



## Welcome from Bishop Claire Burkat

Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly for more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen

~ Ephesians 3:20-21



Have you noticed that the ground seems to be shifting beneath the church as we know it? Denominational loyalty is disappearing. More and more people identify as “spiritual but not religious”.

Young people especially, seem to mix-and-match from various spiritual traditions, Christian and not, to connect with the divine. The church is truly at a crossroads. This upheaval is to be expected, according to our 2010 Convocation keynote speaker Dr. Phyllis Tickle. In her fascinating book “*The Great Emergence*” she argues that the church had held just such a “rummage sale” every 500 years or so since Jesus’ time, when Christians re-examine traditions and world-views in order to keep what is essential and discard the *adiaphora*. Five centuries after the Reformation, we are blessed as well as challenged to be living through a similar transition. Dr. Tickle points as examples to a renewed focus on the person of Jesus, on Christian community, and on new avenues for communicating the Gospel and connecting believers, all the while rearticulating traditional beliefs with new energy and relevance. Join us for a fascinating conversation about this “Great Emergence” of the Church, and how our own denomination also finds itself at a crossroad. We have invited the Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of the ELCA’s Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, to share his perspective of how this shift is affecting the ELCA, and he will lead us to explore how we will respond on the synodical and congregational arenas. Bring your questions and ideas, your hopes and fears, and share with colleagues and our presenters as together we wrestle with the future God is calling us into, and as we seek the power of the Holy Spirit to work within and through us.

Bishop Claire Burkat



**Dr. Phyllis Tickle** is the founding editor of the Religion Department of Publishers Weekly and is frequently quoted in print sources such as USA Today, in electronic media including PBS, NPR, The Hallmark Channel, and innumerable blogs and web sites.

Dr. Tickle is an authority on religion in America and a much sought after lecturer on the subject. In addition to lectures and numerous essays, articles, and interviews, she is the author of over two dozen books in religion and spirituality. Dr. Tickle is a founding member of The Canterbury Roundtable and serves now on a number of advisory and corporate boards. A lay eucharistic minister and lector in the Episcopal Church, she is the mother of seven children and with her physician-husband, makes her home on a farm in Lucy, TN.



**Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman** was called to the position of Executive Director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit in February, 2008. He previously served as bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod for almost twelve years. He is a graduate of Concordia Theological

Seminary/ Seminex, and holds the Doctor of Ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary. Pastor Bouman is a published author of a number of scholarly articles, books, curricula and devotionals. Two recent books are *Grace All Around Us*, published in 2007 and the just-released *They Are Us: Lutherans and Immigration*, co-authored with Ralston Deffenbaugh. He is married to the former Janet Luce, and they have three grown children.

### ELCA Board of Pensions Presentation

**Mr. John Kapanke**, President and CEO, of the ELCA Board of Pensions has been invited to come **before** the Convocation begins to update and answer questions about the ELCA Pension Plan **Monday morning at 10:00**. If you are **not** registering for Convocation but would like to attend just the ELCA Board of Pensions presentation, please call or email Ginny Bailey by October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Pensions presentation is **FREE** and you are welcome to stay for lunch for the cost of \$12.00.

## 2010 Bishop’s Convocation Scholarship Application

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

I request scholarship assistance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Deadline of October 20)

The congregation/agency will provide \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Ms. Ginny Bailey  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
7241 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1723

Scholarships will be awarded by the Bishop’s Convocation Planning Team. The form must be postmarked by October 20, 2010. Along with your registration, please enclose a check for the full amount of your Bishop’s Convocation fees. If a scholarship is granted, you will be reimbursed in the amount of the award. If this is a problem, please call Joanne Carlson at 267-323-3759.

To be completed by the Planning Team:

Scholarship Awarded \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Remaining Costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_