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**2016**  
**Delaware-Maryland**  
**Synod Assembly**  
**Recognitions**

# **Associate in Ministry**

**Best Wishes  
On Your  
25th Anniversary  
as an  
Associate in Ministry**

Joanne P. Struck

# **Diaconal Minister**

**Best Wishes  
On Your Anniversaries as  
Diaconal Ministers**

**15 Years**

Melinda L. Holland

**20 Years**

Audrey D. Forbes

# Clergy

## **Best Wishes On Your 5th Anniversary of Ordination**

The Rev. B. Jeanne Larsen  
The Rev. Melissa P. Lemons

# **Clergy**

## **Best Wishes On Your 10th Anniversary of Ordination**

The Rev. Arwyn A.P. Gohl

The Rev. Kenneth E. Gill Jr.

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The Rev. Carol O. Sipes

The Rev. David L. Wright

The Rev. Elsa L. Clark

The Rev. Leonard M. Hummel

## 25 Years

### **The Rev. H. Lee Brumback II** celebrates 25 years as an ordained minister!

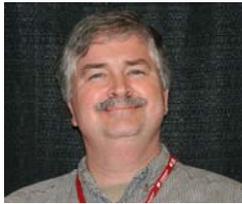


The Rev. Brumback has served at St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westminster, Maryland since his graduation from seminary in 1991. He was born in Winchester, Virginia. He was baptized at Grace Lutheran in Winchester, where he was also ordained by the late Bishop Morris Zumbrun on August 21, 1991. Pastor Brumback is married to Ann K. Brumback and they have two sons (Hubert K. Brumback and Jacob B. Brumback). Pastor Brumback holds a B.S. degree from Virginia Tech, an M. Div. and S.T.M. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and a D. Min from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Pastor Brumback says, "I believe the strange work of the Holy Spirit moved both through and from my rural background, agricultural training, and overseas service led me to full-time ordained ministry." The Word of God has influenced his life profoundly. He remembers, "My mother would sometimes read Bible stories to my brother and me before we went to bed, which she followed by prayers with us." God's Word continues to be a daily part of his life. He enjoys leading Bible studies and looks for every opportunity to explore and share it with others. Yet he says, "I am still a novice at knowing and grasping God's Word.. And always will be..."

Pastor Brumback enjoys reading, listening to music, tinkering and fixing things, visiting museums, travel, hiking, canoeing, genealogy studies, geology, and research on the internet. He says he never gets bored.

Fours years ago, Pastor Brumback's wife had a serious fall and head injury that required emergency brain surgery. She came through the surgery thanks to the mercy of God through the skillful surgeon and the prayers of many. He was amazed at how much he found peace when he entrusted to God the outcome for whatever the future might be for his wife. Pastor Brumback continues to find it a humbling, growing and joyful experience to serve with his brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Mary's.



**The Rev. Lans E. Alexis**  
celebrates 25 years as an  
ordained minister!

The Rev. Lans Alexis has served congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he has served at St. Paul, Leitersburg; St. John, Essex; and currently at St. Peter, Fullerton. He has also served as a chaplain at Ravenwood in Hagerstown, as Dean for the Washington County and Baltimore North conferences, as a member of the board of directors for Mar-Lu-Ridge, and as a confirmation camp leader.

Pastor Alexis was born, baptized and confirmed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is married to the Rev. Sandra Alexis and they have four children (Lara, Abigail, Sara and Erik). Pastor Alexis holds a B.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh and an M. Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His hobbies include reading, and viewing sci-fi and fantasy, Marvel and Disney, rock and roll, choral singing, going to and acting in musical comedy theater, travel and history and Steelers football!

When asked why a pastor, Pastor Alexis says, "As a PK I had all the experience one might expect of church life, but my parents never pressed me on doing this. When once roused from my bed with the thought, as if from somewhere else (hmmm), it was something that clicked with my spirit." He says that when he began seminary he started reading the Bible every day and never stopped. Two particular scholars really opened his understanding and interpretation of Jesus' story: Robert F. Capon and Bruce Chilton.

Pastor Alexis remembers, "When my grandmother died, only our family went to the cemetery since the cold winter always precluded that in Bradford, Pennsylvania. My dad tried to do the graveside ceremony, but handed the SBH occasional service book to me because he was overcome with tears. I had just started seminary, and this told me, 'So this is what passing the torch is like.' But for those who knew my dad, I know I'll never live up to his gifts of leadership and love of our church."



**The Rev. Sandra C. Alexis**  
celebrates 25 years as an  
ordained minister!

The Rev. Sandra Carlson Alexis has served congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod she has served at St. Paul, Leitersburg; Christus Victor; Ascension; Christ the Servant, Severn; Prince of Peace, Rosedale; Reformation, Baltimore; St. Andrew, Parkville; St. John, Lutherville; and currently at First English. She has also served on the Smaller Membership Congregations Team (SWPA Synod), Lutheran University Ministry board, Definitely Abled Advocacy and Resource Team, and the Reference and Memorials Committee. Pastor Alexis served on the PTSA and as a Special Needs Liaison at Stricker Middle School and Parkville High School.

