

Welcome to the 21st annual Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, **A Synod at Table with the Hungry**, April 18-19, 2008. As an assembly of congregations we gather together to worship, study the Bible, and participate in the decision-making business of the church. It is hoped you will be renewed, refreshed and enlightened by your assembly experience.

David Beckmann

Keynote Speaker

David Beckmann is one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hungry people. He has been president of Bread for the World for 15 years, leading large-scale and successful campaigning to strengthen U.S. political commitment to overcoming hunger and poverty. Before that, he served at the World Bank for 15 years, overseeing large projects and driving innovations to make the Bank more effective in reducing poverty.

Bread for the World is a nationwide faith-based citizens' movement against hunger that mobilizes a quarter of a million constituent letters to Congress each year. Thousands of Bread for the World activists meet with legislators, get coverage in local media, and organize others in their communities. Bread for the World is supported by 50 diverse religious bodies and works in partnership with many secular institutions. It is one of the largest organizations in the world dedicated to building the political will to end hunger.



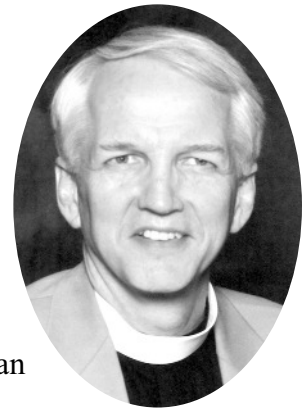
Photo courtesy of Bread for the World/ Brian Duss

Bishop Peter Rogness

Bible Study

Rev. Peter Rogness was elected bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in April 2002.

Among much other service to the church and other achievements, Rogness is the author of *A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Overcoming Poverty*, a document written in 2004 and endorsed by more than 30 religious leaders around Minnesota. The document outlines the principles shared by all faith communities in walking with those living in poverty and shapes the synod's ecumenical efforts to end poverty. Working in partnership with Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, he has sought to bring public attention to the needs of the state's most vulnerable people. He was part of a group of international ecumenical leaders who participated in a religious summit on poverty prior to the G8 summit in Scotland in 2005. In 2006, he co-authored with the Rev. Nancy Maeker, *Ending Poverty: A 20/20 Vision*, a guide for individuals and congregations.



Andrew Genszler

ELCA Churchwide Representative

Andrew Genszler has served as Director of the ELCA Advocacy Department and the ELCA Washington Office since May 2007.



The Advocacy Department, ELCA Church in Society, is comprised of the ELCA Washington Office here; the Lutheran Office for World Community, New York; ELCA Corporate Social Responsibility, Pittsburgh; and 20 state advocacy offices throughout the United States.

From 2001 to 2002, Genszler served as associate director for public policy in the Lutheran Services in America here. He also worked for the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Cleveland, from 2004 to 2005.

Genszler described the ministry of advocacy as "part of our gospel mandate as Christians," which can build upon the church's existing charity and service efforts.

"We've got to see our Lutheran church, our Christian faith, not as a monument but as a movement," said Genszler. "We can take advantage of the synergy that happens when you look at the connections between our great charitable and volunteer work, like along the Gulf Coast, and the opportunities that open up to actually change policy."

Hearings

All registered participants are invited to participate in one of the following hearings:

- **Money and Ministry in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod**
Mark Bradley, Treasurer, and Larry Iverson, Synod Minister
- **Bible Book of Faith**
Rev. Jay Dahlvang & Rev. Linda Gunderson, Synod Minister
- **God's work. Our hands. Lutherans changing the world in a million ways.**
Drew Genszler, ELCA representative
- **What does a pastor cost?**
John Petersburg, Synod Council, and ELCA Board of Pensions
- **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**
Children, Youth, and Family Task Force

Welcome



Workshops

Registered participants can also participate in several workshops which will be offered in two different sessions:

Channel One Workshop – Charla Irwin-Buncher, Communication and Development Director, & Scott Carpenter

Learn more about your neighbors who are struggling to meet their daily needs and how you and your faith community, in partnership with Channel One Food Bank, can help to make sure that children, families and the elderly in your community do not go hungry.

Congregational Mission Trips - Pastor Nick Fisher-Broin

This workshop will explore the process by which congregations plan and prepare trips to visit their mission partners and leave participants with a roadmap to plan a mission trip.

Minnesota Hunger 101©
(lasts through both sessions)

Challenge yourself to step into the shoes of one of your neighbors in Minnesota who is at risk of being hungry. Minnesota Hunger 101 provides participants the opportunity to take on the role of someone in Minnesota who is hungry.

Food, Agriculture, Health, and Hunger: Making the Sustainable Connections –

Mary Jo Forbord, Executive Director, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, & Chair, Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Practice Group of the American Dietetic Association

Join this discussion that centers on making choices that foster a sustainable food and agricultural system for all - one that is economically viable, environmentally sound, socially just and humane.

Lutheran World Relief: Walking the Jericho Road - Daniel J. Lee,

Communication Project Coordinator

Learn how Lutheran World Relief's efforts are reaching beyond relief—accompanying communities in self-directed development that meets immediate and future needs—and how your community can participate in this uniquely Lutheran, life-changing work.

Bread for the World –

David Beckmann & Tammy Walhof

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Hear about ways we can work together through advocacy to address the root causes of hunger by changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty.

ELCA Washington Office –

Andrew Genszler, Director

Find out how this office educates, informs, and enables full involvement of the church in the ELCA's witness for social justice on domestic and foreign policy issues facing the nation, and through it, the world.

ELCA World Hunger – Chris Carpenter, Program Associate

Hear how we work together to support people who live with chronic hunger and poverty around the corner and around the world through relief, development, education, and advocacy.

Church World Service – Deborah Braun

Learn about this ecumenical Christian relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry. CWS works in partnership with organizations in more than 80 countries to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard.

