

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Officers, Deans)

### REPORT OF THE BISHOP

*...I am not eager to rehearse  
My thought and theory which you have forgotten.  
These things have served their purpose: let them be.*  
(T. S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*)

This 2008 Report of the Bishop is but one of the many “last things” I have been about since our record-breaking three-hour 2007 Synod Assembly at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem. These have included events, assemblies, meetings, conferences, workshops and a host of other gatherings and responsibilities in which I have participated for the final time as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Throughout, this year of last things has brought home to me the magnitude of both the privileges and responsibilities associated with the office of synod bishop. Like other rostered ministries in the church, the vocation of synod bishop is in turn exhausting and exhilarating, fulfilling and frustrating, jubilant and sorrowful, but it has always been and will remain relentlessly interesting. For the unique and unexpected opportunity to serve you and the church in this capacity, I am sincerely grateful.

As always, the wonderful diversity of our synod’s ministries is displayed elsewhere in this bulletin of reports. Do attend to the reports of the teams, programs, committees, institutions, task forces, ecumenical and churchwide partners which serve and nourish the faithful in our synod and with us proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ literally in all the world. Attend, too, to the legion of dedicated and faithful servants who make these things possible, and join me in thanking them for their splendid ministries.

In writing this final report, I have tried to avoid producing either an “exit interview,” or an inventory of the accomplishments and disappointments of the past twelve years, or a lame-duck’s estimate of the challenges and opportunities my successor will inherit. Nevertheless, I shall report that this final and now nearly ended year included two noteworthy events.

On the Saturday after our 2007 Synod Assembly, the inaugural LIFT event was enjoyed by over eight hundred members of the synod. Employing many of the facilities of Muhlenberg College and leaders from throughout the synod, LIFT was our version of a *kirchentag* – a variety of worship, workshops, events and activities designed to nurture the faith of the baptized of all ages. Due in

large part to the splendid leadership of Ken and Ruth Miller and Herb and Judy Gifford, “LIFT One” was a huge success, which inspired the Synod Council to authorize planning for “LIFT Two” in 2009. Now, who will occupy the “Ask The Bishop” booth next year?

In August of 2007, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held in Chicago, Illinois. Our thirty-three voting members fulfilled their responsibilities faithfully and thoughtfully, with admirable dedication and good humor. It was a real privilege for me to shepherd them through the week-long event in which the Rev. Mark Hanson was re-elected to a second six-year term as Presiding Bishop and Mr. David Swartling, an attorney from Seattle, Washington, was elected Secretary of the ELCA. The Assembly also adopted a Social Statement on education, endorsed the “Book of Faith” churchwide bible study initiative, received with thanksgiving the new hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and with many other actions set the tone and agenda for the breathtaking abundance of ELCA ministries for the next two years.

These important actions notwithstanding, however, the lightning rod for the Assembly’s energy was the ongoing debate of the issues related to the role of gay and lesbian persons in the rostered ministries of the ELCA. Save for the adoption of a sense motion recommending that bishops exercise restraint in applying the disciplinary process, last year’s Assembly essentially postponed decisions about sexuality to the 2009 Assembly in Minneapolis when the Social Statement on Human Sexuality will be considered and the Task Force will, accordingly, make recommendations about policy changes for the Assembly’s debate and action.

Closer to home, since the 2007 Synod Assembly, the watchword for my staff and me has been “stability.” Our aim has been to hand off as healthy a synod as possible to the next administration. Then their new programs and initiatives can be established on what we hope will be firm foundations. Similarly, the Program and Review Committee of the Synod Council, in partnership with the ELCA’s Department for Synodical Relations, has done a splendid job in preparing the synod to elect the next bishop. From mission district assemblies to focus groups and listening posts, ample opportunity has been provided for this synod’s constituencies to comprehend the challenges and opportunities for ministry in northeastern Pennsylvania, the contours of that mission field which begins at the bottom of our church buildings’ doorsteps.

Another of the “last things” which I count as a genuine privilege is to thank our synod staff, the good and faithful servants who have worked closely with me as partners in ministry for the past twelve years. With 292 congregations, ours is still the largest synod in the ELCA. While it occupies “only” fourteen counties, it encompasses a wide diversity of contexts for ministry with change as common denominator in all of them. Your synod staff, pastoral and support, my co-workers, have fulfilled their various ministries in serving this diverse synod creatively and effectively, with devotion to our Lord and his church, with dedication to all of you our constituents. We have truly enjoyed our work (mostly!); we have enjoyed working together always. I have said it before, and now I will say it for the last time: they are the best staff in the ELCA. I am confident you share my appreciation for them; please share your appreciation with them.

And now to end as I began: It has been for me and for my most important partner in ministry, my wife, Doris, a genuine privilege and pleasure to have been given the opportunity to serve as the bishop and spouse of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. We look forward to my transition into *Bischof im ruhe*. Or, as T. S. Eliot has it in “Little Gidding:”

*... last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice.*

*David R. Strobel, bishop*

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The year of 2007 was indeed a very active one for Synod Council as we dealt with some important issues. As a direct result of the difficulty we faced last year with the request from Alsace, Reading to leave the ELCA, we convened a Task Force to formulate procedures to follow if we are ever faced with this action again. As a result the Task Force has created an excellent document, “Procedures for Congregations Considering Withdrawal From the ELCA”.

Synod Council grappled with some serious budget questions and lengthy discussion, the result of which led to a greater understanding of our budget process, rationale and approval. We have continued with liaison reports at our meetings to enhance communication among the Synod Council about programs and activities as they are planned and take place within mission districts and Lutheran institutions and agencies. We intentionally hold our quarterly meetings and retreat at various locations throughout the synod territory, this year meeting at the Lutheran Home at Top-

ton, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, Noxen and Mantzville.

