

# *The President's Corner.....*

Susan Chin, Council President

Well, here we are in August already, summer is quickly flying by! I was hoping to have news for you all about where I am going to be sent for field work, but it appears I will not have the information before the deadline, and I will have to keep you (and me!) in suspense just a little bit longer. Please continue to pray that I receive a good placement. My classes begin again in just a few days. I will be on the Gettysburg campus beginning August 11 th for a two-week intensive course in Ancient Greek. I understand that many seminarians dread this class, but I am looking forward to it! After that the semester begins in earnest and I will be taking three classes: a Bible class, a church history class, and a class on race, gender, and sexuality.

When I give you my next update, it will not be as your President. In fact, this will be my last newsletter entry under 'President's corner.' In order to provide a seamless transition as my seminary responsibilities increase, Council has requested and I have accepted that I will switch roles with Denise Ross effective September 1 st . Denise will take on the role of President and I will be Vice President until my term on Council ends at the end of the year. We hope that this decision will help smooth the transition and provide continuing leadership as my life shifts and changes.

A few things in the news from the wider church: at the church wide assembly in late July, the ELCA elected a new bishop. Please see their announcement elsewhere in the newsletter. This is an historic occasion, as Bishop Curry will be the first African American Bishop of the ELCA. We pray for him in his new ministry, that the Holy Spirit continue to guide him as he takes on this new role and empower him for the health of the church. Another first: the new secretary of the ELCA is Lucille "Cecee" Mills, the first African American to hold that office.

Secondly, the churchwide assembly accepted a motion that will eventually change the way we say the Nicene creed. Over a thousand years ago, the western church and the eastern church endured a schism, in part over a particular point of theology.

Ecumenical discussions between the ELCA and the Eastern Orthodox Church have resulted in the decision that we will eliminate the words "and from the Son" when we say "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and from the Son) who is worshiped and glorified..." it is not clear when or how this change will be made, but it is being made so that we can end a very long and painful division within the one holy, catholic and apostolic church. Please see Bishop Eaton's article from Living Lutheran here: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/03/an-ancient-creed-is-relevant/>

Please remember that even though I will not often be with you on Sunday mornings, I will continue to be involved in the life of the church. You all will all be in my prayers, and I will still be available to you via text, phone, or email. Thank you for supporting me as your President and Seminarian. May God continue to bless Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit.