Bulletin of Reports

for the

Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly

of the

NEW JERSEY SYNOD, ELCA

May 6-7, 2022

Virtual Assembly

New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Thirty-fourth 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.

2022 BULLETIN OF REPORTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	Pages 5-6
General Information	Page 4
Letter from the Presiding Bishop	Pages 1-2
Meet the ELCA Churchwide Rep	Page 3
Robert's Rules of Order	Pages 9-10
Rules of Procedure	Pages 11-12
Spending Plan 2023	Pages 13-16
Workshops (Friday, May 6)	Pages 7-8

Report of the…

Anti-Racism Team	Page 56
Archivist	Page 52
Bishop	Pages 20-26
Bosnia International Servant Trip	Page 57
Candidacy Committee	Pages 58-60
Coaching Team	Page 61
Compensation Aid Task Force	Page 62
Constitution Review Committee	Page 63
Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee	Page 64
ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission	Pages 48-51
Fiscal Management, Administration & Property Cmtte	Page 65
Fund for Mission Management Committee	Page 66-67
Mission Advocacy Table	Pages 53-54
Necrologist	Pages 27-29
Nominating Committee & Biographical Information	Pages 17-19
Secretary	Page 31
Stewardship Ministry	Page 46-47
Treasurer	Pages 32-35
Synod Council	Pages 36-45
Youth Ministry Mission Team	Pages 55
Vice President	Page 30

Ministry Partner Reports

Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center	Page 68
ELCA Candidacy and Leadership Region 7 & 8	Page 69
Lutheran Archives Center	Pages 70-73
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry	Pages 74-78
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Page 79
Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ	Pages 80-81
Mission Investment Fund	Pages 82-83
NJ diakonia Steering Committee	Page 84
Portico Benefit Services	Page 85
Seafarers & International House	Pages 86-93
United Lutheran Seminary	Page 94
1517 Media – Augsburg Fortress	Page 95

"And [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

Dear siblings in Christ,
When I talk about our goal of engaging a million new, young, diverse people I get asked a lot, "I'm not new, young, or diverse. Am I not important to the church anymore?" My answer is always the same, "You've never been more important."

When we committed to our new goal, we identified our purpose as "Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love." This goal does not happen without the people who are already part of this church. Theresa of Avila talked about the church as the hands and feet of Christ in the world, the very way God will work to engage new people.

Those aren't easy things to do and certainly not ones that only a few of us can do alone. God has blessed us with so many resources to do this work: nearly 3.6 million people, 65 synods, and 350 CWO staff, plus colleges, universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, and other affiliated organizations, and our separately incorporated ministries. We truly are a church of abundance.

So, what can you do right now?

- Pray. For our church. For one another. For those whom we have yet to meet.
- Find time to listen to people who are new to the ELCA, young, and/or diverse. Share the story of Jesus with them.

Along the way, don't forget: You are important.

Grace and peace,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

"[Jesús] les dijo: 'Vayan por todo el mundo y anuncien las buenas nuevas a toda criatura'" (Marcos 16:15).

Estimados hermanos en Cristo:
Cuando hablo de nuestra meta de atraer a un millón de personas nuevas, jóvenes y diversas, me preguntan mucho: —No soy nuevo(a), joven ni diverso(a). ¿Ya no soy importante para la iglesia?— Mi respuesta siempre es la misma: —Nunca has sido más importante.

Cuando nos comprometimos con nuestra nueva meta, identificamos nuestro propósito como "Activar a cada uno de nosotros para que más personas conozcan el camino de Jesús y descubran la comunidad, la justicia y el amor". Esta meta no se alcanza sin las personas que ya son parte de esta iglesia. Teresa de Ávila habló de la iglesia como las manos y los pies de Cristo en el mundo, la misma forma en que Dios trabajará para atraer a nuevas personas.

Esas no son cosas fáciles de hacer, y ciertamente no son cosas que unos cuantos de nosotros podemos hacer solos. Dios nos ha bendecido con tantos recursos para hacer esta obra: casi 3.6 millones de personas, 65 sínodos y 350 miembros del personal de la Oficina Nacional de la Iglesia, además de universidades, seminarios, organizaciones de ministerio social y otras organizaciones afiliadas, y nuestros ministerios incorporados por separado. Realmente somos una iglesia de abundancia.

Entonces, ¿qué puede hacer usted ahora mismo?

- Orar. Por nuestra iglesia. El uno por el otro. Por aquellos que aún tenemos que conocer.
- Saque tiempo para escuchar a las personas que son nuevas en la ELCA, jóvenes y/o diversas. Comparta con ellas la historia de Jesús.

A lo largo del camino no olvide esto: Usted es importante.

Gracia y paz,

Meet our ELCA Churchwide Representative

Nick Kiger
Director for Mission Support

Nick Kiger is the Director for Mission Support with the ELCA churchwide expression. Nick lives and works from Columbus, OH, where he is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He is married to Misty and they have a six year old daughter, Kara and a two year old son, Cameron.

Nick received his Bachelor of Arts in religious studies from Otterbein University and his Master of Theological Studies degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Nick feels blessed to get to experience many different settings of the church. His work has taken him to oil fields, prisons, Native American reservations, storefront churches, Latine congregations in the deep south and rural congregations in the Midwest. In all these places he has experienced the love of God and how we are truly church together for the sake of the world and has learned how the generosity of all three expressions of the ELCA, through Mission Support, makes our ministries possible.

NEW JERSEY SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
May 6-7, 2022

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **LOGIN TO ZOOM**
   Voting members are encouraged to log into the "zoom room" early, beginning Friday at 6:00 PM. The zoom link will be emailed to all voting members prior to the assembly.

   Prompt check-in is requested as a quorum is needed to open the Assembly. The "zoom room" will open on Saturday by 8:30 AM.

   Visitors may view the entire assembly livestream via our YouTube page.
   (youtube.com/NJSynodELCA)

2. **VOTING & CHECK-IN**:
   Voting will be done through VPOLL, an online voting/check-in system. You will need a smartphone, tablet or computer with an internet connection (or data plan) in order to cast your vote. A smartphone is highly recommended. Voting prompts will appear on your screen at the appropriate times. Direct links to the VPOLL website will also be posted in the zoom room.

   Voting Members will receive an email (prior to assembly) with your individual login credentials. These credentials are unique to each voting member.
   PLEASE NOTE: Whatever device you first login from is the device you must use to vote with throughout the assembly. Smartphones are recommended.

3. **GERMANE MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**:
   When a Voting Member makes a motion "from the floor", the Voting Member must present the motion using the raise hand feature of zoom.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
NEW JERSEY SYNOD
May 6 & 7, 2022

Together We Are God's Tapestry of Love

Friday, May 6

2:00-3:15 pm Pre-Assembly Workshops
3:30-4:45 pm Pre-Assembly Workshops

6:00 pm Zoom room opens

6:30 pm **Opening Prayer/Devotions**

6:45 pm **Session One**

Welcome and Introduction to Assembly

Orientation to zoom etiquette and voting

Establish quorum

Consent Agenda

Rules of Procedure, Minutes, Assembly Committees

Report of Nominating Committee

Rostered Ministers New to the Synod

Report of Synod Council
Spending Plan Presentation

Celebration and Thank You for Cassandra Mack

Congregational Anniversaries

8:15 pm **Closing Prayer**

8:30 pm Assembly in Recess

Saturday, May 7

8:30 am Zoom room opens

9:00 am **Dwelling in the Word**

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery." Colossians 2:2 (The Message)

9:30 am **Session Two**

Bishop's Report

Bishop's Challenge Team report and celebration

Ballot 1 – Synod Council

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Session Three**

Churchwide Report

Report of the Treasurer

Report of Synod Council
Adoption of Spending Plan

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center report

Ballot 2 – Synod Council

Rostered Leaders Anniversaries and Retirements

Synod Council Report
Dates for 2023 Assembly

12:15 pm **Closing Prayer and Commissioning for Mission**

12:30 pm Adjournment

THIRTY-FOURTH NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY
FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery."

Colossians 2:2 (The Message)

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

Session 1 - 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

2023 Spending Plan Workshop
Advocacy Ministry in New Jersey
Being Woven into God's Tapestry of Love
How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving
In the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication
Weaving the Tapestry: Addressing Structural Racism in NJ
Welcoming the Stranger: Heritage and Commitment

Session 2 - 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

2023 Spending Plan Workshop
Bishop's Challenge
How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving
In the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication
The Reconciling Journey
Welcoming the Stranger: Heritage and Commitment
Youth Ministry in a Post-Pandemic World

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

❖ *2023 Spending Plan Workshop . . . an open forum to learn about the Synod's generosity*

Learn more about Synod Council's 2023 proposed spending plan to support our ministries - from our individual congregations to worldwide through ELCA. More than just the numbers. Come prepared with your questions.
Leaders: Synod Treasurer Jim Harris with support and input of the Financial Management, Admin. and Property Committee

❖ *Advocacy Ministry in New Jersey*

Join the conversation as the Justice and Peace ministries in our Synod are being redeveloped. How can you, your youth group, your neighbors, and your congregation get involved to engage your faith in Love!
Leader: The Rev. Sara Lilja, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice and Advocacy

❖ *Being Woven into God's Tapestry of Love*

This workshop will share glimpses of the wonderful tapestry of diverse ministries led by our passionate mission developers and redevelopers. Our mission starts and strategic ministries are joining what God is doing in neighborhoods and communities by weaving people into a tapestry of love, hope, justice, abundance, and possibilities.
Leaders: Mission Re-Developers and Pastor Maristela Freiberg, Assistant to the Bishop and Dir. Evangelical Mission

❖ *Bishop's Challenge*

Through our yearlong conversations regarding race, we learned of the untold histories of racial discrimination. Many of us have come to understand that generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for African Americans to work their way out of the lower class. Join us as we go deeper into these realities, and explore with us solutions to repair this breach.
Leaders: Bishop's Challenge Team

❖ ***How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving***

Money doesn't grow on trees...or does it? Rooted together in God, our faith communities provide a rich soil of relationships and values that bear fruit through generous giving to sustain ministry now and later. Growing these gifts means cultivating relationships, tapping into shared values and providing a road map and structure to steward gifts at every stage of life. Join us to talk about:

- exciting and hopeful news about abundant generosity opportunities now available for your congregation
- a strategy to connect with people who want to support your congregation with large gifts
- help for you to create a structure to handle large gifts

Leaders: Yvonne Jones Lembo, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation, and Pastor Dean Brown, Assistant to the Bishop

❖ ***It was in the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication***

Join the conversation that will cover some basics, discuss things learned in the livestream world, and provide resources for participants to copy and utilize.

Leader: Pastor Marc Stutzel, Christ, Woodcliff Lake, and Communication Team Leader

❖ ***The Reconciling Journey: Becoming a Welcoming Congregation for your LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ***

Hear how other congregations have journeyed to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation and what it could mean for you. Learn how you can do the same.

Leaders: Pastors Dámaris Ortega, St. Luke, Dunellen and Ascension, New Brunswick; Serena Rice, Abiding Peace, Budd Lake; Matthew Cimorelli, Reformation, West Long Branch, and Pam Werner, St. James, Folsom.

❖ ***Weaving the Tapestry: Addressing Structural Racism in NJ***

Join Dr. Dianne Browne and others to hear how the NJ Synod is taking steps to eradicate structural racism in our state, our synod, and our congregations. We will explore ways you can become a part of the effort.

Leaders: Dr. Dianne Browne, Anti-Racism Task Force chair and friends.

❖ ***Welcoming the Stranger: Our Lutheran Heritage and Commitment to Welcome***

Join Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) to learn more about how refugee resettlement and immigration are ingrained in our Lutheran heritage, and how Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is leading the work of welcome across the nation. Leaders will provide updates on the work of LIRS and ways you and your congregation can join this holy work of welcome.

Leaders: Elizabeth Wagner, Board Chair, Prince of Peace, Princeton Junction, and Andrew Steele, VP for Development and Outreach

❖ ***Youth Ministry in a Post-Pandemic World***

What are your dreams for youth ministry post pandemic? What challenges are you facing? Come meet with youth leaders from around the synod to dream of what comes next and how to make it happen. We will talk about upcoming planned events such as Opening Day at Cross Roads in May, Our Gathering at Cross Roads in July, the Synod Youth Retreat in November, and the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Leaders: Youth Ministry Mission Team

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-FOURTH 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.). Registered Voting Members will receive the access link for Zoom participation. Visitors may view via livestream on the New Jersey Synod website. Microphones should be muted unless a person is recognized by the chair.

2. In order to vote, Voting Members must be registered and logged into the virtual Assembly.

3. Each attendee is responsible for their own connection to the internet and the meeting room; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented them from participating in the meeting.

4. Two (2) lay representatives of Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities of the New Jersey Synod shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.

5. 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.

6. 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, not vote, during the Assembly.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Voting will take place in a variety of ways throughout the assembly. These may include various ways using electronic platforms. To have an abstention recorded, notify the secretary via the chat function. Abstentions do not count in the vote totals.

11. A voting member wishing to make a motion must first be recognized by the chair and then post the motion in the chat box to the secretary before speaking to it.

12. When an item of business is opened by the chair for discussion, those voting members wishing to speak shall do so as instructed. Before speaking, each person must indicate their name and

congregation name and location. Members must specify if they are speaking for or against the item under consideration.

13. 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 of the assembly.

14. The deadline for submitting resolutions was March 7, 2022. Late resolutions will not be accepted; any resolutions received after the deadline will be considered by the Synod Council at its next meeting. The Synod Council and/or Executive Committee may submit resolutions directly to the Assembly.

15. All resolutions 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

16. Due to the online nature of the assembly, nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

17. 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 2023 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 **8:00pm, Friday, May 6** to submit written notice of such intent to the Treasurer, James Harris, using the chat function of the meeting platform.

3. 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.

Proposed 2023 Spending Plan

February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024

The proposed spending plan supports 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

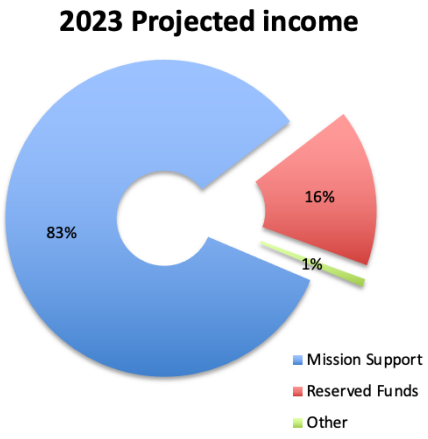
Synod income includes Mission Support from congregations, distributions from endowed funds, support from the national church and income from other sources.

	2019 Actual		2020 Actual		2021 Actual		2022 Approved Spending Plan		2023 Proposed Spending Plan	
Mission Support	1,863,256	88%	1,751,453	88%	1,801,925	88%	1,800,000	86%	1,760,000	83%
Restricted Fund draws		9%		9%		10%		13%		16%
Synod Council Deficit Reduction	-		-		-		4,739		-	
Restricted support for Mission Development	104,602		95,927		114,981		170,000		126,000	
OSEF support for Bishop's Office									100,000	
Health Benefit Assistance	5,000		-		6,697		10,000		10,000	
United Seminary Endowment support	-		5,000		10,000		10,000		10,000	
Endowment support for Candidacy	24,042		20,706		20,907		27,000		29,000	
Stewardship support	652		-		-		1,000		1,000	
Endowment for Staff Housing Support	5,000		-		-		6,000		6,000	
Endowment to Support Cross Roads	20,000		20,000		20,000		20,000		20,000	
Wurffel Administrative Support	6,700		7,800		10,000		6,700		6,700	
EMU Support	8,600		8,600		8,600		-		8,600	
Mission Development - Property Manager	19,941		19,108		20,421		21,000		22,000	
ELCA support to the NJ Synod		0%		1%		0%		0%		0%
ELCA support for Mission Director	10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000	
ELCA NJ Synod support			4,000		-		-		-	
Other income		2%		2%		1%		1%		0%
Individual Contribution Support	1,000		3,917		2,408		-		-	
Special Giving Operations Support	2,148		5,294		8,285		-		-	
Thrivent Choice	239		912		712		1,000		1,000	
Interest Income - All Banks	35,259		37,647		5,699		13,000		6,000	
Total Income	2,106,439		1,990,363		2,040,634		2,100,439		2,116,300	

Mission Support is the gifts provided by congregations to support the work of our synod. Mission Support provided 88% of the spending plan income in 2021 and is forecast to provide 83% of income in 2023.

Restricted Fund draws describes money distributed from restricted funds to synod programs that satisfy those funds' restrictions. This income supports missions within New Jersey, the ULS seminary and Candidacy, Cross Roads Camp, pastoral support programs, Stewardship programming, and synod property management.

Bank interest was significantly higher in 2019 and 2020 because we earned interest on money set aside to remove the Cross Roads dam. We also earned less interest lately because of very low rates.



Spending Plan

Section 1: ELCA Churchwide and Ministry Partners

The New Jersey Synod supports our partners in ministry within New Jersey, throughout our region and across the churchwide organization. Half of all Mission Support gifts go directly to ELCA churchwide.

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Approved Spending Plan	2023 Proposed Spending Plan
ELCA Share of Mission Support	930,920	872,476	900,962	900,000	880,000
United Lutheran Seminary	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	100,000
Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
Lutheran Archives Center	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
New Jersey Interfaith Coalition	2,500	500	500	500	500
Region 7 Center for Mission	-	-	-	1,000	-
Seafarers and International House	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Diakonia	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of NJ	19,992	19,992	20,000	20,000	-
	1,069,412	1,008,968	1,037,462	1,037,500	1,016,500
Percentage of spending plan	**51%**	**54%**	**55%**	**49%**	**49%**

Partners in ministry include the United Lutheran Seminary and Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. Increases to the United Lutheran Seminary and to Cross Roads are proposed. Overall, 49% of the spending plan supports the ELCA Churchwide and Ministry Partners. Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey (LEAMNJ) is now part of the synod office and is funded as part of Section 2 Assistants to the Bishop and staff support.

Section 2. Strengthening Congregations

This section focuses on the processes and programs that strengthen congregations' capabilities and facilitate collaborative ministry across our synod.

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Approved Spending Plan	2023 Proposed Spending Plan
Assistants to the Bishop and staff support	310,384	273,450	219,597	288,547	303,012
Youth Ministry program	16,475	3,543	26,448	40,500	40,500
Synod Continuing Education	220	(1,511)		2,000	2,000
Discipling and Witness Team	199	-		1,000	1,000
Justice and Peace Mission Teams	456	-		1,000	1,000
Synod Communications	8,578	6,426	6,338	9,000	9,000
Stewardship Resource Development	652	-		1,000	1,000
	336,964	281,909	252,383	343,047	357,512
Percentage of spending plan	**16%**	**15%**	**13%**	**16%**	**17%**

Strengthening Congregations within the New Jersey Synod includes:

- Assistants to the bishop and other personnel supporting congregational needs
- Advocacy Ministry
- Youth Ministry programs and grants
- Support for the Discipleship and Witness Mission Team
- Support for the Justice and Peace Mission Team
- Development and production of congregational Stewardship resources
- Synod-wide communications

Resources devoted to strengthening our Synod congregations make up 17% of our 2022 plan.

Section 3: Congregational Vitality

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Approved Spending Plan	2023 Proposed Spending Plan
New Jersey Missions	125,991	96,627	120,702	170,000	126,000
Percentage of spending plan	6%	5%	6%	8%	6%

This section enables new expressions of ministry in our Synod, assists the start-up of new churches and revitalizes existing ministries. During 2021 the synod supported Bridge of Peace in Camden, Christus in Camden, St. Luke in Dunellen, Santa Isabel in Elizabeth, St. Stephan Grace in Newark, Misión Pan de Vida in Passaic, Misión Luterana Reconciliación in Pennsauken, Morning Star in Ridgefield, St Bartholomew in Trenton, and the Santa Isabel Ministry to Immigrants in Detention. The smaller amount in 2023 reflects past program spending and does not imply a cut in support.

Section 4: Office of the Bishop

The Office of the Bishop supports and guides congregations and clergy, coordinates church and legal processes and nurtures synodical leadership.

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Approved Spending Plan	2023 Proposed Spending Plan
The Bishop and staff support	216,598	219,408	217,164	227,361	225,022
Candidacy and seminarians	24,042	20,706	20,907	27,000	29,000
Pastoral supply coordination	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,600
First Call Pastoral support					7,200
Ecumenical and interfaith programs	1,547	-	1,343	1,300	1,300
Synod ordinations and special events	3,112	1,601	2,583	3,000	3,000
Synod Assembly and Assembly reserve	23,915	-		12,500	12,500
	272,215	244,715	244,998	274,161	281,622
Percentage of spending plan	13%	13%	13%	13%	14%

The bishop's office leads and administers:

- Congregational vacancy and call processes
- Seminarian formation and identifying clergy candidates
- Interaction and dialogue with other church and ministry partner organizations
- Gatherings such as the Synod Assembly
- Pastoral supply for congregations

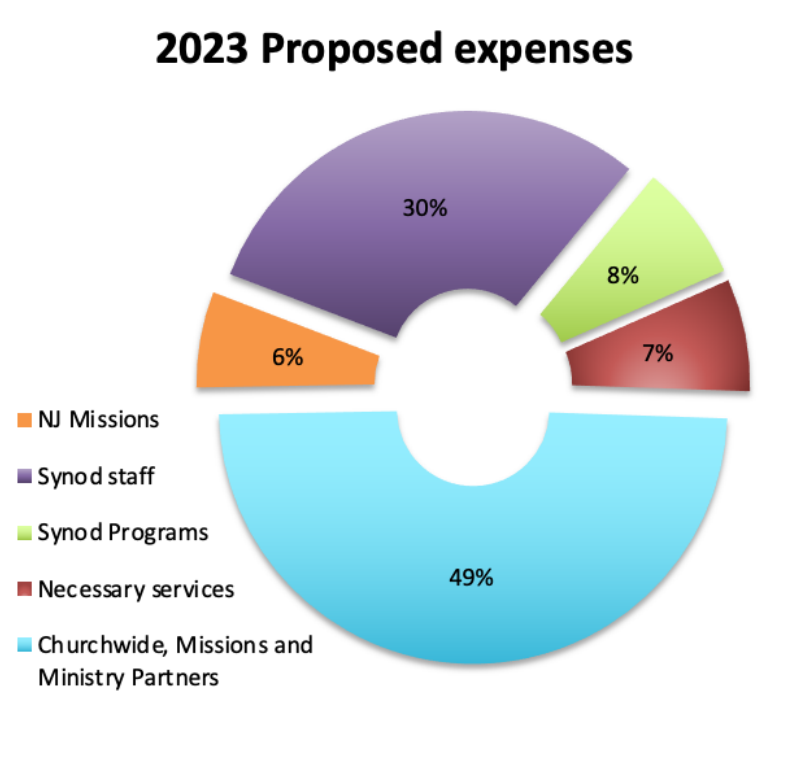
The plan adds funding to provide guidance, programs and help to first-call pastors.
14% of the proposed synod spending plan supports the Office of the Bishop.

Section 5: Oversight and Planning for the Sake of the Mission

Section 5 supports the administrative aspects of running the synod organization including managing our resources and properties, fulfilling legal and regulatory requirements, and planning for our future.

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Approved Spending Plan	2023 Proposed Spending Plan
Staff support	86,397	88,387	90,791	88,631	95,231
Staff Travel Expenses	42,078	18,901	19,068	36,000	36,000
Volunteers Meeting & Travel	5,432	889	106	6,000	6,000
Audit, Legal and Insurance	61,357	51,497	34,141	36,500	37,000
Property management	65,885	56,226	62,204	69,000	71,300
Supplies and services	35,740	35,963	30,209	39,600	39,500
	296,889	251,862	236,518	275,731	285,031
Percentage of spending plan	14%	13%	13%	13%	14%

14% of the spending plan funds Oversight and Planning.



Summarizing this spending plan:

6% to support missions within the NJ Synod

30% for the synod staff who enable our goals and missions

8% for synod programs such as continuing education, ministry teams and Youth Ministry programs.

7% for electricity, phone services, the photocopier, cleaning, legal and audit services, and insurance.

49% to support Churchwide and Mission Partners.

An increase in health insurance costs and a staff salary increase is included in this spending plan.

2023 Spending Plan Summary

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

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Approved Spending Plan	2023 Proposed Spending Plan
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,101,470	1,884,081	1,892,064	2,100,439	2,066,665
TOTAL INCOME	2,106,439	1,990,363	2,040,634	2,100,439	2,116,300
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	4,969 2%	106,282 5%	148,571 7%	-	49,635 2%

The Synod Council recommends approval of this proposed 2023 spending plan.

2022 ELECTIONS

SYNOD COUNCIL - (to be ratified by assembly):
Mission District Elections - Terms Expiring 2025

		Mission District Elections
Delaware	Lay	Andrea Gerrard, St. Stephen, Woodbury ~
	Lay Male or Non-binary	José Sanchez, Bridge of Peace, Camden
Gateway		No District Elections
Middle -	Lay	Daniel Fields, Messiah, Parlin ~
	Lay Female or Non-binary	Nansi Krauss, Christ the King, Kendall Park
Northern		No District Elections
Shore	Lay	Steve Hernandez, Faith, Lavallette ~
Western	CLERGY	The Rev. Jane McCready, Faith, New Providence

~ Second term

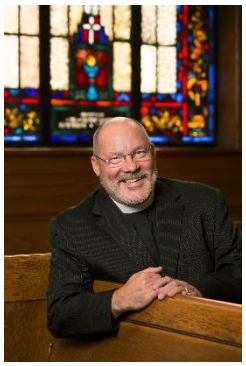
At-Large Clergy (1 to be elected) from any Mission District elected at the Assembly, Term ending 2025.

Pastor John J. Barry, St. Mark, Oaklyn
Pastor Linnéa K. Clark, Emanuel, New Brunswick
Pastor Haydée Colón-Hernández, St. John and Misión Pan de Vida, Passaic
Pastor Margarette S. Ouji, First, Montclair

2022 NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

AT-LARGE SYNOD COUNCIL
Clergy - Term Ending 2025

PASTOR JOHN J. (JAY) BERRY
Pastor, St Mark, Oaklyn
Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware Mission District



Prior to ordained ministry, Pastor Berry worked in the insurance industry, underwriting property and casualty products as well as leading the Operations Department for the issuance of policies. With an AAS Degree in Music attained from Onondaga Community College, Jay graduated from Columbia College, Syracuse, NY in 2011 with a BA, and immediately entered seminary at LTSP (now ULS) in Philadelphia. Earning his M.Div. in the spring of 2015, Jay accepted the call as pastor at St. Mark and was ordained that fall.

Pastor Berry has been involved with the NJ Synod serving as a facilitator for "Cultivating Missional Capacity for Sustainability" for several years. From that group, leadership continued into our current monthly evangelism workshop model "Go and …!" Jay has also been on the planning team for the "Faith, Hope, & Love."

Pastor Berry organized and led a recognition for first responders in the Oaklyn community, held at the Boro Fire Hall. Initiating ecumenical activities with local churches in the area, each has hosted the annual Thanksgiving Community Prayer Service. New in 2021, Jay initiated and worked on the Advent "Blue Christmas Service."

PASTOR LINNÉA K. CLARK
Pastor, Emanuel, New Brunswick
Raritan Cluster, Middle Mission District

Pastor Clark is a 2010 graduate of Yale University (BA in music and history) and a 2013 graduate of Yale Divinity School and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music (M.Div.) Pastor Clark, ordained in 2015, served St. John's Lutheran Church in Melrose Park, PA, before transferring to the NJ Synod. Currently, in addition to serving at Emanuel, Linnéa is a staff writer for Barn Geese Worship, where she writes liturgical texts, preaching commentaries, worship series for congregational use, and is also a contract writer for 1517 Media, the publishing house of the ELCA.

Along with serving as a parish pastor, Pastor Clark is the Raritan Mission Cluster Counselor and a member of the Mission Advocacy Table. Before accepting a call in NJ, Linnéa was a member of the Cheltenham area Multi-faith Council and clergy group member of Laurel House (a domestic violence shelter and service provider) in Montgomery County, PA. In her community, Pastor Clark is active in the New Brunswick Interfaith Alliance.

PASTOR HAYDÉE COLÓN HERNÁNDEZ
Pastor, St John and Misión Pan de Vida, Passaic
Bergen-Passaic Cluster, Northern Mission District

Pastor Haydée Colón-Hernández is a graduate of Rutgers University, and for more than twenty years, has worked in the field of mental and behavioral health. As a bi-vocation pastor, Haydée is currently half time as a parish pastor and half time as a therapist in psychiatric rehabilitation. She is a graduate with Masters in Divinity from United Lutheran Seminary and was ordained in December 2021.

In 2019, Haydée joined others elected from the New Jersey Synod as a voting member to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee. Pastor Colón-Hernández's first language is Spanish with English as a second language.

Within our Synod, Haydée has also served as a lay member of the Synod Council. Currently, Pastor Colón-Hernández serves on the Mission Advocacy Table and Fund for Mission Management Committee. Most recently, Haydée is the facilitator of Caminando Unidos en Cristo.

PASTOR MARGARETTE S. OUJI
Pastor, First, Montclair
Union-Essex Cluster, Gateway Mission District

Margarette is a graduate of Concordia College, Bronxville, NY, with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina with a focus on palliative care. Prior to seminary, she worked in the greater New York region in the area of pediatrics, foster care, and guardianship (working in accordance with Article 82 of the NY Mental Hygiene Law.) She began studies at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA, and during seminary was a teaching parish student at St. Francis Lutheran Church, San Francisco, followed by an internship at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oakland, CA. She began serving First, Montclair, in January 2022.

Before relocating to NJ, Margarette was involved with the East Oakland Collective, which is a member based community-organizing group. The focus of the group works towards racial and economic equity amplifying underserved communities from the ground up. In other community –related ministries she serves as co-chair of the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries Board. Within the wider church, Margaret is part of the Leadership Planning Team for MYLE (2022 ELCA Youth Gathering) now in its hybrid form called MYJ2022.

PART B: PARISH AND ROSTER EVENTS

ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

The Rev. Michele M. Smith	January 1, 1953 – May 25, 2021
The Rev. John E. Pearce	May 1, 1947 – August 17, 2021
The Rev. Jennifer Lynn Sweitzer	April 17, 1957 – October 16, 2021
The Rev. Richard B. Holzer	June 7, 1933 - January 23, 2022
The Rev. Howard M. Norris	October 17, 1930 – March 28, 2022

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

The Rev. Mary E. JJ Simpson Keelan	Living Waters, Ringoes	05/22/2021
The Rev. M. Danielle McCleary	St. Matthew, Secaucus	09/12/2021
The Rev. Haydée Colón-Hernández	St. John, Passaic	12/19/2021

ORDINATION (in SEPA Synod on behalf of the New Jersey Synod)

Courtney D. Smith	Good Shepherd, King of Prussia, PA	11/13/2021

ELCA CALL EXTENDED

The Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn	06/01/2021
Senior Director of Christian Community and Leadership	
The Rev. Kristin M. Engstrom	07/12/2021
Facilitator for Leadership Development and Capacity Building with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa)	
The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch	
Candidacy and Leadership Manager for Regions 7 & 8	01/03/2022

SYNOD COUNCIL CALL

The Rev. José Escalera	Temple, Pennsauken	06/01/2021
	Misión Luterana Reconciliación, Pennsauken	
The Rev. Austin H. Newberry	Grace, Bayonne	11/18/2021
The Rev. Eunyoung Kim	Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield	11/18/2021
The Rev. Jonathan M. Westerlund	Christ Our Saviour, Jersey City	02/01/2022
The Rev. Kathryn Irwin	St. Paul, Jersey City	02/15/2022
Lawrence DePasquale, Deacon	St. John the Evangelist (Episcopal/Anglican), Chews Landing	04/11/2022

CONGREGATION CALL

The Rev. Mary E. JJ Simpson Keelan	Living Waters, Ringoes	05/22/2021
The Rev. M. Danielle McCleary	St. Matthew, Secaucus	09/12/2021
The Rev. Courtney D. Smith	Messiah, Oakland	09/15/2021
The Rev. Katherine I. Steinly	Zion, Oldwick	10/10/2021
The Rev. Patt Kauffman	St. Paul, Ridgefield	11/01/2021
The Rev. Haydée Colón-Hernández	St. John, Passaic	12/19/2021
Mason A. Hahn, Jr.	St. James, Pitman	01/02/2022
The Rev. Jessica M. Hahn	St. Paul, Hainesport	01/02/2022
Margarette S. Ouji	First, Montclair	01/03/2022
Frantisek Janek, Jr.	St. Stephen, South Plainfield	01/17/2022
Dianne Lewis	Trinity, Jersey City	03/13/2022

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, Pastoral Appointment with an ELCA Affiliated Candidate

Kara Song	Calvary, Allendale	01/01/2022

ECUMENICAL AGREEMENT FOR EXTENDED SERVICE OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

The Rev. Jisun Kwak (United Methodist Church)	Zion, Saddle River	09/19/2021
The Rev. Peggy Ludlow (United Church of Christ)	Holy Counselor, Sussex	01/18/2022

PASTORAL MINISTRY AGREEMENTS

Vicar Dianne Lewis	Trinity, Jersey City	09/01/2021
The Rev. Nancy Truscott	Holy Trinity, Nutley	09/01/2021
The Rev. Dwight Mason (SEPA Synod)	St. Ambrose, Pennsville	09/01/2021
The Rev. David L. Stoner	St. Stephen, Woodbury	09/01/2021
The Rev. Karol Van Wulfen	First, Stewartsville	10/01/2021
The Rev. Nancy Nardi	Christ the King, Kendall Park	10/10/2021
The Rev. Austin H. Newberry	Grace, Bayonne	10/15/2021
The Rev. Jonathan Westerlund	Christ Our Savior, Jersey City	02/01/2022
The Rev. Kathryn Irwin	St. Paul, Jersey City	02/15/2022
The Rev. Michael McKillip	St. Mark, Hamilton	03/01/2022

PASTORAL COVERAGE/VICE PASTOR APPOINTMENT

The Rev. G. Andrew Engelhart	St. James, Pitman	06/01/2021
The Rev. Heidi Link	Epiphany, Pleasantville	06/01/2021
The Rev. Margaret Marks	Bethany, Palmyra	07/01/2021
The Rev. Maristela Freiberg	Trinity, Jersey City	09/01/2021
The Rev. Timothy Wengert	St. Paul, Jersey City	09/01/2021
The Rev. Paul A. Miller	Christ, Paramus	09/01/2021
The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy	St. Paul, Jersey City	10/01/2021
The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch	St. Paul, Hainesport	11/01/2021
The Rev. Pamela Werner	Christ, Bridgeton	11/01/2021
The Rev. Austin H. Newberry	Redeemer, Jersey City	11/01/2021
The Rev. P. Wayne Zschech	St. Paul, Collingswood	11/08/2021
The Rev. Beate Stork	St. John, Jersey City	11/15/2021
The Rev. Gladys G. Moore	St. Andrew, Parsippany	01/01/2022
The Rev. Frederick Becker	Prince of Peace, Denville	01/05/2022
The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy	St. Matthew, Jersey City	02/01/2022
The Rev. Karen Bernhardt	Bethlehem, Dorothy	02/01/2022
The Rev. Jonathan M. Westerlund	Bethany, Jersey City	02/01/2022

INSTALLATION

The Rev. Christopher L. Halverson	Spruce Run, Glen Gardner	05/23/2021
The Rev. Jill E. Collict	Faith, Hillsborough	06/06/2021
The Rev. Julia Haspel	Grace, Mendham	06/27/2021
The Rev. John E. Mack, Jr.	Holy Trinity, Red Bank	08/08/2021
The Rev. José Escalera	Temple, Pennsauken Misión Luterana Reconciliación, Pennsauken	09/05/2021
The Rev. Althea Albright	Grace, Somers Point	09/12/2021
The Rev. Eloise Shanley	Our Saviour, Stone Harbor	09/12/2021
The Rev. Eric Trozzo	St. Matthew, Moorestown	09/21/2021
The Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo	Lord of Life, Tabernacle	10/23/2021
The Rev. Courtney D. Smith	Messiah, Oakland	11/21/2021
The Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff	St. Michael, Cherry Hill	12/05/2021
The Rev. Jessica Hahn	St. Paul, Hainesport	02/19/2022
Frantisek Janak, Jr.	St. Stephen, South Plainfield	04/24/2022
Margarette S. Ouji	First, Montclair	04/24/2022
Mason A. Hahn, Jr.	St. James, Pitman	05/22/2022

RETIREMENT

The Rev. Laurie Johnson	St. James, Pitman	06/01/2021
The Rev. Tiina Nummela	R. Wood Johnson Hospital	06/10/2021
The Rev. Paul Rorem	Princeton Theological Seminary	07/01/2021
The Rev. Christine R. Regan	St. Stephen, Woodbury	09/01/2021
Deacon Kathryn A. Prinz	On Leave From Call	11/18/2021
The Rev. Frederick L. Lentz	St. Andrew, Parsippany	01/01/2022

TERMINATION OF CALL

The Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn	NJ Synod, Assistant to the Bishop	05/31/2021
The Rev. José Escalera	Epiphany, Pleasantville	05/31/2021
The Rev. Jessica Lambert	St. Paul, Jersey City	09/01/2021
The Rev. Hayley Bang	Christ, Paramus	09/18/2021
The Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliott	St. John, Jersey City	10/31/2021
The Rev. Elaine Quincey	Interim Ministry, St. Paul, Hainesport	11/01/2021
The Rev. Michael L. Poole, Jr.	Interim Ministry, First Montclair	12/26/2021
The Rev. Donald T. Egan	Christ Our Saviour, Jersey City	12/31/2021
The Rev. Mark D. Johnson	St. Matthew, Jersey City	01/31/2022
The Rev. Ian Hill	St. Mark, Hamilton	02/28/2022
Lawrence DePasquale, Deacon	St. Stephen, Woodbury	04/10/2022

RESIGNATION FROM THE CLERGY ROSTER OF THE ELCA

Mark D. Johnson	02/01/2022
Ian Hill	03/21/2022

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

The Rev. Jessica Lambert	09/01/2021
The Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliott	11/01/2021
The Rev. Michael L. Poole, Jr.	12/27/2021
The Rev. Donald T. Egan	01/01/2022

ON LEAVE FROM CALL CONTINUATION

The Rev. Hans Arnesen	08/01/2019
The Rev. Erin R. Kinahan	08/05/2019
The Rev. Alexandra C. King	11/15/2019
The Rev. Jeffrey Ziegler	05/22/2020
The Rev. Laura Esposito	09/18/2020

TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SYNOD

The Rev. Rebecca Truland	Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA	07/26/2021
The Rev. Hayley Bang	New England Synod, ELCA	09/19/2021
The Rev. Laurie Johnson	NorthWest Washington Synod, ELCA	09/29/2021
The Rev. Elaine Quincey	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	12/01/2021
The Rev. Gary Grindeland	Florida Bahamas Synod, ELCA	12/14/2022
The Rev. Bruce W. Bassett, Jr.	New England Synod, ELCA	12/14/2021
The Rev. Jeffrey D. May	Virginia Synod, ELCA	02/08/2022
The Rev. Michael L. Poole, Jr.	Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA	02/17/2022
The Rev. Carol Brighton	South Carolina Synod, ELCA	04/01/2022
The Rev. William C. Moser	Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	04/01/2022

TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER SYNOD

The Rev. Charles Romanowski	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	04/28/2021
The Rev. Russell Haab	Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	09/29/2021
The Rev. Katherine I. Steinly	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	10/10/2021
The Rev. Patt Kauffman	Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA	11/01/2021
The Rev. Austin H. Newberry	Indiana Kentucky Synod, ELCA	11/18/2021
The Rev. Arden Krych	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	12/14/2021
The Rev. Margaret Krych	Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA	12/14/2021
The Rev. Jessica M. Hahn	North/West Lower Michigan Synod	01/02/2022
The Rev. Jonathan M. Westerlund	New England Synod	02/01/2022
The Rev. Christine M. Ruth	Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA	02/03/2022

CONGREGATION CLOSING

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lindenwold (1958 -2021)	08/04/2021
Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgefield (1926 – 2021)	10/10/2021

CONGREGATION MERGER 01/20/2022

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pleasantville (1924 – 2022) merged into Reformation, Absecon

CONGREGATION RELOCATION

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Teaneck to Ridgefield	08/15/2021
Nativity Lutheran Church, East Brunswick, to Aldersgate UMC, East Brunswick	08/15/2021

SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES AND MISSION DEVELOPERS

Elizabeth, Santa Isabel	The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo
Elizabeth, Immigrants in Detention	The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo
Morning Star, Ridgefield	The Rev. Eunyoung Kim
Passaic, Misión Pan de Vida	The Rev. Haydée Colón-Hernández
Pennsauken, Misión Luterana Reconciliación	The Rev. José Escalera

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

The following rostered leaders retired since our 2021 Assembly:
The Rev. Frederick L. Lentz, The Rev. Tiina H. Nummela, Deacon Kathryn A. Prinz,
The Rev. Christine R. Regan, and The Rev. Paul Rorem

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. David W. Jones	1978
The Rev. Arthur O. F. Bauer	1951 *	The Rev. Richard W. Kitz	1966 *
The Rev. David Bennett	1978	The Rev. John D. Kleist	1979
The Rev. Barry N. Benson	1977	The Rev. Kent R. Klophaus	2001
The Rev. Stephen F. Blank	1967 *	The Rev. Robert O. Kriesat	1965 *
The Rev. H. Wayne Brady	1995	The Rev. Arden L. Krych	1973
The Rev. George H. Brand	1961 *	The Rev. Margaret A. Krych	1972 *
The Rev. Paul L. Brndjar	1970 *	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. Walter J. Maier	1960 *
The Rev. Ulrich C. Columbus	1966 *	The Rev. David D. Mangiante	1958 *
The Rev. David F. Confer	1977	The Rev. Margaret M. Marks	1985
The Rev. Daniel Congleton	1979	The Rev. Russell L. McIntyre	1965 *
The Rev. Jack A. Denys	1967 *	The Rev. Michael McKillip	2007
The Rev. Peter J. DeRuiter	1963 *	The Rev. James H. McKinley	1969 *
The Rev. Dallas D. Dorward	1953 *	The Rev. Patricia S. Medley	1976
The Rev. Louis W. Dunkle	1965 *	The Rev. Ronald R. Miller	1975
The Rev. Jeffrey C. Eaton	1972 *	The Rev. Joseph Molnar III	1959 *
The Rev. Raymond J. Elberson	1975	The Rev. Gladys G. Moore	1984
The Rev. Stanley E. Ellison	1969 *	The Rev. Nancy S. Moore	1984
The Rev. John M. Elstad	1963 *	The Rev. Rafaela Morales-Rosa	1983
The Rev. Glenn Englehardt	1975	The Rev. Robert M. Mountenay	1981
The Rev. Gary V. Ettlemyer	1984	The Rev. Ronald C. Nelson	1964 *
The Rev. D. Randolph Etwaroo	1976	The Rev. Jaye S. Newbold	2013
The Rev. Bruce T. Ewen	1979	The Rev. Jerold L. Nugent	1981
The Rev. Cynthia Fazzini	1991	The Rev. Tiina H. Nummela	1991
The Rev. Triffel L. Felske	1977	The Rev. Richard W. Overcash	1974
The Rev. Charles A. Ferreri	2004	The Rev. Harald Peeders	1974
The Rev. John C. Fischer	1976	The Rev. Harvey S. Peters, Jr.	1959 *
The Rev. Mary Forell-Davis	1978	The Rev. Penelope Pusateri-Stechmann	1992
The Rev. George W. Freyberger	1962 *	The Rev. J. Paul Rajashekar	1983
The Rev. Janet Gasbarro	1999	The Rev. Karina Ramins	1986
The Rev. Michael C. Gebhart	1989	The Rev. Christine R. Regan	1990
The Rev. Russell Haab	1986	The Rev. Kenneth Regan	1983
The Rev. William A. Hanson	1965 *	The Rev. Jeffrey H. Rickards	1973
The Rev. Mary Jane Hastings	2002	The Rev. E. Roy Riley, Jr.	1974
The Rev. Jesse G. Houck III	1968 *	The Rev. Charles Romanowski	1980
The Rev. Gordon L. Huff	1961 *	The Rev. Paul Rorem	1981
The Rev. Robert G. Hughes	1962 *	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. John W. Johnson, Jr.	1957 *	The Rev. Jack Slotterback	1979

The Rev. Birgit R. Solano	1994	The Rev. Burton H. Vincent	1960 *
The Rev. Christine A. Stiger	1980	The Rev. Glenn A. Waskow	1998
The Rev. Donald Stiger	1979	The Rev. Timothy J. Wengert	1977
The Rev. David L. Stoner	1986	The Rev. Walter Wiklund	1963 *
The Rev. Karen E. Strietelmeier	2008	The Rev. Robert H. J. Wilms	1990
The Rev. C. Paul Strockbine	1955 *	The Rev. Robert H. Wilson, Jr.	1955 *
The Rev. Mark Summer	1977	The Rev. Linda F. Wood	1996
The Rev. Thomas Tomlinson	1980	The Rev. Robert Zimmermann	1970 *
The Rev. Richard R. Tupy, Jr.	1957 *		
The Rev. David W. Vikner	1973		

Retired Ministers of Word and Service with Retirement Status in the ELCA
One deacon has been ordained fifty years or more (indicated by *)

Deacon Geraldine Frank	1969 *
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

2022 ROSTERED LEADERS NEW TO THE SYNOD

Ordained for First Call in New Jersey
Haydée Colón-Hernández, M. Danielle McCleary, Mary "JJ" Simpson Keelan, Courtney D. Smith

April 23, 2022 Ordination
Mason A. Hahn, Jr., Frantisek Janak, Jr., Margarette S. Ouji

Received by Transfer from Another Synod
Russell Haab, Jessica Hahn, Patt Kauffman, Arden Krych, Margaret Krych, Austin Newberry, Charles Romanowski, Christine Ruth, Katherine Steinly, Jonathan Westerlund

Rostered in Another Synod/Lutheran Churchbody/Ecumenical Partner
Jisun Kwak, Peggy Ludlow, Dwight Mason

2022 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

Forty Years
Lawrence D. DePasquale

Thirty-five Years
Lindsay S. Shopland

ANNIVERSARIES OF WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY

Seventy-one Years
Arthur Bauer

Sixty-nine Years
Dallas Dorward

Sixty-seven Years
Paul Strockbine and Robert Wilson

Sixty-five Years
John Johnson and Richard Tupy

Sixty-four Years
Otto Jacobson and David Mangiante

Sixty-three Years
Harvey Peters, Joseph Molnar

Sixty-two Years
Walter Maier and Burton Vincent

Sixty-one Years
George Brand and Gordon Huff

Sixty Years
George Freyberger and Robert Hughes

Fifty-five Years
Jack Denys and Stephen Blank

Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination
Richard Brunsell, Jeffrey Eaton, Margaret Krych, and Frederick Schoenfeld

Forty-five Years
Barry Benson, Mark Bruesehoff, David Confer, Triffel Felske, Glenn Schoenberger, Mark Summer, and Timothy Wengert

Thirty-five Years
Jack DiMatteo, Sara Lilja, and Austin Newberry

Thirty Years
Hans Arnesen, Mona Fitch-Elliott, Peter Hartney, Penelope Pusateri Stechmann, Nancy Ruckert, Eloise Shanley, Jeffrey Ziegler, and Wayne Zschech

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination
Bernard Kelly and Stephen Sweet

Twenty Years
Dean Brown, John Collins, Thomas Dorsey, Mary Jane Hastings, and Erin Kinahan

Fifteen Years
Annemarie Cook, Jessica Lambert, Michael McKillip

Ten Years
Frederick Becker

Five Years
Peggy Ludlow and Joseph Schattauer-Paille

NECROLOGY REPORT

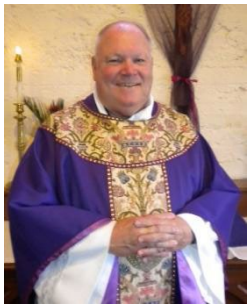
Since our last Synod Assembly, many beloved saints of this Synod have entered the Church Triumphant; among them, five pastors: The Rev. Michele Smith, The Rev. John Pearce, The Rev. Jennifer Sweitzer, The Rev. Richard B. Holzer, and The Rev. Howard M. Norris.

THE REV. MICHELE MARY SMITH
January 1, 1953 – May 25, 2021
ORDAINED: NOVEMBER 19, 2000
Pastor – Good Shepherd, Lindenwold: 2000 – 2021

The Rev. Michele M. Smith, who served as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lindenwold, entered the Church Triumphant on May 25th, while recovering from COVID 19 and following lung surgery. Pastor Smith was born in Valley Forge, PA, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Elementary Education from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. For many years, Michele served as an office manager for a medical practice and then relocated to southern New Jersey. It was then that Michele continued her education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia (ULS), receiving a Master of Divinity in 1998.

After accepting a call to serve as pastor of Good Shepherd, Lindenwold, Michele was ordained at St. John's, Summit, on November 19, 2000. In her bio for the ordination worship folder, Michele gave thanks for fellow seminarians "and to the other New Jersey Reds . . . who never wearied in friendship, encouragement, and fun."

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Steve, and their sons Greg (Julie) and Dan, and two granddaughters Viola and Rosalind.



THE REV. JOHN ELLIS PEARCE
May 1, 1947 – August 17, 2021
ORDAINED: JUNE 22, 1977
Pastor- Zion, Barnegat Light: 1977 - 2007
Retired: July 1, 2007

The Rev. John E. Pearce entered the Church Triumphant on August 17, 2021 while living in a continuing care facility in Florida. Pastor Pearce was born in Abington, PA. After completing an undergraduate degree in history from Muhlenberg College, John earned his Masters of Divinity at Philadelphia Seminary. Even though academically prepared, John was not certain that ordained ministry was right for him. Moreover, there did not seem to be any appropriate first calls in his home synod of Southeastern Pennsylvania. While he waited, John added a teaching certification from Glassboro State College in New Jersey.

Four years after graduating from seminary, John was called to serve Zion, Barnegat Light, and was ordained in 1977. Zion was a very small, mission challenged congregation with an uncertain future. Pastor Pearce's love of history led him to explore the stories and legends of New Jersey's Pine Barrens. In 2000 Pastor Pearce's book *Heart of the Pines, Ghostly Voices of the Pine Barrens* was published. In 2007, with thanks to God and love for the congregation, Pastor John Pearce retired from his ministry at Zion after thirty-years. Though his intention was to retire to a warmer climate for his health, John soon took up his ministry again in Woodbine, Georgia, where he served St. Mark's Episcopal Church for another ten years.

THE REV. JENNIFER LYNN SWEITZER
April 17, 1957 – October 16, 2021
ORDAINED: JUNE 18, 2000
Pastor - Atonement, Asbury Park: 2000 – 2011
Pastor - Epiphany, Pleasantville: 2012 – 2014
Vice Pastor and Stated Supply - Christ, Bridgeton: 2020 - 2021

The Rev. Jennifer Lynn Sweitzer entered the Church Triumphant on October 16, 2021, while hospitalized with an aggressive form of cancer.

Pastor Sweitzer, born in Reading, PA, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Religion from Richard Stockton State College and her Masters of Divinity from The Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia (ULS). Following an internship at St. Paul, Beachwood, Jennifer was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on June 18, 2000. Her first call was to serve as Pastor of Atonement in Asbury Park.

Just after beginning her ministry, her father died suddenly. Soon after, Jennifer's mother was diagnosed with cancer and died the next year. Nevertheless, with God's help she served with tenacity and faithfulness, including a call to Epiphany in Pleasantville. Following her call in Pleasantville, Pastor Sweitzer continued serving as a supply pastor. As the COVID 19 pandemic began, Jennifer began her ministry as Vice Pastor and Stated Supply at Christ, Bridgeton, where she served until her death.

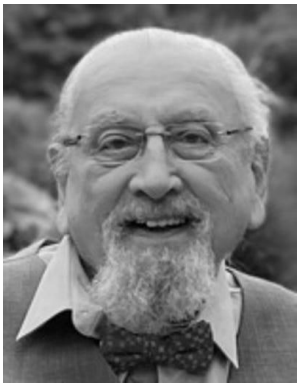
THE REV. RICHARD BARTLETT HOLZER
June 7, 1933 – January 23, 2022
ORDAINED: MAY 27, 1958
Mission Developer and Pastor, Holy Spirit Villas: 1958 - 1964
Pastor Grace, Clarion, PA: 1965 - 1980
Pastor St. Paul, Red Hook, NY: 1980 - 1992
Pastoral Ministry, St. John, Ocean City 1992
Retired: December 1995
Bethlehem, Dorothy: 1996 - 2022

The Rev. Richard Holzer, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Dorothy, entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, January 23, after sustaining injuries following a fall.

Pastor Holzer, born in Somers Point, NJ, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Master of Divinity from The Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia (now ULS); and an MA in History from Clarion State College, Clarion, PA. After a call as mission developer for Holy Spirit, Villas, Richard was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on May 27, 1958. Epiphany, Pleasantville, was Richard's home congregation, and in the congregation's history, he was one of eleven members to be raised up for ordained ministry.

While serving as pastor of Holy Spirit, a new building was dedicated. During this time, Pastor Holzer also served as the Lutheran contact pastor for the U.S. Coast Guard training base and as a member of the board of directors of The Lutheran Home at Ocean View.

Pastor Holzer served as a part-time assisting minister at St. John, Ocean City and was appointed to pastoral ministry and stated supply preaching at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Dorothy. The congregation asked for this appointment to be renewed annually for twenty-six years. Richard faithfully served in this capacity until his death.



THE REV. HOWARD M. NORRIS
October 17, 1930 – March 28, 2022
ORDAINED: JUNE 16, 1954
Pastor, Covenant, Ridgewood, NY: 1954-1956
Pastor, Good Shepherd, Weehawken: 1956 - 1961
Pastor, Bethany, Palmyra: 1962 - 1992
Retired: December 1992

The Rev. Howard M. Norris, Retired, entered the Church Triumphant on Monday, March 28th, while hospitalized. Pastor Norris, born in Niagara Falls, NY, received his A.B. degree, from Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, in Philosophy and Languages, and earned his B. Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now ULS). Howard was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on June 16, 1954. His first call was to serve as pastor of Covenant Lutheran Church, Ridgewood, NY.

In 1956, Pastor Norris transferred to the New Jersey Synod after accepting a call from Good Shepherd in Weehawken to serve as pastor. Parish ministry would continue with a call and relocation to Bethany, Palmyra, which spanned almost three decades. Along with serving the congregation of Bethany, he also served as vice pastor and interim pastor during vacancies at Holy Trinity, Maple Shade, and Zion, Riverside. Pastor Norris retired from parish ministry in July 1992. In a personal faith statement, Pastor Norris shared, "God has, throughout my life, provided ways to call me on in God's service."

Pastor Norris' wife of almost 60 years, Dorothy, died in 2012. They are survived by their children Carole (Bob), Kenneth (Angela), Gail, and Wayne (Maria); grandchildren David (Sara), Brandon (Kennedy), Andrew (Alissa), Eric, Matthew (Michaela), Samuel and William, and great grandchildren Noah, Landon and Harper.

We also remember the loss of wonderful partners in ministry whose witness stands before us as well:

Barbara Lynn Blank
Spouse of Pastor Stephen Blank
June 5, 1941 – September 28, 2021

Ella G. Peeders
Spouse of Pastor Harald Peeders
July 10, 1941 – October 13, 2021

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

Report of the New Jersey Synod Vice President

2022 Synod Assembly Report

May we be enriched through the ongoing teachings of Jesus. Not only to love and take care of one another, but to also be willing to endure patience as we continue to understand what it means to live together on this world God made. Amen

In 2020 we continued moving forward with growth and change, utilizing new tools, and skills that we have obtained as we continue with the raw expressions and responses of today's world, we are a part of. These past couple of years we have had an opportunity to observe and reflect what it means to practice our faith as Christians as we engage with our community near and far.

For some we have had to take to step back to rejuvenate as we decern on the next path. Some have been inspired to join or start committees and/or tasks forces with a purpose and goal. Some even taking on new ideas and approaches to addressing concerns that move their spirit. Even just providing prayer and support is being active. There were very few cases, if any, where an individual or group has done nothing. We have all done what we could or had to do, not to give into fear¸ or despair.

Throughout the year I continued to collaborate and be a part of the NJ Synod Coaching Team and the Anti-Racist Team. Having the ability to interact with people in-person and online has gifted both teams with new forms of engagement and growth. On September 4th, my family and I attend St. Bartholomew's community picnic in Trenton. November 24th, I was welcomed to lead in a call meeting for Frantisek Janak, Jr. at St. Stephen, in South Plainfield. In the greater ELCA, I have been participating in monthly meetings with other Synod Vice-Presidents of the ELCA.

I give thanks to my family, the Bishop, synod staff, pastors, lay members, and all others that contribute to the makeup of our Synod. Your involvement and support provide ease to the ongoing challenges we face because, no matter the result, we do it together hoping we at minimum learn something from the experience.

As we continue the experience of living into the new "normal" era, we bring with us the parts of the legacy "normal" we refuse to let go. With the determination that we will merge the two so that the familiarity we help us anticipate and be ready for what's ahead. We give a lot of focus on the unknown of what could happen in front of us, and the pleasant moments of the past, that there is no attention given to the present right next to us. Jesus. The one who has been our companion during our entire journey, and is there with you when you are living your experiences in the moment.

May we also continue striving to be intentional with our neighbors and communities made up of God's children by living into God's word.

Faithfully Submitted,

Arundel Clarke

Vice President of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA

Report of the Synod Secretary
2022 NJ Synod Assembly

It was an honor to serve as Secretary of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA and I am grateful to all those who have assisted me in this responsibility. Thank you to LuAnn Barnes and Dawn Roberts whose patience, sharing and caring made it possible for me to fulfill this ministry. Thank you to all the wonderful staff at the Synod office for lending a helping hand in preparing the documents for the Synod Assembly.

I also thank Bishop Bartholomew and her assistants for their leadership in ministry to myself as Synod Secretary and to everyone in the New Jersey Synod.

It was an honor serving on Synod Council with Bishop Bartholomew, the Executive Committee, and the members of Council. I respect and admire the dedication to serving the Church that they exhibit.

In these times of reflection, trial and consternation I remember the New Jersey Synod Core Values- Faithfulness, Respect, Diversity, Generosity, Change, and Interdependence. As I pray continually for God's guidance throughout my daily walk, sorrow and mourning over the pain of COVID-19 continues to fill my thoughts. I think upon the value of interdependence, "… the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all." (1 Corinthians 12:7) I reflect on the feelings of the families as they mourn their loss, suffer with hunger, and in some cases become homeless. During my prayer, I remember the instructions Moses gave to the new generation of Israelites, "If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be." (Deuteronomy 15:7-8) After two years of this pandemic my spirit continues to lift as I see the church connect with parishioners and the community through advocacy. It is also an honor to contribute to the advancement of our mission as I join in pray with other faith groups to confirm our commitment of being in this together. Every act of kindness, gift of generosity, and sympathetic gesture shows the world that "Together We Are God's Tapestry of Love!" Let us continue loving each other in an interdependent manner as we move forward from this dark time toward the light of Christ.

In conclusion, I thank God for helping me fulfill this church ministry as Synod Secretary and for giving me such a loving family that supported this important work.

God's Peace and Blessings to All,

Cassandra Mack

Cassandra Mack
Secretary, New Jersey Synod, ELCA

New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Treasurer's Report
to the 2022 New Jersey Synod Assembly

This report summarizes the New Jersey Synod financial results for 2021. Details of revenue, spending and financial assets are available in the **2021 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report**, and as part of the **Proposed 2023 Spending Plan**.

The New Jersey Synod is 157 congregations and 4 missions 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 serve to unite, interconnect and support the work of ELCA congregations and missions within New Jersey, and to guide pastoral candidates. All of us together are the New Jersey Synod.

The 2021 Spending Plan was approved at our 2020 Synod Assembly. The spending plan supported:

- ELCA Churchwide ministries and our ministry partners
- Congregations and mission groups within our synod
- Candidacy, pastoral vacancy, congregational call and other synodical processes
- Youth Ministry, Continuing Education and synod action teams

The 2021 year was a challenge to us all. The pandemic created economic uncertainty and health restrictions prevented us from gathering. Although we had to implement many changes to cope with our 2021 realities and we experienced great uncertainty about our circumstances, our financial year turned out okay.

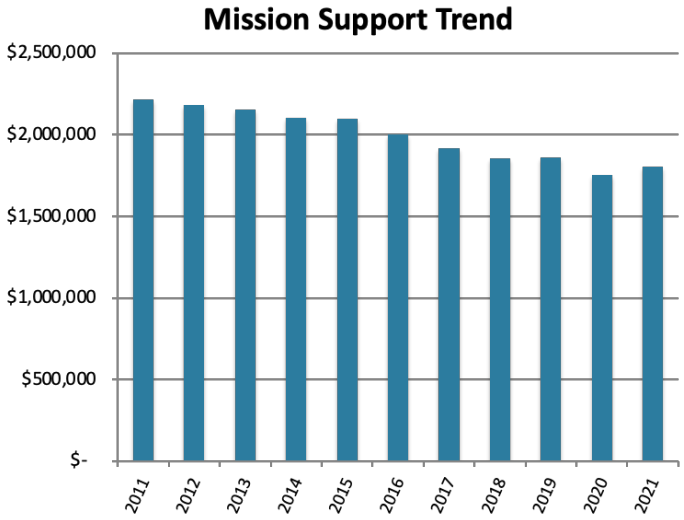
Total 2021 spending plan revenues were $2.04 million including $1.80 million in Mission Support. With programs curtailed, no assembly and no gatherings, expenses were less than planned. We ended the year with a $149,000 surplus, roughly 7% of revenues.

Mission Support

Mission Support provided 88% of the money for running the synod; 2021 giving totaled $1.80 million. This was a:

- $50 thousand increase compared to 2020
- $61 thousand decrease compared to 2019
- $294 thousand decrease compared to 2015

Half of Mission Support goes directly to Churchwide programs; support for the churchwide office and international mission programs declined in proportion to the decline in Mission Support. Over time, reduction in synod programs and staff has been a necessary response to mission support declines.



Restricted Funds

In addition to the spending plan, the synod administers money which has been given in trust and 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.

The money associated with these funds were managed by an investment committee that reports to the Synod Council. Fund disbursements were approved by the Synod Council and reviewed by our outside auditors. The synod council disbursed about $1.18 million in restricted funds during 2021. Total restricted funds totaled $14.171 million at the end of fiscal year 2021 compared to $11.142 million at the beginning of the year. Most of this growth was a $2.5Million gift to establish an endowment.

The synod office also received monies given toward World Hunger and other mission causes. During 2021 we received and forwarded on $215,000 in restricted gifts for ELCA World Hunger and other mission programs.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet is a snapshot of the synod's financial condition. At the end of fiscal year 2021:

- Assets totaled $18.3 million compared to $15.5 at the end of 2020. Most of the increase was a $2.5 million gift to establish an endowed fund.
- Fixed assets totaled $3.81 million.

The synod balance sheet demonstrates that the NJ Synod remains financially healthy.

Financial Audit

The synod contracted Tait Weller & Baker, LLP certified public accountants to review our financial processes and our 2021 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 publishing the final audit report before 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 as they oversaw the administration of Synod financial assets, resources, and properties. These ministries 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 the synod. The synod staff and programs would be unable to function without her dedicated efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
James Harris, Treasurer

New Jersey Synod of the ELCA
Balance Sheet Comparison
January 2022

Accounts	Balance Jan 31, 2021		Current Balance Jan 31, 2022	
		Assets		
Current Assets				
Cash	$ 3,532,872.09		$ 3,447,254.01	
Investments	7,711,574.52		10,518,789.36	
Receivables	342,330.29		377,857.62	
Other Current Assets	16,228.66		22,872.91	
Total Current Assets		$ 11,603,005.56		$ 14,366,773.90
Fixed Assets		3,867,453.24		3,831,933.46
Mortgages and Liens		55,568.12		54,691.80
Total Assets		$ 15,526,026.92		$ 18,253,399.16
		Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities		$ 295,182.34		$ 30,000.00
Total Liabilities		$ 295,182.34		$ 30,000.00
Fund Principal				
290000 - Beginning Balance - Operating	$ 2,337.07		$ 220,565.46	
291000 - Net Investment In Fixed Assets	3,867,453.24		3,831,933.46	
Excess Cash Received	218,228.39		1.93	
Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received		4,088,018.70		4,052,500.85
Restricted Funds				
Total Unrestricted Funds	$ 8,204,199.51		$ 11,284,810.56	
Total Donor Restricted	2,938,626.37		2,886,087.75	
Total Restricted Funds		11,142,825.88		14,170,898.31
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		$ 15,526,026.92		$ 18,253,399.16

New Jersey Synod of the ELCA
Spending Plan - Summary
January 2022

	Fiscal Year ended Jan 2021		Fiscal Year ended Jan 2022	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Revenues				
Income Supporting the Mission	$ 1,990,449.70	$ 1,974,125.21	$ 2,040,634.36	$ 2,092,700.00
Total Revenues	$ 1,990,449.70	$ 1,974,125.21	$ 2,040,634.36	$ 2,092,700.00
Expenses				
Churchwide and Ministry Partners	$ 1,008,968.38	$ 1,015,145.61	$ 1,037,462.44	$ 1,034,500.00
Strengthening Congregations	281,908.89	328,603.07	252,383.49	322,047.00
Outreach for Congregations	96,626.68	100,133.98	120,702.14	170,000.00
Office of the Bishop	244,714.69	249,637.00	244,997.71	270,815.00
Oversight of the Mission Plan	251,948.65	286,288.00	236,517.86	293,875.00
Total Expenses	$ 1,884,167.29	$ 1,979,807.66	$ 1,892,063.64	$ 2,091,237.00
Net Total	$ 106,282.41	$ (5,682.45)	$ 148,570.72	$ 1,463.00

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL
2022 NJ Synod Assembly

This report gives a summary of the New Jersey Synod Council at its regular meetings since the 2021 Synod Assembly (June 12, September 10 and November 18, 2021; January 15, March 19, and May 5, 2022). We give thanks to God for the leadership and faithful service of members of the Synod Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Rev. Annemarie Cook, having received sufficient number of votes, was declared elected as Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee for 2021-2022. **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**

The Executive Committee voted to change the Synod Council Retreat to a Synod Council meeting on Friday September 10, 2021 via Zoom. **(ADOPTED 08/12/2021)**

It is moved by the Executive Committee:
THAT the following proposal for the Robert A. Bell Bequest be approved.

Total received: $48,653.00
According to synod policy, 10% was sent to the ELCA and 10% was put in the Fund for Mission.
the 80% remaining to be designated by synod council.

- $18,000 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering
- $ 5,000 Bishop's Challenge: The Jehu Jones Mission
- $ 5,000 Bishop Transition Fund
- $ 5,000 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- $ 5,923 Added to the Synod Council Contingency fund

(ADOPTED 10/12/2021)

With the decision to revert to a virtual Assembly, May 6 -7, 2022, the Assembly fees needed to be addressed.
It is moved by the Executive Committee
THAT the 2022 Assembly fees be adjusted as follows:

Assembly Fees for the 2022 Assembly:
$50 Voting Member (on time)
$60 Voting Member (late)

(ADOPTED 02/07/2022)
The Synod Council affirmed the Executive Committee action of February 7, 2022.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

2021-2022 NEW JERSEY SYNOD COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Executive Committee
The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop, LEADER; Arundel Clarke, Vice President; James Harris, Treasurer, and Cassandra Mack, Secretary

Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee (FMAP):
The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop; James Harris, Treasurer; Robert Bowden, Maurice Willoughby, Rev. Em Johnson, Steve Hernandez and Rev. Sue Jones, Wannetta Phillips

Fund for Mission Management Committee:
The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop; James Harris, Treasurer; Daniel Fields

Synod Assembly Program Committee:

Robert Bowden, Linda Magill Murphy, Carol Dorn, Andrea Gerrard, Rev. Nancy Nardi, Rev. Carol Lindsay

Personnel: Carla Hoenigmann, and Rev. Raymond Kolison

Justice and Peace: Karina Payanzo

Leadership: Rev. Michael Linderman, Rev. Giselle Coutinho

Mission Advocacy Table: Aretha Richardson, William Emerson

Youth Ministry: Rev. Annemarie Cook

Ecumenical and Interfaith: The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop; James Nelson

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council approve the amended reorganization and list of teams, committees, and task groups for 2021-2022. **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2022-2023

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council (regular) meeting dates be set as follows:
:

- Thursday, May 5, 2022, 7:00 PM (zoom)
- 34th New Jersey Synod Assembly, May 6-7, 2022 (zoom)
- Thursday, June 23, 7:00 PM (zoom)
- Fri.-Sat., Sept. 16-17, 2022, 4:00 PM, Synod Council Retreat, Cross Roads
- Saturday, November 19, 2022, 9:30 AM (zoom)
- Saturday, January 28, 2023, 9:30 AM (zoom)
- Thursday, March 30, 2023, 7:00 PM (zoom)

(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)

NATIVITY, EAST BRUNSWICK

Pastor Carol Lindsay and Steve Hernandez moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council approve the relocation of Nativity, East Brunswick, to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, effective August 15, 2021.

(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)

The Rev. Nancy Nardi asked that her abstention be noted in the meeting Minutes.

ST. PAUL, TEANECK

Pastor Nancy Nardi and Linda Murphy moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council approve the relocation of St. Paul, Teaneck, to 941 Slocum Ave., Ridgefield, effective August 15, 2021. **(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)**

TRANSITION ON SYNOD COUNCIL

It was moved and seconded:
THAT Pastor Eric Trozzo be appointed to fill the unexpired term for at-large clergy on the Synod Council, term ending 2024. **(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)**

APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod Council appoint the Mission District Deans to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Synod Bishop and Synod Secretary shall serve ex-officio with voice, but not vote.
(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)

NEW JERSEY SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRY

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod withdraw from the Growing Young program and not participate in the 2021 or further Growing Young trainings. **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**

ROSTER CONCERNS

Ministers of Word and Sacrament – Request For On Leave From Call Status
PLEASE REFER TO 2022 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call".

Linda Murphy and Pastor Carol Lindsay moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)**
Aretha Richardson Jim Nelson moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)**

Ministers of Word and Service – Request For On Leave From Call Status
PLEASE REFER TO 2021 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Minister of Word and Service on Leave from Call".

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Request for Continuation of On Leave from Call Status
PLEASE REFER TO 2022 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call Continuation".

Pastor Em Johnson and Pastor Gary LeCroy moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**
James Harris and Linda Murphy moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)**

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Request for Continuation of On Leave from Call – Family Leave Status
PLEASE REFER TO 2022 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Minister of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call – Family Leave Continuation".

Steve Hernandez and Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**
Pastor Nancy Nardi and Linda Murphy moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)**

Ministers of Word and Service – Request For Continuation of On Leave From Call Status
PLEASE REFER TO 2021 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Minister of Word and Service on Leave from Call" Continuation".

Steve Hernandez and Pastor Em Johnson moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**
It was moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)**

Ministers of Word and Sacrament – Retirement

PLEASE REFER TO 2022 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Retirement".

Andrea Gerrard and Daniel Fields moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**
Pastor Susan Jones and Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)**
Pastor Em Johnson and Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)**

Ministers of Word and Service – Retirement

PLEASE REFER TO 2022 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF "Retirement".

Carla Hoenigmann and Jim Harris moved and seconded: **(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)**

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Call to Specialized Ministry

PLEASE REFER TO 2022 ROSTER AND PARISH EVENTS IN THE BISHOP'S REPORT FOR A COMPLETE LIST AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

SYNOD COUNCIL CALL

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council extend a call to Deacon Lawrence De Pasquale to serve as organist and music director at The Church of St. John the Evangelist, (Episcopal/Anglican), Chews Landing, NJ , according to the terms of agreement on file, effective April 11, 2022. **(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)**

SYNODICAL AUTHORIZED WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES AND MISSION DEVELOPERS:

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council extend a call for Mission Development to The Rev. Eunyoung Kim
(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the NJ Synod join the I-360 delay lawsuit being brought by Scott D. Pollack & Associates, P.C.
(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)

MINISTRY TRANSITIONS:

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council extend a call for Interim Pastoral Ministry to The Rev. Austin H. Newberry
(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

It was moved and seconded:
THAT contingent on a positive vote on January 16 from Christ Our Saviour, Jersey City, the Synod Council extend a call for Interim Pastoral Ministry to The Rev. Jonathan Westerlund. **(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)**

Pastor Em Johnson and Bill Emerson moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod Council affirm the following rostered leaders called to specialized ministry:

I. Calls to Synod Ministry Partners (terms stipulated by employment)
The Rev. Nancy E. Truscott, LSM/NJ, Chaplain, Crane's Mill, West Caldwell
The Rev. Sara E. Lilja, Director, Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey

II. Calls to Pastoral and Interim Parish Ministry (terms stipulated by letter of agreement)
The Rev. Glenn Boisclair, First, Kearny, and Grace, North Arlington
The Rev. Jesse W. Brown, Jr., Christus, Camden

The Rev. Gomes Pedro, Holy Trinity, East Orange
The Rev. Kathryn Irwin, St. Stephen, South Plainfield
The Rev. Nancy Nardi, Nativity, East Brunswick
The Rev. Young Kyu (Tristan) Shin, Christ Episcopal Church, Short Hills

III. Calls to Ministry as Pastor/Developer (terms set in consultation with ELCA DEM)
The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo, Santa Isabel, Elizabeth
The Rev. José Escalera, Temple Lutheran and Misión Luterana Reconciliación, Pennsauken

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

Pastor Nancy Nardi and Carla Hoenigmann moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod Council renew the calls of the following rostered leaders serving in specialized ministry:

IV. Calls to Chaplaincy, Hospice Care, Counseling, (renewed annually)
The Rev. Arnd Braun-Storck, Port Chaplain, Seafarers and International House
Jamie L. Dungey, Deacon, Chaplain, Somerset County Chaplaincy to the Elderly

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

Maurice Willoughby and Pastor Em Johnson moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod Council affirm the following retired rostered ministers:

ROSTER OF RETIRED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE

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

ROSTER OF RETIRED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

The Rev. Gunnar L. Anderson 1974	The Rev. David D. Mangiante 1958 *
The Rev. Bruce W. Bassett, Jr. 1984	The Rev. Margaret M. Marks 1985
The Rev. Arthur O. F. Bauer 1951 *	The Rev. Jeffrey May 1984
The Rev. David Bennett 1978	The Rev. Russell L. McIntyre 1965 *
The Rev. Barry N. Benson 1977	The Rev. Michael McKillip 2007
The Rev. Stephen F. Blank 1967 *	The Rev. James H. McKinley 1969 *
The Rev. H. Wayne Brady 1995	The Rev. Patricia S. Medley 1976
The Rev. George H. Brand 1961 *	The Rev. Ronald R. Miller 1975
The Rev. Carol L. Brighton 1972	The Rev. Joseph Molnar III 1959 *
The Rev. Mark P. Bruesehoff 1977	The Rev. Gladys G. Moore 1984
The Rev. Paul L. Brndjar 1970 *	The Rev. Nancy S. Moore 1984
The Rev. Richard C. Brunsell 1972	The Rev. Rafaela Morales-Rosa 1983
The Rev. David G. Burke 1964 *	The Rev. William C. Moser 1989
The Rev. Ulrich C. Columbus 1966 *	The Rev. Robert M. Mountenay 1981
The Rev. David F. Confer 1977	The Rev. Ronald C. Nelson 1964 *
The Rev. Daniel Congleton 1979	The Rev. Jaye S. Newbold 2013
The Rev. Jack A. Denys 1967 *	The Rev. Howard M. Norris 1954 *
The Rev. Peter J. DeRuiter 1963 *	The Rev. Jerold L. Nugent 1981
The Rev. Dallas D. Dorward 1953 *	The Rev. Tiina Nummela 1991
The Rev. Louis W. Dunkle 1965 *	The Rev. Richard W. Overcash 1974
The Rev. Jeffrey C. Eaton 1972	The Rev. Harald Peeders 1974
The Rev. Raymond J. Elberson 1975	The Rev. Harvey S. Peters, Jr. 1959 *

The Rev. Stanley E. Ellison 1969 *	The Rev. Penelope Pusateri-Stechmann 1992
The Rev. John M. Elstad 1963 *	The Rev. J. Paul Rajashekar 1983
The Rev. Glenn Englehardt 1975	The Rev. Karina Ramins 1986
The Rev. Gary V. Ettlemyer 1984	The Rev. Christine R. Regan 1990
The Rev. D. Randolph Etwaroo 1976	The Rev. Kenneth Regan 1983
The Rev. Bruce T. Ewen 1979	The Rev. Jeffrey H. Rickards 1973
The Rev. Cynthia Fazzini 1991	The Rev. E. Roy Riley, Jr. 1974
The Rev. Triffel L. Felske 1977	The Rev. Charles Romanowski 1980
The Rev. Charles A. Ferreri 2004	The Rev. Paul E. Rorem 1981
The Rev. John C. Fischer 1976	The Rev. Nancy L. Ruckert 1992
The Rev. Mary Forell-Davis 1978	The Rev. Jose Israel Sanchez 1993
The Rev. George W. Freyberger 1962 *	The Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach 1978
The Rev. Janet Gasbarro 1999	The Rev. Rudolph M. Schneider 1965 *
The Rev. Michael C. Gebhart 1989	The Rev. Glenn Schoenberger 1977
The Rev. Russell Haab 1986	The Rev. Jack Slotterback 1979
The Rev. William A. Hanson 1965 *	The Rev. Birgit R. Solano 1994
The Rev. Mary Jane Hastings 2002	The Rev. Christine A. Stiger 1980
The Rev. Richard B. Holzer 1958 *	The Rev. Donald Stiger 1979
The Rev. Jesse G. Houck III 1968 *	The Rev. David L. Stoner 1986
The Rev. Gordon L. Huff 1961 *	The Rev. Karen E. Strietelmeier 2008
The Rev. Robert G. Hughes 1962 *	The Rev. C. Paul Strockbine 1955 *
The Rev. Peter Hutchinson 1999	The Rev. Mark Summer 1977
The Rev. Otto W. Jacobson, Jr. 1958 *	The Rev. Thomas Tomlinson 1980
The Rev. Neil Jaggie 1975	The Rev. Richard R. Tupy, Jr. 1957 *
The Rev. Carl E. Joecks 1969 *	The Rev. David W. Vikner 1973
The Rev. John W. Johnson, Jr. 1957 *	The Rev. Burton H. Vincent 1960 *
The Rev. David W. Jones 1978	The Rev. Glenn A. Waskow 1998
The Rev. Richard W. Kitz 1966 *	The Rev. Timothy J. Wengert 1977
The Rev. John D. Kleist 1979	The Rev. Walter Wiklund 1963 *
The Rev. Kent R. Klophaus 2001	The Rev. Robert H. J. Wilms 1990
The Rev. Robert O. Kriesat 1965 *	The Rev. Robert H. Wilson, Jr. 1955 *
The Rev. John D. Larson 1973	The Rev. Linda F. Wood 1996
The Rev. Daniel R. Leslie 1968 *	The Rev. Robert Zimmermann 1970 *
The Rev. Walter J. Maier 1960 *	

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS and CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS of the NEW JERSEY SYNOD

William Emerson and Andrea Gerrard moved and seconded:
THAT the Continuing Resolution on Synodical Function and Structure, contained in the NJ Synod Constitution, ByLaws, and Continuing Resolutions be adopted. **(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)**

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

DANISH CHILDREN HOME

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council designate the $2,465.54 of earnings from the Danish Children Home Fund to the ELCA Disaster Response effort for Ukrainian refugees. **(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)**

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, PLEASANTVILLE

It was moved and seconded:
THAT a Corporate Resolution of the NJ Synod, ELCA, authorize James C. Harris, Treasurer, to act on behalf of the New Jersey Synod, on matters related to and the sale of the property of Epiphany Lutheran Church, 306 S. Franklin Blvd., Pleasantville, NJ. **(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)**

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod may spend up to $10,000 to repair and maintain the Epiphany Lutheran property in Pleasantville in preparation for sale. **(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)**

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council approve the legacy directive of the former Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pleasantville:

80% Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon, NJ
10% Bishop's Mission
10% World Hunger Appeal

(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)

GOOD SHEPHERD, LINDENWOLD

Linda Murphy and Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and seconded:
THAT the Good Shepherd Lindenwold Legacy Plan recommended to the Synod Council be approved.
(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)

Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and second by Carla Hoenigmann:
THAT the Synod Council approve a corporate resolution to authorize the Treasurer, James C. Harris, to sell the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Lindenwold, New Jersey.
(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)

Treasurer James Harris and Secretary Cassandra Mack asked that their abstentions be noted in the Minutes.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, EDISON

Pastor Em Johnson and Andrea Gerrard moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council establish the Our Savior Edison Fund as a board-designated endowment.
(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN, VINELAND

Bill Emerson and Pastor Giselle Coutinho moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council approve the following distribution of the undesignated gift to the NJ Synod:

10% ($7500) be designated to ELCA Churchwide Mission;
10% ($7500) be designated to NJ Synod Fund for Mission;
$30,000 reserved for legal defense of the New Jersey Synod in active suits; and
$30,000 designated to the Synod Council Contingency

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

HOUSING ALLOWANCE DESIGNATIONS

Treasurer Jim Harris and Jim Nelson moved and seconded:
That the following 2022 housing allowance designations be approved:

The Rev. Tracie Bartholomew	$15,000
The Rev. Sara Lilja	$30,000
The Rev. Dean Brown	$52,000

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew asked that her abstention be noted in the meeting Minutes.

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

2022 Synod Assembly Registration Fees:
It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council set the following 2022 Assembly costs:
$125.00 - voting members (includes banquet) ($175 after March 22, 2022)
$ 65.00 - voting retired Rostered Leaders not serving a congregation (includes banquet)
$100.00 - visitors/non-voting Rostered Leaders (includes banquet) ($120 after March 22, 2022)
$ 40.00 – visitors/non-voting Rostered Leaders (without banquet) ($50 after March 22, 2022)

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

2022 Synod Assembly Theme:
Andrea Gerrard and Aretha Richardson moved and seconded:
THAT the theme for the Thirty-Fourth Annual New Jersey Synod Assembly be *Together We Are God's Tapestry of Love*.

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council authorize the Assembly Planning to Team continue looking at options and provide a recommendation by the end of January.

(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)

Rules of Procedure for the Thirty-fourth Annual Synod Assembly:
It was moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod Council recommend to the 2022 Synod Assembly the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Thirty-fourth Annual New Jersey Synod Assembly.

(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)

FISCAL MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (FMAP)

Andrea Gerrard and Linda Murphy moved and seconded:
THAT the 2022 Rostered Leader Compensation Guidelines be adopted.

(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod Council recommend to the 2022 Synod Assembly the proposed 2023 Spending Plan.

(ADOPTED 03/19/2022)

BRIDGE OF PEACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, CAMDEN

Pastor Carol Lindsay and Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and seconded:
THAT $10,000 be spent from the Camden Lutheran Ministries fund for:

Insurance deductible	$2500
Replacement kitchen cabinets	$2500
Kitchen flooring	$3500
Dehumidifier	$1000
Plumbing repair	$ 400

(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)

REPORT OF UNITS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND TASK GROUPS

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Jim Nelson and Pastor Nancy Nardi moved and seconded:
THAT the following candidate(s) be approved for ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, upon receipt and acceptance of a call:

Brandi J. Hebert
Haydée M. Colon Hernandez **(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)**

FUND FOR MISSION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bill Emerson and Pastor Giselle Coutinho moved and seconded:
THAT the recommendation of the Fund for Mission Management Committee (FFM)for the following grants be approved for payment through Fund for Mission and Alternative Funding Sources:

2022 GRANT PROPOSALS

Office of the Bishop Synod Mission Initiatives

Ministry	Grant Request	Grant Award
Santa Isabel, Elizabeth, ($10,000); Detention Center Ministry, Elizabeth ($2,000); Morning Star Ministry (1,000); Misión Pan de vida ($1,000); St. Stephan's Grace, Newark ($6,000); St. Luke, Dunellen ($4,000), St. Bartholomew, Trenton ($6,000), and Misión Luterana Reconciliación, Pennsauken ($1,000).	$31,000	$ 31,000
Bishop's Subvention Fund	$ 3,000	$ 3,000

General Fund for Mission Applications

Ministry	Grant Request	Grant Award
Spruce Run, Glen Gardner (Evangelism outreach)	$ 1,280	$ 1,280
LEAMNJ (engaging Lutheran leadership for advocacy ministry)	$15,000	$ 15,000
Temple/Misión Luterana Reconciliación, Pennsauken (Evangelism outreach to Latinx residents)	$ 1,650	$ 1,650
Trinity, Jersey City (Food Pantry Ministry)	$10,000	$ 10,000
Bosnia Leadership Team (youth travel assistance to ensure diversity)	$ 6,000	$ 6,000
Grace, River Edge (Sunday School music program)	$ 5,000 – 7,000	$ 5,000
St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken (Lunch Time Ministry)	$10,000	$ 10,000
Holy Communion, Berlin (food pantry upgrade/rolling cart purchase)	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Holy Communion, Berlin (baby pantry)	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Messiah, Cape May Court House (Multi-media equipment for on-line worship capability)	$ 4,000	$ 4,000
Faith Kitchen, Dover (feeding program)	$ 7,560	$ 7,560
St. Paul, Millville (Youth and Family Neighborhood Outreach)	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Abiding Presence, Ewing (Institute for Youth Ministry/PTS)	$15,000	$ 15,000
Total	**Up to $126,990**	**$124,990**

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION TEAM

It was moved and seconded:
THAT the New Jersey Synod withdraw from the Growing Young program and not participate in the 2021 or further Growing Young trainings.

(ADOPTED 06/12/2021)

MINISTRY PARTNERS

LEAM/NJ

Pastor Michael Linderman and Steve Hernandez moved and seconded:
THAT the Synod Council approve the following people to serve as an ad hoc team on LEAMNJ: The Rev. Peter Hartney, Dean of the Shore District; Bill Emerson, Synod Council member; The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, retired; The Rev. Moacir Weirich, St. Stephan Grace Community; Robert Bowden, Synod Council member; Karena Payanzo, Synod Council member; Lois Parrett, Director of Operations, NJ Synod; and Bishop Bartholomew. The committee will report to the November council meeting and bring a final recommendation to the January 2022 meeting.

(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)

Andrea Gerrard and Pastor Michael Linderman moved and seconded:
THAT the ad hoc team recommendation be approved:

1. Advocacy continue to be an important part of our common work – both in providing education and training for congregations and being present with lawmakers in Trenton.
2. The Justice and Peace Mission Team, with its subcommittees, be used as a vital part of the work of advocacy in the synod and be reconstituted as necessary.
3. The Director of LEAMNJ continue at 1/2 time.
4. LEAMNJ become part of the Office of the Bishop instead of being a ministry partner.
5. With the goal of February 1, 2022, a full-time Assistant to the Bishop be brought on board whose portfolio will include the 1/2 time LEAMNJ position. This assumes the grants from the ELCA for advocacy ministry will continue to be received.

(ADOPTED 11/18/2021)

Maurice Willoughby asked that his abstention be noted in the meeting Minutes.

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

The COVID pandemic continues to impact Cross Road programs and there is uncertainty about the impact through 2022. In consultation with the Cross Roads treasurer the following recommendation was brought to the floor.
It was moved and seconded:
THAT Cross Roads may defer payments on their loan from the New Jersey Synod until October 30, 2022.

(ADOPTED 01/15/2022)

UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Pastor Carol Lindsay and Carla Hoenigmann moved and seconded:
THAT The Rev. Sara Lilja be appointed as the NJ Synod representative on the ULS Board for a second three-year term. **(ADOPTED 09/10/2021)**

NJ Synod of the ELCA: Stewardship 2021

It's not only that our giving blesses others and does good in the world, it's that is also helps us reflect the way God works – giving freely as an expression of God's Love. -Saving Grace, p.44

The citation above was shared at a recent conference on faith, thriving and stewardship. What caught my attention when I heard it –what I appreciated in what it conveyed– is how it alluded to the inseparable yet interrelated benefits, reasons and phenomena we may call or refer to as 'generosity.' On the one hand generosity is something we do because of its recognizable impact; because something matters, and in our giving and through our participation in some event or through the life of a community to which we belong –something material is accomplished. That is on the one hand.

On the other hand -this same statement, that is, the citation shared above– it reminds us that generosity is also not only about accomplishing or carrying out an organizational goal or making a difference in somebody else's life, as important as that is, but that it is also one of the primary ways through which our life in Christ is experienced, shared and lived. Both ends of this equation matter: generosity as 'doing' and generosity as 'being;' generosity as external act for another, and generosity as internal blessing, that is, being transformed…blessed moments of being vessels and instruments of God's love! These are different sides of the same proverbial generosity/stewardship coin (forgive the pun).

And what connects both ends of this generosity paradigm (i.e., generosity as purpose and generosity as witness/formation) is relationship. God's relationship with us. Our relationship with God revealed in Christ made know through faith made possible through the Holy Spirit. And our relationship with one another also made possible through this same faith.

And so, when we speak of stewardship ministry, what we are really talking about is the multifaceted life of faith which we have been given, a life that is not just for 'us' or ends with us, but a life –because of God and through Christ– *for* one another. In other words, if there is one thing we learn and encounter through 'generous living' or 'stewardship ministry,' it is that just as our lives are caught up in God and God's purposes, so to are we bound *to* one another and *for* one another. These, and ideas like these, are the basis -the foundation- for the 'why' and 'how' of our annual generosity and stewardship ministry.

With that said, here is some of what our NJ Synod's Stewardship Ministry resources and opportunities emphasize and offer:

- Being grounded in sound biblical teaching and Lutheran theological thought.
- That teaching about generosity and how to be generous are closely related yet distinct from one another. And yet they are both necessary parts of stewardship ministry.
- Strong stewardship ministry is directly related to congregational practices such as:
    - Have an annual stewardship appeal that is planned, launched in the course of a month, and then followed up bringing that year's appeal to closure.
    - Messaging matters – learn, teach and practice impact/outcome stories and generosity stories.
    - Though there is an annual appeal, stewardship is a practice we teach, witness, encourage and speak of year-round. It is one facet of giving thanks for the mission and ministry we share.
    - Strong stewardship tracks with having a mission/purpose for which you are asking people to give toward.
    - In addition to having a clear missional identity, *narrative budgets* and *multiple opportunities* for giving (i.e., online/electronic) add to the momentum found within generous congregational giving.

    - Not only do we 'inform' and 'ask' members for their offerings, but we appeal to their hearts while thanking them sincerely.
- Opportunities for stewardship learning and growth were and shall continue to be offered in a variety of ways:
    - *Building a Culture of Generosity (BCG)* is a stewardship program our synod has run in the fall for two years now in partnership with Rev. Michael Ward of GSB Nonprofit Fundraising and Planning. This is a program that the ELCA is partnering with more formally as numerous ELCA congregations (and other denominations) have participated in this newly developed course created as the result of, and in response to, accelerated congregational changes and challenges intensified by the pandemic. It is a well-rounded stewardship program that will either establish or enhance what your congregation's annual stewardship practices already are.
    - *Fall Zoom Mtgs* were offered at nine separate times in August and September with emphases on 'Impact' and 'Generosity' stories. This was a time to learn more technically what they are and how to implement/incorporate them in congregational annual appeals and throughout the year.
    - *'One on One' Opportunities* occurred whether it was meetings with pastors, stewardship team leaders, congregational worship settings, congregational stewardship rallies all of which were scheduled and occurred throughout the year.
    - *Congregational Visitation* is an ongoing emphasis with brief temple talk/announcement thanking congregations for Mission Support and reinforcing what the NJ Synod is (a relationship) and the joy in what we accomplish together (living and sharing the gospel in words and deeds).
- An upcoming goal is to help congregations integrate 'Planned Giving' as part of their stewardship teaching and annual cultivation.

Thank you, all, for the incredible generosity you constantly witness and for the ministry we do together which is greater than any of us could do alone. And thanks be to the source of all Goodness and the gift of Life-everlasting: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM)
Report to the New Jersey Synod Assembly - May 2022
Rev. Maristela L. Freiberg

The Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) is an ELCA churchwide deployed position to the New Jersey Synod. This position works with new starts, strategic ministries, cohorts of learning communities, area ministries strategy, explorations, experiments, and congregational vitality. Partnerships and initiatives with the three expressions of ELCA – churchwide, synod and congregations – are highlighted in this report.

CHURCHWIDE

For **FY 2022, New Jersey Synod congregations and ministries will receive a total of $136,400 in** Christian Community and Leadership - **Congregational Vitality grants from our churchwide partners.** These funds support new starts and strategic ministries. As DEM, I provide ongoing consultation and connection with congregations receiving churchwide grant support.

Our Synod was awarded $15,000 from the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to support congregations in communities affected by Hurricane Ida who had the capacity to respond immediately with robust food ministries, COVID testing and vaccinations, and cleaning supplies for recovery efforts (St. Bartholomew-Trenton, St. Stephan's Grace-Newark, and Trinity-Jersey City). Our thanks to Beth Gebhart and Alison Lauck from LSMNJ, who are serving as coordinators for Hurricane Ida long term relief on behalf of the NJ Synod.

As part of the Christian Community and Leadership area at Churchwide, I continue to serve on a DEM working group focused on vital and vulnerable congregations, on the synod vitality strategies review table, and lately as the Dean for Region 7 DEMs.

SYNOD

In 2021 congregations continued to pivot, as they were leading ministry in a digital age and navigating the long-term effects of the pandemic, while deeply caring for people around them, both within and beyond the church. Through mutual relationships with neighbors, congregations have joined in acts of compassion and justice as a witness to the ministry of Jesus—particularly in places of suffering, disaster, hunger, and despair. I am grateful to work beside the **Mission Advocacy Table** to support, equip, and serve the synod in areas related to congregational vitality and new ministries and to engage in conversation to rethink how we do mission, what it means to be the Church in a hurting world, and how we best steward our ministries to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus. What gives me gratitude, joy and hope for the future is the way the congregations of our Synod have responded to the challenges of hybrid (in-person and virtual) engagement in worship and faith formation, pastoral care, evangelism, justice, diversity, and generosity. They have done this in creative ways, trusting the work of the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire the work they do as the Body of Christ in the New Jersey Synod.

We continue to support our **New Starts** as they build community in the places where God has planted them. We have 5 New Starts who have continued to do creative ministry in their neighborhoods, led by gifted mission developers whose energy and enthusiasm for ministry and God's people is exceptional:

- Misión Luterana Reconciliación/ Temple, Pennsauken – Pastor José Escalera
- Misión Pan de Vida, Passaic – Pastor Haydee Colon-Hernandez

- Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield – Pastor Eunyoung Kim
- Santa Isabel Lutheran Church & Santa Isabel Ministry with Immigrants in Detention, Elizabeth – Pastor Ramon Collazo

Misión Luterana Reconciliación, a new mission start-parallel ministry with Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken, begun in June of 2021, led by Pastor José Escalera. Pastor Escalera and others are leading an effort to build relationships in the community and create a Spanish-language bible study and fellowship, and home blessing gatherings.

Our 4 **Strategic Ministries** have continued to do effective, relevant, and faithful outreach while increasing congregational involvement even though physical and social distancing has made this a challenge.

- Bridge of Peace Community Church, Camden - Pastor Giselle Coutinho
- Christus Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camden - Pastor Jesse Brown Jr.
- Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church, Trenton - Pastor Erich Kussman
- Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Dunellen - Pastor Dámaris Ortega

Throughout the last year, Mission Developers, Redevelopers, and I continued to come together regularly via Zoom every 3 weeks for check-ins, mutual support, resources, and training opportunities. In December, we appreciated being able to gather again for our annual Advent Retreat at Cross Roads. In September of 2021, Pastor Escalera was installed as pastor of Temple and commissioned as mission developer of Misión Luterana Reconciliación in Pennsauken. In December of 2021, Pastor Haydee Colon-Hernandez was ordained and installed as pastor of St. John and Misión Pan de Vida in Passaic. I enjoyed participating in worship and fellowship with them. It's always a joy to be part of these events and to witness the power of God at work in peoples' lives.

Cohort of Learning Communities
I continue to lift up and encourage the potential of cohorts of learning communities to cultivate mutual relationships between the congregations involved and to foster experiments and spiritual practices. It is a blessing to see congregational teams together asking who they are, why God placed them where they are, what being church today is all about, and what difference that makes to the world.

Caminando Unidos en Cristo - The commitment to gathering a virtual cohort of Latine leaders from different congregations in our synod continues. As part of this cohort, last Fall the group used the booklet Desatando el Corazon/Unbinding your Heart from Martha Reese, which details a 40 Days of Prayer process, and had conversations about evangelism and how to build relationships within the congregations and the neighborhoods they serve. During the Advent season, the group engaged with the devotional booklet "Adviento - ¡Alégrense en la Esperanza!" from Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Marcos in Puerto Rico. And now participants are using NJ Synod resource, called "The Jehu's Mission: A congregational Bible study". I am so grateful to Pastor Haydee Colon-Hernandez for serving as the coordinator of this cohort, which is equipping Spanish-speaking leaders in our Synod.

Go and…! In January of 2022, we started a monthly virtual gathering for congregational leaders with a passion and interest for evangelism and outreach. We are holding space for mutual learning, engagement, and input for those who desire deeper connections and networking with others in our Synod and feel called to wrestle with ways to reach out to new people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. While some congregations welcomed new congregants due to their move to virtual ministry, the

challenge now is for all congregations to assess the best ways to connect with new people post-pandemic. These gathering are providing resources for discussions about spiritual practices, for ways to listen, build relationships, and reach out to neighbors, and to figure out our mission pathway into the future in which God is calling us to be church. Special thanks for our planning team, facilitators, and guests.

New Jersey Synod Coaching Ministry - This past year, new coaches were trained, bringing our number of trained synod coaches to 11 active lay and rostered coaches. Several coaches have additional training and specialization in discipleship and/or stewardship. The team coaches clergy (first call pastors and pastors new to the synod), lay leaders, and congregations. Coaching has also been provided for congregations that are in the process of becoming Reconciling in Christ (RIC) churches in order to welcome and affirm LGBTQIA+ persons and communities. Coaches meet quarterly for continuing education, support, and resources. Coaching is a ministry with the objective to help anyone who is feeling stuck in ministry or life and/or who wants to work toward a goal. Synod coaches are available for lay and rostered leaders, as well as for congregations.

Lovestruck – This past year, a Lovestruck leadership team was formed with the goal of taking a group of youth and adults to the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering to participate in MYLE 2022 and to lead the Lovestruck activities at the gathering's Interactive Learning Center. Lovestruck is a leadership development and faith-building opportunity for young people from urban congregations in our synod; participants serve as facilitators for conversations on race, community, and God. Since the Gathering was cancelled, the group is discerning participating at Our Gathering at Cross Roads from July 24 - 30, 2022. A word of thanks to Alexandra Mack serving as co-chair for Lovestruck.

We are looking forward to starting new cohorts in 2022:
The Log College Project is run through the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Seminary and is an 18-month journey designed **to rebuild and revitalize youth ministry programs and activities** with an emphasis on being youth-led and mission-driven. Each participating congregation in this cohort will put together a team of 5-7 people, half of whom should be youth. The participating youth will activate their gifts, passions, agency and leadership by designing the youth ministry at their home congregations. The IYM will support these teams through retreats, online and in-person instruction, and coaching, as well as on-site visits and curriculum materials. Pastor Miles Hopgood (Abiding Presence-Ewing) is pursuing the involvement of congregational teams in our synod.

Faithful Journey is a new cohort, just starting to take form, made up of congregations in the Western Mission District.

CONGREGATIONS
I have been working lately more with congregation in transition (Bethany-Jersey City, Calvary-Allendale, Grace-Bayonne, Good Shepherd-Weehawken, Redeemer-Jersey City, and St. Paul-Jersey City), congregations in call processes (Holy Trinity-Nutley, St. John-Passaic, St. Matthew-Jersey City, St. Matthew-Secaucus, St. Paul-Ridgefield, St. Timothy-Wayne, and Trinity-Jersey City), shared ministry explorations (Trenton Partners, Christ the King-Kendal Park & Nativity-East Brunswick, Epiphany-Pleasantville & Reformation-Absecon, Zion, St. Paul & Morning Star Fellowship-Ridgefield, and Bethany, Christ Our Saviour & Redeemer-Jersey City), and legacy workshop (Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgefield). These different interactions with congregations always include conversation about their call to be mission posts and about how they are listening to God's call. It's a blessing to ask these questions

together: "What is God up to in your community? How are you and your congregation called to join that work?"

I am so very thankful for those on the different mission teams and ministries working groups and all they have contributed toward the ministry of the synod this past year.

I look forward to continuing this work on behalf of our synod.

With gratitude,

Pastor Maristela L. Freiberg (she/her/hers)
Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop
cell: (201) 407-6000 email: maristela.freiberg@elca.org

2022 Report of the NJ Synod Archivist

With this NJ Synod Assembly report, I would direct your attention to the Winter edition of the *Archives Advocate* that details some of the important work that is ongoing at our regional Archives Center. You will note that the work of the Archives Center is a regional ministry of the ELCA, with roots that stretch back to the 1792 when the archives of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania (MOP) was officially recognized as an integral part of the church organization. As you will read in the pages of the *Advocate* some significant work is being done on the MOP collection through a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

After the publication of this latest edition of the *Advocate* the Archives Center was hit with a devastating flood in the Brossman Center at United Lutheran Seminary where we are located. The flood has negatively impacted several our collections as well as our resource library. As we assess the damage and begin the clean up of the Archives we are nonetheless continuing to carry on the work of this regional ministry of the ELCA. Please keep the work of the Archives Center in your prayers and we are, as always, grateful for your continued support!

Since our last Assembly two NJ Synod congregations have closed – Good Shepherd, Lindenwold, and Zion, Ridgefield. We thank God for their faithful ministry among us.

This year we rejoice with five New Jersey Synod congregations that are celebrating significant anniversaries. Once again, 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, or soon will be, celebrating significant anniversaries:

125:
Faith Lutheran Church, New Providence
St. John Lutheran Church, Williamstown

100:
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Manasquan

75:
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glen Rock

25:
Living Waters Lutheran Church, Ringoes

Respectfully,

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

Mission Advocacy Table Report for 2022 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.

   At this time, all new mission starts are identified as SAWCs (Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities). The NJ Synod SAWCs include:
   - Santa Isabel / Ministry with Immigrants, Elizabeth – Pastor Ramon Collazo, Mission Developer
   - **Misión Luterana Reconciliación/ Temple, Pennsauken – Pastor José Escalera**, Mission Developer (started on June 2021)
   - Misión Pan de Vida, Passaic – Pastor Haydee Colon, Mission Developer
   - Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield – Pastor Eunyoung Kim, 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 2021 Strategic Ministries included:
   - Bridge of Peace (Camden)
   - Christus (Camden)
   - St. Bartholomew (Trenton)
   - St. Luke's (Dunellen)
   - St. Stephan's Grace Community (Newark)
   - Christ the King (Kendal Park) and Nativity (East Brunswick)*
   - Epiphany (Pleasantville) and Reformation (Absecon)*

     *Does not include funding

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.*" Opportunities for cultivating congregational missional vitality were offered:
   - Caminando Unidos en Cristo – Leaders of Latinx congregations gather bi-monthly for support and study.
   - LOG College Project in conjunction with Princeton Seminary.
   - Re-boot Camp – on-line Vital Congregations Training.
   - Coaching –coaching opportunities were provided through ELCA Coaches.

- Lay Planter Training (LPT) – St. Bartholomew, Trenton participated.

4. **Reallocation of funds from 2021 Spending Plan for Outreach for Congregations doing Latino Outreach and from Cultivating Congregational Vitality Grant for Partners for Mission with Strategic Communities** allowed funds to be distributed to the following congregations who are engaged in ministry with Latine or persons of African Descent, African American and Asian persons.

- **Latine / Multiethnic:**
  - Iglesia Luterana Santa Isabel (Elizabeth)
  - Misión Pan de Vida (Passaic)
  - Misión Luterana Reconciliación (Pennsauken)
  - Iglesias Luterana El Buen Pastor (Weehawken)
  - Cristo San Juan (West New York)
  - Iglesia Luterana San Mateo (Union City)
  - St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church (Trenton)
  - Bridge of Peace (Camden)
  - St. Luke Lutheran Church (Dunellen)
  - St. Stephan's Grace Community Church (Newark)
- **African Descent, African American and Asian persons:**
  - Christus Lutheran Church (Camden)
  - Redeemer Lutheran Church (Trenton)
  - Trinity Lutheran Church (Jersey City)
  - Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (Jersey City)
  - Bethany Lutheran Church (Jersey City)
  - Redeemer Lutheran Church (Jersey City)
  - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (East Orange)
  - Morning Star Fellowship (Ridgefield)
  - Elect Saints (Morrisville, PA)

Giving Thanks…

We are thankful for facilitators and coaches that equip, accompany, and encourage the work of our cohorts.

We are grateful to God for the Rev. Maristela Freiberg, our Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), who brings both joy and passion to our mission work in the New Jersey Synod. She participates in a wide variety of synodical, regional and churchwide events and activities.

We are thankful to those who serve as part of the Mission Advocacy Table these last two year: Pastors Judy Anderson, Chris Bruesehoff, Linnéa Clark, Haydee Colon-Hernández, Maristela Freiberg, José Escalara and Heather Sugden, and to Bill Emerson, Emily Thomsen, Sally Bayhi, and Willie Richardson. And a special thank you to Dawn Roberts.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Judy Anderson
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Brick

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

Youth Ministry Mission Team Report 2022

The NJ Synod's Youth Ministry Mission Team successfully sponsored several in-person opportunities for various youth and adults in NJ to come together during the past year, despite the many obstacles concerning the current pandemic.

First, the YMMT sponsored "Opening Day at Cross Roads" where members of the team, along with several adults and youth from around the synod, spent the day at Cross Roads helping to get the camp ready for the summer! We raked leaves, cleaned the pool, and put together the outdoor eating area. We celebrated our time together with a meal and a worship service. We thank Pastor Annemarie Cook for being the chaplain of this event.

Our retreat planning team, under the leadership of Alyssa Gautieri, spent a lot of time together on Zoom meetings and in-person planning for a weekend retreat in November, with the theme "Extreme Faith"! However, as we were about to begin the registration process, our Covid numbers in NJ jumped up into the red zone again, and our weekend retreat was quickly readjusted to a day event. This event took place in November at Abiding Presence in Ewing and had about 100 youth and their leaders singing, playing, and learning together. The musicians for the day were staff from Cross Roads and they were a big part in setting a positive tone for the day. Pastors Annemarie Cook and JJ Simpson-Keelan led a team of chaplains.

We have sent representatives from the NJ Synod to a couple of ELCA sponsored events this year. In November, Debra Porowski took NJ youth Lydia Mencer (Holy Trinity, Manasquan) and Quin Rice (Living Waters, Ringoes) to the ELCA Youth Summit in Minneapolis. The youth participated in leadership training that they can bring back to their schools and congregations. In February, Debra traveled back to Minneapolis for a Gathering Synod Coordinator's Retreat, followed by the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza. Several other adults from 3 different NJ synod churches attended this event of networking, learning, and worship.

The YMMT works closely with our partners at Cross Roads to help plan and manage events. Cross Roads had 28 congregations participate in camp last summer, an impressive number for summer during a pandemic!. We are looking forward to supporting and promoting the Cross Roads spring retreats for elementary, middle school, and high school students.

Due to concerns regarding Covid 19 and the pandemic, the ELCA made the very difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Youth Gathering. We had approximately 100 youth and adult leaders from 13 congregations across NJ registered to attend this event. We plan to take this opportunity to create a new event here in NJ at Cross Roads called "Our Gathering at Cross Roads" for all these youth, along with any others who want to join us in this new adventure. We look forward to working with Cross Roads to create this new event for our synod.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Porowski
Youth Ministry Mission Team

Report to the NJ Synod ELCA

Anti-Racism Team 2021

Greetings and God Bless,

The Anti-Racism Team (ART) was quite busy in 2021. The team met six times during the year; February, March, April, June, September, and December.

ART set long and short-term goals for the work of the committee. The goals included:

- NJ Synod congregations become an Anti-Racist church. (L)
- Identify a subgroup to help congregations engage in conversation or action around racial justice, inclusion, and equity. (S)
- Formulate a 5-year plan, broken into manageable steps. (S)
- Offer workshops on *Transforming White Privilege.* (S)
- Consider collaborating with local police departments. (L)

After the murder of George Floyd, and attendance by the ART Chair at the African Descent Lutherans summit, team members felt it was important to engage in conversations with congregations about racial justice, equity, and inclusion (RJEI). In January, February, and April representatives from congregations all around the state participated in three virtual conversations. People brought forth examples of what congregations were doing, what they wanted to do, and how to get more information about the issues presenting in the country. To move the process forward, the RJEI participants divided into three self-selected sub-groups.

- *How to Start* – provided ideas for starting RJEI work in congregations.
- *Action in Community/Public Church* - explored tasks related to advocacy and engaging the community in social justice
- *Resources & Education* - sub-group worked to curate resources.

During the April meeting of the RJEI conversations, ART introduced the concept of implicit bias. The team presented a video and facilitated a discussion using a video clip from *Cracking the Codes on Implicit/Unconscious Bias.* This meeting generated quite a bit of conversation particularly about how to introduce this topic in various congregational settings like adult forums, youth groups, or Bible study. Before the Assembly, the Synod asked the ART for an idea for small group discussion. ART prepared a module designed to create awareness that everyone has biases.

In September and October three members of ART and an additional facilitator delivered *TWP* to approximately twenty-five people. The facilitating group ended the year with plans to invite people to become TWP facilitators in the future which would support opportunities for more conversations to take place around the Synod. The TWP facilitators set a goal to conduct more TWP workshops in early 2022 for anyone interested.

With God's grace and blessings, ART will continue to meet the goal of the NJ Synod ELCA becoming an anti-racist church that practices inclusion and promotes equity.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dianne R. Browne, PhD, Chair
Anti-Racism Team
NJ Synod ELCA

Bosnia International Servant Trip Report

Because of COVID restrictions here and abroad, the Bosnia International Servant team has not been able to travel abroad since 2019. As of March 2022, Bosnia remains in the CDC's "high risk" category, and travel there is discouraged.

Former travelers and supporters of the Bosnia ministry did gather last June to celebrate the ministry's 20th anniversary within the synod. The joyful reunion was filled with storytelling and songs led by the team's long-time musician, Larry Olson. A free will offering was sent to our two special needs program partners in Bosnia, who were very grateful for the donations amid new COVID protocols. We thank Prince of Peace in Marlton for hosting us in their lovely outdoor worship space.

The Bosnia leadership team will meet this spring to discuss how to prepare to travel when conditions permit.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Henry, team leader

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE N.J. SYNOD CANDIDACY COMMITTEE
2021-22

In these last two years all of us have faced unimaginable challenges. Even so, we have seen increased interest in the candidacy process and have welcomed new candidates to this journey of learning and preparation for rostered leadership in the church. This work would not be possible without the exceptional commitment of the NJ Synod Candidacy Committee: Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Mr. Anthony Briggs, Pastor José Escalera, Pastor Mona Fitch-Elliott, Pastor Maristela Freiberg, Dr. Jon Paul, Pastor Marc Stutzel, Pastor Matt Thiringer, and Ms. Chyrl Wreh. We remain thankful for our candidacy chaplain, Pastor Dale Selover, who prayerfully supports both the candidates and the committee members in our work together.

This year we say farewell and thank you to two people. Ms. Rene Cherson has served faithfully on the committee for several years and has kept us grounded in a layperson's perspective of what matters most in church leadership. Her support for our candidates has been invaluable.

We have also been immensely grateful for the work of Pastor Becky Resch as our synod's Candidacy Coordinator. Her work has been so exceptional, in fact, that at the end of last year she was offered the role of Candidacy and Leadership Manager for Regions 7 and 8. We are delighted that we get to continue to have her wisdom and support in this new role, and we wish her the best as she brings her gifts to all the synods in the northeast.

We welcome Pastor Marc Stutzel as our new Candidacy Coordinator. He has served on the committee for many years and has a long record of providing strong support for candidates. We are delighted that he has agreed to expand that work in this new role. The learning curve is steep, but he is off and running with impressive speed and clarity.

We are delighted to add two new members to the committee. Ms. Chyrl Wreh brings a depth of experience as a lay leader at Redeemer, Trenton. Dr. Jon Pahl is our new seminary representative. We value the ways that Dr. Pahl's participation in our work keeps us connected to our partners in theological education. Welcome, Chyrl and Jon!

Now more than ever, we are doing our best to assess the gifts and needs of our individual candidates and to design a path that makes sense for each of them while also maintaining the integrity of the candidacy process. It takes courage to pursue rostered leadership in these uncertain times. We ask for your prayers for our current candidates (see attached list), for those who are considering candidacy, and for the committee members as we carry out our work. And, as always, please keep identifying people who have those gifts for leadership and send them our way.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Compton, Chairperson
N.J. Synod Candidacy Committee

NEW JERSEY SYNOD CANDIDATES FOR ROSTERED LEADERSHIP – 2022

Entranced (Word and Sacrament)

Jaymie Kosa
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
St. Paul, East Windsor

Jeremy Lambson
Princeton Theological Seminary

Daniel Marrone
Princeton Theological Seminary
Good Shepherd, Holmdel

Kim Syvertsen
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Prince of Peace, Marlton

Entranced (Word and Service)

None at this time.

Endorsed (Word and Sacrament)

Daniel Fields
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Messiah, Parlin

Ivan Kavoleff
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Immanuel, Lakewood

Scott Rush
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Prince of Peace, Marlton

Endorsed (Word and Service)

George "Ned" Perwo
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH/United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Holy Trinity, Manasquan

Currently on Internship (Word and Sacrament)

Kayla Hopgood
Princeton Theological Seminary
St. Mark, Hamilton
Internship site: Prince of Peace, Princeton Junction

Dale Newton
New Brunswick Theological Seminary/United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
St. Stevens, South Plainfield
Internship site: Hope Lutheran Church, Selden, NY

Mary-Anne "Psomi" Psomas-Jackloski
Drew Theological School, Madison/United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
St. John's, Summit
Internship site: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Parsippany

Currently on Internship (Word and Service)

None at this time.

