



21st Annual Synod Assembly Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

FORUMS

Friday, May 30, 10:30-11:45 AM

Locations in italics

[1] The “Other Addictions”: The Church’s Response *Governor’s Ballroom B*

Explore the “soft addictions” from food, internet, and pornography to workaholism and learn some healthy responses the church can provide.

Leader: AiM Terry Lieb, Family Life Services

[2] Financial Wellness *Executive Dining Room*

ELCA benefits are designed to help pastors, rostered laypersons and lay employees lead healthy lives and achieve financial security. The ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program offers options and strategies to assist you to be financially well through the ELCA health, retirement, disability and survivor benefits plans.

Leader: Lauren Whipkey

[3] Walking in the Light: Promoting Harmony among Faiths and Cultures in Indonesia *VIP Dining Room*

Learn about Indonesia and the context of the mission work in Salatiga, Central Java, at Satya Wacana Christian University. Discuss how Satya Wacana promotes goodwill among faiths and cultures in this largest Moslem country in the world and what blocks the light in our journey together.

Leader: Rosella Kameo, missionary

[4] Creative Resourcing for the Small Membership Congregation *Summit*

Increase your storehouse of small membership congregation resources such as the *Handbook for Small Congregations*, Sunday school curriculum, and *Grant Writing Training for Beginners* workshop. ELCMA offers free resources and will share creative ways people are redistributing resources. Tap into ELCMA’s people network and share your resources and connections.

Leader: Dory Campbell, ELCMA

[5] Encouraging Our Ministries with the South Central Diocese *Carbon*

Take this opportunity to learn and discuss ways that we can grow in our companion relations with the South Central Diocese of the ELC Tanzania.

Leaders: Steve Deyscher; Pr. Russell Haab

[6] Book of Faith: What’s It All About? *Card Room*

How does the Bible feed your daily life? How are we renewed, empowered, and enlivened by the Word? The Book of Faith is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, inviting the whole church to become more fluent in the language of Scripture. Come learn about the initiative’s purpose and goals. Check out the resources that the ELCA and synod have for helping your congregation take part in this initiative.

Leaders: AiMs Karen Matthias-Long, Marlane Druckenmiller

[7] So You Think You Are in a Welcoming Congregation... *Lehigh*

What does it take to be a welcoming congregation? Two examples are highlighted in this forum: Deaf Ministry at Trinity, Reading, and *Rejoicing Spirits*, a workshop and fellowship ministry for the developmentally disabled, their families, and caregivers. The forum shows how to become a welcome place for persons living with disabilities.

Leaders: Pr. Jeanne Beadle; Vicar Marge Dean

[8] Welcoming Gay and Lesbian Persons *Wayne*

“Our church welcomes everyone already. Why should we give a specific ‘welcome’ to gay and lesbian persons?” Join in a discussion of historic fear and rejection of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons by Christians.

Leaders: Pr. Grace Olson, Sharon Ann Burns

[9] LAMPa 101 – Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania *Pike*

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania advocates on behalf of, and in partnership with, those persons who are denied justice, dignity, reconciliation, peace, and access to basic human rights, and who lack adequate representation and voice in the arenas of public policy. Learn how you can become a better advocate with and for people living in poverty, the vulnerable, the disenfranchised, and all God’s creation.

Leaders: Pr. Neil Harrison, Marissa Harris, LAMPa

[10] Be Prepared! It’s Not Just for Boy Scouts Anymore *Susquehanna*

Identify your congregation’s vulnerabilities and tools in dealing with a disaster. Receive answers to questions like where will we meet for worship? How can the congregation help the wider community recover? Who will deal with the media? How can we protect the congregation’s records?

Leader: Ruth Doty, LCS

[11] Religion and Communal Identity in the Middle East: How Do We Make Sense of Things? *Governor’s Ballroom C*

The Middle East makes the news every day. How do we interpret what we see and hear? This forum will look at how society in the Middle East functions, comparing and contrasting it with American society. The forum will also explore the role of religious identity in the Middle East.

Leader: Dr. David Grafton, Assoc. Prof., LTSP

[12] Congregational Care for the Returning Warrior *Governor’s Ballroom A*

How can congregations minister to their military members and families as they return from the war zones? Get important information and suggestions from a Navy Reserve chaplain who is also a parish pastor in the synod.

Leader: Pr. Carl Filer

[13] What’s Next at Bear Creek Camp? *Alpine*

Hear your church camp’s vision for developing new facilities to meet the needs of the future. Come and share your ideas and dreams.

Leaders: Pr. Bob Stover, Prof. John Greenleaf

[14] Journey Together Faithfully *Theater*

Your suggestions are important. The ELCA is writing a social statement on human sexuality, which will come to the 2009 churchwide assembly for action. A draft of the statement is available on the ELCA website. Synods, congregations, and individuals are encouraged to provide input on the draft. How can it be strengthened? What is missing that should be said? Bishop Strobel will lead this forum. Pastor Kathie Bender Schwich, ELCA representative, will also be present to take notes and serve as a resource.

Leader: Bishop David Strobel

[15] Primus Trubar, the Forgotten Reformer

Monroe

While Slovenia is primarily a Roman Catholic country, with Lutherans comprising only 2% of the population, its history and language were greatly influenced by an indigenous 16th century Lutheran reformer whose work made the Slovene tongue into a literary language. This year, Slovenia – and the rest of the Lutheran world – celebrates the 500th anniversary of Primus Trubar’s birth. This forum, sponsored by our synod’s Slovenia Companion Synod Committee, will be led by a Croatian pastor, the Rev. Luka Ilic, a Ph.D. candidate at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Leader: Pastor Luka Ilic

[16] Looking for Congregation Growth and Renewal? Try Via de Cristo! *Aerobics Room*

Via de Cristo is a lay renewal movement in the church that helps members to understand God’s love for them and to see their membership in a vital, empowered way. Presenters offer information about a retreat and the difference it makes in congregations. Short video included.

Leaders: Steve Barnett, Doug LaFauci, Pr. Diane LaFauci