Great attention has been given to preparations for the election of our new synod bishop in May 2008. The ELCA has prepared helpful documents, procedures and study guides based on best practices gathered from other ELCA synod elections. We are grateful for this assistance and charged the Synod Council Program and Review Committee with setting up our discernment process. They have done a tremendous job with this. It began with Mission District Fall Assembly conversations facilitated by lay synod council members. Information gathered from these assemblies will be compiled with results from other planned events in the spring of 2008 and will be shared at the Spring Mission District Assemblies. Assisting in the discernment process is the ELCA Research and Evaluation office. We have also named a Task Force to handle election related events for 2008.

Once again I was privileged to attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Chicago along with our other synodical voting members. As always I am awestruck with the depth and breadth of the scope of our ELCA mission and ministry both nationally and globally. It was fascinating to participate in the ecclesiastical ballot election of our new ELCA secretary, the first time a layperson was elected as secretary. I continue to represent the synodical Vice Presidents on the PA Lutheran Network Planning Committee and to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. I also find great joy and challenge in promoting the relationship with our companion diocese in Tanzania.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the synod staff for the steady hand they provided us during the absence of Bishop Strobel earlier in the year. He has often said that he thinks our staff is the best in the ELCA (!) and their leadership at that time provided proof of that statement. Lastly, I want to thank Bishop Strobel for his perseverance in the face of adversity and challenge. The prayerful support offered throughout the synod was an inspiration and support for us all.

I have been honored to serve as your vice president and give thanks to God for the mission and ministry which we all share in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Priscilla Schlenker Kinney, vice president*

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The following changes took place since the 2007 Assembly:

## Roster of Ordained Ministers

### Ordinations

**Brown, David L.**, October 13, 2007

**Fritts, R. Barry**, July 7, 2007

**Lee, Jason M.**, July 25, 2007

**Scholtes, Michael J.**, August 26, 2007

### Received from other Synods

**Bartlett, Paul E.**, Upper Susquehanna Synod, June 20, 2007

**Kochanski, Lori**, Metropolitan New York Synod, November 12, 2007

**Lamb, John E.**, Lower Susquehanna Synod, November 19, 2007

**Mendez, Adeliz J.**, Metropolitan New York Synod, July 1, 2007

**Wuertele, Peggy M.**, Metropolitan New York Synod, August 13, 2007

### Transferred to other Synods

**Fazio, Michael A.**, Greater Milwaukee Synod, November 26, 2007

**Goldsworthy, John W.**, Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, December 9, 2007

**Sonnenberg, Arthur F.**, Lower Susquehanna Synod, December 16, 2007

### Reinstated to the Roster

**Carroll, Dennis J.**, October 14, 2007

### Resigned from the Roster

**Fritch, Mark A.**, May 24, 2007

### Deaths

**Stine, Mires C.**, July 27, 2007

**Touhsaent, Wilson E.**, October 7, 2007

**Wartluft, David J.**, July 9, 2007

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**THE REV. MIRES C. STINE** died on July 27, 2007. Pastor Stine was born on September 3, 1936, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the son of Mires and Betty (Leimberger) Stine. He was a graduate of Wittenberg University (1958) and Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary (1961). He also earned a Master of Arts from George Washington University in 1971. In 1981 he received a D. Min. from Howard University.

Ordained in 1962 at Holy Trinity, Elgin, Illinois, Pastor Stine served as pastor of Ascension, Pontiac, Michigan, from 1962 to 1966. He then entered the US Navy Chaplain Corps. His post-

ings included Camp LeJeune, North Carolina; Da Nang, Viet Nam; Camp Pendleton, California; and Bethesda, Maryland. In 1970 he became a clinical pastoral education supervisor and faculty member at Catholic University in Washington DC, where he remained until 1992. During that time he also served as interim pastor at several congregations in the Washington area. From 1993 to 1996, he served as associate director of pastoral care at Eger Health Center in Staten Island, New York. In 1996 he became coordinator of pastoral care at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem PA. In 1998 he left that position to serve at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he remained until his retirement in 2002.

Pastor Stine married Janice Gonter on August 1, 1959. They were the parents of three children, Julie Elizabeth, Michael Alan, and Matthew Todd. In 1996 he married Natalie Sue Greenleaf.

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**THE REV. WILSON E. TOUHPAENT** died October 7, 2007. The son of Edward and Margaret Touhsaent, he was born in Philadelphia on February 7, 1918. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College, A.B. 1940, the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia, M.Div., 1943, and Union Seminary, Columbia University, M.A., 1947. In 1969 Muhlenberg College honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

He was ordained in 1943 by the Illinois Synod of the ULCA and served the following congregations: Luther Memorial, Springfield, Ill., 1943-44; Good Shepherd, Brooklyn, 1946-47; Rosemont, Bethlehem, 1947-52; Atonement, Wyomissing, 1954-68. He also served two tours of duty as a United States Navy chaplain, 1945-46 and 1952-54.

Dr. Touhsaent was elected bishop (then "president") of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in 1968, served three five-year terms, and upon retirement in 1983 was named bishop emeritus of the Synod.

During his pastorate at Atonement in Wyomissing he served on the Interreligious Committee on Race of Berks County and the Human Relations Council of Reading and Berks County. He also served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee of Reading. He was president of the Greater Reading Council of Churches and served on the board of directors of that council. He was dean of the Reading District, 1962-68.

Bishop Touhsaent was married to Betty J. Sell of Allentown, who died in 1989. They had three children, Robert, Cynthia and Thomas, as well as four grandchildren. In 1991 he married Evelyn Gadomski of Allentown. In retirement, Bishop and Mrs. Touhsaent resided in Florida.

**THE REV. DAVID J. WARTLUFT** died on July 9, 2007. Born in Stroudsburg on September 22, 1938, he was the son of Cleaver M. and Dorothy S. (Stump) Wartluft. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College (1960) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1964). He also earned a master of arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania (1964) and a master of science in library and information science from Drexel University (1968). In 2003 the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Ordained by the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod in 1968, he began his ministry by serving as pastor of Jerusalem, Western Salisbury. In 1968 he began working at the library of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. From 1977 until his retirement in 2002, he served as director of the library. Following retirement he was active as an interim pastor of several congregations and as the synod's archivist. Throughout his career he held many offices, including serving as executive secretary of the American Theological Library Association. He was instrumental in networking the libraries of Philadelphia, Gettysburg and Southern Seminaries.

