

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Officers, Deans)

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We gather at the twenty-fourth annual assembly of this synod to oversee the ministry we do together in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Part of that task is accomplished by looking back to see how we have responded to God's call; part is done by preparing to respond to what God has in store for us in the future. As large as the task may be, we are blessed to do God's work with our hands.

I pray that everyone in attendance at the 2011 Synod Assembly will find their faith renewed and their commitment to the whole church invigorated. Many synod members have worked hard to make this assembly a special opportunity for prayer, praise, fellowship, and learning. May God bless us as we assemble, and may this assembly be a powerful witness to our love for God in the Risen Jesus Christ!

This report, part of my contribution to the assembly, offers my perspective on our life together as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Rostered leaders of the synod will recognize much of the report from information shared with them at six gatherings held across the synod early in 2011. I now share these thoughts with a wider audience in the hope that others will have access to my perceptions about God's work in our midst.

God's most provocative work can be seen in changing configurations within the congregational expression of the ELCA. I observe the changing congregational configurations occurring in at least four ways. First, collaborative relationships among congregations are arising in almost every mission district. Some of the relationships are still in early, exploratory stages, others have moved to serious discussions about potential cooperative arrangements, and still others have completed detailed negotiations resulting in a variety of new congregational organizations. While this phenomenon is not new, it seems nonetheless more frequent at this time, and it seems distinguished by the way in which it is motivated by congregational leadership.

Second, the recent closing of a few congregations also affects the configuration of congregations. These congregations have not affiliated with another congregation, but instead have used their remaining assets to terminate the formal organization. Their membership declined to a point that continuing to sustain the congregation is simply not possible.

Third, a small number of congregations have decided to step back from full-time pastoral leadership. Pressures created by the severe financial downturn that started late in 2008 prompted the decisions. Without creating formal organizational ties, these congregations seek either to share pastoral leadership with other congregations (impacting the matter of configuration) or to call retired pastors to part-time service.

Fourth, congregational configuration is further impacted by the possibility that congregations may disaffiliate with the ELCA. Disaffiliation is currently a weighty matter because of responses of disapproval to ministry policy decisions made by the churchwide assembly in 2009. To be sure, congregations have lost members who disapprove of the decisions. The extent of disaffiliation, however, remains to be seen.

Consequences of the change in configuration of congregations include: impact upon congregational life and ministry; impact upon the communities in which these congregations are located; and impact upon professional leadership needs among congregations. While these changing configurations create new expectations and challenges for the synodical expression of the ELCA, I am committed to assisting congregations and rostered leaders in their efforts to remain faithful in ministry.

God is also at work in changing configurations at the churchwide expression of the ELCA. In October 2010, the approximately twenty program units, service units, and sections of the churchwide expression have been either downsized, eliminated, or combined into three units. The units are focused on congregational/synodical mission, global mission, and mission support. Consequences of this configuration change include: loss of valuable published ministry resources generated at the churchwide expression; loss of skilled leaders who carried out vital tasks of guidance and coordination; and loss of leaders available to assist synods and congregations with onsite mission and ministry development. While these changing configurations create new expectations and challenges for the synodical expression of the ELCA, I am committed to assisting congregations and rostered leaders in their efforts to remain faithful in ministry.

I am confident that God is at work bringing new life in the configuration changes unfolding in all expressions of the ELCA. My confidence is generated by what I observe in various aspects of my

ministry as synod bishop. Allow me to share some of what I observe.

My confidence is strong because of what I observe during visits to congregations. Whether at a worship service or a meeting, I am impressed by the faith, the energy, and the desire to serve the gospel that I see in the eyes and hear in the voices of members and leaders alike. There is creativity and determination. There is love and respect. There is rootedness in the Lutheran witness that has persevered at locations across this synod for generations. I make the visits with the intention of offering support, but I come away with the realization that I have received more than I gave.

My confidence is strong because of what I observe as the synod council, the staff, and deans of the mission district have drawn on the insights of A Renewal Enterprise (ARE) to revitalize our vision for ministry in this time. In early spring 2011, four "Do What Matters" workshops drew nearly 800 members from 121 congregations to begin looking at a different approach to ministry. Action plans were started at the workshops and will be further developed in each congregation. Support will continue from the synod council, staff, and ARE consultants. In fall, four more workshops will bring folks back together to discuss what's happened with the action plans, to make necessary adaptations, and to determine what's next.

My confidence is strong because of what I observe at regular meetings of Bishop Paul Marshall (Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem), the Rev. David Bennett (President of the Eastern District – Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America), and me. These meetings began in mid-2010. As full communion partners, we discuss the different forms of ministry in our respective denominations, explore ways that we can begin to bring our rostered leaders together, consider what cooperative forms of mission might be pursued, and plan for ways whereby we can participate in worship occasions together. Praying for God's guidance, we have found a deeply collegial rapport.

