



Blessed to be a Blessing

Ecumenical Venture Brings Free
Community Health Care to Needy

Grace Smiles: An Inclusive Youth Group

Faith and Art Are Linked in Growing
Festival

Woman's Place

Blessed to Be A Blessing



I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing.

How has God blessed you? If you were to make a list of all the ways God has blessed you, how long would your list be?

And how long would be the list of ways in which you have shared those blessings with others?

Members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will explore these questions and more at the 2004 synod assembly.

The assembly will be held at the **Sovereign Performing Arts Center** (the former Rajah Theater, which has undergone extensive renovations) June 4-5, 2004. It will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, and end by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 5.

Celebrating Blessings: A Tanzanian Festival and Special Guests

On Friday evening, the entire assembly will participate in a festival celebrating and acknowledging our companion synod in Tanzania, the **South Central Diocese of Tanzania**.

The bishop of the diocese, Shadrack Manyewa, and his wife have been invited to attend the assembly.

People from the delegation that visited our companion synod in September 2003 will be on hand to tell about the visit and to share pictures and materials from the trip.

Other guests at the assembly will be members of our companion synod in Argentina, a yet-to-be-named representative of the ELCA, and others.

Sharing Blessings: Forums and Displays

On Friday morning, before the assembly begins, participants and visitors will have two opportunities to attend forums. These forums will be held both in

the Sovereign Performing Arts Center and Trinity Lutheran Church, whose property adjoins the center. A wide variety of forums will be presented, highlighting the many ways in which congregations, organizations, and groups of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod share their blessings with others.

Throughout the assembly, visitors and delegates may visit the displays of synod and churchwide organizations and groups. The displays will be in the lobby and on the open mezzanine above the lobby.

Meals and Housing

Assembly-goers will be on their own for some meals (at this writing, the dinner Friday evening and the lunch on Saturday are included in the registration fee). Downtown Reading offers an extensive variety of cuisine at a wide range of prices. In addition, participants may purchase food and beverages from vendors in the Sovereign Performing Arts Center.

As they have with past assemblies, congregations need to make their own arrangements for housing. To date, four hotels in the area have set aside rooms for assembly voting members and visitors. The hotels are the Lincoln Plaza (800-372-3710; rate is \$88 single/double, plus tax), the Sheraton (610-376-381; limited number available at \$139 single/double, plus tax; includes continental breakfast), the Days Inn (610-777-7888; \$89 single/double, plus tax) and the Ramada Inn (610-929-4741; limited number available for \$75). Many other hotels are available in the area. For information, check out this Web site: <http://www.readingberkspa.com/lodging/index.asp>. Those making reservations should identify themselves as attending the Lutheran synod assembly at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center.

Watch for more information and registration materials in early March.

