

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Officers, Deans)

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

As the newly elected Vice President, my duties began in September 2009. I met during the summer with former VP Priscilla Kinney, Bishop Zeiser and Pastor Catherine Ziel in an effort to gain a clearer picture of what my duties might entail. I confess; I am still in that learning process and appreciate your support and prayers.

Having served on the Synod Council for the previous six years, I was very aware of the new Visioning Process in which we had embarked. We had been working during the spring of 2009 to gather information from all our member congregations through their mission districts.

The 2009 Synod Assembly voted to approve a new Purpose Statement and five strategic directions for ministry. The Synod Council took time at their June meeting, to read the information that was collected during the Assembly and then disseminated that information to the appropriate Ministry Teams. We have taken the time since to reflect on how we can use these ideas for ministry renewal and to determine the structure that will best serve us as we move forward into the strategic process. We will be developing our mission priorities and an action plan at a retreat in June that will include the staff, Synod Council and Ministry Team leaders. I am excited by the possibilities before us.

During the fall I had the opportunity to attend all but one of the Mission District Evenings with the Bishop. By traveling across the synod territory I gained a better understanding of who (and where!) we are. I was able to meet many pastors and lay leaders on their own turf and to hear the joys, questions and concerns voiced during their open dialogue with Bishop Zeiser.

Your Synod Council has met four times this year. As we travel to different churches for our meetings, we learn of the ministries that are happening at each of our host congregations. We visited Christ, Schoenersville for our January meeting in response to their generous offer of the church facility for possible use as a new synod office. Two different task-forces were formed to determine through due diligence if this would be in the best interest of the synod at this time. Regardless of the outcome of that decision, we greatly appreciate the offer made by this faithful congregation as they have prayerfully determined their future ministry will be in partnership with another congregation.

Not surprisingly, it has been another challenging year financially. As the Synod Council, we must at times revise the spending proposals to keep in line with expected giving. It is disappointing when it becomes necessary to reduce the ministries we do because the funding is not available. As the economy improves, I am hopeful God's people will again be generous in their response to God's blessings, and we will rejoice together as we can more joyfully be doing God's work with our hands!

Dawn Baxter, vice president

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

As of March 31, the following changes have taken place since the 2009 Assembly:

Roster of Ordained Ministers

Ordinations

Holtz, Douglas R., July 13, 2009

Metzloff, Paul W., August 1, 2009

Reis, Darcy M., June 16, 2009

Received from other Synods

Brndjar, John M., Lower Susquehanna, June 17, 2009

Martin, Albert C., Metropolitan New York, September 1, 2009

Williams, Louise E., Upper Susquehanna, June 29, 2009

Transferred to Other Synods

Heckler, David A., Southeastern Pennsylvania, August 16, 2009

Miller, Glenn D., Greater Milwaukee, October 2, 2009

Removed from the Roster

Haubert, Kenneth C., July 31, 2009

Deaths

Baer, Harold R., September 30, 2009

Davis, Barbara, March 29, 2010

Deibert, Joseph H., November 6, 2009

Peters, John V., December 6, 2009

Slusser, H. Joseph, November 16, 2009

Sunderland, William H., December 12, 2009

THE REV. HAROLD R. BAER, JR., the son of Harold R. and Lillian M. (Thomas) Baer, was born on January 17, 1938, in Mahanoy City. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1959 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1962.

Following his ordination on May 27, 1962, he served as assistant pastor of Holy Spirit, Reading (1962-1964); and then pastor of St. John, Sinking Spring (1964-1983); St. Paul, Catasauqua (1983-1988); and St. Paul, Shavertown (1988-1996). After becoming disabled in 1996, Pastor Baer served as pastor to the retired rostered leaders in the northern parts of the synod.

On April 4, 1963, Pastor Baer married Alice Louise Goldenberg. They were the parents of two children, Jeffrey and Carolyn.

THE REV. BARBARA A. DAVIS, was born on May 7, 1942, in Pittsburgh. She was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (1982) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1987). Pastor Davis also completed advanced training in clinical pastoral education and received endorsement for specialized pastoral care from the Inter-Lutheran Coordinating Committee for Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Pastoral Education.

