**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. **ON-SITE CHECK-IN:** Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 AM  
**PROMPT** registration is requested as a quorum is needed to open the Assembly (at 9:30 AM). At check-in you will receive a name tag, lanyard and Wristband (needed for access throughout Grounds for Sculpture). PLEASE return your lanyards at the end of assembly.
2. **NAME TAGS:** Voting Members and Visitors/Non-Voting Members will be identified by the color of their name tag. *Synod Council members will be identified with red ribbons / synod staff with purple ribbons.*
3. **VOTING:** Voting will be done through VPOLL, an online voting/check-in system. You will need a smartphone or tablet with an internet connection (or data plan) in order to cast your vote. Voting prompts will appear on your screen at the appropriate times. VPOLL practice will take place at the start of assembly. Our Assembly Tech Team will be available to assist with any issues. Wi-Fi: Grounds for Sculpture Public WiFi (no password needed)  
  
*PLEASE NOTE: Voting Members will receive their login information at check-in. These credentials are unique to each voting member. Whatever device you first login from is the device you must use to vote with throughout the assembly.*
4. **FLOOR NOMINATIONS:** Persons making nominations from the floor must submit a complete biographical form with the required number of Voting Member signatures to the Secretary by 10:30 AM Saturday. This form may be obtained on the floor of the assembly from the Secretary, or the synod office, prior to the opening of the Assembly.
5. **GERMANE MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** When a Voting Member makes a motion from the floor, the Voting Member must present the motion on the proper form to the Secretary. This form is available from the Secretary at any time during the Assembly.



**Thirty-Sixth New Jersey Synod Assembly  
 Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey  
 May/Mayo 11, 2024**

**WIFI: Grounds For Sculpture Public WIFI**  
 (no password required/no se require contraseña)

- 8:45 AM                   **Registration Opens/Registro Abierto**
- 9:30 AM                   Welcome and Land Acknowledgement/Bienvenida y Reconocimiento de tierras  
 Prayer and Song/Oración y Canción  
  
 Introduction to Assembly (including Vpoll practice)/Introducción a la Asamblea  
 Consent Agenda – Minutes, Agenda, Rules of Procedure, Committees  
                                   Agenda de Consentimiento, Reglas de Procedimiento, Comités  
 Introductions/Introducciones
- 10:15 AM                 Nominating Committee Report/Informe del Comité de Nominaciones  
 Report of the Secretary/Informe del Secretario – adoption of Constitution Changes  
 2025 Spending Plan Presentation/Introducción al Plan de Gastos 2025
- Stand and Stretch/Ponte de pie y estírate  
  
                                   Elections/Elecciones  
                                   Bishop’s Report/Informe de la Obispa  
                                   Elections (if needed)/Elecciones (si es necesario)  
  
                                   Introduction to Bishop’s Challenge: Caretakers of God’s Good Creation  
                                   Introducción al desafío de la Obispa: Cuidadores de la Buena Creación de Dios  
                                   Song/Canción
- 12:00 PM                 Lunch/Almuerzo           (ELCA churchwide video/video del ELCA)
- 1:15 PM                   Elections (if needed)/Elecciones (si es necesario)  
 Spending Plan Adoption/Adopción del 2025 plan de gastos  
 Elections (if needed)/Elecciones (si es necesario)  
 Cross Roads Camp and Retreat report/Informe de Cross Roads  
 Resolutions and Memorials/Resoluciones
- 1:45 PM                   Reception of Santa Isabel/Recepción de la Santa Isabel  
                                   procession to the worship tent/procesión para adorar
- 2:15 PM                   Worship with Holy Communion/Santa Comunión  
                                   The Rev. Ramon Collazo, preaching/El Revdo. Ramon Collazo, predicador
- 3:00 PM                   Assembly is finished – participants are free to wander the grounds until 7:00 PM.  
 Asamblea está terminada participantes están libres de caminar por los “Grounds” hasta las  
 7:00 PM.

***How Can I Keep from Singing?***



## PRE-ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
6:30 PM to 7:45 PM and 8:00 PM to 9:15 PM

### Workshop Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324004683?pwd=RXlScldrVEFKenJaT2l4alozeDhCdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 2400 4683      Passcode: 281687

Each workshop will be offered twice so that you can attend two workshops. This year we will use one zoom meeting. Once signed on, you can stay on the whole time even through the 15-minute break. Each time block will begin with a brief welcome and introduction to everyone before breaking out into our specific groups. Each workshop/forum will be 1 hour in length.



### **2025 Spending Plan Workshop**

Learn about the Synod Council's proposed 2025 spending plan to support our synod ministries, from ministries within New Jersey to worldwide missions.

*Leader: Synod Treasurer Jim Harris*



### **25 Years of Mission in Wittenberg**

In this workshop, Pastor Bridget will talk about her ministry in Germany, the past, present, and future of the ELCA Wittenberg Center, and the mission of the ELCA in Europe.

*Leader: The Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Coordinator, ELCA Wittenberg Center, Leipzig*



### **Proposed Synod Constitution and Bylaws and Review**

At the 2024 NJ Synod Assembly, we will be voting on the adoption of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw changes approved and commended by the Synod Council. The proposed Constitution and Bylaw revision follows a complete review of Synod governing documents to ensure compliance with the ELCA Model Constitution for Synods, to reflect current Synod practice, and to maximize flexibility within the governance of the Synod. Come learn about the proposed changes, hear the rationale, and ask any questions in advance of the Assembly.

*Leader: Synod Secretary Pastor Blake Scalet*



### **Stand Against Christian Nationalism**

Christian Nationalism is not Christian. Join the conversation and learn about how this political ideology takes shape in New Jersey. Take action to address the heresy of our time.

*Leaders: Pastor Sara Lilja, Assistant to the Bishop for Advocacy and Justice, and Pastor Serena Rice, Abiding Peace, Budd Lake*



### **Congregational Generosity and Stewardship Ministry!**

This workshop will review seven (7) practices that foster congregational generosity, allowing its members to claim and proclaim God's abundance in their life.

*Leader: Pastor Dean Brown, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship*



### **Mission Partnerships: The Beauty of Singing Together in Relational Harmony**

Our collaboration with partners is like creating a choir. We recognize that our ministries need the collaboration of many voices and musicians. We invite you to have a conversation with us about the beauty of relational harmony. The mission developers will share with you their experiences with collaboration and partnership. We will talk about what it means to be in partnership, the importance of exploring expectations, things to take into consideration when managing relationships with partners, and how growing together may look when cultivating relationships.

*Leaders: NJ Synod Mission Developers*



**ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER MOTIONS CHART**  
Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (1990 Edition)

The motions below are listed in order of precedence.  
A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

YOU WANT:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Take break	I move to recess for...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to a committee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that (or "to)...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Motions that bring a question again before the assembly - no order of precedence.  
Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

YOU WANT:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Take matter from table	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Cancel previous action	I move to rescind...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

Incidental Motions - no order of precedence.  
Arises incidentally and are decided immediately.

YOU WANT:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Demand a rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

**NEW JERSEY SYNOD, ELCA**  
**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

1. Fifty percent (50%) of voting members who have confirmed registration upon the beginning of the assembly shall constitute a quorum as required by constitution (S7.14.).
2. Two (2) lay representatives of Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities of the New Jersey Synod shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.
3. Persons who are on the roster of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA, On Leave From Call or Retired, Living Out-of-State, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations/worshiping communities by special appointment, and those Retired Pastors Living Out-of-State who are actively engaged in the life and ministry of the New Jersey Synod shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.
4. Persons on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in a Synod other than the New Jersey Synod, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations by special appointment, shall be given voice and vote, during the Assembly.
5. Persons who are not on the roster of the ELCA, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations/worshiping communities by special appointment, shall be given voice, not vote, during the Assembly.
6. Persons who are not on the roster of the ELCA, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations/worshiping communities by special appointment and are ordained ministers of another Lutheran church body that is a member of the Lutheran World Federation or of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.
7. Chairs of Mission Teams and Committees listed by the Synod Council shall be given voice, not vote, on matters pertaining to their work during the Assembly.
8. Voting will take place in a variety of ways throughout the assembly. These may include electronic voting using Vpoll, voice votes, and voting cards. To have an abstention recorded, notify the secretary. Abstentions do not count in the vote totals.
9. Voting members need a smartphone or tablet in order to use Vpoll for voting. Unique login credentials will be provided upon registration.
10. When an item of business is opened by the chair for discussion, those voting members wishing to speak must move to a floor microphone. Before speaking, each person will indicate their name, congregation name and location. Members must specify if they are speaking for or against the item under consideration.
11. Debate shall be limited to two minutes per person per issue. Time will be kept by the Secretary. Debate will terminate when three speakers have been heard on each side, unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting.
12. Resolutions received after the March 12 deadline will be referred to the NJ Synod Council.

13. Resolutions received on time shall be reviewed by the Committee of Reference and Counsel, which, when reporting to the Assembly, may:
  1. recommend approval;
  2. recommend disapproval;
  3. recommend referral to the Synod Council; or
  4. recommend a substitute motion to the Assembly
14. Floor nominations for at-large positions may be made at the time of the Nominating Committee report and require completion of the [electronic nomination form](#).
15. All reports published in the Bulletin of Reports shall be received by the Assembly by virtue of that fact without vote.

#### **RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION OF THE 2025 SPENDING PLAN**

1. At the time of the introduction of the Spending Plan, discussion shall be limited to questions for clarification and information and the serving of notices of intent to move an amendment to the Spending Plan.
2. Voting Members desiring to present motions germane to the Spending Plan shall be given until **12:00 noon on Saturday, May 11** to submit written notice of such intent to the Treasurer, James Harris.
3. Members of the Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee shall meet with voting members proposing an amendment.
4. At the time appointed for the adoption of the Spending Plan, the Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee shall report to the Assembly all proposed amendments, with the Committee's recommendations.
5. When motions germane to the Spending Plan are presented on the Floor of the Assembly, the Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee shall have an opportunity to respond to the recommendations. Any Voting Member wishing to increase a line item in any area of the Spending Plan shall propose a source of funding.

**SÍNODO DE NUEVA JERSEY, ELCA**  
**REGLAS DE PROCEDIMIENTO PARA LA TRIGÉSIMA ASAMBLEA DEL SÍNODO**

1. El cincuenta por ciento (50%) de los miembros votantes que hayan confirmado su registro al comienzo de la Asamblea constituirán el quórum requerido por la constitución (S7.14.).
2. Dos (2) representantes laicos de las comunidades de adoración autorizadas sinodalmente del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey tendrán voz y voto durante la Asamblea.
3. Personas que están en la lista del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey, ELCA, con permiso de servicio o jubilados, que viven fuera del estado, pero que sirven a las congregaciones/comunidades de adoración del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey mediante nombramiento especial, y aquellos pastores jubilados que viven fuera del estado y que participan activamente en la vida y el ministerio del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey tendrán voz y voto durante la Asamblea.
4. Las personas en la lista de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América (ELCA) en un Sínodo que no sea el Sínodo de Nueva Jersey, pero que sirven a las congregaciones del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey por nombramiento especial, tendrán voz y voto durante la Asamblea.
5. Las personas que no están en la lista de la ELCA, pero que sirven a las congregaciones/comunidades de adoración del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey mediante nombramiento especial, tendrán voz, no voto, durante la Asamblea.
6. Personas que no están en la lista de la ELCA, pero que sirven en congregaciones/comunidades de adoración del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey por nombramiento especial y son ministros ordenados de otro organismo eclesiástico luterano que sea miembro de la Federación Luterana Mundial o de un organismo eclesiástico con quien una relación de plena comunión haya sido declarada y establecida por una Asamblea General de la ELCA tendrá voz y voto durante la Asamblea.
7. Los presidentes de los equipos y comités de misión listados por el Consejo Sinodal tendrán voz, no voto, en asuntos relacionados con su trabajo durante la Asamblea.
8. La votación se realizará de diversas formas a lo largo de la Asamblea. Estos pueden incluir votación electrónica mediante Vpoll, votación por voz y tarjetas de votación. Para hacer constar una abstención, notificar al secretario. Las abstenciones no cuentan en el total de votos.
9. Los miembros votantes necesitan un teléfono inteligente o una tableta para poder utilizar Vpoll para votar. Se proporcionarán credenciales de inicio de sesión únicas al registrarse.
10. Cuando el presidente abre un tema para su discusión, aquellos miembros votantes que deseen hablar deben pasar a un micrófono en el piso. Antes de hablar, cada persona indicará su nombre, nombre de la congregación y ubicación. Los miembros deben especificar si hablan a favor o en contra del tema bajo consideración.
11. El debate se limitará a dos minutos por persona y por tema. El tiempo será llevado por el secretario. El debate terminará cuando se hayan escuchado tres oradores de cada lado, a menos que se determine lo contrario por mayoría de votos de los miembros votantes presentes y votantes.
12. Las resoluciones recibidas después de la fecha límite del 12 de marzo se remitirán al Consejo del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey.
13. Las resoluciones recibidas a tiempo serán revisadas por el Comité de Referencia y Consejo, el cual, al rendir informe a la Asamblea, podrá:

- a. recomendar la aprobación;
  - b. recomendar la desaprobación;
  - c. recomendar la remisión al Consejo Sinodal; o
  - d. recomendar una moción sustituta a la Asamblea
14. Las nominaciones durante la plenaria para puestos generales se pueden realizar en el momento del reporte del comité de nominaciones y requieren se complete el formulario de nominación electrónico. <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1g27kMi-ejHzuZKpWWF-W3YVrMEH4wLE9>
15. Todos los informes publicados en el Boletín de Informes serán recibidos por la Asamblea en virtud de ese hecho sin votación.

### **REGLAS DE PROCEDIMIENTO PARA LA ADOPCIÓN DEL PLAN DE GASTOS 2025**

1. En el momento de la introducción del Plan de Gastos, la discusión se limitará a preguntas de aclaración e información y a la entrega de notificaciones de intención de presentar una enmienda al Plan de Gastos.
2. Los miembros votantes que deseen presentar mociones relacionadas con el plan de gastos tendrán hasta las 12:00 del mediodía del sábado 11 de mayo para presentar una notificación por escrito de dicha intención al tesorero, James Harris.
3. Los miembros de la Comisión de Gestión, Administración y Patrimonio Fiscal se reunirán con los miembros votantes proponiendo una modificación.
4. En el momento señalado para la adopción del Plan de Gastos, el Comité de Gestión, Administración y Bienes Fiscales informará a la Asamblea de todas las modificaciones propuestas, con las recomendaciones del Comité.
5. Cuando se presenten en la plenaria de la Asamblea mociones relacionadas con el Plan de Gastos, el Comité de Gestión, Administración y Propiedades Fiscales tendrá la oportunidad de responder a las recomendaciones. Cualquier miembro con derecho a voto que desee aumentar una partida en cualquier área del plan de gastos deberá proponer una fuente de financiación.

**RESOLUTION #1 CONCERNING  
ELCA PRISON AND RE-ENTRY MINISTRY**

*WHEREAS, Jesus says: “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35-36); and*

*WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America urges individuals, congregations, and synods to call “the criminal justice system must acknowledge the disparities, and address the implicit and explicit racism that persists within; it must recognize the special needs of juvenile offenders; it must stop the privatization of prison facilities; and finally, it must foster the full reintegration of ex-offenders into community”; and*

*WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Corrections New Jersey has an incarceration rate of 341 per 100,000 people (including prisons, jails, immigration detention, and juvenile justice facilities), meaning that it locks up a higher percentage of its people than almost any democratic country on earth;( <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/NJ.html>)and*

*WHEREAS, New Jersey has a recidivism rate (re-offense rate leading to re-incarceration) of 30.4% respectively; and*

*WHEREAS, the New Jersey Synod has no known prison ministry and no known reentry ministries and no known advocacy arm for the incarcerated or the formerly incarcerated; and*

*WHEREAS, it is shown that being a part of a spiritual group lowers recidivism rates,*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the New Jersey Synod Council create a Task Force that will encourage congregations and individuals of the Synod to participate and partner in prison and jail visitation ministry; create communications and support advocacy for the imprisoned, involuntarily housed and those on probation; as well as help to create a framework for congregations to work alongside and welcome formerly incarcerated individuals into the congregation’s life and mission.

Submitted By:

The Rev. Erich Kussman, St. Bartholomew, Trenton

## **RESOLUCIÓN #1 SOBRE MINISTERIO DE PRISIÓN Y REINGRESO DE ELCA**

*CONSIDERANDO*, Jesús dice: “Fui forastero y me invitasteis a entrar, necesitaba ropa y me vestisteis, estuve enfermo y me cuidasteis, estuve en la cárcel y vinisteis a visitarme.” (Mateo 25: 35-36); y

*CONSIDERANDO*, la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América insta a las personas, congregaciones y sínodos a pedir que “el sistema de justicia penal debe reconocer las disparidades y abordar el racismo implícito y explícito que persiste en su interior; debe reconocer las necesidades especiales de los menores delincuentes; debe detener la privatización de las instalaciones penitenciarias; y finalmente, debe fomentar la plena reintegración de los exdelincuentes a la comunidad”; y

*CONSIDERANDO*, que el Departamento Correccional de Nueva Jersey tiene una tasa de encarcelamiento de 341 por cada 100.000 personas (incluidas prisiones, cárceles, centros de detención de inmigrantes y centros de justicia juvenil), lo que significa que encarcela a un porcentaje más alto de su población que casi cualquier país democrático en la tierra; (<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/NJ.html>) y

*CONSIDERANDO*, que Nueva Jersey tiene una tasa de reincidencia (tasa de reincidencia que conduce a un nuevo encarcelamiento) del 30,4% respectivamente; y

*CONSIDERANDO*, el Sínodo de Nueva Jersey no tiene ningún ministerio penitenciario conocido, ni ministerios de reingreso conocidos, ni ningún brazo de defensa conocido para los encarcelados o los ex encarcelados; y

*CONSIDERANDO*, que está demostrado que ser parte de un grupo espiritual reduce las tasas de reincidencia,

*POR LO TANTO, SE RESUELVE* que el Consejo del Sínodo de Nueva Jersey cree un Grupo de Trabajo que alentará a las congregaciones y a las personas del Sínodo a participar y asociarse en el ministerio de visitas a prisiones y cárceles; crear comunicaciones y apoyar la defensa de los encarcelados, los alojados involuntariamente y los que están en libertad condicional; así como también ayudar a crear un marco para que las congregaciones trabajen junto con personas anteriormente encarceladas y les den la bienvenida a la vida y misión de la congregación.

Presentado por:

El reverendo Erich Kussman, San Bartolomé, Trenton



**A RESOLUTION # 2 CONCERNING  
A CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE HOLY LAND.**

**WHEREAS** the Gateway Mission District, along with the support of others throughout the New Jersey Synod, stand in solidarity with those affected by the hostilities,

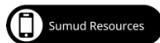
**WHEREAS** the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, which includes the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, are calling for a ceasefire, “...that allows for the speedy disbursement of relief supplies throughout the Gaza strip...” (Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, “Statement on the Recent Attack on Crowds Gathering to Receive Humanitarian Aid,” March 1, 2024, <https://www.lpj.org/en/news/hoc-statement-on-the-recent-attack-on-crowds-gathering-to-receive>)

**WHEREAS** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Conference of Bishops is, “... calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza,” ELCA Conference of Bishops calls for permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza, March 3, 2024, <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8217>

**WHEREAS** the hostilities in the Holy Land do indeed have an effect on the lives of Lutherans in New Jersey, in their communities, schools, neighborhoods, and beyond;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey Synod in assembly stand in solidarity with those affected by the hostilities in the Holy Land calling for a ceasefire. And be it further,

**RESOLVED** that the New Jersey Synod identify places and moments of solidarity with our neighbors living in the Holy Land and share resources widely to encourage support among churches, including, but not limited to: contacting governmental representatives, financial support of Lutheran Disaster Response (specifically designating it for the Middle East Crisis), and by engaging with resources from Sumud, the ELCA’s new name for our church’s engagement in accompaniment, awareness-building and advocacy for justice in Palestine and Israel.



Name and signature of individual submitting the resolution.

The Rev. Sarah E. Fryman

Grace Lutheran Church Bayonne, NJ; Gateway Mission District

Date: March 5, 2024

Additional submitting names/signatures: The Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, The Rev. Nancy Truscott, Vicar Juan Manuel Arias-Perea, The Rev. Margarette Oujji, The Rev. Menzi R. Nkambule, The Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliott, The Rev. Kathryn S. Irwin, The Rev. Carmine Pernini, The Rev.M. Danielle McCleary, The Rev. Courtney D. Smith-Westerlund, and The Rev. Gary LeCroy

## RESOLUCIÓN # 2 SOBRE UN LLAMADO A UN ALTO EL FUEGO EN TIERRA SANTA.

*CONSIDERANDO*, que el Distrito de la Misión Gateway, junto con el apoyo de otros durante el Sínodo de Nueva Jersey, se solidariza con los afectados por las hostilidades; y

*CONSIDERANDO*, que los Patriarcas y Jefes de las Iglesias en Jerusalén, que incluye a la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Jordania y Tierra Santa, están pidiendo un alto el fuego, “...que permita el rápido desembolso de suministros de socorro en toda la franja de Gaza...” (Patriarcas y Jefes de las Iglesias en Jerusalén, “Declaración sobre el reciente ataque a multitudes reunidas para recibir ayuda humanitaria”, 1 de marzo de 2024, <https://www.lpj.org/en/news/hoc-statement-on-the-ataque-reciente-a-las-multitudes-reunidas-para-recibir>); y

*CONSIDERANDO*, que la Conferencia de Obispos de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América está “...pidiendo un alto el fuego bilateral permanente en Gaza”, la Conferencia de Obispos de la ELCA pide un alto el fuego bilateral permanente en Gaza, 3 de marzo de 2024, <https://www.elca.org/Noticias-y-Eventos/8217>; y

*CONSIDERANDO*, que las hostilidades en Tierra Santa efectivamente tienen un efecto en las vidas de los luteranos en Nueva Jersey, en sus comunidades, escuelas, vecindarios y más allá,

*POR LO TANTO, SE RESUELVE* que el Sínodo de Nueva Jersey en asamblea se solidarice con aquellos afectados por las hostilidades en Tierra Santa que piden un alto el fuego; y

*ADEMAS SE RESUELVE*, que el Sínodo de Nueva Jersey identifique lugares y momentos de solidaridad con nuestros vecinos que viven en Tierra Santa y comparta ampliamente recursos para fomentar el apoyo entre las iglesias, incluyendo, entre otros: contactar a representantes gubernamentales, apoyo financiero de la Respuesta Luterana a Desastres (designando específicamente para la crisis de Medio Oriente), y colaborando con recursos de Sumud, el nuevo nombre de la ELCA para el compromiso de nuestra iglesia en el acompañamiento, la creación de conciencia y la promoción de la justicia en Palestina e Israel.



Nombre y firma de la persona que presenta la resolución: La reverenda Sarah E. Fryman

Grace Lutheran Church Bayonne, Nueva Jersey; Distrito de la Misión Gateway

Fecha: 5 de marzo de 2024 Nombres/firmas adicionales que envían: Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, Rev. Nancy Truscott, Vicario Juan Manuel Arias-Perea, Rev. Margarette Ouji, Rev. Menzi R. Nkambule, Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliott, Rev. Kathryn S. Irwin, el reverendo Carmine Pernini, el reverendo M. Danielle McCleary, El reverendo Courtney D. Smith-Westerlund y el reverendo Gary LeCroy.

## Proposed 2025 Spending Plan for the New Jersey Synod

February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026

This proposed spending plan provides the financial support for carrying out the synod’s missions and objectives. This plan was developed in collaboration with the Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee. **The Synod Council recommends approval of this plan by the Synod Assembly.**

**Income Supporting the Spending Plan** is primarily Mission Support from congregations supplemented by distributions from restricted funds, bank interest, support from ELCA churchwide, and Thrivent Choice dollars.

	2023 Actual		2024 Approved Spending Plan		2025 Proposed Spending Plan	
<b>Mission Support</b>	1,661,627	84%	1,700,000	82%	1,600,000	78%
<b>Restricted Fund draws</b>		10%		17%		18%
Restricted support for Mission Development	126,708		142,500		142,500	
OSEF support for Bishop's Office	-		100,000		105,000	
Health Benefit Assistance	-		10,000		10,000	
United Seminary Endowment support	10,000		10,000		10,000	
Endowment support for Candidacy	16,393		29,000		29,360	
Stewardship support	1,042		1,000		1,000	
Endowment for Staff Housing Support	-		6,000		6,000	
Endowment to Support Cross Roads	20,000		20,000		26,000	
Wurffel Administrative Support	8,000		6,700		8,000	
EMU Support	8,700		8,600		-	
Mission Development - Property Manager	13,174		22,000		25,240	
<b>ELCA support to the NJ Synod</b>		< 1%		< 1%		< 1%
ELCA support for Mission Director	10,000		10,000		10,000	
<b>Other income</b>		5%		< 1%		4%
Individual Contribution Support	3,001		-		-	
Special Giving Operations Support	1,728		-		-	
Thrivent Choice	1,343		1,000		1,200	
Interest Income - All Banks	92,154		6,000		80,000	
<b>Total Income</b>	1,973,869		2,072,800		2,054,300	

**Mission Support** is the congregation gifts to support the work of our synod. Mission Support provided 84% of the spending plan income in 2023 and is forecast to provide 78% of income in 2025.

