



WE ARE THE CHURCH
By The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop

2009 ASSEMBLY NEWS

Bringing Our Gifts To God's Party.



Welcome to the 22nd Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. This year we are *Bringing our Gifts to God's Party*. We will spend more time in enrichment and in gatherings than we have in prior assemblies. This year we want to look at the gifts we have received from God and reflect on how we might use those gifts in doing the work of God.

Every Assembly tries to balance the needs of the church to worship, to learn, to do the business of the synod and to worship our God. Frankly this Synod's assemblies have regularly focused on the worship of God and the business of the Synod. These are essential functions that only a Synod Assembly can accomplish.

The Synod is more than business. It is the 48,000 baptized disciples who have been gifted to reach out to the world with the power of the Risen Christ. We know that all 48,000 will not join us for the gatherings on Saturday. They are welcome and we need to envision their gifts as we share and learn from each other.

We will on Friday do the business of the Synod. We will elect members of the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee. We will act on the resolutions that have come to the assembly from members of this church. We will act on a proposed budget for the 2010 fiscal year. As time allows we will hear reports from the various agencies and ministries of the synod and from the officers of the synod. We will do the business of the synod.

We will hear the Gospel proclaimed and we will close with a service of communion. These two days are the assembly of this synod. Gathered around the Word and the Sacrament we are the church in this place. As the church we are made up of gifted and unique individuals. As we come together God is able to turn our individual gifts into a life giving party for the whole creation. So, welcome, bring your gifts and share with each other, in doing this God's Party will move out of this convention center into the life of the world.

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2009 NWW Synod Assembly! Be prepared to work, play, laugh and share the goodness of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA.

This year's assembly schedule is designed so that when the work is done we play! Friday is an intense day of doing the work of the synod. Saturday is time for celebration. We are looking forward to Leonard Sweet, our keynote speaker; kick off the day with "Apple Theology". The day will continue with Celebration sessions where we learn and celebrate some of the ministries that congregations offer to their communities. There are 30 choices – so be prepared to plan your day! We end our day with a celebration worship that will highlight a variety of gifts in our synod.

This year's assembly task force has been busy designing this new assembly plan. It has been a great opportunity to include new people as they work side by side with "assembly veterans". Thanks to all of

DEAR GATHERED ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Worship is the alpha and omega of Synod Assembly, the beginning and the end. On Friday morning, Assembly begins with Morning Prayer, and a sermon from Bishop Chris Boerger. On Saturday afternoon, the Assembly will culminate in joyful, musical, colorful, baptismal-renewing Eucharist.

Worship leaders from a wide variety of congregations, musicians, artists, lay leaders and clergy offer their gifts to our worship. Friday Morning Prayer has been prepared by Pastor Daniel Sorensen, Prince of Peace Lutheran in SeaTac; with the help of Diaconal Minister Jan Cherry, Bethany Lutheran in Seattle; and musician Christina Shinkle, Maple Leaf Lutheran in Seattle. Friday Evening Prayer will be led by Pastor Abby D'Ambruoso, Faith Lutheran in Seattle, together with Shinkle and several musicians from Faith.

Saturday's afternoon Eucharist will be enhanced with art work created during morning and afternoon workshops. The banners and baptismal mobile have been designed by artist Laurie Clarke, Bethany Lutheran in Seattle, who will lead workshop participants in executing her designs. Intercessory prayers will be written for the service by Assembly members at a workshop led by Jan Cherry. Music at this service will be offered by a mass choir consisting of many assembly members from throughout our Synod, directed by Associate in Minister Clara Griffin, Trinity Lutheran in Everett. Darren Hochstedler, Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle, will direct the Phinney Ridge Gospel choir. The liturgy itself is the joint effort of Hochstedler and Pastor Julie Hutson, who serves LYONS and Luther Memorial in Seattle. Bishop Boerger will preside at this service, and Churchwide Executive Director of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, Pastor Stephen Bouman, will preach.

Pastor Pam Russell, Prince of Peace in Shoreline, assisted in pulling this notable team together, as chair of the Synod Board of Worship.

Thanks be to God for the abundance of gifts of beauty and faith that come together in worship at Synod Assembly. For many people, the hours spent in worship are the best hours of the assembly.

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the task force for their ability to look at new ways of "doing assemblies". As members of the assembly, be prepared for some surprises. There will be gifts throughout the day that will hopefully help you get through the business and keep you engaged.

This year all the displays are downstairs. Please take some time to wander through the rooms that hold the displays of synod ministries, partner organizations and many more. This is a great way to experience even more of the gifts in our synod.