My confidence is strong because of what I observe as we get closer to the move of the synod office to Schoenersville. Last year's assembly approved a resolution of gratitude to the members of Christ Lutheran Church, Schoenersville for donating their church building to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for use as its headquarters. By the end of 2010, renovations on the building were underway, the likely results of which are that occupancy will occur in summer 2011. There are significant benefits to be gained. Use of the Schoenersville building will make available to us a sizeable nave, which becomes a powerful symbol of word and sacrament underpinnings to all that

we do. We will also have use of an ample fellowship hall where larger groups and organizations can meet with ease. Updated facilities and systems, more spacious accommodations, full access to all parts of the building, and a more open, welcoming configuration of space will all contribute to an enhanced environment for the work we do together. I look forward to welcoming you to The Lutheran Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Above all, my confidence is strong because of God's faithfulness. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: *But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. (43:1-2a)* Embedded deep in the consciousness of God's people, these words speak to me out of circumstances far more challenging than those of our time. They not only cultivate the assurance that my shortcomings do not get in God's way, but also they inspire with the promise that God leads me. I am therefore thankful to be called to serve this church in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

With confidence, then, I summon you to serve this church with me for Jesus' sake.

In his name,
Samuel R. Zeiser, bishop

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

In my second year of serving in this role, I continue to "learn as I go." I had the opportunity in October to attend a gathering in Chicago of all the synod vice-presidents from across the ELCA. This was held at the same time as the Conference of Bishops meeting and was very informative. We heard reports from Bishop Mark Hanson, Secretary David Swartling and other members of the staff. We heard of the difficult challenges ahead due to decreased mission support which required eliminating staff positions and reducing ministry support. But we also heard words of HOPE. Meeting other vice-presidents, hearing from their experience both the joys and the struggles of all of our synods, I realized how very blessed and fortunate we are here in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The work continues on our NEPS Lutheran Center as workers transform the facility donated by the congregation of Christ, Schoenersville into office space for our synod staff, a larger Resource Center, and a place for people from across our synod to meet for gatherings centered around mission, education, fellowship, and worship.

Another exciting development this year was the decision to continue our relationship with A Re-

newal Enterprise to help us discern ways in which we can empower our congregations and renew their sense of mission and ministry as we move into the second decade of the 21st century!

The result of these consultations has been the **Do What Matters** workshops that have been offered in four different venues across our synod this spring. The response was amazing! The workshops were all filled to capacity. The spirit at the workshops was inspiring, and being in a room with 150-250 other Lutherans sharing ideas and having some fun together was awesome. This program does not pretend to have all the answers. What it offers instead is the Big Question: "*What in the world is God up to...and how can we help?!*"

Congregations were sent on their way with a workbook to help them discern the answers to that big question and the challenge for each of us, as individuals, as congregations, and as our synod to find the ways to: Be who we are; See what we have; and DO WHAT MATTERS! We will gather again in the fall for follow-up consultations and to continue the conversation.

Dawn Baxter, vice president

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

As of March 31, the following changes have taken place since the 2010 Assembly:

Roster of Ordained Ministers

Ordinations

Brettell, Daniel W., February 19, 2011
House, Donna M., July 25, 2010
Rigg, Mark R., January 15, 2011
Staub, Scott A., July 25, 2010
Spatz, Barry L., July 17, 2010

Received from Other Synods

Bair, June E., North Carolina, January 16, 2011
Bush, Vicki, Lower Susquehanna Synod, July 13, 2010
Cox, Colleen E., Southeastern Pennsylvania, August 30, 2010
Kingstorf, Jennifer, Indiana-Kentucky, January 21, 2011
Mowery, Richard, Upstate New York, October 15, 2010
Shreaves, Gregory B., Southeastern Pennsylvania, March 14, 2011

Voyer, Matthew R., Northeastern Iowa, June 20, 2010

Ware, Michael W., Upper Susquehanna Synod, December 1, 2010

Transferred to Other Synods

Johnsten, Christina M., Pacifica, June 17, 2010

Oslík, Drahomir, Northwest Washington, June 21, 2010

MacFadden, Suzanne S., Southeastern Pennsylvania, January 4, 2011

McKee, Daun E., Southeastern Pennsylvania, September 15, 2010

Tirado-Carrasquillo, Lorenzo, Caribbean, May 3, 2010

Resigned from the Roster

Belinski, Steven E., December 31, 2010

Sheppard, Henry S. G., September 7, 2010

Deaths

Beadle, Eleanor Jeanne, October 11, 2010

Beck, Arvo E., September 28, 2010

Fetterly, Walter P., February 21, 2011

Longacre, Jacob A., April 18, 2011

Reitz, Phares O., July 15, 2010

Snyder, Verne E., July 12, 2010

Wert, Donald W., October 7, 2010

THE REV. ELEANOR JEANNE BEADLE was born in Pottstown, on March 14, 1947, the daughter of Elwood R. and J. Elizabeth (Mackrich) Angstadt. A graduate of Albright College (1997), she received her theological education at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She also studied at Gallaudet University.