**Restricted Fund draws** describes the money drawn from restricted funds to support synod programs that satisfy fund restrictions. This money supports congregations and missions within New Jersey, the United Lutheran seminary, pastoral candidates, Cross Roads Camp, programs supporting church pastors, stewardship programming, and management of the synod properties. The approval of this spending plan explicitly approves spending this money from these restricted funds.

**Other Income** includes personal gifts to the synod, Thrivent Choice dollars and bank account interest. Interest income was significantly higher in 2023 because of this year’s increase in interest rates. The 2024 number was set early in 2023, before we knew the interest rates would increase.

## Ministries and Expenditures

**Section 1: ELCA Churchwide and Ministry Partners** supports partners in ministry within New Jersey, within our ELCA region and across the churchwide organization. Half of Mission Support gifts received by the synod are given to ELCA churchwide.

	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Spending Plan	2025 Proposed Spending Plan
ELCA Share of Mission Support	831,326	850,000	800,000
United Lutheran Seminary	100,000	100,000	100,000
Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries	30,000	30,000	36,000
Lutheran Archives Center	2,500	2,500	2,500
New Jersey Interfaith Coalition	500	500	1,000
Seafarers and International House	2,000	2,000	2,000
Diakonia	1,500	1,500	1,500
	967,826	986,500	943,000
Percentage of spending plan	49%	48%	46%

46% of the proposed spending plan supports ELCA Churchwide and Ministry Partners.

**Section 2. Strengthening Congregations** focuses on the processes and programs that strengthen congregations' capabilities and facilitate collaborative ministry across our synod.

	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Spending Plan	2025 Proposed Spending Plan
Assistants to the Bishop and staff support	310,585	317,927	325,242
Youth Ministry program	40,500	40,500	40,500
Synod Continuing Education	-	2,000	2,000
Discipling and Witness Team	-	1,000	1,000
Justice and Peace Mission Teams	950	1,000	1,000
Synod Communications	5,904	9,000	9,000
Stewardship Resource Development	1,161	1,000	1,000
	359,101	372,427	379,742
Percentage of spending plan	18%	18%	18%

Strengthening Congregations within the New Jersey Synod includes:

- Ministering to congregations and pastors in need
- Assistants to the bishop and staff personnel supporting congregations
- Youth Ministry leadership, programs and grants
- Advocacy Ministry leadership
- Discipleship and Witness Mission Team
- Justice and Peace Mission Team
- Synod-wide communications
- Development and production of congregational Stewardship resources

Strengthening Congregations makes up 18% of our 2025 plan.

### Section 3: Outreach Supporting Congregations

	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Spending Plan	2025 Proposed Spending Plan
Congregational Vitality	129,333	142,500	142,500
Percentage of spending plan	7%	7%	7%

Congregational Vitality enables new expressions of ministry in our Synod, assists the start-up of new missions and revitalizes existing congregations. During 2023 the synod supported Bridge of Peace in Camden; Christus in Camden; Santa Isabel in Elizabeth; Trinity in Jersey City; St Stephan-Grace in Newark; Misión Luterana Reconciliación in Pennsauken; St. John in Passaic; Morning Star in Ridgefield; St. Matthew in Secaucus; St Bartholomew in Trenton; and the Santa Isabel Ministry to Immigrants in Detention.

**Section 4: Office of the Bishop** guides and supports congregations and clergy, synodical church and legal processes and nurtures church leadership.

	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Spending Plan	2025 Proposed Spending Plan
The Bishop and staff support	227,674	230,854	240,085
Candidacy and seminarians	16,393	29,000	29,360
Pastoral supply coordination	3,600	3,600	3,710
First Call Pastoral support	7,267	7,200	7,420
Ecumenical and interfaith programs	1,300	1,300	1,300
Synod ordinations and special events	1,305	3,000	3,000
Synod Assembly and Assembly reserve	-	12,500	12,500
	257,537	287,454	297,375
Percentage of spending plan	13%	14%	14%

The bishop’s office leads and administers:

- Congregational vacancy and call processes
- Seminarian formation and identifying clergy candidates
- Guidance, training and help to all first-call pastors
- Interaction and dialogue with other religious and ministry partner organizations
- Synod gatherings such as the Synod Assembly and Ministerium Day
- Pastoral supply for congregations

14% of the proposed synod spending plan supports the Office of the Bishop.

**Section 5: Oversight and Planning for the Sake of the Mission** provides for the administrative requirements of running the synod organization including travel for staff and volunteers, maintaining the synod properties, managing finances, fulfilling legal and regulatory obligations, and planning for our future.

	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Approved Spending Plan</b>	<b>2025 Proposed Spending Plan</b>
Staff support	110,441	113,336	116,140
Staff Travel Expenses	14,786	18,000	17,000
Volunteers Meeting & Travel	5,534	6,000	6,000
Audit, Legal and Insurance	39,315	38,000	40,000
Property management	57,250	68,300	74,670
Supplies and services	32,189	39,500	37,100
	<b>259,514</b>	<b>283,136</b>	<b>290,910</b>
Percentage of spending plan	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>

**Summary**

The proposed Spending Plan supports the key Synod missions and programs, balancing expenses with expected revenues.

	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Approved Spending Plan</b>	<b>2025 Proposed Spending Plan</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	1,973,311	2,072,017	2,053,527
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	1,973,869	2,072,800	2,054,300
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	557 < 1%	783 < 1%	773 < 1%

**The Synod Council recommends approval of this proposed 2025 spending plan.**

## REPORT OF THE BISHOP

### 2023- 2024 PARISH AND ROSTER EVENTS

#### **ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**

Deacon Geraldine A. Frank	March 2, 1931 – April 23, 2023
The Rev. Arthur O. F. Bauer	November 1, 1925 – August 20, 2023
The Rev. H. Wayne Brady	May 21, 1944 – August 23, 2023
The Rev. Robert G. Hughes	August 28, 1937 – September 3, 2023
The Rev. Leah Louise Lavelle	January 10, 1947 – September 10, 2023
The Rev. Dallas D. Dorward	May 30, 1929 – December 1, 2023
The Rev. Paul L. Brndjar	May 15, 1946 - February 17, 2024

#### **ORDINATION MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

Breanna L. Tessitore	St. Mark Lutheran, Hagerstown, MD	05/20/2023
<i>Delaware Maryland Synod on behalf of the New Jersey Synod</i>		
Sarah E. Fryman	Abiding Christ, Fairborn, OH	07/23/2023
<i>Southern Ohio Synod on behalf of the New Jersey Synod</i>		
Bridget C. Gautieri	Calvary, Cranford	08/12/2023
Scott W. Rush	St. Paul, East Windsor	04/20/2024

#### **ORDINATION MINISTER OF WORD AND SERVICE**

George E. "Ned" Perwo	St. Paul, East Windsor	04/20/2024
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#### **CALL EXTENDED FROM THE ELCA**

The Rev. Bridget Claire Gautieri	ELCA Wittenberg Center, Leipzig, Germany	08/12/2023
The Rev. Kristin Engstrom	Country Rep. and YAGM Country Coordinator for Madagascar	02/20/2024

#### **SYNOD COUNCIL CALL INTERIM PASTORAL MINISTRY**

The Rev. B. Daniel Whitener, Jr.	St. Paul, East Windsor	12/01/2023
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#### **CONGREGATION CALL**

The Rev. Beau D. Nelson	Amazing Grace, Florham Park	05/06/2023
The Rev. Breanna L. Tessitore	Bethany, Palmyra	06/01/2023
The Rev. Jonathan M. Westerlund	Christ, Paramus	06/01/2023
The Rev. Sarah E. Fryman	Grace, Bayonne	08/01/2023
The Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn	Christ Our Redeemer, Jersey City	12/01/2023
The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo	Santa Isabel, Elizabeth	12/03/2023
The Rev. William T. Hodgetts, Jr.	Zion, Egg Harbor City	01/07/2023
The Rev. Levi Q. Powers	St. James, Phillipsburg	03/18/2024
The Rev. Kathryn S. Irwin	Calvary, Cranford	05/01/2024

#### **INVITATION TO EXTENDED SERVICE**

The Rev. Dámaris Porsch-Ortega (United Church of Christ)	St. Paul, Jersey City	03/18/2024
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#### **RETIREMENT**

The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay	Calvary, Cranford	08/01/2023
The Rev. James R. Egan	St. Paul, East Windsor	10/15/2023
The Rev. William F. McGowan	Zion, Barnegat Light	12/31/2023

#### **TERMINATION OF CALL**

The Rev. Eunyoung Kim	Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield	05/31/2023
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The Rev. Gary A. B. Woodruff	Atonement, Asbury Park	09/30/2023
The Rev. Jacob Simpson (Interim Pastor)	St. John, Jersey City	09/30/2023
The Rev. Wendolyn E. Trozzo	Lord of Life, Tabernacle	01/07/2024
The Rev. Miles S. Hopgood	Abiding Presence, Ewing	02/18/2024
The Rev. Kathryn S. Irwin	Interim Pastor, St. Paul, Jersey City	03/17/2024
The Rev. Althea Albright	Grace, Somers Point	05/01/2024

**TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER ELCA SYNOD**

The Rev. B. Daniel Whitener, Jr.	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	12/01/2023
The Rev. William T. Hodgetts, Jr.	UpState New York Synod, ELCA	01/07/2023
The Rev. Levi Q. Powers	Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA	03/18/2024
The Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	03/14/2024

**TRANSFER TO ANOTHER ELCA SYNOD**

The Rev. Karen E. Strietelmeier	Indiana Kentucky Synod, ELCA	09/07/2023
The Rev. José Escalera	Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA	11/01/2023
The Rev. Jacob K. Simpson	Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA	12/31/2023
The Rev. Gary B. Woodruff	South Dakota Synod, ELCA	01/02/2024
The Rev. Miles S. Hopgood	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	02/18/2024
The Rev. Althea Albright	Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	05/01/2024
The Rev. Rafaela Morales-Rosa	New England Synod ELCA	05/01/2024

**ON LEAVE FROM CALL**

The Rev. Eunyong Kim		06/01/2023
The Rev. Jacob K. Simpson		10/01/2023
The Rev. Gary B. Woodruff		10/01/2023
The Rev. Wendolyn E. Trozzo		01/08/2024

**COLLABORATIVE LEARNING COVENANT**

Jason R. Reed	Temple, Pennsauken	02/11/2024
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**PASTORAL MINISTRY AGREEMENT**

The Rev. Nancy Nardi	Abiding Love, Kendall Park	07/01/2023
The Rev. David Stoner	Emanuel, New Brunswick	07/01/2023
The Rev. Michael McKillip	Atonement, Asbury Park	07/01/2023
The Rev. Charles A. Ferreri	Temple, Pennsauken	11/01/2023
The Rev. B. Daniel Whitener, Jr.	St. Paul, East Windsor	12/01/2023
The Rev. Barry Scott (Northeast Ohio Synod, ELCA)	Lord of Life, Tabernacle	01/08/2024
The Rev. Kathleen J. Harris	Abiding Presence, Ewing	02/20/2024

**VICE PASTOR APPOINTMENT**

The Rev. Gunnar L. Anderson	Calvary, Cranford	08/01/2023
The Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach	St. James, Phillipsburg	08/16/2023
The Rev. Peter H. Froehle	St. Paul, East Windsor	10/16/2023
The Rev. Dale C. Selover	St. Paul, East Windsor	10/16/2023
The Rev. Mason A. Hahn, Jr.	Christ, Bridgeton	01/22/2024
The Rev. Margarete Oujj	Holy Trinity, East Orange	02/01/2024
The Rev. Arnd Braun-Storck	Zion, Carteret	04/01/2024
The Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo	Grace, Somers Point	05/01/2024



**INSTALLATION**

The Rev. Breanna L. Tessitore	Bethany, Palmyra	07/27/2023
The Rev. Sarah E. Fryman	Grace, Bayonne	09/21/2023
The Rev. Jonathan Westerlund	Christ, Paramus	10/22/2023
The Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn	Christ Our Redeemer, Jersey City	01/27/2024
The Rev. William Hodgetts, Jr.	Zion, Egg Harbor City	04/21/2024

**NEWLY ORGANIZED MINISTRY**

Elizabeth, Santa Isabel	The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo	12/03/2023
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**MINISTRY CLOSING**

Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield		05/31/2023
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**CONGREGATION CLOSING**

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairview (1904-2023)		06/11/2023
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Collingswood (1905 – 2024)		04/27/2024

**SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES AND MISSION DEVELOPERS**

Elizabeth, Immigrants in Detention	The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo	
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**ROSTERED LEADERS NEW TO THE SYNOD**

**Ordained for First Call in New Jersey**

Sarah Fryman, Bridget Gautieri, Breanna Tessitore

**April 20, 2024 Ordination**

George “Ned” Perwo, Scott Rush

**Received by Transfer from Another Synod**

Kevin Hilgendorf, William Hodgetts, Levi Powers, Dan Whitener

**2024 ROSTERED LEADER ANNIVERSARY REPORT**

We are 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**

**Twenty Years**

Kathryn “Trink” Prinz

**Ten Years**

Karen Beth Kelly

**ANNIVERSARIES OF WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY**

**Sixty-nine Years**

Paul Strockbine, Robert Wilson

**Sixty-seven Years**

Richard Tupy

**Sixty-six Years**

Otto Jacobson, David Mangiante

**Sixty-five Years**

Harvey Peters, Joseph Molnar

**Sixty-four Years**

Walter Maier, Burton Vincent

**Sixty-three Years**

George Brand, Gordon Huff

**Sixty-one Years**

Peter DeRuiter, John Elstad, Walter Wiklund

**Sixty Years**

David Burke, Ronald Nelson

**Fifty-five Years**

Carl Joecks, James McKinley, Stanley Ellison

**Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination**

Gunner Anderson, Richard Overcash, E. Roy Riley, Jr.

**Forty-five Years**

David Bennett, Daniel Congleton, Bruce Ewen,  
Kevin Hilgendorf, John Kleist, Jack Slotterback,  
Don Stiger, Jeff Walters

**Forty Years**

Glenn Boisclair, Fred Lentz,  
Gladys Moore, Dennis Olson

**Thirty-five Years**

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Jeff Elliott,  
Andy Engelhart, Michael Gebhart, Dale Selover,  
Nancy Truscott, Frank Watson, Dan Whitener

**Thirty Years**

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

**Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination**

Wendy Abrahamson, Janet Gasbarro, Peter Hutchinson

**Twenty Years**

Charles Ferreri

**Fifteen Years**

Kristin Engstrom, Andy Gordon, Dwight Mason  
Susan Nelson-Colaneri, Becky Resch, Jay Unzaga,  
Kimberly Vaughn

**Ten Years**

Karen Bernhardt, Eunyung Kim, Jane McCready,  
Blake Scalet, Chelsea Scholl, Marc Stutzel

**Five Years**

Maggi Edwards, Peter Edwardsen, Heidi Link,  
Levi Powers

## RETIRED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT AND MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE

The following rostered leaders retired since our 2023 Assembly:  
The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay, The Rev. James R. Egan, and The Rev. William F. McGowan

### **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. Kent R. Klophaus	2001
The Rev. Hans Arnesen	1992	The Rev. Robert O. Kriesat	1965 *
The Rev. David Bennett	1978	The Rev. Arden L. Krych	1972 *
The Rev. Barry N. Benson	1977	The Rev. Margaret A. Krych	1973 *
The Rev. George H. Brand	1961 *	The Rev. John D. Larson	1973 *
The Rev. Mark P. Bruesehoff	1977	The Rev. Frederick L. Lentz	1984
The Rev. Richard C. Brunsell	1972 *	The Rev. Daniel R. Leslie	1968 *
The Rev. David G. Burke	1964 *	The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay	1988
The Rev. Ulrich C. Columbus	1966 *	The Rev. Walter J. Maier	1960 *
The Rev. David F. Confer	1977	The Rev. David D. Mangiante	1958 *
The Rev. Daniel Congleton	1979	The Rev. Margaret M. Marks	1985
The Rev. Peter J. DeRuiter	1963 *	The Rev. William F. McGowan	1976
The Rev. Thomas Dorsey	2002	The Rev. Russell L. McIntyre	1965 *
The Rev. Louis W. Dunkle	1965 *	The Rev. Michael McKillip	2007
The Rev. Jeffrey C. Eaton	1972 *	The Rev. James H. McKinley	1969 *
The Rev. James R. Egan	1973 *	The Rev. Patricia S. Medley	1976
The Rev. Raymond J. Elbersson	1975	The Rev. Ronald R. Miller	1975
The Rev. Stanley E. Ellison	1969 *	The Rev. Joseph Molnar III	1959 *
The Rev. John M. Elstad	1963 *	The Rev. Gladys G. Moore	1984
The Rev. Glenn Englehardt	1975	The Rev. Robert M. Mountenay	1981
The Rev. D. Randolph Etwaroo	1976	The Rev. Ronald C. Nelson	1964 *
The Rev. Bruce T. Ewen	1979	The Rev. Jaye S. Newbold	2013
The Rev. Cynthia Fazzini	1991	The Rev. Jerold L. Nugent	1981
The Rev. Triffel L. Felske	1977	The Rev. Tiina H. Nummela	1991
The Rev. Charles A. Ferreri	2004	The Rev. Patricia P. Olausen	1988
The Rev. John C. Fischer	1976	The Rev. Richard W. Overcash	1974 *
The Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliott	1992	The Rev. Harvey S. Peters, Jr.	1959 *
The Rev. Mary Forell-Davis	1978	The Rev. Penelope Pusateri-Stechmann	1992
The Rev. Janet Gasbarro	1999	The Rev. J. Paul Rajashekar	1983
The Rev. Michael C. Gebhart	1989	The Rev. Karina Ramins	1986
The Rev. Russell Haab	1986	The Rev. Christine R. Regan	1990
The Rev. William A. Hanson	1965 *	The Rev. Kenneth Regan	1983
The Rev. Kathleen J. Harris	2015	The Rev. Jeffrey H. Rickards	1973 *
The Rev. Mary Jane Hastings	2002	The Rev. E. Roy Riley, Jr.	1974 *
The Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf	1979	The Rev. Charles Romanowski	1980
The Rev. Jesse G. Houck III	1968 *	The Rev. Paul E. Rorem	1981
The Rev. Gordon L. Huff	1961 *	The Rev. Nancy L. Ruckert	1992
The Rev. Peter Hutchinson	1999	The Rev. Jose Israel Sanchez	1993
The Rev. Otto W. Jacobson, Jr.	1958 *	The Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach	1978
The Rev. Neil Jaggie	1975	The Rev. Rudolph M. Schneider	1965 *
The Rev. Carl E. Joecks	1969 *	The Rev. Glenn Schoenberger	1977
The Rev. David W. Jones	1978	The Rev. Jack Slotterback	1979
The Rev. Erin R. Kinahan	2002	The Rev. Birgit R. Solano	1994
The Rev. Richard W. Kitz	1966 *	The Rev. Christine A. Stiger	1980
The Rev. John D. Kleist	1979	The Rev. Donald Stiger	1979

The Rev. David L. Stoner	1986	The Rev. Timothy J. Wengert	1977
The Rev. C. Paul Strockbine	1955 *	The Rev. Walter Wiklund	1963 *
The Rev. Mark Summer	1977	The Rev. Robert H. J. Wilms	1990
The Rev. Thomas Tomlinson	1980	The Rev. Robert H. Wilson, Jr.	1955 *
The Rev. Richard R. Tupy, Jr.	1957 *	The Rev. Linda F. Wood	1996
The Rev. David W. Vikner	1973 *	The Rev. Jeffrey B. Ziegler	1992
The Rev. Burton H. Vincent	1960 *	The Rev. Robert Zimmermann	1970 *
The Rev. Glenn A. Waskow	1998		

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

Two deacons have been ordained fifty years or more (indicated by \*)

Deacon Eleanor Federwitz	1977
Deacon Robert Federwitz	1968 *
Deacon Carol Kasabach	1985
Deacon William A. Lawrence	2008
Deacon George W. Moser	1986
Deacon Kathryn A. Prinz	2004
Deacon Lynne M. Rogers	2001
Deacon Virginia Sheppard	1986
Deacon Lindsay Shopland	1987
Deacon Linda K. Walker	1986

## NECROLOGY REPORT

Since our last Synod Assembly, many beloved saints of this Synod have entered the Church Triumphant; among them, one deacon: Deacon Geraldine A. Frank; and six pastors: The Rev. Arthur O.F. Bauer, The Rev. H. Wayne Brady, The Rev. Robert G. Hughes; The Rev. Leah L. Lavelle; The Rev. Dallas Dorward, and The Rev. Paul L. Brndjar.



### **DEACON GERALDINE A. FRANK**

**March 2, 1931 – April 23, 2023**

**Ordained/Commissioned: 1969**

Dir. of Christian Ed., Our Redeemer, Dumont

Deacon Geraldine Frank, born in Jersey City, received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Jersey City State College, Jersey City. Following graduation, Geraldine began a career in education first as a public school teacher in Irvington and then Ridgefield Park school districts. In 1965, Geraldine moved from public education to become Director of Christian Education at the former Redeemer, Dumont. The LCA commissioned Geraldine as an Associate in Ministry in 1969, the first woman to hold this position. In a letter of congratulations, Bishop Bartholomew shared, “She has been a trailblazer for generations who have followed her into the area of Christian Education. Teaching the faith to children and adults is a high calling and I am grateful for her answering the call in the affirmative.”

For more than 70 years, Geraldine was in faithful service to the education ministries of the church. Even though retired and no longer teaching, she continued her ministry at her congregation of Grace, River Edge, in which she encouraged and supported others by writing notes and making calls to check on those who were homebound.

### **THE REV. ARTHUR O. F. BAUER**

**November 1, 1925 – August 20, 2023**

**Ordained:** May 23, 1951

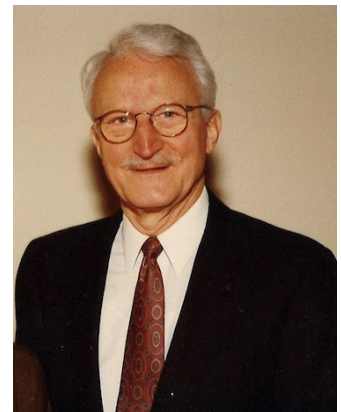
Pastor, Bethesda on the Bay, Bay Village, OH

Assoc./Exec. Sec. for the ULCA Luther League

Sec. and Dir. for Interpretation for the Board of World Mission, LCA

Division for World Missions and Ecumenism, LCA

**Retired:** April 10, 1989



Pastor Arthur Bauer is a wonderful example of the blessing to us of those who serve in Churchwide ministries, but live in New Jersey. Art Bauer was born in Toledo, OH, and graduated from Wittenberg University and Hamma Divinity School. Parish ministry began in Bay Village, OH. In 1954 Pastor Bauer was called by the ULCA to serve as Executive Secretary of the Luther League of America based in Philadelphia.

Specialized ministry continued when he was called to serve as Director for Interpretation for the LCA Division for World Missions & Ecumenism located in New York City. Arthur and Danita and their two daughters moved to North Jersey and became members of St. John’s in Summit. At the beginning of the ELCA, Pastor Bauer was called to serve as Director for International

Congregations for the National Council of Churches also with offices in New York City. For over sixty years Art and Danita lived among us and served the church beyond us. They were a blessing that in life and ministry stretched from New Jersey all the way across the world.

In a faith statement, Pastor Bauer shared, “Easter is symbolized by the tomb, but it is an empty tomb: He is Risen, Indeed! Life in Christ is the focal center of our individual lives, the power in our corporate lives, the ingredient that makes all things new!”



**THE REV. HERBERT WAYNE BRADY**

**May 21, 1944 – August 23, 2023**

**Ordained:** June 25, 1995

Pastor, Grace, Perth Amboy

**Retired:** May 22, 2014

Pastor Wayne Brady was ordained in 1995 having been called to serve as Pastor of Grace in Perth Amboy. At age 51 Pastor Brady had already served twenty-four years as a teacher at Middlesex County College. Equipped with an undergraduate degree and three post-graduate degrees, Wayne Brady served with distinction as an associate professor and department head. Sensing a different call, Wayne added one more degree, an M. Div. from Gettysburg Seminary, and began ministry at Grace, Perth Amboy where he served for 19 years.

For 57 years with his wife Jane, Pastor Brady shared a call both to raise two sons and to serve in the communities where he and Jane lived and worked. Whether in higher education, ministry, or public service, they built a legacy of care and faithfulness that inspired and endeared them to others. Pastor Brady’s ministry was born out of a sense of God’s faithfulness and providing. “We can do that!” was his sure response to almost every request, because God provides all that we need and enough to share.

**THE REV. ROBERT G. HUGHES**

**August 28, 1937 – September 3, 2023**

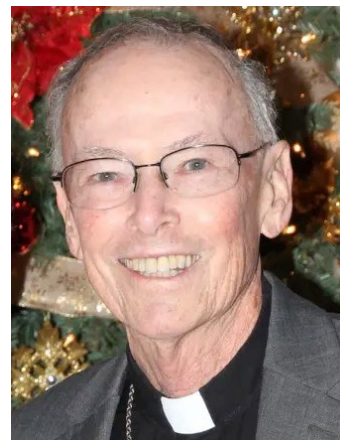
**Ordained:** May 27, 1962

Pastor, St. John, Ashland, PA

Professor, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Phil. (now ULS)

President, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Phil. (now ULS)

**Retired:** September 1, 2002



Pastor Robert Hughes joined the New Jersey Synod after he retired, but he was already well known to many rostered leaders here. Over a thirty-year span, Bob Hughes served the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia as a professor, as the founder and director of the Academy of Preachers, and from 1990 to 1999 as President of the Seminary. Bob was a published author, a senior advisor to ALOA (an organization promoting older adult ministries), and with his wife of sixty-two years Dona Lee, actively engaged at St. John’s Ocean City and Grace, Somers Point.