Pastor Alexis was born and baptized in Madison, Wisconsin. She was confirmed at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Gaithersburg, Maryland. She is married to the Rev. Lans Alexis and they have four children. Pastor Alexis holds a B.A. degree from Western Maryland (McDaniel) College and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Her hobbies include travel, theater (watching and doing), journaling and walking.

Pastor Alexis says, "I was raised in the embrace of the Lutheran church. Being active in campus ministry strengthen my faith. What brought me to seminary was the coincidental invitations by both my home pastor and my mother to consider becoming a pastor— something I had never considered until they suggested it." She further states that the Bible has guided and supported her. "The Word gave me strength when I was thousands of miles from home the 'nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus,' and shows me how to treat people with compassion and justice.

She remembers an experimental confirmation camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge when students "lived" as slaves under Pharaoh's Rule until "Moses" (Ed Whetstone) emerged to bring them to the wilderness of the MLR power line. She says it made the story come alive for us all.

# **30 Years**

**The Rev. J. Christopher Ramsey**  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister

**The Rev. John K. Burk**  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister



**The Rev. Doris J. Doub  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister!**

The Rev. Doris Doub has served congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod, she has served at St. Peter, Clearspring; Christ, Hagerstown; and St. Paul, Funkstown. Pastor Doub also served as the Synod Librarian (Allegheny Synod), and Hospice Chaplain (Nason Hospital, Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania).

Pastor Doub was born in Hagerstown. She was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Williamsport, Maryland. She is married to Oble William Yoder. Pastor Doub has four children (Ronald, John, Edward, and Connie Doub McAllister). She also has two stepchildren (Kenneth Yoder and Barbara Yoder Gabriel). Pastor Doub holds a B.A. degree from Shepherd College, Masters Equivalency from Hood and McDaniel colleges, and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Her hobbies include sports, reading and flower gardening.

Pastor Doub says that from birth she has lived in the church family at Zion. "I always believed that my life was a call to ministry for Our Lord as a child, student, wife, mother, teacher, scout leader, school teacher, Sunday School teacher, Maryland Synod Education Coordinator and Parish Life and Ministry Development Coordinator. Ordination was just another opportunity for ministry Our Lord and His Church gave me." She says the Word of God has been her constant companion and guide, her comfort and hope through all of life's struggles and joys. "I know no time without the influence of the Church and the Word of God."

Pastor Doub notes that "in light of this anniversary and at 83 years of age I am waiting for 'just one more surprise.' God is always with us. What a comfort!"

**The Rev. Eleanor S. Doub**  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister



The Rev. Eleanor Doub has served several congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod— St. John, Hagerstown; Shepherd of the Glen; and the Beaver Creek/Keedysville Parish (St. Matthew and St. Peter). She has also served on the board for the YMCA (President 2005-2007), the Barbara Ingram Art School Board, and the Washington County Library Board.

Pastor Doub was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was baptized and confirmed on the same day at St. David Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. She is married to Luke Richard Doub, a retired math teacher. They have two children (Luke Doub and Eve Marie Doub) and six grandchildren (Ally, Madison, Jade, Nick, Alaina and Tom). Her oldest granddaughter, Ally, graduated from James Madison University at age 17! Pastor Doub's hobby is quilting.

Pastor Doub holds a B.A. degree from Towson University and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. She was led into ministry by the examples of wonderful parish ministers. She says that God's word and promises are real, no matter what happens.

**The Rev. Robert M. Harvey**  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Bob Harvey has served congregations in Pennsylvania (Trinity Lutheran, Arendtsville) and Maryland (Prince of Peace, Rosedale; St. Peter, Eastpoint; St. Peter, Fullerton; and St. Luke, Dundalk). He has also served on the Synod Council as Secretary (2000-2001) and currently as Treasurer. Pastor Harvey has served on various synod committees also.

Pastor Harvey was born in Baltimore. He was baptized and confirmed at St. George Episcopal Church. He is married to Roxanne Maffitt. He has two children (Ruth and Matthew) and two stepchildren (Amy and Meg). Pastor Harvey holds a B.S. degree from the University of Maryland and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. He is a retired Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania. His hobbies include being with his seven grandchildren and duckpin bowling.

Pastor Harvey was led into his ministry by God- first, last and always. He says God's Word (the Bible) gives him direction, guidance and inspiration. Some of his most memorable experiences were presiding at his daughter's wedding, participating in his son's wedding, and baptizing two of his grandchildren

**The Rev. Stephanie S. Steele**  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister

The Rev. Stephanie Steele has served congregations in New Jersey and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod she served at Christ Lutheran Church in Hagerstown. Pastor Steele was also a chaplain at the Lutheran Home at Moorestown, New Jersey and she worked for Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries.

Pastor Steele was born in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul in Applebachsville, Pennsylvania. She is married to the Rev. Stanley Steele and they have three children: Andrew, Victoria and Rachael. Pastor Steele holds a B.F.A. degree from Tyler School of Art-Temple University and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, needlework and time spent with her family.