While working as an interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing, she became involved with the deaf ministry of Trinity, Reading. Authorized to provide pastoral services there in 1999, she undertook theological studies and was ordained on February 23, 2003. She was then called as the pastor of the Trinity Deaf congregation, where she served until her death.

On March 6, 1982, Pastor Beadle was married to John E. Beadle, who died in 2007. She had two children, Wendy, and Christopher.

THE REV. ARVO E. BECK was born in Jersey City, NJ, on November 22, 1938, the son of Arvo and Ana (Luoto) Beck. He was a graduate of

Wagner College (1963) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1985).

Ordained on August 11, 1985, he served the Good News Parish (St. Jacobi, Shohola; St. Luke, Greeley; and St. Mark, Lackawaxen) from 1985 to 2000. From 1990 to 1992 his wife, the Rev. Barbara Davis, served with him as co-pastor. In 2000, Pastor Beck became pastor of St. John, Jim Thorpe East, where he served until his retirement in 2005. He continued to serve that congregation on a part-time basis in retirement.

Pastor Beck and Maria L. Imagna were married on August 24, 1963. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Mia. On May 12, 1990, Pastor Beck married the Rev. Barbara A. Davis.

THE REV. WALTER P. FETTERLY was born on June 25, 1920, at Kittanning PA, the son of the Rev. Dr. Bernard and Ruth E. (Toy) Fetterly. He was a graduate of Geneva College at Beaver Falls PA (1942) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1945).

Ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod of the ULCA in Holy Trinity, Greenville, on May 23, 1945, he served Trinity, Verone (1945-1947); Scenery Hill (1947-1952); St. Mark and St. Paul, Scranton (1952-1964) and Bethany, West Reading (1964-1984). Following his retirement in 1984, he served as interim pastor of St. Paul, Hamburg, from 1985 to 1994.

On February 19, 1945, Pastor Fetterly was married to Ethel M. L. Waring in Good Shepherd, Philadelphia. They were the parents of four children, Ethel, Paul, Timothy, and Walter.

THE REV. JACOB A. LONGACRE was born on February 4, 1926, in Reading PA, the son of the Rev. David F. and Clara B. (Andrews) Longacre. During World War II he served with the 1257th and 138th Engineer Combat Battalions. He graduated from Haverford College (1949) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (1953). In 1956 he earned an S.T.M. degree from Temple University School of Theology.

Following his ordination by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on May 28, 1953, Pastor Longacre served the following congregations: Ascension, Lancaster (1953-1958); St. Stephen, Bethlehem (1958-1987). In retirement he has served as a volunteer chaplain at the Hospital of the Medical College of Pennsylvania and led retreats for various groups.

On May 2, 1953, he was married to the former Marguerite Leister. They are the parents of six children, Suzanne, Marguerite, Barbara, Helene,

Jacob, and Mark. In addition, they opened their home to many foster children over the years.

THE REV. PHARES O. REITZ, son of William O and Flora S. (Brown) Reitz, was born on April 20, 1917, at Leck Kill, (Northumberland County) PA. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College (1936) and Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1939).

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania at the annual convention in Lancaster on the twenty-second anniversary of his baptism, May 24, 1939, he served the following parishes: Berrysburg-Lykens in Dauphin County (1939-1950); St. John, Hamburg (1950-1956); St. Stephen, Allentown (1957-1975). From 1975 until his retirement in 1981, he was the administrative assistant to the president (bishop) of the synod.

Pastor Reitz also served the church as a member of the Board of Christian Education of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and president of that board for seven years; member of the Examining Committee of the Ministerium; member of the board of Philadelphia Seminary; dean of the Allentown District; representative from the Ministerium of Pennsylvania to the Department of Christian Education of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches; and president of the Allentown Area Council of Churches.

His community service included serving as a member of the Human Relations Commission of the city of Allentown and the board of the Allentown Literacy Council.

Pastor Reitz was married to Eleanor R. Lippiatt on September 18, 1943. They were the parents of two sons, Thomas and Philip, and two daughters, Ruth and Martha.

THE REV. VERNE E. SNYDER was born in Rebeck (Northumberland County) PA, on May 12, 1920, the fourth of twelve children of Emory B. and Ida (Runkle) Snyder. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College (1942) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1945), earning an S.T.M. degree at the seminary in 1951.

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on February 27, 1945, he served congregations as follows: Quakake Parish in Schuylkill County (three congregations), 1945-48; Robeson-Gibraltar Parish in Berks County (two congregations), 1948-58; St. Peter (Hanover), Allentown, 1958-75; Robeson, Plowville, one of two congregations in a previous parish, 1973-84.

In each of the four parishes, Pastor Snyder led congregations in extensive renovations and build-

ing programs, as well as in the dissolution of union arrangements at Robeson, Plowville, and St. John, Gibraltar, and the separation of the two latter congregations to form two single congregations.

At various points in his ministry, he also served as chairman of the Committee on World Missions of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; as board member of The Lutheran Home at Topton for three terms, chairing the Property Committee there for three years; as a supervisor of Robeson Township for two years and Police Commissioner of the township during that time.

