



Southeastern Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dr. Sandra G. Gustavson
Fiscal Advisor

Since the last Synod Council meeting, our accounting processes have become routinized and less time consuming. Office manager Holly Liersch and I work together to issue financial reports within about a week following the end of each month. Shortly after January 31, we will begin the year-end closing procedures for the first time using the ACS accounting software; I feel cautiously optimistic that the transition to the new fiscal year will go smoothly and that our new processes will be positively affirmed as part of the next audit.

Other recent activities have involved preparation and follow-up for the December meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee; preliminary interaction with our new audit team at Smith & Howard; significant involvement in lease negotiations for the synod's new office space at St. John's; working with the task force charged with identifying potential nominees for the position of synod treasurer; and initial consultation with the Nominating Committee as they gear up for the 2019 election cycle. With the resignation of Deacon Michelle Angalet, I agreed to assume responsibility for the variety of activities associated with the preparation of synod council agendas for both the January 2019 and May 2019 meetings, and I anticipate working closely with Carolyn Davis and others as we integrate election activities with everything else that will occur at the 2019 Synod Assembly.

My personal life continues to be busy with care-related responsibilities associated with my 89-year old mother. About a month after she moved in with me this past September, she fell and broke her hip, necessitating surgery, a hospital stay, and 6 weeks in a rehab center. Her outpatient physical therapy is ongoing, interrupted briefly by another fall just before Christmas and an all-day visit to the Emergency Room. She is currently living in a retirement facility less than a mile from my house. But her recent problems required me to cancel a planned two-week vacation, and – other than Synod Assembly – I don't anticipate being away for more than a couple days at a time prior to next Fall.

As I reported in September, I will be retiring from my fiscal advisor position this summer, with my last official day being August 31, 2019. I've indicated to both nominees for synod treasurer that I will be available after that date on a fee-for-service basis to continue handling some of my current accounting and finance responsibilities. Examples might include payroll processing, general ledger maintenance, monthly reporting, bank and investment account reconciliations, and implementation of investment policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra G. Gustavson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.