Pastor Wartluft married Joyce C. Dittmer on June 15, 1963. They were divorced in 1988. They were the parents of four children, Andrew Wartluft, Elizabeth Wartluft, Deborah Stack, and the Rev. Rebecca Knox.

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### 2007-2008 Pastoral Changes

**Argot, Robert G.**, Trinity, Tipton, to Friedens, Bernville, May 16, 2007

**Bartlett, Paul E.**, Upper Susquehanna Synod, to Grace, Macungie, June 20, 2007

**Beck, Arvo E.**, to retirement, July 31, 2007

**Bileck, Gregor**, Pine Grove P. C., to part-time pastor, Jacobs, Pine Grove, August 14, 2007

**Billeck, Donald R.**, interim, Hope, Tatamy, to retirement, August 1, 2007

**Bowers, James W.**, part-time interim associate, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, to part-time associate pastor, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, January 1, 2008

**Brown, David L.**, newly ordained, to Holy Cross, Bethlehem, October 13, 2007

**Carroll, Dennis J.**, reinstated to the roster, to Friedens, Friedensville, October 14, 2007

**Dolich, Herbert C.**, St. Joseph, Allentown, to Hope, Tatamy, June 1, 2007

**Ernst, Debra K.**, Salem Hetzel's, Pine Grove, to Zion, Tamaqua, March 1, 2008

**Fazio, Michael A.**, interim, Jerusalem, Western Salisbury, to Great Milwaukee Synod, November 26, 2007

**Fritts, R. Barry**, newly ordained, to St. John, Friedensburg, July 7, 2007

**Geiger, Sterling R.**, continuing disability, to retirement, March 1, 2007

**Goldsworthy, John W.**, St. Mark, Allentown, to Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, December 9, 2007

**Goodwin, Virginia A.**, St. Peter, Easton, to On-leave-from-call, January 1, 2008

**Hamm, MaryAnn**, Moselem-Beckers P.C., to St. John, Fogelsville, May 29, 2007

**Haubert, Kenneth C.**, St. Paul 3<sup>rd</sup>, Easton, to on-leave-from-call, July 7, 2007

**Huwiler, Elizabeth F.**, professor, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, to on-leave-from-call, July 1, 2007

**Jaskiewicz, Tricia A.**, St. Paul, Bethlehem, to on-leave-from-call (disability), November 1, 2007

**Johnsten, Christina M.**, Trinity, Gouglersville, to on-leave-from-call, September 15, 2007

**Kennett, Cynthia S.**, Zion, Frackville, to retirement, January 31, 2008

**Kochanski, Lori**, Metropolitan New York Synod, to chaplain, Hospice St. John, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, November 12, 2007

**Lamb, John E.**, Lower Susquehanna Synod, to pastor, St. Luke, Allentown, November 19, 2007

**LaRiviere-Mestre, Ivis**, Assoc. Dir., Evangelism and Latino Outreach, ELCA, to on-leave-from-call (disability), September 15, 2007

**Lee, Jason M.**, newly ordained, to assistant, Atonement, Wyomissing, July 25, 2007

**Lyon, Katie E.**, St. Mark, Reading, to on-leave-from-call, March 31, 2008

**Maxon, William S.**, on-leave-from-call, to non-stipendiary, St. John, Emmaus, January 18, 2007

**Meinschein, Cheryl F.**, associate of the bishop, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to Christ, Dryville, January 20, 2008

**Newhart, David C.**, interim, Longswamp UCC, to interim, Trinity Memorial, Allentown, February 1, 2008

**Parker, Gene A.**, term call, Christ, Stone Church, to non-stipendiary, Christ, Stone Church, January 18, 2007

**Reist, Michael L.**, New Jerusalem, New Jerusalem, to Bethany, Stony Creek Mills, August 1, 2007

**Scholtes, Michael J.**, newly ordained, to Faith United, Nescopeck, August 26, 2007

**Sonnenberg, Arthur F.**, St. Peter, Reinerton, to Lower Susquehanna Synod, December 16, 2008

**Stivers, Manuel R.**, Trinity Memorial, Allentown, to on-leave-from-call, January 31, 2008

**Stough, Richard H.**, interim, St. Michael, Allentown, to retirement, September 24, 2007

**Tirado-Carrasquillo, Lorenzo**, mission director, Reading/Berks Mission Center for Latino/Hispanic Ministry, to on-leave-from-call, October 31, 2007

**Wenzel, Carl A.**, associate, St. John, Boyertown, to St. John, Kutztown, August 1, 2007

**Wolford, Phyllis J.**, St. Matthew, North Weissport, to St. John, Tamaqua, January 1, 2008

### Roster of Associates In Ministry

#### Commissioning

**Saylor, Bruce**, June 4, 2006

#### Transferred to other Synods

**Saylor, Bruce**, Southeastern Pennsylvania, January 25, 2008

#### Removed from the Roster

**Schatz, Scherelene**, March 13, 2008

#### 2007-2008 Associate in Ministry Changes

**Brucker, Cinda J.**, Director of Youth and Evangelism, St. John, Sayre, to on-leave-from-call, August 31, 2007

**Elliott, Jane R. M.**, interim Director for Faith Formation and Music Ministry for Youth/Young Adults, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, to Director for Faith Formation and Music Ministry, January 12, 2008

**Gerhart, Joy V.**, on-leave-from-call, to Coordinator for Youth Ministry and Congregational Programming, Calvary, Laureldale, December 1, 2007

**Saylor, Bruce**, coordinator, Christian education and youth, St. John, Easton, to on-leave-from-call, May 31, 2007

**Steltz, Nancy L.**, on-leave-from-call, to retirement, January 1, 2008

### Roster of Diaconal Ministers

#### Consecration

**Howard, Kelly L.**, September 2, 2007

**Zawaski, Linda S.**, November 4, 2007

#### 2007-2008 Diaconal Minister Changes

**Howard, Kelly L.**, newly consecrated, to chaplain, Good Shepherd Home, September 2, 2007

**Zawaski, Linda S.**, newly consecrated, to diaconal minister, Trinity, Kutztown, November 4, 2007

*Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, Secretary*

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mission Support decreased approximately 3% vs. the previous year, and was 5% below the budgeted target for 2007. Designated giving for World Hunger, disaster relief, social ministry agencies, etc. was 8% below prior year.