Approved for Ordination (Word and Sacrament)

Bridget Gautieri
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Calvary, Lutheran Cranford
Internship Site: Saint John's Lutheran Church, Parkville, MD

Haydee Colon-Hernandez
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Saint Matthew's, Union City
Internship site: St. John, Passaic
Accepted a call at St. John, Passaic

Brandi Hebert
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Prince of Peace, Princeton Junction
Internship site: Lutheran Church of God's Love, Newtown, PA

Approved for Ordination (Word and Service)

None at this time.

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)

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

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

Naeem Harry
Previously Ordained in Roman Catholic Church
United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia
Good Shepherd, Somerville
Serves as Chaplain at Grace Health Care Services, Edison

Eunyoung Kim
Previously Ordained in Presbyterian Church of Korea
Zion, Ridgefield
Serves as ELCA Mission Developer at Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield

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 and 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.

Who might a client be?
YOU. Clients are people ordained to Word and Sacrament or Word and Service, lay leadership, congregational council, or a specific ministry team (yes, there is group coaching).

Who is a coach?
At present the New Jersey Synod has thirteen active coaches. You can find their information on the New Jersey Synod website. Each coach has at a minimum Level 1 training through the ELCA Coaching network which is recognized by the International Coaching Federation.

In 2021, six persons received LEVEL 1 training through the ELCA and were added to the roster of coaches as several others went into inactive status or moved out of the synod.

Other Activities in 2021:
The Rev. Dr. Wendy Abrahamson was named New Jersey Synod Coaching Coordinator. We give thanks to Arundel Clarke who served as the Interim Coaching Coordinator.

Three priorities were named in 2021:
1. Adding trained coaches to the roster
2. Introducing coaching to first call pastors
3. Offering coaching to congregations considering becoming Reconciled in Christ congregations.
4. Making coaching availability more visible – thus coaching often appears in Jersey Jottings.

To learn more about coach you may find information at the New Jersey Synod website (www.njsynod.org/coaching) and the ELCA Coaching website (www.elcacoaching.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy L. Abrahamson

NJ Synod Coaching Coordinator

COMPENSATION AID TASK FORCE
REPORT FOR 2021

Since its establishment at the 1994 Synod Assembly, the Compensation Aid Task Force has received $1,540,309.80 from legacy gifts, congregations, and individuals of the NJ Synod. In addition, there was $34,526.14 of net investment income for the year.

2021 Receipts: A total of $10,298.30 was received. This includes contributions from one pastor and 12 congregations.

2021 Disbursements: $36,180 in grant money was given to four congregations and $12,000 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund for Christmas gifts to retirees and pensioners.

2021 Balance: $449,637.75

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.

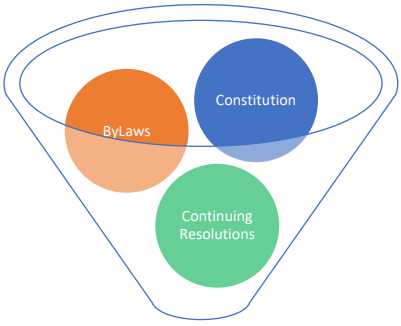
Along with processing applications for grants and consulting with congregations that apply, the Task Force encourages congregations to contribute to the Compensation Aid Fund an amount equal to 1% of their pastor's "Defined Compensation" as determined by the ELCA's pension and health plan. Eligible congregations 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

Is your constitution up to date with the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations ?

NO	YES
Congregation Council votes to recommend updates to the congregation constitution to be in conformity with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly	Congregation Council votes to update the constitution to conform with the updated *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. This can happen every three (3) years.
At a duly called congregational meeting, the congregational council communicates its recommendation to the congregation. The congregation approves the update to the constitution.	The congregational council uses the most recent *Model Constitition* to bring the congregations constitution into compliance. This can be done by the Council or a designated constitution committee.
The congregational council uses the most recent *Model Constitition* to bring the congregations constitution into compliance. This can be done by the Council or a designated constitution committee.	The congregational council communicates its recommendation to the congregation and makes the updated constitution available for review by members at least 30 days prior to the congregational meeting.
At the duly called congregational meeting voting members approve only the "conformity" changes to the constitution. **A simple majority is required to move forward.**	At the duly called congregational meeting voting members approve only the "conformity" changes to the constitution as listed. A simple majority is required to move forward
The Congregation secretary emails an ELECTRONIC copy of all the documents as listed below to secretary@njsynod.org	The Congregation secretary emails an ELECTRONIC copy of all the documents as listed below to secretary@njsynod.org



The constitution committee reviews these documents for compliance before the NJ Synod Secretary files the documents. The congregaion will be informed of any issues with the documents.

Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee
Annual Report for 2021

The Ecumenical Interfaith Committee is truly blessed to have a dedicated and resourceful team of people. Our main focus for 2021 was an October event, "Multi-Faith Festival – Celebrating the Joy of Our Traditions in Music and Story".

We are grateful for the following people who have served on the committee: Michele Alperin, Sally Bayhi, Sharla DeLawter, Doug Helvering, Patricia Hennigan, Jack Johnson, Rev. David Jones, Bob Karp, Rev. J.J. Keelan, Cem Keskin, Ahmet Kukrek, Judy Leopold, Robert Moore, Eleanore Orman, Rev. Carmine Pernini, Nancy Reyes, Agnetha Ringberg, Scott Rush, Betsy Solan, Nesrin Tatli, Jay Tyson, Cantor Jeff Warschauer, Rev. Frank Watson, Rev. Kathleen Harris, and Rev. Ingrid Wengert.

"Multi-Faith Festival – Celebrating the Joy of Our Traditions in Music and Story" was an interfaith experience from the very beginning. We had organizers from the B'hai Faith Community; Peace Islands Institute (Muslim); Central Jersey Community Center (Muslim); The Jewish Center; Unitarian Universalist Congregation; Christians from ELCA churches of the NJ Synod. Performers represented all these traditions plus we welcomed Georges Road Baptist church as well as Peace Islands Institute to address the festival. Chinmaya Vrindavan (Hindu) graced our stage with wonderful liturgical dance.

In addition to our stage offerings, we had information tables representing a beautiful array of interests and groups. We also had Covid testing and vaccinations available. **None of this would have been possible without the grace-filled site-hosting of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton-Junction. THANK YOU!** Also, as I stated earlier, we had an amazing, dedicated, gifted team organizing every detail. **Thank You!**

Generally speaking, I attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity in May 2021. It was a virtual conference. The theme was "Abide In My Love… You Shall Bear Much Fruit." In addition to virtual workshops, keynote speakers, and worship, there was also an opportunity to meet with LEIRN – the Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Network.

Looking to the future, with antisemitism on the rise and other faith-related hate locally, nationally and around the world – it is more and more important to respond and counter hate with love. I hope you will participate. Please look for future information.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

Faithfully submitted by:
Rev. Nancy Truscott – Ecumenical Representative

2021 REPORT OF 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 the best of our ability in order to optimize the success of the missions, objectives and values to which we all ascribe.

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. A total of 4 FMAP regular meetings were held via Zoom in 2021 (February 9, April 27, August 17 and November 2). In addition, a sub-committee met with the Treasurer to develop a draft of the Synod's 2022 spending plan for approval of the full committee, then to submit to the Synod Council for their approval and ultimately to be adopted at the 2021 Synod Assembly in May.

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 work of the committee, particularly in these challenging times of dealing with COVID and financial hardship, is working with individual congregations in need of support. For example:

- Manage the Transformational Ministry Loan program to help struggling congregations meet needs for improvements to their facilities and grow their ministries.
- Extend the COVID19 Emergency Relief loan program into 2021 to help Synod congregations manage through COVID.
- Approve and facilitate the sale of church buildings for congregations that have merged with others or dissolved. Manage disposition of sale proceeds to other Synod ministries based on wishes of congregations.
- Coordinate with Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center to remove the Beisler Lake dam. Temporarily defer payment of their loan from the Synod due to lack of income during pandemic.

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), Rev. Dean Brown (Asst. to Bishop), Jim Harris (Treasurer, Zion, Egg Harbor City), Lois Parrett (Director of Synod Operations and Accounting, Abiding Presence, Ewing), Robert Bowden (Abiding Peace, Budd Lake), Steve Hernandez (Faith, Lavallette), Rev. Susan Jones (Holy Cross, Toms River), Gerry Lauro (Advent, Wyckoff), Jill Weidner (Good Shepherd, Somerville), Wannetta Phillips (Prince of Peace, Rockaway), Maurice Willoughby (Good Shepherd, Glen Rock), Tom Kull (Real Estate Manager, Living Waters, Ringoes), Bob Poole (Property Manager North, Holy Trinity, Red Bank), Matt McDevitt (Property Manager South, Temple, Pennsauken).

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Report of the New Jersey Synod Fund for Mission

The New Jersey Synod Fund for Mission is an endowment fund providing resources for mission-related projects of the New Jersey Synod that might otherwise go unmet. Begun with proceeds from the sale of former LCA church properties, it continues gratefully to receive and faithfully to invest funds granted to it from bequests to the Synod. Grants are made, ranging from 3% to 6% of the corpus annually. The Fund's Management Committee receives and evaluates proposals from Synod program units, mission clusters, congregations, officers and Synod Council and makes recommendations to the Synod Council for funding. Special categories in the fund are reserved for Music Grants in support of the development of church musicians and for Handicap Accessibility.

These criteria guide us: (proposals need not meet every criterion):

1. The proposed program shall be one that could not normally be funded by the operating budget of the Synod or ELCA Churchwide Ministries, or by the agency for whom the grant is sought. (Frequently the committee is able to respond to the need represented in grant proposals that are submitted by finding other appropriate funding sources.)

2. Preference is given for:
- initiating new mission ventures: providing seed money and/or leveraging other funds for mission.
- projects having a direct relationship to the urban character of the Synod.
- projects that are inclusive with regard to color, language, ages, and sex of persons.
- projects that address the needs of the disadvantaged, especially the poor, mentally and physically challenged, and the powerless.
- projects that enable the Synod to develop new ministries to meet needs occasioned by societal change.

Grants approved for 2021/2022 projects totaled $124,990 and were in support of applications for Synod Council Mission Initiatives, the Bishop's Mission Subvention Fund, Evangelism, Advocacy and Social Justice, LEAMNJ, Sunday School Music programming, assistance for on-line worship capability, Hunger/Outreach Ministries and Youth and Family Ministries, including a grant for the Institute for Youth Ministry in cooperation with Princeton Theological Seminary. No grant proposals were received for improving accessibility.

Management Committee members can give counsel to those interested in preparing a grant application. The submission deadline is September 1st. Payment is made following Synod Council approval. Grant recipients are requested to evaluate their respective projects for report to the Fund for Mission Management Committee by June 1 of the year following receipt of the funds.

Thanks to all the members of the Management Committee for their wise guidance in the stewardship of this Fund. We are indebted to Bishop Tracie Bartholomew for her leadership, Treasurer James Harris for his invaluable work and report of it, and to LuAnn

Barnes, Administrative Assistant and Confidential Secretary to the Bishop for her excellent assistance in preparing our minutes and correspondence!

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Patricia S. Medley, CHAIR

The Rev. Gunnar L. Anderson (Living Waters, Ringoes)
The Rev. Haydee Colon-Hernandez (St. John, Passaic)
Daniel Fields (Messiah, Parlin)
Eric Kim (Holy Trinity, Red Bank)
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LuAnn Barnes, Recorder, Staff
The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop
James Harris, Treasurer, Ex-Officio
The Rev. Maristela L. Freiberg, ELCA Director of Evangelical Mission, Advisor

Cross Roads 2021 Annual Report

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

PROGRAM: Last summer we had summer camp again! While it ran at 50% capacity for COVID safety it was very well attended and very much needed by campers and families alike. The Bold Transformational Faith (BTF) continues to be a resource to families and congregations, bringing the gifts of camp ministry as a tool for faith formation in our digital age.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: In spite of the very significant financial challenges brought on by the pandemic—the almost complete elimination of retreat income, reduced summer camp enrollment, and increased cost for COVID safety—I am very pleased to share that Cross Roads was able to end 2021 in the black. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of both the New Jersey Synod and Diocese of Newark who each made substantial challenge grants during the pandemic. We are also grateful to the many individuals and congregations who were very generous in their support of the ministry. We had a significant number of new donors this past year which is so important to Cross Roads' long-term health. Thank you for all of the support in 2021! We will need the same level of commitment moving forward to ensure Cross Roads thrives in the future.

STAFF: The staff of Cross Roads, led by Executive Director Anthony Briggs, is our greatest asset. They all work so diligently to continue and expand the ministry of the camp in constantly changing circumstances. They have served faithfully throughout the pandemic and ensured this ministry reached children, youth, and adults across our state in a safe environment for renewal and faith formation. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude. Looking to 2022 there are some significant staff transitions. After 8 wonderful years, Kathryn Shaefer has resigned her position as Program Director but will continue working with Cross Roads as part of the BTF. We are so grateful to the ministry Kathryn provided us with such grace and excellence over the years. We are delighted to welcome Helen and Dylan Payanzo as our new Program Directors. Helen and Dylan are no strangers to Cross Roads as they have both served in previous staff positions over the years. It is exciting to have them on the team and we look forward to their leadership.

BOARD: Meeting regularly throughout the pandemic, the Board of Trustees gave oversight and guidance to the ministry of Cross Roads. We have continued to strengthen our functioning and governance as a Board. For the first time in many years, I am delighted to report we have the full allotment of both Episcopalian and Lutheran Board members; and this is a very strong Board working hard to safeguard and expand the ministry of our camp.

As we look to the future, we count on your continued support, and trust the Holy Spirit to lead us to expand the ministry of sharing the love of Jesus Christ across this region.

Submitted by The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Board President

Called to Lead

"We give you thanks, O God, for all of life and for our common calling as your servants, for the work of your church and for the ministers of word, sacrament, and service. We give you thanks for [people] whom you call to be leaders in your church and for teachers who form them for service […]" ELW, 74.

Siblings in Christ, this time in writing to you, I am serving in a different role. While I have served here in NJ since 2009 and I know many of you, in January of 2022 I was called to ELCA churchwide staff as the Candidacy and Leadership Manager (CaLM) for Regions 7 & 8. You might ask, what is this, or what does this mean?

For the pastors and deacons reading this report, you might remember all too clearly your candidacy experience. For those to whom candidacy is new, a brief description of the ministry: synods across the ELCA convene candidacy committees—groups of people who accompany those who are discerning a call to Word and Sacrament (pastors) or Word and Service (deacons). They are confidential committees and serve to question, discern, walk with, and make decisions about the call and readiness for people who want to become pastors or deacons. It is separate from attending seminary, but the two go hand-in-hand. There is a process in place for this work throughout the ELCA, but each synod (and candidate) brings their unique circumstances to the conversation. A candidate needs positive decisions by the candidacy committee at three main points in the process (and a first call) in order to be eligible to be ordained.

My role is one of forging connections across our church by listening to and working with Bishops, candidacy committees, seminaries, and candidates. I relate to the 15 synods and Bishops in the northeast of the country and have the honor of attending the candidacy interviews in these synods. In that capacity, I listen to hundreds of people across our church articulate their faith and express the call to serve as a deacon or pastor. I also get to ask questions to help candidates consider their own theological and pastoral/diaconal formation. And, I work with Bishops to facilitate the First Call Process for candidates who have been approved to serve.

It is holy ground—being attentive to how God's spirit is at work in someone's call to serve and in the church's discernment of that call.

If *you* or someone you know is sensing a call to become a deacon or pastor in the ELCA, start by contacting the NJ Synod Coordinator, Pastor Marc Stutzel at candidacy@njsynod.org. You can also look at the ELCA candidacy resources at www.elca.org/Resources/Candidacy#StartHere and the discernment document *Called to Lead* which can be found there. Thank you for your prayers, discernment partnership, raising up leaders in your own congregation, and willingness to listen for God's call.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch (she/her)
Candidacy and Leadership Manager, Regions 7 & 8
Becky.Resch@elca.org

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

ARCHIVES Advocate

Northeast Regional Archives • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Vol. 6 No. 2, WINTER 2021-22

Hidden Treasures

by Lisa Minardi

Die
Frohe Weihnachts-Freude, 1784.
und
Neujahrs-Andacht, 1785.
Der Evangelischen Lutherischen Singeschule der Gemeine in Zion.

Erster Gesang.

Heil und an diesem Tage!
Es freue sich die ganze Welt.
Roth, Kummer, Angst und Klage
Verscheucht der neugeborne Held,
Sie sind, die bange Stunden
Die unser leben sah.
Nun glücklich ganz verschwunden,
Denn Schalt; Er selbst ist da!
Er, der da kommen sollte,
Der Väter Wunsch und Flehn,
Er, der da kommen wolte;
Der Licht sich heute sehn.
Ein Engel predigt Freude,
Die gross und wundersprechlich ist,
Den Hirten auf der Weide;
Euch und der Welt ist JEsus Christ!
Heut ist Er euch geboren
In Bethlehems kleiner Stadt,
Bringt wieder was verloren,
Was Er verheissen hat;
Er liegt in einer Krippen:
Eilt, flehet zu Ihm hin.
Preist Ihn mit Herz und Lippen:
Er, Er ist ein Herrn.
Vom Himmel kam Er nieder
Des grossen GOttes einger Sohn;
Die Lüfte schallen wieder
Vom lauten hohen Engelthon;
Dem Höchsten sey die Ehre,
Der unser Schöpfer ist!
Es jauchzen Engel-Ehre:
Es lebet JEsus Christ!
Es bringt der Erden Frieden,
GOTT blicket nun mit Lust
Auf Menschen, die hienieden,
Und thronet in ihrer Brust.

Zweyter Gesang.

Halleluja, Lob, Preis und Ruhm
Sey Dir, GOtt-Mensch! gesungen;
Wohl uns, wir sind Dein Eigenthum;
Du hast es uns errungen,
Daß wir mit Deiner Engel-Schaar,
Die stets um Deinen Throne wat,
Auch unsre Lieder singen,
Und frohes Lob Dir bringen.
Der heil'gen Engel jet'ges Chor
Schmeckt Dieene nun auf Erden,
Die sich aus Deiner Huld verlor,
Sie soll nun selig werden:
Wir frohem Jubel thönt ihr Dank,
Ein nie gehörter Lobgesang,
Rauscht himmlisch auf und nieder,
Und heisset unsre Lieder.
Wir singen nun, Herr JEsu Christ!
Da Du uns, die verlorne,
Als Heyland heut erschienen bist;
Uns bist Du Mensch geboren;
Singt, alle Menschen-Kinder, singt;
Ein Retter kommt, Er, der euch bringt,
Anstatt der bangen Leiden,
Des Himmels ew'ge Freuden.

Neujahrs-Andacht.

GOTT, du bist unsre Zuversicht!
Heut soll Dich Zion preisen;
Ihr Herz ist ganz zu Dir gericht,
Sie sing in frommen Weisen
Des Herzens-Dank; ihr Lobgesang
Erschalle jauchzend wieder,
Und beie Seyen nieder.
Bis hieher hast Du uns gebracht,
GOTT, Heyland und Erretter!
Wir preisen Dich in Deiner Macht,
Und lachen Deiner Spötter;
Du bliebst GOtt, Herr unser GOtt!
Du bist ein Mensch geboren,
Du bist ein Mensch und verloren;
Bringst wieder was verloren;
Sey Du in diesem Neuen Jahr
Noch ferner, was Du warest,
Dem Heil, das sich Dir stellet dar.
Wenn Du Dich offenbarest,
Dann jauchzen wir, und singen Dir;
Du bleibst der GOtt der Stärke,
Und stürzst der Höllenwerke,
Komm, Heil der Sünder! tröne Du
Das Jahr mit Geist und Leben,
Und rühre die Gemeinde zu,
Sich Dir zu übergeben;
Der Eltern Sinn zeuch zu Dir hin
Und stille unser Jugend
Mit Lebenmigkeit und Tugend!
Noch eins, o Herr! gedenke doch
An die, die etwa sterben,
Und dieses Jahr des Lebenszeh
Mögen;—Lod, Verderben
Verscheuche Du, gib sanfte Ruh;
Dein ewiges Erbarmen,
Das müsse sie umarmen!

[Gedruckt bey Melchior Steiner, in der Race-Straße.]

Christmas and New Year's broadside from the Singing School of Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Printed by Melchior Steiner, Philadelphia, 1784. Collection of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia PHOTO BY GAVIN ASHWORTH

As we continue to sort through the backlog of uncatalogued material stored within our vault, many "hidden treasures" are coming to light. We highlight these discoveries from time to time on our Facebook page and encourage you to like our page in order to see the latest discoveries. One recent find is this broadside, printed for the singing school of Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia for Christmas and New Year's in 1784-85. It is titled *Die Frohe Weihnachts=Freude, 1784 und Neujahrs=Andacht, 1785 / Der Evangelischen Lutherischen Singeschule der Gemeine in Zion* (translation: The Happy Christmas Joy, 1784, and New Year's Devotion, 1785. The Evangelical Lutheran Singing School of the Congregation in Zion). At the bottom, the broadside bears the imprint of Melchior Steiner located on Race Street in Philadelphia. The son of Rev. Conrad Steiner, pastor of the German Reformed Church in Philadelphia, Melchior Steiner apprenticed with the German printer Henrich Miller. After striking out on his own, he initially printed with Carl Cist, but they dissolved the partnership in 1781 and he continued on with his own printshop. A member of the German Society of Pennsylvania (est. 1764), Steiner printed a weekly German language newspaper as well as numerous books, pamphlets, and broadsides. He printed for a wide range of customers, including both the Lutherans and Moravians. He died in 1807.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

Despite being closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 has been an exceptionally busy year at the Lutheran Archives. Our staff and volunteers continue to make good progress on cataloguing our backlog of unprocessed material stored in our vault. Linda Beck, our volunteer extraordinaire, has tackled organizing the records of several closed congregations that were already in our stacks. This included weeding out multiple copies of various documents and grouping like items into categories, then placing them in neatly labeled archival folders. Although time consuming, this process makes it much easier to find specific information and reduces the amount of space taken up in our vault to make room for additional records.

Sheila Joy, our associate archivist, has been busy preparing inventory listings and finding aids for various groups of church records in our holdings. She also continues to answer research inquiries, including requests for proof of baptism as well as genealogy queries from people looking to track down their ancestors. Sheila is also becoming an expert on how to use our PastPerfect collections management database, including how to import files and images so that we can start putting our collections online in the near future.

We were also blessed to receive a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to help us with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania collection, which includes the records of more than 200 colonial Lutheran churches along with Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's journals. This grant includes an inventory and cataloging of the entire collection as well as preparation of a detailed finding aid that will be shared online. It also includes funding for archival supplies to help improve the storage conditions for many of these rare, and often unique, manuscripts and other items. Melissa Bergoffen joined our team this summer as the project archivist for the PHMC grant.

