



# Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Dr. Kevin S. Kanouse  
Bishop  
[BpKevinKanouse@ntnl.org](mailto:BpKevinKanouse@ntnl.org)

15 June 2009

### **The Reverend Jane Mar to Assume Role of NT-NL Synod Bishop Assistant for Mobility and Congregational Care**

The Reverend Jane Mar, currently pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Granbury will join the staff of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod as Bishop Assistant for Mobility and Congregational Care, Bishop Kevin Kanouse announced this week. She will begin her role on July 1, 2009. "This completes a restructuring of NT-NL Synod staff that began more than a year ago," the bishop indicated.

Pastor Mar has been at Emmanuel in Granbury since 2004 and expressed her enthusiasm for the new opportunity to serve the wider church. Having volunteered on the Bishop's Convocation Planning Committee, as chair of the Synod Assembly Committee for Reference and Counsel, and prior to her ordination as an office manager and account administrator for IBM, she brings administrative and pastoral skills needed in her new position.

As Bishop Assistant for Mobility and Congregational Care, Pr. Mar will support the bishop in oversight of the call process in congregations and mobility of rostered leaders, Synodically Authorized Worship Leaders (SAWLs), TEEM candidates serving in congregations, and other leadership transitions for the NT-NL Synod. Additional program development in the areas of congregational care following the completion of calls or contracts, plus program development and support for congregational leadership needs, are included in the duties of her position. Pr. Mar will support the work of the *DiscipleLife* initiatives and provide pastoral care to congregations and professional leaders as requested. Her role is essentially directed toward mobility and congregational support.

Pr. Mar was ordained in 2002 after completing her Master of Divinity at Phillips Theological Seminary. Her first call was to Peace Lutheran Church in Rogers, Arkansas. She has been married for more than 25 years to Dan Mar, an active leader in parish men's ministry. Dan retired from IBM in 2004. They have two children, Sara, a graduate of Valparaiso University and currently a medical student, studying to be a doctor. Bryan is a student at the University of Arkansas studying business.

Pr. Mar describes her grounding in ministry: "I can still remember the weight of my first stole when it was placed on my shoulders at my ordination. It is the yoke of servanthood and a powerful reminder of what I am to be about. Ministry is a relationship of partnering together with my congregation and the larger body of Christ. I look to Christ's death on the cross as a model for ministry."

Pastor Stan Meyer will continue in a newly defined role as Bishop Assistant for Leadership and *DiscipleLife*. In this role he will support the bishop in implementing the mission

Continued

Page 2

and goals of the NT-NL Synod to be a synod committed to *DiscipleLife*: Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus. He will be an advocate for the mission and theology of the synod and promote development of synod-wide support for the ministries of the *DiscipleLife* goals and initiatives. He will focus on continuing education, leadership development, Synod Assembly planning, and communications within the synod. He will continue to work with the Candidacy Committee, First Call Theological Education, the *DiscipleLife* Council and Team leaders, Ventures in Vocation, Tri-synod Theological Conference, and all communications in the synod including publications and website. He will also serve as a resource to the Parish Lay Ministry Academy. During the first year of transition for Pr. Mar, he will serve as her trainer and mentor for call process. His role is essentially directed toward leadership support and continuing education.

Both of the Bishop Assistant positions will be 85 % time. This is being done as a cost-saving measure for the synod. As funds are available it is hoped that Pr. Mar's position will grow to a full time position. Pr. Meyer's position will remain at 85 % by his request.

This completes a staff reconfiguration that began about a year ago with the calling of Pr. Jamie Bruning to serve 20 hours per week as Synod Youth Coordinator and the ELCA staff realignment by which Pr. Steve Kanouse is assigned to the NT-NL Synod full time as Director of Evangelical Mission. The program staff is rounded out by Ms. Irma Godinez who is full time Hispanic/Latino Ministry Coordinator, with the ELCA picking up a large portion of her salary and benefits. Administrative staff remaining in the bishop's office are Ms. Tyna Oslie, Synod Administrator and Administrative Assistant to the bishop; Ms. Judy Rommel, Administrative Assistant for Finance and Database; and Ms. Debi Gebhardt, Office Assistant.