Pastor Davis was ordained by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod on June 6, 1987. Following her ordination, she served as pastor of Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, until 1990. In that year she married the Rev. Arvo Beck and became co-pastor with him of the Good News Parish in Greeley, Shohola and Lackawaxen. From 1992 until 1997 she was engaged in advanced clinical pastoral education, and in 1997 she became assistant chaplain at Good Shepherd Home. She served there until her retirement in 2007.

Active in church and community activities, Pastor Davis was a member of the Synod Council and the Candidacy Committee at the time of her death. She served as a voting member to ten ELCA Churchwide Assemblies.

THE REV. JOSEPH H. DEIBERT, son of Willis and Maria (Seidel) Deibert, was born on Nov. 27, 1919, in Pottstown. He was a graduate of Penn State University (1941) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1949). Pastor Deibert also earned advanced degrees from Philadelphia Seminary (S.T. M., 1957) and Princeton Seminary (Th.M., 1962).

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on January 27, 1949, he served as follows: pastor,

St. Paul, Spokane WA (1949-1952); missionary in Argentina, pastor of La Natividad, Rosario, and professor at Lutheran Seminary, Buenos Aires (1952-1965); pastor, Zion, Womelsdorf (1965-1971); mission developer, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (1971-1973); mission developer, Bronx NY (1973-1980); pastor, Advent, Manhattan NY (1980-1985).

He was married to the former Elizabeth Delp, and they were the parents of two sons, Caleb and Andrew.

THE REV. JOHN V. PETERS, the son of William J. and Iva (Keehn) Peters, was born on March 9, 1922, in Newtown, Bucks County. He graduated from Albright College in 1944 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1947. In 1955 he earned the S.T.M. degree also from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on January 28, 1947, he served the following pastorates: Gethsemane, Keyport NJ (1947-1949); US Army Chaplaincy (Paratroops) (1949-1952); Holy Trinity, Catasauqua (1953-1957); St. Peter, Bethlehem (1957-1970); St. John, Honesdale (1970-1972); South Mountain Parish (1972-1987).

Pastor Peters served as the dean of the Bethlehem District of the synod and also worked on a YMCA committee supervising boys' work.

On May 31, 1946, he married Mary Delorenzo. They were the parents of three sons and a daughter.

THE REV. H. JOSEPH SLUSSER, the son of Adam W. and Susan V. (Stein) Slusser, was born on October 10, 1924, in Pond Hill PA. From 1945 to 1947, he served in the U. S. Navy. Following his military service, he graduated from Wittenberg College in 1952 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1955. He was ordained on May 26, 1955, by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Pastor Slusser served as pastor of the following congregations: Telford-Indianfield (1955-1956); Dushore Parish (1956-1962); Good Shepherd, Kreidersville, (1962-77); and Trinity, Hecktown (1977-85). While in Dushore, he served as auxiliary Protestant chaplain for the 648th Radar Squadron at Benton Air Force Base. In retirement he served as interim pastor of Good Shepherd, Easton, and chaplain at Country Meadows assisted-living facility.

He married Virginia L. Jordan on August 6, 1955. They were the parents of five children, Susan, Virginia, Patricia, Stephen, and Judy.

THE REV. WILLIAM H. SUNDERLAND, the son of Percy and Marie (Emilius) Sunderland, was born on January 9, 1933, in Philadelphia. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1956 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1959. He was ordained in that year at Immanuel, Souderton, by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Following his ordination Pastor Sunderland served as assistant pastor of Grace, Shillington, from 1959 to 1966, when he became senior pastor of that congregation. In 1979 he was called as executive director of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society (East Berks, West Berks and Schuylkill districts) where he served until his retirement in 1991. Following retirement he became the executive director of the Reading Emergency Shelter. He also served as a contract chaplain at Wernersville State Hospital and as interim and supply pastor at numerous congregations.

Pastor Sunderland married Mae A. Garito on April 28, 1962. They were the parents of one daughter, Ruth Ann.

2009-2010 Pastoral Changes

Breiner, Walter W., Zions, Weatherly, to St. Luke, Shoemakersville, January 2, 2010

Fox, Susan F., Robeson, Plowville, to retirement, August 1, 2009

Hoensch, Robert F., Christ's United, Ashland, to retirement, February 28, 2010

Holtz, Douglas R., newly ordained, to St. Paul, Albrightsville, July 13, 2009

Horn, William M., chaplain, Good Shepherd Hospital, to retirement, February 28, 2010

Langkamer, Lyn L., St. John, Allentown, to retirement, January 1, 2010

Maxon, William S., interim, Advent, West Lawn, to senior pastor, Christ, Allentown, November 30, 2010

McKee, Daun E., president and CEO, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, to retirement, January 1, 2010

Metzloff, Paul W., newly ordained, to Holy Trinity, Kingston, August 1, 2009

Mendez, Adeliz, San Martin de Porres, to on-leave-from-call, January 31, 2010

Newhart, David C., Trinity Memorial, Allentown, to retirement, February 28, 2010

Pelletier, Phyllis A., on-leave-from-call, to retirement, May 1, 2009

Possinger, Jami L., assistant, Union Schnecks-ville, to Hope, Cherryville, March 21, 2010

Reis, Darcy M., newly ordained, to assistant, Trinity, Pottsville, June 16, 2009

Truebenbach, Kim A., assistant, St. John, Sink-ing Spring, to on-leave-from-call, May 31, 2009

Roster of Deaconesses

Received from Other Synods

Daily, Ramona Cecille, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, October 12, 2009

2009-2010 Deaconess Changes

Daily, Ramona Cecille, transferred from South-eastern Pennsylvania Synod, to chaplain, St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, October 12, 2009

Roster of Associates In Ministry

2009-2010 Associate In Ministry Changes

Binner, Doris K., part-time director, Education and Youth Ministry, St. James, Coopersburg, to retirement, January 1, 2009

Krentz, Michael E., Director of Music and Christian Education, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, to Director of Music Ministry/Seminary Cantor, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, July 1, 2009

Wimmer, Leesa B., Christian Education and Youth Coordinator, Christ, Allentown, to on-leave-from-call, July 31, 2009

Yenser, Kathleen A., on-leave-from-call, to Director of Children's Ministry, Atonement, Wyomissing, May 17, 2009

Roster of Diaconal Ministers

Consecration

Mason, Jane R., December 12, 2009

2009-2010 Diaconal Minister Changes

Mason, Jane, R., newly consecrated, to hospice chaplain, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, December 12, 2009

Congregational Changes

Trinity, Wind Gap, merged with St. Peter, Plain-fied, November 8, 2009

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Congregational support continued its unfavorable downward trend in 2009, decreasing 7% from 2008 levels. Designated giving for World Hunger, disaster relief, social ministry agencies etc. reversed the downward trend increasing 6.1% in 2009.

Mission Support	2009	2008	2007	2006
ELCA	\$1,392,788	\$1,556,126	\$ 1,611,929	\$ 1,658,44
<i>Share of total</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>53%</i>
NEPS	1,338,168	1,379,960	1,429,446	1,470,695
	2,730,956	2,936,086	3,041,375	3,129,138
<i>vs. prior year</i>	-7.0%	-3.5%	-2.8%	
Designated				
Hunger, Disaster Response, other	<u>517,209</u>	<u>482,872</u>	<u>564,382</u>	<u>615,838</u>
<i>vs. prior year</i>	+6.1%	-14.4%	-8.4%	
Total	<u>\$3,248,165</u>	<u>\$3,418,958</u>	<u>\$3,605,757</u>	<u>\$ 3,744,976</u>

Congregational Support

274 of our 292 congregations submitted mission support during 2009. Of the 274, 183 or approximately 2/3 provided an estimate of their congregation's planned support for 2009. Actual Mission Support from these congregations was 97.3% of their original estimate for 2009.