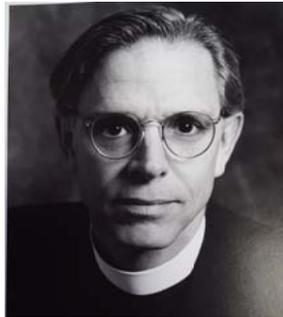
Pastor Steele was led to ministry by “a call from God, after which, much turmoil and wrestling.” She also says, “The longer I serve in ministry and study the Bible with others, the more important the words of God are to me as a guide in my life. The Bible leads me to enjoy new insights into God’s actions in life and strengthens my faith in Jesus Christ as God’s Son, the Living Word.”



**The Rev. Norma L. Schenning**  
celebrates 30 years as an  
ordained minister

## **35 Years**

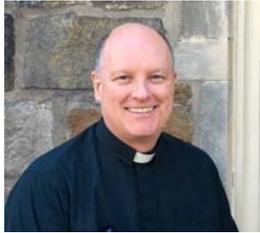
**The Cameron Coe**  
celebrates 35 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Cameron Coe has served congregations in New Hampshire, New York and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he served at St. Paul, Curtis Bay and recently retired from Second English, Baltimore. Pastor Coe also served as an instructor of religion and chaplain at The Cardigan Mountain School (New Hampshire) and as an English teacher at Severn School (Severna Park, Maryland).

Pastor Coe was born and baptized in Massachusetts. He was confirmed in Columbus, Ohio. He has a son, Samuel Scherer Coe. Pastor Coe holds degrees from Ohio State University, Union Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His hobbies include cars (he has a '67 Chevy II Nova), cigars, reading, cabinet making, movies and mulling things over.

Pastor Coe says this about his path into the ministry: "Inheritance was certainly an important influence— six generations of the ordained on both maternal and paternal sides...there was hardly an alternative." One of his memorable experiences was living in Curtis Bay.



## **The Rev. David Eisenhuth celebrates 35 years as an ordained minister!**

The Rev. David Eisenhuth has served congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he has served at Faith, Cockeysville and The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter. Pastor Eisenhuth also served as an United States Naval Reserve Chaplain from 1988-1996.

Pastor Eisenhuth was born, baptized and confirmed in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. He holds a B. Hum. from Pennsylvania State University, an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and a D. Min. from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. His hobbies include traveling, walking, learning about ancient cultures and scuba diving.

Pastor Eisenhuth says, "From an early age I was deeply involved in the life of the Church. In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade I got a job as the organist in a small Episcopal Church. By the 11<sup>th</sup> grade I was playing in three congregations. It was a real privilege helping to plan worship for the services. I believe it was this experience which led me to ministry where my interest in the worship life of the Church could reach its fruition."

He says, "I remember well the words used at my ordination - to faithfully preach the Word of God as I understood it from Holy Scripture ... That Word is always foremost in my thoughts and hopefully guides everything I do as an ordained person. I hope over these 35 years of ordained ministry that I have helped people to understand the Word and the great gift of grace we have in Jesus Christ."

"In May of 2015 I traveled to Israel. When at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre it became obvious I would not be able to see the tomb of Jesus because of the long lines, the tour guide suggested I return at the opening of the Church—5AM, one of the days we would be in Jerusalem. However, the last day of my stay in the city, a number of us got up at 4AM and made our way through the dark streets to the Church. There were few tourists there. Many religious services were going on. I was invited into the tomb itself to participate in a Latin Mass. Being in that space with ten other people for thirty minutes was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."



## **The Rev. Janet S. Peterman celebrates 35 years as an ordained minister!**

The Rev. Janet Peterman has served congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod she has served at Third English, Baltimore and St. Paul, Newark, Delaware. Her formative ministry, for the first 26 years, before moving into intentional interim ministry, was serving in inner city ministry, in predominantly African-American communities.

Pastor Peterman was born and baptized in Salinas, California. She was confirmed at Memorial Lutheran in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She is married to D. Kent Peterman and they have three children (Phoebe, Neil and Nathaniel). Pastor Peterman holds a B.A. degree from Pennsylvania State University and an M.Div. from the Divinity School at Harvard University. She likes to garden, bike with her family, do photography, travel, and write.

She says, "As a child of the 60s, I grew up in a tumultuous time. I felt myself called to public leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ, though I had never seen a woman doing it – at the time, that did not cross my mind! But I had wonderful campus chaplains who showed me that it was possible ... who modeled what it was to serve in Christ's name in social ministry; and I felt my leadership called forth. Later I learned also how to lead in the spiritual dimensions of pastoral life and work." Pastor Peterman says the Word of God has been her source of strength. "I often find myself thinking in scripture passages that have been woven deep inside me and now return to sustain me in difficulty or time of need. My scripture study has often been my first form of prayer."

She remembers in Philadelphia, she served a congregation for many years that had become biracial, but other things were harder to change, for example, who got to make the most important decisions, and how the mix of music in worship was broken down. "We hired two Ministers of Music to cover the full range of music that the congregation now needed in worship. 'How dare you call him a Minister of Music?' one man demanded, about one of the two men. 'He can't even read music!' These and other sentiments made it hard for the man to bring and offer all that he had to give of himself. He lasted a year and moved on. But in that year... filled with struggle, with a forced look at the way racism was alive and well in our midst, ... this man brought to that congregation a way of singing old gospel songs in parts that made the whole congregation into the pipes of the organ: such full, robust singing! It is one of the highlights of worship experiences in my whole life, an experience of transcendence – of God knowing how we needed to be brought out of ourselves to life in the Body of Christ, together, an experience before we have it that is greater than we can either ask for or imagine. How great is our God!"