Whatever the challenges in his life – from navigating theological education to major building projects to his own health - Dr. Bob Hughes reflected joy through the smile on his face, his love for Dona Lee and his family, and his passion for the Gospel. Many pastors and congregations have been blessed over the years by his insights and holy imagination.



**THE REV. LEAH LOUISE LAVELLE**  
**January 10, 1947 – September 10, 2023**

**Ordained:** July 5, 1998

Pastor, Holy Trinity, Union (Slovak Zion Synod, ELCA)

Pastor, Holy Spirit, Villas

**Retired:** June 19, 2022

Pastor Leah Lavelle promised herself that when her two children were raised and out of the nest, she would return to college and complete her degree. When that time came, she found that she had already accumulated enough credits for an undergraduate degree, so she set her sights on a master's degree. "...but the only thing I was interested in was religion" she told a newspaper reporter, "so my pastor encouraged me to go to Philadelphia Seminary" and a new pathway opened in her life.

In 1998 she was ordained by the ELCA Slovak Zion Synod, to serve Holy Trinity in Union, NJ. Eight years later she was called as Pastor of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in the Villas where she served for fifteen years until her retirement in 2022. Leah Lavelle was well known in the Jersey shore area as an EMT, and taught courses in emergency medical services to local rescue organizations. Pastor Lavelle was a life-long servant, bringing healing, hope and God's peace to people and places in pain and in fear. Her ministry was a blessing.

**THE REV. DALLAS DOWARD**

**May 30, 1929 – December 1, 2023**

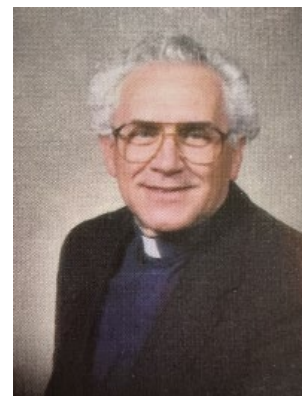
**Ordained:** May 26, 1953

Pastor, Bethany, Gloucester City

Holy Trinity, Burlington

St. Michael, Cherry Hill

**Retired:** October 1, 1994



Pastor Dallas Doward, born in Reading, Pennsylvania, earned an A.B. from Muhlenberg College, and a B.D. from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary.)

Pastor Doward was ordained a minister of Word and Sacrament at the 1953 Synod Assembly in Ocean City. His parish ministry spanning over 40 years was here in our Synod serving Bethany, Gloucester City; Holy Trinity, Burlington, and St. Michael, Cherry Hill. Following his retirement in 1994, Pastor Doward served numerous congregations as vice-pastor and Sunday pulpit supply.

In his retirement, Pastor Dorward was a longtime volunteer working with school groups at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. He was also an avid gardener, sharing the abundant produce from his garden with friends and neighbors. Following the death of their teen-aged daughter, Peggy Sue, Dallas and his wife, Marge, became leaders of The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents dealing with the death of a child.

**THE. REV. PAUL LUTHER BRNDJAR**

**May 15, 1946 – February 17, 2024**

Ordained: May 27, 1970

Pastor, Zion, Garfield

Bishop, Slovak Zion Synod, LCA

Dir. Division for Church in Society, LCA

Pastor, Zion, Garfield

Pastor, St. Peter and St. Paul, Guttenberg

**Retired:** January 1, 2006



Pastor Paul Brndjar, born in Danbury, CT, was a graduate of Wagner College, Staten Island, NY and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. He completed post-graduate studies at Muhlenberg, College, Allentown, PA and Wagner College. He was ordained a minister of Word and Sacrament on May 27, 1970 at St. Peter and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hazelton, PA.

Pastor Brndjar began in parish ministry serving as the pastor of Zion in Garfield, at that time a congregation of the Slovak Zion Synod, LCA. He then accepted a call to serve as Bishop of that Synod. In 1981, his ministry and gifts were through his call as Director of the LCA Division for Church in Society. Parish ministry again called and he and his wife Pamela were again at Zion in Garfield, and this time also as pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul in Guttenberg.

Paul retired from parish ministry in 2006, but continued actively serving as a supply pastor and for several years in the Resource Development Department of LTSP in Philadelphia, now United Lutheran Seminary.

In a 1998 letter to the congregations of Zion and St. Peter and St. Paul, Pastor Brndjar wrote, “So in all things, in all ways, and at all times, give thanks to the God who gives you everything in the first place. Return thanks with your words and with your gifts.”

***Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.***



## Report of the Treasurer to the 2024 New Jersey Synod Assembly

This report summarizes the New Jersey Synod financial results for 2023. Details of revenue, spending and financial assets are available in the **2023 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report**, and as part of the **Proposed 2025 Spending Plan**.

The New Jersey Synod is 146 congregations and 1 mission that share the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the state of New Jersey. Synod programs and staff are supported by monetary gifts from the synod congregations. The synod staff unites, interconnects and supports the work of Lutheran congregations and missions across New Jersey. All of us together are the New Jersey Synod.

**The 2023 Spending Plan** was approved at our 2022 Synod Assembly. The purpose of the spending plan was to support:

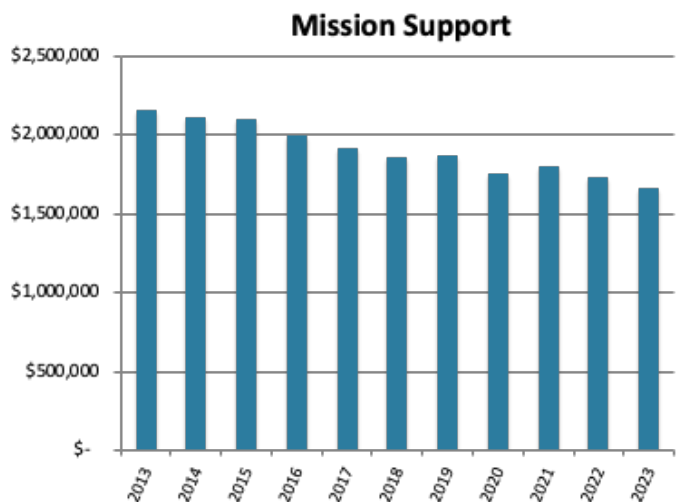
- The Lutheran church all over New Jersey
- Our ministry partners, particularly Cross Roads Camp and the United Lutheran Seminary
- Congregations and mission groups within our synod
- Candidacy, pastoral vacancy, congregational call and other synodical processes
- Youth Ministry, Continuing Education and synod action teams
- ELCA Churchwide ministries

Total 2023 spending plan revenues were \$1.98 million including \$1.66 million in Mission Support. Expenses were \$1.98. We ended the year with a \$557 surplus.

### **Mission Support**

Mission Support provided 84% of the money for running the synod programs and office. 2023 giving totaled \$1.66 million. This was a \$64 thousand decrease in giving compared to 2022. It was a \$490 thousand decrease compared to 2013, 10 years ago. Over these years, reductions in synod programs and in staffing has been necessary because of the declines in mission support.

50% of Mission Support received by the synod is sent directly to ELCA Churchwide programs.



### **Restricted Funds**

In addition to the spending plan, the synod administers money designated for specific purposes. Examples of these restricted funds include the Fund for Mission, the Wurffel Fund, the Candidacy Endowment, the Brueckner Outdoor Ministry fund and the Our Savior Edison endowment. Each has a defined purpose that restricts how the money can be spent.

The money associated with these restricted funds was invested and managed by a volunteer committee that reports to the Synod Council. All fund disbursements were approved by the Synod Council and reviewed by our outside auditors. From restricted funds, the synod spent \$1.04 million during 2023 plus \$2.87 million associated with maintaining the properties and distributing the legacies of Holy Trinity in Maple Shade, St. Luke in Dunellen and First Lutheran in Kearny.

Total restricted funds totaled \$16.19 million at the end of fiscal year 2023 compared to \$13.91 million at the beginning of the year. This increase was \$1.61 million from investment income plus donations into the funds minus fund spending.

The synod office also received designated gifts to World Hunger and other mission causes. During 2023 we received and forwarded on \$295 thousand in restricted gifts to ELCA World Hunger and other ELCA programs.

### **Balance Sheet**

The balance sheet is a snapshot of the synod's financial condition. At the end of fiscal year 2023:

- Total Assets were \$21.88 million compared to \$18.25 at the end of 2022.
- Fixed Assets totaled \$4.07 million.
- Total Liabilities were \$1.40 million. Of these liabilities \$1.3 million was the planned distribution of the sale proceeds of First Lutheran in Kearny and \$90 thousand was reserved for legal defense.

The synod balance sheet communicates that the NJ Synod was financially healthy.

### **Financial Audit**

The synod retained Tait Weller & Baker, LLP certified public accountants to review our 2023 financial transactions and to create our annual financial reports. At the conclusion of their examination the auditors will express an opinion on whether the Synod's financial statements were complete and accurate. The synod Audit Committee planned the audit calendar with the goal of providing the final audit report to this Synod Assembly.

### **Governance Committees**

Thanks to the members of

- The Audit Committee,
- The Investment Committee, and
- The Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee

who gave generously of their time and talents to oversee the administration of Synod financial assets, resources, and properties. These committees were a key part in enabling the New Jersey Synod to advance the goals and mission of our Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Thanks to Lois Parrett who conscientiously and faithfully executed the financial procedures, reconciled accounts and maintained records for our synod. The synod staff and programs would be unable to function without her dedicated efforts.

Respectfully submitted by your treasurer,

James C. Harris

### Spending Plan - Summary

New Jersey Synod of the ELCA

		Fiscal Year ended Jan 2023		Fiscal Year ended Jan 2024	
		Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Revenues</b>					
Mission Support	\$	1,725,271	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,661,627	\$ 1,760,000
Restricted Fund draws		234,136	276,439	204,016	339,300
Other Income		38,295	24,000	108,226	17,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,997,701</b>	<b>\$ 2,100,439</b>	<b>\$ 1,973,869</b>	<b>\$ 2,116,300</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Churchwide and Ministry Partners	\$	979,135	\$ 1,037,500	\$ 967,826	\$ 1,016,500
Strengthening Congregations		342,533	343,047	359,101	357,512
Outreach for Congregations		141,004	170,000	129,333	126,000
Office of the Bishop		258,736	274,161	257,537	281,622
Oversight of the Mission Plan		243,511	275,731	259,514	285,031
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,964,918</b>	<b>\$ 2,100,439</b>	<b>\$ 1,973,311</b>	<b>\$ 2,066,665</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,783</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 557</b>	<b>\$ 49,635</b>

### Balance Sheet Comparison

New Jersey Synod of the ELCA

		Balance Jan 31, 2023	Balance Jan 31, 2024
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash	\$2,308,227		\$ 3,709,883
Investments	11,529,515		13,795,225
Receivables	298,707		180,418
Other Current Assets	34,788		75,883
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		\$14,171,237	\$17,761,409
Fixed Assets		3,907,716	4,072,988
Mortgages and Liens		46,755	40,755
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$18,125,708</b>	<b>\$21,875,151</b>
<b>Liabilities, Fund Principal, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		\$ 85,000	\$ 1,396,371
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		\$ 85,000	\$ 1,396,371
<b>Fund Principal</b>			
290000 - Beginning Balance - Operating	\$ 220,567		\$ 220,568
291000 - Net Investment In Fixed Assets	3,907,716		4,072,988
Excess Cash Received	1		(158)
<b>Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received</b>		4,128,285	4,293,398
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$8,502,135		\$10,087,933
Total Donor Restricted	5,410,288		6,097,449
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		13,912,423	16,185,382
<b>Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		<b>\$18,125,708</b>	<b>\$21,875,151</b>

## REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

This report gives account of the work of the New Jersey Synod Council at its regular meetings since the 2023 Synod Assembly (June 15, September 16, and December 2, 2023, February 10, and March 16, 2024). We give thanks to God for the leadership and faithful service of members of the Synod Council.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wannetta Phillips, having received sufficient number of votes, was declared elected as Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee for 2023-2024.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 6/15/2023)

### REORGANIZATION

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Reorganization of Synod Council Committees as presented in Exhibit B-4 of the Protocol Copy of the Minutes.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

### REPORT OF THE BISHOP

### CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council affirm the certificates of insurance for 02/01/2023 through 02/01/2024 with Brotherhood Mutual, brokered by the American Church Group NJ.

Property and Liability: Policy number: 506115; Period: Feb 01, 2023 – Feb 01, 2024

Commercial Auto: Policy number: 505845; Period: Feb 01, 2023 - Feb 01, 2024

Work Comp: Policy Number: 505991; Period: Feb 01, 2023 - Feb 01, 2024

(The MOTION was ADOPTED as amended 6/15/2023)

### “TO BE DESIGNATED” FUND RECOMMENDATION

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the synod council approve the following disbursements from Account 369900 To Be Designated by Synod Council: \$150,000 to Synod Assembly Reserve to be used to supplement the costs associated with the annual synod assembly, especially in years when a multi-day assembly is to be held. \$100,000 to establish a fund to assist with the cost of the immigration visa process for congregations and rostered ministers needing such a process. \$5000 to continue the legal action against USCIS. We lost the original case we joined to protest the unequal treatment of religious employers seeking visas for immigrant employees. This money would fund the case to go to appeal.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

### 2024 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES FOR ROSTERED LEADERS

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the synod council approve the 2024 Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

### TRINITY, FAIRVIEW

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council pause the sale of the former Trinity, Fairview in order to receive a recommendation from the group investigating uses of the Fairview property at the synod council meeting on February 10, 2024.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Synod designate up to \$30,000 for the upkeep of the Trinity, Fairview property.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

That the Investigation Team be given until June 14, 2024 to continue exploring the possible uses as a shelter for the Trinity, Fairview property.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

### **HOLY TRINITY, EAST ORANGE**

It was moved seconded:

That the Holy Trinity, East Orange remain under Synod Administration.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

### **HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR CLERGY ON SYNOD STAFF**

It was moved and seconded:

That the synod council approve the following housing allowance designations for 2024:

Tracie Bartholomew	\$15,000.00
Dean Brown	\$52,000.00
Sara Lilja	\$32,000.00

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **SANTA ISABEL, ELIZABETH**

It was moved and seconded:

That the synod council accept the report of the October 29, 2023 congregation meeting of Santa Isabel, Elizabeth, and officially receive the congregation onto the roster of congregations of the NJ Synod.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

It was moved and seconded:

That the 2024 Synod Council (regular) meeting dates be as follows:

- Saturday, February 10, 2024, 9:30 AM (Zoom)
- Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9:30 AM (Zoom) Spending Plan
- Thursday, Pre-Synod Assembly, May 2, 2024, 7:00 PM (Zoom)
- Fri.-Sat., June 14-15, 2024, 4:00 PM, Synod Council Retreat, Cross Roads
- Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7:00 PM (Zoom)
- Saturday, December 7, 2024, 9:30 AM (Zoom)

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

It was moved and seconded:

That the New Jersey Synod Council appoint the Mission District Deans to serve in this role. The Synod Bishop and Synod Secretary shall serve ex-officio with voice, but not vote.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

## **YOUTH MINISTRY REQUEST FOR FUNDS**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Synod Council approve the request of the Youth Ministry Mission Team to designate \$100,000 from 369900 To be Designated by Synod Council to 314600 Synod Youth Events.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

## **ROSTER CONCERNS**

### **SYNOD COUNCIL EXTENDED CALLS**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council extend a call for Interim Pastoral Ministry to The Rev. B. Daniel Whitener, Jr. to serve as Interim Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Windsor, NJ, according to the terms of agreement on file, effective 12/01/2023.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT - RETIREMENT**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the New Jersey Synod Council approve the retirement of the following Minister of Word and Sacrament who, in consultation with the Bishop, has indicated her intent to seek retirement status as of the date indicated and as required by ELCA Constitution provision 7.41.07.

The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay                      08/01/2023                      (The MOTION was ADOPTED 6/15/2023)

The Rev. James R. Egan                        10/15/2023                      (The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

The Rev. William F. McGowan                12/31/2023                      (The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT - REQUEST FOR ON LEAVE FROM CALL STATUS**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT The Rev. Gary A. B. Woodruff, who has been in conversation with the Bishop and whose call as Pastor at Atonement, Asbury Park, has ended, be placed in the roster category of "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call," effective 10/01/2023.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

THAT The Rev. Jacob K. Simpson, who has been in conversation with the Bishop and whose call as Interim Pastor at St. John, Jersey City, has ended be placed in the roster category of "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call," effective 10/01/2023.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

That The Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo, who has resigned as pastor of Lord of Life, Tabernacle, and has been in conversation with the Bishop concerning roster status, be placed in the roster category of "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call", effective January 8, 2024.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT - REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION ON LEAVE FROM CALL**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT The Rev. Laura Esposito, approved by the ELCA for an extension, be continued in the roster category of "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call." On Leave from Call status began September 18, 2020.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

The Rev. Gomes Pedro, in conversation with the Bishop, be continued in the roster category of "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call." On Leave from Call status began June 1, 2022.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

### **CALLS TO SPECIALIZED MINISTRY**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the New Jersey Synod Council affirm the following rostered leaders called to specialized ministry:

Calls to Pastoral and Interim Parish Ministry (terms stipulated by letter of agreement)

The Rev. Glenn Boisclair, Grace, North Arlington

The Rev. Jesse W. Brown, Jr., Christus, Camden

Deacon Lawrence DePasquale, St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Chews Landing

The Rev. Kathryn Irwin, St. Paul, Jersey City

The Rev. Nancy Nardi, Abiding Love, Kendall Park

The Rev. Young Kyu (Tristan) Shin, St. Luke Episcopal Church, Montclair

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the New Jersey Synod Council renew the calls of the following rostered minister serving in specialized ministry:

Calls to Chaplaincy, Hospice Care, Counseling, (renewed annually)

The Rev. Arnd Braun-Storck, Port Chaplain, Seafarers and International House

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **REPORTS OF THE ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP**

#### **SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the New Jersey Synod Council authorize the following ministries to continue as Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities in 2024: Misión Luterana Reconciliación (in transition pending a new mission developer), and Santa Isabel Ministry with Immigrants in Detention in Elizabeth led by Pastor Ramon Collazo. We celebrate this ongoing gospel witness among us.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

#### **STRATEGIC MINISTRIES**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the New Jersey Synod Council designate the following continuing ministries as strategic ministries in 2024: Bridge of Peace Community Church, Camden, led by Pastor Giselle Coutinho; Christus Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camden, led by Pastor Jesse Brown Jr.; Santa Isabel Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, led by Pastor Ramon Collazo (pending reception as a congregation); St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, Trenton, led by Pastor Erich Kussman; St. John Lutheran Church, Passaic, led by Pastor Haydée Colón-Hernández; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Secaucus, led by Pastor Danielle McCleary, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Jersey City, led by Pastor Dianne Lewis. We celebrate this ongoing gospel witness among us.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

#### **SYNODICAL PARTNERSHIPS**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council approve the Mission Advocacy Table recommendation of synodical partnership funding for the following strategic ministries:

\$20,000 (Camden Ministries Fund) for Bridge of Peace Community Church in Camden, and \$18,000 (Camden Ministries Fund) Christus Lutheran Church in Camden.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

### **CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON SYNODICAL FUNCTION**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the revisions to the Continuing Resolutions as amended be adopted.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

### **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW REVISIONS**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Constitution and Bylaw revisions as amended in protocol copy of the Minutes Exhibit C-2 be proposed for adoption at the next Synod Assembly on May 11, 2024 with notification to be sent to all congregations of the synod at least six months prior to said Assembly.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 9/16/2023)

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

### **MORNING STAR FELLOWSHIP**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council approve the re-designation of \$249,207.93 in the Morning Star Fellowship fund, from Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgefield, legacy, to the Mission on the Move development fund #331400.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council re-designate the balance in the Morning Star fund #327000 as of December 31, 2023 to the Mission on the Moe development fund #331400.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council approve the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve Tait Weller to audit the synod financial statements for the year ending January 31, 2024.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

### **CAMDEN LUTHERAN MINISTRY FUND**

It was moved and seconded:

That the NJ Synod authorize not more than \$29,000 from the 325800 Camden Lutheran Ministry Fund to replace the parsonage and sanctuary roofs at Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church in Camden, NJ.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

### **SYNOD HOUSE FUND**

It was moved and seconded:

That the NJ Synod spend not more than \$15,000 from to Synod House Fund 306000 to replace a furnace and air conditioning system at the Synod Office.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

### **DANISH CHILDREN'S HOME FUND**

It was moved and seconded:

That the 2023 earnings for the Danish Children's Home Fund be granted to Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center as an undesignated gift in tribute to St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Edison.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)



**PROPOSED 2025 SPENDING PLAN**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Synod Council recommend the proposed 2025 spending plan for approval by the 36th New Jersey Synod Assembly on May 11, 2024.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 03/16/2024)

*The 2025 Spending Plan can be found Section I, Part 1 in the Bulletin of Reports.*

**REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL COMMITTEES/TASK GROUPS**

**ASSEMBLY PLANNING**

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY FEES**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the cost for Assembly be Voting members -- \$130/ \$180 late, Visitors -- \$75/\$95 late, and Retired rostered ministers not serving a congregation -- \$65/\$85 late.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY THEME**

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Synod Council approve *How Can I keep From Singing* as the theme for the 2024 Synod Assembly.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

**2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Synod Council adopt the basic agenda presented in Exhibit B-3 and that the Synod Council adopt the Rules of Procedure presented in Exhibit B-4.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 2/10/2024)

*The 2024 Synod Assembly Agenda is found in Section I, Part 1 in the Bulletin of Reports.*

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Rules of Procedure for the Thirty-Sixth Synod Assembly be adopted as presented in Exhibit I.

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 02/10/2024)

*The Rules of Procedure for the Thirty-fifth Synod Assembly are found in Section I, Part 1 in the Bulletin of Reports.*

**FUND FOR MISSION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Fund for Mission Management Committee recommend to the New Jersey Synod Council that the following grants be approved for payment:

Mission Initiatives: Santa Isabel, Elizabeth, (\$13,000); Detention Center Ministry, Elizabeth (\$2,000); St. Bartholomew, Trenton (\$8,000); St. John, Passaic (\$6,000), and St. Stephan-Grace Community, Newark (\$6,000), as well as Bishop Mission Subvention Fund (\$3,000).

General Fund for Mission Applications: Temple, Pennsauken (\$3,000); Zion, Rahway (\$10,000); St. Paul, Millville, (\$10,800); St. Bartholomew, Trenton (\$4,850); Trinity, Dover, Faith Kitchen (\$9,742); St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken (\$9,000); St. Matthew, Jersey City (\$12,000); Messiah, Oakland (\$3,100); Trinity, Jersey City (\$385); Elect Saints, Yardley (\$9,000); Trinity, Jersey City (\$12,000); St. John, Passaic (\$8,500), and Spruce Run, Glen Gardner (\$8,500).

(The MOTION was ADOPTED 12/02/2023)

## NJ Synod of the ELCA: Stewardship 2023

*Fundraising [Stewardship Ministry] is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry! ~Henri J.M. Nouwen, 'A Spirituality of Fundraising,' p.21*

As Lutheran Christians, we appreciate and identify with the quotation shared above. We know that when we are speaking about 'living baptized' or 'following Christ,' one significant component is the practice of giving and sharing. And yet, as that same author above -Nouwen- shares in his book, something unique about this practice is how virtually indistinguishable it is when one is giving and when one is receiving. In other words, and through the lens of our Christian faith, giving is not only a gift to the giftee but to the one who shares. On a practical level, it is the means through which ministry and mission is funded and supported; it is a moment of aligning our values with our generosity. And, on a spiritual/theological level, it is a moment we live out our faith just as faith is being formed within us; a kind of holy, perpetual cycle being formed among us, and in relationship with God (and thereby neighbor too). Our synod is blessed to be comprised of congregations, members, and friends who know and practice this. And, our synod is blessed to always be actively engaged in teaching, witnessing and rediscovering this. Thank you, NJ Synod congregations!

There are several ways the NJ Synod exhibits, invites and teaches all to live generously. Evidence is found:

- In 2023, one hundred forty (140) of our one hundred fifty-two (152) congregations shared mission support intentions for the year. That is an over 92% positive response rate. Exceptional!
- In 2023, one hundred forty-three (143) congregations shared mission support. This is an over 94% participation rate. This is also exceptional!
- One hundred eight (108) congregations met or exceeded their mission support intention with thirty-eight (38), that is, *one-quarter* of NJ Synod congregations, exceeding their 2023 mission support intention by \$100 or more! Absolutely marvelous!
- 'Cultivating Generous Congregations' through the Lake Institute on Faith Giving, as well as 'Building a Culture of Generosity' of GSB Consulting, are courses offered to congregations who desire to participate. The NJ Synod provides financial support to reduce the cost of participating in these courses.
- In partnership with the Excellence in Ministry Unleashed (EMU) team, the ELCA's 'Six Weeks on Money' course focusing on financial literacy/mgt as well as one's faith was offered and concluded. Sixteen (16) of the twenty-three (23) congregations took this course in 2023.
- I have met with numerous congregations for council meetings, special finance meetings, and/or worship settings either to promote and celebrate generosity if not talk strategically and methodologically about growing congregational generosity.
- In partnership with EMU, a rostered leader retreat was held September 18-19. Its theme was 'Expanding Our Relationship with God and Mammon' with Bonnie Ives Marden, author of *Church Finances for Missional Leaders*, serving as retreat and workshop leader.

