

PASTOR DAVID ASENDORF WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD AT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Pastor David Asendorf was presented with the Richard Lee Peterman Good Steward Award at the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly. This national award was established in 1984 to honor the parish pastor who demonstrates leadership in stewardship ministry by using innovative programs or new resources to make significant gains in stewardship. Rev. Dr.



Dr. Amsalu Geleta, Executive Assistant to Bishop William Gohl and Director for Evangelical Mission and a member of Salem, nominated Pr. Dave for this award. Pr. Dave modestly stated that this award should go



to Salem. While some of the contributions noted below were provided by the congregation with the urging of Pr. Dave, most were solely his own. CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR DAVE!

In his nomination, Dr. Amsalu wrote

I believe Pastor **David Asendorf** should receive the **GOOD STEWARD AWARD** because: Pastor Asendorf lives, serves, and leads as a good steward of God's resources. He not only inspires his congregations to support the ministry at the congregation but enables them to support planting churches, support struggling congregations, the synod and the larger church.

He was called December 2006 to Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Catonsville, MD and began his call as Associate Pastor at Salem on January 1, 2007 and ordained January 13, 2007. The congregation voted to change his call to Pastor on August 24, 2008. Pastor Asendorf serves and encourages the congregation to be partners with local, synodical and ecumenical partners. He uses God's given resources to experiment new outreach ministries. shared his gifts, talents and treasure with his local church and community, with the synod, and beyond. Each year the congregation gives to a new and renewing congregation a substantial amount of money to start new and fund the ongoing ministries.

Many of us are already aware of Pr. Dave's many contributions to our Synod and to the Catonsville community. To give few examples of how he leads the life of steward, Dr. Amsalu listed a few of Pr. Dave's contributions

Synod Service

- 2007 - Served on the Synod Assembly Worship Planning Team
- 2007-2015 – Served as a Synod representative on the Directing Committee of the Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Maryland
- 2007 to present – Works to help organize and lead the annual Synod Summer Confirmation Camp, a week-long retreat for confirmands held at Mar-Lu-Ridge
- 2009 – 2010 - Served as Intern Cluster Leader, LTSG
- 2010 – Helped to create a Synod Green Team to encourage Synod congregations to support environmental education and action. Hosted a one-day Green Event at Salem Church in the Fall of 2010 that addressed greening church buildings, organic gardening and being proactive in various water issues. This effort laid the groundwork for the Synod's present Creation Care ministry.
- 2011- present - Works closely with the pastor of Community of St. Dysmas, the Synod's prison congregation, on a variety of issues. Salem provides free office space for St. Dysmas, in addition to other material and financial support.
- 2012 to present – Serves on the Synod Candidacy Committee; appointed Chairperson of the committee in May 2015
- 2009-2013 – Worked with the Synod to help launch Oasis of Grace, a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in the Owings Mills. The Salem congregation served as the fiscal agent and provided financial support. Counsel and support provided to the mission developer, Pastor Hambisa Belina
- 2013-2015 – Actively supported the Synod's effort to establish a mission congregation, now called Church on the Square, in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore City. The Salem congregation provided \$60,000 over three years in addition to other logistical and spiritual support
- 2013-2015 – Co-chaired the Synod's Malaria Campaign Task Force (Note: Salem Church, a congregation of 600, raised over \$33,000 for the campaign, the 8th largest giving congregation in the ELCA as reported by *The Lutheran*)
- 2016-2018 – served on the Synod's *Forward in Faith* Capital Campaign. The campaign reached and surpassed the goal of raising three million dollar and reached 3.5 Million Dollar. This successful campaign also enabled the synod to contribute to the ELCA Always New campaign
- August 2016 – April 2017 – served as Vice-Pastor of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Parkville, MD
- Ongoing –Offers meeting space at Salem for most of synodical committees, boards, teams, workshops and trainings. Pastor Dave and his staff are always open to synodical ministries and actively participate in them.

Catonsville Community Service

- 2012 – 2013 Launched a community organizing initiative to address homelessness in our community, in response to homeless people coming to Salem. Gathered Baltimore County government representatives, elected State and Baltimore County leaders, other congregations, and community organizations to develop a three-prong effort to combat homelessness through an education program at the local men’s homeless shelter, to recruit interns from local colleges to volunteer at the shelter, and to improve health services for homeless men.
- 2012 to present Serves on the Catonsville Emergency Food Ministry (now named Catonsville Emergency Assistance), the local food pantry. The organization also assists with eviction prevention and utility assistance. Secretary 2013 -2015, Vice President 2015-2017, President 2017-2019
- 2016 – present - Organized a Catonsville Ministerium, local Catonsville clergy that meet monthly to network and interact with the community on various issues like safety of our congregations and combating political hate
- 2018 - led the congregation to send \$15,000 to Salem Lutheran in Baltimore City and \$16, 000 to Faith Lutheran in Salisbury, Maryland to help them with ministry expenses.
- 2018 – Led the congregation to provide a financial gift to St John’s, Brooklyn, which was struggling to fix their old AC so that they can continue doing an excellent ministry of feeding the poor in the neighborhood.