**The Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane  
celebrates 35 years as an  
ordained minister!**

The Rev. Margaret E. Herz-Lane was born and raised in Chicago, Ill. She graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in 1969 with a B.A. in Art and French. Pastor Margaret worked for Augustana Academy in Canton, South Dakota from 1969-1971; then Luther College, Decorah, Iowa from 1971-1973 as a Head Resident and counselor for freshmen students. In 1973 she moved to Teaneck, New Jersey. Margaret attended the Art Students League in New York City from 1973 -1977, while working for Luther College of the Bible and Liberal Arts in Teaneck as the Director of Admissions.

In 1977 she entered the Master of Divinity degree program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and was ordained on June 8, 1981 by the Minnesota Synod (LCA) for the New Jersey Synod (LCA). Pastor Margaret's first call was to the Camden Lutheran Parish (CLP), in Camden New Jersey. Ministry in the CLP involved serving multiple congregational settings: Grace, Christus, La Trinidad, Epiphany and New Life congregations. Though all were located in the small city of Camden, 12 miles square, each congregation was unique to the culture, race, character and traditions of their surrounding neighborhoods and residents. Pastor Margaret served in Camden for 29 years.

In 2010, the Rev. Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, her husband, was elected as bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod and their immediate family moved to Baltimore. Since October 2010 Pastor Margaret has served St. Luke Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Md., in the Parkville section of the city. Since that time, she has completed an S.T.M. degree at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. The focus of her work was Lutheran Ethics.

The family of Pastor Margaret Herz-Lane now includes, in addition to her husband and two sons: Kyle, age 30 and Josef, age 28, a daughter-in-law, Ashley Lane, and a grandson, Carter James Lane, age 5. Kyle and Ashley gave birth to their first child shortly after the Herz-Lanes arrived in Baltimore on December 29, 2010.

**The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Bliese**  
celebrates 35 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Dr. Richard Bliese has served congregations in Zaire, Germany, and the United States. He has also served as a professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Chicago (LSTC), an academic dean and president at Luther Seminary, president of the In Trust Center, and a consultant.

Dr. Bliese was born and baptized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was confirmed in Norfolk, Virginia. He is married to Nina Bliese and they have two children (Aaron and Stephanie). Dr. Bliese holds a B.A. degree in Psychology/Philosophy, an M.Div. from Seminex, and a PH.D from LSTC. His hobbies include reading, travel, golf, languages and food.

Dr. Bliese felt called to the ministry by a desire to serve. He says that the Word of God continually provokes and inspires him.

One of Dr. Bliese's memorable experiences was casting out demons on his first day at work in Africa. He says "This was expected of every pastor as 'normal pastoral care.'" Dr. Bliese will be moving back to Chicago in June.

**The Rev. F. Mark Walters**  
celebrates 35 years as an  
ordained minister!

**The Rev. G. Stanley Steele**  
celebrates 35 years as an  
ordained minister!

# 40 Years

**The Rev. James M. Russell**  
celebrates 40 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. James Russell has served congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he has served at the Keysville-Mt. Tabor Parish. He is currently serving as the part-time/interim pastor at Mt. Tabor Lutheran (Rocky Ridge, Maryland) and St. Paul Lutheran (Quincy, Pennsylvania). Pastor Russell also served as Mayor of the Borough of Donegal, Pennsylvania in 1982.

Pastor Russell was born, baptized and confirmed in Rochester, New York, attending St. George Episcopal Church. He is married to Burned May (Ackerman) Russell and they have two daughters (Jennifer Catherine Brashears and Laura Elizabeth McCarley). Pastor Russell holds a B.A. degree from the University of Richmond and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His hobbies include antique dealing collecting books, political and Civil War memorabilia.

Pastor Russell notes, "I joined the LCA on February 23, 1969 and through a renewal of faith and with the guidance of the Rev. Frederick J. Eckert of First English Lutheran Church of Richmond, Virginia, I made the decision to become an ordained pastor."

## **45 Years**

**The Rev. G. Edward Whetstone Jr.**  
celebrates 45 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Edward Whetstone has served congregations in Maryland: Sharpsburg Parish; Mt. Zion, Locust Grove; and Salem, Bakersville. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod, he served at Salem, Catonsville. He has been active within the synod, serving on various committees and mission teams. He has also served as a Conference Dean.

Pastor Whetstone was born in Latimore, Maryland. He was baptized at St. Mark, Hampstead and confirmed in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is married to Victoria Ann Whetstone and they have two children (Micah and Linsey). His hobbies include antique Christmas and Easter ephemera.

Pastor Whetstone says his call to the ministry began with the fact that the family was filled with pastors! The Word of God has influenced his life because of the “call to love God with all my heart and to love others; the call to social action.”

