

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

November 2011

You're Invited!

To the Dedication of the Lutheran Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania



Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Offices
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109

Sunday, December 4, 2011
3:00 p.m.

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Allentown

St. Mark Lutheran Church,
Allentown, chose to hold a
worship service at the

Lutheran Center on September 25 as an
expression of their being part of the wider
ministry that is the Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod. They had a great service with 95 people in
attendance. They chose to give the plate offering
to the synod, so we'll be using it to buy blue
paraments for the altar, which we will use at the
dedication.



On behalf of all those in the synod,
thank you, St. Mark members, for
your gift and, especially, thank you
for your partnership in our ministry in
northeastern Pennsylvania.

Partners in
MINISTRY



Synod Ministry Teams

Your Resource to Help Invigorate
Congregational Mission

Faith Formation Resource Team

One of the newly established synod teams is the Faith Formation Resource Team. The purpose of this team is to affirm the diversity of God's people while supporting and equipping the baptized along their faith journey and helping them apply Lutheran theology to all aspects of church and daily life. The team hopes to offer a variety of learning opportunities to nurture the faith development of people in congregations, mission districts and at the synod level. The "Gearing Up for Sunday School" event held this past August was sponsored by this team.



The team also hopes to

- use a variety of networking methods to connect people to learning opportunities and resources (such as webinars, Augsburg Fortress workshops and more);
- assist congregations and synodical groups in applying Lutheran theology to the various ministries of the church (such as stewardship, worship, evangelism, and more); and
- keep apprised of current Christian education trends and curriculum resources



If you have a question about faith formation, contact the team chairperson, Marlane Druckenmiller (teaconn@windstream.net) or synod staff person, Karen Matthias-Long (karen@nepsynod.org).

Do What Matters—Next Steps



You're Invited!

Whether you attended a *Do What Matters* workshop in the spring or not, you're invited to take the next step in exploring

what God is doing in your congregation. Kelly Fryer and Tana Kjos from *A Renewal Enterprise* will return in November to help us open ourselves to working in renewable ways in a world that's changing more rapidly than we can imagine.



These workshops will give you a chance to report on the steps you've taken to join the mission that God has for the church and to plan for ongoing renewal. Bring the same team you brought in the spring or introduce new people to the conversation. Events will be held on:

- **November 5** (9 am to 1 pm) at the Lutheran Home at Topton
- **November 6** (3 pm to 7 pm) at Jordan, Orefield
- **November 12**, (9 am to 1 pm) St. Paul, Dallas
- **November 13** (3 pm to 7 pm) at St. John, Nazareth



The cost for a congregational team of up to eight people is \$45, which includes a light meal. Additional team members are \$5 each. If you did not attend the first event,

the *Do What Matters* workbook will be available for purchase at the event for \$12.

A link to online registration for your team is posted on the synod website (www.godslove.org).

Shining In - Shining Out



Project Connect is offering a Service Learning Vocational Discernment Retreat for young adults ages 18 to 30 entitled *Shining In - Shining Out* **January 4-8, 2012**, in the heart of Manhattan in New York City.

For more information and a brochure, scroll through the events list on the Project Connect website, www.projectconnect.org.



A New Synod Event for Senior High Youth!

For: 9th through 12th graders and advisors

When: Saturday, **November 12** (1 PM) through Sunday, **November 13** (3 PM)

Where: Pinebrook Bible Conference and Retreat Center, East Stroudsburg, PA

Cost: \$85 (scholarship money available)

What: An overnight retreat where Lutheran youth in the Northeastern PA Synod will get to meet other youth from the synod, plan a meaningful worship service, learn a few group building games to use "back home," and have fun celebrating their relationships with God and new and old friends!

Registration: See the information and links at www.godslove.org/youth/news.htm.



2012 Learning Ministries Day

Saturday, January 28, 2012

Faith Formation 2020: Making and Teaching Disciples in the 21st Century

Keynote presenter: John Roberto, author and founder of Lifelong Faith Associates

Location: Union Lutheran, Schnecksville

Cost: \$25

More information, including registration materials and a list of workshops will be posted by mid-November on the synod website, www.godslove.org. Click the link on January 28 on the synod calendar (www.godslove.org/calendar) for a **flyer** you can print and post now.