Thank you for those ways you support, join in and promote this joyful work of helping others recognize God's mission as a source of joy that we may be partners in, with our offerings being one of the principal ways we accomplish this mission together. And thanks be to God who is the author of generosity as revealed through God's salvific act in Jesus Christ and his resurrection Life shared freely with and for all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dean R. Brown  
Assistant to the Bishop



Lutherans Engaging  
in Advocacy Ministry

[www.learnj.org](http://www.learnj.org)

## 2023 Year in Review Report

In 2023, LEAMNJ launched our **Justice Group** program — our seven groups focused on Environmental Justice, Food Security Justice, Health Care & Mental Health Justice, Housing Justice, LGBTQIA Justice, Migration Justice, and Racial Justice. These groups met monthly over Zoom, culminating in an in-person Justice Group Picnic in July, where we gathered over 50 advocates for an evening of food, team-building activities, and advocacy discussion.

Throughout the year, LEAMNJ advocated for a variety of legislative bills through our weekly advocacy newsletter, creating campaigns to connect our advocates with their legislators, giving testimony at the State House, meeting with legislators, and attending rallies and other advocacy events. Here are some of the bills we worked on in 2023:

We advocated for a bill that would prohibit insurers from using credit history, education, and occupation in **auto insurance pricing** and underwriting. This bill passed in the Assembly, but unfortunately died in a Senate committee. We hope to bring this important issue back in 2024!

We helped get the **SNAP Minimum Benefits Bill (S3491/A5086)** passed. This bill increased the minimum SNAP benefit in New Jersey to \$95 from \$50.

We joined the For the Many coalition to advocate for the **Corporate Business Tax Surcharge**. Although the surcharge was temporarily allowed to expire at the end of 2023, Gov. Murphy listened to our advocacy and announced the Corporate Transit Fee in his budget address at the beginning of 2024. The Corporate Transit Fee is a modification of the original surcharge, applying only to businesses that earn over \$10 million in annual revenue, and it will be used to help fund NJ Transit.

The **Temp Workers Bill of Rights**, which guarantees the over 130,000 temp workers in the state basic protections and fair treatment, passed the State Senate with cheers and celebration from supporters. This was a huge victory for workers and advocates who have been working towards this for months.

We supported a bill known as the **Second Look Law** — a measure that tackles elder incarceration through geriatric parole. This bill also passed in the Assembly before dying in the Senate, but we want to bring it back in 2024!

We wrote a newsletter on the subject of **period poverty**, and in August Gov. Murphy signed a bill (**S1221/A1349**) requiring school districts to provide menstrual products

free of charge in every public school teaching students in one or more of grades six through twelve.

We advocated for a set of eleven bills related to domestic violence. This **domestic violence package** covered a range of policy changes intended to help victims of domestic violence, from requiring domestic violence screenings, to asking courts to consider coercive control in domestic violence screenings, to measures that will help protect victims after they have left abusive situations. The package passed in the Assembly, but died in a Senate committee.

A big disappointment of 2023 was the passing of several **tough-on-crime bills** that were based on political fearmongering rather than real crime data. Research shows that tough-on-crime legislation can cause far more harm than good, especially in minority communities. We are committed to fighting against legislation like this in 2024.

Another disappointment was the passing of the **Election Transparency Act**, a misleadingly named bill that will increase the influence of individual donors and corporations in our elections. LEAMNJ is prioritizing good government in 2024, focusing on actually increasing transparency in our state's legislative system.

After months and months of sustained effort, we finally succeeded in getting the **Prescription Drug Affordability Council!** This was an enormous success — check out this article from [New Jersey Policy Perspective](#) on how the council will affect New Jersey healthcare.

Besides our legislative work, LEAMNJ devoted time to several projects focused on raising public awareness and changing public opinion on important advocacy issues:

We advocated for the NJ Synod to pass a measure to support community mental health needs and become a **Stigma-free space**.

We produced a short educational video on affordable housing advocacy called “**Let’s Talk About Housing**” and wrote a congressional discussion guide to accompany it. The video was designed to de-stigmatize affordable housing residents and give viewers a short history of affordable housing policy in New Jersey. We launched the video at the Synod Assembly Workshops. You can view it [here](#)

We developed a webinar, wrote a newsletter, and hosted a workshop for seminary interns on the subject of **Christian Nationalism**.

Looking ahead to 2024, LEAMNJ is focused on three major aspects of **systemic justice: education, economic life, and democracy**. We are already working on advocating for policy related to affordable housing, voting rights, school segregation and more!

Join our ever growing group of advocates and sign up for our weekly newsletters [here](#).

## **2024 Report of the New Jersey Synod Archivist**

The Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia is a regional ministry of the ELCA that was incorporated in 1979 in the old Lutheran Church in America. Our roots, though, date back to the year 1792, when the preservation of the archives of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania was officially recognized as an integral part of the church organization. These archives have been housed on the Philadelphia campus of the United Lutheran Seminary (formerly LTSP) since 1889. The archives within our collection include the records of closed congregations as well as Synodical records of Region 7, including records of our predecessor bodies going back to the Colonial period and into the present.

The Archives Center Board is made up of Affiliated Directors (Synod Archivists and those appointed as such by the United Lutheran Seminary), and Non-Affiliated Directors who are elected or reelected to the board each year. We have several professional staff persons – our Executive Director, Lisa Minardi, and our Archivist, Sheila Joy. A main aspect of our outreach comes from our newsletter, the *Archives Advocate*, which details the work of your regional Archives Center. Please make sure to peruse the latest copy within this bulletin of reports. You are always welcome to stop by the Archives Center to conduct research or get a tour of the facility (please make sure to call ahead of your visit). Please keep the work of the Archives Center in your prayers, and we are, as always, grateful for your continued interest and support!

Since our last Assembly two New Jersey Synod congregations have closed – Holy Trinity, Fairview, and St. Paul, Collingswood. We thank God for their faithful ministry among us.

This year we rejoice with six New Jersey Synod congregations that are celebrating significant anniversaries. As we have done for many years now, we will have a video celebration of the NJ Synod congregations celebrating anniversaries this year during our Assembly. I invite the congregations of the New Jersey Synod gathered in Assembly to give thanks to the Triune God for the anniversaries of the following congregations which are celebrating significant anniversaries:

**250:**

Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church, Glen Gardner

**175:**

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Trenton

**100:**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Nutley; Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken; Grace Lutheran Church, Somers Point; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Vineland

Respectfully,



The Rev. J. Francis Watson, Ph.D.  
NJ Synod Archivist, and President of the Board, Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia

Go And...!  
Discipleship and Witness Mission Team

The Go And team works to equip congregations with tools and resources in evangelism, outreach, and ways we invite others into the way of Jesus. For 2023, the team took time to regroup, learn, discern, pray, and study together as we vision what our program will look like next. Over the course of the year we studied the book *Joining God, Remaking Church, and Changing the World: the new shape of the Church in our time* by Alan J. Roxburgh which provided interesting insight and conversation around the ways we work to adapt as our communities and churches continue to change.

We look forward to debuting our new program at the 2024 NJ Synod Assembly and restarting this important work with all of you. We hope you'll join us for a gathering on Zoom as we dive deeper into **Go and Pray** on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm!

Thank you to Bishop Bartholomew for her support and encouragement of this work and to the Bishop's staff for answering our endless questions and need for tech support. For more information on our work, keep an eye on the NJ Synod social media pages and visit our webpage: <https://www.njsynod.org/go-and>.

Go and... share the good news of God's presence in your life!

*Pastor Maristela Freiberg* (Synod Staff)  
Pastor Judy Anderson (St. Thomas, Brick)  
Pastor Jay Berry (St. Mark, Oaklyn)  
Pastor Jill Collicot (Faith, Hillsborough)  
Pastor Joseph Graumann (St. Stephen, Woodbury & Synod Council Liason)  
Pastor Dianne Lewis (Trinity, Jersey City)  
Pastor Danielle McCleary (St. Matthew, Secaucus)  
Pastor Menzi Nkambule (St. Matthew, Jersey City);  
Lois Parrett (Abiding Presence, Ewing)  
Pastor Courtney Smith Westerlund (Messiah, Oakland)

## **Justice Groups**

### Synod Bulletin of Reports

In 2023, LEAMNJ launched the Justice Group program — our seven groups focused on Environmental Justice, Food Security Justice, Health Care & Mental Health Justice, Housing Justice, LGBTQIA Justice, Migration Justice, and Racial Justice.

These groups met monthly over Zoom, culminating in an in-person Justice Group Picnic in July, where we gathered over 50 advocates for an evening of food, team-building activities, and advocacy discussion.

#### LGBTQ+ Justice:

This team convened a gathering of clergy to support their ministry as persons identifying as LGBTQ+.

We also advocated for the health and safety of all LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. In April 2023 Gov. Murphy signed an executive order protecting access to gender-affirming care for trans and non-binary youth. As part of this advocacy, we encourage you to have conversations with your neighbors or other congregational members about this justice issue. Consider using [the Living Lutheran resource found here](#). For more information contact JJ Keelan at [pastor@lwlcnj.org](mailto:pastor@lwlcnj.org)

#### Hunger group:

Visit ELCA World Hunger's YouTube playlist to find a series of short videos you can share with your congregation during worship, temple talks, youth events and Bible studies. Choose from a variety of videos to connect your congregation with people and communities in the United States and more than 60 other countries around the world whose lives have been changed. If you want more idea for what you can do to take action on hunger, check out the ELCA's [Action Guide for Congregations](#): <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL86D4914EF787269F>

For more information contact Erich Kussman at [ekuss1@hotmail.com](mailto:ekuss1@hotmail.com) or Spike Enzweiler at [spike.enzweiler@gmail.com](mailto:spike.enzweiler@gmail.com).

#### Care of Creation Justice:

The Care of Creation group hosted several best practices discussions about how congregations are becoming involved in greening their congregation. They have also been working hard to prepare for the launch of the Bishop's Challenge: Caring for God's Good Creation during the upcoming synod assembly. You will learn much more about this new challenge during the assembly.

For more information contact Karen Le Morvan at [aplcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:aplcoffice@gmail.com).

### Migration Justice:

AMMPARO, is a holistic, whole-church commitment by the ELCA to accompany migrant children from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico. Learn how your congregation can become an advocate for migrants in our state and nation at [AMMPARO](#).

For more information contact Kimberly Cooper at [habibawes2001@gmail.com](mailto:habibawes2001@gmail.com).

### Housing Justice:

A video was created, you can view it at [www.learnnj.org](http://www.learnnj.org), [Let's Talk About Affordable Housing](#). This short video will give you a quick overview of the history of affordable housing policy in New Jersey and explains what affordable housing looks like in 2023. A crucial part of housing advocacy is shaping public opinion to welcome new neighbors who moving into affordable housing in our communities. For more information contact Lamont Rouse at [lrouse111@gmail.com](mailto:lrouse111@gmail.com).

### Health and Mental Health Justice:

Our Health Justice Group has a particular passion for mental health advocacy, particularly related to de-stigmatizing of mental illness and suicide prevention. A resolution was passed at last year's synod assembly focusing on Stigma Free Zones. And during the district meetings this past year, this team offered a training focusing on de-escalation of mental health crisis. Here's a resource that your congregation may want to utilize. Let's talk about mental health. <https://gravitycommons.com/mental-health-church/>

### Racial Justice

Dr. Dianne Browne, Chair of the Team

The Anti-Racism Team (ART) is thankful for the support it is afforded on this territory.

The team is comprised of two groups, ART consists of the committee that plans events, networks with congregations to assist and support their activities and responds to Synod requests. The other is a group of facilitators whose efforts focus on the delivery of the *Transforming White Privilege* (TWP) curriculum workshop.

ART met six times during the year; January, February, March, April, October, and December. The Team added three new members which brings the total number of members from 5 to 8. We thank God for their contributions!

The Team convened two sessions of the workshop "Vocabulary for the Anti-Racist" in May. The workshop included panelist who shared personal stories about their experiences with racism and discussed the impact it had on their lives and the lives of others. Two of the three stories were related to ELCA local and national incidents that



had a profound impact on everyone who heard the stories. Participants were able to ask questions and share their thoughts.

TWP met five times during the year; February, March, July, September, and November. The November meeting was an all-day meeting at the Synod office designed to plan for the coming year.

Facilitators provided two workshops in 2023.

- January 3-3 hour sessions held virtually, with six participants attending from various congregations.
- February the first congregational TWP workshop was delivered in person at Our Savior, Haddonfield with seventeen people attending the day and half session.

The team conducted an online survey to understand congregations' activities related to racial justice and their interest in convening a TWP workshop. Eleven congregations responded to the survey and of that number 64% read a book and had discussions. Several clergy responded that they have done the work and continue to do the work however without the congregation's participation. Five congregations responded with an interest in convening a TWP workshop. The team continues to be in discussion with them.

As we progress in 2024, ART hopes to continue to work on the goal of the NJ Synod ELCA becoming an anti-racist church that practices the love of Christ as Christ loves us.

## Mission Advocacy Table Report for 2024 Synod Assembly

The Mission Advocacy Table's primary responsibility is to accompany congregations as they participate in God's mission on the territory of the New Jersey Synod and throughout the world. While we serve all congregations of our synod, we have primary responsibility for the following:

1. **Accompanying and supporting new mission starts through resource development** which includes finding resources for new mission starts, whether spiritual, physical, or financial. It also means raising up leaders, as well as encouraging and training congregations to grow into faithful mission outposts.

The NJ Synod Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs) include:

- Santa Isabel / Ministry with Immigrants, Elizabeth – Pastor Ramon Collazo, Mission Developer
2. **Accompanying and overseeing Strategic Ministries** which may entail obtaining grant funding from ELCA and the New Jersey Synod and providing leadership formation opportunity. Our 2022 Strategic Ministries included:
    - Bridge of Peace (Camden)
    - Christus (Camden)
    - St. Bartholomew (Trenton)
    - Trinity Lutheran Church (Jersey City)
    - St. John Lutheran Church (Passaic)
    - St. Matthew Lutheran Church (Secaucus)
  3. **Cultivating Christ-centered Learning Communities** which consists of creating communities that are transformed by life-changing relationships with God, each other, and the world. Essentially, the Mission Advocacy Table is responsible for *“cultivating Christ-centered communities where we learn, live, and lead boldly for the sake of the world.”* Many of these projects are partially supported through the Holy Innovation Project Grant. Opportunities for cultivating congregational missional vitality were offered:
    - Faithful Journey - Congregational learning cohort in the Western Mission District (St. Andrew in Parsippany, Spruce Run in Glen Gardner, St. Matthew in Secaucus, Trinity in Dover, and Zion in Long Valley)
    - Waves of Hope - Waves of Hope was started with congregational leaders of the South Shore Mission Cluster. This cohort is all dedicated to building community and fostering a culture of collaboration! through the practice of listening and building relationships!
    - Coaching –coaching opportunities were provided through ELCA Coaches.

**Giving Thanks...**

We celebrate the many facilitators and coaches that equip, accompany, and encourage the work congregations and leaders in the NJ Synod.

We thank God for Reverend Maristela Freiberg, serving as our Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), infusing our mission efforts within the New Jersey Synod with both joy and fervor. Reverend Freiberg actively engages in numerous synodical, regional, and churchwide events, contributing her energy and dedication. She dedicates herself tirelessly to recruiting and equipping congregational leaders, providing guidance for our synod's Vitality Strategies, and offering support to congregations navigating times of transition.

We are also thankful to those who serve as part of the Mission Advocacy Table: Pastor Judy Anderson, Pastor Chris Bruesehoff (Chair), Pastor Linnéa K. Clark (Synod Council Liaison), Pastor Haydee Colon Hernandez, William Emerson, Pastor Maristela Freiberg (Staff), Pastor Joseph Graumann Jr., Nansi Krauss (Synod Council Liaison) Willie Richardson, Pastor Heather Sugden, Sara Bayhi, & Emily Thomsen...and a special thank you to Dawn Roberts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Chris Bruesehoff  
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Cherry Hill

## Youth Ministry Mission Team Report 2024

The Youth Ministry Mission Team of the NJ Synod continues to work in partnership with congregations, adult leaders, and Cross Roads to provide resources and support for youth ministry programs in churches and on the synod level. The YMMT also works to support the ELCA Youth Gathering, which is taking place in July, 2024.

The YMMT continues to partner with and support the ministries at Cross Roads. Adults leaders were invited to attend the Shepherd's Gathering in December for a time away to rest and reconnect. Members of the YMMT served on the planning teams for both the Elementary and MS/HS Cross Roads retreats and attended in leadership roles or as chaperones for their own church groups. Anthony Briggs continues to represent region 7 on the SYMBOL board (Synod Youth Ministry Band of Leaders).

In November, the NJ Synod participated in the ELCA Youth Summit in Nebraska. Jessica Clarke was the adult that represented NJ, and she took two of our youth, Grant from Resurrection in Hamilton and Agnetta Borbor from Redeemer in Trenton to this four day leadership summit with other youth from congregations across the ELCA. Rebekah from St. Michael's in Cherry Hill served on the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team and helped to plan this event. In January, several youth leaders and pastors attended the ELCA Extravaganza held in New Orleans, LA. Jamie Bruesehoff from St. Michael's, Cherry Hill was a speaker, and along with her husband Pastor Christopher Bruesehoff, led a workshop for participants. Several adult leaders are also involved in the planning of the ELCA Youth Gathering scheduled for July, 2024. Jamie Bruesehoff is on the Mass Gathering planning team, Jessica Clarke from Prince of Peace, Princeton Junction is on the tAble planning team, and I will be serving as the NJ Synod Gathering Champion, along with 13 other adults who will be serving in other leadership and volunteer roles. As of March 2024 we have 76 youth and 42 adults from 16 congregations and Cross Roads attending the Gathering, with 7 adults and youth attending the tAble, 26 youth and adults attending MYLE, and 5 young adults attending the Young Adult Gathering. We are grateful to Alyssa Gautieri and Anthony Briggs who will be taking youth from a variety of churches across the synod to the Gathering with Cross Roads. The NJ Synod continues to take an active role in youth ministry throughout the ELCA.

We returned to the Sheraton in Edison, NJ in November for our Synod Youth Retreat. Over 80 youth and their adult leaders met for a weekend retreat with the theme where we participated in worship, small groups, a Faith Fair, and lots of games and fun during free time! We are grateful for the adult leaders who took the time out of their weekends to accompany our youth, and our team of chaplains who served to lead our group in study, conversation, and worship throughout the weekend. Mark your calendars for November 22 - 24, 2024 for our next Synod Youth Retreat.

We are so thankful for the youth leaders, pastors, and young people who serve on this team. We work closely with the synod and Cross Roads office staff to strengthen that partnership for the administrative tasks of youth activities. We are available to congregations and adult leaders to answer questions and provide resources for best practices in working with youth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Porowski  
Youth Ministry Mission Team

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE N.J. SYNOD CANDIDACY COMMITTEE  
2023-24

Now more than ever, our life together as God's church means stepping out in faith. We give thanks for those who have decided to enter the candidacy process to discern where and how God might be calling them to serve as rostered leaders.

We also give thanks for the faithful work of the NJ Synod Candidacy Committee, whose members over the past year have included: Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Mr. Anthony Briggs, Pastor Maristela Freiberg, Dr. Charles Leonard (our faculty representative from United Lutheran Seminary), Dr. Dennis Olsen, Pastor Marc Stutzel, Pastor Matt Thiringer, and Ms. Chyrl Wreh. We are grateful for our candidacy chaplain, Pastor Dale Selover, who provides spiritual support for both the candidates and the committee members.

This year we bid a reluctant farewell to two of our committee members: Pastor Mona Fitch-Elliott and Pastor José Escalera. We thank them for their contributions to the candidacy work. And we have recently welcomed a new member to the committee: Pastor Haydee Colon Hernandez.

Pastor Becky Resch continues to support our work in her role as Candidacy and Leadership Manager for Regions 7 and 8. We often turn to her for guidance on the more intricate aspects of the candidacy process, and we are grateful for her wisdom.

We are also blessed to have Pastor Marc Stutzel in the role of Synod Candidacy Coordinator. Pastor Stutzel speaks with candidates at every stage of the process and helps them navigate each step. We do our best to shape a process that fits the gifts and growth areas that each person brings to candidacy, an approach that demands much time and attention to detail. Pastor Stutzel guides the process with grace and good humor.

In January of 2024 we held our annual Candidacy Retreat at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. This time away gives committee members and candidates and opportunity to know each other better and to learn, worship, and have fun together. This year we focused on the theme "United with Christ: Death and Resurrection." Drawing on our focus passage from Romans 6:3-11, we gave thanks for the promises we receive in baptism and considered how those promises shape how we accompany families who are planning funerals and memorial services.

In recent months we have been engaging with the proposals emerging from the ELCA Candidacy Working Group, which has recommended some significant changes to the process. We have offered our feedback on these proposals and will share updates as we know more.

Please pray for the candidates currently in the process (see attached list). And as always, if you know someone whom you believe has a call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service, encourage that person to reach out to Marc or to me to begin a conversation about where God might be leading them.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Compton, Chairperson  
N.J. Synod Candidacy Committee

**NEW JERSEY SYNOD CANDIDATES FOR ROSTERED LEADERSHIP  
as of March 11, 2024**

**Entranced (Word and Sacrament)**

Jeremy Lambson  
Princeton Theological Seminary

Wing Yin Li  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Abiding Presence, Ewing

Sydney Mastropasqua  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Grace, River Edge

Mark Singleton  
United Lutheran Seminary  
St. Matthew, Hoboken

Kim Syvertsen  
United Lutheran Seminary  
Prince of Peace, Marlton

**Entranced (Word and Service)**

None at this time.

**Endorsed (Word and Sacrament – not on internship)**

Daniel Marrone  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Good Shepherd, Holmdel

**Endorsed (Word and Service – not on internship)**

None at this time.

**Currently on Internship (Word and Sacrament)**

Ivan Kavoleff  
United Lutheran Seminary  
Immanuel, Lakewood  
*Internship site: Holy Trinity, Manhattan*

Jaymie Kosa  
United Lutheran Seminary  
St. Paul, East Windsor  
*Internship site: Trinity, Robesonia, PA*

Daniel Fields  
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia  
Messiah, Parlin  
*Internship site: St. Paul's, Edison*

Jason Reed  
Wartburg Theological Seminary  
St. Paul's, Hainesport  
*Internship Site: Temple, Pennsauken*

**Currently on Internship (Word and Service)**

Shirley Talluri  
United Lutheran Seminary  
Emanuel, New Brunswick  
*Internship site: Emanuel, New Brunswick; Haven Hospice.*

**Approved for Ordination (Word and Sacrament)**

Scott Rush  
United Lutheran Seminary  
Prince of Peace, Marlton  
*Internship site: Holy Communion, Berlin*  
*Accepted a call: Emanuel, New Brunswick. Ordination scheduled April 19, 2024.*

**Approved for Ordination (Word and Service)**

George "Ned" Perwo  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH/United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia  
*Internship site: Holy Trinity, Manasquan*  
*Accepted a call: Holy Trinity, Manasquan. Ordination scheduled April 19, 2024.*

**Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)**

Philip Scherzer (TEEM)  
United Lutheran Seminary  
*Site: Prince of Peace, Rockaway*

Kara Song  
Drew Theological Seminary  
*Site: Calvary Lutheran Church, Allendale*

Vincent Piekarski  
United Lutheran Seminary  
*Site: Holy Spirit, Villas*

**Pastors Ordained in Another Lutheran/Christian Church Body (OTTR)**

Rev. Dámaris Porsch-Ortega  
Previously Ordained in United Church of Christ  
Candidate from another tradition  
*Has received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Jersey City*

**Reinstatement to the Rolls**

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel, NJ Synod Candidacy Coordinator and The Rev. Dr. Christa Compton, NJ Synod Candidacy Chairperson



# New Jersey Coaching Team

## **WHAT IS COACHING YOU MIGHT ASK?**

Coaching is a relationship between a coach and a client. It is about discovery and awareness, openness and compassion, strength and capabilities. It is about discovering one's best self and gifts as people are empowered to find their own answers.

You don't have to lead alone. Leaders need support and can find help in handling the big questions with care and compassion from one of the coaches available to you here in the New Jersey Synod. We all need space and companionship to grieve and lament, celebrate and rejoice, be challenged and affirmed.

Wise leaders know that it is not selfish to seek assistance to facilitate growth, change and or renewal as we carry out God's mission in a changing world.

Coaches will journey with you asking the deep questions with empathy and understanding, helping you to see that you have it in you to be an empowered leader in the church.

## **AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT COACHING CAN DO**

"Coaching for me as a first year pastor was incredibly important. It was a bit bumpy at first as my coach challenged me to think out my best answers and options, but this helped me to think critically. My coach also affirmed me in my call and my ability to be a good pastor, something that I wobbled through during the storms of ministry. Finally, I found myself more confident and in God's loving hands as a result of having a coach."—Anonymous

"The gifts of our coach are different than mine, and particularly helpful in building our introverted team. I felt supported in my role as pastor but was also freer to participate as a team member because the coach.

One of the reasons we participated in FJ(Faithful Journey) was due to a perceived disconnect between the wider church and the congregation. Meeting with other congregations and experiencing other pastors from the synod built bridges." –Rev. Ingrid Wengert

## **WHO IS A COACH?**

At present the New Jersey Synod has seventeen active and inactive coaches both on the roster of Word and Sacrament and non-rostered. Some have posted their information on the New Jersey Synod website. Each coach has at a minimum Level 1 training through the ELCA Coaching Network or Faith+Lead through Luther Seminary both of which are recognized by the International Coaching Federation.