**The Rev. Gordon E. Simmons II**  
celebrates 45 years as an  
ordained minister!

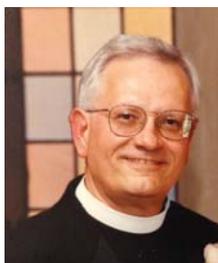


The Rev. Gordon Simmons has served congregations in Nebraska (First Lutheran, Lincoln) and Pennsylvania (Reformation, Philadelphia and Holy Trinity, Wallingford). He has also served as the Director for Project Embrace (Omaha, Nebraska) and as an Assistant to the Bishop for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Currently, Pastor Simmons is serving in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as an Assistant to the Bishop.

Pastor Simmons was born, baptized and confirmed in Omaha, Nebraska, attending Immanuel Lutheran Church. He is married to Sandra Simmons and they have two daughters (Kristin Whelon and Heidi Patten). Pastor Simmons holds a B.A. degree from Midland College and an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. His hobbies include bicycling and reading (especially history).

Pastor Simmons says his childhood Christian education led him into the ministry. The Word of God has influenced his life by “its emphasis on forgiveness and on concern for the poor and victims of injustice.”

**The Rev. John Sabatelli**  
celebrates 45 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. John Sabatelli served as the senior pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland for 29 years, retiring in 2012. He has also served as Chair of the Interfaith Community Foundation; President of Ressler Foundation; Chair of the Baltimore Outreach Services; board member of Harbor Hospital, Kerman Hospital, University of Maryland Specialty Hospital; Dean of the Baltimore Conference; Director of Stewardship for the Metro New York Synod; and President of the Seafarers' House Board. Currently, Pastor Sabatelli is serving as an interim pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Arbutus.

Pastor Sabatelli was born and baptized in Brooklyn, New York. He was confirmed at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Queens, New York. He is married to Jane Sabatelli and they have two children (Elissa Wylie and Andrew Sabatelli). He holds a B.A. degree from Queens College, an M.Div. and an honorary D.D. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. His hobbies include cooking, gardening and keeping up with current events.

Pastor Sabatelli was led into his ministry by the call of God and the example of his pastor, Dr. Theodore Grant. He says that the Word of God inspires and informs his faith.

Pastor Sabatelli's most memorable experiences were holding his newborn children and grandchildren.



## **The Rev. Thomas G. Sinnott IV celebrates 45 years as an ordained minister!**

The Rev. Thomas Sinnott has served congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he has served at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cordova. He has also served as Assistant to the Bishop in the New Jersey Synod; adjunct staff, Division for Mission in North America (LCA); Chaplain, Executive Director and Nursing Home Administrator Heron Point of Chestertown, Maryland; and Disaster Consultant for the ELCA long term recovery effort in Somerset County, Maryland.

Pastor Sinnott was born, baptized and confirmed in New Jersey, attending Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Red Bank. He is married to the Rev. Ileana Lindstrom and they have two children (Christine Elizabeth Sinnott and Thomas George Sinnott V). Pastor Sinnott holds a B.S. degree from Wagner College, an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and a D.Min. from the New York Theological Seminary. His hobbies include furniture making, ham radio, Army MARs (Military Auxiliary Radio Service), digital photography, boating and his grandchildren.

Pastor Sinnott writes, "I felt called to the ministry as a child when I attended Camp Besler, a camping ministry of the New Jersey Synod. This calling was nurtured through the years by my pastor, home congregation and college chaplain. I finally acted on this call after I had graduated ...I left graduate school and entered the seminary in Philadelphia. I guess you could say that I was pursued by the 'Hound of Heaven,' the Holy Spirit. Of course a calling must be renewed each day when one gets up in the morning and decides to serve one more day doing God's work." He says, "for me the Word has been a challenge, a comfort, a source of hope and the reference by which my ministry has been measured."

A memorable experience was in the spring of 1975: "I was serving as Pastor of Advent Lutheran Church in North Philadelphia, a small struggling congregation ... located in a distressed inner-city neighborhood undergoing its third racial transition. As I left the bank [one day] I saw this middle-aged white guy standing on the corner... Even though I suspected that I would hear a pan-handler's request for money, I walked over to this person. He extended his hand and said, 'Hi, I'm Jimmy Carter, and I'm running for the office of President of the United States.' I thought to myself, if anyone is brave enough and cares enough to stand on the corner of 6th and Allegheny Ave. in North Philadelphia, he should be president. It was a wonderful time in the history of the Lutheran Church, led by brave and caring leaders. When everyone was running away from the city, the Lutheran Church made major investments in order to stay in the city and serve people who traditionally were never members of the Lutheran Church."

## **50 Years**

**The Rev. Barry L. Laird**  
celebrates 45 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Barry Laird has served congregations in Michigan, Ohio, England, and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he served at Christ, Catonsville and in numerous interim calls. He has also served on the Lutheran Home and Hospital Foundation Board and the Synod Worship/Liturgical Resource Team.

Pastor Laird was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He was baptized at Grace Lutheran in Bellwood, Pennsylvania and confirmed at St. John English Lutheran in Essex, Maryland. He holds an A.B. degree from Capital University and a B.D. from the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. His hobby is baking.

