

Sunday Morning

June 7, 2009

Volume 1. Issue 4

Synod Assembly Highlights

Central States Synod – SUNDAY MORNING Edition



**ASSEMBLY
OFFICE:** Ericson
classroom by
Assembly Hall

THANK YOU
To all for your
work, prayers and
contributions to
God's ministry
accomplished
through this
Assembly...
...Changed and
Sent to Serve

State of the church – Beth Lewis

In a video, Bishop Hanson characterized us being at the intersection of fear and hope. We can become frozen by despair or learn to live with all.

We have 87 million dollars invested to support mission. The mission of the ELCA is evident in our synod with 81 Lutheran Social Services sites. Lutheran disaster Relief has been active in Kansas and several programs have received hunger grants.

We are encouraged to follow ELCA National Assembly on the web at: www.elca.org/assembly

Saturday Events

Saturday events included the business of the church during the Plenary Sessions IV, V and VI, Bible study and music with the Ron and Peter focused on the Synod Assembly's theme and Missional directions, and the second session of the committee of the whole, leading to the votes on the four resolutions related to the memorial concerning recommendations on ministry policies.

Committee of the whole

For the second time, the Assembly met as a committee of the whole for one hour to discuss the *memorials concerning recommendation on ministry policies*. Presenters spoke with heartfelt passion while also maintaining a civil and respectful tone throughout. All four memorials were adopted.

Leaps of Faith, Fortitude and Frogs

Bishop's program on the Holy Land

Bishop and Anita Mansholt visited the Holy Land with the Lutheran bishops of the United States and Canada.

They spoke movingly of the struggles of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land.

While the ELCJHL is shrinking due to its members emigrating, they are still a source of hope and healing for all residents.

The Mansholts explained the devastating effects of the wall that divide Jewish and Palestinian territories and the different narratives of the Israelis and Palestinians

F.R.O.G.S.!

Did you see the "FROGS" at the water fountain in the meeting area? They were sewn by members and friends of Hope Lutheran, Rolla, MO. FROG stands for *Friends Rely On God*.

Over 300 FROGs have been sewn in memory of Terri Bruner, Hope's pianist, who gave frogs to cancer patients during her own cancer treatments.

If you have cancer or know someone with cancer or another illness, please take a FROG.

For more information: contact Hope Lutheran church, Rolla MO, or contact E.L. Schluemer at wschluemer@socket.net

ELECTIONS

- *Ballot 7:* Synod Council, At-large, POC/LOE – Juanita Bynum
- *Ballot 9:* Discipline comm., At Large Clergy M/F – Peter Rehwaldt
- *Ballot 10:* Discipline comm., At-large Lay M – Tom Chida
- *Ballot 11:* Consultation com., At-large Lay M/F – Dan Liliankamp
- *Ballot 12:* Consultation com., At-large Lay M/F – Deborah Rupprecht

CREDENTIALS REPORT (Sat)

Voting members:

Lay total: (M: 128 / F: 179): 307
Clergy total (M and F): 126
Lay: 71% Clergy 29%

These include: Youth: 7
POC/LOE: 4

Visitors: 75

Resolutions

CSS Compensation Guidelines for 2010 – approved as presented

Four resolutions related to memorial concerning recommendation on ministry policies:

1. RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships.
Adopted: 240 - 145
2. RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church.
Adopted: 216 - 178

3. RESOLVED, that, in the implementation of these resolutions, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all.
Adopted: 274 – 118

4. RESOLVED ... [*Resolution too lengthy to include full text here. See website.*]
Adopted: 230 - 169

Resolutions adopted:

- Appreciation for retired persons, and faithful departed.
- Encouraging dialog on national health care reform.
- Global awareness, remembering companion synods.
- Constitution amendment regarding Synod Council nomination

Assembly Worship Notes ...

The Friday morning opening Eucharist was presented by area Ministry 2 which tasked the worship team to provide a celebration that was at once familiar and festive. The team chose ELW four [LBW two] and decided to bracket the worship in Baptism.

Beginning with the Thanksgiving for Baptism and the asperges {sprinkling with water as a remembrance of our Baptism; and having the same water available for

people to bless themselves at the end of the service.

Pr. Adam Wutka secured permission from Concordia Publishing House to use their festive version of LBW Two; and transposed the music for tuba, French horns, trumpets, and trombones.

The formal procession involved the interweaving of two of Brockering's hymns, "Earth and All Stars", and "Jesus is

Risen." The service was a classic traditional service including Sanctus Bells and Vater Unser Bells.

The Bishop likewise led the congregants in a time of prayer and reflection following the murder of Dr. Tiller in his home church of Reformation Lutheran in Wichita. The Rite was an adaptation of the invitation to Lent with the prayer of Saint Francis and a toll of the bell

--Pastor Steve Little

ELCA National Assembly -- in Minneapolis, August 17 - 23

1,045 voting members from 65 synods and 10,448 congregations, serving on behalf of the 4,709,203 baptized members of the ELCA, will gather from August 17-23 at the Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota under the theme, "God's work. Our hands."

Planned areas of focus from the preliminary agenda include: Worship, Election of Vice President, Proposed Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust", Recommendations on Ministry Policies, HIV and AIDS Strategy, Lutheran Malaria Initiative,

Full Communion Agreement with United Methodist Church, Update on "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible", Budget, Memorials, resolutions and constitutional changes.

Bishop Mark Hanson is encouraging all congregations to enter into *50 Days of Prayer* prior to the start of the Assembly. Materials and resources are on the ELCA website, www.elca.org. Please keep our Synod's voting members in your prayers as well. --Pastor Susan Langhauser, ELCA Church Council Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS