

**ELECTION OF A BISHOP
PROCESS FOR 2008
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**

1. The synod council has engaged the services of the Synodical Relations and the Research and Evaluation sections of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to collect information from rostered leaders and laity of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and appointed Family Life Services to act as liaison to the ELCA survey team on behalf of the synod council.
2. At the Synod Assembly, the first ballot will be a nominating ballot on which voting members can submit the name of any ELCA pastor. A nominee must receive three-quarters of the valid votes cast to be elected on the first ballot. If there is no election, the names of all those receiving one or more votes will be posted publicly so that nominees may withdraw their names if they so choose. All those who do not withdraw will appear on the second ballot. This is the only point in the process at which nominees may withdraw.
3. A nominee must receive three-quarters of the valid votes cast to be elected on the second ballot. If no one is elected on the second ballot, only the top seven vote-getters (plus ties) will remain on the next ballot.
4. The seven candidates who received the most votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly for three minutes each.
5. Following these addresses, the Mission Districts will gather in separate rooms. Each candidate will spend fifteen minutes in each Mission District gathering, engaging in a period of questions and answers.
6. The third ballot will be taken after the Mission District discussions. Two-thirds of the votes cast will be necessary for election. If there is no election, the top three names (plus ties) will be carried over to the fourth ballot. At the conclusion of the session in which the results of the third ballot are announced, each of those three will be given the same Biblical text and asked to prepare a 10-minute Bible study or reflection.
7. The next session will begin with the Bible studies or reflections. The fourth ballot will then be taken.
8. If no one receives 60% of the votes cast on the fourth ballot, the top two names (plus ties) will be carried over to the fifth ballot, on which a simple majority will be needed to elect. If necessary, a sixth ballot will be taken, on which a simple majority will also be required.