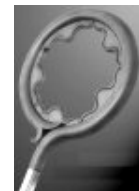


◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

November 2010



My Other Staff A Message from Bishop Zeiser

Receive this staff as a sign of your pastoral office: keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you to shepherd in the Church of God.

With those words spoken at my installation in September 2008, I was handed the bishop's pastoral staff, also called a crozier.

It's a striking, beautifully-crafted, wooden staff with a silhouette of the Luther rose at the top. I take it with me as I visit congregations to participate in worship services. Actually...it's more appropriate to say that the crozier takes *me* along as *it* visits congregations.



The crozier gets all the attention! I pretty much get lost in the background. Many folks greeting me after worship who are seeing the crozier for the first time want to know what it is. While I explain its significance, they stare at the crozier as if *it's* doing the talking. I end up feeling like a two-bit ventriloquist.



The kids at Trinity, Wernersville, came forward for a children's sermon about what a bishop does. We spent the time instead talking about "the stick." During announcements preceding worship at St. Paul's, Mertztown,

I was asked to explain what "the wooden thing" is; then I was introduced.

We have the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Women of the ELCA to thank for all this commotion. They commissioned the crozier in 1996 and presented it to the synod. Mark Yundt, Bethlehem, PA, designed and crafted it. It's part of his website, www.woodworkingstudio.net, under "Gallery." Click "Religion" and go to page 2. You'll notice me standing beside the crozier. What? You didn't notice me? Well, that's much the same way that people "notice" me when I'm holding the crozier in congregations of the synod.

It's only fair to let you know that the crozier's schedule is getting booked well into 2011. If you are interested in having it visit your congregation, you might want to extend an invitation soon. By the way, I come with it.

Your servant in Christ,
Bishop Zeiser

This piece was first published on The Bishop's Page on the synod website (www.godslove.org/bishop) on June 9, 2009.

Bishop Zeiser continues to carry and explain the staff (crozier) to the congregations he visits. During the service, Bishop Zeiser invites the children and youth in the congregation to come forward and put a hand on the crozier as he talks about the many congregations across the synod that it – and he – has visited. Then he tells them that, by placing their hands on the staff, they have added the mission and ministry of their congregation to that of every other congregation he visits. What a powerful image!



Read the latest message from Bishop Zeiser at www.godslove.org/bishop. Read the message above and other messages from the past two years by clicking Archives on the bishop's page.

Jesus Calls Us

**Saturday,
November 6**

Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Amy Reumann, Director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania

- ◆ Seventeen workshops on a variety of topics
- ◆ Worship led by Bishop Zeiser
- ◆ \$10 per person or \$25 for congregational groups of 3 to 5 persons

Sponsored jointly by Micah 6:8, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, and Lutheran Congregational Services.

More information at www.godslove.org

Coming January 22, 2011



**Technology and the Bible:
It's All Greek to Me**

2011 Learning Ministries Day

Keynote speaker: Hans Wiersma, Associate Professor of Religion, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN

Location: Muhlenberg College, Allentown

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 (lunch included)

For more information, click the link on the synod website at www.godslove.org/calendar. Additional information and a registration form will be added as it becomes available.



23rd Annual Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

November 12-14, 2010

Pinebrook Bible Conference and Retreat Center,
East Stroudsburg, PA

Youth in grades 9-12 and adult advisors

It's not too late to register!

The 2010 Lutheran Youth Fellowship is almost here. If you and your friends haven't done so already, register **now** to attend this year's assembly, *Fishing, Fellowship, Faith*.

The cost is \$150. Scholarship money is available. All materials, including the registration form, are available online at www.godslove.org/youth/lyfassembly.htm.



**Join Lutherans from
across the Synod on
June 17-18, 2011**

for

LIFT (Lutherans In Faith Together)

plus

**The 2011 Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod Assembly**

Special Guest: Marty Haugen

Marty Haugen is a composer of liturgical music, with over 400 compositions published by GIA, Augsburg Fortress, and other publishers. For the past 25 years he has presented workshops and concerts across North America and across the globe.

