

Lutheran Disaster Response:
Putting Lives Back Together

Doing Urban Ministry
in an Old Immigrant Town

Christians Rocked the Mountain
with Shawn Smith

Slovenia: A Magical Place

A Justice- and Mission-Friendly
VBS

Edith Roberts Awarded the
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Medal



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

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Carol Weiser

In a surprise ceremony during the **LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together)** event at Muhlenberg College on June 9, the Rev. Edith Roberts, pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, was awarded the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Medal for exemplary congregational ministry. The medal is an honor conferred by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

The medal was established in 1992, the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the ministry of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg on the shores of the North American continent. The Rev. Dr. Philip D. W. Krey, president of the seminary, noted that, "from his time until this, Muhlenberg's ministry has served as a model for the Lutheran pastoral ministry." Therefore, it was altogether fitting that the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, as a conclusion to the 1992 anniversary, should inaugurate the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Medal for exemplary service in congregational and campus ministry in Regions 7 and 8 of the ELCA.

"In awarding this medal, the seminary hopes not only to salute and thank recipients but also to honor all those who preach and teach the gospel faithfully," Dr. Krey stated.

Nominations are by pastors and synodical leadership with the bishop's endorsement. Selection is by a secret and select committee of pastors in equal numbers from Regions 7 and 8.

Pastor Roberts has served the Lutheran church in a variety of settings. From 1979 to 1984 she served as the assistant pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Easton. Following that, she was appointed assistant to the bishop of the Northeastern

Pennsylvania Synod, where she served with distinction on the synod staff for eight and a half years. While working on the synod staff, Pastor Roberts was a mentor and teacher to countless seminary students, a practice she continues to this day by engaging seminary interns in her congregation.

Desiring to return to the parish, Pastor Roberts was elected in 1992 to be senior pastor of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, South Bethlehem, a post she currently holds.

Challenges faced her in this new pastorate. She led the congregation to see its mission in a downtown setting and enriched the church's physical facility with much-needed restorations and handicapped accessibility.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Dr. Krey said, "It gives me great pleasure to recognize and honor [Pastor Edith B. Roberts] for almost three decades of such diverse ministry and for exemplary service to the Church and the community."