	2007	2006	Change
<b>Mission Support</b>			
ELCA (53%)	\$1,611,929	\$1,658,443	
NEPS (47%)	<u>1,429,446</u>	<u>1,470,695</u>	
	3,041,375	3,129,138	- 3%
<b>Designated</b>			
Hunger, Disaster Response, other	<u>564,382</u>	<u>615,838</u>	- 8%
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$3,605,757</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,744,976</u></b>	<b>- 4%</b>

253 supporting congregations (86%) provided estimates of their Mission Support plans for the year, and 78% of those congregations (197) met or exceeded their projected support levels for 2007. Both of these %'s reflect favorable increases over the prior year.

#### Mission Support

Congregations	2007	2006
Met or exceeded estimates	197	172
Support was below estimates	<u>56</u>	<u>68</u>
Sub-total	253	240
Congregations who did not provide an estimate but gave	32	45
Congregations who gave \$0	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	293	293

#### Synod Budget

Spending for the year was approximately \$97,000 below planned levels, which helped keep the deficit below projected levels in spite of the shortfall in Mission Support.

NEPS	Budget	Performance	
"Preliminary"	2007	2007	2006
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Receipts</b>	\$1,429,446	\$1,504,000	\$1,470,695
<b>Expenditures</b>	<u>1,486,881</u>	<u>1,583,850</u>	<u>1,500,282</u>
<b>Net (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ (57,435)</u>	<u>\$ (79,850)</u>	<u>\$ (29,587)</u>

#### Consolidated Financial Picture

The information summarized above relates to our regular synod budget which is incorporated into the General Fund activities of the synod. Consolidated financial results for all synod funds including activity

in the various endowment related funds for the year 2007 will be available as part of our 2007 Auditor's Report. Summary results on a consolidated basis for the year 2006 (12 months ending Jan. 31, 2007) are shown below:

	<b>\$ in thousands</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>		
Benevolence	\$ 3,107	
Designated Gifts (Hunger, agencies etc.)	796	
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 3,903</u>	
Investment Income	142	
Rental Income	9	
Net Gains (Realized & Unrealized)	346	
Beneficial Trust	14	
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,414</u></b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
ELCA Benevolence	\$ 1,651	
Designated Gifts (Hunger, agencies etc.)	591	
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 2,242</u>	
Program Services (Ministries & teams)	817	
Supporting Services	1,004	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,063</u></b>	
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 351</u></b>	

David J. Hinrichs, treasurer

### REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

The Synod Council met four times since the last Assembly. Numbers preceding resolutions of the Council indicate the year, month, and sequence number of the resolution. Recommendations for Assembly action appear in **bold face type**. All items are presented for review by the Assembly.

#### Administration

(2007.6.1) Resolved, that \$500 from the Mission Fund be used to fund an expenditure designated to be paid from the Bishop's Fund, with the expectation that it will be repaid from the Bishop's Fund when monies are available from that fund.

(2007.6.9) Resolved, that the Report of the Task Force on Congregations Considering Withdrawal from the ELCA be approved.

(2007.6.11) Resolved, that the Administration Committee be authorized to review nominations and

select a recipient of the 2007 Wilson Touhsaent Award for Significant Social Ministry, on behalf of the Synod Council.

(2007.10.5) Resolved, that the 2008 Executive Staff compensation be set in accordance with the following schedule, reflecting 1) total compensation, and 2) for ordained staff members the amount of base salary, social security allowance, and housing allowance. The amounts designated as housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2008 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this Synod Council. (Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.) This reflects an increase of 2% over 2007 figures.

Name	Base Salary	Housing	Social Security	Total
Strobel	\$51,886	\$25,000	\$6,369	\$83,255
Ziel	\$40,689	\$15,000	\$4,613	\$60,302
Bennethum	\$46,044	\$18,000	\$5,305	\$69,349
Meinschein	\$37,643	\$17,000	\$4,527	\$59,170
Handwerk	\$39,971	\$16,500	\$4,678	\$61,149
Simmons	\$41,020	\$17,000	\$4,806	\$62,826
Garbe	\$40,784	\$12,000	\$4,372	\$57,156
Matthias-Long	\$48,805		\$3,734 <sup>1</sup>	\$48,805
Weiser	\$54,269		\$4,152 <sup>1</sup>	\$54,269
Schelly	\$46,429		\$3,552 <sup>1</sup>	\$46,429

<sup>1</sup>Employer's required share (7.65%)

(2008.1.1) Resolved, that in light of revisions to the compensation guidelines for 2008, the 2008 Executive Staff compensation be set in accordance with the following schedule, reflecting 1) total compensation, and 2) for ordained staff members the amount of base salary, social security allowance, and housing allowance. The amounts designated as housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2008 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this Synod Council. (Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.)

