

# “SON”SHINE

## Newsletter

**\*\* Special Edition \*\***

### **Synod Assembly Highlights & Pentecost Sunday**

Reformation Lutheran Church  
633 S. New York Road  
Galloway, NJ 08205  
609-652-8431

<https://www.rlc.church/>

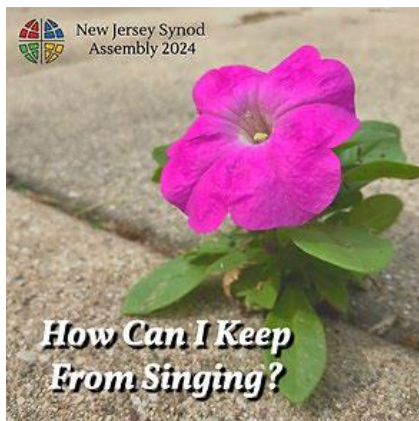
8:30 & 10:00 am Church Service

Sunday School 10 am

Rev. Heidi Link, Pastor

Brian Conover, Music Director

Stacie Krouse, Church Secretary



**NEW JERSEY SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
May 11, 2024  
Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton NJ**

*How Can I Keep from Singing?*

*Highlights from the NJ Synod Bulletin of Reports,  
Prepared for Reformation Lutheran Church, Galloway-Absecon,  
edited by Curtis Hinmon.*

#### Note on Vocabulary

“**Assembly**” not “Convention”

“**Voting Members**” not “Delegates”

“These words not only fulfill certain legal requirements, but also reflect that the ecclesial understanding of the three primary expressions of this church—congregations, synod, and church-wide organization—exist and serve within this *one church*.”

“The people of this synod are not sent as delegates; they are *not* gathered to act as some politicized delegates to a regional party convention. Rather, they *assemble* as duly selected members of this church with *voting* responsibilities for governance and elections on behalf of the synod. The Synod Assembly is just that, an assembly of the people of this church, some of whom have been granted the responsibility of being *Voting Members* of the *Synod Assembly*”

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*(Excerpt of a letter from The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)*

**“The Spirit is calling us to move together as one church to share the grace and love we experience every day. May God bless your time together.”**

**RESOLUTION #1 CONCERNING  
ELCA PRISON AND RE-ENTRY MINISTRY**

**APPROVED**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the New Jersey Synod Council create a Task Force that will encourage congregations and individuals of the Synod to participate and partner in prison and jail visitation ministry; create communications and support advocacy for the imprisoned, involuntarily housed and those on probation; as well as help to create a framework for congregations to work alongside and welcome formerly incarcerated individuals into the congregation’s life and mission.

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**A RESOLUTION # 2 CONCERNING  
A CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE HOLY LAND.**

**AMMEDED and APPROVED**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey Synod in assembly stand in solidarity with those affected by the hostilities in the Holy Land calling for a ceasefire. And be it further, **RESOLVED** that the New Jersey Synod identify places and moments of solidarity with our neighbors living in the Holy Land and share resources widely to encourage support among churches, including, but not limited to: contacting governmental representatives, financial support of Lutheran Disaster Response (specifically designating it for the Middle East Crisis), and by engaging with resources from Sumud, the ELCA’s new name for our church’s engagement in accompaniment, awareness-building and advocacy for justice in Palestine and Israel.

