

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Lutheran-Episcopal Shared Ministry



Installation of Council at St. John, Sayre with Pr. Melinda M. Artman

St. John, Sayre was without a pastor; and the Congregation Council realized that the operating budget could not support a full time clergy person. A little more than two years ago, the neighboring Episcopal Church (Church of the Redeemer: 'Redeemer') reached the same conclusion and approached St. John's about sharing a clergy person. Both churches had a history of sharing in ministry with one another, and this seemed like a wonderful opportunity to do more together while maintaining their respective and distinct identities.

Both Lutheran and Episcopal churches are few and far between in the northern tier of the synod. So with the help of Pastor Peter Kuritz, Associate of the Bishop, and Canon Anne Kitch of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, a general outline of what the parishes wanted from clergy was developed. Pastor Kuritz and Canon Kitch then worked together to hammer out a call process that respected both traditions. Each parish was willing to have either a Lutheran or an Episcopalian as the pastor; so a Call Committee was formed from both parishes, and a notice went out last summer of a vacancy.

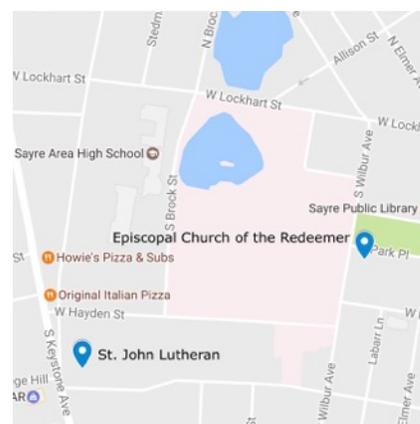
Pastor Artman saw the notice. Her work in helping two Episcopal parishes through the merger process in Southern Maryland was coming to an end, and serving in two great reformed traditions greatly appealed to her.

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Working collaboratively with small congregations in discerning how to be the church in the 21st Century was also an attractive challenge to Pastor Artman. With a prior career in city and regional planning she thought that she had a skill set that would help both parishes grow into their full stature in Christ. So she applied.

Interviews began in November and concluded in January. It is not typical for an Episcopal priest to be the only candidate presented to a parish, nor to have "an audition" before the entire congregation. Redeemer agreed to have only one candidate at a time presented. However its governing body made the decision to extend a call, and the congregation was not made aware of the selection until after St. John's made its decision.

In early January, both parishes extended a call to Pastor Artman, and three weeks later she accepted. On April 1 she began her new ministry. In late May, she will be joined by her wife, two dogs, and a cat in a new home somewhere in or near Sayre.



“Bridge Over Troubled Water”

Parish Secretaries’ Seminar October 3 - 4

Originally started by the North-eastern and Southeastern PA Synods, the Parish Secretaries’ Seminar is designed to provide opportunities to strengthen work skills needed in the modern office, to network with other secretaries/administrators, and to grow spiritually. Participants from any denomination are welcome.

This year’s theme is “Bridge Over Troubled Water.” Mary Lou Hatcher will lead the workshop on Church Politics: “Staying Out of the Storm.” The Rev. Kurt Garbe will lead Churches in Transition: “Making Your Way Through the Fog.” And Julia Menzo will present “Financial Lifeboat.” Our Spiritual Leader is the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen.

The cost for this year’s seminar is again just \$250, which includes one night’s lodging (double occupancy), five meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Tuesday, and breakfast and lunch on Wednesday), presenter fees, and workshop materials. Please see the registration form (available at <http://nepasynod.org/event/parish-secretaries-seminar>) for more information.

The registration form, along with payment, must be received by July 17 to receive the early registration discount. For answers to questions, contact Kathy Reyher, at 610-437-3018.

Anniversary Luncheon

On Tuesday, May 9, the synod hosted a luncheon at the Lutheran Center to honor those rostered leaders who are celebrating a major anniversary of service this year.

Sixty-fifth Anniversary

The Rev. Paul Fisher

Sixtieth Anniversary

The Rev. Peter Grimes

The Rev. David Kistler

The Rev. Donald Landis

The Rev. Durrell Seip

The Rev. George Spieker

Fiftieth Anniversary

The Rev. Edward Cloughen

The Rev. Sterling Geiger

The Rev. F. Peter Muhr

The Rev. James Seifert

Fortieth Anniversary

The Rev. Patricia Criste

The Rev. Thomas Cvammen

The Rev. George Grubb

The Rev. Gene Handwerk

The Rev. Wayne Kaufman

The Rev. F. Thomas Lichner

The Rev. Dennis Moore

The Rev. Dennis Ritter

The Rev. David Schaeffer

The Rev. Paul Schoffstall

The Rev. Eugene Sharkey

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

The Rev. Susan Fox

The Rev. James Hammond

The Rev. Douglass McKeeby

The Rev. Martin Milne

The Rev. Philip Spohn

The Rev. Jack Steltzer

The Rev. Beverly Wenrich

Fifteenth Anniversary

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones

The Rev. Herbert Dolich

The Rev. Susan Ruggles

Deacon Linda Maule

The Rev. Jeremiah Sassaman

The Rev. Jami Possinger

The Rev. Dody Siegfried

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Congregations, Clusters, and Mission Districts:
**How do you plan to celebrate
this once in a lifetime event?**
**Be sure to let us know at
nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.**

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