**We are grateful for the following coaches:**

Wendy Abrahamson  
Anthony Briggs  
Arundel Clarke\*  
Haydée Colón Hernández  
Giselle Coutinho  
Andy Gordon  
Pat Kauffman  
Dámaris Ortego  
Pam Warner

Jay Barry  
Chris Bruesehoff  
Jill Collict  
Annemarie Cook\*  
Maristela Freiberg  
Jim Krumbholz  
Dianne Lewis  
Mark Summer

\*Inactive status for 2024

**In 2023,**

- Two people were added to our coaching roster.
- We celebrated Jim Krumbholz achieving ACC accreditation with the International Coaching Federation.
- Jamie Bruesehoff went on inactive status as she continues her advocacy work and the promotion of her recently released book—*Raising Kids Beyond the Binary: Celebrating God’s Transgender and gender Diverse Children*.
- Two coaches gatherings were held via Zoom
- We supported the Faithful Journey cohort
- We distributed information at synod assembly

**WHO WAS SERVED?**

- Congregations involved in the RIC process
- Congregations participating in Faithful Journey
- Congregations working through visioning and seeking awareness to their called mission
- 81+ Individuals
- 9+ Congregations
- 12+ Groups
- 864+ Total hours of coaching in 2023

For more information on coaching you can find our webpage on the synod’s website under the *Mission and Ministry* tab, or contact me Wendy Abrahamson the synod’s Coordinator of Coaching Ministry at [pastor@oursaviourchurch.org](mailto:pastor@oursaviourchurch.org) or 973-835-7350.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Dr. Wendy L. Abrahamson  
Coordinator of New Jersey Synod’s Coaching Ministry

## Communication

### Sharing Jesus one post at a time

The good news of Jesus Christ is a story designed to be shared. Your experience of Jesus might be exactly what your neighbor needs to hear. The NJ Synod is committed to helping you be the body of Christ in the world by sharing Jesus with everyone in your neighborhood.

*Jersey Jottings* is the weekly newsletter prepared by the Synod Office. Get the latest news from the synod and discover how congregations all over New Jersey are making a difference.

Hundreds of people receive this email every week. It's easy to join: Visit

<https://www.njsynod.org/stay-connected>

Are you using Social Media? Don't leave the synod assembly without following the New Jersey Synod. You can find us on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NJSynodELCA>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/njsynodelca/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/njsynodelca>
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NJSynodELCA>.

### Looking to enhance your congregation's communication?

Here are some of the tools we recommend you use for your own ministry. If there is another service you are having great success with, please let us know!

- 1) You are creating content every week. Share it via a weekly email newsletter using MailChimp (<https://mailchimp.com/>). If people on your email list are opening your email anywhere in the 60% range, you're doing amazing.
- 2) Looking to create graphics for social media? Think about using Canva (<https://www.canva.com>). Canva provides free pro-accounts to non-profits (including churches!) To get a pro-account for your church, you will need your tax status documentation. You can get that by sending an email to [501c3@elca.org](mailto:501c3@elca.org) with your church's legal name, full street address and 9-digit Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). The ELCA's office of the Secretary will send you back 3 pdfs. Combine those pdfs into 1 file and use that document to apply for a Canva pro account at <https://support.canva.com/account-basics/nonprofit-program/apply-for-nonprofit/>.
- 3) Make sure to reach out to your local community newspapers. Regularly send them photos and press releases about what's happening at your church. Try to send them information about upcoming events 2 to 3 weeks in advance.
- 4) Use the sign on your building and regularly update your message. Instead of being sentimental in your message, think about how you can form the faith of the person spending 3 seconds driving past your building.
- 5) Create a robust permission form to let children be in your photos. Ask permission and let parents say no.

- 6) Think through the different ways people are interacting with your community. Your weekly email newsletter will be viewed on a smartphone so keep it small, advertising upcoming events and bite-sized ways to build someone's faith. Your monthly printed newsletter should contain long-term plans and longer faith formation materials. And your social media posts should encourage engagement in ways specific to your community (i.e. making worship last throughout the week, enhancing your prayer ministry, etc).
- 7) Be mindful not everyone is online. The mail and the phone are powerful tools you can use. You can use Zoom to create a conference call so people can listen to your worship each Sunday. And if you mail a bulletin and sermon to someone at home, they are worshipping with their entire faith community!
- 8) You don't have to be on every app. Focus on doing a few things well and make them easily shareable. Make your posts accessible (i.e. adding captions to videos) so that it can be experienced by as many folks as possible. And post regularly. We are a people of new life so we should show that we're actually alive!
- 9) Feel free to copy what others are doing across the country! Virginia Synod has a member of their staff devoted to Digital Ministry and the ELCA facebook page creates new content every day. A link is below.

**Looking to upgrade your communications game? You don't have to figure these things out on your own!**

Here are a few places where you can learn how to use different tools to share your other resources that might help your ministry. Here are just a few:

- Faith-Lead (by Luther Seminary): <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/>
- Digivangelism: <https://digivangelism.org/>
- Virginia Synod: <https://vasynod.org/resources/digital-ministry-toolbox/>

**Need some inspiration? Check out what these communities and people are doing:**

- Instagram: Messiah in Oakland <https://www.instagram.com/messiahoaklandnj/> (great example of using stories), Christ our Redeemer Jersey City <https://www.instagram.com/cor.jc/>, Holy Trinity, Manasquan [https://www.instagram.com/HolyTrinity\\_Squan](https://www.instagram.com/HolyTrinity_Squan), St Paul, Edison [https://www.instagram.com/HolyTrinity\\_Squan](https://www.instagram.com/HolyTrinity_Squan)
- Facebook: St. Bartholomew, Trenton <https://www.facebook.com/stbartholomewlutheran>, Camp Cross Roads <https://www.facebook.com/CrossRoadsRetreat>. St. Michael's Cherry Hill <https://www.facebook.com/SMLCCH>,
- Church website: Good Shepherd, Somerville <https://www.gslutheranchurch.org/>, St. Mark's Oaklyn <https://www.stmarksoaklyn.com>, Holy Nativity, Wenonah <https://holynativitywenonah.org/>, St. Paul's, Hainesport <https://stpaulsh.org/>

Need help with your congregation's communication? Contact Rev. Marc A. Stutzel at [pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com).

Submitted by Rev. Marc A. Stutzel

## **COMPENSATION AID TASK FORCE REPORT FOR 2023**

Since its establishment at the 1994 Synod Assembly, the Compensation Aid Task Force has received \$1,605,695.93 from legacy gifts, congregations, and individuals of the NJ Synod. In addition, there was \$61,495.76 of net investment gains for the year.

2023 Receipts: A total of \$54,598.59 was received. This includes contributions from one pastor and 10 congregations.

2023 Disbursements: \$15,750 in grant money was given to three congregations.

2023 Balance: \$463,497.17

This fund was established to supplement the compensation of pastors receiving a salary of 20% or more below Synod guidelines and assist retired pastors whose pension income is inadequate. Over the years, it has also been used to help first-call pastors reduce student loan debt.

Along with processing applications for grants and consulting with congregations that apply, the Task Force encourages congregations to contribute to the Compensation Aid Fund an amount equal to 1% of their pastor's "Defined Compensation" as determined by the ELCA's pension and health plan. Eligible congregations and pastors are invited to contact the office of the Bishop or Pastor James Egan for more information. Thanks to Lois Parrett, Synod bookkeeper, for assisting the Task Force by recording receipts and disbursements.

Thanks to the congregations of the Synod and individuals who have contributed over the years and to congregations that have directed a legacy gift to the fund. Your generous sharing has made it possible to lessen the financial stress of those in the ordained ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*The Rev. James R. Egan*  
Chairperson

\*\* in addition to the grants disbursed to congregations and pastors, \$1,265.00 was sent to the ELCA for the health insurance buy up cost for the NJ Synod DEM.

## Ecumenical Representative – Annual Report for 2023

2023 brought a significant change for the Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee. Our synod is amazing in the way we are intentional about being ecumenically and interfaith inclusive in most of the areas we function as a synod. The ministry of Pastor Sara Lilja, Assistant to the Bishop for Advocacy and Justice Ministries, is rich in diversity in every way. Often, there is an overlap in focus and outreach between Advocacy/Justice Ministries and Ecumenical/Interfaith Ministries. For this reason, it made practical sense to disband the Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee, while maintaining the Ecumenical Representative role. Synods throughout the ELCA have Ecumenical Representatives.

The Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network (LEIRN) is based in the ELCA. The membership is a volunteer network of lay and clergy representatives appointed by the Bishops of synods across the ELCA. In 2023, they began to review the vision and purpose of the Network with a Mission and Ministry Task Force. Results and more to follow in 2024.

Throughout 2023:

On February 2, I represented our synod at a rally held at Temple Ner Tamid, a synagogue in Bloomfield. The rally was in response to a Molotov cocktail being thrown at the front door of the synagogue on Sunday, January 29. On behalf of our synod and the local ministerium, I called Rabbi Marc Katz to offer support shortly after the antisemitic attack.

Also in February, I represented our Synod at a meeting of the New Jersey Ecumenical Officers in northern New Jersey. It was sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Newark during their Annual Convention.

In May, I attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Milwaukee, WI. The theme was "Do Good; Seek Justice" (Isaiah 1:17). This a gathering of ecumenical representatives across denominations, including our own LEIRN. It is inspiring to meet with others committed to ecumenical and inter-religious work. It's also wonderful to meet with the other representatives in LEIRN.

In June, Rabbi Julie Roth of Congregation Shomrei Emunah in Montclair and I led a workshop on Addressing Antisemitism. It was a dinner event hosted by Shomrei Emunah. Participants were from the Montclair and Nutley ministeriums. The workshop is not specific to Montclair and Nutley. I welcome the opportunity to lead additional workshops on Addressing Antisemitism in other areas of our synod.

In November, I attended a meeting of the New Jersey Coalition of Religious Leaders along with Pastor Sara Lilja. The theme was "Building Conversations Around Common Concerns." This is the longest running interfaith community in New Jersey.

Thank you for the opportunity of serving as the Ecumenical Representative of the NJ Synod.

Faithfully submitted by Pastor Nancy Truscott

# EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY, UNLEASHED



## Report to the 2024 Assembly of the New Jersey Synod ELCA

EMU is part of a national initiative by the Lilly Endowment to address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders (ECFPL). The initiative began out of a concern for student load debt carried by pastoral leaders and over the years has broadened in scope. This year we continued with the third phase which is aimed at addressing economic challenges faced by Pastors and congregations. This concern was born out of the Covid crisis and has expanded in scope to meet local needs.

Our work this year included an online financial literacy program for lay and pastoral leaders called 6 weeks on Money. Congregations who participated in this program are eligible for new ministry incentives of \$2,000. Funds that congregations dedicate to support this new venture is matched up to a maximum of \$5,000.

The following congregations have completed this program and have received these new ministry incentive grants:

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Church of the Savior, Paramus | Spruce Run, Glen Gardner      |
| First, Montclair              | St. Bartholomew, Trenton      |
| Good Shepherd, Holmdel        | St. John, Passaic             |
| Grace, Mendham                | St. Matthew, Secaucus         |
| Holy Communion, Manahawkin    | St. Paul, Ridgefield          |
| Holy Trinity, Mt Holly        | St. Stephan'-Grace, Newark    |
| Lord of Life, Tabernacle      | St. Stephen, South Plainfield |
| Prince of Peace, Denville     | St. Timothy, Wayne            |
| Prince of Peace, Old Tappan   | Temple, Pennsauken            |
|                               | Trinity, Jersey City          |

In addition to the six weeks on money course, we were pleased to welcome Bonnie Ives Marden to the Synod for an in-person event last September. Her talk, Expanding our Relationship with God and Mammon, provided a great opportunity to be together and practice our skills in fund raising.

Respectfully Submitted.

Rev. Frederick E Becker

EMU Coordinator.

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### EMU.NJ TEAM

Dawn Roberts----- Administrative Staff  
The Rev. Fred Becker ----- EMU Coordinator  
The Rev. John Holliday -----MEF Team Leader  
The Rev. Susan Nelson-Colaneri ----- Future Church Team Leader  
Mr Gerry Lauro ----- Wyckoff

Lois Parrett ----- Book Keeper  
Mr Frank Gianceschi-----Research Leader  
The Rev, Dean Brown ----- Synod Staff  
Ms. Marilyn Burgin ----- Pensauken

## **2023 REPORT OF THE FISCAL MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (FMAP)**

NJ Synod's Constitution provides a guiding principle for the mission of FMAP: *"Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church, the unity in this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings."*

The core values of our individual members, congregations, the NJ Synod, the ELCA and the church worldwide are dependent on the physical and financial resources necessary to carry out our missions and ministries. FMAP's responsibility as a committee reporting directly to the NJ Synod Council is to carefully monitor and manage our financial resources and assets to help optimize the success of the Synod's and its individual congregations' ministries while adhering to the values to which we all ascribe.

A critical function of the FMAP Committee each year is to develop and recommend a spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year. On February 28, 2023 the committee met to discuss and approve an initial 2024 spending plan to be submitted to Synod Council and ultimately to be presented at Synod Assembly for approval. Jim Harris, Treasurer, with input from Synod staff, was instrumental in developing the initial plan. No amendments were offered or made by the committee, Synod Council or Assembly voting members.

A total of 4 FMAP quarterly meetings were also held via Zoom in 2023 (January 17, May 23, August 15 and November 16) to monitor and manage financial and property issues throughout the year. *The specific actions undertaken by FMAP and approved by Synod Council are detailed in the consolidated minutes of the NJ Synod Council meetings found in the Bulletin of Reports.*

The duties of the committee extend beyond the fiscal responsibility of monitoring and managing the finances and creating a spending plan for the following year. Actually some of the most important tasks of the committee are working with individual congregations in need of support. Examples include:

- Manage the Transformational Ministry Loan program to help struggling congregations meet needs for improvements to their facilities and grow their ministries.
- Manage COVID19 Emergency Relief loan program.
- Facilitate the sale of church buildings for congregations that have merged with others or dissolved. Manage the distribution of sale proceeds according to the wishes of congregations.
- Provide property design assistance for physical improvements required by individual congregations.

A great deal of gratitude is due to the committee members and the synod staff who, through the work of the FMAP committee, serve and support the ELCA through the faithful management of the synod's finances and property matters: The Rev. Tracie Bartholomew (Bishop), The Rev. Dean Brown (Asst. to Bishop), Jim Harris (Synod Treasurer, Faith, Hillsborough), Lois Parrett (Director of Synod Operations and Accounting, Abiding Presence, Ewing), Steve Hernandez (Faith, Lavallette), The Rev. Susan Jones (Holy Cross, Toms River), Gerry Lauro (Advent, Wyckoff), Gary LeCroy (St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken), Jill Weidner (Good Shepherd, Somerville), Wannetta Phillips (Prince of Peace, Rockaway), Maurice Willoughby (Good Shepherd, Glen Rock), Matt McDevitt (Property Manager South, Temple, Pennsauken). Special thanks for the years of service of The Rev. Susan Jones and Maurice Willoughby who resigned from the committee. One new addition to the committee this year is Glenn Rentschler (St. Paul, East Windsor) who will serve as Property Director.

Respectfully submitted,  
Skip Cox, Chair (St. Paul, East Windsor)



## Cross Roads 2023 Annual Report

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is an ecumenical ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the New Jersey Synod. Cross Roads is *our* camp and retreat ministry.

**PROGRAM:** Cross Roads was able to offer a full slate of summer youth programming in 2023 including on-site summer camp as well as day camps dispersed throughout the state. Thank you to our clergy and lay leaders who recruited staff and campers to make this summer a success! Our Bold Transformational Faith initiative, which began during the worst of the pandemic, has continued offering faith formation resources for families and congregations. In addition, we are welcoming more congregations, councils, vestries, and small groups to Cross Roads for retreats.

*How you can get involved:* Spread the word about summer camp among your youth. I have great digital and print resources that I am happy to send to you. In addition, if you are looking for a way to strengthen relationships, do some strategic planning, or just have some fun as a congregation, consider having a retreat at Cross Roads this year.

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:** Like many other faith-based institutions, Cross Roads is in a different financial landscape than before the pandemic. While the levels of participation are not where they were prior to 2020, the trajectories are moving in the right direction. For example, we saw a notable increase in participation in development events throughout 2023 driven by congregations as well as lay leaders. Thanks to generous bequests from congregations in our synod that have closed, we have been able to invest in major capital projects around camp that will help us grow into the future. We would like to thank the New Jersey Synod for its continued support, as well as all our partner congregations and individual donors. As our Executive Director says, “Kids need camp,” and your financial support ensures that it is there for them.

*How you can get involved:* We host three major development events each year: a golf outing in June, our 5k in October, and our Phone-a-Thon in December. Each of these events needs volunteers to be successful. In addition, if your congregation makes regular grants to ministry partners, consider Cross Roads in your next young of disbursements.

**STAFF:** Our fantastic staff is led by Executive Director Anthony Briggs. Anthony and all the year-round staff—Nora Flores, Esteban Flores, Helen Payanzo, Dylan Payanzo, Corine Borrero, Joe Marra, and Edgar Mollel—have gone above to ensure our camp not only exists but thrives. We have been blessed to have a solid year-round staff that ensures camp is open for retreats and renewal all four seasons. Jeffrey Blanford served as camp assistant in 2023 and deserves an extra thank you as well.

*How you can get involved:* If you know of individuals who would be good summer staff, please reach out to me or Anthony Briggs so we can have a conversation. This is a particularly good opportunity for college-age individuals looking for leadership development experience.

**BOARD:** We are fortunate to have a board that meets regularly to provide fiduciary, strategic, and generative leadership for the camp. Lutherans who served on the board in 2023 include Rev. Blake Scalet (St. John, Summit), Jennifer Blanford (Saint Matthew, Moorestown), Susan Flynn (Faith, Hillsborough), Matthew Burd (Abiding Presence, Ewing), Marilyn Burgin (Temple, Pennsauken), Rev. Joe Graumann (St. Stephen, Woodbury), and LaMont Rouse. Bishop Bartholomew holds an ex-officio seat, and I want to thank her on behalf of the board for taking an active role in our retreat as well as recruitment efforts this past year. We are grateful for her support and leadership.

*How you can get involved:* As of February, half of our Lutheran board seats are currently vacant. This is because we were unable to fill vacancies for two of our term-limited trustees, and two members elected to step off the board before their terms were complete. If you know of people who would be assets to our board because of experience in outdoor ministry or board development, please speak to me so we can begin a discernment process with them.

*A personal note:* Because of our term limits, this will be my last year serving on the board. Working with Cross Roads has been one of my favorite things about serving in this synod, and I want to thank you all for your support of our camp.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joseph Schattauer Paillé (Advent, Wyckoff), Board President

*Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.  
1 Corinthians 12:4-6, NRSV*

Friends in Christ, grace to you and peace as you gather in assembly.

When I talk with folks, I am sometimes asked what I do for my job. When I was a parish pastor, it was relatively easy to describe. Every day in parish ministry is different, but most people, even folks who are not church folks or who actively practice a different faith, have some understanding of worshiping communities and the people who lead those communities. It is not quite as easy to describe this ministry to community members or new candidacy partners. I usually say something like, “I work with people who want to become pastors or deacons. And, I work with the people *who interview the people* who want to be pastors or deacons in our church.”

The follow-up question might be: How do people *actually become* a deacon or pastor in the ELCA?

We trust that the Holy Spirit nudges candidates and guides discernment. A candidate will engage in education, practical experiences, and the candidacy process in their home synod. A synod candidacy committee meets confidentially to engage with candidates to interview, have discernment conversation, accompany, and assess readiness for ordination. The committee works with partners throughout the church—seminaries, synod and churchwide staff, home congregations, and candidates to accomplish this task on behalf of the whole church.

Committees listen to a sense of internal call that the candidate brings; are attentive for signs of an external sense of call; vote to grant, postpone, or deny candidates at 3 main decision points; and wait to see if after a candidate is approved they will be extended a letter of call and the gift of ordination. You can read more about candidacy and this process at [www.elca.org/Resources/Candidacy](http://www.elca.org/Resources/Candidacy)

Since my last report to you in 2023, Candidacy Committee partners were invited to participate in an online Candidacy Summit, “Called to Accompany and Called to Discern” across the ELCA. In 2024, there will be an opportunity for candidacy leaders from regions 7 & 8 to meet at United Lutheran Seminary for training and collaboration days.

Since 2022, the Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group (CLDWG) has been re-envisioning the entire candidacy process. The CLDWG has started to share possible candidacy changes with candidacy partners and is welcoming feedback. The hope is a new process will be voted on at the Churchwide Assembly in 2025. Please hold all partners in prayer as there becomes more clarity on the future of candidacy. You can learn more at: [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership/Candidacy-Leadership-Development](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership/Candidacy-Leadership-Development)

Thank you for your synod’s participation in this shared ministry and for the privilege to serve among you.

In Christ,  
The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch (she/her)  
Candidacy and Leadership Manager, Regions 7 & 8  
[becky.resch@elca.org](mailto:becky.resch@elca.org)

Region 7: ~ New Jersey Synod ~ New England Synod ~ Metropolitan New York Synod ~ Upstate New York Synod ~  
~ Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Slovak Zion Synod ~

Region 8: ~ Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Allegheny Synod ~  
~ Lower Susquehanna Synod ~ Upper Susquehanna Synod ~ Delaware-Maryland Synod ~  
~ Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod ~ West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod ~

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you this synod assembly season. As you may know, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has embraced a new name: Global Refuge. Grounded in Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble,” we hope to enter our next 85 years with openness, building a bigger table to meet a growing need. Global Refuge was forged in faith. Our Lutheran heritage has always shaped our work of welcome and will continue to do so in years to come.

With the support of partners and Lutheran communities like yours, in 2023 we were able to...

- Help 17,000+ children reunify with their families or find loving foster homes
- Welcome 11,200+ refugees from countries across the world
- Assist 11,700+ people seeking safety from Central America and beyond

In a political season rife with anti-immigrant rhetoric and messages that villainize newcomers, we have a unique opportunity to change this narrative and refocus on all the gifts newcomers bring to community. We invite you to join us in this work!

- Share about Global Refuge in your church or [invite our team](#) to join you.
- Include Global Refuge [bulletin inserts](#) about our work in your bulletin.
- Start a [Circle of Welcome](#) to support newcomers in your community.
- Pack [Fresh Change](#) bags, a partnership with Border Servant Corps, to welcome our neighbors at the border with care and dignity.
- Sign up for our monthly e-newsletters for faith leaders and explore a [webpage specifically for congregations](#) which has the latest faith community resources.

Thank you for your continued support. The many ways Lutheran communities embody Jesus’ ministry through the work of welcome is truly inspiring.

Go in peace. Welcome the stranger.



Deacon Sarah Kretschmann | Congregational Engagement Specialist  
[outreach@globalrefuge.org](mailto:outreach@globalrefuge.org)

## Growing in Faith: The diakonia Program

This year has been a bittersweet one for Growing in Faith. Program. We have worked very hard to implement the Program's new curriculum. The updated curriculum has given us a new focus and has allowed us to invite new instructors to join the program. Anyone seeking more information about Growing in Faith may visit our booth at the assembly or email us at [ellenjoanlindemann@gmail.com](mailto:ellenjoanlindemann@gmail.com).

We will be holding our annual Gathering on April 13, 2024. This year's program is entitled *Living Our Christian Faith in the World*. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Sara Lilja, Executive Director, LEAM-NJ. Breakout sessions will include: Good Government conducted by Sandy Matsen, League of Women Voters; Christian Nationalism conducted by Sara Lilja; and Housing conducted by Hannah Peterson, LEAM-NJ. Everyone is invited to join us for the program. We would like to thank St. Mark, Hamilton for hosting our program.

As a non-profit, self-supporting organization, we continue to try to balance the desire to expand our offerings while attempting to keep our programs affordable for the most students. Earlier this year we received a generous Legacy gift from the closing of St. Luke, Dunellen. We would like to thank Synod for its continued support of our important work. Synod support has helped us provide scholarships for students to attend classes as well as keep the costs of our programs down so that more people can participate. We would also like to thank all of the instructors and volunteers who help make our lay education program a success.



# ARCHIVES *Advocate*

Northeast Regional Archives • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Vol. 8 No. 1, Summer/Fall 2023

## Ancestry.com Digitization Project Update We Want Your Congregation to Participate!

by Sheila Joy, Archivist

If you have not been keeping up with the latest happenings on our social media pages, we have been keeping a little secret. We are thrilled to announce that we are partnering with Ancestry.com to digitize all of our church records! Soon birth/baptism, confirmation, marriage, and death records from hundreds of congregations across ELCA Region 7 will be made fully searchable online via Ancestry.com.

Ancestry has provided an in-house digitization specialist, Megan Genovese, who is working on-site in our reference library. Her set-up includes a 6-foot table, laptop, and scanning equipment. Every visitor who has witnessed the scanner is shocked at how fast the process is. We have estimated Megan's workload thus far to be well over 1,500 volumes. Megan started scanning in October 2022 and so far has scanned the records we have in-house from four synods: New Jersey, New England, Upstate New York, and Slovak-Zion. She is currently in the middle of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and will then be moving onto Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Metropolitan New York Synod, private pastor registers, and the Ministerium of Pennsylvania Collection. We initially thought the scanning would only last six months. But we are finding that there are just so many records to be scanned, and are now



*Ancestry.com digitization specialist Megan Genovese scans the records of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church from Allentown, PA, which existed from 1890–2014. These digitized records will be transcribed, indexed, and made available online through Ancestry.com's database.*

estimating the scanning to continue through 2023 and likely beyond. Once the records are scanned, the next step is for Ancestry to transcribe and index them. They also translate them as needed, as we have many records in German as well as Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Slovak, and some in Hungarian and Spanish.

