

PREPARING FOR ...

Living in God's Amazing Grace: Called to Lead

Central States Synod Assembly 2006

Bethany College -- Lindsborg, Kansas

We look forward to seeing you at the 2006 Central States Synod Assembly to be held at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. To get the most out of our time together the Synod Assembly Team has provided the following material that you may use in preparation for the Assembly.

Assembly Themes:

Beginning last year and continuing through our 2008 Assembly we are using the ELCA Evangelism Strategy objectives to direct our Assembly themes. Last year the Assembly theme was "Living in God's Amazing Grace: Beginning with Prayer." On the back of this sheet is a summary of the Evangelism Strategy objectives. Please read the objectives as a part of your preparation for the Assembly.

Begin with Prayer:

God of Strength and Trust: *We pray that all may be guided by the Holy Spirit; that we be strengthened for God's work and that we may serve with a joyful heart. We especially pray for Bishop Gerald Mansholt, the Synod Assembly Steering Committee, the Synod Council, the Synod Staff and all our Voting Members.*

God of Majesty: *We pray for the worship leaders, those preaching and presiding, those assisting with the sacraments, those that plan and are preparing the services, that their work may please you for you are worthy of the highest worship.*

God of Learning: *We pray for all who will provide educational opportunities; especially our Bible study leaders, Dr. James Echols and Dr. Duane Larson, and workshop leaders; that what they teach will inspire us and empower us to share our learning with our congregations.*

God of Understanding: *We pray that our hearts may be opened and that we may be rejuvenated to go out and do your work as you would have us do. May your Holy Spirit protect all who will travel to this Assembly.*

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Spend some time with Scripture:

The Assembly Steering Committee began each meeting by reading **Luke 10:1-20** and offering our reflections. Consider reading the passage on your own and with the other voting members who will be attending. The following is the structure that we use:

1. Read the passage aloud;
2. Sit individually in silence with the text;
3. Then in conversation with one or two others, share where your imagination was caught in the text or where a memory was triggered;
4. Let the text draw you together as an entire group and form your thoughts and conversation;
5. Close with prayer.