Synod Budget

Spending for the year was approximately \$78,000 (5%) below planned levels, which helped keep the deficit (use of other funds) below projected levels in spite of the shortfall in Mission Support. Congregational support (mission support) funded 99.5% of the spending for 2009. It should be noted that retention of a higher percentage of Mission Support in the synod (49% vs. 47%/\$55,000) also was a factor in minimizing the budgetary gap in 2009.

NEPS	Budget Performance		
	<u>2009</u>	<u>" PRELIMINARY "</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Expenditures	<u>\$1,345,325</u>	<u>\$1,423,746</u>	<u>\$1,458,497</u>
Funded by:			
Mission Support	1,338,168	1,372,000	\$1,379,960
General Fund	<u>7,157</u>	<u>51,746</u>	<u>78,537</u>
Total	<u>\$1,345,325</u>	<u>\$1,423,746</u>	<u>\$1,458,497</u>

Consolidated Financial Picture

The information summarized above relates to our regular synod operating 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 2009 will be available as part of our 2009 Auditor's Report. We are anticipating that a significant portion of the decline in investment values experienced in 2008 as shown below,

will be recovered when the results for 2009 are finalized. Summary results on a consolidated basis (all funds) for the prior 2 years are shown below. The audit report in its entirety is included in the annual minutes book.

Dollars in thousands

	<u>2008</u> Year ending 1/31/09	<u>2007</u> Year ending 1/31/08		Year ending 1/31/09	Year ending 1/31/08
SUPPORT and REVENUE			EXPENSES		
Benevolence	\$2,868	\$ 3,069	ELCA Benevolence	\$ 1,533	\$ 1,630
Designated Gifts (Hunger, agencies etc.)	<u>931</u>	<u>1,026</u>	Designated Gifts (Hunger, agencies etc.)	<u>554</u>	<u>548</u>
Sub-Total	<u>3,799</u>	<u>4,095</u>	Sub-Total	<u>2,087</u>	<u>2,178</u>
Investment Income	208	217	Program Services (Ministries & teams)	890	879
Rental Income	10	9	Supporting Services	<u>991</u>	<u>1,006</u>
Net Gains/Loss (Realized & Unrealized)	(1,405)	(233)	Total Expenses	<u>3,968</u>	<u>4,063</u>
Beneficial Trust	<u>(236)</u>	<u>(22)</u>	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>(\$1,592)</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>2,376</u>	<u>4,066</u>			

Dave Hinrichs, treasurer

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

The Synod Council met four times since the last Assembly. Actions of the April meeting will be distributed at the Synod 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

(2009.6.5) 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.

(2009.6.6) 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 pre-

sented 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.

(2009.10.1) Resolved, that 2010 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 2010 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
Zeiser	\$57,131	\$15,000	\$5,975	\$78,106
Ziel	\$43,552	\$17,000	\$5,016	\$65,568
Bennethum	\$4,979	[\$24,000]	\$412	\$5,391
Garbe	\$46,986	\$12,000	\$4,886	\$63,872
Gade	\$37,843	\$21,000	\$4,874	\$63,718
Handwerk	\$3,966	\$5,000	\$743	\$9,709
Simmons	\$8,218	\$25,000	\$2,752	\$35,970
Matthias-Long	\$51,181		\$3,915 ²	\$51,181
Weiser	\$16,686		\$1,276 ²	\$16,686
Schelly	\$50,793		\$3,886 ²	\$50,793

¹The bulk of Pastor Bennethum's salary and all of his housing allowance is provided by the ELCA. The synod provides only the \$5,391 salary supplement shown here.

²Employer's required share (7.65%)

Assembly

(2010.1.1) Resolved, that the 2011 Synod Assembly be held on June 17 and 18 at Muhlenberg College in conjunction with the LIFT event.

Calls, Appointments, and Roster Maintenance

(2009.6.1) Resolved, that the Synod Council upholds the recommendation of the Deans to deny the request for continued leave for The Rev. Kenneth Haubert. The Bishop will appoint a committee of three people to meet with Pastor Haubert, if he so desires, by July 21, 2009, to hear his statement. The recommendation of the committee will be emailed to the Synod Council for an online vote if necessary.