To help us continue with these efforts and carry out our mission to preserve and share the archival history of the Lutheran Church in America, we need your support. Year-end contributions will help us to hire ULS students as archives assistants to aid in processing our backlog of material as well as to process the influx of records from newly closed congregations. Please consider making a generous donation to support the Lutheran Archives Center, either online at **lacphila.org/donate** or via check in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

Lisa Minardi

Lisa Minardi
Executive Director

Thank you for your support!

Ministerium of Pennsylvania Collection Project

by Melissa Bergoffen, Project Archivist

In March 2021, the Lutheran Archives was awarded a Historical & Archival Records Care grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in order to help preserve and make accessible the records of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States (MOP). I was hired as the Project Archivist to oversee this project, which includes inventorying and cataloging an estimated 10,000 records, assessing their condition, and creating a detailed finding aid to make the collection easily accessible to researchers. I am also promoting awareness of the collection and LACAP as a whole through our social media (Facebook and Instagram) as well as our newly created blog (lutheranarchives.blogspot.com).

The Ministerium of Pennsylvania was founded in 1748 by Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. The MOP collection holds many records pertaining to the Ministerium's creation, such as its constitution, meeting minutes, and correspondence. It also contains Muhlenberg's journals, many church records, and other unique manuscripts dating from the 1700s to mid-1900s. You can learn more about the history of the MOP on our blog under a recent post titled "Lutheranism and the Ministerium of Pennsylvania: Its Beginnings to the Late 1700s."

Melissa Bergoffen, Project Archivist, in front of shelves housing part of the MOP collection

I have been working with the MOP collection for just over three months now. My go-to tool so far is Google sheets, where I record information about each item such as its creator, title, dates, location, description, and condition. This information will later be transferred to PastPerfect, our collections management database, and then online to allow researchers to peruse our holdings. I also cross-reference each item with the spreadsheet version of the original card catalogue to ensure that all MOP items are accounted for. About two months into the project, we realized it was going too slowly, so to expedite the process, I stopped taking photos and writing such detailed descriptions. Another time-consuming step is removing old metal fasteners, such as rusty staples and paperclips, which we will come back to at a later date.

Although this project is still in the early stages, we are planning ahead for the future arrangement of the MOP collection and how best to organize all of its records. We are grateful for the opportunity to process the MOP collection in order to preserve and make its holdings more accessible to researchers. This collection is vital to understanding the history of Lutheranism in America due to its unique manuscript records of more than 200 colonial Lutheran churches—including births and baptisms, confirmation, marriages, and deaths—as well as pastoral and financial records. We thank the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for awarding us a Historical & Archival Records Care grant to care for this collection, and all of our supporters for encouraging the work that we do!

The MOP collection contains a broad range of items including minute books, correspondence, pamphlets, loose manuscripts, and even corporate seals. Tools that I use for processing the collection include a pencil, pH testing marker, staple remover, pliers, and measuring tape.

Highlights from Our Blog

by Melissa Bergoffen, Project Archivist

The following information is taken from our newly created blog (lutheranarchives.blogspot.com). As part of the MOP grant project, I am performing a conditions assessment of the items as I inventory and catalog them. This includes noting any preservation issues—from discoloration or the use of metal fasteners to mold or broken bindings—and rating them on a scale from poor to excellent condition. After this initial survey is completed, I will address the simpler preservation issues, such as unfolding creased documents or removing metal fasteners and rubber bands. Before tackling the more significant issues, we will consult with a professional conservator on how to handle more difficult repairs. To learn more about this topic, check out our blog post titled "Conservation: Preserving Archival Materials."

Examples of preservation issues commonly found within archives (clockwise from top left): manuscript with a paperclip that has rusted onto the paper; mold and foxing on the edge of a document; a book whose spine is completely detached from the binding; and a stack of documents once held together by a rubber band, which has stuck to and stained the paper.

Church Records Listings Now Available Online

by Sheila Joy, Associate Archivist

We are very excited to announce that we have begun adding church record inventory lists and finding aids to our website, making our collections more accessible and discoverable to researchers across the globe. These can now be searched through on our website: **https://www.lacphila.org/collections**.

Soon after my arrival last year, I discovered the need to create user-friendly collection listings for the public. While there were existing inventory listings created, they were formatted in a way only archives staff would understand and were not user-friendly for researchers. I also created finding aids for individual collections to provide more detailed information than an inventory listing. These will be continually updated and uploaded to our website as collections are processed. The inventory listings provide the title, description, date, and location of the physical items. This will help researchers to find what they are looking for and makes it easier for staff to provide relevant information or photocopies of material to researchers.

Screenshot of our webpage for the Pennsylvania Congregation Records holdings, with inventory listings available to view and download. To see all our church record listings available online, go to ***www.lacphila.org/collections***

These listings would not be possible without the cataloging work undertaken by our predecessors. The original card catalog for our Ministerium of Pennsylvania Collection was created in the 1970s and had never been digitized until nearly 50 years later when ULS students Bridget Gautieri and Danielle McCleary entered all the information into a spreadsheet. Student assistant Courtney Smith created an additional spreadsheet to inventory collections that were received after the card catalog ceased to be updated sometime in the 1980s. It is amazing to see the timeline of collections listings—from card catalog to spreadsheet to PDFs and now our online collections management database: PastPerfect!

Associate Archivist Sheila Joy works on preparing our reference library records to be imported into PastPerfect.

In 2022, we will begin cataloging all our collections into PastPerfect. We have already cataloged the Augustana Institute's objects and library books, and our reference library is just about finished. We are excited to share our PastPerfect database with you when it goes live, sometime in early 2022. Researchers will then be able to search our collections in a more robust way than through the finding aids on our websites. Be sure to follow along for updates and behind the scenes on our Facebook page by searching "Lutheran Archives Center" or on Instagram @lutheranarchives!

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Newsletter of the
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at Philadelphia

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Lutheran Archives Center
AT PHILADELPHIA

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I recently went through a box of old Christmas decorations and, tucked among the various ornaments, I found one that I had purchased about twenty years ago from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I had visited the National Archives during a Christmas vacation and found this Christmas ornament on sale. Every year I hang this ornament on my tree as a reminder, not simply of a fun family vacation to our nation's capital, but also as a reminder of our country's rich archival heritage. In 2026 we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. During this Semiquincentennial, we will undoubtedly be reminded of the primary source documents that proclaim the foundation of our American democracy and are preserved within the National Archives' collection.

At the Lutheran Archives Center, we have an archival heritage that predates the founding of this country. Our archives preserve documents that date back to the very beginnings of what became the "American experiment." We are privileged to be the custodians of this rich archival heritage. We wish you blessings as one year comes to an end and as we prepare to begin another, and we invite your continued prayers and support for our archives throughout this coming year!

Respectfully,

J. Francis Watson

J. Francis Watson
President of the Board

Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry
www.leamnj.org

2021 Year in Review…

At Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry New Jersey (LEAMNJ), our main mission is to empower congregations and individuals to strive for peace and justice in the world. We aim to build a community of advocates who are poised to take action on the issues that matter to them, whether through direct service, influencing public opinion, rallying for change, or writing to their congressional representatives. LEAMNJ represents the official positions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

In 2021, we reorganized our issues priorities. Formerly, we had focused our attention on four main topics: Housing, Healthcare, Hunger, and Employment. This year, we wanted to move away from thinking about our priorities as distinct issues without much overlap, so we chose to reorganize into three broader and more inclusive categories: Healthy Livelihoods, Healthy Communities, and Healthy Democracy. Healthy Livelihoods was our theme for issues related to individual health and livelihood, such as hunger, access to healthcare, employment rights, and poverty. Healthy Communities was our theme for issues related to New Jersey's towns, counties, and other interest groups, including COVID policies, immigration advocacy, racial justice advocacy, and community violence. Finally, Healthy Democracy was our theme for issues related to good state and national governance, including advocating for increased government transparency, working on the state budget, and supporting voting rights and accessibility.

LEAMNJ has three working goals: Advocacy Training, Policy Education, and Legislative Advocacy.

- **Advocacy Training:** We aim to empower congregations and individuals to take action and advocate for issues that they are passionate about. The world of advocacy can seem intimidating and complicated, so we work to create resources for how to be a good advocate. This includes topics such as how to meet with how to help shape public opinion, how to call your representatives or governor, information literacy, social media advocacy, and more.
- **Policy Education:** Our second aim is to provide nuanced, accessible data and context for the issues that we focus on. LEAMNJ believes that education shapes public opinion and public opinion drives public policy.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** Finally we aim to identify and advocate for policy solutions to our main issue priorities. Tackling systemic problems requires systemic solutions

Some of the most important projects we've worked on this past year include:

- **The Hour of Advocacy**: In 2021, we increased our Hour of Advocacy meetings. Every Monday, we meet once at lunchtime and once in the evening for a virtual discussion about an advocacy topic.
- **The Weekly Newsletter:** In 2021, we launched our advocacy newsletter. Every Tuesday evening, we send an email to our advocacy base that includes an advocacy or faith-related theme, an action item, advocacy resources, and a couple of "hot topic"

articles we would like to share. Over the course of the last year, we have covered topics from the Afghan refugee crisis to advocating for affordable prescription drugs, to gun safety legislation, to the reconciliation bill, among many others!

- **Summer School:** We hosted a six week “advocacy summer school” via zoom to discuss how participants could grow in their advocacy efforts. Topics included “What is Advocacy?,” “Practical Advocacy For Individuals,” “Practical Advocacy For Congregations,” “New Jersey Civics,” “Advocacy Research Guide,” and “Voters’ Guide.” These sessions were recorded and are available to view on our website.
- **Legislative Campaigns**: We use a platform called Capitol Canary to create campaigns that allow our advocates to quickly and easily send emails to their legislators. We have encouraged representatives to support bills from the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to the Temp Worker Bill of Rights, and many more!
- We strive to maintain a relevant presence on various social Media platforms including Facebook and Instagram. Like us and follow us!

Healthy Livelihoods: Addressing Poverty, Health, and Food Insecurity

Poverty is an umbrella issue that must be approached through a variety of policy strategies. We focused this year on a number of bills that would reduce the high cost of essential needs for families in New Jersey, as well as supporting our coalition partners in making food assistance programs more accessible.

LEAMNJ had meetings with legislative leadership and the Governor’s office in order to push for and win significant improvements to the **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** program for the first time since its creation in 1997. These include doubling the child support pass-through to families, allowing children to continue to receive assistance for up to 6 months while parents are resolving any program sanctions, and providing intensive case management for complex family needs at 24 months in the program rather than 48 months.

As part of the anti-hunger coalition in NJ we were able to pass a package of bills related to food insecurity, including **S3945/A5884,** which established the **Office of the Food Security Advocate.** The intent of this new office is to break down silos between various state departments who manage food assistance programs.

We supported the **Harm Reduction Bill (S3009)** This bill expands access to clean-needle programs for opioid users — and reduces blood-borne infections like HIV/AIDS — by giving the state, and not local government, more control over where to locate such programs. Currently, there are just seven "harm reduction centers" with needle exchanges in the state. Restrictive syringe access laws are an undue and discriminatory barrier to healthcare for our patients, clients, and neighbors.

LEAMNJ coordinated with other advocacy groups to send out Action Alerts that resulted in hundreds of calls and emails sent to our legislators to advocate for a **Prescription Drug Affordability Board (S1066).** This bill did not make it out of lame duck, but we will continue to fight against the high cost of prescription drugs in our state.

Healthy Communities: Immigration, Racial Justice, and Gun Safety

The COVID pandemic did not cause all of our state’s health and financial concerns, but it did shine a bright light on many already existing problems. This means that our advocacy efforts

have focused on policy solutions that go beyond temporary relief and instead result in long-lasting improvements in our communities. These policies were originally implemented in response to COVID, but will hopefully have wide-ranging positive effects in our state.

Childcare (S4065) This bill, which passed in both houses with unanimous support, more than doubles the salary cap that determines participation in state child- and dependent-care tax credit. Under this plan, New Jerseyans who earn up to $150,000 could receive a credit on their state income tax. The bill is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

LEAMNJ was able to join a group of housing advocates to help avert the surge in evictions when the state ban ended at the end of 2021 by passing the **Housing Eviction Prevention and Utility Assistance Bill (S3691).** This measure converts rental debt accrued during the pandemic into civil debt; prevents that debt being used to evict a tenant; protects credit records, and creates an Office of Eviction Prevention.

The state moratorium on utility shut-offs expired at the end of the year despite 350,000 residents still behind on their gas and electric bills. The Department of Community Affairs has notified residents who are behind on payments, encouraging them to apply for assistance.

Immigration Advocacy

It has been a difficult year for many in NJ: staying healthy, managing increases in costs of food and fuel, and navigating workplace challenges. Our immigrant community has also been deeply impacted by this crisis. Yet, LEAMNJ along with other advocacy groups in NJ have been able to advocate for immigrants being held in detention, being denied the ability to drive legally, even denied COVID financial assistance. We have called the Governor's office, held rallies and press briefings and prayed with our feet again and again for fair treatment for our brothers and sisters.

NJ became the first state on the east coast to **ban ICE detention agreements**. Within months of the bill's passage and signing, all New Jersey county agreements closed their contracts. By 2023, New Jersey will be free and clear of ICE detention.

LEAMNJ worked with immigrant rights groups to hold rallies at the state house, hold marches around the state, make legislative visits and phone calls, and share petitions from communities of faith calling for **driver's license reform** (one signed by hundreds of NJ Lutherans!) NJ became the 15th state to enact a status-neutral drivers' license program, making over 700,000 New Jerseyans eligible to apply. We won crucial measures to lower the barriers to apply and continue to fight for improved access and accountability.

NJ opened the Excluded New Jerseyans Fund, a first-of-its-kind direct cash benefit program for households excluded from federal stimulus. Community members went on hunger strike to win this program, but more needs to be done to replenish the fund and deliver every last cent our communities deserve.

The Murphy administration earmarked $50 million to the state's Excluded New Jerseyans Fund and extended the application deadline into 2022. The fund's maximum payment to $2,000 per person or $4,000 per household. However, this additional money still falls far short of the need for relief: the fund would need nearly $1 billion to cover every eligible resident excluded from federal relief.

Community Violence

LEAMNJ has been working for over a year with a coalition of gun violence advocates to make NJ safer for all residents. We met with bill authors, legislators, and built a strong coalition of safety minded groups to move 8 bills to the governor's desk. However, very near the end of this legislative calendar, these bills got stuck in lame duck.

This gun violence prevention package included measures that would have banned .50-caliber rifles, required training before purchasing a gun, closed loopholes allowing firearms to come in from other states, and mandated safe storage of guns in N.J. We will keep working to get them passed in the next legislative session.

Racial Justice

Racism as a Public Health Crisis (A-R175/SR-127) – This resolution would have declared racism a public health crisis in New Jersey. It cleared the Senate but stalled in the Assembly. Advocates are unwavering in our commitment to get this resolution passed in both chambers so that research funds, and other state monies can be freed up to further address institutional racism that is deeply embedded into our economy and continues to harm people of color in our state.

"Housing insecurity, transportation insecurity, food insecurity and low wages. None of these things work in a silo," Assemblywoman Shavanda Sumter, from Bergen county said. "They all come together to pile onto the structural and systemic racism that was inherent in New Jersey, dating back to the 17th century…"

Similarly, we are redoubling our efforts to develop reparatory proposals and recommendations that would address the generational harms caused by New Jersey's role in slavery. The **New Jersey Reparations Task Force Bill (A711/S322)** got stuck in lame duck. But this is not the end of our commitment! *LEAMNJ will continue to rally, march, and advocate for this work to get the attention needed to heal the wounds of historical racial injustice.*

Criminal Justice

The Fair Chance in Housing Act was enacted by the Attorney General. It will bar landlords from running a criminal background check on an applicant or asking them about their criminal history until a conditional offer of housing has been made. Acting Attorney General Andrew Bruck says the rules will help increase housing opportunities for people with criminal records and reduce the likelihood that housing instability will lead them to commit another crime.

After much conversation and meetings with legislative leadership, **General Assistance Funds (S2953/A4785)** have become more fair. As part of LEAMNJ's advocacy work for a fair state budget that might benefit those persons living in poverty, we won improvement to General Assistance funding. On June 29th the 2022 state budget that was signed included language and funding to temporarily allow anyone with a drug distribution conviction to receive General Assistance for the 2022 fiscal year. Legislation to permanently eliminate the ban was passed in the Senate and Assembly on December 20th and has been signed by the Governor's.

Along with coalition partners, LEAMNJ has advocated for **Police Crisis-Intervention Training (S-2801/A-4366).** This bill requires every municipal and county police officer in New Jersey to complete the Crisis Intervention Team model as part of the officer's in-service training, within five years of the bill's effective date or by a date determined by the attorney general.

LEAMNJ continues to be a part of a coalition that advocates for better treatment of those incarcerated who are being held in the protection of our criminal justice system. The state's prison population has been reduced by 40% over the past few years, and recidivism is at an all time low in New Jersey. However, the culture of abuse and violence at **Edna Mahan Women's Prison** has demonstrated the need for reform in the system. LEAMNJ has advocated for fair treatment of those held in prison, compassionate release for those who are sick and elderly, and enhanced training for correctional officers.

Healthy Democracy: Redistricting and Budget Transparency

LEAMNJ continues to advocate for good government. This takes on many forms: voting rights and accessibility, fair redistricting, the state budget, etc. Of particular interest to us in 2021 was the budget: we joined other advocacy groups to demand more transparency in the budgeting process, open participation, and better accountability. When our state's economy is strong, and the budget process is fair, all New Jerseyans needs should be better represented. Our state's budget is a mirror into our values and commitments. We are working on passage of a bill to address some of these concerns.

New Jersey's Congressional Redistricting Commission voted on the district map for 2022-2031 at the end of December. Although we will still retain our 12 Congressional representatives and therefore our 12 Congressional districts, our state has changed in important ways, especially regarding minority and immigrant populations. LEAMNJ was involved in supporting advocacy groups who were working on advocating for the fair and just representation of minority groups on the New Jersey map. Here is a look at the new map for the federal congressional districts: https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/new-jersey/.

Police at polling places/drop boxes (A4655/S3595). Initially proposed by sponsors to address voter intimidation in New Jersey, this bill will limit police presence at polling sites and ballot drop boxes, and also prohibit electioneering within 100 feet of a ballot drop box.

Thank you for your continued support! We know that Advocacy is a ministry of amplification. When we work together, our voices are heard! In so doing, we are living our faith out loud.
It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Director of your advocacy ministry in New Jersey.
The Rev. Sara LIjla

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Siblings in Christ of the New Jersey Synod,

2021 was many things — frustrating, surprising, heartbreaking, and heartening — to name a few. At Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, however, the word we find ourselves using the most is *transformative*.

Like all of you, we found ourselves facing parallel crises: the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, an influx of vulnerable immigrant children at our border, and the devastating refugee crisis in Afghanistan. While it was an incredibly difficult year in many ways, it was also one of the most inspiring in our 83-year history.

People of faith and communities like yours stepped up in ways that we never could have expected to meet this moment and fulfill our Biblical call to welcome the stranger. In the last year alone:

- **100,000 volunteers** signed up to support our refugee and immigrant neighbors
- Supporters provided more than **$30,000 worth** of essential items like cell phones and gift cards to our Afghan brothers and sisters
- **14,000+ generous donors** opened their hearts to the ministry of welcome
- LIRS welcomed more than **10,500 Afghans** through our nationwide resettlement network
- Our team assisted in reunifying or placing nearly **33,000 children** in loving homes
- We sent nearly **20,000** holiday cards and **1,750+ gifts** to families affected by immigration detention
- LIRS launched several exciting new programs and offices, such as field offices in Northern Virginia and Fargo, ND; the New American Cities economic empowerment program; Mental Health services for refugee children and families, and more.

Our resettlement and immigration services were complemented by our ever-growing slate of annual programs, which offer the public opportunities to **ADAPT**: Act, Donate, Advocate, Pray, and Teach. We invite you to engage with LIRS, as an individual or community, through one of our five key programs:

- Stand Up Speak Up — Our interfaith advocacy program organized each spring
- Gather - A cultural education program hosted in the fall
- Hope for the Holidays™ - LIRS' flagship winter program for supporting families impacted by immigration detention
- EMMAUS Congregational Network – Our network of congregations who receive resources and support from LIRS
- LIRS Ambassador Network – A community of change-makers from around the US

In 2022, we are deepening our commitment to the work of welcome and believe that together, we can realize Matthew 25:35 in communities across the United States. We are so grateful for your astounding support and look forward to welcoming our newest neighbors alongside you.

In peace,

Kristin Witte

Dr. Kristin Witte, Director for Outreach

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey 2022 Report
New Jersey Synod 34th Assembly

Another year of COVID-19 pandemic challenges rallied LSMNJ to remain focused and proactive. Serving more than 2,700 individuals through senior living, affordable housing, hospice and home care, our highest priority continues to be caring for the health and well-being of the population we serve, as well as our employees.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- As New Jersey and the rest of the world continue to face the evolving coronavirus, LSMNJ worked persistently to stay one step in front of the curve by implementing mandatory employee vaccinations, as well as offering numerous on-site vaccination and booster clinics at all of its facilities for it residents. Strict Infection control protocols, social distancing, mask mandates, and visitor limitations have resulted in minimal COVID and COVID variant exposure cases.
- **Crane's Mill Retirement Community** progressed into its next phase of renovations which included the hallways and lounges throughout its independent living area. Sycamore 1 received new carpeting, lighting, and the addition of a public bathroom and lounges were renovated to include a game room, art studio, and quilting room. Further renovations to Sycamore 2 will continue this year. In Assisted Living, all corridors were updated and three, two-room suites were created to accommodate couples and siblings wishing to live together. Future renovations will include the community's main dining room and kitchen, as well as its café/grill.
- During 2021, **Lutheran Senior LIFE** continued to adjust to the ongoing pandemic. Participants continued to receive most of their services through an adaptation of the home-based care model. They received medical visits, meals, rehabilitation services, and activities in their homes. Transportation was provided to safely transport participants to their medical appointments. By third quarter of 2021, participants resumed attendance at the Jersey City center, but were grouped in small cohorts on a limited basis. Expansion plans for Union County are under development to increase services to the poor, frail elderly through the provision of PACE services.
- With expanded services now offered in Essex and parts of Morris County, **Journey Hospice** experienced a 22% increase in admissions. In addition, Journey Hospice has achieved Partner Level II recognition in the We Honor Veterans program. To reach this second level, Journey Hospice delivered educational programs for veterans and their families, assisted with resources regarding benefits and coordination of care, and honored over two hundred veterans in South Jersey.
- **LSMNJ** was proud to become recertified in 2021 as a Great Places To Work® organization.
- The **LSMNJ Foundation** received the following grants and donations:
  - ***The David and Marilyn Krupnick Foundation***- $20,913 to establish an education and tutoring center in Camden affordable housing.
  - ***Evangelical Lutheran Church of America***-$15,000 to provide support to three food ministries affected by Hurricane Ida.
  - ***Friends of the Foundation for the Aging***- $4,450 for raised flower beds for Mt. Olive senior residents.
  - ***WSFS Bank***- $5,000 for general operating support

PEOPLE SERVED IN 2021

LSMNJ served *2,796 people and outreached to* 2,369 *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 – 175 served*, *Immigration Legal Services* – 497 *served*, *Journey Hospice – 192 served*, and *SpiriCare at Home* – 69 *served*. *1,065* qualified NJ residents lived in LSMNJ *Affordable Housing* properties; *788 seniors* received residential and health services through *Senior Healthcare and Retirement Living programs*; and 10 *adults* with mental health needs lived in specialized long-term housing. Through the gracious efforts of 228 individual volunteers and 39 groups, 3,048 volunteer hours were provided in support of LSMNJ's mission.

