

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

May 2008



Called Together in Mission:
FAITHFUL AND BOLD



21st Annual Synod Assembly May 29-31, 2008

**Split Rock Resort
Lake Harmony, PA**

Most information, including the *Bulletin of Reports*, the bishop election process and materials, the program, and directions to Split Rock may be found on the synod website (www.godslove.org).

As we elect a new bishop to guide us in our mission, we pray—

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

What's Happening at the Assembly

The 2008 Synod Assembly begins officially at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29.

Here is an overview of what will take place during the assembly:

Thursday, May 29

Plenary 1 (7-9:30 PM)

Order for the Opening of an Assembly; adoption of the program
Prayerful preparation for the election of a bishop; explanation of process

First ballot for bishop

Nominating Committee report
First report, Committee of Reference and Counsel
Synod officers and council reports

Friday, May 30

Plenary 2 (8:30-10 AM)

Report of first ballot for bishop
Second ballot for bishop
First ballot for other elections
Report of the ELCA representative (the Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich)
Second report, Reference and Counsel
Report of second ballot for bishop

Forums (10:30-11:45 AM)

Plenary 3 (1:30-2:15 PM)

Report, first ballot for other elections
Addresses by 7 nominees for bishop

Mission district conversations with seven candidates (2:45-5:30 PM)

Plenary 4 (7-9:30 PM)

Third ballot for bishop
Report, second ballot for other elections; third ballot for other elections
Q&A with Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich
Third report, Reference and Counsel
Report of third ballot for bishop

Compline in assembly hall

Reception honoring Bishop David and Doris Strobel and the synod staff

Saturday, May 31

Bible study by top three candidates (8:30-9:15 AM)

Plenary 5 (9:15 AM-noon)

Fourth ballot for bishop

Report, third ballot, other elections
Adoption of 2009 program proposal
Action on 2009 compensation guidelines
Constitution Committee report
Introduction, candidates for roster, rostered individuals new to synod
Recognition, those celebrating 50 years, those who retired since 2007 assembly, major anniversaries
Report of fourth ballot for bishop

Plenary 6 (1:30-3 PM)

Fifth ballot for bishop

Final report, Reference and Counsel
Report of fifth ballot for bishop
Unfinished business
Committees of Minutes report
Registration and Excuse report

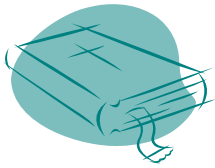
Sending Eucharist (3:15-4:15 PM)

Pr. Bender Schwich preaching;
bishop-elect presiding

NOTE

Results of the balloting for bishop will be posted as soon as possible on the synod website (www.godslove.org) following the announcement of results.

Upcoming Events



Saturday School

The final Saturday School for this year will be held May 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Emmaus. 9:00 a.m. session: **preaching practicum, open to SALMs only**; 1:00 p.m. session: The Whys of Worship, Dr. Michael Krentz, director of music, the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. A registration form is on the synod website (www.godslove.org).

2008 PALM Canoe Trips

Looking for excitement? Like the outdoors?

Enjoy an adventure canoeing in the Pocono Mountains on a safe but exciting stretch of the lovely Delaware River. Guided canoe trips sponsored by PALM (Pocono Area Lutheran Ministry) are an opportunity for individuals and groups



to gain new experiences in the outdoors, and to allow God to speak to them.

Check out the trips on the calendar page of the synod website (www.godslove.org/calendar).

Summer Youth Events

Lead On!



Leadership Training Camp for Youth

For students in Grades 9 - 12

JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2008

Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA

TEY (Theological Education with Youth)

June 21-28:

Crossroads event (for youth entering 11th grade in 2008)

June 21-28:

Summer Theological Academy (for youth entering 12th grade in 2008)



Women of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Be refreshed. Be inspired. Be connected.

Come to the Waters!



COME TO THE WATERS

July 10-13, 2008 ~ Salt Lake City, Utah

Register now for the Women of the ELCA Seventh Triennial Gathering at www.womenoftheelca.org/tg08/.

Living in God's Grace

Eighteenth Annual Convention

NEPA Women of the ELCA

Trinity Lutheran Church

Hecktown PA

June 14, 2008

For more information or a registration form, contact your congregational unit president. Registration deadline is May 1 for delegates and May 15 for participants.