

◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

February 2011

Be Who You Are! See What You Have! Do What Matters!



These three affirmations of faithful discipleship offer hope to all members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as we enter a new year.

They are at the heart of a synod-wide effort to energize our ministries in 2011 and beyond. Bishop Zeiser, the synod staff, the synod council, mission district deans and councils, and synod ministry teams have already laid the foundation for this endeavor. Now the invitation goes out to

all rostered leaders and congregations.



Congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod are invited to send teams to explore these affirmations at two different

workshops – one in the spring, another in the fall. Teams will address questions such as, How can we hear and do what God calls us to do? How do we put the gifts and passions of God's people to use in making a difference in the world?

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council is covering the cost of workshop consultants from A Renewal Enterprise (ARE) in an effort to help strengthen congregations by addressing issues such as—



- Why the church sometimes sucks the life out of us and how we might change that.
- How to organize your life and ministry around doing what (*really!*) matters to God and *your* neighbor.

- Simple things your congregation can do right now – with joy! – to make a difference in your neighborhood.
- Seven leadership practices that unleash people's creativity in your congregation.
- How to fight scarcity thinking and end “The Great Excuse” once and for all.



Each congregation is encouraged to send a team to one of the spring *and* one of the fall regional events. Your team should include the pastor(s) and as many lay leaders as you want.

Don't forget to include youth and young adults.

Here is the schedule:

Event #1 (*choose one of the following dates*):

- March 26 (9 AM to 1 PM) Lutheran Home@Topton
- March 27 (3-7 PM) St. Paul, Dallas
- April 2 (9 AM to 1 PM) Jordan, Orefield
- April 3 (3-7 PM) St. John, Nazareth

Event #2: Events will be held November 5 (9 AM to 1 PM), November 6 (3-7 PM), November 12 (9 AM to 1 PM), and November 13 (3-7 PM).

Locations will be announced.

The cost per congregational team (up to 8 people) is \$45. This includes a light meal and team workbook. Additional team members are \$5 each. A separate fee will apply to Event 2.



More information, including a link to online registration, will be posted on the synod website (www.godslove.org) by February 1. The deadline for registration is **March 18**.



Calling All Youth in Grades 9 & 10

Troubling the Water

March 12, 2011; 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing

Join other youth, seminarians, theologians, and other leaders for a day of theological exploration at *Troubling the Water*, a day of conversation, worship and discovery sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Theological Education with Youth. Cost is only \$20 per youth participant, which includes food and resources for the day.

For more information and to register, go to www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com. Questions? Contact Karen Matthias-Long at Karen@nepsynod.org or TEY Director Chandler Carriker at ccarriker@ltsg.edu.

Farm Family Appreciation Celebration Saturday, March 19, 2011

Come celebrate the eleventh farm family appreciation celebration with friends and families across the synod.

For more information or to register, call 610-378-1327 and ask for Donna or go to www.godslove.org/calendar.



Join Lutherans from across the synod! June 17-18, 2011 Muhlenberg College



LIFT (Lutherans In Faith Together)
and

The 2011 Northeastern
Pennsylvania Synod
Assembly



MUHLENBERG,
MALLS, and MISSION

God Sightings in the Northeastern PA Synod



Where have you seen God active in your daily life – in your community, school, church, or world? Tell your story on the new Facebook page begun by youth leaders in the synod, *God Sightings in the Northeastern PA Synod*.



Any Facebook member can find this group and tell their story. Just go to www.facebook.com and search for “God sightings in the Northeastern PA Synod.”

You can find additional stories of where God is on the loose on the blog, *Potluck Postings* (www.nepsynod.wordpress.com).

Read more about it in the January issue of *Synod News*. Don't forget to subscribe so that you read the latest updates!



Persistence, Patience, and Power SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Women of the ELCA

Saturday, March 19, 2011 (snow date, March 26); **8:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

**Nativity Lutheran Church
4004 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104**

- Deepen your relationships with God, yourself and others.
- Meet Pastor Gladys Moore, author of the 2010 Summer LWT Bible Study
- Participate in a prayer bead workshop led by Joy Gerhart
- Enjoy a hymn sing
- And much more...

Lunch included with \$20.00 registration fee

More information in the November 2010 issue of the *Flame*, online at www.godslove.org.