Name	Base Salary	Housing	Social Security	Total
Strobel	\$52,703	\$25,000	\$6,437	\$84,140
Ziel	\$43,919	\$15,000	\$4,881	\$63,800
Bennethum	\$46,861	\$18,000	\$5,373	\$70,234
Handwerk	\$44,451	\$16,500	\$5,049	\$66,000
Simmons	\$45,475	\$17,000	\$5,175	\$67,650
Garbe	\$45,396	\$12,000	\$4,754	\$62,150
Matthias-Long	\$49,690		\$3,801 <sup>1</sup>	\$49,690
Weiser	\$57,154		\$4,372 <sup>1</sup>	\$57,154
Schelly	\$49,314		\$3,773 <sup>1</sup>	\$49,314

<sup>1</sup>Employer's required share (7.65%)

(2008.1.2) Resolved, that the Rev. Cheryl F. Meinschein be hired as part-time Assistant to the Bishop in the areas of candidacy and sexual misconduct prevention and intervention, effective January 20, 2008.

(2008.3.6) Resolved, that the 2008 housing allowance for the Rev. Michael Bennethum be increased from \$18,000 to \$24,000, with an equivalent reduction in his base salary.

(2008.3.12) Resolved, that the revised "Policy on Sexual Misconduct of Rostered Leaders" be adopted.

(2008.3.13) Resolved, that the Synod Council (a) set synod membership decline as a major item for discussion and action at the June 2008 Synod Council Retreat and (b) consider at that time making numerical and spiritual growth/decline within our synod an item of high priority, with action to begin as soon as feasible and in a way that engages all of our congregations in a serious examination of this issue and its related factors.

### Assembly

(2007.6.12) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to send a letter to those pastors residing on the territory of this synod who were absent from the synod assembly without submitting an excuse, reminding them of the constitutional responsibility in this regard.

(2007.6.13) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to write to the secretaries of the congregations which had no registered lay voting members or only one lay voting member and presented no excuse for such absence, calling attention to the constitutional requirement in this regard, and to send copies of the letters to the respective deans; and that, in the case of congregations that had no voting members and did not present excuses, personal consultation as deemed appropriate by the Mission District dean be effected between Congregation Councils and pastors of those congregations and a representative or representatives of the Synod (Mission District deans, Synod staff persons, or Synod Council members), with arrangements for such consultation to be initiated by the Mission District deans.

(2008.3.4) The following resolution is recommended to the 2008 Synod Assembly:

**Resolved, that the 2008 Assembly program (as printed in the Bulletin of Reports) be adopted.**

(2008.3.11) Resolved, that the 2009 Synod Assembly be held June 5-6, 2009, at a location to be determined.

### Bear Creek Camp

(2007.6.2) Resolved, that a grant of \$3,000 from the Mission Fund be given to Bear Creek Camp, to provide camperships for the 2007 season.

(2007.10.1) Resolved, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council affirms the decision of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod to authorize Bear Creek Camp to enter into a contract(s) with the Commonwealth of Pennsyl-

vania for the purpose of establishing a conservation easement(s) on portions of the camp property. In essence, Bear Creek Camp will be surrendering development rights in perpetuity, as well as agreeing to allow very limited public access in exchange for one time cash payment(s). We understand that the negotiation of the easement(s) will take place in two phases over at least two years. The details of each easement must be reviewed and agreed upon by the synod's legal counsel before any contracts are finalized. The entire proceeds, with the exception of origination expenses, will be placed into an endowment. All income derived from this endowment will be used to benefit Bear Creek Camp, as its Board of Directors sees fit.

(2007.10.2) Resolved, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council authorizes Bear Creek Camp's Board of Directors to open a \$100,000 line of credit for short-term expenses related to establishment of the conservation easement(s), to pay for preliminary capital campaign expenses, and for providing working capital for the construction of the Outdoor Chapel/ Amphitheater.

### Calls and Appointments

(2007.6.10) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Clergy (first year): Elizabeth Huwiler

Associate in Ministry (first year): Bruce Saylor

(2007.10.8) Resolved, that the call to special service previously extended to the Rev. James Bowers to serve as part-time transitional associate pastor of Holy Spirit, Emmaus, be extended to January 15, 2008.

(2007.10.11) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Clergy (first year): Christina Johnston

Associate in Ministry  
(first year, graduate study) Cinda Brucker

(2007.10.12) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved for a period of six months as follows:

Clergy (first year): Kenneth Haubert

(2008.1.5) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA

Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Clergy (first year): Lorenzo Tirado-Carrasquillo

(2008.1.6) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Lori Kochanski to serve as chaplain at Hospice St. John (Wyomissing), Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, effective November 12, 2007.

(2008.3.5) Resolved, that the Synod Council requests of the ELCA Conference of Bishops approval to issue a call to non-stipendiary ministry for the Rev. Kim Lengert.

(2008.3.7) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Clergy (second year): Michael Peters  
Rebecca Knox

(2008.3.8) Resolved, that Scherelene Schatz be removed from the roster of Associates in Ministry, effective March 13, 2008.

(2008.3.9) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Scott Davis to serve as Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor of Lehigh Valley Hospital, effective January 21, 2008.

(2008.3.10) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Carey Miller to serve as interim pastor of St. Mark UCC, Cressona, effective July 1, 2007.

### **Congregational Matters**

(2008.3.1) Resolved, that St. Michael, Allentown, and Nativity, Allentown, be given permission to consolidate at the current location of Nativity, upon positive votes of both congregations.

### **Election of a Bishop**

(2007.10.4) Resolved, that the following process be used in the election of a bishop in 2008:

1. The synod council has engaged the services of the Synodical Relations and Research and Evaluation sections of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to collect information from rostered leaders and laity of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and appointed Family Life Services to act as liaison to the ELCA survey team on behalf of the synod council.
2. At the Synod Assembly, the first ballot will be a nominating ballot on which voting members can submit the name of any ELCA pastor. A nominee must receive three-quarters of the

valid votes cast to be elected on the first ballot. If there is no election, the names of all those receiving one or more votes will be posted publicly so that nominees may withdraw their names if they so choose. All those who do not withdraw will appear on the second ballot. This is the only point in the process at which nominees may withdraw.

