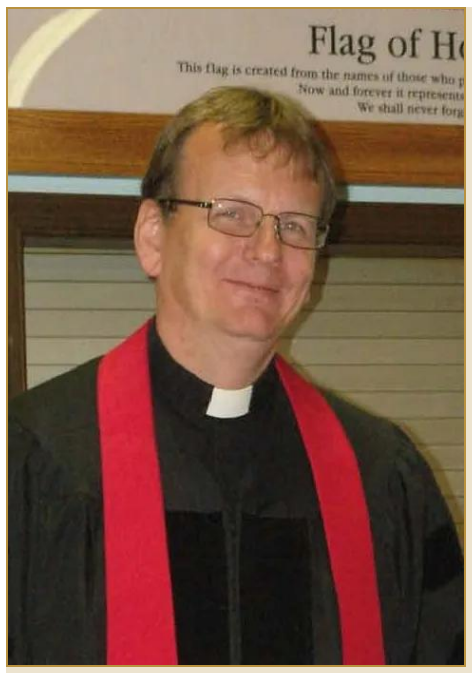




ABOUT THE BISHOP

THE MOST REVEREND*

GARLAND F. BYERS, JR., J.D., D.D.

Bishop to the Nations, under Apostolic Commission



Garland F. Byers, Jr. is a bishop in the [historic apostolic succession](#), consecrated on April 20, 2013. He claims no diocesan or territorial authority over any church or denomination. His calling is the ministry of the written word: to set sound doctrine before the people of God.[†] The record of his baptism, ordination and consecration is presented here, with the documents and photographs which verify each.

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BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Bishop Byers was presented by his parents as an infant and baptized in the Methodist Church at Caroleen, North Carolina, on April 7, 1968. He received that baptism from the hand of the Lord, through the faith of his mother and father.

The Methodist Church **Certificate of Baptism**

Be It Known, That Garland Franklin Byers, Jr., child of
Garland Franklin Byers, Sr. and Helen Kathryn [REDACTED] Byers
FATHER'S FULL NAME MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME
Born [REDACTED] at Rutherford Hospital
having been presented for holy Baptism; and his parents and sponsors having confessed their faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and therefore accepted as their bounden duty and privilege to live before this child a life that becomes the gospel, to exercise all godly care that he be brought up in the Christian faith, that he be taught the Holy Scriptures, and that he learn to give reverent attendance upon the private and public worship of God; and having promised that they will endeavor to keep this child under the ministry and guidance of the Church until he by the power of God shall accept for his the gift of salvation, and be confirmed as a full and responsible member of Christ's Holy Church; was this day baptized by me in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and is now enrolled as a preparatory member in
Caroleen First Methodist in Caroleen, North Carolina
CHURCH PLACE
WITNESSES: Walter L. Byers Morris J. Byers
PASTOR
Perry J. Byers April 7, 1968

Certificate of Baptism, April 7, 1968. Personal details have been redacted.



A FAMILY CHURCH

From his birth until he left for law school in the fall of 1996, his church home was the First United Methodist Church in Caroleen. It was a family church in the truest sense. His father and his uncles, all of them builders by trade, built it with their own hands, and most of the Byers family worshipped there.

Faith was the ordinary business of the family. His father served as the church's lay leader and conducted services whenever the ordained minister was away. One of his uncles served as a United Methodist minister until his retirement, and that uncle's son followed him into the same ministry and has since retired as well. Another cousin directed the church choir for decades, and other family members at various times served on the church's administrative council, taught Sunday school, and held other positions in the church. Garland sang in the children's choir as a child.

His church family was larger than his blood relations. Many members to whom he was not related were brothers and sisters in Christ to him, and they remained close throughout his life. He has returned to worship there from time to time ever since.



THE CALL TO SERVICE

Bishop Byers began his career in service to others as a police officer in North Carolina at the age of twenty. He served as a city police officer, as a county deputy sheriff, and finally as a state investigator in the district attorney's office for what was then District 29, a five-county district. Over almost eight years in law enforcement, he made numerous felony arrests and received several regional citations for bravery and for commendable service to the community. In 1996, the North Carolina Department of Justice awarded him its Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates. The Advanced Certificate is held by approximately one percent of law enforcement officers in the state.

In 1996, while serving as the district attorney's chief investigator, he applied to and was accepted into law school, and began his legal career that year. Over his legal career, he has served as a prosecutor under four elected district attorneys, at times covering seven counties. The rest of his practice has been as a trial lawyer, representing plaintiffs in civil claims and defending the accused in criminal cases, chiefly indigent clients.

It was during these years that he was called to the service of Christ.



THE CALL TO MINISTRY

In about 2007, Bishop Byers felt the call of the Lord to His service. The Apostle Paul counseled:

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."

