



# 21st Annual Synod Assembly

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
May 29-31, 2008  
Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony PA

## Directions for Assembly Registration

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be held at Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony, May 29-31, 2008.

**REGISTRATION** Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. on May 29 and continues through the first plenary session, which begins at 7:00 p.m. Participants may register any time after 1 p.m.

**HOW TO REGISTER** You may register by mail or online. There is a \$10 discount per registration for online registrations. Click the link on the synod website homepage ([www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)) or on the assembly page ([www.godslove.org/calendar/assembly.htm](http://www.godslove.org/calendar/assembly.htm)).

Congregations may register all rostered leaders and voting members at one time; this option is available for **online registration only**. If registering by mail, separate registration forms must be completed for each voting member.

Every registrant will receive a confirmation letter that will include directions to Split Rock and a visitor's pass for the toll booth at the resort.

**REGISTRATION FEE** We have been able to hold the registration fee to the same price it was in 2006. The cost for registration is \$130 per person **on or before April 30**, and \$150 per person after April 30. If registering online, the cost is \$120 per person if completed **on or before April 30, 2008**, and \$140 after April 30.

Online registration is available **only through May 22**. After that date, all registrations will be by mail, fax, or phone, and the fee will be \$150 per person.

**WHAT DOES THE FEE COVER?** Many costs are incurred by a gathering of this size: rental of the tables and chairs; labor and equipment for staging, lighting, sound, and television produc-

tion; photocopying, production, and mailing of assembly materials; rental of photocopiers and costs of photocopying; rental of an organ or piano, worship costs such as fees for copyrighted music, production of worship booklets, and honorariums for musicians; and the like. Also included in this fee is the cost of putting together and making available the *Bulletin of Reports* and the *2008 Minutes Book*.

**WHO PAYS?** The registration fee, meals, and lodging for all voting members are to be paid by the congregation or employing agency. If requested, the registration fee, meals, and housing (½ double occupancy rate) for retired rostered leaders will be paid by the synod. If requested, voting members who live on the synod territory may have travel expenses (mileage for *one* round trip) reimbursed.

**VISITORS WELCOME!** Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend the assembly. Full-time visitors who register online and pay a registration fee of \$75 (\$95 after April 30, 2008) will be seated in a special section on the floor of the assembly and will receive the confirmation letter and toll booth pass. Full-time visitors who register by mail pay a registration fee of \$85 (\$105 after April 30, 2008).

Day visitors may register in advance (online or by mail) or at the assembly. A one-day registration fee is \$25/day (\$30/day after April 30 and at the assembly).

**HOW MANY VOTING MEMBERS?** Every congregation with 1,500 or fewer baptized members is to send two lay voting members, one male and one female. Congregations with 1,501 to 2,500 baptized members may send three voting members, and congregations with 2,501 to 3,500 baptized members may send four. Congregations with fewer than 175 baptized

members may send one or two voting members.

All pastors, associates in ministry, and deaconesses under call are expected to attend and shall be voting members. Persons on the roster who are retired or on leave from call who register will also be voting members.

**EXCUSES NEEDED** *Written* excuses for the absence of pastors, associates in ministry, or deaconesses under call, or for congregational voting members are necessary. Excuses should be sent **in advance** of the assembly to the Rev. William E. Zimmermann, co-chair of the Registration and Excuse Committee, 2950 Grandview Blvd., West Lawn, PA 19609 or [wzimmermann@comcast.net](mailto:wzimmermann@comcast.net).

**BULLETIN OF REPORTS** The Bulletin of Reports for the assembly will be available online by the end of March. Click the assembly link on the synod home page at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org). A schedule for the assembly will also be available on the assembly page by March 31.

**MISSION DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES** In preparation for the election of a new bishop, a report is being compiled on synod needs, concerns, and priorities. This information, identified through meetings across the synod territory, will be distributed at the spring mission district assemblies. It will also be available on the synod website ([www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)) in time for the first mission district assembly on April 13. For information on the dates for mission district assemblies, go to the calendar page on the synod website, [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

**HOUSING** Congregations need to make their own housing arrangements. Some rooms are still available at Split Rock. However, since the information about and form for reserving rooms at Split Rock have been available since last September, most of the rooms being held for our assembly have been reserved by congregations. Call Split Rock at 800-255-7625 to check room availability.

There are a number of hotels in the area. For information, go to [www.800poconos.com](http://www.800poconos.com) and click on "Places to Stay." The hotels listed below have given us special rates and/or set

aside a block of rooms. Unless otherwise noted, all rates are per room, per night, double occupancy, and do not include taxes. Those making reservations should identify themselves as attending the NEPS Lutheran Synod Assembly at Split Rock.

- **Best Western Inn at Blakeslee:** 570-646-6000; toll free reservations 888-296-2466; single or double per night, \$89 plus 9% tax; continental breakfast included
- **Blakeslee Inn:** 570-646-1100; single per night, \$69.99 plus tax; double per night, \$89.99 plus tax
- **Comfort Inn – Pocono Mountains:** 570-443-8461; single or double per night, \$67.99 plus 9% tax; continental breakfast included
- **Pocono Ramada Inn:** 570-443-8471; toll free 800-251-2610; single or double, Thursday night, \$99 plus tax; single or double, Friday night, \$119 plus tax.
- **Harmony Lake Shore Inn:** 570-722-0522; for three days/two nights, single or double, \$205.85 plus tax; continental breakfast included.

**MEALS DURING THE ASSEMBLY** For those housed at Split Rock, the room rate includes meals during the assembly. Individual meal tickets **must be ordered by May 26**. Use the form on the assembly page of the synod website. Costs are \$12.50 for breakfast, \$16.00 for lunch, and \$30.00 for dinner. All meals are served buffet-style.

**FORUMS AND DISPLAYS** A number of displays will be set up near the plenary section throughout the assembly. There will also be one forum session on **Friday morning** from 10:30-11:45 a.m. Seating is limited in some forums and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**QUESTIONS?** See the synod website ([www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)) or contact Debbie Frey or Carol Weiser at the Wescosville synod office, 610-395-6891 or [nepsynod@rcn.com](mailto:nepsynod@rcn.com).