



Welcome to the new Synod staff,
The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow,
Assistant to the Bishop for Mission!

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, the Synod Council, and Staff welcome Pastor Julianne to the position of Assistant to the Bishop for Mission beginning August 1, 2013. A letter of call was extended to Pastor Julianne at the April 5, 2013 Synod Council meeting which was accepted after prayerful discernment and conversation on April 29, 2013. She will be serving out of Calgary.

The Assistant to the Bishop for Mission is called on a full-time basis, (for eleven months of the year) to engage in God's mission and in the ministry of God's people in fluid and flexible ways, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, focusing on "to what is God calling us."

As an expression of the Bishop's vision, the Assistant to the Bishop for Mission will identify, train and support lay and rostered leaders for missional discipleship. The position will be characterized by encouraging people and congregations to live faithfully in their unique time and location, gathering people together to discern and discuss God's plan for working with each other by listening to God, listening to one another, and listening to the community.

In this position, Pastor Julianne will also serve as the Synod Canadian Missions Consultant, and as the liaison with the Synod Campus Ministry Committee, and other areas of mission identified by the Bishop.

Pastor Julianne was born in London, Ontario and raised in a Christian family. She became Minister of Faith in Life at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Calgary in 1995 and shortly after, began seminary studies, one course at a time. While volunteering with Servants Anonymous, a ministry for women on the street, she stopped arguing with God about a call to ordained ministry. The verses, "*to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ*" clarified her call and Ephesians 4:12, 13 continues to define her approach to ministry.

In 2004, she completed a Master of Divinity degree (with a Youth and Family concentration) at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. As an international student, she had the opportunity to hear incredible stories of God's work worldwide. This continues to fuel her ongoing journey to understand God's call for the church to join in God's mission today.

Following ordination, she became lead pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Calgary. In 2012, Pastor Julianne received a Doctor of Ministry degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership (also from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota). Her thesis focused on how a congregation, together with their pastor, can cultivate missional attitudes about sharing faith stories every day. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, she believes transformed lives make a difference every day in the world. This leadership approach echoes that expressed by the early church in Jerusalem; "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28).

Julianne is married to Dave, who describes himself as the "pastor's wife." He is her helpmate and best encourager. She is mother to a blended family of four grown children and four grandchildren.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers as Pastor Julianne begins this new ministry, with and among us. An installation service is being planned for mid-September. Further details and contact information will be provided at a later date.