1 Corinthians 7:20 (KJV)

He was a lawyer when the call came, and he remained a lawyer.

From the moment he felt that call, he sought a church body standing in valid apostolic succession in which to seek ordination. Many other opportunities were open to him, but because of the question of apostolic succession, the Lord led him to the Lutheran Orthodox Church. There he was shepherded by Presiding Archbishop Samuel Guido, Jr., then Archbishop over the whole denomination, to whom he was directly

answerable and accountable. From Archbishop Guido he learned much about the faith, about how a minister of the Gospel should conduct himself, and about the solemn responsibility that office carries.



FORMATION

Bishop Byers holds no formal degree in theology. His formation has come through years of disciplined study, and through ministry under the guidance of Presiding Archbishop Samuel Guido, Jr. and Bishop Michael J. Kline of the Exorcist Order of St. Michael. The skills of the lawyer (researching a question to its sources, and weighing authority and evidence) carry over naturally into matters of faith. He has applied them through many hours of intensive study of Scripture, the Apostolic Fathers, the Desert Fathers, and the councils of the Church.



CONVICTIONS

Bishop Byers wholly confesses the Apostles' Creed as the creed of his faith, and he also believes the Nicene Creed.

He believes there is one Gospel of Jesus Christ. Where Christian denominations and believers differ, the differences arise chiefly from human misunderstanding, or from dissension and discord deliberately stirred by the enemy, of whom the Lord said, **“he is a liar, and the father of it”** (John 8:44).

He believes that the people of God thirst for His knowledge, His blessing and His presence in their lives, and that those who truly believe seek His face: “When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek” (Psalm 27:8).

He believes that no one denomination holds all of the truth, but that the truth is scattered among the denominations of the Christian faithful. He believes further that Satan, also called the devil, does not want mankind to come to a knowledge of the truth, but seeks only to destroy: **“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy”** (John 10:10).

What is sorely lacking in this present evil day, he believes, is a voice crying in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:3). That means a source of truth beholden to no denomination and no politics, with no agenda save preaching and delivering the true Word of God, unfiltered and unhindered by the workings and

He seeks the unity of the people of God, yet he remembers the words of the Lord: “**Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword**” (Matthew 10:34). To follow His voice will, by its nature, separate what must be separated. This work will be carried out through a series of writings for the Christian faithful.





The Lutheran Church, inc.

A Lutheran Church in valid Historic Apostolic Succession

PO Box 74, Neffs, Pennsylvania, 18065, USA 610-760-0773
Most Reverend Samuel Guido, OCR, EccD, DD, Presiding Bishop

GRACE AND ALL PEACE UPON THE FAITHFUL IN CHRIST
Amen

This letter shall serve to confirm that we, Bishops of The Lutheran Orthodox Church, a Lutheran synod in valid Apostolic Succession have, in accordance with Holy Scriptures, and in accordance with the By Laws of this ecclesiastical body, and with the affirmative response from the gathered congregation,

Ordained To Ministry

By The Laying on of Hands, during a celebration of The Eucharist at
St Pauls Lutheran Orthodox Chapel

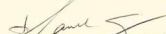
Garland Byers

And he shall be recognized as such by this Lutheran church body, its Full Communion Partners and all civil and secular authorities. Reverend Byers is authorized by this Lutheran synod to perform all duties particular to the Christian Ministry including but not limited to performing wedding ceremonies, funerals, baptisms, worship and administering all sacraments as authorized by this Council of Bishops in accordance with Holy Scripture.

Should the credentials of The Reverend Garland Byers need to be verified, please contact this office at the above listed address or phone number.

Whereby we set forth our hand and seal this 17th Day of August, 2008

St Pauls Lutheran Orthodox Chapel, Palmerton, Pa, USA



Most Reverend Samuel Guido, Presiding Bishop


 + *Stephen Sawatzky*





Ordering Bishops and Ministers



Letter of Ordination to Ministry, sealed August 17, 2008.



Certificate of Ordination, signed by Archbishop Samuel Guido, Jr., Presiding Bishop.

From his ordination until his consecration, he served as a Minister of the Gospel in the Diocese of Western North Carolina and as the church's Director of Legal Affairs.



A LETTER OF AFFIRMATION

In the years between his ordination and his consecration, Archbishop Guido introduced him to Bishop Michael J. Kline. The two became good friends, and Bishop Byers became a member of the Exorcist Order of St. Michael, over which Bishop Kline then presided. He assisted Bishop Kline in a number of episcopal matters.