We have also opened up this project by inviting active congregations within the ELCA Region 7 to participate and that means you! So far we have had 20 congregations deliver their records to us to be scanned. Why participate? First and foremost, you will be preserving your congregation's history and ensuring its safekeeping. These records are vulnerable to natural disasters, fires, floods, and so on—thus a digital copy of your church's historical records ensures that the data is never lost. It also preserves the original records by minimizing the need for handling them. You'll also save time as your historical records will be made accessible to researchers online without having to maintain your own website. Please notify us immediately if you are interested in participating in the digitization project so that we can add your records to the schedule. Contact [info@lutheranarchives.org](mailto:info@lutheranarchives.org) for more information.

# St. John's English Lutheran Church Records Processed

by Juliana Rhinehart, Processing Archivist

Last September, I began my new role as the processing archivist at the Lutheran Archives by organizing and processing records from St. John's (English) Evangelical Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, which was founded in 1806 and closed in 2001. This was the oldest English-speaking Lutheran church in the United States and we wanted to process its records as soon as possible due to the congregation's important historical role. The collection ultimately filled eighty boxes, along with several large, unboxed items, and I discovered some fascinating and unique items that I'm proud to have had a part in preserving. In my previous archival work, the largest collection I processed was only seven or eight boxes, so figuring out how to tackle all of St. John's records was a challenge! It was a fantastic learning experience, however, and I've learned a lot about the importance of preserving church records and why archivists do the work we do.

I began processing the St. John's collection by picking up where archives volunteer Linda Beck left off. Before I started working here, Linda had already sorted and grouped all of the paper records by topic, so I used her work to create a finding aid and organize the collection into topical series. This is one of my favorite parts of processing records—I love thinking about how the materials will be used and creating a system that will help future researchers easily find the information they need. The ELCA also provides a suggested hierarchy of how to organize congregational records, beginning with the parish records, then the administrative records, and so on. As I organized the records into folders and boxes, I found parish registers, membership statistics, and pew subscriptions; property documents and blueprints for the church building; Bibles and hymnals, including a pulpit Bible

from 1797 and hymnals written in braille; and photographs from as early as 1917. I found myself thinking about all the different ways these materials will be used for research. Parish registers and pew subscriptions are, of course, immensely useful for genealogical research, while blueprints, property documents, and historical sketches can shed light on the history of the church building and the congregation as a whole. One particular project these records will be part of is the Archives' partnership with Ancestry.com, which is working to digitize vital congregational records. I'm happy to say that St. John's records will be scanned by Ancestry and available online in the next few years!

After organizing and boxing these paper records, I moved onto processing objects from this collection. This entailed photographing and measuring all of the non-paper materials, describing them in

our PastPerfect database, and wrapping them in acid-free tissue paper and taking other steps to properly store them. Some of the more unique items I found include a set of type used to make prints, a steel wafer cutter and knives for communion preparation, a display box with a lock from the original church door, a silk banner from 1907, and a wooden chair used by Sunday school teachers. Photographing and describing these and other objects was another part of this project that I enjoyed. I find a lot of value in making archival records widely accessible, and I'm thrilled that beyond our project with Ancestry.com, the Lutheran Archives has our own website and online database where we can share records with the public. I'm excited to finish getting the collection posted online and seeing what other research questions it can help answer!

The St. John's English collection includes many artifacts in addition to documents. Cataloging these objects and putting images of them into our online database is an important step in making them accessible to scholars. This silver chalice was presented to St. John's by Peter Lex in 1818. It was made by Thomas Fletcher and Sidney Gardiner, two of the leading silversmiths in Philadelphia at the time, and bears their mark on the interior.



Photos by Gavin Ashworth



This communion wafer cutter is engraved around the side with an inscription presenting it to the newly-formed St. John's congregation in 1808 from Jno. Goodman.

68 Photos by Gavin Ashworth

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

The Lutheran Archives Center is a hive of activity these days! So many exciting projects are underway, in particular the digitization partnership with Ancestry.com to scan many of the records in our vault. We have opened this project up to active congregations as well. Please contact us at [info@lutheranarchives.org](mailto:info@lutheranarchives.org) right away if you are interested in participating. We will be happy to answer any questions and provide more information.

Looking ahead to the celebration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial or “America 250” in 2026, we continue to prioritize work on the records of historic Philadelphia congregations including St. Michael’s Germantown, St. John’s English, and St. Michael’s and Zion. Our goal is to have these records fully processed, rehoused in suitable archival containers, digitized, and with detailed finding aids available online. We are also in dialogue with other Philadelphia-based projects for the America 250, such as the Revolutionary City portal, to explore how we can share these records far and wide.

Meanwhile we continue to receive records from newly closed congregations, upwards to twenty per year. This influx—some 300 or more banker’s boxes of records per year—is rapidly filling up the remaining space in our vault. Our staff and volunteers are continually working on processing these records, which helps to consolidate them, but we know that eventually we will run out of room and must prepare for that reality.

Please help us to preserve the history of the Lutheran Church in America by making a financial contribution to support our work. Donations help fund our processing staff and purchase archival supplies—both of which are greatly needed. Please consider making a generous donation to support the Lutheran Archives Center, either online at [LutheranArchives.org](http://LutheranArchives.org) or in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,



Lisa Minardi  
Executive Director

***Thank you for your support!***

## Juliana Rhinehart Hired as Processing Archivist

We'd like to welcome our new Processing Archivist, Juliana Rhinehart! Juliana started working at the Lutheran Archives in September 2022 and has processed several collections so far, including the congregational records of St. John's English Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, and the Henkel Family Papers collection. She is currently working on the records of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, PA, and also assists with research and genealogy inquiries.

Juliana graduated from Dickinson College in 2022 with a B.A. in English and Medieval Studies, and she plans to earn a Master's of Library Science in the future. While working toward her undergraduate degree, she worked as an archives assistant for Dickinson's Archives and Special Collections. In her free time, Juliana enjoys cooking, reading sci-fi and short stories, and catching up on TV shows with her partner.



# Henkel Family Papers

*by Juliana Rhinehart,  
Processing Archivist*

During February 2023, I processed a small collection of papers related to the Henkel/Henckel family, a prominent Lutheran family who moved from Germany to Pennsylvania in the early 1700s. Rev. Anthony Jacob Henckel was the first member of this family to immigrate to Pennsylvania in 1717. He was a notable Lutheran pastor in both Germany and Pennsylvania, where he helped found several Lutheran churches (including St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Germantown, whose records are also held by the Lutheran Archives and will soon be processed).

The Henkel collection I processed contains records mostly from the Rev. Paul Henkel, who was Anthony's great-grandson; his immediate family; and their printing company. Paul Henkel was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, in 1754 and married Elizabeth Negley in 1776. In 1782, the Henkels moved to New Market, Virginia, where in 1806 they founded a printing press. Producing a range of German-language religious and educational materials, the Henkel press helped German-speaking communities throughout the Shenandoah Valley preserve their language. The business was primarily run by Ambrose and Solomon Henkel, sons of Paul and Elizabeth. Paul contributed manuscripts and translated various theological works and hymnals, most notably editions of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's catechism, as well as various hymns.





Discovery of the Henkel grammar book subscription list has caused quite a stir among scholars. Here, Lisa Minardi and Sheila Joy show the manuscript to Lynne Farrington and John Pollack from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Henkel collection was in total disarray when I began, so I had to start from scratch in terms of processing. I began by creating a basic inventory and putting items into folders and boxes, which helped me realize the collection contains unique records that shed a great deal of light on the Henkel printing company. Ultimately, I grouped items into topical series and created a finding aid with detailed information about the Henkel family and this collection. Notable items from the collection include a six-foot long list of subscribers for a German-English grammar book, including subscribers' hometowns and how many copies of the book they paid for, dated 1812; handwritten manuscripts for a hymnal edited by Paul Henkel; manuscripts and translations of Luther's theological works; a small, tinned sheet iron box that originally held sermon notes; and correspondence between family members.

Working with collections like this one is extremely rewarding. Taking a collection of "miscellaneous family papers" and organizing it into folders, boxes, and series makes the collection much more accessible for researchers. Posting our finding aids online lets people do some initial research on their own to see what kind of records we have and if they

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
LIBRARY

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BY  
**DAVID HENKEL.**

THIS work contains a system of German and English grammar, comprising all the rules necessary, for the first entrance of a student into this useful study. Each grammar is exhibited in its own tongue, with an introductory discourse on the German letters and parts of speech in English, and a comprehensive vocabulary of German words translated particularly for those who are as yet unacquainted with that language; hence a person who is educated in one of these languages, may easily become acquainted with the propriety of both.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

"HAVING perused a work of DAVID HENKEL, in manuscript, entitled 'A GERMAN AND ENGLISH GRAMMAR.' I am of opinion that it may prove useful to those, who desire to become acquainted with the propriety both of the English and German languages, and have a tendency to create a taste for literature, as yet too much neglected in this part of the United States. I hope this laudable attempt of the author, a youth who laboured under many disadvantages, may receive from a generous public the encouragement it deserves.

G. W. SNYDER,  
Minister of the gospel.

WOODSTOCK ACADEMY,  
July the 9th, 1812.

AT the request of DAVID HENKEL, I have examined, though from the want of time rather superficially, an English Grammar compiled by him, which in my opinion possesses considerable merit. This work I think the more extraordinary, as being the production of a mere youth, and one who has had every slender opportunity of acquiring an education. There are few men, with every possible advantage, who have acquired a more accurate grammatical knowledge; and from his general acquaintance with grammar, I have no doubt, but that his German grammar, connected with the English possesses merit likewise, although from my not understanding that language, I am incompetent to form a judgment.

There unquestionably, is a great necessity for a German grammar: as I am informed there is no one of the kind extant in this country. Mr. HENKEL deserves the more credit, as he has formed his German grammar, de novo, without the assistance of any one before him in that language.

It is highly proper, that a youth of such promising talents, and of almost unexampled industry and application should be patronized and encouraged by the friends of science generally.

W. M. HILL,  
Minister of the gospel.

WINCHESTER,  
July the 15th, 1812.

CONDITIONS.

1. This work shall be printed on good paper, with an elegant new type, and handsomely bound.
2. It will be comprised in 180 or 200 octavo pages.
3. The price to subscribers will be one dollar, to be paid at the delivery of the books.
4. Persons who procure twelve subscribers, and become responsible for the pay, shall receive a thirteenth copy gratis.
5. This work shall be put to press as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers are procured, to defray the expenses of the publication.

(*For all persons holding subscriptions for the above work, are requested to transmit the number of subscribers, on or before the first of November next, to the editors. All communications must be post paid.*)

NEW-MARKET, Shenandoah County, Virg. July, the 22d, 1812

WM. HILL,  
Minister of the Gospel.

David Henkel.

Dieses Werk enthält ein System oder Lehrgebäude der Deutschen und Englischen Sprachlehre, welches alle die Regeln in sich begriffen, die notwendig sind beyder Sprachen ordentlich zu lernen. Jede Sprachlehre ist in ihrer eignen Sprache vertheilt, nebst einer vorhergehenden Abhandlung über die Deutschen Buchstaben und Theilen derselben Sprache in Englisch, besonders für diejenigen welche das Deutsch noch nicht lesen können. Es enthält auch eine Sammlung von Deutschen Wörtern, welche in das Englische übersezt sind. Also kann eine Person, welche nur in einer von diesen Sprachen unterrichtet ist, leicht einen Begriff von beyden bekommen.

A n e m p f e h l u n g e n.

Ich habe ein Werk von David Henkel in Manuscript durchgesehen, betitelt: "Eine Deutsche und Englische Sprachlehre." Ich bin der Meinung daß es nicht allein sehr nutz, für diejenige welche lehren mit der Genauigkeit, jedoch von den Englischen und Deutschen Sprachen bekant zu werden, und eine Hülffung haben einen Bestand für die Literatur zu vermindern, welches bis jetzt in diesem Theil der Vereinigten Staaten vernachlässigt worden ist.

Ich hoffe daß diese lobliche Unternehmung des Autors, ein Jüngling, der unter vielen Schwierigkeiten arbeitete, eine Unterthung welche es verdient, von einem freygebigem Publico erhalten möge.

G. B. Schreyber,  
Prediger des Evangelii.

WOODSTOCK ACADEMIE,  
den 9ten July, 1812.

Auf das Ansuchen von David Henkel, habe ich eine Englische Grammatik von ihm präsumirte, untersezt, welche nach meiner Meinung beträchtlichen Nutzen bringt. Ich erachte dieses Werk mehr ansehnlicher, weil es das Werk eines Jünglings ist, und einer der sehr wenige Vorleser sein kann, einen Unterricht zu erhalten. Es gibt wenige Leute, mit jedem möglichen Vortheile, welche eine genauere grammatische Kenntniß erlangen haben; und wegen seiner allgemeinen Bekanttschaft mit der Sprachlehre, habe ich keinen Zweifel, daß nicht seine Deutsche Grammatik, verbunden mit der Englischen das Bestehende, nicht wenig ich dreyen Sprache nicht verstände, so daß ich unbedingte zu urtheilen.

Es ist untrügliche, eine große Nothwendigkeit für eine Deutsche Grammatik, indem ich bedachte bin, daß keine von dieser Art in diesem Lande vorhanden sind. Hr. Henkel verdient desto mehr Lob, weil er seine Deutsche Grammatik von neuem formirt, ohne die Hülff von einer andern vor ihm in derselben Sprache.

Es ist höchst richtig, daß ein Jüngling von solchen verwichenen Talenten und Besondere besondern Fleiß und Anwendung von den Freunden der Wissenschaften allgemein, sollte begünstigt und unterthüt werden.

W. M. HILL,  
den 15ten July, 1812.

Bedingungen.

1. Dieses Werk soll auf gutes Papier mit neuen Buchstaben gedruckt und schön eingebunden werden.
2. Es soll ungefähr 180 oder 200 octavo Seiten enthalten.
3. Der Preis für Subscribenten ist ein Dollar, welcher bey der Ablieferung des Buches bezahlt wird.
4. Wer 12 Subscribenten sammelt, und selbst gut für die Bezahlung, soll ein 13tes Exemplar umsonst erhalten.
5. Dieses Werk soll gedruckt werden, sobald sich eine hinlängliche Anzahl Subscribenten einfinden, die Kosten der Auflage zu bestreiten.

(*Personen welche Subscribenten sammeln, werden die Anzahl derselben einzufenden, an oder vor dem nächsten November an die Herausgeber. Briefe, u. müssen postfrei eingehendet werden.*)

NEW-Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia, den 22ten July, 1812.

Subscriber's names.	Number of copies	Place of abode.	Namen der Subscribenten.	Anzahl der Exemplaren.	Wohnort.
Jacob Eckert	1	Rockingham County, Va.			
Philip Thoma	1	Do.			
George Mowry	1	Shenandoah County			
Nicolaus Dinkeldain	1	Do.			
Jacob Adam	1	Newmarket, Va.			
William Griffin	1	Brownsville, Va.			
Henry Curran	1	Rockingham Va.			
George Torkel	1	Do.			
Adam Shirley	1	Do.			
Jacob Spitzer	1	Do.			
Henry Weber	1	Do.			
Simon Graves	1	Madison Va.			
Nicolaus Razy	1	Shenandoah County.			
Joh. A. Schumler	1	Rockingham Va.			
Henry Keller	1	Do.			
Joh. Troy	1	Newmarket, Va.			
John Hays	1	Shenandoah County, Va.			
Thomas Robinson	1	Do.			
Benjamin Thomson	1	Do.			
George Vorse	1	Rockingham County, Va.			
John Sheriff	1	Do.			
John Ruppert	1	Shenandoah County, Va.			
John Grant	1	Do.			
David Smith	1	Newmarket, Va.			
Daniel Bullhast	1	Rockingham County, Va.			
Adam Row	1	Shenandoah County, Va.			
Isaac Statten	1	Do.			
Benjamin Larman	1	Augusta County, Va.			
Wm. A. Sull	1	Albemarle County, Va.			

Detail of the upper section of the German-English grammar book subscription list from 1812 found in the Henkel papers.

# Augustana Book Cataloging Project

by Amanda Creek, Cataloger



*In addition to the Henkel papers, this glass pitcher and bowl are said to have been used by Rev. Anthony Henkel. The Lutheran Archives preserves many such objects in addition to books and documents. Photo by Gavin Ashworth*



*This early photograph of portraits of Rev. Paul Henkel (1754–1825) and his wife Elizabeth was also found in the Henkel papers.*

would be useful, and neatly organized records are much easier to look through during research appointments. Detailed processing also allows us at the Lutheran Archives Center to create a more in-depth inventory of what we possess, which in turn allows us to answer research requests more quickly and efficiently.

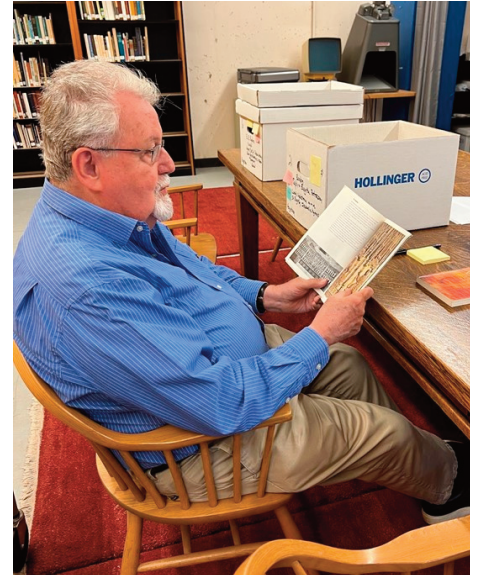
My next processing project will be the records of St. Michael's Germantown, which archives volunteer Linda Beck has already sorted through and begun to organize. From Linda's work, I know there are more materials regarding the Henkel/Henckel family in this collection, and I'm excited to make connections between the two sets of records and come up with a more comprehensive image of this family and their history! I'm also looking forward to adding all of these records to our online database and further expanding access for researchers.

Last fall, I began working at the Lutheran Archives to catalog a backlog of books from the Augustana Institute. When I began, these books were packed into 65 banker's boxes in our vault, which take up nearly 22 shelves. The goals for this project are to catalog the books so they can be entered into our online database, enabling researchers to find them, and to physically move the books from the vault and into our research library. This will free up precious storage space in the vault, which provides secure, climate-controlled storage for archival collections.

The Augustana Institute books were quite a change from my previous work cataloging books at Historic Trappe. Many are in the Swedish language, and as part of this project I needed to be able to identify whether or not each book fits the scope of what we will keep in the collection.

To help me quickly translate some of the contents and get a sense of the topic, I used Google Lens. This app works by taking a picture on my phone and allowing Google to translate the text in the image. It has been a useful tool and has made the process much easier.

As work progressed, our archivist Sheila Joy and I developed a better workflow to move through these books as we looked at the subject and topic I gathered from each one and then had Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams provide us with further insight. His knowledge helped us understand each book's importance to the Augustana Institute collection, or when it was appropriate to remove a book from the collection as not relevant. He also offered anecdotes and interesting historical information we could never get from using Google Lens.



*Kim-Eric Williams going through Augustana-related books to help identify keepers versus discards.*

We meet monthly with him to go through a batch of books that I later separate and document for our internal records. I add these books to our collection spreadsheet. I often have to create a call number, as these books cannot be found in local libraries where I can copy an existing call number. We have separated the library books from archival material, and I've consolidated 65 banker's boxes down to 55 thus far.

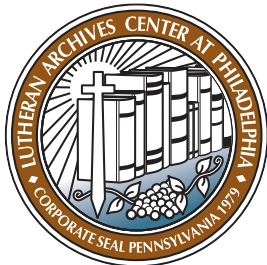
Once the books are completely entered into this spreadsheet, we will upload them into our PastPerfect database for public browsing. When everything is complete with the book cataloging, we will move into archival processing. I recently learned through my family tree that I have a Swedish ancestor, making this project fun and exciting for me.

**Editor's Note:** this project is now being continued by Nicole Hudson, who recently began working for LACAP. Amanda Creek will continue to help with our website and social media.

**Lutheran Archives Center  
at Philadelphia**

7301 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1794  
215-248-6383

LutheranArchives.org  
info@lutheranarchives.org



Newsletter of the  
Lutheran Archives Center  
at Philadelphia

Vol. 8 No. 1, Summer/Fall 2023

*Lutheran Archives Center*  
AT PHILADELPHIA

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It was the Spanish-American philosopher and novelist George Santayana (1863–1952) who said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” In the archives we deal largely with the past. The heart of our collection consists of parish registers and records from closed congregations and Lutheran ministries from the northeastern United States, as well as the archives of our Lutheran forebearers such as Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. At the Archives Center, we preserve the past not simply to ensure that we do not repeat it; we also preserve the past to help us understand the present and to help us to look to the future. Within the materials at the Archives Center, we can learn much from the past. We can discover where we have come from and uncover what worked and what did not work in terms of parish outreach and ministry.

Just so, we remember two recently deceased Lutheran Archives Center board members: former Slovak-Zion Synod Archivist, the Rev. John Philip (Phil) Kline (who died on December 26, 2022), and Augustana Institute Affiliated Member, Roy Johnson (who died on April 4, 2023). Phil and Roy both loved history, and their support of the Lutheran Archives Center helped to further our common work of remembering and preserving our past. “Rest eternal grant them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

J. Francis Watson  
President of the Board

# INVITES YOUR CONGREGATION TO PARTICIPATE

## In a Digitization Project with Ancestry.com

The Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia is working with Ancestry.com to digitize Lutheran church records. We invite all congregations in ELCA Region 7 to join us in preserving these historical records and making them accessible for research. If you are interested in participating, contact us ASAP as this opportunity is only available in 2024.

### WHAT WE ARE DIGITIZING:

Baptismal, communion, confirmation, marriage, and death records prior to 1970. Other items with genealogical data such as account books, pew rents, membership lists, etc. also considered on a case-by-case basis.

### WHY JOIN THE PROJECT:

- ❖ Save history! A digital copy of your church's historical records ensures that the data is never lost and preserves the original records by minimizing the need for handling
- ❖ Save time! Make your historical records accessible to researchers online without having to maintain your own website
- ❖ Save money! A one-time, suggested donation of \$250 covers digitization of all your records

1754

am 28ten Aug	Pater Ruttler	am 28ten Aug
am 28ten Aug Margaretha Barbara 3 Wöfen act 1754	Johann Hartwich Schwenck, Anna Elisabeth	Johann Furg Wolff David Barbara Bechtelzer Barbara Hollern
am 5ten Dec lauff Johann Philipp in Paderburg	Marij Michael Grether Maria Elisabeth	Philis Jacob Neuer Johann Philipp von
am 19ten Jan Johann Heinrich 4 Wöfen act Hölsing	Jacob Leppe Maria Elisabeth	Jacob Seherer Heinrich Wolff Elisabeth Kopp Margaretha Brosius
am 25ten Junij Heinrich 8 Wöfen act Hölsing	Jenij Heinrich Hahn Catharina	Heinrich Koppeli Catharina Heinrich Neumeier Felicitas
am 30ten Junij Maria Apollonia 9 Wöfen act Hölsing	Balthasar Bichant Eri Catharina	Furg von Apollonia
am 30ten Junij Furg 4 Wöfen act Hölsing	Christopher Wiedmann Barbara	Adam Wiedmann von Hölsing

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia  
7301 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
Phone: (215)-248-6383  
Email: [archivist@lutheranarchives.org](mailto:archivist@lutheranarchives.org)  
Website: [www.lutheranarchives.org](http://www.lutheranarchives.org)

## **Ancestry.com Digitization Project FAQ**

### **How long do you keep the records that you scan?**

Once records are sent to us, they would be in our care for approx. 2-3 months. All incoming records are treated as a short-term loan and will be returned to the congregation once scanned and indexed. Loan paperwork will include an estimated date of return to the congregation. Once records are scanned, there is a “quality control” period of time for Ancestry.com to check the digital images to ensure the files are readable and not corrupted. If images are corrupted, the book will need to be rescanned. Keeping the records in our possession for this length of time ensures that the books will be scanned and checked for quality control prior to their return.

### **How can we get the record books to you?**

You may deliver the records in-person or ship them to us.

### **Can we send you council minutes or photographs to be scanned?**

Ancestry.com is focused on scanning documents of genealogical interest, primarily parish registers with baptismal, marriage, burial, confirmation, and communion records. However, genealogical information may also be found in church records such as pew rents, account books, membership lists, etc. Please contact us to discuss any such items on a case-by-case basis.

### **If Ancestry.com scans a church record, who then owns the rights to the material? Are any restrictions placed on the records? Does the church receive a copy for its own use, or can it access the copy LACAP receives?**

Ancestry.com will own the rights to the scans and indexes that they are making. The congregation of course still owns the original records and can reproduce them in the future however they wish (taking their own photos and sharing them, for example). The congregation will receive a copy of the digitized images for their own use, upon request. That scan is for the congregation's internal use and should not be put online in its entirety. The congregation will be able to access all of their own digitized records via LACAP once we have access to them ourselves (LACAP will be getting free access to Ancestry.com for us to use on site and for our members to use from anywhere via a password-protected access). The records will also be made available online by Ancestry.com to their paid subscribers.

**Would this project be open to having Reformed records for the same church digitized at this time, or is this project restricted to Lutheran records?**

There is a long history of Lutheran and Reformed congregations sharing the same church, especially in Pennsylvania. Ancestry.com is happy to digitize both Lutheran and Reformed records, including those from union churches.

