

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

August 2010

Highlights of the 2010 Synod Assembly

God's Work. Our Hands.
Around the Corner & Around the World.



God's Work. Our Hands. Around the Corner. Around the World.



Throughout the 2010 synod assembly, the gathering raised up this theme and its call to us to bear witness to God's work next door and across the globe.

ELCA representative Pastor Stephen Bouman, executive director of the ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission program unit, drew on his experience of being at Ground Zero in New York City on 9/11 to talk about the life-changing power of the Christian faith and the importance of our call to share that Good News.



Amanda Tompkins, a young adult from St. Paul, Tannersville, told of her excitement about serving in South Africa (*around the world*) in the coming year as part of the ELCA's YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) program – and her desire to share her stories with



congregations (*around the corner*) when she returns.

Vice President Dawn Baxter lifted up the new Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team in her report, a team that will strengthen the work being done with children, youth and families to support ministries as they engage their communities.



Bishop Zeiser, in his sermon during closing worship, reminded the assembly that “on this synod's best days and in our most difficult times, congregations are called to bear witness that God is at work in Jesus Christ at particular places – your places – restoring life, and not stopping throughout these fourteen counties.”

Kyle Hassler, a 2010 high school grad and member of St. James, Coopersburg, shared his song, *Change the World*, through a DVD music video presented to the assembly as people were preparing to leave for dinner Friday night.



Members of Source of Love Indonesian Ministry and their pastor, the Rev. Yafet Talaksoru, greeted the assembly. They are a synodically authorized worshipping community



meeting at St. Peter, Scranton. Around the Corner. Around the World.

Even King Saul (aka Pastor Carl Shankweiler) tried to learn the future of our desire to energize our church for mission and ministry, as envisioned at the 2009 assembly. Recalling the story in 1 Samuel 28, he called upon the Witch of Endor (aka Pastor Mary Gade) to summon the prophet Samuel (aka Bishop Zeiser) from the grave to share his wisdom.



Keynote Speaker Engages Assembly-Goers

Keynote speaker Dr. Mark Allan Powell focused on the importance of “social location” in our understanding of the Bible. He led assembly participants to understand how our place in society—cultural, economic,



national and other influences—shapes what we hear in our reading of Scripture. His humorous insights opened new

understanding while keeping us focused on the importance of Bible study.

(Continued from page 1)

Assembly-goers asserted that they really appreciated having a guest presenter like Dr. Powell and want more of the same in the future.

New Baptismal Font a Visual Focus for Worship



The synod's new baptismal font, hand-crafted by Steve Fellman of Reading,

served as a visual focus during worship and throughout the assembly. The large, beautiful font received many appreciative comments from those attending the assembly.

Worship on Friday evening was a service of healing. Saturday's Service of Holy Communion again lifted up the assembly theme, with the anointing of our hands for God's work.

Music during worship and before sessions featured the Living Stones, a group from Holy Trinity, Kingston, as well as Pr. Doug Holtz on saxophone, Pr. Jira Albers on guitar, and Linda Maule on keyboard.



The worship planners did an outstanding job of creating a worshipful atmosphere in an ice hockey arena. Credit for that



creative vision goes to Jean Grube and Pr. Randle Albers.



Gift from Christ, Schoenersville, Acknowledged

The assembly received with deep appreciation the gracious gift of the property of Christ Lutheran Church, Schoenersville, to be used as the offices of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The assembly's resolution of appreciation followed reports from synod council members Ed Cool and Fran Ferrari and a PowerPoint presentation on the old and new synod office buildings.

Other Resolutions

Approved a resolution that urged the ELCA Church Council to take all necessary actions to fulfill the commitments in the social statement on economic life for Augsburg-Fortress employees and retirees who are suffering significantly reduced income.

Affirmed the action of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Congregational Services, Inc., to become an affiliate of Liberty Lutheran Services, Inc., a social ministry organization of the ELCA, on or about July 1, 2010.

Approved a resolution to ask synod congregations to support the fight against world hunger by participating in A Month of Potlucks during the summer of 2010 and/or during June 2011.



Adopted a resolution asking synod rostered leaders, congregations and social ministry organizations to commit themselves to the action of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly "to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all" for the sake of the unity of this church.

Adopted a resolution that we commit ourselves to thoughtful and intentional use of the world's resources and incorporate care for God's good creation into our full life and mission.



Elected at the Assembly



Board, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia : Pr. John Richter

Synod Council: Jamie Anczarski, Martin Everhart, Pr. Nancy Moore

Voting members to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (in addition to Bishop Samuel Zeiser and Vice President Dawn Baxter). **Nine** of the elected are youth or young adults!

Clergy: Michael Frost, Mary Gade, Lori Kochanski, Harry Laubach, William (Woody) Maxon, Jami Possinger, Susan Ruggles, Glenn L. Simmons, Mary Wolfe

Lay Male: Craig Babcock, Steve Barnett, Edward Cool, Martin Everhart, Philip Kaufman, Anthony J. Mell, Anthony J. Rogers, Barry Schwartz, Brandon Wood, Thomas Yenser

Lay Female: Sierra Fogal, Linda Maule, Diane McElwee, Catherine Mordosky, Elizabeth Schneeberger-Klotz, Kathleen M. Schaeffer, Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, Amanda Tompkins, Kelly Wallace