After his retirement in 1984 Pastor Snyder served as visitation pastor at Calvary, Laureldale; did extensive Sunday supply work; and was interim pastor in two congregations.

Verne E. Snyder and Lena R. Haas were married on June 6, 1942. They had three daughters: Ruth Ann Correll of Birdsboro, Bonnie Louise Nilsson of Shillington, and Kathy Marie Kramer, Birdsboro.

THE REV. DONALD W. WERT, the son of Raymond E. and Mildred G. (Kidd) Wert, was born on May 29, 1933, in Catasauqua. He graduated from Moravian College in 1956 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1959.

He was ordained on May 23, 1959, by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He served as pastor of the Line Mountain parish (1959-1962); the Grimsville parish/Zion, Krumsville (1962-1973); St. Paul, Orwigsburg (1973-1979); Huffs, Huffs and New Jerusalem, New Jerusalem (1979-1986); and Union, Neffs (1986-1995). Following his retirement in 1995, he continued to serve as an interim and supply pastor.

Pastor Wert was active in church and community activities throughout his career. He served as mission district dean and as a member of the synod Stewardship Committee, Rural and Appalachian Ministry Committee, and Executive Board.

On July 31, 1954, Pastor Wert married Janice Ruth Reichard. They were the parents of three children, Robert Thomas, Ronald Timothy, and Randall Todd.

2010-2011 Pastoral Changes

Albers, Randele L., Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore, to on-leave-from-call, September 12, 2010

Bair, June E., North Carolina Synod, to Zion, Womelsdorf, January 16, 2011

Belinski, Steven E., Grace, Reading, resigned from roster, December 31, 2010

Brettell, Daniel W., newly ordained, to St. Paul, Bethlehem, February 19, 2011

Bush, Vicki, Lower Susquehanna Synod, to chaplain, Country Meadows, Bethlehem, July 13, 2010

Covert, James C., on-leave-from-call, to retirement, April 1, 2011

Cox, Colleen E., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to St. Paul, Hawley, August 30, 2010

Elmer, Lynda L., Epiphany, Temple, to retirement, December 31, 2010

Ernst, Debra K., Zion, Tamaqua, to on-leave-from-call, July 31, 2010

Goodwin, Virginia A., on-leave-from-call, to part-time interim, Union, Schnecksville, July 7, 2010

Grubb, George W., interim, Allegheny, Knauers, to St. John, Allentown, October 1, 2010

House, Donna M., newly ordained, to assistant, St. John, Nazareth, August 8, 2010

Irwin, Thomas F., Zion (Spies), Reading, to Calvary, Laureldale, June 21, 2010

Kaltenbaugh, Robert G., Holy Spirit, Reading, to Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore, February 1, 2011

Kingstorf, Jennifer, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to assistant pastor, Trinity, Robesonia, January 21, 2011

Kringle, Roxanne, M., St. John, Farmersville, to on-leave-from-call, March 9, 2011

Lengert, Kim L., on-leave-from-call, to Christ's United, Ashland, February 10, 2011

Metz, Michael A., Zion, Northampton, to on-leave-from-call, July 30, 2010

Miller, Carey L., interim, St. John UCC, Richlandtown, to synodically-appointed pastor, Trinity Memorial, Allentown, September 1, 2010

Mowery, Richard, Upstate New York Synod, to interim, St. John, Sayre, October 15, 2010

Owens, Mary K., director Hospice St., John, Honesdale, to on-leave-from-call, December 23, 2010

Rigg, Mark R., newly ordained, to Advent, West Lawn, January 15, 2011

Saylor, Rodney H., St. John, Sayre, to retirement, August 1, 2010

Shankweiler, Carl D., Trinity, Valley View, to St. John, Friedensburg, September 1, 2010

Shreaves, Gregory B., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to Knauers, Allegheny, March 14, 2011

Spatz, Barry L., newly ordained, to Pine Grove P. C., August 1, 2010

Staub, Scott A., newly ordained, to Trinity, Top-ton, July 25, 2010

Stivers, Manuel R., on-leave-from-call, to retirement, September 1, 2010

Stover, Robert D., executive director, Bear Creek Camp, to on-leave-from-call, March 1, 2011

Voyer, Matthew R., Northeastern Iowa Synod, to assistant, Christ Hamilton United, Hamilton Square, June 20, 2010

Ware, Michael W., Upper Susquehanna Synod, to Robeson, Plowville, December 1, 2010

Roster of Associates in Ministry

2010-2011 Associate in Ministry Changes

Brucker, Cinda J., on-leave-from-call, transferred to Upper Susquehanna Synod, July 1, 2010

Roster of Diaconal Ministers

Received from Other Synods

Rade, Tammy L., Lower Susquehanna Synod, July 7, 2010

2009-2010 Diaconal Minister Changes

Rade, Tammy L., Lower Susquehanna Synod, to counselor, New Story, Wyoming PA, July 7, 2010

Congregational Changes

Kissinger's, Wyomissing, removed from the roster of ELCA congregations, April 7, 2011

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Congregational support continued its unfavorable downward trend in 2010, decreasing 2.5% from 2009 levels. Designated giving for World Hunger, disaster relief, social ministry agencies etc. increased 18% in large part reflecting support for the Haitian earthquake victims.

