

◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

January 2011

Potluck Postings

In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, everyone has something to bring to the table.



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod has begun a blog! Entitled *Potluck Postings*, the blog will feature reflections, articles, questions, and news from the synod staff. You are invited and encouraged to read the blog and respond with your comments. You can find the blog at <http://nepsynod.wordpress.com/>.

[Blog: A contraction of the term *web* and *log*.]

The initial blog introduces the special staff section, *Staff on the Loose*. Here's more about that section:

Staff on the Loose

Maybe you've been in church when Bishop Zeiser talks about "his other staff," the one that he carries at services as a sign of his office. You can read about it in the November issue of *Synod News* on the synod website at www.godslove.org. The bishop encourages children to gather around and touch the staff, to help them see that they are connected to all of the other children he's met.



We like the image of that staff traveling around the synod, being present where God's people gather, seeing what God is up to in northeastern Pennsylvania. The human members of the bishop's staff do something similar as we visit



congregations, attend meetings, and provide support for the synod's leaders. One of the reasons we've started this synod blog is so that we can share with you all of those places where we see God on the loose, moving through our congregations and people, touching lives and doing exciting things.

Watch for reports from various members of the bishop's staff—and from the staff on the loose. Where have you seen God at work lately? We hope you'll join our conversation and open our eyes to see the wonderful things that are happening in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.



Technology and the Bible:
It's All ~~Geek~~ to Me

2011 Learning Ministries Day January 22, 2011

Keynote speaker: Hans Wiersma, Associate Professor of Religion, Augsburg College

Location: Muhlenberg College, Allentown

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 (lunch included)

For more information and a registration form, click the link on the synod website at

www.godslove.org/calendar.



Synod Ministry Teams

Your Resource to Help Invigorate
Congregational Mission

Connection Building Ministry Team

We will build a network that uses our gifts, skills, and resources to maximize what we can do together and strengthen congregations in their ministry.

The Connection Building Ministry Team is working on building that network. One of our first tasks was to enter the data from the annual congregation officers' forms into a spreadsheet so that updates can be made electronically and data used more efficiently. Many forms included email addresses for congregation council officers. Our hope is to include more people in synod-wide communications and to target communications to particular groups with specific interests.



Our initial project is to design a newsletter addressed to congregational leaders, specifically, to congregation council presidents. The newsletter will provide pertinent information to council presidents and offer them a chance to learn from

others in that position. We are also evaluating the synod website and planning updates/changes to the format. While working on this, we investigated how Constant Contact, an email distribution service, might help congregations share information within their own membership as well as with neighboring churches and groups. If you or your congregation is interested in learning more about this or similar programs, please let us know (info@nepsynod.org).

As always, we are interested in hearing from you. We're also hoping to find a few more people to join our team and help us to work towards our goal of improved communications. If you are interested in joining us, please email us at info@nepsynod.org.



Stephanie Druckenmiller, team member
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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.

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**

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