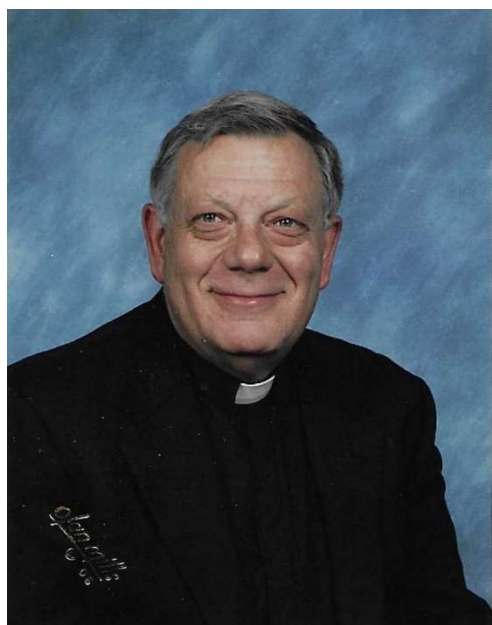


## Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination The Rev. Paul Jann



Blame Sister Bernadette! She's the one who hand-fed a 2-month premature baby by the name of Paul James Jann at a Catholic hospital in Long Island City (Queens), NY in December 1946. Baptized and confirmed at Redeemer Lutheran Church in 1959. Paul started his life and career from Queens, NY.

He came to Philadelphia with his new wife, Nancy, completed his degree at LTSP and stayed in S.E. Penn Synod. He served the church starting in St. Michael's in Kensington (1972-1977). Moved to Grace Lutheran in Royersford in 1977 (1977-1994). They moved on to St. Paul's, Sassamansville (1994-1998). He retired from full-time ministry to work at The Vanguard Group as a Registered Representative.

But the Lord had other ideas! While still working full-time at Vanguard, Paul felt called to be a part-time interim and bridge pastor. He served at First Lutheran (Collingdale) until it closed in 2010.

Nancy died in 2003. After the death of Nancy, God, through the help of a friend, brought Donna into his life. Three years later, Paul and Donna married. Paul officially retired (he was 60!).

He then went on to Christ Lutheran in Kulpsville to serve as the visitation pastor. While there, he also served as the bridge/interim at Trinity, Perkasie. Following that he went on to Community of Love (Oxford) twice, and then Living Word (Roslyn). He was supply preaching at Christ, Orelan when they asked him to stay on to be the assistant to the pastor, then their bridge pastor (2016-2021). After this, he hung-up his robes and said, ENOUGH!

But his wife, Donna, reminded him that "you can never retire from God's army!"

Now he helps the synod by being a Bishop's Deputy for congregational elections. He enjoys volunteering his time with AARP Tax-Aide as a tax preparer, singing in the church choir and, most of all, playing golf (9 holes!) twice a week with his buddies.  
Soli Deo Gloria!

## **Fiftieth Anniversary of Consecration Sister Sally Kerr**



50 Years...Who is counting them?

Discernment is not a word I have used to describe my ministry ever!

The word would be “Calling”. Oh, not because I am worthy of such an awesome vocation. It has been a relationship with Jesus.

Deaconesses in 1972 were “Set Apart” for Word and Service. Jesus knows the details on what that “Calling” was all about during the years of my journey.

I shall not bore you with stories or give wisdom of ministry. Only that I pray somewhere, somehow the Lord Jesus was able to use me and any gifts given by God to reach and serve His vulnerable children.

What I have learned can best be described in a hymn written by T. O. Chisholm. As follows:

Great is thy Faithfulness, O God my Father....  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided  
Great is thy Faithfulness, Lord, unto me...  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. Amen

Sister Sally L. Kerr Ed.D

## **Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination**

### **The Rev. Larry Smoose**



Please submit a one-sided single page summary outlining or commenting on your 50 years of ministry. One-sided, single page to comment on 50 years of ministry. -- Well, I can do it in one word – Blessed.

I have been blessed to have parents who were always involved in the church – the kind of members every pastor would love to have – faithful in serving, generous in giving, gracious to all people, loving their Lord and the church and showing it by much more than 50 years of service.

Blessed – to have a dual internship at two outstanding congregations, St. John’s, Summit NJ and Trinity, Akron OH with two dedicated leader-pastors-servants, Richard Lee Peterman and Robert Stackel, who mentored an intern with examples of vitality, generosity, mission-mindedness, and the importance of working with and

serving the church at every level – synodically, nationally and internationally.

Blessed to serve three outstanding congregations:

- Holy Trinity, Abington for 2 ½ years, first as assistant and then, at my prodding, as associate pastor because as senior pastor Alvin Schiffer said, they both begin with the same three letters!
- God’s Love, Newtown, a mission congregation, for 20 ½ years. Blessed with members like Nan Fox, who typed and mimeographed our bulletins and newsletters and who one day appeared with a mark on her forehead, only to learn from her son that she had fallen asleep late at night typing our newsletter – the mark from the keys on her typewriter! And, if I had more than one page, I could name 100+ more who responded to this young pastor with big plans for mission and ministry and consistently overwhelmed me with their generosity to time and money for the work of the church. We had close fellowship with three African-American congregations and started the Amazing Grace festival, because Lutherans would not understand “revival.” I was blessed to have excellent staff members, the amazing Associate in Ministry, Pat Smith; Music Director, Peg Frischmann, who in her later years went on to be ordained and have a distinguished ministry of her own, and Walt and Barbara Haegele.
- Reformation, Media, from July, 1996 to retirement on June 10, 2012 – 40 years to the day of my ordination. Reformation’s call committee had as their most desired quality for a new pastor – leadership. Fortunately, they had plenty of outstanding leaders who blessed me with their support and confidence to help that congregation revive and thrive. People

like Charles “Doc” Schock whose dedication to our sister congregation in Pangani, Tanzania sparked out congregation’s involvement and support. People like Tom and Ellen Conroy and Kris and Dick Hughey and John and Sue Pritchard and Gary and Betsy Kamin, Dave and Sally Helms, Mary Smith and dozens of others like them who rallied behind a difficult building renovation; financial reforms to maximize money for mission; program and worship changes that helped our congregation grow younger than the population in our community. I need to add the blessing of great staff, Barbara Creighton, Diane Black, Pat Woerheide and the best associate pastor I could have prayed for – Leah Schade who brought the novel thought of Holy Humor Sunday for the Sunday after Easter, giving me the opportunity to reveal my surprising comical side while portraying the Blues Brothers or Batman or Wayne’s world.

Those would be more than enough blessing for anyone, but I was blessed by my intern pastors to want to serve the larger church and it, in turn has blessed me with opportunities to serve on Synod Council and as Synod Secretary and many other positions before and after. To serve on the Church Council and be doubly blessed to be chosen as one of two council members to participate in a two-week ecumenical journey, visiting Patriarchs and Popes, and heads of the Episcopal church, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

But all of these blessings pale when compared to the blessing of family, my Son, Matthew who has blessed me more than he knows. My wife Linda, who with her Catholic faith has helped deepen my spirituality, and her family who have given me the blessing of grandfather-hood and my sister and brothers and their families. I love them all more than I can express.

*Jubilee is a time to remember and a time to envision the future. I remember how my God has “carried me all along my journey until I arrived at this place” in my life. I began the journey with loving parents, have been surrounded by a loving and expanding family, have known the love and companionship of cherished friends in community. My heart is filled with gratitude for my 50 years as a minister of the church and I look forward to wherever the journey may lead in the future – knowing that God will walk with me.*

Larry Smoose