Pastor Laird was led into his ministry through the high school leadership training week of the old ALC. He says the Word of God has influenced his life through its liberating Good news!

Pastor Laird's most memorable moments were the years in England with refugees' families in a different culture and in a multicultural neighborhood on a sub-poverty salary. This reshaped his entire adult life!

**The Rev. Harold T. Fries**  
celebrates 50 years as an  
ordained minister!

The Rev. Harold “Duke” Fries has served congregations in Pennsylvania (Messiah Lutheran in Harrisburg), and New York (Redeemer-St. John Lutheran in Brooklyn). In the Delaware-Maryland Synod, he served as the Associate Pastor at Christ Lutheran in Baltimore. Currently he is retired and serving as a part-time pastor at Epiphany Lutheran in Baltimore.

Pastor Fries is married to Ann K. Fries, retired Director of Human Resources for Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. They are spending their retirement visiting England’s cathedrals and countryside and especially enjoying their three grandsons.

**The Rev. Gary T. Bilbie**  
celebrates 50 years as an  
ordained minister!

# **55 Years**

**The Rev. Donald E. Bauer**  
celebrates 55 years as an  
ordained minister!

**The Rev. Richard G. Goff**  
celebrates 55 years as an  
ordained minister!

## **The Rev. Donald Haas celebrates 55 years as an ordained minister!**

The Rev. Donald Haas served congregations in Maryland– The Woodsboro Lutheran Parish in Frederick County and St. Paul Lutheran in Rockdale. He also served on the board of Lutheran Social Services, National Lutheran Home for the Aged, and Gettysburg College. He served on numerous synod committees. In the community he was a volunteer chaplain at Baltimore County General Hospital, and a resource person for a number of hospitals on the topic of bereavement.

Pastor Haas was born, baptized and confirmed in Baltimore, Maryland. He is married to Mary Schaake Haas and they have three children (Susan Elizabeth, Nancy Lynne and Donald Robert). Pastor Haas holds a B.A. from Gettysburg college, a B. Div. and an S.T.M. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His hobbies include reading, travel and photography.

Pastor Haas remembers: “At five years of age I declared that I was going to be a pastor. Boring! No flash of light or voices from heaven, but people must have seen something in me that might equip me for ministry. So through the years of discernment I was encouraged and (no doubt) prayed for by many people. I may have had talents for other fields, but I believe God was calling me to the ordained ministry. I will leave it to others to determine whether or not I was paying attention to God. “

He says, “Are there areas of your life that are not influenced by the Word of God? As a child of God who lives by grace alone through faith as a gift from God, I am continually amazed at how gracious God has been to me.”

Pastor Haas cannot remember one experience as most memorable. He says, “I do know I was blessed to serve people I loved for 32 years. I remember with gratitude to God the many people I accompanied through baptisms, weddings, funerals, crises and celebrations.”

**The Rev. John Little**  
celebrates 55 years as an  
ordained minister!



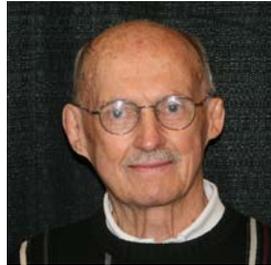
The Rev. John Little serve congregations in Missouri (St. Mark in St. Louis) and Maryland (Bethel, North East). He also served in numerous ministries and congregational staff positions. Other areas of service include Lutheran Social Services of Central Pennsylvania, Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, and Tressler Lutheran Service Associates in Wilmington Delaware.

Pastor Little was baptized and confirmed in Aspinwall, Pennsylvania. His wife (Marilyn K. Hamilton) is deceased. They have two sons (David Michael and Mark Hamilton). His hobbies include community choruses, gardening, woodworking, travel, photography and walking.

Pastor Little says that he was led into his ministry by growing up in a parsonage. The Bible has influenced him as “it has helped to keep me focused on the Word of God most fully revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.”

A memorable experience was when he directed the Transitional Opportunities Project for students of Indian boarding schools in coordination with the Flandreau Indian Schools (Bureau of Indian Affairs) and Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota. He also established, developed and directed the Tressler Centers of Delaware (psychotherapy and psychoeducational programs) from 1970 to 1993.

**The Rev. Lowell S. Thompson**  
celebrates 55 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Lowell Thompson served at St. Stephen Lutheran in South Baltimore from 1960-1962 and then St. Stephen and St. James from 1962 to the present. He has been active in the synod and in the South Baltimore community.

Pastor Thompson was born, baptized and confirmed in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He holds a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota, a B.D. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and an M.A. from the University of Minnesota. He enjoys music of all sorts and German studies.

He says that “there was no one clear call for me” that led him into the ministry. Bible study was an important part of his life as a student, but he was also glad to “escape from Midwestern fundamentalism.”

He remembers that in 1977, “I was fishing with my good friend, Fr. Richard Tillmann ... on the Chesapeake Bay in my little 14’ aluminum boat (5 hp motor) when we got caught in a fierce storm – winds clocked at 70 mph! When we finally got back to our Goose Creek port under our own power, Katherine, an old Eastern Shore lady who had come down to the cove to help search for us said, ‘The only thing I reckon is that the good Lord must still have work for you two to do.’ Mace Jones, a waterman standing nearby, heard her and snorted, ‘Lord’s work to do? Hell, they were just damn lucky!’ I reckon they were both right. I’m grateful to be here today!”