3. A nominee must receive three-quarters of the valid votes cast to be elected on the second ballot. If no one is elected on the second ballot, only the top seven vote-getters (plus ties) will remain on the next ballot.
4. The seven candidates who received the most votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly for three minutes each.
5. Following these addresses, the Mission Districts will gather in separate rooms. Each candidate will spend fifteen minutes in each Mission District gathering, engaging in a period of questions and answers.
6. The third ballot will be taken after the Mission District discussions. Two-thirds of the votes cast will be necessary for election. If there is no election, the top three names (plus ties) will be carried over to the fourth ballot. At the conclusion of the session in which the results of the third ballot are announced, each of those three will be given the same Biblical text and asked to prepare a 10-minute Bible study or reflection.
7. The next session will begin with the Bible studies or reflections. The fourth ballot will then be taken.
8. If no one receives 60% of the votes cast on the fourth ballot, the top two names (plus ties) will be carried over to the fifth ballot, on which a simple majority will be needed to elect. If necessary, a sixth ballot will be taken, on which a simple majority will also be required.

(2008.1.3) Resolved, that the following persons be appointed as the synod's Transition Team: Mr. Daniel Brettell, the Rev. Rachael C. Dietz, Mr. Stephen P. Fellman, Ms. Deborah Matern Graf, the Rev. Denton R. Kees (chair), the Rev. Clark W. Kuntz, Ms. Ruth T. Miller, the Rev. Martha S. Sipe.

### **Elections**

(2007.6.3) Resolved, that Pastor Phyllis Wolford be elected to a three-year term on Synod Council. The resolution was adopted.

(2007.6.4) Resolved, that Madison O'Neil be elected to a two-year term on Synod Council. The resolution was adopted.

(2007.10.9) Resolved, that the Rev. Robert Machamer, Guy French, and John Greenleaf be elected to terms on the board of directors of Bear Creek Camp.

(2007.10.10) Resolved, that the following persons be elected to terms on the board of directors of Lutheran Congregational Services: Daisy Marin (1<sup>st</sup> term), the Rev. David Newman (2<sup>nd</sup> term), the Rev. Wayne Matthias-Long (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Ms. Kathy Smith (1<sup>st</sup> full term).

(2008.1.7) Resolved, that Patrick J. Brennan, M.D., be elected to a three year term on the board of trustees of Good Shepherd Home, such term to run from 2007 to 2010.

(2008.3.3) Resolved, that the following continuing resolution be adopted:

S9.01.A08.

The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:

a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.

b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.

c. The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.

d. All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.

e. The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee, which shall then take action as deemed ap-

propriate. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.

f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.

### **Finance**

(2007.6.6) Resolved, that a grant of \$2,465 in additional support from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund be made to cover the remaining expenses for the 2007 Bishop's Conference. The resolution was adopted.

(2007.10.6) Resolved, that a grant of up to \$3,000 from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund be given to cover expenses from the Consultations-Congregations/Professional Leaders budget line for supply pastors in a conflicted situation. The resolution was adopted.

(2007.10.7) Resolved, that a grant of up to \$2,000 from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund (above the \$8,000 already authorized by a 1998 continuing resolution) be given to support the 2008 Bishop's Conference at Skytop Lodge, in order to limit cost to participants. The resolution was adopted.

### **"LIFT" Event**

(2007.6.5) Resolved, that a grant of up to \$7,500 in additional support from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund be made to cover expenses still remaining to be paid for the 2007 LIFT event. The resolution was adopted.

(2007.6.8) Resolved, that this Synod Council on behalf of all of the members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod gives thanks for all of the work done by Ken, Ruth, Herb and Judy in organizing this remarkable event, and be it further

Resolved, that we express our appreciation for their unflagging enthusiasm, their endless optimism and their absolute determination, without which LIFT would still be only a passing thought, and be it further

Resolved, that we praise our loving Lord for sending such servants to us, to help us grow, learn, rejoice and sing, all to the glory of God,

(2007.10.3) Resolved, that the synod council affirms the intent of this synod to hold a second LIFT event in 2009.

### **Spending Proposal**

(2007.6.7) Resolved, that the 2008 Spending Policy be as follows:

Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund - 8% of assets,  
\$42,500

Student Education Fund - 6% of assets,  
\$24,654

Leadership Development Fund - 8% of assets,  
\$3,251

Social Ministry Fund - 9% of assets, \$67,730

(2008.1.4) Resolved, that the revised 2008 spending proposal be approved. The resolution was adopted.

(2008.3.2) The following resolution is recommended to the 2008 Synod Assembly:

**Resolved, that the 2009 program proposal (February 1, 2009, to January 31, 2010) be adopted. The Synod Council is hereby authorized to establish the 2009 spending program no later than its January, 2009, meeting, making any necessary adjustments to the budget proposal in light of both realistic anticipation of receipts and synod priorities (in consultation with the ELCA Treasurer with respect to the ELCA portion thereof.)**

*Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, secretary*

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF DEANS

The Committee of Deans met in June, September, and December. A February meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather.

At the June meeting, the deans reviewed the recent synod assembly. The condensed format was well-planned and appropriate given the LIFT event the next day but was clearly an exception to the normal assembly. Pastor Dennis Ritter of Lutheran Congregational Services spoke with the deans about Thrivent's Charitable Giving Initiative and suggested using this funding to create a stewardship education position for the synod. The deans agreed to explore the idea further.

In September Kathy Schaeffer of the Leadership Development Team introduced an idea modeled on pastoral care teams but intended to provide support for rostered leaders and their families. Family Life Services is willing to work with one or two mission districts interested in piloting such a program. There was also discussion of the process for electing a bishop and the initial steps to be taken at the fall mission district assemblies.

The December meeting heard reports on the fall assemblies and discussed the next steps in the election process. The deans also reviewed the guidelines for honoraria for supply pastors and adopted the following recommendations: One ser-

vice, \$125; two services, \$150; three services, \$175; an additional \$25 for multiple-point charges; an additional \$25 for leading an adult forum or Sunday School class; and that mileage reimbursement (at the IRS rate) be provided in addition to the honorarium. In addition, if one of these services is on Saturday, an additional \$50 should be added to the rate for the total number of services.

