

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Faithapalooza 2016

November 11-13

Youth in grades 9 - 12 are invited to participate in this year's synod youth leadership training event, Faithapalooza. The theme is "Weaving Together God's Story and Ours."

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn how to tell a Bible story through music, poetry, art or storytelling
- Explore scripture through wonder and imagination
- Reflect on their own life stories and see where they intersect with biblical themes and stories
- Get to know the stories of others at this gathering
- Have fun

Faithapalooza 2016 will be held at Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center, 29 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865.

The event begins at 8:00 pm on Friday evening and concludes at 11:00 am on Sunday morning.

The Early Bird registration fee (through October 24) is \$140. After October 24 the registration fee is \$160.

For more information and to register, please visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/faithapalooza-2016>.

Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA

The Congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod are supporting *Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA*. Campaign contributions can be directed to any of ten ELCA ministries. One of those is the International Women Leaders Initiative.

"As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, we are boldly investing in established and emerging women leaders from our global companion churches. Your gifts will help support the education of 200 additional international women through educational seminars, south-to-south exchanges, in-country study programs, and degree programs at ELCA colleges and universities." [ELCA website]

Because some synod donors have identified this ministry, we recently received the following note of thanks.

Dear Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA,

As a current scholarship recipient, I would like to thank you for your support of the International Women Leaders initiative! Your gift helped to support me and my fellow scholarship recipient colleagues.

Thank you!

Melissa Neo Pei Shi



The synod campaign goal, established by Synod Assembly action in 2014, is participation by 100% of our congregations. This is a realistic and attainable goal which can be met and sustained through January 31, 2019 with your support! If you need additional information about the campaign, contact Guy Ehler, Synod Campaign Coordinator at relhew@verizon.net; or call the synod office at 610-266-5101.

Bishop's Conference - November 1-2

St. Francis Retreat House, Easton

Speaker: Kay Stewart, M.Ed.

Stillwaters Mindfulness Training

For info and to register, visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/bishops-conference-2016>



Women and Justice



"The ELCA is a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. As part of this call, we seek the common good for society, provide moral vision and are committed to addressing social and cultural injustices and issues." [ELCA website: Faith & Society]

One way in which the ELCA addresses such issues is by releasing social statements from time to time. Two more recent statements were on "Genetics" and "Human Sexuality."

In 2009, the Churchwide Assembly authorized the development of a social statement on women and justice. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice is now in the process of drafting the statement, which will be presented to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

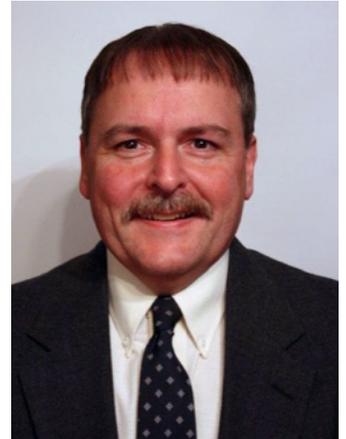
During this study phase of the process, the task force is encouraging and hosting listening events in order to hear about the insights, hopes, and concerns of ELCA members across the country. You are invited to join in this process!

For more information about the process and the location of the listening events, please visit the ELCA website at <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice>.

James Jennings Elected to ELCA Church Council

As a newly elected member of the ELCA Church Council, I want to thank you for supporting my nomination, and share with you my excitement about this opportunity to represent our synod at the national level.

In many ways we find ourselves at a turning point in the life of the Church. As we prepare to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we look back on the roots of our Lutheran heritage while simultaneously looking forward to what the vision of the ELCA will be for the future. My hope is that together, local congregations and national leadership can draw strength and meaning from Luther's teachings and find innovative ways to apply his principles in 2017 and beyond.



I would also like to tell you a little about myself. I am a life-long member of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bangor, PA. Over the years, I have been an active participant in a variety of ways, including committee work (Mutual Ministry, Finance, Call, Worship & Music), Council (multiple terms as President, Vice President and Secretary), and various roles in worship support (Communion Assistant, Usher, special music). I am employed as Senior Manager of Planning and Allocation with Party City Corporation. My wife Kim is a teacher, and we have two sons, Cory and Owen.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my tenure and hope to share news from across the ELCA as we go forward. Thank you again for your support, and I pray for you and your congregations.

The ELCA Church Council is composed of 34 elected members (lay and ordained) from across the ELCA. Members of the Council come from a variety of backgrounds, among them: the social services, the legal profession, accounting and financial management, and medicine. Two youth members who were high school students at the time of their election are Council members. The Council deals with a broad range of issues, much of the work done by four committees in preparation for Churchwide Assembly action. It meets at the churchwide office in Chicago twice a year - April and November - for three or four days. The four officers of the ELCA and the chair of the Conference of Bishops are also part of the Council. In addition, nine Conference of Bishops liaison representatives attend the meetings.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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