

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

### NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

1. Name: Susan Ruggles
2. Current Position: Pastor at St. John's Easton, 330 Ferry Street, Easton; since 2006
3. Congregation Membership: St. John's Easton
4. Date and Year of Birth: 11-28-1957
5. Date and Year of Ordination: May 19, 2002



6. Previous Positions:
  - St. John's Assistant Pastor, Nazareth PA 2002-2006
  
  - Non-synod related : Community Outreach Coordinator, Lafayette College ended 1995-2002

7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

MDiv Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia (now called United Lutheran Seminary), 2002  
Honors

BA Lafayette College, 1990; English/Secondary Education

8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

1. NEPA synod: Registration Committee, Bishop's Conference Committee, Malaria Campaign Coordinator (2012-2015) ; Joint Conflict Resource Team (2006-2008)
2. Churchwide Delegate-2009, 2011, 2013
3. National Youth Gathering chaperone-2003, 2009, 2012
4. Executive Board of the United Lutheran Seminary Alumni Board
5. Global Mission Conference Delegate, 2011

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

1. Disaster Relief/response – (coordinated teams and participated )2002, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2018
2. Northampton County Jail Volunteer – weekly, 2006-present (sometimes with Juvenile Center)
3. Easton Area Violence Prevention Task Force (anti-gang), chair 2009-2011; Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force, 2019-present
4. Easton Hospital Volunteer Chaplain , 2006-2009
5. ProJeCt of Easton Board Member; (executive committee) 2006-present

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)  
Faith and Biblical knowledge; Generate Ideas freely, volunteer coordinator, Teaching and Coaching (undergraduate degree/years of volunteer coaching), Seeks justice, Relates to all ages, A TEAM PLAYER

Preaching in different styles/settings and mentoring others in worship life  
Fiscal and administrative responsibilities

Bringing joy to the church!

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

1. Regaining a sense of community after this year with our churches in the synod and within church communities  
-we are beginning now to do this at St. John's with intentional contacts (phone calls, mailings), activities that are 'safe' and the synod will face this challenge going forward; I am currently writing up an article to address this
2. People in the pews, people in the committees-with so many people finding less time to volunteer for activities, we should reevaluate each committee and churches to figure out how is the work being done in the mission of the synod? Numbers don't tell the whole story, but real, honest dialogue speaks volumes.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

My leadership style is energetic to say the least. I am a coach at heart and like working in teams where everyone has a real voice. I like to learn and find out as much as possible about something that is new in my 'wheelhouse' but I also like to challenge myself! I have embraced the technological side of church pastoring and take joy in what seemed like a challenging time (2020) to meet it head on. Check out the videos [www.stjohnseaston.org](http://www.stjohnseaston.org)! I take time to listen to others even when I might disagree. I believe all are children of God and deserve attention!

Many things are easy for me like organizing a group of people, building agendas, making decisions so I appear to go fast but it is because I think quickly. I can slow down when I know I must!

I understand fiscal matters (served with two churches with endowments) and when I don't, I ask.

Many say I take on a lot and that is true. But I do know my limits as an individual and a leader. I self-care and pray a lot.