**How soon must we make a commitment to participate? How long will a window of opportunity remain open?**

We would like confirmation from churches that are interested by the end of January 2024, but your commitment to the project does not mean you will need to get the records to us by then. We are expecting the project to continue through spring 2024.

**Will congregations receive a digital copy of scanned records and index?**

Your congregation will receive copies of its digital images, upon request, for no additional fee beyond the \$250. The images will be in TIF format, which is a larger size format, yet the images are easy to open and use internally. An index will not be provided to congregations.

**What hardware and/or software will be required to view the images?**

The TIF images will be viewable on any device (laptop, desktop, tablet, phone), however a laptop or desktop computer would be recommended for optimal viewing. Tablets and phones will require downloading an application to view the TIF format.

**What online access will congregations have to their digitized records?**

Congregations will be able to access their records at LACAP's research library subject to our current access policy and research guidelines. We will also be creating a "Friends of the Archives" type membership structure to provide dues-paying members with online access to all of LACAP's digitized images via password-protected access to Ancestry.com. This "Friends of the Archives" membership will require an annual dues payment that has not yet been determined. Further details will be released in the future once the digitization project is completed.

### **Will there be ongoing fees?**

There are no required ongoing fees beyond the initial, one-time \$250 donation to participate. This donation is paid directly to the Lutheran Archives Center to cover staff time. In the future, there will be an optional “Friends of the Archives” annual membership dues to obtain online access to all of LACAP’s digitized records and index on the Ancestry.com database.

### **What provision is there for congregations’ continued access to the digital records if LACAP or Ancestry.com ceases operation?**

Your congregation has the option to request a copy of your digitized images.

### **What kind of physical manipulation and light exposure of records will take place during the digitization/indexing process? (i.e. what is the potential for damage in this process?)**

All records will be handled by our trained staff with the utmost care according to professional archival standards. Light exposure is brief and will be from the overhead lighting equipment used to ensure a clear and high-quality image. It takes approximately 20-30 minutes to scan a single record book, depending on how large it is. Each page takes only a few seconds to scan, so the exposure to light is very minimal.

### **What has been the track record of Ancestry.com for timeliness, care of material, and general cooperativeness as a project partner?**

Ancestry.com has a well-established track record in digitizing historical records and has successfully partnered with many other denominations, including the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Presbyterian Historical Society. LACAP’s archivist, Sheila Joy, is supervising this digitization project and has had a great experience communicating and working with Ancestry.com so far. The digitization specialist, Allison Cadle, was trained by Ancestry.com in standard archival procedures for the handling of historical records and documents. The digitizing station is set up in our research library and operates under our staff’s supervision during our regular operating hours.



## Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey 2023 Report New Jersey Synod 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly

LSMNJ's diverse programs served more than 2,600 individuals through senior living, affordable housing, hospice, and home care. The organization is compelled by grace to serve those who hurt, who are in need, and who have limited choices.

### ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey** assists people of all ages, backgrounds, and faiths. The organization cares for some of the most disadvantaged, indigent families and seniors, as well as seniors in need of healthcare, home care, and hospice care services. Throughout 2023, LSMNJ continued its commitment to helping those with immediate needs while also keeping a strategic eye on the future through construction projects, program advancement, and employee engagement.
- ❖ **Crane's Mill Retirement Community**
  - Crane's Mill completed renovations to its front entrance porte-cochere, including new pillars, glass doors, and an updated appearance.
  - Touchtown communications were added throughout the campus so residents could enjoy in-house channels and digital signage.
  - The sales and marketing team nearly doubled its move-in number from the previous year.
  - Crane's Mill celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since opening its doors to residents.
  - The community opened a Spa and Massage suite for Independent Living Residents.
  - Rock Steady Boxing programming commenced in our wellness center for our residents and members of the outside community. The program is designed to help those with Parkinson's disease while also proving beneficial to anyone seeking help with balance, strength, and confidence.
  - Employees celebrated the community's first-ever Awards Ceremony, recognizing various departments and staff for outstanding performance.
  - Crane's Mill continued to enhance its reputation in the area, winning the Silver Best of Essex Award for Best Senior Living Community, and being named one of the Best Senior Living Communities and Best Short-Term Rehabilitation Facility by *U.S. News and World Report*.
- ❖ **Lutheran Senior LIFE**
  - Lutheran Senior LIFE continues to provide all services at its center in downtown Jersey City, NJ. In addition, services continue to be provided to participants in their homes, if they cannot attend the center due to their chronic medical conditions. The center continues to provide breakfast, lunch and frozen meals to our participants. We had some new team members join our organization in 2023. In July of 2023, we welcomed our new Center Director and in October 2023, we welcomed our new Medical Director.
  - Pastor Glenn, the LIFE Chaplain, continues to play a vital role by providing spiritual support at the center and by visiting homes and communicating through video chat.
  - In September, National PACE Month, participants enjoyed various activities for one dedicated week.
  - In November, our Enrollment and Marketing team volunteered with Angela Cares to package and deliver a Thanksgiving meal to over 1100 seniors throughout Hudson County.
  - Expansion plans for Union County are under development to increase services to the frail elderly through the provision of PACE services.
- ❖ **Journey Hospice**
  - Journey Hospice expanded its service area to include Pennsylvania, now serving patients in the greater Philadelphia area in addition to nine counties throughout southern and northern New Jersey.
  - Journey Hospice was recognized by CVAC (Citizens & Veterans Advisory Committee) for being an outstanding business of the year in 2023 for helping veterans.



- Journey has grown the massage therapy program allowing patients a type of healing, relief, and relaxation that medical treatments cannot compare. This holistic approach to pain and symptom management has proven results. Complimentary massages have been provided to healthcare professionals to allow them to experience the benefits of massage as well.
  - Journey continued to educate the community of South Jersey on the benefits of palliative care and hospice by participating in community health fairs, public forums, educational panels and speaking events.
  - Journey Hospice now has a company car with mobile advertising to help promote our brand and message to a diverse and constantly changing audience.
  - Employee of the month program was successful in appreciating employees who consistently display a positive and committed attitude while working hard. The employees are recognized for their efforts with balloons, a small Wawa gift card to purchase lunch, a certificate and their picture posted on the employee intranet, social media, and office wall.
- ❖ LSMNJ entered into a management services agreement with SpiriTrust Lutheran in which LSMNJ assumed management oversight of SpiriTrust Lutheran life plan communities, home care, and hospice operations, as well as shared CFO services. Beyond a common Lutheran heritage, both non-profit organizations have similar missions, values, and services. This partnership presents opportunities for operational efficiencies, cost savings, sharing of best practices, and a support system that is beneficial to both organizations.
  - ❖ The Great Place to Work Institute and its senior care partner, Activated Insights, have again for the fourth year in a row honored Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ with a certification as a Great Place to Work. In 2023 for the first time, LSMNJ also received the designation of “Best Place to Work in Aging Services.” The certification process involved surveying 100% of employees from across LSMNJ’s programs and locations and evaluating more than 60 elements of team members’ experiences on the job. These included employee pride in the organization’s community impact, the belief that their work makes a difference, and the feeling that their work has special meaning. Rankings are based on employee’s experience, no matter who they are or what they do.
  - ❖ The **LSMNJ Foundation** reported 28 churches throughout the state and 6 affiliated church groups supported us in 2023 along with 41 Corporate partners.
    - The foundation continued to benefit from a 2022 grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to continue to the support network established for pastors helping the communities dealing with disaster relief.
    - Additional grants included:
      - WSFS Bank- \$5,000 for general operating support
      - The Wawa Foundation -\$500 to fight food insecurity

#### PEOPLE SERVED IN 2023

LSMNJ served 2,660 people and outreached to 6,187 individuals as part of the many programs and services it provides across the state. The lives of New Jersey residents were improved through community services such as; HERO – 97 served, Immigration Legal Services – 434 served, Journey Hospice – 192 served, and SpiriCare at Home – 61 served. 1,065 qualified NJ residents lived in LSMNJ Affordable Housing properties; 803 seniors received residential and health services through Senior Healthcare and Retirement Living programs; and 8 adults with mental health needs lived in specialized long-term housing. Through the gracious efforts of 189 individual volunteers and 77 groups, 3,390 volunteer hours were provided in support of LSMNJ’s mission.

#### MORE ABOUT LSMNJ

Learn more about us at [www.lsmnj.org](http://www.lsmnj.org). Stay connected with us through social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube. If you would like to sign up to receive e-newsletters and other correspondence from LSMNJ, please sign up at <https://www.lsmnj.org/stay-connected/e-newsletter>.



President Amy Palazzolo, Vice President Glynis Reid Megargel.  
Treasurer Linda Benitz, Secretary Joanne Lucey

The NJ Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America NJWELCA is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). It is separately incorporated and is not an auxiliary of the church. It is financially independent and responsible for its own financial affairs. Financial support comes from individual and group offerings and gifts.

The NJ Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America NJWELCA Business Meeting was held via ZOOM on September 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., with the Annual Convention held on October 7, 2023, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton Junction, NJ.

The NJ WELCA Business meeting elections were held for Officers and Board Members. The Board for 2023-2025 is as follows; President Amy Palazzolo, Vice President Glynis Reid Megargel, Treasurer Linda Benitz, Secretary Joanne Lucey, Board Members Valerie Slack, Wannetta Philips, and Janet Walker. The Board Members were installed by Churchwide Representative Reverend Tracy Williams from Bellflower, California.

Monthly Bible Study sessions using the book Women of the Bible by American Bible Society was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month at 7:00 p.m. Starting in 2024, Bible Study and Workshops to be held on the Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please see our webpage NJWELCA.NET for details.

The following events are scheduled for 2024 and we are hoping your women's group will attend. Please visit our webpage for more detailed information.

### **Thankoffering Services**

March 9, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M., followed by luncheon and workshop on "Spiritual Gifts." At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 92 Burton Ave Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M., followed by luncheon and workshop on "Spiritual Gifts." At Holy Cross Lutheran Church 1500 Hooper Ave Toms River, NJ 08753

### **Annual Business and Convention**

Business Portion of the convention - October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

**Theme** – Faithful Journey: Here I Am Lord Via ZOOM or in Person (location to be announced)

Convention – gathering and workshops - October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Theme** – Faithful Journey: Here I Am Lord Good Sheperd Lutheran Church 112 Middletown Rd Holmdel NJ 07733

All women are invited and encouraged to attend our events. Our aim is to build fellowship and friendships among our Church's and congregational women's groups.

Please contact Amy Palazzolo on 862-284-4094 or email [Palahem1@aol.com](mailto:Palahem1@aol.com) for questions or more information.

## Benefits Making a Difference

At Portico we strive to offer benefits that make our plan members' lives better, so that they can fulfill their mission of helping others live their best lives. Here is a visual recap of what our community of 45,000+ members experienced in 2023.

**94**  
Marriages



**3,012**  
Medical Visits Via Text

By ELCA-Primary health plan members using 98point6, our text-based primary care service



**142**  
Births & Adoptions

**83%**  
Very Satisfied

With Portico's award-winning Customer Care Center



**535**  
Changes of Call

**2,354**  
Pounds Lost

By ELCA-Primary health plan members using the Omada prevention program, with 18,116 lbs. lost since 2018

**\$152K**  
Debt Paid Off

By members via LSS of Minnesota Financial Counseling, with over \$2.2M paid off since 2008

**15.8%**  
Of Member Income

Saved for retirement, on average, by members sponsored in the Traditional Benefits Program, thanks to employer and member contributions

**605**  
Retirements



**45**  
Beginning Disability Benefits

**60**  
Divorces

**905**  
Age 65+ Members

Participated each month, on average, in the SilverSneakers Fitness Program via ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefits



**\$212M**  
Annuity Payments

Received by members in the ELCA Participating Annuity

Our mission is to serve those who serve — financially, emotionally, and physically. We do this by securing quality, cost-effective, and useful benefits that make a difference for our members and sponsoring organizations. With each new year we continue to grow our pool and affirm the value and importance of church together.

Note: Unless a specific benefit program is mentioned, these numbers and percentages were drawn from across Portico's benefit programs.

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## HIGHLIGHTS Seafarers International House

### MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Into the Faithful Future

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

*"Though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great." Job 8:7*

In 2023, Seafarers International House celebrated its 150th anniversary of uninterrupted service to well over two million people. Starting humbly with one pastor in 1873, we have been fulfilling our mission of being the *Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants*, or more succinctly: of welcoming in the stranger.

Reflecting on our past, of the evolution of our services, always adapting, often moving physically from one guesthouse building to the next, we have reaffirmed that Seafarers International House is not a place but a service. In 2023, we welcomed forty-nine asylum seekers and provided them with free lodging and assistance from our new Social Worker, Michael Bradford, who collaborates with me tirelessly to make people who escaped violence and persecution feel at home, enabling many to become contributing members of their new homeland. We also offered 159 seafarers, often young mariners starting their careers or senior seafarers transitioning into retirement, affordable accommodations as they prepared for their next 3-6 months voyage or starting a new chapter of life, respectively.

During 2023, we strengthened our partnership with the Albany Maritime Ministry (AMM) with Pastors Kate Drefke and Lowell Chilton and hired Rev. Jonathan Westerlund to aid in the busy port of New Jersey & New York. In all ports, including Baltimore and

New Haven, we visited 1,094 ships with 12,522 crew members, bringing on-board essentials and being present and transporting 2,061 of these seafarers to the mall or medical facilities.

Thanks to many individuals, youth and business groups, and congregations, a record 3,118 seafarers regardless of their faith felt some Holiday cheer when they opened their Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and season's greetings, letting them know that we appreciate their sacrifices while they transport 90% of the things we use. Just look at the faces on the cover of this report and you can see the joy you have spread!

With our partners in the shipping industry, ship owners, and unions we celebrated our 150th anniversary at the Setting the Course Reception breaking an income record of over \$250,000 in crucial support of our Port Mission and subsidized lodging for mariners. We are grateful for the 2023 honorees John Atkins (Global Container Terminals), Mark W. Barker (Interlake Maritime Services), and Adam Vokac (Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association).

Yet, we also used the anniversary year to address future concerns. Through strategic planning involving all board members as well as members of the communities we serve, we determined that the current arrangement of renting our guesthouse to Breaking Ground furthers our mission by providing vital income to help us expand the port mission while continuing excellent lodging to asylum seekers and seafarers at the Markle Residence of the Salvation Army. This formula will allow us to save funds, complemented with donations from a comprehen-

#### MISSION

*Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.*

**SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in maritime ports on the Eastern Seaboard, Albany and in New York City.**

sive campaign, to eventually purchase a new mission-based home with over eleven guest rooms by 2026, or earlier, if a cost-effective opportunity arises.

Please browse our web site (SIHNYC.org) for more details. I thank all of you who supported our essential services to "the stranger" through 2023, - from small beginnings to a faithful future sharing God's justice, welcome, and love. ⚓

*Marsh Luther Drefke*  
Pastor and Executive Director



Members of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lititz, PA, helped me (kneeling in black) assemble Christmas-at-Sea satchels in November 2023.

# 2023 Program Impact

**17,919** immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services

**2,297** lodging nights (up from 1,764) provided to 156 seafarers in Manhattan.

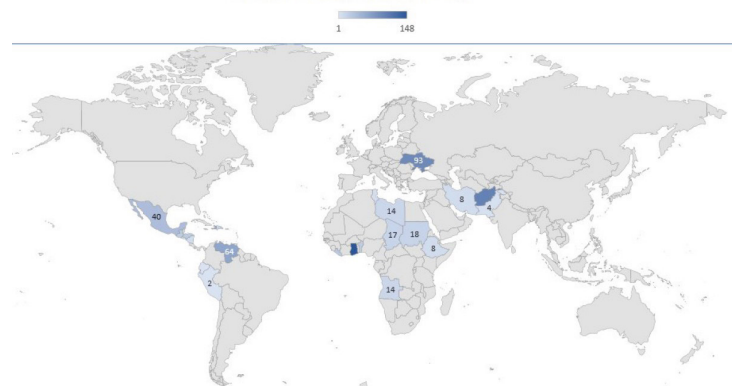
**12,522** seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,094 ships, receiving essentials they requested.

**2,061** seafarers were transported to a mall or medical facilities.

**3,131** seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers. This exceeds last year's record of 2,915!

**49** asylum seekers received free lodging for a total of 735 nights. They hailed from Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Venezuela. (See highlighted countries with number of lodging nights on the map below).

Asylee Lodging Nights by Country of Origin

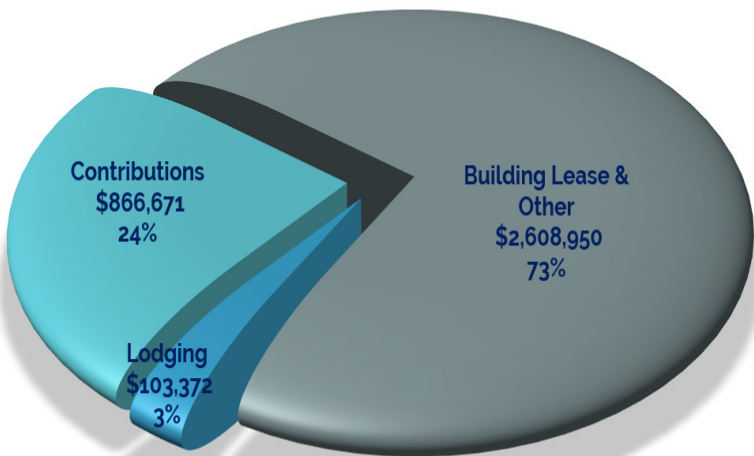


## 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

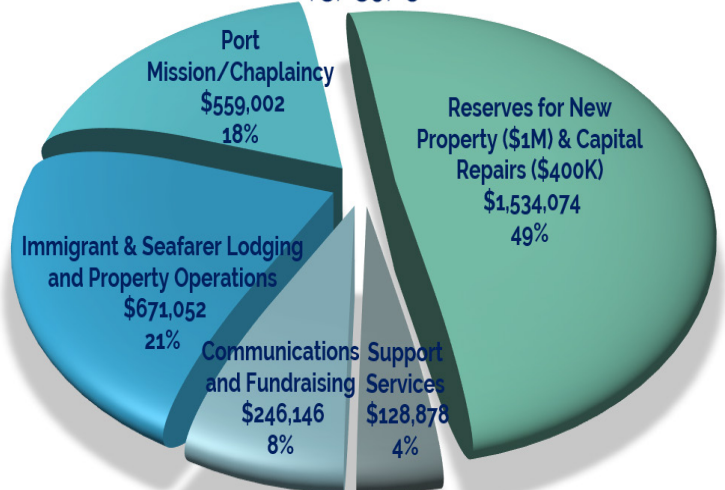
In accordance with our 2024 - 2028 strategic plan, operating gains help to build reserves for a new property (\$1M) with mission-based guest rooms and offices and to allow for capital repairs on the guesthouse (\$400,000), which is leased to Breaking Ground, which offers transitional housing to the community. That lease revenue supports our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Donations remain a vital pillar of income to support our services and future expansion.

Program services and reserves accounted for 88% percent of expenses with only 12% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$8,258,768 in 2022 to about \$10 million. These figures reflect *unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change*. To request the audited 2023 financial statements send an email to [henryk@sihnyc.org](mailto:henryk@sihnyc.org).

### Operating Revenue 2023 (pre-audit) \$3,578,993



### Operating Expenses & Reserves for New Property 2023 (pre-audit) \$3,139,152



## United Lutheran Seminary

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace and Peace be with you in your synod assembly. I pray that your work bears fruit that will give praise to God and service to neighbor in the broad context of ministries that you share.

United Lutheran Seminary continues to walk with you in this journey, asking for your prayers and support as we focus on four areas of accompaniment:

- 1) Providing a relevant education for students studying to be deacons and pastors through our recently revamped curriculum, which increases emphasis on the practice of ministry.
- 2) Seeking ways to decrease the costs of a seminary education so that our graduates will not be burdened with debt loads, and at the same time trying to bring as many students as possible into our classrooms.
- 3) Increasing the quantity and quality of continuing education options through initiatives like the Kindling Faith program so as to offer a lifelong community of learning for rostered and lay people. We also hope to be out among you in the synods more often than we have been since the pandemic.
- 4) Seeking your support to strengthen and sustain our relationship with your synod and the whole ELCA that responds to the needs of the church now and in the future.

I am happy to share that our enrollment numbers continue to be strong with just over 350 students across our degree programs: 116 studying to become deacons or pastors, 89 in the Doctor of Ministry program, and the remainder in other master's level or certificate programs. This fall we will be enrolling a new cohort of PhD students for the first time since before the consolidation of our predecessor schools. In addition, the Asian Theological Institute, Kindling Faith, and the Urban Theological Institute have received \$3 million in grants, collectively, to benefit their continued work.

We also welcome Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera and Dr. Andre Price to our faculty and the new CFO, Brandee Carrigan, to senior administration. We are grateful for those of you who serve on our Board of Trustees for the wisdom you bring to the table. Our Seminary Ridge Museum excels at sharing the complex narrative of the pivotal moment in the Civil War that continues to inform our theological discussion in these times of polarization and strife. Our Kindling Faith program is always expanding its programming and providing opportunities that are culturally relevant and spiritually fulfilling both online and in-person, and on both our physical campuses (type "Kindling Faith" in the search bar to learn more).

This being my fourth year as President of ULS, I can report with gratitude that the prospects for the seminary are very good as we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding. We hope you'll be able to celebrate with us at one of the many 2026 events we are planning to mark the occasion. Lastly, I wish you the peace that passes all understanding in the journey ahead—a journey we make together.

Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin

**2024 ELECTIONS**  
**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SYNOD COUNCIL - (To be ratified by the Synod Assembly):**

**~ Second Term**

**Mission District Elections (Terms Ending 2027)**

Delaware	Clergy	Rev. Joseph Graumann, St. Stephen, Woodbury
Gateway	Clergy	Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, Christ Our Redeemer, Jersey City
	Lay Female	Aretha Richardson, Trinity, Jersey City ~
Middle	Clergy	Rev. James Krombholz, St. Paul, Edison
Northern	Lay Male	Wayne Olsen, St. Paul, Ridgefield
	Lay Female	Gail Gugliotti, Holy Trinity, Hasbrouck Heights
Western	Lay Female	Wannetta Phillips, Prince of Peace, Rockaway/Denville ~
	Lay Male	Fred Humcke, Zion, Long Valley

**At-Large Synod Council- Clergy (Two needed to be elected by the Synod Assembly):**

Any Mission District	Rev. Eric Trozzo, St. Matthew, Moorestown ~
	Rev. Danielle McCleary, St. Matthew, Secaucus

**Synod Council- Shore Lay Female (One needed to be elected by the Synod Assembly):**

Shore, Lay Female	Jaime Howey, Zion, Egg Harbor City
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**2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, PHOENIX, AZ (July 28 – August 2, 2025)**

**(To be ratified by the Synod Assembly):**

**Mission District Elections -**

Delaware	Andrea Gerard, St. Stephen Woodbury
Middle	Agnetta Fasasi, Redeemer, Trenton
Northern	Sharla DeLawter, St. Paul, Ridgefield
Shore	Michael Hozik, St. James, Folsom
Western	Damian Vince, Holy Counselor, Vernon/Sussex

**AT-LARGE CLERGY** Any Mission District **(Two needed to be elected by the Synod Assembly):**

Rev. Fred Becker, Trinity, Dover  
Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff, St. Michael. Cherry Hill  
Rev. Sarah E. Fryman, Grace, Bayonne  
Rev. Sara Lilja, St. Matthew, Moorestown  
Rev. Psomi Psomas-Jackloski, St. Andrew, Parsippany  
Rev. Breanna Tessitore, Bethany, Palmyra  
Rev. Matt Thiringer, Gethsemane, Keyport  
Rev. Courtney Smith-Westerlund, Messiah Oakland  
Rev. Jonathan Westerlund, Christ, Paramus, and Seafarers and International House  
Rev. P. Wayne Zschech, Our Savior, Haddonfield

**GATEWAY DISTRICT – YOUNG ADULT** **(One needed to be elected by the Synod Assembly)**

Janasia Carter, Christ Our Redeemer, Jersey City

**CONSULTATION COMMITTEE (6- Year Term Ending 2030)**

**(Seven to be elected by the Synod Assembly):**

**Rostered Minister** Rev. Haydee Colon-Hernandez, St. John, Passaic  
Rev. Michael Linderman, Redeemer, Ramsey  
Rev. Margarete Ouji, First, Montclair

**Lay** Jack Bryant, St. Stephen, Woodbury  
Susan Homza, Reformation West Long Branch  
Taylor Latourette, Holy Trinity, Manasquan  
Cassandra Mack, Holy Trinity, Red Bank

**COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE (6-Year Term Ending 2030)**

**(Eight to be elected by the Synod Assembly):**

**Rostered Minister** Rev. Ramon Collazo, Santa Isabel, Elizabeth  
Rev. John Mack, Holy Trinity, Red Bank  
Rev. Carol Lindsay, Retired  
Rev. Pamela Werner, St. James, Folsom

**Lay** William Emerson, St. Mark, Oaklyn  
Laura Sanchez, Bridge of Peace, Camden  
Joy Serena, Cape May, Cape May  
Emanuel Smith, Redeemer, Trenton



**2024 NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

- ✓ *Congregation has completed the ELCA Parochial Report Part A*
- \* *Congregation contributes Mission Support sharing*
- ~ *Rostered Leader submitted Annual Report to Bishop Bartholomew*

**2024 MISSION DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

**SYNOD COUNCIL – Terms Ending 2027  
Elections Complete (Ratified by Synod Assembly)**



~ **THE REV. JOSEPH GRAUMANN**  
*Pastor, St. Stephen, Woodbury ✓ \**  
*Southwestern Cluster, Delaware District*



~ **THE REV. KIMBERLY A. VAUGHN**  
*Pastor, Christ Our Redeemer, Jersey City ✓ \**  
*Hudson Cluster, Gateway District*



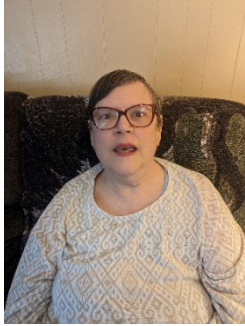
**ARETHA RICHARDSON**  
*Trinity, Jersey City ✓ \**  
*Hudson Cluster, Gateway District*



~ **THE REV. JAMES KROMBHOLZ**  
*Pastor, St. Paul, Edison ✓ \**  
*Raritan Cluster, Middle District*



**WAYNE OLSEN**  
*St. Paul, Ridgefield ✓ \**  
*Meadowlands Cluster, Northern District*



**GAIL GUGLIOTTI**  
*Holy Trinity, Hasbrouck Heights ✓ \*  
Meadowlands Cluster, Northern District*



**WANNETTA PHILLIPS**  
*Prince of Peace, Denville/Rockaway ✓ \*  
Northwest Cluster, Western District*



**FRED HUMCKE**  
*Zion, Long Valley \*  
Northwest Cluster, Western District*

**SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**AT-LARGE SYNOD COUNCIL CLERGY**  
*Term Ending 2027*  
**Two needed to be elected**

**~ THE REV. DANIELLE MCCLEARY**

*Pastor, St. Matthew, Secaucus ✓ \*  
Meadowlands Cluster, Northern District*

Pastor McCleary received a Masters of Divinity from United Lutheran Seminary in 2020. Before ordination, she worked as an archives assistant at the Lutheran Archives of Philadelphia, as well as the Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley. In September of 2021, Danielle was ordained and installed as pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Secaucus, New Jersey.