(2009.6.4) 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)	Ralph Boyer IV Kim Truebenbach
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(2009.10.4) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to Jane Mason to serve as a Diaconal Minister in the position of chaplain, Hospice St. John, Honesdale, effective December 12, 2009.

(2009.10.5) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to Sr. Ramona C. Daily, a member of the ELCA Deaconess Community, to serve as chaplain, St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, effective September 14, 2009.

(2009.10.6) 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:

Associate in Ministry (first year): Leesa Wimmer

Elections

(2010.1.4) Resolved, that Dr. Addie Butler be elected to a term on the Board of trustees of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital.

(2009.10.3) Resolved, that the following persons be elected to three-year terms on the board of trustees of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network: Robert Gadowski, the Rev. Eric Shafer, and Gerald A. Nau.

Finance

(2009.6.2) Resolved, based on the review by the SOWG committee, that a loan in the amount of \$60,000 to Hope, Reading be made from the Church Development Funds for the purpose of replacing their heating system, switching from oil to gas, and removing the old oil tank. Terms of the loan are 84 months at 2% interest at \$766.05 per month. The resolution was adopted.

(2009.6.3) Resolved, that a grant of up to \$6,000 from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund be given to pay for the services of Dave Daubert and ARE. The resolution was adopted.

(2010.1.3) Resolved, that the 2010 Budgets of the West Berks, East Berks, Lehigh, Northern Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Pocono, Hazleton-Lehigh, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, and Bethlehem-Easton Mission Districts be approved as presented and that approval is given to solicit congregational support.

(2009.10.7) Resolved, based on the review by the Synod Outreach Working Group, that a loan in the amount of \$45,000 to Good Shepherd, Kreidersville, be made from the church loan Development Fund for the purpose of repairs and reduction of bank debt loans. Terms of the loan are 60 months at 2% interest, with monthly payments of \$788.75. Additional conditions of the loan are that the congregation tithe the proceeds of the sale of the parsonage for mission support and that they work towards restoring their synodical mission support to the level it had been before the current cash flow crisis.

(2009.10.8) Resolved, that assets, including real estate, from dissolving congregations, unless the congregation expresses a specific benevolent purpose for the assets, shall be added to Prosser/Pahse Mission Fund.

(2009.10.9) Resolved, that the "Declaration of Trust" here following be the synod's *Church Loan Development Fund*.

All assets currently held in the Church Loan Development Fund, including income earned on

these assets, will be used to provide loans to congregations to assist in the purchase of improvement or capital repair of real estate and to assist mission congregations.

The Synod Outreach Working Group shall meet with the congregation to discuss their needs and appropriateness of a loan from these funds and to recommend terms to be reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee before submission to Synod Council for authorization.

The amount of any loan should not exceed 15% of the assets of the fund, including principal balances on other outstanding loans, as determined at the time of the loan.

The interest rate shall be zero for new mission congregations, up to 1% below Federal Reserve prime rate for all other loans. Each loan is to be secured by a judgment note or real estate mortgage maturing in not more than seven years.

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

(2010.1.5) Resolved, to support the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia by assembling a team to work with them to develop an endowment from 1.5 to 2.5 million dollars to support scholarships for students studying to be pastors.

Spending Proposal

(2009.10.2) Resolved, that for 2010, all staff members receive one additional week of paid vacation.

(2010.1.2) Resolved, that the revised 2010 Spending Proposal of \$2,700,000 be approved as amended by the Finance Committee in light of the anticipated 2010 expenses and receipts from congregations for 2010.

Synod Office

(2010.1.6) Resolved, that a committee be appointed to perform a due diligence analysis concerning converting the church and education building of Christ Lutheran Church, Schoenersville, to become the offices for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The committee is to provide their report to the Synod Council at its April 21, 2010, meeting.

(2010.1.7) Resolved, that a committee be appointed to review the fit of the Christ, Schoenersville, building as the Synod Office with the vision of the Synod. The committee is to provide their report to the Synod Council at its April 21, 2010, meeting.

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, secretary

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF DEANS

The Committee of Deans met in October, December and March. The October meeting included the synod staff and was followed by a joint meeting with the synod council. Throughout the year the deans dealt with a variety of concerns in addition to advising the synod council regarding roster matters.