Mission Support	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
ELCA	\$1,384,677	\$1,392,788	\$1,556,126	\$1,611,929	\$1,658,44
<i>Share of total</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>53%</i>
NEPS	1,278,164	1,338,168	1,379,960	1,429,446	1,470,695
	2,662,841	2,730,956	2,936,086	3,041,375	3,129,138
<i>vs. prior year</i>	<i>-2.5%</i>	<i>-7.0%</i>	<i>-3.5%</i>	<i>-2.8%</i>	
Designated					
Hunger, Disaster Response, other	<u>610,435</u>	<u>517,209</u>	<u>482,872</u>	<u>564,382</u>	<u>615,838</u>
<i>vs. prior year</i>	<i>+18.0%</i>	<i>+6.1%</i>	<i>-14.4%</i>	<i>-8.4%</i>	
Total Receipts	<u>\$3,273,276</u>	<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 289 congregations submitted mission support during 2010. Of the 274, 192 or approximately 70% provided an estimate of their congregation's planned support for 2010. Actual Mission Support from these congregations was 98.7% of their original estimate for 2010, a slight increase from 97.3% in the prior year.

Synod Budget

Spending for the year was approximately \$69,000 (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 (mission) support funded 93.1% of the budgeted spending for 2010 vs. 99.5% in 2009.

NEPS	Budget	Performance	2009
	2010	"PRELIMINARY"	2009
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Expenditures	<u>\$1,373,558</u>	<u>\$1,442,800</u>	<u>\$1,337,579</u>
Funded by:			
Mission Support	1,278,164	1,296,000	1,338,169
General Fund	<u>95,394</u>	<u>146,800</u>	<u>(590)</u>
Total	<u>\$1,373,558</u>	<u>\$1,442,800</u>	<u>\$1,337,579</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 2010 will be available as part of our 2010 Auditor's Report. As shown below, a significant portion of the decline in investment values experienced in 2008 were recovered in 2009. Additional recovery is anticipated when 2010 results are finalized. Summary results on a consolidated basis (all funds) for the prior 3 years are shown below. The audit reports in their entirety are included in the annual Minutes Book information.

	Dollars in thousands		
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	Year ending	Year ending	Year ending
	<u>1/31/10</u>	<u>1/31/09</u>	<u>1/31/08</u>
SUPPORT & REVENUE			
Benevolence	\$2,717	\$2,868	\$3,069
Designated Gifts (Hunger, Agencies etc.)	<u>935</u>	<u>931</u>	<u>1,026</u>
Sub-Total	<u>3,652</u>	<u>3,799</u>	<u>4,095</u>
Investment Income	156	208	217
Rental Income	11	10	9
Net Gains/Loss (Realized & Unrealized)	695	(1,405)	(233)
Beneficial Trust	<u>90</u>	<u>(236)</u>	<u>(22)</u>
Total Support & Revenue	<u>4,604</u>	<u>2,376</u>	<u>4,066</u>
EXPENSES			
ELCA Benevolence	1,391	1,533	\$1,630
Designated Gifts (Hunger, Agencies etc.)	<u>514</u>	<u>554</u>	<u>548</u>
Sub-Total	<u>1,905</u>	<u>2,087</u>	<u>2,178</u>
Program Services (Ministries & Teams)	827	890	879
Supporting Services	<u>939</u>	<u>991</u>	<u>1,006</u>
Total Expenses	<u>3,671</u>	<u>3,968</u>	<u>4,063</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 932</u>	<u>(\$1,592)</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>

Dave 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

(2010.7.10) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to send a letter to those pastors re-

siding 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.

(2010.7.11) 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 congre-

gations 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.

(2010.7.12) Resolved, that in order to assist the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gordon, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is willing to accept their "undisposed property" as provided for in their approved congregational constitution (C7.01).

(2010.10.3) Resolved, that 2011 housing allowances for synod staff who are ordained ministers be set as listed below. These amounts shall apply to calendar year 2011 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this Synod Council. (Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.)

Name	Housing Allowance
Zeiser	\$20,000
Ziel	\$18,000
Bennethum	[\$24,000] ¹
Garbe	\$12,000
Gade	\$21,000
Handwerk	\$ 5,000
Simmons	\$35,000

¹The bulk of Pastor Bennethum's salary and all of his housing allowance is provided by the ELCA. The number shown here is for information only.

(2011.1.8) Resolved, that 2011 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 2011 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this Synod Council. (Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.) This represents no increase over 2010.

