

Thanks to You . . .

Small Congregations Are Served

“Having our own minister is helping our future,” said a life-long member of the Lutheran congregation of Jerusalem



Red Church. “We’re very happy to have him.”

The person to whom the member referred is 53-year-old music teacher Robert J. Billig Jr., who long had felt the call to ministry but never had the opportunity to attend the seminary full time.

Thanks to you and your support for the synod’s synodically authorized lay ministry (SALM) program, Red Church, with fewer than 70 baptized members, has a lay minister and Bob is following his call to ministry.

A SALM is a layperson who is authorized by the bishop to serve a particular congregation where a specific need exists. Such service is for a period of one year and may be renewed annually. The appointment is made at the request of and with the consent of the congregation. The individual is authorized after successfully completing the synod’s training program.

About ten of the 293 congregations in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod are now served by SALMs.

Synodically authorized lay ministry is a wonderful opportunity for an individual to share God’s good news of love and redemption. “It’s an unbelievable experience,” says Bob. “I don’t ever want to leave.”

Produced by Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. For more information or to contribute a story, contact Carol Weiser, 4865 Hamilton Blvd., Wescosville, PA 18106; 610/395-6891; nepsynod@rcn.com.

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