

What You Need To Know (and Remember)

from the 2008 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly

Luther Memorial Church	At their request, Luther Memorial Church has been transferred in the synod constitution from the Baltimore City Conference to the Baltimore East Conference.
St. Dysmas Sunday	Congregations are encouraged to designate the third Sunday in October 2008 (Oct. 19) and each third Sunday in October thereafter as "St. Dysmas Sunday." Suggestions and resources will be provided in the September issue of FaithLines.
Companion Synod and Diocese Sunday	Congregations are encouraged to celebrate the third Sunday of Epiphany in 2009 (Jan. 25) and each third Sunday of Epiphany in following years as "Companion Synod and Diocese Sunday." Suggestions and resources will be distributed in the November issue of FaithLines.
Commemorations	Look for a list of annual commemorations in the August issue of FaithLines.
Friday's documentary on white skin privilege	Each <i>conference</i> will receive a copy of Friday's documentary, "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible" (World Trust Educational Services Inc., 2007, by Shakti Butler) at some future date. In the meantime, three copies are available to borrow. Contact A2B Ginny Price or Linda Chinnia in the synod office, (410)230-2860 or (800)869-5492. When you borrow the film, you also may request a copy of the discussion guide prepared for the small groups at the assembly.
Capital campaign kick-off	<p>The three-year capital campaign for the synod, Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg marked its public kick-off at the assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each congregation should have picked up from the display area a copy of the "Sowing for the Harvest" DVD. Additional copies are available from the synod office, (410)230-2860 or (800)869-5492.• Each congregation is asked to set aside Sept. 14, 21, <i>and</i> 28 as Commitment Sundays for the campaign.• Look for details and resources in the August issue of FaithLines and on the synod website, <DeMdSynod.org>, in the "Sowing for the Harvest" section, linked from the front page just under the blue "Sent to Share and Serve" logo.• Additionally, a resource packet will be mailed directly to each congregation in early September.• Have you identified your campaign point person yet? Call the synod office with the person's name and contact info: (410)230-2860 or (800)869-5492.
New assembly materials on website	More assembly material is being added to the Synod Assembly page on the synod website, <DeMdSynod.org>, including Bishop Knoche's sermon and links to the assembly photo albums. Look for the link on the front page. You'll also find Assembly Highlights in three sizes to download and print, and a list of anti-racism resources.
2009 and 2010 assemblies	We're going "downy ocean, hon" for our next two synod assemblies! Mark your calendar now for Thurs.-Fri., May 28-29, 2009 (yes, it's only two days next year), and Thurs.-Sat., June 3-5, 2010, at the Ocean City, Md., Convention Center.
Budget	Voting members passed a budget of slightly more than \$3 million. Of this amount, almost \$1.5 million will be given directly to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as mission support, which, in turn, comes back to you in the form of many resources and other kinds of ministry support.

(More on back)

Maryland referendum on slots

Voting members urged Maryland congregations to take several actions in relation to the state referendum on slots which will appear on the November ballot. Maryland congregations specifically are urged:

- to set aside time and spiritual resources to defeat the referendum on slots;
- to work with the Lutheran Office on Public Policy/MD to advocate for state tax increases in lieu of gambling revenues;
- to devote at least two Sundays between now and the November election to educating and engaging their members about the ELCA position in regard to state-sponsored gambling and the Maryland referendum vote;
- to make their communication instruments and networks available to the synod and LOPP/MD for information about the referendum; and
- to engage community ecumenical and interfaith partners in the effort to defeat the referendum on slots.

To contact Pr. Lee Hudson, director, LOPP/MD, for more information, call (410)342-4543 or e-mail <messiahodsq@netzero.net>.

Book of Faith Initiative

Voting members committed the synod and themselves to several actions regarding the ELCA's Book of Faith Initiative.

- They unanimously designated the Delaware-Maryland Synod a "Book of Faith" synod.
- They encouraged congregations to join the Book of Faith Initiative. (Look in the "Join the Conversation" area of the website listed below to do so.)
- They covenanted personally to begin a practice of daily Bible study and prayer.
- They encouraged all synod congregations to have one Bible study for every 50 members.

For materials, see <elca.org/What-We-Believe/The-Bible/Book-of-Faith.aspx>. An ELCA news release of June 25 reports that so far, 41 of the ELCA's 65 synods have passed the Book of Faith Initiative resolution.

2009 Compensation Guidelines

New Compensation Guidelines for 2009 were presented as information to the assembly. Voting members received a copy in their on-site registration packets. The guidelines will be updated on the synod website, <DeMdSynod.org>, sometime next week.

Elections

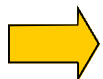
Congratulations to Nancy Gordon, Zion Lutheran, Middletown, Md., who was re-elected Synod Council secretary. Watch the August issue of FaithLines for other election results.

Missionaries

You are cordially invited to the Service of Commissioning for ELCA Missionaries. Pastors JMe and Bob Lowden will be commissioned as ELCA missionaries to serve in Tanzania on Sun., Aug. 17, 2008, at 3 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, Catonsville, Md. Watch for details in a future E-Letter.

Companion Synod trip

You're invited to join a group of travelers from the synod for a visit to our Companion Synods in Estonia and Finland, Sept. 16-30. Estimated cost: \$1,900 per person. Contact Carol Lettrich, (410)750-7310, <ckljpl@comcast.net>, or Pr. Matt Fuhrman, (443)710-7007, <revfuhrman@msn.com>.



Would you like an easy way to keep current on events, resources, prayer concerns, and lots of other helpful info? All members of the synod are invite to request a free subscription to The E-Letter, the synod's electronic newsletter. Send your name, home congregation, and e-mail address to Linda Lovell, <LNLOvell57@gmail.com>, with the subject line, E-Letter Subscription.