Name	Base Salary	Housing	Social Security	Total
Zeiser	\$52,131	\$ 20,000	\$5,975	\$78,106
Ziel	\$42,552	\$ 18,000	\$5,016	\$65,568
Bennethum	\$ 4,979	[\$24,000] ¹	\$ 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	-\$ 1,782	\$ 35,000	\$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%)

(2011.1.9) Resolved, that for 2011, all staff members receive one additional week of paid vacation.

Assembly

(2011.4.3) Resolved, that the 2012 spending proposal be removed from the June, 2011, Synod Assembly agenda and that a special Synod Assembly be called for the fall of 2011 for the purpose of adopting the 2012 spending proposal.

(2011.4.10) The following resolution is recommended to the 2011 Synod Assembly:

Resolved, that the 2011 Assembly program (as printed in the Bulletin of Reports) be adopted.

(2011.4.12) Resolved, that Pr. Eileen Le Van be granted an exception to the policy regarding sale of items at synod assemblies and allowed to sell Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate and handicrafts from SERRV, with all proceeds returned to Equal Exchange and SERRV. Pastor Le Van will accept full responsibility for any licensing and tax requirements.

Calls, Appointments, and Roster Maintenance

(2010.7.1) Resolved, that a two-year call be issued to Tammy Rade to serve as a diaconal minister at New Story, Wyoming, PA, during which two-year period, Ms. Rade will submit semi-annual reports to the Bishop, detailing the nature of her ministry.

(2010.7.6) 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:

Clergy (1 st year)	Debra K. Ernst
	Adeliz J. Mendez
Clergy (2 nd year)	Kim Truebenbach
Clergy (4 th year—family leave)	Elizabeth Huweiler

(2010.7.7) Resolved, that a one-year call to special service be issued to Virginia Goodwin to serve as part-time interim pastor of Union, Schnecks-ville.

(2010.7.8) Resolved, that Sandra L. Bodnyk, Patrick J. Brennan, M. D., Michael Goldner, D.O., and Edith D. Ritter be elected to three-year terms on the board of Good Shepherd Hospital.

(2010.7.9) Resolved, that a one-year call to special service be issued to Ned Dresher to serve as part-time interim pastor of Zion, Spies.

(2010.10.4) Resolved, that in accordance with

(2011.1.12) Resolved, that Dale Stevens and Pastor Michael Scholtes be elected to terms on the board of Bear Creek Camp.

(2011.1.13) Resolved, that David W. Swartz be elected to the board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Finance

(2011.1.4) Resolved, based on the review by the Synod Outreach Working Group, that a grant in the total amount of \$12,000 from the Prosser/Pahse/ Mission Fund be paid in monthly installments to Christ Lutheran Church in Easton to assist in the startup expenses of Iglesia La Hermosa, a Latino ministry. Christ Lutheran will be responsible for administering this grant and reporting back to Synod Council. .

(2011.1.5) Resolved, that a grant be given to Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore, for a total amount of \$15,300 in support of the ministry of Rev. Robert Kaltenbaugh, a 30-year veteran, whose pastoral gifts are required to minister to this congregation that has suffered division with loss of membership. The grant is to be paid as follows: \$7,000 on February 1, 2011, with the balance to be paid in monthly installments for the next six months.

(2011.1.6) Resolved, that the Grants Spending Policy for 2011 be approved as presented. .

(2011.1.10) Resolved, that a loan of \$60,000 be made from the Church Loan and Development Fund to St Timothy, Allentown, for the purchase of land adjacent to their property and for various improvements to the current church building. The terms of the loan will be \$60,000 for 7 years at 2%.

(2011.1.11) Resolved, that the 2011 Budgets of the Northern Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Pocono, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, and Bethlehem-Easton Mission Districts be approved as presented and that approval is given to solicit congregational support.

(2011.1.15) Resolved that, a grant of \$1250 be made from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund to pay Bishop Zeiser's expenses for the 2011 Bishops' Academy with the directive that in future years Bishop Zeiser will plan to contribute \$500 from his continuing education funds toward the Academy expenses and any expense above \$500 will be charged to the Staff Travel budget line.

(2011.4.4) Resolved that, in an effort to be supportive of the synod commitment to "Do What Matters," the Finance Committee develop a new budget process, based on the proposal and time-

line for action submitted by treasurer Dave Hinrichs. This process will lead to the budget to be presented to the special synod assembly in Fall 2011.

(2011.4.5) Resolved, that a loan of \$60,000 be made from the Church Loan and Development Fund to Atonement, Wyomissing, for the repair of a water leak. The terms of the loan will be \$60,000 for 7 years at 2%.

(2011.4.6) Resolved, that the remaining SALM program funds be used to support the L.I.F.E. program.

(2011.4.11) Resolved, that the Seminary's request to modify the classification of the One in Mission Fund from "permanently restricted" to "unrestricted endowed funds" be approved.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Lutheran Center

(2010.7.4) Resolved, that Edward Cool be appointed Synod Office Relocation Task Force Coordinator.

(2010.7.5) Resolved, that the officers of the Synod be authorized to offer the Wescosville property for sale in a timely fashion to facilitate moving the Synod offices to the Schoenersville location.

