

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Announces

The Installation of the Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Zeiser  
as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Saturday, September 27, 2008, 10:30 a.m.**  
**(Prelude begins at 9:30 a.m.; Procession begins at 10 a.m.)**  
**Elm Park United Methodist Church**  
**Scranton, Pennsylvania**



The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Zeiser will become the shepherd and spiritual leader of nearly 152,000 Lutherans when he is installed as bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Saturday, September 27.

More than 800 clergy and lay persons representing the 291 synod congregations in a 14-county area of northeastern Pennsylvania will witness the installation in Elm Park United Methodist Church, Scranton, a site chosen based on its ability to accommodate the number of people expected.

## Special Guests to Attend and Participate

**The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop** of the 4.8 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will preach and preside at the installation.



Among the **ecumenical guests** attending the service will be the Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem; the Rev. Dr. Russell Mitman, Conference Minister, Penn Southeast Conference, UCC; the Rev. Philip Altavilla, Ecumenical Officer, Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton; the Rev. Gary Harke, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Council of Churches; the Rev. Susan W. Hassinger, Bishop, Wyoming Conference, United Methodist Church; and the Rev. Dr. Christine Nelson, Executive Director, Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

**Lutheran guests** include five bishops from neighboring ELCA synods (the Rev. E. Roy Riley, New Jersey Synod; the Rev. Marie Jerge, Upstate New York Synod; the Rev. Margaret Payne, New England Synod; the Rev. Claire S. Burkat, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Rev. Robert L. Driesen, Upper Susquehanna Synod); the Rev. David Strobel and the Rev. Harold Weiss, retired Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod bishops; the Rev. Peggy Wuertele, Coordinator, ELCA Region 7; and the Rev. Neil P. Harrison, Executive Director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministries in Pennsylvania.

## Colorful Procession Begins Service at 10:00 a.m.

**Colorful banners** from the synod mission districts will lead the clergy, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in the procession. Ecumenical guests, representatives of the synod Lutheran social ministry organizations and educational institutions, and synod staff will also participate.

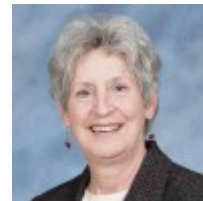
The organist for the service will be **Mark Laubach**, minister of music at St. Stephen's (Episcopal) Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Laubach is regarded among the finest organists of his generation in the US.



**Other music** will be provided by the Festival Choir from Allentown Lutheran Parishes (Christ, St. Paul, and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches, Allentown), Immanuel Singers of Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, Jubilate Bells from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Orwigsburg, Hill to Hill Brass, vocalist Phoebe Fennell, flautist Catherine DeBoeser, pianist Karl DeBoeser, and timpanist Richard Groller. The choir director is David Macbeth; director of music is Andrea Berntsen.

### **Synod Officers, Family, Others Participating in the Service**

Assisting minister will be Priscilla Schlenker Kinney, vice president of the synod (shown at right). Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, associate in ministry and secretary of the synod, will be the presenter of the bishop.



Readers are Linda L. Zeiser, the bishop's wife, Samantha L. Zeiser, the bishop's daughter, and the Rev. Virginia E. O'Malley, senior pastor of Elm Park United Methodist Church.

Bishop Emeritus David Strobel, Bishop Zeiser's predecessor, will present the bishop's crozier (staff) to Bishop Zeiser. The bishop's cross will be presented by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

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### **About Bishop Zeiser**

Bishop Zeiser is a graduate of 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 and earned a master of sacred theology degree from that seminary 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.

Following his graduation from the seminary, Bishop Zeiser 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 four congregations: St. John Lutheran Church, Nanticoke; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Johnsonville; Bethany Lutheran Church, West Reading; and Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown.



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.

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### **Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

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THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) consists of 291 congregations in a fourteen-county area of northeastern Pennsylvania: Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties. Nearly 151,000 persons are members of these 291 congregations; over 450 church professional leaders (pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers) are on the roster of the synod. The synod's website can be found at <http://www.godslove.org>. The synod's main offices are in Wescosville (Lehigh County), with satellite offices in Conyngham and Stroudsburg.

The synod is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA consists of more than 4.8 million people in over 10,000 congregations. The ELCA is a member of the Lutheran World Federation, an international federation of more than 140 Lutheran bodies

The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Zeiser, of Allentown (Lehigh County), is the synod bishop. Priscilla Schlenker Kinney, of Fleetwood (Berks County), is the vice president. Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, of Bethlehem (Northampton County), is the secretary. David Hinrichs, of Allentown (Lehigh County), is the treasurer.