**The Rev. Paul A. Lautenschlager**  
celebrates 55 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. Paul Lautenschlager served congregations in Florida and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he served at Hope, Middleborough and Shepherd of the Glen, Glenwood. He has also served as chaplain, O.S.S.D. Home (Xenia, Ohio), Resident Theologist at Edgemoade of Ohio, and chaplain at the Lutheran Hospital of Maryland (Baltimore, Maryland).

Pastor Lautenschlager was born and baptized in West Virginia. He was confirmed at Israel Lutheran in Paris, Ohio. He is married to Thursa Trabert Lautenschlager and they have one son (Joel). Pastor Lautenschlager holds an A.B. degree from Capital University, a B.D. from Evangelical Lutheran Seminary (Columbus, Ohio), and an S.T.M. from New York Seminary. He also completed four quarters of CPE and received a Residency in Pastoral Care from the Lutheran Medical Center (Brooklyn, New York). His hobbies include lawn care, travel (both domestic and international), and cruising.

Pastor Lautenschlager says he was led into the ministry by family and Sunday. Scripture is the source and power for his faith and life.

One of his most memorable experiences was standing in Evangelical Church in Rennigan, Germany, where his great-great-grandparents were married and worshipped. He shares that South Carolina is a wonderful place to live and enjoy his retirement!

# 60 Years

**The Rev. Donald F. Sause**  
celebrates 60 years as an  
ordained minister!



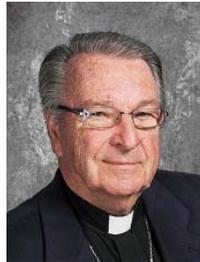
The Rev. Donald Sause served congregations in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the Delaware-Maryland Synod he served at Epiphany, Baltimore; Our Shepherd, Severna Park; and St. Paul, Frostburg. He was an interim pastor at fifteen congregations including Messiah, Baltimore; St. John, Cumberland; and the Feagaville Lutheran Parish. Pastor Sause served on many synod committees and was the Dean of the Allegany Conference. Among his numerous community activities, he was an organizing member of the Anne Arundel Council of Churches and a Thrivent Chapter Leader.

Pastor Sause was born in Baltimore, Maryland and confirmed at Mt. Zion, Ladiesburg, Maryland. He is married to Ellen P. Sause and they have one daughter, Karen. Pastor Sause earned a B.A. degree from Gettysburg College and a B.D. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His hobbies include woodworking, furniture restoration and photography.

Pastor Sause was led into his ministry through a strong desire as a small child plus admiration for his uncle who was an ALC pastor. He was also aided and mentored by Pastor Raymond Myers. He says the Word of God is his guide for coming to Jesus and living a life in his service.

One of Pastor Sause's most memorable moments was becoming a father at age 55!

**The Rev. John H. S. Austin**  
celebrates 60 years as an  
ordained minister!



The Rev. John Austin served Trinity Lutheran Church from 1956 – 1999 as the lead pastor. He is currently serving as the school headmaster. He has served as a chaplain for the Maryland State Police and a trustee at Harford County College.

Pastor Austin was born in Havre de Grace, Maryland. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran in Aberdeen, Maryland. He is married to Norma and they have five children: Gina, Kimberly, Brian, Paul and Marc John. Pastor Austin holds a B.A. degree from Gettysburg College and a B.D. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His hobbies include hunting, sports, reading and working as a volunteer of Trinity Lutheran Christian School.

Pastor Austin was led into his ministry by the influence of his father, Pastor W. Edward Austin. He shares that the Word of God “has always been my guide and the ultimate authority.”

**The Rev. William J. Black**  
celebrates 60 years as an  
ordained minister!

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11

# Congregations

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Williamsport, Maryland**  
**celebrates 225 years of**  
**sustained faith and witness to their community!**

Worship began as the preaching of the word and administering of the Sacraments in “William’s Port” in the year 1791 by the Rev. Mr. Gohring as a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church in Hagerstown. In 1806 the congregation had grown in size and strength to incorporate the name “Zion’s German Evangelic Lutheran” and was pastored by the Rev. John George Schmucker.

A small log Sunday school building was built in 1798 and then a small brick church building was constructed on the foundation of the log church in 1828. The current building was built in 1911 with updates in 1925 and 2005.

Currently there are 951 members: 481 adult confirmed 223- non confirmed members and about 200 children.

Recent pastors were:

The Reverend Warren Gregory Martin 1982-2013

The Reverend Eugene Gardnes 1974-1981

The Reverend Thomas Sinn 1966-1973

The Reverend William Chalmers Huddle 1930-1965

The Reverend Kimberley Nunberg is the current pastor.