Within our Synod, Danielle is part of the Go And ... ! planning team.



~ **THE REV. ERIC J. TROZZO**  
*Pastor, St. Matthew, Moorestown ✓ \*  
 Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware District*

Pastor Trozzo has been pastor at St. Matthew Moorestown since 2020. Prior to his call to St. Matthew, Eric was a missionary with ELCA Global Mission, based in Malaysia. He has a PhD in Theology from Drew University and seminary degrees from Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Pastor Trozzo is a current member of the Synod Council, serves on the Synod’s Leadership Team, and is an honorary (voluntary) research associate with Australia Lutheran College, Adelaide Australia. In his community, Eric serves on the Rent Control Board in Shamong Township.

***SYNOD COUNCIL SHORE LAY FEMALE - Term Ending 2027***  
**One needed to be elected**

**JAIME M. HOWEY**  
 Zion, Egg Harbor City ✓ \*  
*South Shore Cluster, Shore District*

Jaime, a graduate of Stockton University, earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Theater/English and also a Bachelor’s Degree in Education. She has worked for the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District for the past 24 years, currently teaching English at Absegami High School, Galloway Township.



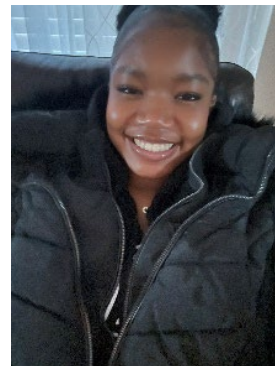
Jaime is very active in her congregation serving as a lector and communion assistant and for many years served as a confirmation class assistant. Every summer for the past decade, she has served on the organization committee and group leader for opening and closing ceremonies of Zion’s VBS.

Jaime served over a decade (2004-2020) on the Board for the Argo Newspaper, a Stockton University student run publication. Service in the community includes serving as the treasurer for the Absegami High School Boy's Lacrosse Booster Club. Through this involvement at the high school, she has impacted the local community in a variety of events including an annual *African American Read-in; Read Across America* in community schools; stocking and maintaining a *Little Free Library* in the community, and Hallway Halloween or Trunk-or-Treat.

**ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS**  
**Elections Complete (Ratified by Synod Assembly)**



**ANDREA GERRARD**  
*St. Stephen, Woodbury ✓ \*  
Southwestern Cluster, Delaware District*



**AGNETTA FASASI**  
*Redeemer, Trenton ✓ \*  
Mercer Cluster, Middle District*



**SHARLA DELAWTER**  
*St. Paul, Ridgefield ✓ \*  
Meadowlands Cluster, Northern District*



**MICHAEL HOZIK**  
*St. James, Folsom ✓ \*  
South Shore Cluster, Shore District*



**DAMIAN VINCE**  
*Holy Counselor, Vernon/Sussex ✓ \*  
Northwest Cluster, Western District*

**ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER NOMINEES**

**ELECTION AT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
GATEWAY DISTRICT – YOUNG ADULT – One needed to be elected**



**JANASIA CARTER**

*Christ Our Redeemer, Jersey City ✓\**

*Hudson Cluster, Gateway District*

Janasia is a dedicated pre-law senior at Seton Hall University, South Orange. Her journey has been shaped by a deep-rooted passion for justice and a commitment to service. Through experiences within the federal government, including roles at the Federal Pretrial Service Agency of NJ and the Department of Justice, Janasia has cultivated a solid foundation in public service. She is driven by a strong belief in upholding justice, advocating for reform, and contributing to the betterment of our global community. This fall, Janasia will be stepping into law school with enthusiasm, eager to leverage her unique background and skills to serve people well.

Janasia is very active at Christ Our Redeemer serving as acolyte coordinator (organizing and leading acolytes for worship services); lector; usher and counter (offerings, accounting for tithes, and maintaining records for financial transparency and accountability.)

She also volunteers with Halloween Trunk-a-Treat; clothing, shoes, and furniture drives; the weekly food pantry, and spearheading blood donation programs in her local community. Janasia writes, “With a mission of service leadership, I’m committed to using my legal education to make a positive impact and uphold the principles of justice for all.”

**AT-LARGE CLERGY – Two needed to be elected**

† *Has previously served as a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.*

**~ THE REV. FREDERICK BECKER**

*Trinity, Dover ✓\**

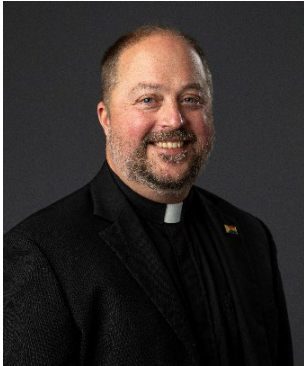
*Northwest, Western District*

Pastor Becker has served as pastor at Trinity in Dover since 2016, having served at Holy Trinity in Wildwood for his first call since 2012. He received an M. Div. from LTSP (now ULS) in 2011. Fred also earned an MS in Recreation and Park Administration, a BA in Geography, and completed coursework for a PhD in Leisure Studies. Before Seminary, Fred worked as a Camp director for the YMCA and several Day Camps at Independent schools in New England. During that time, he served as a council member for Christ Lutheran in Natick, MA.



Outside of congregational ministry, Fred served as a member of the Synod Council representing the South Shore Cluster; was a presenter at the Faith, Hope, and Love, our event for LGBTQ+ youth, and led Trinity in the Faithful Journey initiative, which concluded this fall. Pastor Becker has been involved in the EMU (Excellence in Ministry Unleashed) initiative since the initial grant period. Fred took over directing the program upon the retirement of former director Pastor Scott Schantzenbach.

With and around the community of Dover, Fred was the co-coordinator of the Dover Christmas Parade 2023, an annual presenter at the town Memorial and Veteran’s Day observances; serves on Black Lives Matter committee, and informally works with the local police department and library.



**~ THE REV. CHRISTOPHER BRUESEHOFF**  
*Pastor, St. Michael, Cherry Hill ✓ \*  
Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware District*

Pastor Bruesehoff has served as a pastor in congregational ministry in NJ for over twenty years. Prior congregations include Holy Cross, Toms River and Holy Counselor, Vernon. He holds a B.A. in Religion from Boston University and a M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Pastor Chris has earned an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of

Philanthropy, and he is a Level 2 ELCA Coach with focused training in discipleship.

Within our Synod, Pastor Chris is chairperson, Synod’s Mission Advocacy Table. Since 2006, he has served as a member of the Confirmation Camp Faculty and the ELCA Youth Gathering - Security Team.

In the community, Pastor Chris and family participate in the GenderCool Project, helping provide educational experiences to replace misinformed opinions about transgender youth with positive interactions; the Greater Kingston Area Civic Association, and the Tri-County Religious Leaders Association of Southern New Jersey.

**~ THE REV. SARAH FRYMAN**  
*Pastor, Grace, Bayonne ✓ \*  
Hudson Cluster, Gateway District*

Pastor Fryman, ordained in July 2023 in Ohio, is serving her first call as pastor at Grace. Sarah graduated from Capital University (Columbus, OH) with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and from United Lutheran Seminary (Philadelphia Campus) in May 2023 with a Master's of Divinity.

As a field education student, she served at Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken NJ. Sarah served as intern pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown RI, followed by a long-term supply pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Spring City, PA.

Beyond congregational ministry, Sarah is a member of Bayonne Interfaith Association and served as a member of ULS Student Executive Board (Philadelphia Campus Council President), and ULS Philadelphia Campus council.





**~ THE REV. SARA E. LILJA †**

*Assistant to the Bishop for Advocacy and Justice Ministries  
Interim Pastor, Holy Communion, Berlin ✓ \*  
St. Matthew, Moorestown ✓ \*  
Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware District*

Pastor Lilja serves as an Assistant to the Bishop, Executive Director of Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry, and interim pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Berlin. Sara earned her M.Div. from United Lutheran Seminary (former LTSG) and is a D.Min. candidate at Garrett Theological Seminary, in Pastoral Counseling and Organizational Development. Sara is also in a certificate program at the Philadelphia School of Psychoanalysis focusing on organizational consultancy.

She is currently the ELCA State Public Policy Officer for New Jersey, on the Leadership Team for the Coalition of Interfaith Religious Leaders, on the Board of Trustees of United Lutheran Seminary where she serves as Chairperson of Enrollment and Student Services Committee.

Pastor Lilja’s community involvement includes serving as an executive Board member of GIFT a community-feeding ministry, Girl Scout troop leader of GSCSJ, and Community Garden developer team in Berlin.

**~ THE REV. PSOMI PSOMAS-JACKLOSKI**

*Pastor, St. Andrew, Parsippany ✓ \*  
Central Cluster, Western District*

Psomi earned a Master of Divinity from United Lutheran Seminary and an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from Boston College. She has worked 40 years in professional ministry, in a variety of ecumenical settings: youth (local, diocesan,) young adults (local, diocesan, national,) retreat (local, diocesan,) extended service/mission weeks (local, diocesan, national.)



Psomi, ordained in April 2023, is serving in her first call, where she previously served as intern. Previously, Pastor Psomi was a youth minister at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Chatham.

Outside of congregational ministry, Psomi most recently served as a small group leader at our Synod Youth Retreat, and is currently a member of the Parsippany Interfaith Council.



~ **THE REV. COURTNEY SMITH-WESTERLUND** †  
*Pastor, Messiah, Oakland* ✓ \*  
*Bergen-Passaic Cluster, Northern District*

Pastor Smith-Westerlund received a BS in Family and Human Services and Nonprofit Management from Towson University, MD followed by serving for a year as a YAGM in South Africa with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa: Development Services. While in seminary Courtney worked with congregations in MA and PA, the Lutheran Archives Center, and youth ministry in SEPA. Receiving her M. Div from United Lutheran Seminary, she was ordained in November 2021.

Through the New Jersey Synod, Courtney serves on the Youth Ministry and Discipleship & Witness (Go And..!) Mission Teams, providing a unique understanding of congregational and synodical ministry, and the many ways we work together across generations and locations.

Outside of congregation ministry, she is a current board member for Young Clergy Women International, a global organization for clergy women under the age of 40; and recently served on the planning team for Bear Creek Camp's 50th Anniversary Celebration, crafting worship resources for congregation and synodical use. While in seminary Courtney worked as the food pantry coordinator at ULS.

~ **THE REV. BREANNA TESSITORE**  
*Pastor, Bethany, Palmyra* ✓ \*  
*Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware District*

Pastor Tessitore earned a BA in English Literature from Eastern University and graduated with a BA in English Literature in 2019. Breanna's seminary education began prior to and continued during the pandemic receiving her M. Div. from ULS. She was ordained in Maryland and is serving her first call.

Before serving at Bethany, Breanna was a youth director and vicar at St Paul's, Glenside, PA; Thank You Coordinator for HOBY MD, a non-profit whose flagship seminar is a leadership training for sophomores in high school. She also is a past camp counselor at Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Conference Center.

Outside of congregation ministry, Pastor Tessitore is currently a Police Chaplain in Palmyra.







~ **THE REV. MATT A. THIRINGER**  
*Pastor, Gethsemane, Keyport ✓\**  
*North Shore Cluster, Middle District*

For the past 26 years, Pastor Thiringer has served in parish ministry in Keyport. He earned a BA from Rutgers University, and a M. Div. From Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now ULS).

Matt has served as the Vice Pastor of Messiah, Parlin during two different times of transition. He is currently serving on the NJ Synod

Candidacy Committee.

In February 2023, Matt co-led a Christian-Jewish tour of Israel. He is an active participant in the Bayshore Interfaith Clergy group, and most recently preached at the 2023 Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service.

**THE REV. JONATHAN WESTERLUND †**  
*Pastor, Christ, Paramus ✓\**  
*Port Chaplain, Seafarers and International House*  
*Bergen-Passaic Cluster, Northern District*

Pastor Westerlund has a BA in Religious Studies from Stony Brook University, which focused on a variety of different religions and philosophical and historical perspectives on religion from a secular university, and a M.Div. from ULS at a unique time during the merger between Gettysburg & Philadelphia.

Jonathan transferred to the NJ Synod from the New England Synod when called by the Synod Council to interim ministry in Jersey City and Bayonne. While rostered in New England, he was a transitional pastor in multiple congregational settings in CT, RI, and MA; and pastor near Hartford, CT. He has participated in the New England Synod Transitional Ministry training and *Forward Leadership Community* focused on congregational vitality and adaptive change.

His ministry also includes port chaplaincy with seafarers and immigrants. Jonathan is a member of the North American Maritime Mission Association and the Interfaith Council of Greater Springfield, MA, and the Newington, CT, Interfaith Clergy Association.





~ **THE REV. P. WAYNE ZSCHECH**  
*Pastor, Our Savior, Haddonfield ✓\**  
*Southwestern Cluster, Delaware District*

Pastor Zschech holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Case Western Reserve University, a M. Div. and a D. Min. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now ULS). Wayne has served as pastor at Our Savior since 2006. Prior to transferring to NJ, he served congregations in Dover, DE; Vienna, VA; and Fallon/Terry, MT.

He served as Dean of Delaware Mission District and Cluster Counselor of Southwestern Mission Cluster, and is currently a Transforming White Privilege Workshop Facilitator. Wayne also speaks conversational German.

Outside of congregational ministry, Pastor Zschech is a member of Haddonfield Rotary, treasurer of Haddonfield Council of Churches, and an Ex-officio Board Member of Mustard Seed Community Childcare.

**CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**  
*Six-Year Term Ending 2030*  
*Seven needed to be elected.*

~ **THE REV. HAYDÉE COLÓN-HERNANDEZ**  
*Pastor, St. John, Passaic ✓\**  
*Bergen-Passaic Cluster, Northern District*



Pastor Colón-Hernandez is currently serving as mission developer of St. John, Passaic, a community of 74% Latine residents and speaks both Spanish and English. For many years Haydée, a psychotherapy professional, continues to serve people who struggle with various mental health issues and behavioral problems. She holds a Masters in Psychiatric Rehabilitation Counseling as well as an M Div. from ULS.

St. John’s outreach is Pan de Vida, a Word and Sacrament ministry for day workers at the parking lot of the local Home Depot. The congregation serves the day workers a breakfast. Haydée is the region coordinator of the Association of Latino Ministries, a member of the Mission Advocacy Table, and the Fund for Mission Management Committee.

In the community, Pastor Colón-Hernandez offers English classes to teach those in the community conversational English and basic grammar. She has also organized psychoeducational groups and participates in Faith NJ.

~ **THE REV. MICHAEL LINDERMAN**  
*Pastor, Redeemer, Ramsey ✓\**  
*Bergen-Passaic Cluster, Northern District*



In 2011, Pastor Linderman came back to full time ministry when he was called to serve at Redeemer. He enjoys worship planning, music, and preaching. Michael also teaches one course per semester as an adjunct professor in the Religious Studies Department at Seton Hall University. His Ph.D. is in the history and religions of South Asia. He also speaks Swahili.

Michael has served on Synod Council, volunteered for music at Synod youth events, served as a weekly chaplain at Crossroads summer camps, and worked on the Bishop's Challenge. Michael writes, "I have also had the pleasure to be internship supervisor to two pastoral interns."

In the local community, Michael has served as chaplain to the Ramsey Fire Department, been a guest speaker at Ramsey Pride events, and currently serves on the Ramsey School District's DEI committee.



~ **THE REV. MARGARETTE OUJI**  
*Pastor, First, Montclair ✓\**  
*Union-Essex Cluster, Gateway District*

Pastor Ouji earned a BS in Social Work at Concordia College, Masters of Social Work from the University of South Carolina, and a Masters of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Margarette was ordained in April 2022 after accepting their first call in Montclair. She was a pastoral intern at St. Paul Lutheran Church Oakland, CA.

Margarette is also currently serving as Vice Pastor at Holy Trinity, East Orange. Along with parish ministry, she also serves as Board Co-chair of the Board of Directors for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and Chaplain to the Board of Directors for Reconciling Works.

**JACK BRYANT**  
*St. Stephen, Woodbury ✓\**  
*Southwestern Cluster, Delaware District*



Jack is Senior Director of Creative Design & Production for Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., a management firm for specialty nursing organizations located in Pitman, NJ. As Director, he oversees and manages all publications and projects from start to finish. Utilizing the skills of individuals, he ensures the projects are completed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

He is currently the congregation president, a position he has held the last number of years. Jack has been a voting member for our Synod Assembly since 2020, and prior to that was elected as a 2019 Churchwide Voting Member

Jack served as a board trustee on the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries coordinating the Christmas gifts for the male clients of the Woodbury Food pantry.



**SUSAN HOMZA**  
*Reformation, West Long Branch ✓ \**  
*North Shore Cluster, Middle District*

During Susan’s career, she worked in restaurant and retail management in various establishments, and as an Assistant Comptroller for a commercial real estate firm.

As a very active member and leader at Reformation, Susan has served multiple terms as Council President, Council Vice President, and Treasurer. In 2008, Susan founded and continues to run the Community Clothes Closet, a gently used clothing ministry open to anyone in the community in need of clothing.

She has also participated in God’s Work our Hands Day, and CROP walk.

**TAYLOR LATOURETTE**  
*Holy Trinity, Manasquan ✓ \**  
*North Shore Cluster, Middle District*

Taylor received a Bachelor's of Education from Seton Hall University in Elementary and Special Education. He is currently in his ninth year working in an elementary classroom, and for the last six years teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade for Wall Twp. Public Schools.

At Holy Trinity, Taylor has served as co-chair of the worship & music committee, served on the congregation council, and is director of sanctuary and outdoor planter beautification. In the community, Taylor has been involved with MOVE, an outreach with furniture donations to those in need. Taylor was also a member of the church choir.



**CASSANDRA MACK**  
*Holy Trinity, Red Bank ✓ \**  
*North Shore Cluster, Middle District*



Cassandra holds a BS in Accounting from NY Institute of Technology with a career as a CPA/Computer Auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and CPA/Internal Auditor, Warner Lambert.

She is a past Secretary of the NJ Synod and Constitution Review Committee Chair.

Cassandra is a congregation adult leader at Holy Trinity, and previously served as a Counselor, YMCA Afterschool Program, Jersey City Public School 37, and Team Leader, Dialogue for Peace, Hudson County Brotherhood Sisterhood Association

**COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE**  
***Six-Year Term Ending 2030***  
***Eight needed to be elected.***

~ **THE REV. RAMON A. COLLAZO**  
*Pastor, Santa Isabel, Elizabeth ✓ \**  
*Essex-Union Cluster, Gateway District*

Pastor Collazo holds a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, and a M. Div. from LTSP/ULS.

Ramon has fourteen years of experience as a mission developer and speaks both English and Spanish. Along with serving at Santa Isabel and those held at the Elizabeth Detention Center, he is also Vice Pastor of St. Matthew, Union City.

In the community, Ramon serves as treasurer of the New Jersey Clergy Coalition for Justice; a member of Faith in New Jersey; the executive committee of Seafarer's and International House, and was very active with the Synod immigration committee.



~ **THE REV. CAROL A. LINDSAY**  
*St. Stephen, South Plainfield ✓ \**  
*Raritan Cluster, Middle District*

Pastor Lindsay earned a B.A., Biblical Studies/Christian Education, John Brown University and a M. Div., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She did post M.Div. studies at Luther Seminary and a D. Min., Drew University Theological School. Carol retired after serving at Calvary, Cranford for 21+ years. Thirty-five years of ordained ministry included specialized ministry, regular calls & intentional interims.

When recommended to serve, Carol was Western district representative to Synod Council and a member of the Synod Assembly Planning Team, and most recently a 2021 Leadership circle, ELCA, 2024 (stewardship designation).

She is a monthly sponsor of the Food Pantry, St. Stephen's, South Plainfield (current), was an active member of the Cranford Clergy Council, and helped to create "Loaves, no Fishes" utilizing Breadsmith Bakery leftovers for those in need.

~ **THE REV. JOHN E. MACK JR.**  
*Pastor, Holy Trinity, Red Bank ✓ \**  
*North Shore Cluster, Middle District*

Pastor John Mack is a graduate of Wagner College, Staten Island, NY with a BA in Sociology, and a M. Div. from United Lutheran Seminary (LTSP). In addition to parish ministry, John served as a board trustee for the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and the Hudson County Brotherhood/Sisterhood Association.



Locally, John joins ecumenical partners in the Red Bank Ministers Association and the Monmouth County Housing Alliance.



**THE REV. PAMELA J. WERNER**  
*St. James, Folsom ✓\**  
*South Shore Cluster, Shore District*

Pastor Werner is a graduate of LTSP (now part of United Lutheran Seminary) and has served as a parish pastor, a hospice chaplain, and a hospital chaplain in 38 years of ministry. She is a trained Life and End of Life Coach working toward certification in End of Life Coaching.

Pam is currently serving on the Synod Council and as Co-counselor for the South Shore Cluster. She has also served as Vice-pastor to congregations during vacancies.

Pastor Werner works with an outreach program started in the Folsom community to help those in need of a home and those who are struggling. Pam is a member and a volunteer at the local Art Center and also participates in a local Pride Event as part of our church's outreach ministry.

**WILLIAM EMERSON**  
*St. Mark, Oaklyn ✓\**  
*Southwestern Cluster, Delaware District*



Bill works for Troemner LLC, a leading supplier of precision weights and mass calibration standards.

At St. Mark in Oaklyn, he is the congregation Vice President and member of the mutual ministry committee. Within our Synod, Bill is a former member of the Synod Council from the Delaware District. Currently he serves as a member of the Mission Advocacy Table.



**LAURA N. SANCHEZ**  
*Bridge of Peace, Camden ✓\**  
*Burlington/Camden, Delaware District*

Laura earned a MSW from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a Human Services Planner, Homeless Services, for the Community Planning and Advocacy Council, Pennsauken Township. Other recent work experience includes social work in affordable housing, and management in a variety of HIV/AIDS programs.

Laura is a member of the Synod's Health and Mental Health Mission Team. She was a previous member of the Synod Council and the Assembly Planning Committee.

Within the community of Camden, Laura is active in domestic violence education and advocacy; COVID-19 outreach and testing. Laura has organized Bridge of Peace and others for gun violence prevention and domestic violence awareness. Other areas of outreach ministry include suicide prevention walks and voter registration and education with the local community during the operating hours of the congregation's food pantry.

**JOY SERENA**

*Cape May, Cape May ✓ \**

*South Shore Cluster, Shore District*

Joy received a Registered Nurse degree from The Cooper Hospital School of Nursing. The majority of her career was as an operating room nurse, which included work in obstetrics and infection control.

Although retired from nursing, she is very busy at Cape May Lutheran teaching a Healthy Bones Exercise and lecture program for seniors and residents of the community. Joy is currently taking an online Yoga course to be certified in Chair Yoga as part of her teaching.

She has served as vice president and secretary of the church council and currently heads the Altar Care Committee, is in the choir, WOTC, Outreach Committee and organizes special events such as a New Year's Eve gathering and St. Patrick's Day luncheon. In 2019, she was a voting member for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Wisconsin.



Within her community, Joy is a tutor at Cape Cares, a program for underprivileged children in the housing projects of Cape May. She is also a substitute volunteer at the local food pantry and the community Food Pantry in the Villas when needed.



**EMANUEL SMITH**

*Redeemer, Trenton ✓ \**

*Mercer Cluster, Middle District*

Emanuel has worked for United Airlines for about twenty- five years as a United Airlines, Inc/ Supervisor Airport Operations.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from A.M.E. Zion University College, Monrovia, Liberia. Over the years, Emanuel has held various positions at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Emanuel was a previous member of the Synod Council and served on the Personnel Committee.