

◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

March 2011

Be Who You Are! See What You Have! Do What Matters!



What a wonderful declaration of our mission as congregations!

These three statements are at the heart of a synod-wide effort to energize our ministries in 2011 and beyond.

Key to this effort are congregational teams working together to explore what these statements mean for the congregation.



In late March and early April, workshops will be held across the synod for congregational teams.

These teams, consisting of lay and rostered persons, will explore what their congregational mission is now and what that mission could become as the congregation moves forward. Each team will set congregational goals that will be evaluated at subsequent workshops to be held in November.

In a letter to pastors and other rostered leaders in early February, Bishop Zeiser wrote, "I urge you to gather a congregational team and to register for one of the workshops. You and your team, working together in your congregation, will enable the whole congregation to *Be Who You Are! See What You Have! Do What Matters!*"



Is your congregational team registered? The dates and locations of the spring workshops may be found in the box in the next column.



Teams choose **one** workshop from the list. Registration is available online. Just click the

link on the synod's home page at www.godslove.org.

Do What Matters! Workshop Schedule

March 26 (9 AM to 1 PM).....The Lutheran Home at Topton

March 27 (3-7 PM)St. Paul, Dallas (note change in location)

April 2 (9 AM to 1 PM)Jordan, Orefield

April 3 (3-7 PM)St. John, Nazareth



MUHLENBERG, MALLS, and MISSION

June 17-18, 2011
Muhlenberg College

Muhlenberg, Malls, and Mission is an event not to be missed!

LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together), the 2011 Synod Assembly, and the Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly will be held together at Muhlenberg College on **June 17-18 (LYF begins on June 16)**.

Marty Haugen, composer of ELW Setting Two, Holden Evening Prayer, and numerous hymns, will be leading workshops at the LIFT event and leading some worship during LIFT and the assembly.



Dr. Jon Pahl, Professor, History of Christianity in North America, Lutheran Theological Seminary at

Philadelphia, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Pahl is the author of *Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place*.



Workshops, concerts, displays, and activities will be available for people of all ages. Don't miss out on these exciting days for the entire family! **Mark your calendars now!**





Synod Ministry Teams
Your Resource to Help Invigorate
Congregational Mission

Leadership Development Ministry Team

Develop leaders, both lay and ordained, who are equipped and engaged in God's mission in daily life.

Great leaders are not born; they are developed. Nurturing, supporting, and providing opportunities for leaders in the church to develop their skills and abilities are essential elements of the mission of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Leadership Development Ministry Team. Amidst the variety of work carried out by the team, three programs in particular may be helpful to support leaders in your congregation:

- **Continuing Education Grants:** Rostered leaders can apply for grants of up to \$250 of matching funds for qualified continuing educational work. Criteria and grant forms are available on the synod website. Providing such grants for lay leader development is an important priority for the near future.
- **Pastoral Care Team Ministry:** Many congregations in our synod have benefitted greatly from the Pastoral Care Team program developed and supported by Diakon's Family Life Services. Currently the Leadership Development Ministry Team is supporting two mission district care teams and hope to develop more. These teams, currently in East Berks and Northern Lehigh Valley mission districts, offer care and support for rostered leaders and their families.
- **Project Connect:** The team continues to be in conversation and partnership with Don Johnson concerning Project Connect. Project Connect is a program of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries and is funded by the Lilly Endowment. Its purpose is to encourage young adults to consider a vocation in public ministry.




Please contact any team member for more information about these leadership development resources. Visit the team's web page on the synod website at www.godslove.org/people/ministry_teams/.

Pastor Greg Frey, convener; gregwfrey@aol.com



**Coming Up
This Month**

Troubling the Water 
March 12, 2011
9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing

Join other 9th and 10th grade youth, theologians, and seminarians for a day of theological exploration at *Troubling the Water*. Cost is \$20 per youth, which includes food and resources for the day.

For more information and to register, go to www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com.

And check out the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDa4ICxUEqI>

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.

Persistence, Patience, and Power
WELCA Spiritual Growth Retreat
Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM
(snow date, March 26)



Nativity Lutheran Church, Allentown
Lunch included with \$20.00 registration fee

For more information and to register, see the January 2011 *Flame*, on the synod's home page at www.godslove.org.