(2011.1.2) Resolved, that an elevator be installed at the new property at a cost of \$84,000. The resolution was adopted.

(2011.1.3) Resolved, that an incremental loan of up to \$130,000 be made from the Church Loan and Development Fund to the Northeastern PA Lutheran Synod to cover initial construction costs of the renovations to the Schoenersville Lutheran Center. Three incremental loans will be made as needed in the amount of \$35,000 and a fourth loan of \$25,000. The terms of each incremental loan to be at 2% interest paid out of the current property maintenance fund. The resolution was adopted.

Spending Proposal

(2011.1.7) Resolved, that the revised 2011 Spending Proposal be approved as amended by the Finance Committee in light of the anticipated 2011 expenses and the receipts from congregations in 2011.

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, secretary

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF DEANS

The Committee of Deans met in September, November, January, and March. The January

meeting was followed by a joint meeting with the synod council. Throughout the year the deans served as advisors to the bishop and the synod council, particularly with regard to roster matters.

At the September meeting, the deans had extensive conversation about the importance of recognizing anniversaries of rostered service during the synod assembly. They received updates on congregational consolidations and the move of the synod office to Schoenersville.

In November representatives of the newly formed Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team reported on the ideas being generated by the team. Discussion of how to recognize rostered leaders' anniversaries continued. Bishop Zeiser talked about planning for a process to bring together congregational teams to work with A Renewal Enterprise on discovering how to do ministry in our context.

At the January meeting, Karen Matthias-Long shared plans from the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team for two synod-wide events: a hunger lock-in in July and a family fun day in October. She also reported that the youth who attended the ARE event in December have created a Facebook page, God Sighting in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The April meeting saw the finalization of plans for anniversary recognition at synod assembly. The deans heard from Bishop Zeiser about his gatherings with rostered leaders and the Do What Matters workshops.

Anniversaries of Rostered Service

2011 marks the 15th anniversary of rostered service for the following leaders:

The Rev. Peter S. Bredlau
The Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz
The Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
The Rev. Debra K. Ernst
The Rev. Marilyn E. Hasemann
The Rev. Mary K. Owens
The Rev. Deborah M. Wagner
The Rev. Phyllis J. Wolford

The following rostered leaders are celebrating 25 years of service:

The Rev. David W. Blich
The Rev. Laura A. Csellak
The Rev. Christian D. Eichorn
The Rev. Russell F. Haab
The Rev. Robin L. Henry
The Rev. Richard J. Mauthe

The Rev. Bruce G. Osterhout
The Rev. Deborah K. Scheffey
The Rev. William H. Weiser

Observing their 40th anniversary of service are:

The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz, II
The Rev. George J. Mathews, Jr.
The Rev. Eddie A. Nilsen
Mr. Fred V. Robertson, AiM
The Rev. David R. Strobel
The Rev. John W. Tomlinson, Jr.
The Rev. Arthur B. Wyse

Celebrating their 50th anniversary of ordained service are:

The Rev. Carl R. Adams
The Rev. Frederick S. Foerster
The Rev. William B. Fryer, Jr.
The Rev. Richard L. Hinkle
The Rev. Curtis L. Olson
The Rev. Leon A. Phillips, Jr.
The Rev. Richard W. Spengler

Celebrating their 55th anniversary of ordained ministry are:

The Rev. Helmut H. Kaffine
The Rev. Victor A. Kroninger, Jr.
The Rev. Franklin E. Sherman
The Rev. Jan C. Walker
The Rev. Richard C. Wolf

Celebrating their 60th anniversary of ordination are:

The Rev. Lawrence P. Delp
The Rev. Augustus V. Tietbohl

THE REV. CARL R. ADAMS, the son of Herbert D. and Elda M. (Krick) Adams, was born on November 15, 1936, in Richmond Township, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1958 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1961. In 1976 he earned the S.T.M. degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Following his ordination in 1961, Pastor Adams served the Moorestown Lutheran Parish (1961-1970); Good Shepherd, Kreidersville (1970-1971); Holy Cross, Moorestown (1971-1985); and Robeson, Plowville (1985-2001).

In retirement, Pastor Adams has served numerous congregations as interim pastor, supply preacher, and Consecration Sunday speaker.

On March 29, 1959, he married Johanna E. Wenzel. They are the parents of five children, Michael, Carole, Jeffrey, Stephen, and Brian.

THE REV. FREDERICK S. FOERSTER, the son of the Rev. Dr. Fred C. and Elsa (Severin) Foerster, was born on April 19, 1936, in Calicoon, New York. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1957 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1961.

Following his ordination in 1961, Pastor Foerster served several congregations: St. John, Hatboro (1961-1963); St. Mark, Reading (1963-1970); and St. John, Emmaus from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. In retirement, he has assisted at St. John UCC, Emmaus. Active in social ministry throughout his career, Pastor Foerster has served as the chair of the synod's Social Ministry Council and was recognized with the Legion of Honor award from the Chapel of Four Chaplains. He has continued this commitment through his involvement with organizations including the St. Luke's (Allentown) Neighborhood Center, Lutheran Congregational Services, and Lehigh Valley Hospital Pastoral Care Department.

