

# PARTNERS IN *the spirit* MARCH 2004



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

SWIM, Open Space, Welcoming Resolution,  
Elections Highlight LYF Assembly

Bishop Manyewa to Attend Assembly

LYF Assembly Goers DO LYF

Celebrate Lutheran Schools Week March  
7-14

EYTV: Training Youth in Today's  
Technology

Partner Synod Youth Participates in LYF  
Assembly

SWIM, Open Space, Welcoming  
Resolution, Elections Highlight LYF  
Assembly



Pictured: 2004-2005 LYF officers

"Awesome" was by far the most-used word to describe the concert given Friday night by SWIM, a new musical group made up of youth from our synod congregations. Delegates, visitors, and advisors who attended the concert gave it rave reviews. A typical response: "They were very, very good. They really have a great gift from God, every one of them."

Open Space was a popular offering again this year. Introduced at the LYF assembly two years ago, the Open Space process gives youth the opportunity to name topics/issues that are important to them and to facilitate a discussion on the topic. "The open space on morals and ethics was amazing!" wrote one participant on the evaluation. "The topics talked about were always changing, keeping the discussion very active."

"I felt that the people in my group (abortion) talked more freely without adults there," wrote another. "We had a great conversation going."

A third person wrote, "One of the best things all weekend. It is good to have time to talk about whatever you want with new people and without adults."

Major plenary and small group time was spent discussing a resolution from the LYF board concerning LYF's status as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) organization. Following discussion, this amended resolution passed on Sunday morning:

*Whereas, all individuals regardless of any circumstances including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and background shall be welcomed openly into the Lutheran Youth Fellowship, therefore be it*

*Resolved, that the Lutheran Youth Fellowship makes no distinction for or against the actions/practices of the previously stated persons, be it further*

*Resolved, that the assembly direct the Secretary of the Lutheran Youth Fellowship of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to forward a copy of this resolution to Lutherans Concerned/North America requesting recognition as*



*a Reconciling in Christ organization.*

Election results for LYF officers and board (terms) are as follows:

Officers (serving June 2004-May 2005): Emily Bender (New Jerusalem, Hellertown), president; Noelle Augustine (Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven), vice president; Laura Printz (Hope, Reading), secretary; Daniel Eisenberg (St. John, Jim Thorpe), treasurer.

Board (serving December 2003-December 2004):

Bethlehem-Easton Mission District:

Hillary Bender (New Jerusalem, Hellertown);  
alternate, Jill Hutchens (St. John, Easton)

East Berks Mission District:

Josh Schaeffer (Friedens, Oley);  
alternate to be named

Hazleton-Lehigh Mission District:

Ashley Ackerman (Christ, Conyngham);  
alternate, Jenifer Moore (Christ, Christmans)

Lehigh Mission District:

John T. Moyer (St. John, Fogelsville);  
alternate to be named

Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District:

Rachel Tretiak (Hope, Cherryville);  
alternate, Jamie Bishop (Emmanuel, Bath)

Pocono Mission District:

Kenny Maillet (Holy Trinity, Dingmans Ferry);  
alternate, Rebecca Montes de Oca (St. Paul, Tannersville)

Schuylkill Mission District:

Jairia Tobash (Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven);  
alternate, K C Smith (St. Paul, Tower City)

Scranton-Wilkes Barre Mission District:

representative to be named;  
alternate, Wayne Kaufman (St. Paul, Mountain Top)

West Berks Mission District:

Meghan Fatzinger (Incarnation, Reading);  
alternate, Danielle Conrad (Hope, Reading)

PHOTO:

Noelle Augustine  
vice-president elect - Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven

Laura Printz

secretary elect - Hope, Reading

Emily Bener

president-elect - New Jerusalem, Hellertown

Daniel Eisenberg  
treasurer-elect - St. John, Jim Thorpe Heights

