

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

April 2011



MUHLENBERG,
MALLS, and MISSION

June 17-18, 2011

LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together)

and

Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod Assembly



When Lutherans get together, it's exciting!

Join other Lutherans in Faith Together from across northeastern Pennsylvania for two days of festivities celebrating Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's 300th birthday – and learn how God is loose in the world, not just in our churches but in shopping malls and everywhere!



It all happens on the Muhlenberg College campus on **June 17-18**. Connect with friends, families, voting members, and youth for **LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together)**, the Northeastern Pennsylvania **Synod Assembly**, and the **LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship) assembly**. (The LYF assembly begins a day earlier, on **June 16**).

Here are some highlights of the weekend:



The Presenter: The Rev. Dr. **Jon Pahl**, professor at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at

Philadelphia, is the keynote speaker. He is the author of *Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place*.

The Musicians: **Marty Haugen**, composer of liturgical music for

both Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations, and **Mary Preus**, singer, song leader, and choir director, will lead Haugen's *Holden Evening Prayer*. See the schedule at www.godslove.org/LIFT for other opportunities to hear them.



Workshops and Displays

More than 30 workshops on a wide range of topics will be offered on Friday and Saturday. See the list at www.godslove.org/LIFT. And



don't miss the many displays in the field house.

Children's Program: Activities for children ages 6-12 will be hosted by Muhlenberg College.

Chapel Concerts: During workshop sessions, a variety of delightful concerts will be offered in the Egner Chapel.



Henry Melchior Muhlenberg: Our esteemed patriarch and birthday celebrant, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, will be wandering on campus, talking about his mission to bring Lutheran worship and teachings to the new world.



Go to www.godslove.org/LIFT for a detailed schedule of LIFT events, housing information for LIFT and the assembly, and other information.

Registration will be available online in April. Assembly materials will be mailed in mid-April.

LIFT/Assembly Schedule

Friday, June 17

- 8:30 am **Registration**
- 9:00-noon **Plenary Session 1**
- 1:30 pm **Jon Pahl: Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place**
- 2:45 pm **Workshop Session 1**
- 4:00 pm **Workshop Session 2**
- 5:00 pm **Dinner**
- 7:00 pm **Holden Evening Prayer**
- 7:00-8:15 pm **Plenary Session 2**
- 8:30 pm **Holden Evening Prayer (for assembly participants)**

Saturday, June 18

- 8:00 am **Registration**
- 9:00-10:30 am **Plenary Session 3**
- 9:15 am **Workshop Session 3**
- 10:45 am **Festival Eucharist (everyone)**
- Noon **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm **Concert (Marty Haugen and Mary Preus; tentative)**
- 2:45 pm **Workshop Session 4**

Live Your Faith



Do justice. Love kindness.
Walk humbly with your God.

Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly June 16-18, 2011

Lutheran Youth Fellowship will meet in assembly at Muhlenberg College on **June 16** starting at 1:30 p.m., one day before the start of **LIFT** and the synod assembly. The theme for this year's LYF assembly is *Live Your Faith*, based on Micah 6:8 ("... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"). Participants will be housed on the Muhlenberg campus.



On Thursday, LYF assembly participants will have opportunities to get to know one another, reflect on Bible study, participate in two plenary sessions, and much more.

On Friday and Saturday, participants will follow the schedule of the synod assembly and **LIFT**. The hope is that some youth in the LYF will be asked by their congregations to serve as voting members at the synod assembly. Those who aren't serving as voting members will be seated in the visitor section at the assembly and will be given voice at the assembly.

Friday night, the LYF is sponsoring a dance for all LYF, **LIFT**, and synod assembly participants. Details about cost and scholarships will be posted on the synod website at www.godslove.org.



2011 WELCA Convention

A Time for Every Purpose, the annual WELCA Convention, will take place on **May 21, 2011**, at Friedens Lutheran Church, Oley. See www.godslove.org for more information.



Partners in Evangelical Worship

Your Resource for Congregational Mission

Renewing worship for relevance in today's world is a priority for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In the summer of 2010, the ELCA formed a new network of people to support the ways in which the ELCA is an evangelizing church centered in word and sacrament in worship.



Each synodical bishop was asked to name two volunteer "partners in evangelical worship" – one pastor and one musician – to help make connections between worship and mission, justice, and service. Our synod partners are Pastor Charles Grube and Associate in Ministry Melanie Werley. Pastor Mike Bennethum, the synod director of evangelical mission, serves as a resource to the partners.



Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, unlike many of the ELCA's synods, is fortunate to have an existing and active worship team in place. The role of the partners on our synod's territory is to support and serve as a resource for our existing team, to assist congregations in conversations about the enrichment and ongoing renewal of worship in local congregations, and to strive to bring greater intentionality to synodical worship planning.

Partners in evangelical worship identify three major commitments:

- Worship IS mission
- Worship has a context
- Worship always moves toward the world

Want more information? See the article at <http://www.livinglutheran.com/seeds/>; type "worship renewal" in the search bar. Or contact Charles Grube (570-675-3859 or pastorg@epix.net) or Melanie Werley (610-965-9885 or mwerley@stjohnsemmaus.org).

