

# SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

August 2008

Mark your  
calendar now!  
**Lutherans in  
Faith Together**



**LIFT**

**Saturday,  
June 13, 2009  
Muhlenberg College**

**Keynote Speaker**

**The Reverend Doctor  
Mark Allan Powell**

Professor of New Testament  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary

**More information  
at**

**[www.godslove.org/LIFT](http://www.godslove.org/LIFT)**



**2009 ELCA Youth Gathering  
New Orleans, LA**



**J**ESUS ✦ JUSTICE ✦ JAZZ,  
the theme for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering, draws from the rich faith history, diverse cultures, and arts of New Orleans. It will stretch Gathering participants' understanding of what it means to live in relationship and service with each other in the manner of Christ...for life...wherever they are!



The Gathering program will be different from previous Gatherings. The focus will be on service and justice: Planning teams are working with local congregations and organizations, young people, and the city to explore what makes the city of New Orleans unique as well as to understand the changes it is going through as the entire Gulf Coast region continues to recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

What remains the same about the Gathering is that youth and adults are immersed in worship, music, Bible study,



service, learning, play, prayer, the witness of faithful leaders from around the world, reflection, caring for others, and new friendships.

The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering registration brochure has been mailed to every ELCA congregation. PDF versions (color or black and white) are available on the [Gathering website](http://www.godslove.org/youth/gathering). Registration opens September 15, 2008; it will be done through an online process.

**Be sure to visit the Gathering website (<http://archive.elca.org/youth/gathering.html>) often and explore the links** to see what new information is posted or changing.

## Other Gathering Events

July 19-22, 2009

- Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE)
- Definitely-Abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE)

July 26-30, 2009

Triennial Convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization



# book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

The 2008 Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod adopted a multifaceted resolution related to the **Book of Faith initiative** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



## What is the Book of Faith initiative?

The **ELCA Book of Faith** initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture.

As God's people, we are called to ministry in the world. Part of our calling — our ministry — is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture.

The initiative, in short, calls us to *open Scripture* and *join the conversation*.

One section of the resolution adopted by the assembly makes us a "Book of Faith" synod.

## What does it mean to be a Book of Faith synod?



By adopting the resolution to be a Book of Faith synod, we have committed ourselves to "live in and from the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies, and events, so that as we regularly and

increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living."

Moreover, by adopting the resolution, all voting members of the synod assembly covenanted together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another.

Another part of the resolution encourages all congregations to become Book of Faith congregations.



## What is expected in a Book of Faith congregation?

So that congregational members may become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—the initiative in a Book of Faith congregation will find expression as members—

- explore new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- send sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders, and
- include biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups.

## What resources are available for the Book of Faith initiative?



Several resources for this initiative have been or will soon be released by **Augsburg Fortress**:

1. *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* is available now
2. The free, downloadable assessments to accompany *Opening the Book of Faith* is available now on the Augsburg Fortress website
3. The downloadable leader guide for *Opening the Book of Faith* is available for \$9.95 now on the Augsburg Fortress website
4. In August, AF will publish a curriculum to accompany *Opening the Book of Faith* (flexible format of 3 to 7 sessions)
5. In September, AF will publish another brief curriculum,

*Rediscovering the Book of Faith*, that will help people learn about when/where/by whom the Bible was written.



## Open Scripture.

## Join the Conversation.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**Coming in September: Book of Faith section on the synod website!**

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