At the October meeting, the deans received information about plans for a series of boundary workshops for rostered leaders. They also shared with Bishop Zeiser the reactions in their mission districts to the decisions made by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. An update on the program for Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers focused on the training that will be provided by Moravian Seminary. Conversation with the synod council centered on the hope that representatives from each mission district would become involved with the ministry teams.

In December Bishop Zeiser reported on the recently concluded series of Evenings with the Bishop. He also spoke of his growing awareness of the presence and importance of youth in our congregations.

The March meeting was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of Evenings with the Bishop and mission support consultations. There was a strong sense that we continue to need to do a better job of interpreting the ministry of the wider church to our congregations. It was recognized that synodical mission support depends on pastors doing good stewardship work in their own congregations. There was also discussion of how the synod can recognize significant anniversaries of rostered service in appropriate ways.

Anniversaries of Rostered Service

2010 marks the 15th anniversary of rostered service for the following leaders:

The Rev. Ellen M. Anderson
The Rev. Richard B. Baumann
The Rev. Cindy G. Camp
The Rev. Gordon A. Camp
The Rev. Donna T. Deal
The Rev. Gregory W. Frey
The Rev. Harry L. Heffelfinger, Jr.
The Rev. Jeffrey W. Odgren
The Rev. James W. Schlegel
Sister Janet A. Stump

The following rostered leaders are celebrating 25 years of service:

The Rev. Arvo E. Beck
The Rev. Oliver E. Brown
The Rev. Raymond C. Burdick

The Rev. Paul E. Buzzard
Ethel Mae L Cloughen, AiM
The Rev. Lesley J. Hand
Emerson F. Harding, AiM
The Rev. Melinda R. Heppe
Karen S. Matthias-Long, AiM
The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long
The Rev. Franklin S. Stinner
The Rev. Manuel R. Stivers
The Rev. Richard H. Summy

Observing their 40th anniversary of ordination are:

The Rev. Donald R. Billeck
The Rev. Fred T. Crawford
The Rev. William M. Horn
The Rev. David C. Newhart
Florence D. Snyder, AiM
Sylvia A. Snyder, AiM
The Rev. David M. Werley
The Rev. Grant A. Wickert

Celebrating their 50th anniversary of rostered service are:

The Rev. Hartland H. Gifford
The Rev. Rodney R. Heckert
The Rev. James L. Henderschedt, Jr.
The Rev. Jay C. Klick
The Rev. Norman C. Krapf
The Rev. Jerry Mraz
The Rev. Walter H. Wagner

Celebrating their 55th anniversary of rostered service are:

The Rev. Manfred K. Bahmann
The Rev. Richard R. Boyer
The Rev. Paul L. Buehrle
The Rev. Robert H. Loucks
The Rev. Klaus G.W. Molzahn
The Rev. Harold S. Weiss

Celebrating their 60th anniversary of ordination are:

The Rev. Charles E. Fair
The Rev. Paul F. Kramp, Jr.
The Rev. James R. Laubach, Sr.

Celebrating their 65th anniversary of ordination are:

The Rev. Malcolm W. Albright
The Rev. Walter P. Fetterly
The Rev. Warren S. Harding
The Rev. Maurice J. Hart
The Rev. Glenn G. Neubauer
The Rev. Verne E Snyder

THE REV. HARTLAND H. GIFFORD was born on April 29, 1934, in Hartford CT. He graduated from Upsala College in 1956 and Augustana Lutheran Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, in 1959. In 1986 he earned the D. Min. degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Prior to serving in the church, he worked as an announcer for several radio stations in Iowa and Massachusetts. Following his ordination on June 12, 1960, by the Augustana Lutheran Church, he served as pastor of Zion, Duquesne PA (1960-1962), where he effected a merger with First English Lutheran Church to form Christ, Duquesne. He then served Faith, Andover MA (1962-1970) and Christ, Middletown CT (1970-1973). Pastor Gifford was then called to the Division for Parish Services of the Lutheran Church in America. He served as editor for adult parish mission resources (1973-1975), secretary for stewardship (1975-1981) and editor for interpretation resources (1981-1987). For a time in 1988 he served as director for public relations of the American Bible Society. In 1989 he became interim pastor and later the called pastor of St. Paul, Catasauqua, where he served until his retirement in 1999.

