

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
February 2008

This Month's News

2007 MINUTES BOOK

The 2007 Minutes Book is finished and available. Most of the content is available in the Resources section, Synod Forms and Documents subsection, on the synod website (www.godslove.org/resources/forms/). Not included on the website for privacy reasons is the roster section. The entire book is also available in hard copy. If you would like to pick up a hard copy, call Carol Moyer at the synod office at 610-395-6891.

The annual **Farm Family Appreciation Celebration** will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at the Hamburg Field House. Everyone is invited—farm families *and* farm family supporters! Children are welcome. For more information and to register, click the link at www.godslove.org/publications/news.htm.



Get ready for **Fit for Jesus**, the 2008 **SYMDANO** (Synod Youth Ministry Day and Networking Opportunity) event! It will be held on April 19 at Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham. Click the link at www.godslove.org/publications/news.htm for more information.

20th Annual Benefactors Dinner

John Tesh will perform live at the 20th Anniversary Diakon Benefactors Dinner, Thursday, May 15, at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center, Reading, Pa. A new dining-station celebration will honor the event's founders, Col. Harry Yoder and William Deibert at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Tesh performance in the theater at 7:15 p.m. All proceeds benefit Diakon Adoption & Foster Care and charitable care provided to residents of The Lutheran Home at Topton, a Diakon Senior Living Community. For more information, see Diakon's February Mission District Report, available at <http://www.diakon.org/ChurchProfessionals/NEPA.asp>.



Chocolate, Snacks, and Hunger

When we want a snack, it's usually there for us — a dish of chocolate, pretzels, some nuts and popcorn. Yet many around the world do not have any food at all. Click the link at www.godslove.org/publications/news.htm for some suggestions from the synod's hunger team.

Weekend Retreat for Teens

Wonderfully Made, a weekend retreat for teenagers who are lesbian/gay/bisexual/or questioning, will be held at Bear Creek Camp March 28-30, 2008. The retreat is designed for 15-17-years-olds currently in grades 9-12 who are interested in discussing and understanding sexuality alongside their own spirituality. The cost is \$45. To register or for more information, contact Molly Beck Dean at 610-278-7345 or mbeck@sepa.org.



Saturday School continues on February 16, 2008, with presentations by Dr. Paul Rajashekar (9 a.m.) and Pastor Jeff Butz (1 p.m.). The next session is March 29. For more information, click the link at www.godslove.org/publications/news.htm.

Find it all at www.godslove.org. Click "This Month's News" under "Publications." No Internet access? Call Carol Moyer at the synod office (610-395-6891) to request a copy of a particular item.



Thanks to members of **St. John, Emmaus**, for assembling this mailing.

In This Packet: February 2008

- **Synod News**, insert for congregation newsletters and/or bulletins
- **Thanks to You . . .**, bulletin insert to interpret our church's mission
- **2008 Congregation Officers Form** (please return by **April 15**)
- **Roster changes** since the last monthly mailing
- **The Parish Paper** (see note below about photocopying)

Printable versions of *Synod News* and *Thanks to You* are available as PDFs on the synod website (www.godslove.org). Click the links on the Publications menu. Adobe Acrobat PDF (Portable Document Format) files can be viewed on screen and printed on your own printer exactly as they were produced. You can also copy text and graphics from PDF files. For a detailed description of copying text and graphics from PDF files, go to www.godslove.org/publications/news.htm.

Reminder: New Rules for Copying "The Parish Paper"

In mid-November, the rules regarding copying *The Parish Paper* were changed. It is now permissible for pastors, other rostered leaders, paid staff, boards, committees, and members of our synod congregations to copy or reprint for distribution by U.S. mail and/or by distribution at your meetings and training events. Each congregation within the synod to which we distribute *The Parish Paper* has permission to photocopy **for local use** as many copies as it needs.

2008 Synod Assembly Information

Several forms related to the **2008 synod assembly (May 29-31, 2008, at Split Rock)** are now available on the assembly page on the synod website (www.godslove.org/calendar/assembly.htm).

Forms for Requesting Forum Time

The 2008 assembly will include forums. There will be **one** forum session offered, from 10:30-11:45 a.m. on Friday, May 30. The form for requesting a forum slot may be found on the assembly page on the website (see direct link above). The deadline to submit requests for providing a forum is **April 11, 2008**. Please note that forum space is limited.

Forms for Requesting Display Space

Displays will be part of the 2008 assembly. Display space is open to any synod group or team, educational or social ministry agency, or ELCA-related organization. Congregations may also request space for a display. The form for requesting display space may be found on the assembly page on the website (see direct

link above). The deadline to submit requests for display space is **April 11, 2008**. Please note that display space is limited.

Nomination Forms

At the assembly, elections will be held to fill positions on the Synod Council, Philadelphia Seminary Board, Committee on Discipline, and Consultation Committee. In addition, voting members will be elected to the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Minneapolis, MN, on August 17-23, 2009. The form for nominations may be found on the assembly page on the website (see direct link above). Please use this form and photocopy it for multiple use. The deadline to submit names to the Nominating Committee is **February 29, 2008**.