

## Bishop Samuel R. Zeiser



Samuel Robert Zeiser, a 1969 graduate of Jim Thorpe Area High School, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, graduated from Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1973 with a bachelor of arts degree. He received a master of divinity degree in 1977 from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Since his graduation from the seminary, Bishop Zeiser has served five congregations. From 1977 to 1979, he was the parish worker at St. John-Resurrection (now St. Stephen) Lutheran Church in Syracuse, New York. Ordained in 1979 by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod he returned to Pennsylvania to serve as the pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Nanticoke. In 1984 he became the pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Johnsonville. His next pastoral charge (1998-2002) was Bethany Lutheran Church, West Reading. In 2002 he became the senior pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, where he served until his election as bishop of the synod in 2008.

Bishop Zeiser pursued graduate studies throughout his pastoral work, earning a master of sacred theology degree from the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia in 1989. He went on to the Casperson School of Graduate Studies at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, where he earned a doctor of philosophy degree in 2001 in Religious and Theological Studies. From 2001 until 2005 he was a part-time instructor in the Religion Department at Muhlenberg College, Allentown. He served as a representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the Moravian-Lutheran dialogues that led to the full communion relationship with the Moravian Church in America. Over the years he has served on several synod committees. When elected synod bishop he was serving a second term on the synod council.

Bishop Zeiser is married to Linda L. (Montgomery) Zeiser. They are the parents of a daughter, Samantha, a graduate of Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, and the Graduate School of the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Samantha teaches first grade in the Athens public school system.