

# SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

March 2008



2008 Synod Assembly  
May 29-31, 2008

**E**lecting a bishop is one of the most important decisions made by the synod. It is a call to a position of great responsibility in the synod, the ELCA, and among other Lutherans and ecumenical partners around the world.

The election of a bishop also provides an opportunity to **explore needs, concerns, and priorities** in the synod.

The synod council, with the assistance of the ELCA Synodical Relations and Research and Evaluation offices, has been working with the rostered leaders and laity of the synod to carry out this important task.

## The Report

The process began with conversations at the fall mission district assemblies. In addition to the information gathered at these assemblies, invitation-only focus groups met in late February.



Participants in the focus groups were chosen at random from across the synod. Invitations

## Called Together in Mission: Exploring the Future, Electing a Bishop

were sent to approximately 350 persons. Meetings were held on two different days, one day in the southern part of the synod, the other day in the north.



through this process 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.

## Days of Prayer and Discernment

As part of the preparation for the election, the synod council has designated two days of prayer and discernment on the synod territory. These days will afford an opportunity for engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as part of the pre-election process. Allegheny Synod Bishop Gregory Pile will provide leadership for these days and share his perspective on the office of bishop. The Days of Prayer and Discernment will take place at Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville,



The report on needs, concerns, and priorities identified

on Friday, April 11, and at Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham, on Saturday, April 12. The times are from 9:00 a.m. to noon at both locations.

All are welcome to attend.

## Spring Assemblies

At each spring mission district assembly, a lay member of the synod council will be present to do three things:



- Present to the assembly a report on needs, concerns, and priorities that surfaced in the fall assemblies and focus group meetings.
- Field any questions about the report and about the election process.
- Lead those present through a process of identifying two "lead questions" to be asked of each of the seven candidates as they move from mission district caucus to mission district caucus.

For more information about the assembly, go to [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org). Click the link on the home page.

# Upcoming Events



Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
**Women of the ELCA  
 Spiritual Growth Retreat**  
**March 1** (snow date March 8)  
 Lutheran Church of the Holy  
 Trinity, Leesport

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration)

**Keynote speaker:**

**The Rev. D. Michael Bennethum**

**Topic:**

**How We Can Be a Blessing to Others**

Registration fee: \$15.00 (includes lunch)

Child care: \$8.00

**Be refreshed. Be inspired. Be  
 connected. Come to the Waters!**



Register now for the WELCA 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial  
 Gathering at [www.womenoftheelca.org/tq08/](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/tq08/).

## Parish Nurse Event

### *Why Do We Do This?*

A workshop for parish nurses and  
 those interested in health ministry

**March 8, 2008**

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus

The keynote speaker for this workshop will be the  
 Rev. Jim Bowers.

The cost of \$20 includes  
 lunch and snacks.

Check the synod website  
 for more information.



*Fit for Jesus*  
**SYMDANO**

(Synod Youth Ministry Day and  
 Networking Opportunity)

**April 19, 2008**

Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham

An event for youth in grades 3 through 12 plus  
 their parents, advisors, and Sunday school  
 teachers. This year's theme, "Fit for Jesus,"  
 will focus on our spiritual, physical, and emo-  
 tional health.

More information and a registration form are  
 available on the youth news and events page  
 on the synod website ([www.godslove.org/youth](http://www.godslove.org/youth)).  
 Or contact Karen Matthias-Long at  
[Karen@nepsynod.org](mailto:Karen@nepsynod.org).



## Saturday School

Saturday School is held from 9  
 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,  
 Emmaus.

**March 29:** 9:00 a.m. session, *Jesus through  
 the Ages*, Bishop David Strobel; 1:00 p.m.  
 session, *The Letters of St. Paul*, Dr. Richard  
 Carlson, professor of biblical studies, Lutheran  
 Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

**Lutheran Day at  
 the Capitol**

**April 9, 2008**

For more information, go to [www.lamp.org](http://www.lamp.org).

