



August 2008

Dear Assembly Participants,

Welcome to the [2008 Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly](#), **We Are All Together...In Christ**. We are looking forward to meeting you on November 7. If you are a returning assembly-goer, welcome back. If you are attending for the first time we hope you will find this a wonderful experience.

We pack a lot into one assembly weekend. We make new friends and reconnect with friends from past years. We discuss issues of interest to youth. We have elections. We worship. We attend workshops. We play.

The LYF is taking its theme from Galatians 3 – “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.”

Pastor Tim Taylor, a pastor serving in Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, will be our chaplain and guest presenter for the event. He will lead us through a session titled “Does Reading the Label Really Help – A Workshop on Diversity.” Tim says, *“Very often, we label others and are labeled ourselves, and this labeling only helps to separate us and highlight our need for a common bond. If the horrific events of September 11, 2001, taught us anything, it is that when we seek to exclude and distrust each other, and allow walls to be built between us, it can have disastrous effects. This workshop attempts to teach us how to move beyond the barriers that separate us, and to begin to see and experience each other, without labels and stereotypes and preconceived notions.”*

At its 1999 assembly, the LYF called for continuing our support of the World Hunger Appeal. Our offering on Sunday morning will go to this appeal.

The LYF Board will be meeting shortly to decide upon this year’s “in kind” offering. When they’ve made their decision, you will be contacted by e-mail or postcard to let you know what that offering will be.

At this assembly – as every assembly – we will be electing LYF officers. If you would like to nominate someone OR if you would like to be considered for one of the positions, please

complete the LYF officer nomination form and mail that to Victoria Nichols (her address appears on the [nomination form](#)) by October 15.

We also will be electing youth to represent the synod's LYF at the Lutheran Youth Organization assembly, which will be held immediately following the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans. The LYO will be meeting an hour and a half away at the University of Southern Mississippi from July 26-30. If you would like to participate in the LYO Assembly next summer, please complete the [LYO delegate nomination form](#) and return it to Victoria Nichols by October 15.

Often at our assemblies we address issues that concern youth and the church. If you and/or members of your youth group have an issue you would like the assembly to address and take a stand on, please complete the resolution form and mail it to Pat Teehan (his address appears on the [Resolution Submittal Form](#)) by October 15.

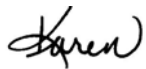
[Workshop descriptions](#) and a [workshop registration form](#) will appear on our website by mid-September. Please be sure to look for it and send in your workshop preferences by October 15.

In addition to all the above, please be sure to complete the [registration](#), [medical release](#), [camp life agreement](#), [photo release](#), and [t-shirt order form](#) and send it to me at the synod office (4865 Hamilton BLVD, Wescosville, PA, 18106) by October 15.

NOTE: If you need financial support in order to attend the assembly, be sure to complete the [Youth Scholarship Form](#) and return that to the synod office by October 15 as well.

We are anticipating a wonderful weekend of making new friends, seeing old friends, and celebrating LYF! See you at Pinebrook!

Together in ministry,



Karen S. Matthias-Long  
Advisor for  
Lutheran Youth Fellowship