Pastor Foerster married Mary Ella (Mimi) Bray on October 27, 1962. They are the parents of one daughter, Lisa Beth.

THE REV. WILLIAM B. FRYER, JR. was born February 5, 1936, in Pottstown, the son of W. Brooke and Irma (Wean) Fryer. He graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown CT (1958) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1961).

Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on May 28, 1961, Pastor Fryer served the following congregations: St. John, Williams Township (1961-1964); St. Paul, Mountain Top (1964-1970); and Advent, West Lawn (1970-2001). Since his retirement in 2001, he has served as interim pastor at several congregations.

Active in many facets of the church, he served as the first dean of the West Berks mission district, member of the board of the Lutheran Home at Topton, and president of the board of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society.

Pastor Fryer was married to Joanna Gilde on June 8, 1958. They are the parents of two daughters, Rebecca and Katherine, and two sons, William and Robert.

THE REV. CURTIS L. OLSON was born on August 26, 1933, in Jamestown, New York. His

parents were A. LeRoy and Agnes V. (Lundgren) Olson. A 1957 graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, he then graduated from Augustana Theological Seminary in 1961.

Following his ordination in June of 1961 in Seattle, Washington, Pastor Olson served the following congregations: Zion, Allenville, and Bethel, Cedarville, Michigan (1961-1967); First, Galion, Ohio (1967-1971); and Walnut Hill, Dallas, Texas (1971-1980). In 1980 he joined the staff of the Division for Parish Services of the Lutheran Church in America, deployed to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In 1986 he became pastor of Good Shepherd, Easton, where he served until his retirement in 1998. Since his retirement, he has served in several interim situations.

Throughout his ministry, Pastor Olson has been a respected resource person in parish services and a leader in educational ministry.

On December 30, 1954, Pastor Olson was married to Marian A. Johnson. They are the parents of two sons, Timothy and Steven.

THE REV. RICHARD L. HINKLE was born on November 16, 1936, in Weatherly, the son of Wilbur and Margaret (Peiser) Hinkle. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1958 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1961.

Ordained on May 28, 1961, by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, Pastor Hinkle served the following congregations: Girardville-Mahanoy City Parish (1961-1964); Nativity, Allentown (1964-1968); St. John, Tamaqua (1968-1977). In 1977 he became Assistant to the Director and later Senior Vice President of Lutheran Welfare Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 1989 he returned to parish ministry, serving as pastor of St. John, Slatington, until his retirement in 1999. Since then he has served several interim pastorates.

On May 29, 1961, Pastor Hinkle married Gladys DeFrain. They are the parents of a daughter, Margaret.

THE REV. LEON A. PHILLIPS, JR., was born on July 31, 1936, in Hazleton. His parents were Leon A. and Irene I. (Shuler) Phillips. In 1958 he graduated from Gettysburg College, and in 1961 he completed his seminary education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Following his ordination in 1961, Pastor Phillips served as pastor of Grace, East Bangor (1961-1967) and St. Paul, Wilkes-Barre (1967-1969). In 1969 he was called by the Board of American

Missions to serve as coordinator of the Greater Wilkes-Barre area and consultant to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for congregational and area studies, becoming a deployed staff member of the LCA's Division for Mission In North America (DMNA) in 1972. In 1975 he became pastor of St. Stephen, Allentown, serving there until 1983, when he became an assistant to the bishop and regional mission director for DMNA. His duties with the national church included serving as Domestic Disaster Relief Director, and in 1992 he took on a full-time position with the ELCA's Division for Church in Society focusing on disaster relief and refugee resettlement. In that role, he had major responsibilities for the church's response to disasters such as Hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, earthquakes in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, and the Oklahoma City bombing. Following his retirement in 1998, he has continued to be involved in social ministry, serving on the board of Good Shepherd Hospital, and also serving several interim pastorates.

On December 19, 1959, Pastor Phillips was married to Marion R. Overcash. They are the parents of three children, Leon, Robert, and Janet.

THE REV. RICHARD W. SPENGLER, the son of Earl H. and Elsie E. (Wagner) Spengler, was born on May 9, 1936, in Bath. He graduated from Kutztown University in 1958 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1961.

Pastor Spengler was ordained in 1961 by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Following his ordination he served as pastor of Salem, Shalters, (1961-1966); West Penn Parish (1966-1972); Bethany, Stony Creek Mills (1972-1980); and Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, IN (1980-1995). Following his retirement in 1996, Pastor Spengler returned to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Pastor Spengler has been active in service to the wider church, serving as district dean, member of the synod's Executive Board, and delegate to the 1972 LCA convention.

Pastor Spengler married Mary Ann Hartzell on June 25, 1960. They are the parents of three sons, David, James, and Stephen.

Catherine A. Ziel, executive associate of the bishop