#### Anniversaries of Rostered Service

2008 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of rostered service for the following leaders:

Timothy D. Boyer  
John P. Fritch  
Jody L. Neifert  
Peggy Sue Pfeffer  
Richard W. Schoenleber  
Carl A. Wenzel  
Melanie E. Werley

Observing their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination are:

David F. Hill  
Raymond C. Hittinger  
George G. Kinney  
Lynn H. Rothrock

Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of rostered service are:

Lee E. Angstadt  
Millicent J. Drake  
Byard J. Ebling  
William W. Ennis  
George E. Hein  
E. Frederick Holst  
Rodger A. Krause  
Carl R. Schmoyer  
Paul H. Spohn  
Lars B. Staaby  
Kenneth M. Trexler  
Arvids Ziedonis

Celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of rostered service are:

Marvin E. Dewalt  
Marvin L. Harding  
Janet M. Hoover  
Arthur W. Kleintop  
Jacob A. Longacre  
Theodore C. Schlack  
Henry S. G. Sheppard

Celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination is:

Paul T. Manrodt

**THE REV. LEE E. ANGSTADT**, the son of the Rev. Elton and Edith M. (Snyder) Angstadt, was born on May 1, 1933, in Palmerton. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1955 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958.

Following his ordination on May 25, 1958, he served as pastor of Friedens, Friedensville (1958-1970); St. John, Mohnton (1970-1984); and associate pastor and later co-senior pastor, St. John, Boyertown (1984-1995). Following his retirement, he continued to serve as part-time visitation pastor at St. John, Boyertown.

Pastor Angstadt served on the Board of Social Ministry and was elected to the Southern Lehigh School Board. He served on the board of the Lutheran Home at Topton and was secretary of the board for twelve years. In retirement he served as a "guest teacher" in the Boyertown and Oley school districts.

On September 1, 1956, Pastor Angstadt married Shirley Ann McNabb. They are the parents of four children, Glenn Elton, David Lee, Lisa Beth, and Amy Susan.

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**THE REV. BYARD J. EBLING**, the son of Clarence D. S. and Irene (Wagner) Ebling, was born on January 29, 1934, in Lebanon PA. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1955 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958. Throughout his career he continued his education, taking courses at Drew University and Lehigh University. He was ordained on May 25, 1958.

Pastor Ebling began his service as the mission developer and then the first called pastor of Gloria Dei, Chatham NJ (1958-1964). He then served St. Paul (Southside), Easton (1964-1969); Trinity, Hazleton (1969-1975); and Trinity, Pottsville (1975-1983). In 1983 he was called to serve as assistant to the bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod where he served until 1991, when he returned to parish ministry, serving Holy Spirit, Reading (1991-1995) and Epiphany, Temple (1995-1998). Following his retirement in 1998, he continued to serve Epiphany under contract until 2000 and as interim pastor of St. Mark, Reading (2002-2004) and Bethany, West Reading (2005).

His service to the community and the wider church included service on the synod Executive Board and Administrative Committee and as chair of the Urban Ministry Committee as well as involvement with United Way, the Boy Scouts of America and Rotary Club.

Pastor Ebling married Nancy Ann Hillegass on August 13, 1955. They are the parents of two children, Byard Todd and Andrew William.

**THE REV. WILLIAM W. ENNIS** was born on September 24, 1931, in Philadelphia, the son of William W. and Edna G. (Weisler) Ennis. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania (1953) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (1956). He continued his studies at Drew University in 1957.

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1958, Pastor Ennis served the following calls: Zion, Jersey City NJ (1958-1960); Messiah, Baltimore MD (1960-1964); Redeemer, Allentown (1964-1967); St. Matthew, Allentown (1967-1972); St. Mark, Bethlehem (1972-1977); St. John, Honesdale (1977-1980); assistant director, Lutheran Inner Mission Society (1980-1987); and chaplain, state correctional institution, Frackville (1987-1997). He served as interim pastor and stated supply at several congregations throughout his ministry.

Pastor Ennis was married to Lily H. Ishkanian on July 31, 1954. They are the parents of three children, Roland, Krina and Jannell.

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**THE REV. GEORGE E. HEIN** was born on March 19, 1933, in Whitehall Township. His parents were George E. and Tillie I. (Stauffer) Hein. A 1955 graduate of Muhlenberg College, he then graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958. He was ordained at St. Luke, Easton, on May 25, 1958 by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Following his ordination, Pastor Hein served these congregations: New Ringgold Parish (1958-1962); Mahoning Parish (1962-1965); Belfast-Wind Gap Parish (1965-1971); Allegheny, Alleghenyville (1971-1980); Rehrrsburg-Bethel Parish (1980-1991); and Christ, Christmans (1991-1995). In his retirement he served as part-time visitation pastor at Jordan, Orefield, for several years.

Pastor Hein has been active in wider church activities, serving on the board of Lutheran Inner Mission Society, as secretary-treasurer of the Gov. Mifflin Ministerium and as chair of the Bethel-Tulpehocken Council of Churches.

On August 20, 1955, Pastor Hein was married to Loretta Ellen Huber. They are the parents of two children, Wilson George and Daniel Thomas.

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**THE REV. E. FREDERICK HOLST** was born on March 18, 1934. He graduated from Wagner College in 1955 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in American Studies from Union College in 1969.

Ordained on June 4, 1958, Pastor Holst served the following congregations: Redeemer, Orange-

burg NY (1958-1961); Our Saviour's, Schenectady NY (1961-1964) Zion, Cobleskill NY (1964-1969); Prince of Peace, Brentwood NY (1969-1972); Augustana, Tonawanda NY (1972-1977); St. Luke's and the Lutheran Association, Ithaca NY (1977-1987); Gloria Dei, Lakewood NY (1987-1996); and Hope, Bowers (1996-1999). In retirement, he has served as interim pastor of Christ, Springtown.

