



Top Row: Bishop Bartholomew, Dawn Roberts, Lois Parrett/ Middle Row: Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, Rev. Maristela Freiberg, Rev. Dean Brown/ Bottom Row: LuAnn Barnes, Rev. Sara Lilja

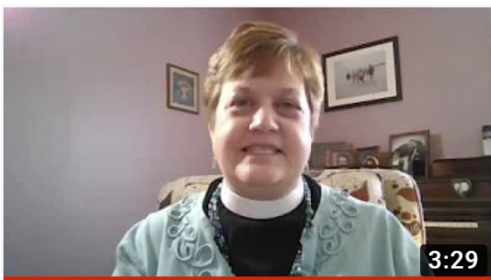
Generosity in Motion

(7/1/2020)– Faithfulness. Respect. Diversity. Generosity. Change. Interdependence. These are the core values of your NJ Synod. And during this time of stress and challenge due to so much - growing awareness of inequities among race and class, a recession, COVID19 illnesses and deaths- we are by the grace of Almighty God living these values out in a host of ways *together*. If Saint Paul were

around today, he may even point to them as evidence of the ‘fruits of the Spirit.’ In fact, faith itself -any hint, whisper or display- faith itself is God’s miracle among us! One thing we may celebrate together in the midst of all this chaos is something parallel to it: a growing sense of interdependence. Again, this is seen in so many ways. One way that it may be observed is through those ways the Bishop and her office have sought to stay connected with all of our synod’s congregations and leaders. It is also a goal (i.e., being interdependent and caught up in an awareness of mutual conversation and consolation) lived out by the various worship opportunities provided from our NJ Synod Bishop’s office as well as the church wide office of the ELCA. These worship services, sermons, and words of accompaniment and encouragement have been offered to our constituent congregations



Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA; June 7, 2020 ~ Holy Trinity Sunday



Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the NJ Synod of the ELCA providing weekly words of encouragement and support.

so that pastors and congregational leaders may experience some sabbath themselves, or, allow their energies to be directed elsewhere in the course of the week as they work so hard to keep pace with the demands and adaptations that are before and around us. *Thank you for your work among all these good works. **Thank you for your Mission Support offerings and gifts to other designated areas within the life of the church.** And thank you for being*

instruments of God’s gracious and redeemed life with, in and among us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Rev. Dean R. Brown
Assistant to the Bishop