Pastor Gifford has served his church and community in many capacities. At various time he has been a member or the chair of the synod Evangelism Team, Stewardship Task Force, Comprehensive Study Committee, Mission 90 Task Force, and Interim Ministry Committee. He has been a member of the ELCA Commission for Financial Support, the Stewardship Council of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and the board of Good Shepherd Home. He is the author of sixteen titles and the editor of forty-three books, programs and newsletters.

In retirement, Pastor Gifford has served as an interim pastor and in 2004 was elected as the executive director of the Augustana Heritage Association.

Pastor Gifford's first wife, Carol Lincke, died in November of 1983. On March 1, 1986, he married Judith Johnson Coleman. Between them they are the parents of two daughters, Diane Gifford and Jeanne Coleman, and two sons, John Gifford and Matthew Coleman. They have three grandchildren.

THE REV. RODNEY R. HECKERT, the son of Ray L. and Ellen C. Heckert, was born on March 5, 1935, in Allentown. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1953 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1960.

Following his ordination in 1960, Pastor Heckert served several congregations: Immanual, Phila-

delphia (1960-1962); English, Minersville, and Trinity, Buck Run (1962-1966); Centennial, Kimberton (1967-1976); Zion, Zion Hill (1977-1987); Trinity, Avis and Garman, Garman (1987-1990); Nescopeck RR Parish (1996-2001). In his retirement he has continued to serve regularly as a supply preacher.

Pastor Heckert married Carol E. Heckert on September 9, 1961. They are the parents of two children, Dawn and Todd.

THE REV. JAMES L. HENDERSCHIEDT, JR., was born February 12, 1936, in Hazleton, the son of James L. and Marie H. (Gebauer) Henderschiedt. He graduated from Muhlenberg College (1957) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1960).

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in May of 1960, Pastor Henderschiedt served the following congregations: Springtown Parish (1960-1962); Line Mountain Parish (1962-1967); St. Paul, Trexlertown (1967-1972); St. Joseph, Allentown (1972-1984); Cedar, Cetronia (1984-1990); Grace, Belfast (1990-1996); and as interim pastor of Trinity, Wind Gap. A gifted writer, he has contributed regularly to worship materials of the National Catholic Reporter and is the author of four books of short stories and reflections.

Pastor Henderschiedt's involvement in church and community has been extensive and diverse. He has served as a chaplain to the Lehigh County Juvenile Court, dean of the Allentown District, member of the synod Executive Board, member of the boards of Muhlenberg College, the Lutheran Home at Topton, and Lutheran Services of the Lehigh Valley, and as a Pastor-Evangelist for the Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Henderschiedt was married to Elizabeth I. Kugler on September 23, 1961. They are the parents of two sons, John and Thomas, and a daughter, Beth.

THE REV. JAY C. KLICK was born on February 21, 1935, in Herndon, PA. His parents were George E. and Ruth C. (Drager) Klick. A 1957 graduate of Muhlenberg College, he then graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1960.

Following his ordination on May 29, 1960, Pastor Klick served the following congregations: Zion, Womelsdorf (1960-1964); Springtown-Durham Parish (1964-1968); Good Shepherd, Easton (1969-1972); Zion Lehigh, Alburts (1972-1985). In 1985 he was called as pastor of Holy Trinity,

Kingston, and he served there until his retirement in 1998.

On May 16, 1959, Pastor Klick was married to Sandra H. Hausman. They are the parents of two sons, Jonathan and Stephen.

THE REV. NORMAN C. KRAPF was born on May 11, 1929, in Valley Stream, New York, the son of William L. and Caroline S. (Pufahl) Krapf. He graduated from Wagner College in 1957 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1960.

