

# A Note from Bishop Zeiser

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior! I am thankful for our fellowship in his name and for our ministry together as his disciples.

My visits to synod congregations continue to reveal your faithful efforts to proclaim the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. The commitment and enthusiasm of



congregation members inspire me. It is my privilege to serve as bishop to so many who are striving to make Christ known. To be sure, the baptismal call to discipleship brings challenges, but we have many reasons to rejoice.

My confidence in the Holy Spirit's work in you prompts me to call you to ever more spirited gospel mission. At the same time, I offer to you my faith, my energy, and my prayers as we move into the final months of 2010 and prepare for a new year of grace. Our ministry together as a synod offers hope to many people within our congregations and to many people outside our congregations.

Thank you for your financial support of our ministries. What a difference your faithfulness makes! I have seen your mission support make a difference in so many ministries. Here are just a few examples:

- **St. John's, Pen Argyl**, where a grant from the synod's Witness and Service Ministry Team funded a neighborhood outreach ministry called *Fourth Friday Fun*



*Nights* that brings children from ages 7 through 14 to the church. Spurred by the impact of this new ministry, St. John's is preparing to undertake a five-year planning process, *Hopes and Dreams of St. John's*.

- **The work of the synod's Candidacy Committee.** Thanks to financial support to seminary students from the committee, ten congregations in seven mission districts will have called first-call pastors within two years. Supporting their seminary education will translate now into stronger congregational ministry and mission across the synod territory.
- **Hundreds of congregation members** who attend a variety of events offered throughout the year, such as the Farm Family Appreciation Dinner, Lutherans in Faith Together (**LIFT**), Learning Ministries Day, and *Jesus Calls Us ...to Action*. Vital witness and faith formation arise as a result of each event, carrying their impact well beyond our congregations.



I ask you to give thanks with me for God's work accomplished by our hands. As we grow together in faith because of God's work in our midst, I ask that you continue and grow in your faithful witness through your gifts and service.



With thanksgiving that God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – has united us in Holy Baptism, I urge you on in your call with words from the Apostle Paul: "...whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

Samuel Zeiser, Bishop  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

(A longer version of this note from Bishop Zeiser was sent to rostered and congregational leaders in early September. Read the complete text on the synod website, [www.godslove.org/bishop](http://www.godslove.org/bishop).)