On September 7, 1957, Pastor Holst married Barbara A. Holst. They are the parents of three daughters, Diane, Susan and Beth.

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**THE REV. RODGER A. KRAUSE** was born on August 5, 1933, in West Hazleton. His parents were Ludwig and Emma (Jack) Krause. In 1955 he graduated from Muhlenberg College, and in 1958 he completed his seminary education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He was ordained at Ascension, Germantown, in January of 1958 by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Following his ordination, Pastor Krause served the following congregations: Zion (Spies), Reading (1958-1961); Redeemer, Penndel (1961-1964); and Nativity, Reading (1965-1998).

On June 5, 1954, Pastor Krause was married to Violet Crouse. They are the parents of two children, Rodger John and Robert Andrew.

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**THE REV. CARL R. SCHMOYER**, the son of Russell E. and Emma A. (Zimmerman) Schmoyer, was born on May 19, 1933, in Allentown. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1955 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958. He was ordained on May 25, 1958.

Following his ordination Pastor Schmoyer served as pastor of Christ, Stone Church (1958-1961); Jordan, Orefield (1961-1965); Zion, Treverton PA, and St. Peter, West Cameron PA (1965-1973); St. Peter UCC, West Cameron PA (1971-1973); and Jerusalem, Western Salisbury (1973-2000). Following his retirement he has continued to serve as designated pastor of Grace, Topton, and visitation pastor at Trinity, Topton.

On September 26, 1959, Pastor Schmoyer married Muriel Anne Miller. They are the parents of one daughter, Anne Elizabeth.

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**THE REV. PAUL H. SPOHN**, the son of Paul R. and Helen May Spohn, was born on July 23, 1933, in Allentown. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1955 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958. In

1991 he received a D. Min. degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary.

Following his ordination on May 25, 1958, he served as pastor of the Grimsville Parish (1958-1962); Kempton-Stony Run Parish (1962-67); Trinity, Lehighton (1967-83); senior pastor, St. John, Nazareth (1983-1989); mission director, West Berks Mission District, and associate of the bishop (1989-1998). Following his retirement, he has continued to serve as interim pastor to congregations in both Pennsylvania and Montana.

Pastor Spohn's service to the church and community has always been extensive. He has served on the executive board of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the boards of the Lutheran Home at Topton, the Lutheran Home at Hazleton, Muhlenberg College, and Lutheran Services Lehigh Valley, was dean of the Hazleton-Lehighon District, and has been active in both Rotary and Lions Clubs.

On June 9, 1956, Pastor Spohn married Jane Ann Sassaman. They are the parents of three children, Deborah, Peter and Philip.

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**THE REV. LARS B. STAABY**, the son of Nils and Sofie (Bertelsen) Staaby, was born on December 31, 1920, in Flekkefjord, Norway. He served in the Norwegian Merchant Marine from 1938 to 1941. He immigrated to the United States by way of Argentina, following the German invasion of Norway. He joined the United States Army in 1943 and was granted citizenship during his military service.

He graduated from Wagner College in 1956 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958.

Ordained on May 25, 1958, Pastor Staaby served the following congregations: St. James, Ashland, and St. Peter, Lavelle (1958-59, 1961-1966); associate pastor, St. Paul, Landsdowne (1959-1961); pastor, Epiphany, Temple (1966-1970); and Christ, Stouchsburg (1970-1984). In retirement, he has served as interim pastor of several congregations in the Central Pennsylvania Synod and later the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and as visitation pastor at St. Luke, Reading, and St. Daniel, Robesonia.

On September 1, 1945, Pastor Staaby married Helen L. Brem. They are the parents of three sons, Lars Birger, Eric Richard, and David Luther.

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**THE REV. KENNETH M. TREXLER**, the son of the Rev. Mark. K. and Blanche A. (Morgan) Trexler, was born on August 29, 1933, in Laureldale. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1955

and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958.

Following his ordination on May 25, 1958, he served as assistant pastor of Holy Spirit, Reading (1958-1960); pastor of Zion, Frackville (1960-1969); and pastor of St. Peter, Scranton (1969-1996). Following his retirement, he served as interim pastor of Trinity, Towanda.

On July 30, 1960, Pastor Trexler married Jeanne A. Garis. They are the parents of a son, Jonathan Mark.

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**THE REV. ARVIDS ZIEDONIS**, the son of Arvids and Marija Ziedonis, was born on March 8, 1931, in Daugavpils, Latvia. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1955 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1958. While in seminary he also attended the University of Pennsylvania. In 1968 he received a Ph.D. from Temple University.

Ordained in June 1958 by the Central Pennsylvania Synod, Pastor Ziedonis has served the following calls: Trinity, Steelton (1958-1962); St. Paul, Bethlehem (1962-1968); professor and director of Russian studies, Muhlenberg College (1968-1989). He also served as interim pastor of Morgenland, Lowhill Township (1968-1989). In his retirement, he has continued to serve Latvian Lutheran congregations in Bucks County and in Delaware and has preached and taught regularly in Latvia.

Active in the wider church, Pastor Ziedonis served as chair of the Christian Education Committee of the Central Pennsylvania Synod, as a member of the World Mission Committee of the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod, and as a regular leader of study tours in Eastern Europe. He was an LCA observer at the National Council of Churches International Conference in 1974. He has been active in helping to rebuild Latvian churches destroyed in World War II. In 1997 he was elected to Latvia's Academy of Sciences. He has served as the foreign editor for the journal of the theology department of the University of Latvia, where he has been a visiting professor.

Pastor Ziedonis was married to Zigrīda M. Vurlicers on August 23, 1958. They are the parents of three children, Douglas Michael, Ruth Sonia, and Eric Arvids.

*Catherine A. Ziel, executive associate of the bishop*