

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

May 2011



LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together) and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly



MUHLENBERG,
MALLS, and MISSION

June 17-18, 2011

The 2011 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly and LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together) will be held on the Muhlenberg College campus on Friday, **June 17**, and Saturday, **June 18**.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to join other Lutherans from across northeastern Pennsylvania for two days of festivities celebrating Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's 300th birthday.



Meet and talk with our ELCA representative, **David D.**

Swartling, the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A member of the ELCA Attorney's Association, Mr. Swartling has been a litigation attorney in Seattle, Washington, since 1976. He has received recognition for his long-time efforts in teaching litigation and improving the system of justice in the state of Washington.

Mr. Swartling will lead workshops on Friday (*Conversation with the ELCA Secretary*) and

Saturday (*Ten Things Every Congregation Council Person Should Know*).

In addition to Mr. Swartling's workshops, participants in the synod and LYF assemblies and LIFT will have at least three opportunities to attend workshops on a variety of topics. Here is a list of just a few:

- A Trip to Slovenia
- Addressing Bullying from a Christian Perspective
- Bible Study in a Bag
- Cutting Grass, Folding Laundry, Finding God
- Faith and Fair Trade: What's God Got to Do With It?
- Flip for Mission
- Haiti—A Year Later
- Listening for God: Vocation and Discernment in a Noisy World
- Liturgical Dance for Worship Leaders and Non-Dancers
- Middle East Peacemaking
- Magic, Puppets, and Arts: Expanding How We Do Ministry
- Starting Your Own Contemporary or Emerging Worship
- Tanzania Travelogue
- The Community Meal



- The Power of Partnerships
- What Is Sacred Space and Where Can I Find It?

See the complete list of workshops at www.godslove.org.

The Keynote Speaker

for the assembly/LIFT event is the Rev. Dr.

Jon Pahl, professor at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He is the author of *Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place*.



The Musicians are Marty

Haugen, composer of liturgical music for both Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations, and **Mary Preus**, singer, song



leader, and choir director. They will lead Haugen's *Holden Evening Prayer*.

Assembly voting members and LIFT participants may register online on the synod website, www.godslove.org. Click the link on the home page.

More details about the assembly and LIFT, including a link to registration, can be found at www.godslove.org.

LIFT/Assembly Schedule

Friday, June 17

- 8:30 am **Registration**
- 9:00-noon *Plenary Session 1*
- 1:30 pm **Jon Pahl: Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place**
- 2:45 pm **Workshop Session 1**
- 4:00 pm **Workshop Session 2**
- 5:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm **Holden Evening Prayer**
- 7:00-8:15 pm *Plenary Session 2*
- 8:30 pm **Holden Evening Prayer (for assembly participants)**

Saturday, June 18

- 8:00 am **Registration**
- 9:00-10:30 am *Plenary Session 3*
- 9:15 am **Workshop Session 3**
- 10:45 am **Festival Eucharist (everyone)**
- Noon **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm **Concert**
- 2:45 pm **Workshop Session 4**



(4-5-11) Update on the New Lutheran Center

Renovations to the new Lutheran Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Schoenersville are progressing quickly. The air conditioning duct work is now largely completed, and all of the new windows have been installed. The elevator shaft is almost finished, with delivery of the elevator expected in the next few weeks. We continue to be on schedule to move in early summer.



In order to maintain the tax-free status of the worship space, we anticipate beginning regular services shortly after Easter. Watch for details about weekly Morning Prayer services so you can join us in the synod's new home.

Live Your Faith



Do Justice. Love Kindness.
Walk humbly with your God.

**Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly
June 16-18, 2011**

Lutheran Youth Fellowship will meet in assembly at Muhlenberg College on **June 16** starting at 1:30 p.m., one day before the start of **LIFT** and the synod assembly. The theme for this year's LYF assembly is *Live Your Faith*, based on Micah 6:8 ("... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"). Participants will be housed on the Muhlenberg campus.



On Thursday, LYF participants will have opportunities to get to know one another, reflect on Bible study, participate in two plenary sessions, and more.

On Friday and Saturday, participants will follow the schedule of the synod assembly and **LIFT**. Those who aren't serving as voting members will be seated in the visitor section and will have voice.

Friday night, the LYF is sponsoring a dance for all LYF, **LIFT**, and synod assembly participants.



All the details and a link to registration are posted on the synod website at www.godslove.org.

Training Sessions for Youth Ministry Workers



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will offer training events this spring, fall, and spring 2012. Each event will be offered at three different locations on three different dates. Read more about these events at www.godslove.org/youth. **Spring Dates:** May 14, June 25, and June 26. Check the youth calendar for locations.