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**Proposed 2025 Spending Plan for the New Jersey Synod** **APPROVED**

February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026

This proposed spending plan provides the financial support for carrying out the synod’s missions and objectives. This plan was developed in collaboration with the Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee. **The Synod Council recommends approval of this plan by the Synod Assembly.**

<u>Summary</u>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Approved Spending Plan</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Spending Plan</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	1,973,311	2,072,017	2,053,527
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	1,973,869	2,072,800	2,054,300
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	558<1%	783<1%	773<1%

(Edited Selections from “Report of the Bishop”)

**NEWLY ORGANIZED MINISTRY**

Elizabeth, Santa Isabel, The Rev. Ramon A. Collazo 12/03/2023

**MINISTRY CLOSING**

Morning Star Fellowship, Ridgefield 05/31/2023

**CONGREGATION CLOSING**

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairview (1904-2023) 06/11/2023

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Collingswood (1905 – 2024) 04/27/2024

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**ANNIVERSARIES OF WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY**

**Sixty-nine Years**

Paul Strockbine

**Sixty-one Years**

John Elstad

**Sixty Years**

Ronald Nelson

**Fifty-five Years**

Carl Joecks

**Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination**

E. Roy Riley, Jr.

**Forty-five Years**

Bruce Ewen, Jack Slotterback

**Thirty-five Years**

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Jeff Elliott,  
Andy Engelhart, Nancy Truscott

**Thirty Years**

Maristela Freiberg

**Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination**

Janet Gasbarro

**Ten Years**

Karen Bernhardt

**Five Years**

Heidi Link

*NB Take note of upcoming anniversaries:*

**Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination**

The Rev. Neil Jaggie **1975-2025**

The Rev. Glenn Englehardt **1975-2025**

The Rev. David Jones **1978-2028**

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**Entered Church Triumphant**

The Rev. Leah Louise Lavelle (January 10, 1947 – September 10, 2023)

The Rev. Dallas D. Dorward (May 30, 1929 – December 1, 2023)

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**Congregational Call**

The Rev. William T. Hodgetts, Jr.

Zion, Egg Harbor City, installed 04-21-2024

**Vice Pastor Appointment, Grace, Somers Point**

The Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

(formerly serving) Lord of Life, Tabernacle

**Transfer to another ELCA Synod**

The Rev. Jose Escalera

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

The Rev. Althea Albright

Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Did you  
know that  
Brian  
Conover  
provided his  
musical  
talents for  
the  
Assembly  
this year!



## Significant Anniversaries 2024

This year we rejoice with six New Jersey Synod congregations that are celebrating significant anniversaries. As we have done for many years now, we will have a video celebration of the NJ Synod congregations celebrating anniversaries this year during our Assembly. I invite the congregations of the New Jersey Synod gathered in Assembly to give thanks to the Triune God for the anniversaries of the following congregations which are celebrating significant anniversaries:

**250:**

Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church, Glen Gardner

**175:**

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Trenton

**100:**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Nutley; Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken; Grace Lutheran Church, Somers Point; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Vineland (Rev. Heather Sugden, Pastor.)

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## 2024 MISSION DISTRICT ELECTIONS SYNOD COUNCIL – Terms Ending 2027 Elections Complete (Ratified by Synod Assembly)

~ THE REV. JOSEPH GRAUMANN

*Pastor, St. Stephen, Woodbury ✓\**

*Southwestern Cluster, Delaware District*



### Save the Dates for VBS!

**VBS** dates are set for five consecutive Wednesdays from 9:00am until noon: July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 2024. Miss Nina has a new fun and inspiring curriculum, “Slimed.” The package includes Service Projects, and another Field Trip on the last session.

Joseph is a Son of Epiphany, and a former recipient of The Blanche Harffey Higher Education Fund Scholarships.



Ordained Lutheran Pastors of the NJ Synod, currently retired, whose home churches were Reformation and Epiphany, are Janet Gasbarro, and David Jones.

Glenn Englehardt's home congregation was Zion, Egg Harbor City. Jack Elstad served in Paramus when he married Neil & Pat Jaggie there.



## PENTECOST SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS!

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, we celebrated the Confirmation of Savannah Butler, Brandon Butler, Emily Silipigni Emory Silipigni, and Lila Johnston. Our confirmands participated in the service with the prayers and readings. We also celebrated Bella Robinson's First Holy Communion. Here are a few pictures from the service and our time of fellowship after. Our fellowship time included a service project making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.