MORE ABOUT LSMNJ

Learn more about us at www.lsmnj.org. Stay connected with us through social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, 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.

Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

With faith and finance at our core

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial services ministry of the ELCA, provides a strong, stable, faith-based way for individuals, congregations and ministries to achieve their financial goals.

MIF provides a range of investments for individuals, congregations and ministries. We put those investments to work to fund building and renovation loans for congregations and partner ministries, including social service agencies and outdoor camps.

The result? Impact investments, with a transformative impact on our communities: Expanded worship spaces … new space for education and youth ministry … much-needed day care centers for working families … industrial-grade kitchens and fellowship halls for community meals.

We were present for our investors and borrowers that needed assistance during the pandemic. We collaborated with our ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, to offer expedited loans for congregations, ministries and individuals, as well as 360 Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling $13.9 million. The PPP loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.

MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2021, MIF had 820 loans outstanding, totaling $575.4 million. Investment obligations totaled $575.4 million. With total assets of $822.0 million and net assets of $226.4 million at year-end 2021, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 27.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

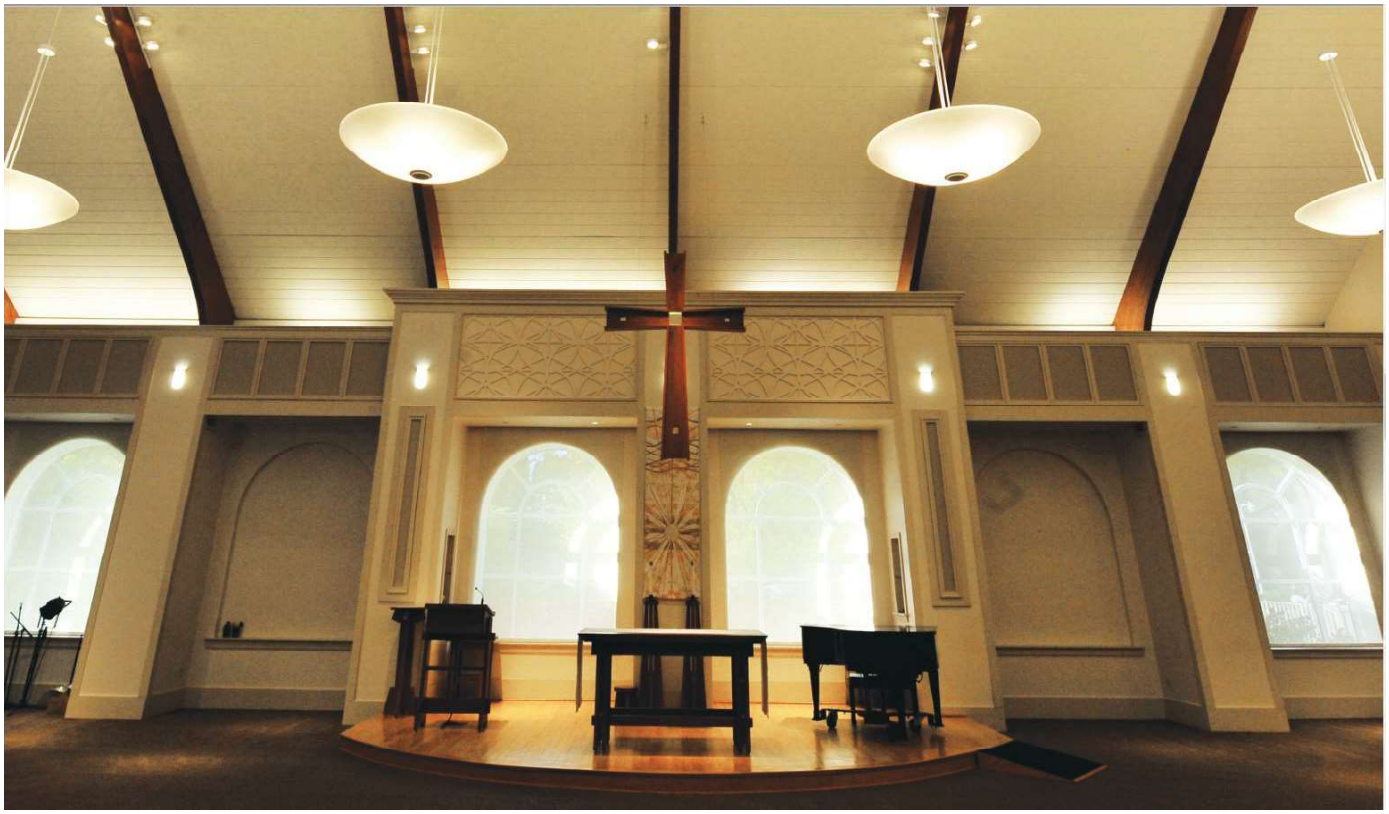
Our steadfast support continues for the members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA and the many ways you minister to a world in need. We are honored to walk alongside you as a trusted partner.

MIF at work in the New Jersey Synod (as of December 31, 2021):

- 7 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of $2,157,012
- $9,341,351 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: *mif.elca.org*

Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



The Mission Investment Fund can be your financial resource and partner of choice.

Why MIF?

MIF has demonstrated expertise in church and ministry financing. As a ministry of the ELCA with longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we're unique among lending institutions. We're prepared to listen to what you need, we understand your requirements, and we'll serve as your strategic partner.

We offer competitive rates and terms. MIF consistently offers competitive rates. And now, interest rates on loans remain at historic lows.

We offer a full suite of financial services. In addition to loans, MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. Our financial ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, offers an additional array of financial services.

The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans. We use the money invested in MIF to finance hundreds of capital projects across the church.

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, *mif.elca.org*
or contact your Regional Manager Deacon Jerry Johnson: 773-682-5954 *jerry.johnson@elca.org*

NJ diakonia Steering Committee Meeting

We continue to offer classes via Zoom this past year. We eagerly look forward to the Fall when we are anticipating return to face-to-face classes. We welcome new sites. If anyone is interested in offering classes, please get in touch with us. Even with distance education, we were able to squeeze in a face-to-face graduation. Nine students from five congregations across the state graduated on June 26, 2021 at Church of the Savior in Paramus.

We are planning to have our annual Gathering on May 21, 2022. This year's program will focus on the *by heart -Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism* text. The program will be held at Good Shepherd, Somerville. The program will be open to all who wish to attend.

The most exciting news for diakonia are the changes which will be occurring in the Fall. The national board is currently finalizing major revisions to the diakonia curriculum. More information regarding the changes will be made available on July 1. In addition to the updating of our curriculum we will be updating the name of our program to Growing in Faith – The diakonia 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. 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.

Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times

PORTICO® Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed in 2021, Portico's benefits remained a reliable constant for ELCA congregations and organizations, affirming the importance of church together.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits helped to lower stress levels and provided virtual access to health care.
- The ELCA Retirement Plan continued to deliver strong investment returns while offering no- or low-cost access to financial planning and coaching services.

In recent years, we've brought added stability to our program by extending quality, cost-effective benefits to more of those who serve. As we include more ELCA-affiliated social ministry organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as full communion partner denominations, we grow the size of our pool, which, in turn, allows us to secure lower administrative fees and innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups. In this way, we continue our mission to serve those who serve.

The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2021

869
Plays of New Portico Podcast
Hosted by an ELCA pastor on current issues impacting our faith community.

34%
Chose New Voluntary Benefit
Through our cost-saving vision care services provider.

643
Retired
In Portico's bundled benefits program — Well done, good and faithful servants!

7.3%
Annuity Payment Increase
Approved for ELCA annuitants in 2022.

2,564
Medical Visits via Text
Through 98point6®, our virtual primary health care service.

8
Large Organizations Joined
In 2021 — 1 ELCA college, 6 ELCA-affiliated social ministries, and 1 full communion partner social ministry.

2,880
Classes Completed in 2021
On Burnalong, Portico's new online fitness and wellness benefit.

76%
More Accessed Financial Coaching
Through LSS of Minnesota in 2021 than during the same period in 2020.

87.8%
Very Satisfied
With our Customer Care Center service.

Data as of Dec. 31, 2021; sources available upon request. Availability of and eligibility for benefits will vary.

60-302 (3/2022)

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: A New Normal

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"You rule over the majestic sea; when its waves surge, you calm them." Psalm 89:9

While 2020 was a year of maintaining our services to seafarers and immigrants who were particularly affected by the pandemic, 2021 has been a year of adjusting toward a new normal with innovative service adaptations -- thanks to your generosity.

With Breaking Ground, an organization that provides transitional housing to community members, we found a partner that aligns with our mission. In early 2021, they started renting our original guesthouse to assist people with housing needs. We have always provided a home to those in need of shelter and Breaking Ground is doing just that as a parallel to our own mission, while providing income that, combined with your donations, enables us to fulfil our mission to vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

In early 2021 we continued to provide lodging to seafarers and immigrants at "SIH Relocated", a midtown hotel. Beginning in October of 2021, we rented 10 mission-based lodging rooms at the Markle Residence, which is run by the Salvation Army. Seafarers as well as asylees feel at home at the location close to our original Union Square area site. It is conveniently located between subway stops with easy access to medical facilities, the SIU Union Hall and government agencies.

In the ports of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Haven, and New York & New Jersey, crew members on container ships and bulk carriers who have not been allowed ashore because of COVID-19 restrictions, continue to rely on our 5 port chaplains to bring essentials onboard. Our chaplains assisted medical staff in inoculating seafarers on their vessels or they transported crew members with visas to vaccination sites. Since most mariners hail from countries with limited access to vaccines, they embraced becoming vaccinated. As one seafarer said to me "*I can now re-enter the world again after my vaccination*".

This Port Mission was supported through grants and generous individuals with major funding from the shipping industry and unions, who participated in the 2021 Setting the Course event, which was hosted as an in-person Cocktail Reception, limited to 100 vaccinated guests.

Immigration to the US remains stalled so only a few asylees were released from detention in 2021. Some immigrants needed a few lodging nights with us to obtain government issued papers or to travel to family members, - and we gladly accommodated them, hoping there will be more normalcy in our immigration process in 2022.

Leading into fall and the holiday season, we were delighted that many individuals and congregations continue to embrace our Christmas-at-Sea holiday initiative, knitting hats and scarves, assembling satchels, or contributing financially. We received 2,162 satchels, which our port chaplains delivered to seafarers, who felt the holiday spirit despite their isolation knowing that their sacrifices are appreciated.

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 and in New York City.

Looking ahead: Our operations may look different in the future, but our services – providing lodging to immigrants and seafarers, visiting ships and transporting mariners to malls and vaccination sites, supplying seafarers with necessities, and advocating for those invisible to society – remain robust in this new normal, thanks to your loyal and often increased support. ⚓

Marsh Luther Droge
Pastor and Executive Director

Photo below: Pastor Marsh returning with seafarers from a vaccination site.

2021 Program Impact

18,523 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services during the challenges of the second year of the pandemic.

2,162 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers.

31 immigrants received free lodging for a total of 238 nights. They hailed from Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, a country in the Middle East, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, and Slovakia. Our temporary accomodations allowed us to care for an asylee along with his wife and two toddlers, - a whole family!

1,081 lodging nights provided to 101 seafarers in Manhattan.

15,232 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,477 ships, receiving essentials they had requested.

791 seafarers were transported to the mall or medical facilities.

400 number of hand-knitted scarves sent to us from one of the most land-locked congregation in North America - Pastor Marsh's home congregation of Christ Lutheran Church in Minot, ND.

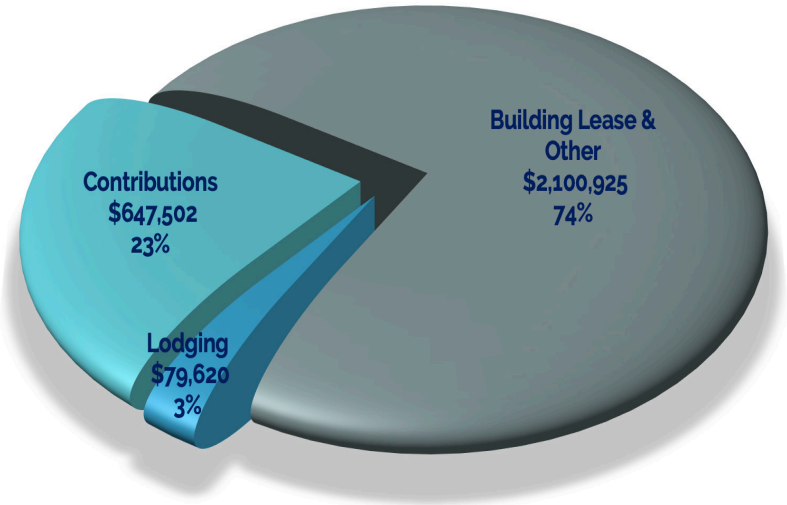
202 seafarers were vaccinated either onboard their vessels or at a vaccination site.

365 days of uninterrupted service provided to seafarers and immigrants in 2021.

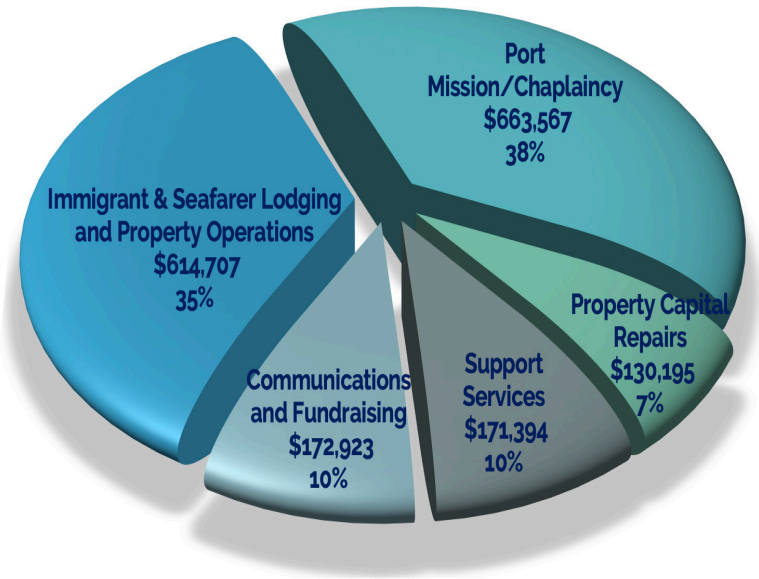
2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

After an operating loss of $506,324 in 2020 because of COVID-19 related challenges in adjusting our operations, 2021 helped us recover those losses and replenish our endowment for future emergencies. Thanks to you, our supporters, contributed income grew from pre-audited $524,875 in 2020 to $647,502. Our partnership with Breaking Ground was a major factor in 2021's financial recovery, providing building lease revenue to support our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Program services accounted for 83% percent of expenses with only 17% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from $6,255,361 in 2020 to $7,870,434 in 2021. These figures reflect unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change once audited. To request the audited 2021 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org.

Operating Revenue 2021 (pre-audit)
$2,828,047



Operating Expenses 2021 (pre-audit)
$1,752,786



GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of

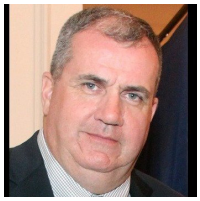
Megan Algeo †
by John Madsen

Rev. Dr. Dennis Anderson †
by Mary Ann and Gary Anderson
Conor Patrick Brooks
Dr. Ann Siegle Drege and Rev. Marsh Drege
Sterling Gilreath and Henryk Behnke
Sharon and Captain Richard J. Schoenlank

Seaman Art Belcher, US Coast Guard †
by Tina Gaddie

Dr. Robert L. Bradford †
by Dr. Ann Siegle Drege and Rev. Marsh Drege

Thomas Catero †
by Lynne and Jeff Weinlandt



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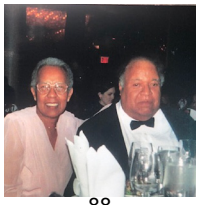

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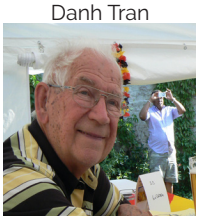

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Members of the Homeport Society have included Seafarers International House (SIH) in their retirement and legacy plan by listing SIH in their will or making SIH a beneficiary of a life insurance or a qualified retirement plan.

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Pastor Marsh Drege and friends from Catholic Charities are welcoming a refugee from Myanmar at the Markle Residence, where SIH rented 10 mission-based rooms for asylees and seafarers during a new normal.

For more information email henryk@sihnyc.org or call (212) 677-4800 extension 7203.

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA: A HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

Seafarers are the invisible essential workers during this pandemic. On their behalf, thank you to all participants who helped us distribute 2,162 Christmas-at-Sea satchels to seafarers, who felt joyful knowing that so many of you care for them!

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Seafarers International House

Joyful seafarers show off Christmas-at-Sea satchels delivered by Port Chaplain Rev. K. Robert Schmitt, who took this photo in Baltimore. Contributors helped distribute 2,162 satchels to seafarers in 2021. Thank you!

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United Lutheran Seminary

2022 NJ Synod Assembly

United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) is one of seven seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). ULS is comprised of two physical campuses, Philadelphia, and Gettysburg, and distributed online learning. ULS is a Reconciling in Christ seminary. The ULS Community is a welcoming and diverse learning community equipping people to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world. The seminary offers six graduate degree programs, with flexible learning options, and lifelong learning programs that equip rostered and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence—in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions.

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin was appointed president of United Lutheran Seminary and Ministerium of Pennsylvania Chair and Professor of Reformation Studies on August 1, 2020. Prior to this appointment, he was fourth bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

United Lutheran Seminary is blessed to be able to offer financial support, in the form of scholarship awards, to all students who are enrolled in degree seeking programs. First level professional degrees include the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and the Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership (MAML). Academic first level degrees are the Master of Arts in Public Leadership (MAPL) and the Master of Arts (MA). Second level theology degrees include the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) and the Doctor of Ministry (DMIN). In the fall of 2021, United Lutheran Seminary has a total of 356 enrolled students.

In addition to the general curricular offerings, there are other learning opportunities that directly and indirectly support the pedagogical tasks of unifying, learning, and serving. The Urban Theological Institute enables engagement with African American theology, preaching, and church history throughout the curriculum. The Town and Country Church Institute offers students the possibility of honing ministry to meet the needs of rural and small-town churches in a time of profound change. The annual Asian Theological Summer Institute enables mentorship of Asian and Asian-American doctoral students.

Contributions to the seminary provide hope for the future of our church. Your gift empowers seminary education for our future faith leaders. These leaders will take what they have learned at ULS and apply it to where God calls them in their future ministry contexts, continuing what God has started during their time at the seminary. A variety of giving options are available. Contact us at **advancement@uls.edu** to learn more or give online at **uls.edu/give.**

United Lutheran Seminary is a place of rich history and excellent theological education. Explore a brief history of the two predecessor bodies at our website. Contact us today at **info@uls.edu** to learn more or explore how we can help you live out your call as a servant of God and neighbor. If you have ideas that we can share in our expanding continuing education program, send them to us at **learningwishlist@uls.edu**.

1517 Media

Augsburg Fortress
Beaming Books
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Fortress Press
Sparkhouse

Ten Things to Know about 1517 Media
Spring 2022

1. Over the past year we have added several new ***All Creation Sings,*** resources including an expanded Indexes volume that includes both ACS and ELW listings, the *Guitar Accompaniment Edition*, the *Ensemble Setting of Setting 12*, and an eBook version of the Pew Edition. We continue to add learning resources that can help you use this hymnal supplement to enliven your congregation's worship in these rapidly changing times. **augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings**
2. Daniel Erlander's timeless work continues to inspire faith formation at all levels in the church. ***Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe***.is a family of books and curriculum to support conversations about the Bible with your whole congregation. This collection of resources complements three other series: ***A Place for You*** (Holy Communion), ***Come to the Water*** (Holy Baptism), and ***Baptized, We Live*** (introduction to Lutheranism). **augsburgfortress.org/manna**
3. Augsburg Fortress continues to support musical proclamation of the gospel with new seasonal choral music, vocal solo offerings, and piano and organ collections, including a new, second series of church year volumes in the acclaimed Augsburg Organ Library. **augsburgfortress.org/new-releases**
4. We have expanded our seasonal devotion options, with a new devotional for Advent and Christmas each year joining the Lent offering. Quantity discounts make these pocket-sized booklets ideal for congregational distribution and for household use. The accessible, colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into these central times of the year. **augsburgfortress.org/seasonal-devotions**
5. Fortress Press continues its legacy of publishing compelling theological, biblical, and ethical engagements for the church and the world in which it lives. New releases for 2022 include: ***Storycraft: The Art of Spiritual Narrative by Walt Wangerin Jr., 20 Myths about Religion and Politics in America by Ryan Burge,*** and an expanded edition of Fred Lehr's Clergy Burnout: ***Surviving in Turbulent Times.*** **fortresspress.org**
6. Our Broadleaf Books imprint explores the expanse of human experience—seeking to deepen faith and understanding and bring wholeness to readers and society. New 2022 releases include ***You Can Talk to God like That, The Mindful Grandparent***, and ***Unbossed: How Black Girls Are Leading the Way***. **broadleafbooks.com**
7. Sparkhouse provides digital access for a low annual fee through ***Sparkhouse Digital*** to a wide range of regularly refreshed resources for early childhood, children, and youth. Subscribers can access new digital activity kits that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. **augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital**
8. This spring Sparkhouse released a collection of poems by Joe Davis written with high school graduates in mind. ***We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates*** helps youth celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on this transition as they move on to the next phase of life. **augsburgfortress.org/we-rise-higher**
9. Frolic Preschool, Frolic Nursery, and Frolic Family introduce little ones to faith concepts in age-appropriate ways. This year we have released the award-winning Frolic Storybooks in affordable paperback bundles. **wearesparkhouse.org/frolic**
10. Beaming Books continues its mission to publish high-quality children's books that help kids thrive in every part of who they are–emotionally, socially, and spiritually. New releases for 2022 include: ***God's Holy Darkness, The Animals Speak: A Christmas Eve Legend, God Made All Your Feelings,*** and ***Mother God***. **beamingbooks.com**

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