

# The VISTA<sup>lite</sup>

## DWELLING WITH THE BISHOP-ELECT

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:3-6*

Greetings in the name of our Risen Christ!

I am excited and humbled to be serving as your new Bishop, beginning September 1, 2018. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. I have been reading through and praying over all of the prayer requests you shared with me at the Assembly. They are prayers of thanksgiving, gratitude, hopes, and fears. They are all precious to me as I know they are to God. In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to visiting with you and also getting to work on more of our strategic plan priorities with our elected and appointed leaders. If you want to be a part of any of these plans, do not hesitate to volunteer!



Just to let you know, I will be on vacation May 20-June 3. I have been planning a trip to Japan for 2 years now with one of my seminary classmates to visit my college roommate there. We will be very well taken care of – it will be like a very short sabbatical during this time of transition. Please pray for safe travel and refreshment for us.

The installation planning team is off and running; the event will be held on Saturday, September 1 beginning at 2 pm at University United Methodist Church in San Antonio. It will be good to be in the space of one of our strong ecumenical partners. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

God's richest blessings,

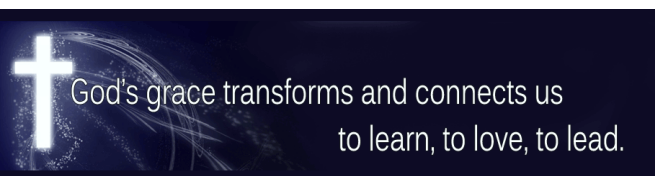
Bishop-elect Sue Briner

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

### Because of you, the **Tiemann Endowment Fund for Leadership Development** is a reality!

Together with you, we raised \$57,170.88 to start the endowment. This fund has been established to support the development of lay leaders, Pastors, and Deacons serving under call. Managed by the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest as a permanent endowment, this fund will create a new generation of supported and trained leaders for our faith community. This first year we anticipate providing \$1,000 in leadership awards. More information will be coming about this process soon.

But, the work doesn't stop there. We want this fund to keep growing so each year we can support more and more leaders in our community. To learn more, please visit [www.swtsynod.org/tiemann](http://www.swtsynod.org/tiemann). Again, thank you for your support of the leadership in our community of faith. **With YOU, we are making a difference!**



The Vistalite will be on hiatus through the summer. During that time please read the eNews, which will be bi-weekly during the summer, and the Synod website. To subscribe to eNews visit the "News" tab at [www.swtsynod.org](http://www.swtsynod.org).

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Elected Bishop's Associate, Pr. Sue Briner, as the next Bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod. She will be installed into office on September 1 at 2:00 p.m. at University United Methodist Church in San Antonio.
- Prayer shawls used for the bishop's election were made by volunteers across the synod. We sent an extra shawl back with Deacon Sue Rothmeyer for Presiding Bishop Eaton.
- Accepted San Pablo Lutheran Church, San Antonio, as a new congregation in the synod.
- Elected the following persons to synod leadership positions:
  - Ministry Team Chairs – Pr. Sarah Nye for the Mission Team and Pr. Paul Miller for the Leadership Development Team
  - Synod Council – Ashlynn Althaus, Gabriella Conklin, Carol Semper, John Kassel, Monica Buie, Yael Mendez, Pr. Gary Conklin, and Pr. Heather Hansen
  - 2019 Churchwide Assembly – Hannah Hansen, Gene Conklin, Chip Wilson, Lupe Travis, Claire Roberts, Jimmie Eschberger, Pr. Jessica Cain, Pr. Jake Fain, Pr. Casey Zesch (also attending as ex officio members are Bishop-elect Sue Briner and synod VP, Carl Teinert)
  - Consultation Committee – Pr. Ellen Williams and Leigh Ingram
  - Discipline Committee – Pr. Carmen Retzlaff, Pr. William Swantner, James Ehler, and Karalyn Heimlich
  - Two nominees for ELCA Church Council – Pr. Mark Behrendt and Pr. Marcus Bigott
- Approved a 2019-20 budget of \$1,616,184.
- Enjoyed a farewell banquet for Bishop Ray and Debbie Tiemann on Saturday evening. The assembly celebrated the gifts received for the Tiemann Endowment Fund for Leadership Development - \$57,170. Gifts are always welcome, and the 2019 assembly offering has been designated for the Tiemann Endowment.
- Received an assembly offering for the synod's account in Fund for Leaders (supporting seminary scholarships) of \$69,255.23. Gifts will continue to be received through August 31. Please mark gifts as "Synod Assembly Offering."
- Announced the 2019 Synod Assembly to be held on May 31-June 2 at the Bayfront Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi
- Approved a resolution entitled, "Recognizing and Responding to the Status of Jerusalem, the City over which Jesus Wept." It encourages congregations to use the ELCA's "Peace Not Walls" resources to learn about elements that lead to peace and to utilize travel to Israel and Palestine, listening to all voices, to learn firsthand the complex issues of conflict and peace in that region.



### DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS

The ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger grants continue to be the main way that ELCA congregations and synods can steward the funds so generously given in support of our shared ministry toward a just world where all are fed. The \$15,950.00 of grants in your synod are part of over \$715,000 that will return where needed most in our communities and congregations across the ELCA in accompaniment of our shared hopes, dreams, and ministry. Thank you.

This year's recipients include: Abiding Love Lutheran Church, Austin; The Backpack Coalition, Austin; Interfaith Action of Central Austin; First Lutheran Church, Edinburg; Christ Chapel at Texas State, San Marcos; La Frontera Ministries, McAllen; and Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center.



### COUNTDOWN TO THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING!

Congregations received the synod day shirts at synod assembly. If your youth or adult sponsors have questions about the Gathering, contact Denise at 512-468-3346 or [youth@palmvalleyrr.org](mailto:youth@palmvalleyrr.org).