Special or significant ministries of the church:

Kinder Haven Child Care Center

Home of the Williamsport Area Food Bank

Hearts and Hands Quilters

Adult Choir, Children’s Choir

Hand Bell Choir led by the esteemed David Loy

Women and Men Fellowship

Sunday School

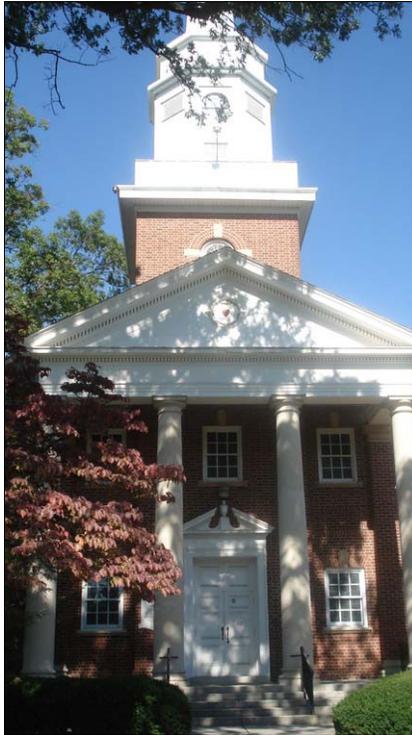
Bible Study

Confirmation Ministry

Youth Ministry



**Second English Lutheran Church**  
Baltimore, Maryland  
celebrates **175** years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community!



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
Deer Park, Maryland  
celebrates **150** years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community!

In 1866, the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church began its journey in the worship and celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ. That journey has now spanned 150 years and in 2016, Trinity will celebrate that journey with a number of special events designed to share the Good News with present and past members, as well as the community-at-large.



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
Walkersville, Maryland  
celebrates **125** years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community!

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first meeting at the home of Thomas S. Although in July 1981. The first pastor was the Rev. Samuel Diehl, who was the shepherd for the 30 original members. St. Paul has been at the same location for its entire 125 years. Some of the recent pastors who served the congregation included:

Thomas Perry	1976-1986
John Leaf	1971-1976
Joseph Sabo	1967-1971
David Blackwelder	1961-1966
E. Koontz Helwig	1947-1960
Francis E. Reinberger	1943-1947

The Rev. Mark Foucart has served at St. Paul since February 1988. There are currently 330 adults and 28 children members.

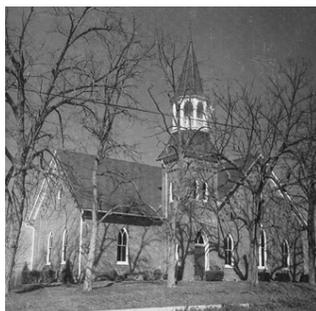
St. Paul's significant ministries include:

GVCS

Stephen's Ministry

Religious Coalition of Frederick

Health (medical and mental) awareness classes

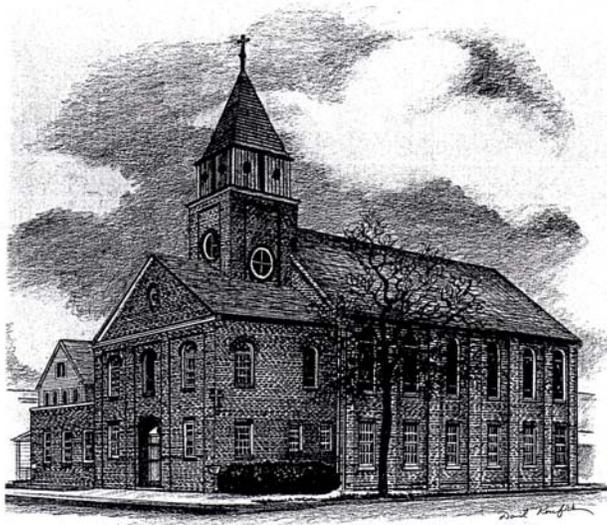


**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
Lansdowne, Maryland  
celebrates **125** years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community!

The congregation was organized as a mission by the Joint Synod of Ohio in 1891. In 1922 it was received as a mission into the Lutheran Synod of Maryland of the United Lutheran Church in America. The first pastor was the Rev. Conrad B. Gohdes, D.D. The first worship was held in a storeroom and later in the home of John A. Fox. The original church building as dedicated in 1892 on Lavern Avenue in Lansdowne, Maryland. Ground was broken for the current church building on April 28, 1929. There are currently 46 adults and 7 children members. The Rev. Linda Lewis is the pastor.



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
Curtis Bay, Maryland  
celebrates **125** years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community!



**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Brooklyn, Maryland  
celebrates **100** years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community

In 1909 plans were made for a mission by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. On June 18, 1916, St. John was founded with nine members. Its first pastor was M.H. Frank.

The congregation met in a store on Patapsco Avenue. In 1915, a lot had been purchased at Washington and 3rd Street, and a wooden chapel was built there. In 1929, the new building was dedicated. In 1957, St. John opened a day school that educated children for 50 years. St. Veronica's Head Start is now renting space at St. John.

Currently St. John has 215 adult and 60 children members. The Rev. K. Robert Schmitt is the pastor.



**Faith Lutheran Church  
Cockeysville, Maryland  
celebrates 50 years of  
sustained faith and witness to their community**



*“Peace be to the brethren, and  
love with **faith**, from God the  
Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.”*

Ephesians 6:23

