

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

July 2010

Synod Young Adult to Serve in South Africa

The June issue of Synod News focused on young adults and their desire to do ministry, explore theology, and be who God created them to be.

Amanda Tompkins, a member of St. Paul, Tannersville, is one such young adult. Here are her words as she prepares to go to South Africa as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program.

Hello! My name is Amanda Tompkins and I have grown up in this synod. I served for many years in our Lutheran Youth Fellowship and currently serve in many types of local, synod, and churchwide ministries.

I graduated a few weeks ago from Muhlenberg College, and beginning in August I will be serving in South Africa with the **Young Adults in Global Mission** program of the ELCA (www.elca.org/yagm). This program places a strong emphasis



on accompaniment as a model of service. Instead of going to countries with the idea of "fixing" things, we are being sent to experience life there and to see what God is doing amongst the people of that place.

I would like to be a resource to your congregation to help you think globally. I'd love to be in touch with your youth, young adults, and other members during my time abroad. I also would be glad to put together a presentation or discussion for when I return. Check my blog (<http://SouthAfricanAmanda.blogspot.com/>) or contact me (amandat527@gmail.com) for more information about how we can work together.



Please keep me in your prayers. Knowing that there are people who care about what I am doing and what I am experiencing will be so valuable to me as I face daily challenges.

Farm Family Appreciation Celebration Receives Citation of Recognition



Eleven years ago, following a devastating drought that undermined the financial stability and the morale of farmers in our area, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod looked for a way to recognize and celebrate the contributions of farm families in northeastern Pennsylvania. With

support from other church and agricultural agencies, in 1999 the first Farm Family Appreciation Celebration was held in Hamburg.

The synod has continued to coordinate the event, which has been held for ten of the last eleven years. At this year's celebration on April 10, Russell Redding, the

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, presented us with a special citation. The citation reads as follows:

*In recognition of a rich community tradition founded by agricultural organizations seeking a time of renewing fellowship following the drought of 1999, I, Russell C. Redding, Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby commend the **Farm Family Appreciation Celebration** on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, for its remarkable contributions to farm families in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill counties. The evening gives these families an opportunity to come together as a greater community to celebrate their accomplishments and good work to keep Pennsylvania growing.*

Thank you for your support. You make this event possible!



Planning a day at Dorney Park?

Discount tickets are available!



Admission to Dorney Park *and* Wildwater Kingdom

Ticket prices:

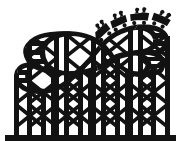
\$34.00 Youth or adult (regular price, \$41.99)

\$21.00 Children age 3 and older who are under 48 inches tall – and adults age 62 or older (regular price, \$22.99)

FREE Children age 2 and under

Tickets must be purchased in advance at the synod office, 4865 Hamilton Blvd (Route 222), either in person or by mail.

Proceeds benefit the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Youth Scholarship Fund.



For more information and a form to request tickets by mail, click the link on the home page of the synod

website, www.godslove.org.

Note about the 2010 Assembly Summary

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



The **summary of the 2010 Synod Assembly**, held June 18-19 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre, will be mailed to congregations in the **July monthly mailing**.

The July issue of *Synod News* is usually the assembly summary. However, this issue was prepared in early June and mailed to congregations on **June 8**, before the synod assembly.

Save These Dates!

October 5-6, 2010



Annual Parish Secretaries Seminar, Doubletree/Willow Valley Resort, Lancaster. More information on the synod website at www.godslove.org/calendar.

November 6, 2010



Jesus Calls Us ...to Action! One-day advocacy workshop, Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham. More information to come.

January 22, 2011



Technology and the Bible: It's All Greek to Me, 2011 Learning Ministries Day; Hans Wiersma, keynote speaker. More information on the synod website at www.godslove.org/calendar.

June 17-18, 2011



LIFT (Lutherans In Faith Together) and annual **synod assembly**, Muhlenberg College. More information to come.

July 18-22, 2012



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, New Orleans.

Preliminary information at www.elca.org/youthgathering.

See more at www.godslove.org/calendar.