



2005 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

“Called Into God’s Marvelous Light...Today!”

May 6-7, 2005 - Mayo Civic Center – Exhibit Hall, Rochester

Can't Make It To Assembly? Follow Along Online!

Can't make it to the Assembly, but don't want to miss all the action? No problem! Watch www.semnsynod.org for live updates and photos throughout the Assembly.

Also, a complete Assembly recap will be posted the evening of Saturday, May 7 for those who wish to update their congregations on what happened. This recap can be used in congregation bulletins, newsletters, or can be read to the congregation by those who attended.

An Assembly Joined in Prayer

Participants will worship, study scripture, talk about difficult issues, enjoy fellowship with voters from around the synod, and pray. The 2005 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be surrounded by prayer – prayer not just at meal time and worship, but prayer permeating every aspect of the Assembly.

Every congregation is encouraged to remember voting members in prayer on Sunday, May 1. If you have a prayer shawl ministry in your congregation, you may wish to present each voting member and pastor with a prayer shawl and encourage them to take the shawls to the Assembly. During the Assembly, prayer shawls will be knitted and then presented to our Churchwide Assembly voting members.

We also ask everyone to remember the Assembly in prayer May 6 and 7 – prayers for safe travel for participants, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit during deliberations, study, worship and business are just some of the many prayers that could be offered for the Assembly. (For prayer examples, see page 7.)

Are You Ready For... Lemonade?

Find out how a simple glass of refreshing lemonade can support new mission starts – only at Assembly! Check out the Mission Planning & Action Team's lemonade stand in the Auditorium!



What's On the Docket?

Resolution 2005-01: Justice for the Poor Through Fair Trade

Resolution 2005-02: New Mission Starts in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Resolution 2005-03: New Mission Starts in the ELCA

Resolution 2005-04: Affirming the Historical Consensus

Resolution 2005-05: Affirming Biblical Teachings

Resolution 2005-06: Is the ELCA on the Wrong Road?

Resolution 2005-07: Mission Support

Resolution 2005-08: New Ministry Emphasis Sunday

Resolution 2005-09: Advocate for Poor and Working Poor Neighbors

Resolution 2005-10: 2006 Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines

Read these resolutions at
www.semnsynod.org/assembly/2005/resolutions.html

Who Can You Meet at Assembly?

Bishop Margaret Payne Keynote

Margaret Payne is the bishop of the New England Synod of the ELCA, our sister synod.

As a member of the Conference of Bishops, she serves on the Theology and Ethics Committee and represents the Conference on the steering committee of The Fund for Leaders in Mission. She is also serving as Chair of the Sexuality Task Force of the ELCA.



Professor Richard Carlson Bible Study

The Rev. Dr. Carlson is the Glatfelter Professor of Biblical Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

His field of study and teaching is particularly in the New Testament. In addition to teaching responsibilities, he serves as chairperson of the Seminary's Field Education committee and oversees post-internship candidacy items.



Kathryn Sime ELCA Churchwide Representative

Kathryn Sime is the director of the World Hunger and Disaster Appeal of the ELCA.

She has also served as a research analyst at the ELCA churchwide organization in the Department for Research and Evaluation, and has written articles for *The Lutheran* and *Lutheran Woman Today*.

She is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago and is currently serving on the capital campaign board there.



A Bunch of Guys Musical Guests

David Piper, John Christianson and Knute Ogren, who will be leading us in song at Synod Assembly, have been singing and playing together

for more than ten years after having met at Camp Calumet Lutheran in Freedom, New Hampshire. Together with many friends from throughout New England, they are "A Bunch of Guys." Their two CDs were produced to raise money for ELCA World Hunger. To date, they have raised over \$136,000.



Unity in the Midst of Differences Panel

"Unity in the Midst of Differences" is the title of a panel discussion to be featured at the 2005 Synod Assembly. Former U.S. Congressman Tim Penny will moderate the panel, and panel participants will be Pastor and Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson, and Minnesota Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum. From their perspectives in state government toward a church struggling with differences, the panel will discuss principles that bring us together.