Ordained on June 15, 1960, Pastor Krapf served the following congregations: Christ's, Woodstock NY (1960-1968); Prince of Peace, Binghamton NY (1968-1971); St. Paul, Easton (1971-1986); St. Luke, Williams Township (1986-92). In retirement, he has served in various interim and supply ministries.

On June 14, 1964, Pastor Krapf married Gwendolyn S. Johnson. They are the parents of a daughter, Caroline Hope.

THE REV. JERRY MRAZ was born on April 16, 1933, in Partizanska Lupca in the Slovak Republic. His parents were Adam J. and Ludmila (Sokol) Mraz.

In 1955 he graduated from Wagner College, and in 1960 he completed his seminary education at Hamma Divinity School. He was ordained in New York NY, on June 14, 1960, by the Slovak Zion Synod of the ULCA.

Following his ordination, Pastor Mraz served the following congregations: Holy Emmanuel, Pittsburgh (1960-1966); Holy Trinity, Akron OH (1966-1972); Holy Trinity Slovak, Northampton (1972-1998). Under his leadership, Holy Trinity Slovak became part of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in 2002. Following his retirement in 1998, he has continued to serve there under contract.

Throughout his career, Pastor Mraz has been an active supporter of Slovak ministry. He has served as secretary of the Slovak Zion Synod, and administrator of the synodical publication, The Zion. He has served the community as a member of the board of directors of the Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Northampton United Way, chaplain of the Northampton Police and Fire Departments, chaplain of the Northampton VFW Post 4714 and as President of the Northampton Ecumenical Clergy. He served on the Northampton Ambulance Corp and was instrumental in the foundation of the Northampton Area Food Bank.

He was a member of the Northampton Exchange Club, serving as its president and being honored by the Club with the award of the Golden Deeds Award for Community Service. He also has served as a member of the advisory council of Luther Crest retirement community and chaplain of Northampton Village Assisted Living/Personal Care, Northampton Sacred Heart Senior Living by the Creek and Westgate Manor rehabilitation facility.

On August 27, 1955, Pastor Mraz was married to Elizabeth M. Marecek. They are the parents of four children, Cathy A. Kimmel, Karen E. Lockard, Susan E. Edelman and John A. Mraz. They are the grandparents of two grandsons and five granddaughters.

THE REV. WALTER H. WAGNER, the son of Karolina Hain and Ludwig Wagner, was born on November 21, 1935, in Frankfurt, Germany. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1957 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1960. Subsequently he earned the Ph. D. degree at Drew University (1968) and a Master of Arts at Princeton Theological Seminary (1988).

Pastor Wagner was ordained in 1960 at Ocean City, NJ. Following his ordination he served several pastorates in New Jersey: Calvary, Cranford (1960-1963); Newark Lutheran Mission (1968-1971); and Epiphany, Warren (1974-1977). In 1977 he became Director for Theological Education for the Lutheran Church in America, serving in that role until 1984. During those years he also served as interim pastor of Zion, Riverside NJ (1978-1979) and in education and youth ministry at First Korean Methodist Church, Cherry Hill NJ (1981-1984). From 1984 to 1989, Pastor Wagner served as chaplain of Muhlenberg College, and continued as a faculty member until 1993. In 1993 he became senior pastor of Christ, Allentown, where he served until his retirement in 2001. In the course of his academic career he also served on the faculty of California Lutheran College and Upsala College. Currently he is an adjunct faculty member at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Moravian Theological Seminary.

Pastor Wagner has been a prolific author, publishing numerous articles, both academic and popular, as well as several books. In 1980 and 1984 he was the lead writer of the reports on ministry and theological education issued by the Lutheran Church in America. His service to the church and community has been extensive and varied, including serving on the New Jersey Synod Ecumenical Committee, New Jersey Council of Churches, the Lutheran-Moravian Ecumenical Dialogue, the Ecumenical Committee on Continuing Education, the board of Casa Gua-

dalupe, Allentown, and local Christian-Muslim discussions.

Pastor Wagner married Deborah Kus in 1958. She was ordained in 1996 and serves as the interim pastor of St. Andrew, Allentown. They are the parents of one son, Nathan.

Catherine A. Ziel, executive associate of the bishop