Lunches are part of your registration costs, so there will be no further expense for you! These are working lunches so there will be instructions about how to best get your lunch. Again welcome to the 2009 NWW Synod Assembly! We are delighted that the day is here and look forward to a great party!

Pam Kluth and Kim Unti

2009 NWW Assembly Co-chairs

RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENTS SCORE CARD				
	Description	Pass	Fail	Other
	(A) Israel and Palestine			
	(B) Tribal Canoe Journey 2009, Paddle To Suquamish			
	(C) Water For All			
	(D) Memorial Supporting The Task Force For ELCA Studies In Sexuality			
	(E) Resolution Rejecting Proposed Social Statement And Affirming Current Teaching Documents On Sexuality			
	(F) Resolution Rejecting Recommendations On Ministry Policy And Affirming Current ELCA Policy			
	(G) Resolution Calling For A Super Majority To Change Ministry Policies			

THE REV. STEVEN BOUMAN , CURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Paul Bouman was called to the position of Executive Director for the Churchwide Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit in November 2007 and officially assumed office in February 2008.

He previously served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod from September 1996 through January 2008.

Pastor Bouman was born in Illinois and graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary/Seminex in 1973. He received his Master of Sacred Theology from New York Theological Seminary in 1978 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1980 and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in 2001.



He began his pastoral ministry in 1973 at St. Jacobus Lutheran Church, Woodside, Queens. He then pastored Atonement Lutheran Church, Jackson Heights, from 1974 until 1981; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Bogota, New Jersey from 1982 through 1992. He is founder of the *Diakonia* ministry education program, which trains lay people for ministry in local congregations. His parish ministry also included building strong multicultural outreach, the launching of two parochial schools, and a variety of ministries of assistance and advocacy among the poor.

Pastor Bouman is a published author of a number of scholarly articles, books, curricula and devotionals. Two recent books are the newly-released *They Are Us: Lutherans and Immigration*, co-authored with Ralston Deffenbaugh and *Grace All Around Us*, published in 2007.

He is married to the former Janet Luce, and they have three grown children and three grandchildren. They reside in Chicago.

2009 Synod Assembly News

The Synod's Communications Committee reports the daily highlights for the 2009 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. For details, please visit www.lutheransnw.org.

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NEWS AND NOTES

- † **Seating Arrangements**—Seating arrangements are in classroom style, i.e. you will be seated at long tables all facing the front of the room, with two aisles. Microphones are available for Voting Members and Observers who wish to speak to the assembly.
- † **Lunch**—Lunch has been made available for registered assembly members on both Friday and Saturday. On Friday lunch can be picked up at one of two stations on the upper level. On Saturday lunch can be picked up at one of two stations on the upper or lower level.
- † **Name Tags and Lunch**—Name tags will be required to pick up your lunch on both Friday and Saturday.
- † **Thank you**—Thank you to Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham for providing the lunches on Friday.
- † **Opening Worship**—Opening Worship will take place at 10 a.m. on Friday with Bishop Chris Boerger preaching.
- † **Closing Worship**—The Eucharist Worship Service will take place on Saturday at 2 p.m. with Bishop Chris Boerger presiding and the Rev. Stephen Bouman preaching.
- † **Resolutions**—If the Standing Rules are adopted by the 2009 Assembly, all resolutions to be considered must be received by the Reference and Counsel Committee no later than 10 a.m. on Friday, May 15, 2009.
- † **Displays**—Displays are located on the lower level of the Convention Center.
- † **Augsburg Fortress**—Augsburg is no longer attending Synod Assemblies.
- † **Coffee**—Coffee served during the 2009 Synod Assembly is fair trade coffee.
- † **Real-Time Captioning**—Real-Time Captioning has been made available on Friday.
- † **Hearing Devices**—Hearing devices are available from the Lynnwood Convention Center. (You will need to leave your driver's license as insurance. At the end of the day, when you return the listening device, you will receive your driver's license.)
- † **Banners**—The banners that are located on stage on Friday are on loan to the assembly by Christ the King Lutheran in Snohomish. Thank you.
- † **Saturday Celebration**—Leonard Sweet, keynote speaker for this year's synod assembly, will speak on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (Sweet is the author of *The Gospel According To Starbuck's*.) Afterwards there are three breakout sessions with ten Celebration sessions from which to choose. The Saturday Celebration is open to everyone in the synod. If you are registered for the Synod Assembly there is no charge because this is the second day of the Assembly. If you are attending just Saturday's event the cost is only \$10 (lunch). This day is a wonderful learning opportunity with something for everyone.