Speaker of the House
Steve Sviggum



Senate Majority Leader
Dean Johnson



Tim Penny

Proposed Agenda

Friday, May 6

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| 7:30 a.m. | Registration Opens |
| 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Opening Worship with Eucharist Bishop Usgaard, preaching |
| 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. | First Plenary |
| 10:45 a.m.- 12 p.m. | Bible Study Dr. Richard P. Carlson |
| 12 p.m.-12:30 p.m. | Report of the ELCA Bishop, Part 1 Ms. Kathryn Sime |
| 12:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m. | Lunch and Conference Caucuses |
| 1:30 p.m.- 2 p.m. | Second Plenary |
| 2 p.m.- 3 p.m. | Keynote Bishop Margaret Payne |
| 3:15 p.m.- 4 p.m. | The Report of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality Bishop Margaret Payne |
| 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Second Plenary, continued |
| 6 p.m. | Picnic Supper |

Saturday, May 7

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| 8:30 a.m.- 9 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| 9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Report of the ELCA Bishop, Part 2 Ms. Kathryn Sime |
| 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | “Unity in the Midst of Differences” Panel Discussion Senator Dean Johnson, Tim Penny, Rep. Steve Sviggum |
| 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Third Plenary |
| 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:15 p.m.- 4 p.m. | Fourth Plenary Report of the Bishop, Southeastern Minnesota Synod – Bishop Harold Usgaard Blessing of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members |
| 4 p.m. | Closing of the Assembly |

“Called into God’s Marvelous Light” at Assembly

The synod’s strategic plan for 2005-2007, “Called into God’s Marvelous Light,” was voted on unanimously by last year’s Assembly.

This year, Assembly participants will continue to be “Called into God’s Marvelous Light,” as elements of the strategic plan will be woven throughout the Assembly. In addition to the bishop’s presentation on Saturday afternoon, which will feature information on what has happened with the strategic plan so far, and what is to come, there will be several other strategic-plan related events and resources available.

- **Vision:** Called into God’s Marvelous Light...To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

Objective: 2005: A Synod Joined in Prayer

Prayer will be a major emphasis at the 2005 Synod Assembly. There will be a large prayer tent in the Exhibit Hall, many resources on developing prayer lives, people knitting prayer shawls during the Assembly, and Augsburg Fortress will feature lots of resources about prayer.

- **Vision:** Called into God’s Marvelous Light...To Be Strong Leaders

The first scholarships from the synod’s Fund for Leaders in Mission will be presented to seminary students. Several new pastors will be presented money from the synod’s Endowment Fund toward relieving their seminary debt. In addition, rostered leaders will be honored at Assembly for ordination anniversaries and retirement.

- **Objective:** To facilitate open communication, especially when important and difficult issues are involved.

The “Unity in the Midst of Differences” panel will feature Lutherans in politics who share different points of view, and they will speak about how they still work together despite their differences.

Hold the Assembly in Your Prayers

Congregations and individuals are invited to use the prayers below in the weeks leading up to the Synod Assembly:

“O God, it is your desire for the whole world to be called into your marvelous light. Be with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and all who prepare to gather in assembly May 6 and 7. Bless their worship, open their minds, guide their deliberations, and enrich their fellowship. Be with Bishop Usgaard, the synod staff, the planning committee, the volunteers, the speakers, and the voters. Bring your light to this world: restore unity to your church, bring peace among nations, mend broken relationships, provide care for your creation, and wholeness for mind, body, and spirit.”
OR

“O God, pour out your wisdom upon the members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, especially the voting members of the Synod Assembly. Bless their deliberations, guide their decisions, inspire their prayers, that in all they do they may bear witness to the truth of the Gospel so that all the members of your Church may be strengthened and encouraged to serve the peoples of the earth. Please also be with Bishop Usgaard, the synod staff, the planning committee, the volunteers, and the speakers. Guide them with your wisdom.”

(These prayers were adapted from prayers on the ELCA web site.)

Worship Offering to Benefit ELCA World Hunger

The offering at worship Friday will go toward ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger is the way the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) addresses chronic hunger and poverty around the world and in the U.S.

ELCA World Hunger improves the lives of people in need in the United States and around the world by:

- Providing immediate relief for people in need
- Providing the means for long-term, sustainable development for whole communities
- Advocating for justice
- Educating members of the ELCA in awareness of issues relating to hunger, poverty and justice

Augsburg Fortress to Offer Special Deals

Assembly participants should be sure to visit the display of Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, located in the Auditorium. Many resources will be available for immediate purchase and orders may be placed for additional items not available at the display; free shipping on all orders over \$100! Augsburg Fortress purchases at the Synod Assembly can be made with an Augsburg Fortress Account and by credit card or check. Cash will not be accepted for purchases.

Special offers available from Augsburg Fortress at the Assembly include:

- Purchase 3 or more Friar Tuck clergy shirts and receive 20% off!
- Preorder the new title, *Fire of Grace* by Rev. Dr. Richard Rouse, and receive a 30% discount.
- Buy 10 or more copies of Unit 1 from the new Bible study *No Experience Necessary* and receive 10% off your Unit 1 purchase.
- Answer the Bible trivia question correctly from the new Lutheran Handbook for a chance to win a FREE Winking Luther T-shirt!

Augsburg Fortress