



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Office of the Bishop

February 5, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Blessings and prayers for a deep and meaningful Lenten journey are extended to you along with my sincere appreciation for your faithful service to our beloved Church.

It is again an honor and privilege to invite you to our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Chrism Service. On Tuesday of Holy Week, it has been our tradition to gather for a service of Word and Sacrament, for blessing of oil, and renewal of ministry vows. The *Chrism Service* is a time for pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers to revisit and renew promises made at ordination/commissioning/consecration. This year we will include a blessing for congregational deacons to honor their local ministries. It is also a time to worship our Lord and be strengthened and renewed as we prepare to lead the faithful to the Cross and Resurrection.

This year we will gather at St. Paul's, Olney, on March 30, 2010.

Whether or not you have the practice of anointing with oil, I hope you will join us in this holy time together. Oil used at baptism ("chrism"), anointing the sick, and signing those preparing for baptism and other blessings will be set aside for use in our congregations through the year. If you would like to take some of the oil back to your congregation or perhaps someone can bring some back for you, please have small containers. Following the service we will enjoy a time of light refreshment and conversation. Family members, friends, and leaders of your congregations are also welcome to attend and join us as we renew our vows.

Our Lord Jesus has chosen us, blessed us, and sent us to be ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. Let us be renewed together in worship, and strengthened for the journey. I look forward to this Chrism Service on ***Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Fifth Street and Nedro Avenue in Olney.***

With and In Christ,

Claire S. Burkat, Bishop