



Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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DATE: February 3, 2012
TO: Congregational Pastors
FROM: Sylvia Olson, Registrar
RE: Procedure for Registration, Registration Deadline: March 15

Assembly Highlights

The theme of the 2012 Synod Assembly is “*Bearing the Marks*.” The Rev. Jessicah Duckworth, Assistant Professor of Congregational and Community Care at Luther Seminary and Mr. David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA are our featured guests.

This year’s Assembly is at Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids and Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. The Assembly will convene Friday, April 27 - Sunday, April 29. On-site registration begins Friday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at Ruttger’s. The Assembly concludes Sunday following 10:30 am worship at Zion. **Watch for an agenda, updates, and the entire Bulletin of Reports at www.nemnsynod.org under the 2012 Synod Assembly link.**

Enclosed you will find a DVD with a message on the theme and registration information from Bishop Tom Aitken. Please take the time to watch it with your voting members. As congregational pastor, you are responsible to print and download all registration materials and the Bulletin of Reports for yourself, your voting members and visitors from your congregation. Registration forms are on the DVD and on the synod web site.

You must register for the Assembly and housing separately. Housing is expected to fill at Ruttger’s, so please register early. Ruttger’s will guide you to other housing options if/when they fill. You must still register for meals on the Ruttger’s registration form (this includes those who are commuting). Meal tickets are NOT available on site. You must request them in advance!

PLEASE NOTE: because of limited room size at Ruttger’s, some attendees will be seated in overflow seating using closed-circuit TV.

Transportation

Busses will be provided to and from Zion and to and from mission sites on Saturday.

Room Assignments

All room requests are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note roommate preferences on your registration form. Ruttger’s also has townhomes that can house 4 guests. Voting members age 18 and under must be housed according to the synod housing policy for youth. This policy is available on the web along with other registration info.

Deadlines and Fees

The registration deadline is March 15. Registration fee for the Assembly is \$90. All attendees must complete the Synod Assembly registration form and mail it to me. Meals and Housing are being handled by Ruttger’s on a separate registration form. You may register for double occupancy, single occupancy or townhome. If you do not designate a roommate(s) on your registration form, one will be assigned to you. If you are commuting, you will still need to register for the Assembly, but need only register for meals you will be eating at Ruttger’s. Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast will be served at Zion. These meals are included in your \$90 registration fee. All information needed by voting members will be available on the synod website. To download and print, visit www.nemnsynod.org and click on the 2012 Synod Assembly link.

Entitled to Vote

According to the Northeastern Minnesota Synod constitution: “a minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to the synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members.” “All congregations having more than 500 confirmed members, shall be entitled to elect an additional voting member for each additional 500 confirmed members or major fraction thereof.” The following churches are allowed more than two lay voting members:

Bethlehem, Brainerd (3)	First, Aitkin (3)	Hope, Walker (3)	Trinity, Brainerd (4)
Bethlehem, Two Harbors (3)	First, Brainerd (4)	Lord of Life, Baxter (3)	Trinity, Princeton (3)
Church of the Cross, Nisswa (3)	First, Duluth (4)	Our Redeemer, Pine City (3)	United in Christ, Eveleth (3)
Crosslake, Crosslake (3)	First, Little Falls (3)	Our Savior’s, Hibbing (3)	Zion, Cloquet (3)
Emmanuel, Two Harbors (3)	Good Shepherd, Duluth (3)	St. Andrew’s, Grand Rapids (3)	Zion, Grand Rapids (3)

Constitution Notes:

- S14.21. “All ordained ministers and associates in ministry under call who are unable to attend the Assembly are to secure an excuse from the bishop in advance. In our synod, all retired rostered personnel have voice and vote.”
- S6.04.B09. “It is the goal of this synod that at least 10% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly...be youth and young adults. ...the term ‘youth’ means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term ‘young adult’ means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.”

Changes/Alternates

Please inform me of a change of voting members immediately. The 2012 Proposed Rules and Procedures state: “Voting members for each congregation shall be the same person for the three (3) business days of the Assembly. The vote is not transferable to an alternate or other person after the opening of the first plenary session Friday. An alternate not listed on the registration rolls must have a letter of authorization from their congregational officer or pastor in order to be registered as an official voting member.”

Assemblyships

Ten \$100 Assemblyships are available for those congregations in need of financial assistance; who would not otherwise be able to send voting members to the Assembly due to the financial burden. Ten \$100 Assemblyships are also available for retired rostered leaders to assist in meeting the expenses of attending the Assembly. Submit written requests for these Assemblyships to the synod office, attention Kathy Wimer, no later than February 23. Grants are given on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to decision of Section 2 of the Synod Council.

Mission Outreach Saturday afternoon will be spent reaching out to the community through mission events. Specify your preference on your registration form. Space is limited. First come, First served, so register early!

- ◆ **Miles for Malaria** (200+ people)
- ◆ **Second Harvest Food Shelf** (20-25 people): packing boxes
- ◆ **Camp Hiawatha** (20-25 people): Clean up outside and inside the camp getting ready for summer camp
- ◆ **ReStore** (10-15 people): Working at a warehouse, arranging items and sorting
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity** (15-20 people): Preparing and serving lunch to a crew at a contractors build in Deer River. Also helping in any way they can and learning about what happens.
- ◆ **GRACE House** (15-20 people): Washing clothes, visiting with guest, preparing an evening meal for them.
- ◆ **Bridges Mentoring**: Putting together an afternoon activity, such as a circus, movie or other project for volunteer mentors and young people
- ◆ **Golf Scramble**
- ◆ **Projects at Zion** (coordinated by Women of the ELCA?)
 - ◇ Work on (tie) quilt(s) for LWR
 - ◇ Assemble LWR Kits
 - ◇ Assemble GHM Hospice Kits