Bishop Kline was not a member of the Lutheran Orthodox Church, and the decision to consecrate Bishop Byers rested with that church alone. No letter from him was required. But because of their work together, and because of his firm belief that Bishop Byers should be consecrated, Bishop Kline joined in the episcopal judgment that he was worthy and that the call upon his life to be a bishop in apostolic succession was true. On April 18, 2013, he issued this letter of consent and affirmation.

A Letter of Consent and Affirmation for the Consecration of a Bishop

"They brought them to the Apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them." (Acts 6, 6)

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

This letter is to support and affirm the ordination to the episcopate of

Garland Byers, Jr.

to be held at Saturday April 20, 2013 to be held at 11:00 AM at The American Legion Post 16, 510 Main Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania 18080, by Primary Consecrator +The Most Rev. Sam Guido, with other assisting bishops. This is to be a consecration in apostolic succession and in and for the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I fully consent to, support and approve this consecration and spiritually, prayerfully and morally join in the celebration of this holy event. AXIOS!



Witnessed {Signature} by my Seal

+The Most Rev. Michael J. Kline, BS, DC, THD, OCR, EOSM

April 18, 2013

+The Most Rev. Michael J. Kline, OCR

Letter of Consent and Affirmation from Bishop Michael J. Kline, April 18, 2013. Personal contact details have been redacted.



CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY ORDER OF BISHOP

On April 20, 2013, at St. Paul's Lutheran Orthodox Chapel, meeting that day at American Legion Post 16, Slatington, Pennsylvania, Garland F. Byers, Jr. was consecrated to the Holy Order of Bishop by the laying

on of hands during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and became Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

Principal consecrator

The Most Reverend Samuel Guido, Jr.

Co-consecrators

Bishop Bradley A. Varvil

Bishop Michael Byus

Bishop James Thompson



The procession, with Bishop Bradley A. Varvil.



The clergy stand before the altar during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



The laying on of hands. A consecrating bishop holds the book of the rite over the bishop-elect.



A consecrating bishop bends over the bishop-elect during the prayer of consecration.



The bishop-elect, with the book of the rite, as the consecrating bishops lay on hands.



The assembled bishops gather around the bishop-elect and pray prior to the laying on of hands and his consecration as a bishop.



The laying on of hands, seen from the congregation. This is the moment of consecration.



Hands laid upon the newly consecrated bishop, now wearing the pectoral cross.



Bishop Byers, along with the other newly consecrated bishops, stands and is recognized.



The congregation greets the new bishop.

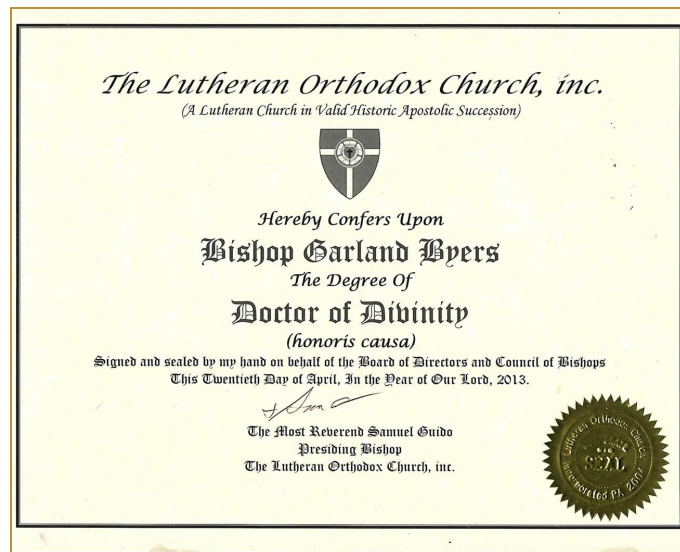
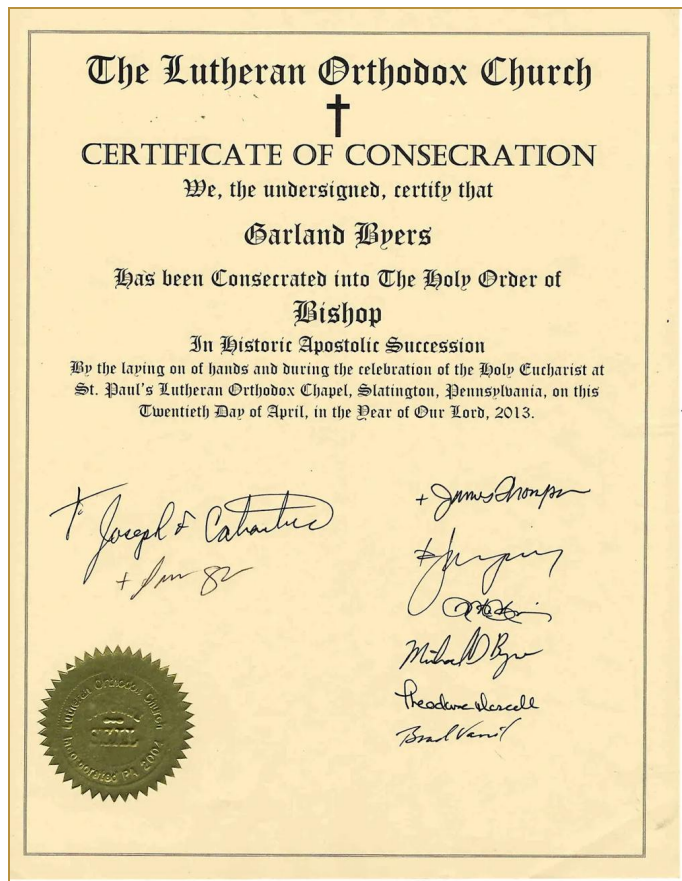


Newly consecrated bishops confer with each other as Presiding Archbishop Samuel Guido looks on from behind.



The new bishop is welcomed and encouraged by Presiding Archbishop Samuel Guido upon the conclusion of the consecration ceremony.

On the same day, the church conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his work on the church's theological matters and questions, as churches are sometimes accustomed to do.



Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, April 20, 2013.

Certificate of Consecration to the Holy Order of Bishop, April 20, 2013.



ARCHBISHOP, AND DEPARTURE IN CHARITY

Bishop Byers was later elevated to Archbishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. He subsequently withdrew from the Lutheran Orthodox Church. The decision was his own, made for personal reasons, and it arose from no disagreement with any member of the Council of Bishops or of the administrative body. He remains in communion with them. He loves each member of that church as a brother or sister in Christ, and he is thankful for the part they played in bringing him to Christ and under holy orders.



BISHOP TO THE NATIONS, UNDER APOSTOLIC COMMISSION

After his consecration, Bishop Byers was led to understand that his calling was neither to pastor a church nor to serve as a diocesan bishop, overseeing the ministers of a territory. His calling is the ministry of the Gospel through the written word, and the setting forth of true doctrine before the people of God.

He describes that work in the words of the Lord Himself:

Then said he unto them, “Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

Matthew 13:52 (KJV)

As a Kingdom Scribe, he brings forth things new and old, and weighs both by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit as his guide. He draws freely on the witness of every Christian tradition, speaks for no denomination, and seeks the unity of Christ’s Church.

He claims no diocesan or territorial authority over any church or denomination, anywhere. He writes under the commission Christ gave to His apostles:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Matthew 28:19–20 (KJV)

Although he views himself as a Kingdom Scribe, Bishop Byers retains the full sacramental authority of the office of bishop, and may perform every sacramental act that belongs to that office.

The ministry of the written word, the work of the Kingdom Scribe, is set forth in full under [Publications](#), where his writings are gathered by their kind.



INDEPENDENT RECORDS

Readers who wish to verify this record may consult the following:

- The Lutheran Orthodox Church, [Clergy List](#), which names Garland Byers among its rostered clergy. Although Bishop Byers has for some years been unaffiliated with the Lutheran Orthodox Church, he remains in communion with it and is authorized to conduct services in its churches at its request. The Clergy List is a roster of approved clergy, not of active clergy subject to the denomination’s governance.
- The Lutheran Orthodox Church, [Convocation 2013](#), the church’s account of its General Assembly of April 2013, at which bishops were consecrated.

- The Lutheran Orthodox Church, [Apostolic Lineage](#), recording the consecration of Archbishop Samuel Guido, Jr. in New York City on July 11, 2004, by Archbishop Nils Bertil Persson, with Archbishops Peter Paul Brennan and Irl Gladfelter as co-consecrators.
- [The Apostolic Succession of Bishop Byers](#), tracing his lines of succession to the Apostles.



CORRESPONDENCE

Bishop Byers receives correspondence by email only.

GBYERSJR@TUTAMAIL.COM



NOTES

* “The Most Reverend” is the form of address generally accepted for a bishop in the United States and throughout the Christian West. Bishop Byers uses it as a matter of custom and courtesy, not of rank or honor. He places little weight on titles and much on the character of the one who bears them, and he asks to be known by his life and teaching rather than by any style of address.

† The Lord Jesus spoke of “the Kingdom Scribe” in Matthew 13:52: “**Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old**” (KJV). A “Kingdom Scribe” is one who is instructed in the things of the Kingdom, who brings forth the old and the new and weighs them by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit as guide. This calling is described more fully above, under [“Bishop to the Nations, under Apostolic Commission.”](#)



Euntes in Mundum Universum: “Go ye into all the world” (Mark 16:15, KJV). The meaning of the seal is set forth on [The Episcopal Seal](#).