

2010 Synod

Assembly News

The Synod's Assembly Communications Committee reports the daily highlights for the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. Short stories and longer articles, including photos, will be available at: www.lutheransnw.org.

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NEWS AND NOTES

- † At this year's assembly we are doing something different. We are using an **electronic keypad for elections, resolutions and amendments.** There will be an opportunity for voting members to practice using the electronic voting machines prior to voting. At times it will still be necessary to use the scantron ballots. The hope is that this will speed up results. Please give us your input on this new process. We are all learning at this year's assembly.
- † **Resolutions**—If the Standing Rules are adopted by the 2010 Assembly, all resolutions to be considered must be received by the Reference and Counsel Committee no later than 10 a.m. on Friday, May 14, 2010.
- † **Nominations**—If the Standing Rules are adopted by the 2010 Assembly, all nominations to be considered must be received by the Nominations Committee no later than 10 a.m. on Friday, May 14, 2010.
- † **Seating Arrangements**—Seating arrangements are in classroom style. Microphones are available for Voting Members and Observers who wish to speak to the assembly. If you are not a voting member, please use chairs available around the edges of the room.
- † **Worship**—Opening Worship will take place at 10 a.m. on Friday. The Festival Worship will take place on Saturday at 10:45 a.m. On Friday at 5:30 p.m. will be an evening prayer and on Saturday (when the assembly's business is concluded) there will a closing prayer.
- † **Coffee**—Coffee served during the 2010 Synod Assembly is fair trade coffee.
- † **Lunch**—Lunch on both Friday and Saturday are on your own. Near by restaurant choices are available in your notebook.
- † **Displays**—Displays are located at the top of the stairs near registration. (Augsburg Fortress is no longer attending synod assemblies.)
- † **Real-Time Captioning**—Real-Time Captioning has been made available on Friday and Saturday. To view the screen please sit to the left of the stage.
- † **Copies of Dr. Amy Oden's book, *God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*, will be available during the assembly in the registration area (once registration on Friday is completed).**
- † This year's **offering** will be going to three ministries: Lutheran Disaster Relief, Haiti, will receive 80 percent. The other 20 percent will be split equally between the Northwest Washington Synod Companion Synods, Russia and Ethiopia. To learn more about these ministries please visit www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2010.
- † **Photos, articles, voting results, and other information** will be available throughout the assembly. Please check back to this year's Assembly's home page at www.lutheransn.org/assembly/2010.



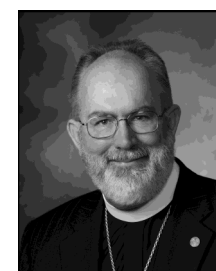
Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Issue 1
May 14, 2010

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



Welcome to the 23rd Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod. This year we gather under the theme of *Living the Good News of God's Welcome*. We come to be challenged and inspired by our speaker, Dr. Amy Oden. We come to worship and to pray. We come to hear reports and act on resolutions. We will elect a Vice President, Synod Secretary, half of the Synod Council and our voting members for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to be held in Orlando, Florida, August 14-20, 2011.

A Synod Assembly is a time and place for the church to come together and reflect on the ways in which God is at work among us and through us. We hear the word proclaimed among us. We will have two opportunities to be fed at Christ's table. We will sing and we will pray and we will give thanks. Even with the business and the procedures, we are first and foremost Christ's church. Our call to discipleship means that we see the world and each other through the eyes of the one who has called, gathered and enlightened us to serve in God's name.

Last year we abbreviated our "business meeting" to celebrate the gifts we have received and bring into God's service. This year we return to a more traditional format for us. We will give attention to electing those who will represent us to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, on our Synod Council, and as officers of this Synod. I often hear the concern, "who gave them the authority to do *whatever it is* that they have done." This Assembly is the *who* we often wonder about. You and I are the ones who will elect those who will represent us.

I am excited to hear from Dr. Oden. I know her from her book, *God's Welcome, Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*. I have found that book to be very challenging and helpful. Hospitality is often limited in our thinking to our being friendly to the new-comer. We have much to learn about that definition, but Hospitality for Dr. Oden is much more than my being friendly. It is about God's welcome to us and through the stranger. It is really an act of faithfulness. God has already welcomed us in Christ.

In Christ's name, welcome to the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly.

WELCOME!

By Louise Johnson, 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Coordinator,
Member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Renton

Welcome to the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly! You will see God's work done through our hands. Our committee has spent many hours preparing an assembly where you will be an integral part.

Living the News of God's Welcome hopefully will inspire you to be a more welcoming congregation. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Amy Oden, will share how we, as individuals and congregations, can do better at welcoming the stranger into our midst.

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2010 ASSEMBLY NEWS

Living the Good News of God's Welcome

DEAR GATHERED ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND VISITORS
 By The Rev. Eric Finsand, Assembly Worship Chair, Pastor at Christ the
 Servant Lutheran Church in Bellingham

Central to all we do during our Assembly is to gather for worship! Not only will we gather around those things which ground us – stories of God’s faithfulness in the past and God’s presence, and mission in our present – at our Assembly we will gather surrounded by sisters and brothers from the many congregations of our Synod. God’s presence will be celebrated richly in Word and Sacrament, and in the encouragement that comes in the fellowship with our larger family of faith.



This year’s worship will draw upon the broader theme of the entire Assembly – *Living the Good News of God’s Welcome*. The lessons and those speaking will lead us into a richer understanding of this Call to be God’s welcoming community at this place and at this time.

Friday’s service will be our most “traditional” order of worship. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) Setting One will be the framework for lessons and hymns, which will introduce our Assembly theme. The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, will preach. Bishop Chris Boerger will preside. Synodical Deans and Deaconesses will serve us as bread and wine are shared.

Saturday’s service will model the ties of faith we share with the Church beyond our Lutheran home. Bishop Grant Hagiya, Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, will preside at communion and offer a blessing upon our day. Bishop Boerger will preach, with members of our Synod Council modeling servant hood as communion assistants. A cadre of musicians from around the Synod will lead us in a less traditional style of music, with keyboard and drum and guitar serving as backdrop for a music filled service.

During our Assembly we will hear stories of our shared ministry, we will dream together of where God is calling us to serve as neighbor. But the central aspect of our Assembly will be gathering around a strong center – gathering at Table as we worship and serve a common Lord.

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As a worshiper you will see God’s work done through our two very different worship experiences. God’s work is done through our hands in the registration when you receive your packet of valuable information that will help you make policies, business, and decisions for our synod.

You will see *God’s work, our hands* done through the voting and electing of many important positions. This year we have added electronic voting which is done with a small hand held device to speed the voting procedure.

You will see *God’s work, our hands* in the displays from the many organizations that want you to learn about them from their exhibits. They will be located in the room to the west of the assembly meeting room. These ministries help enhance our lives and the lives of those in our community.

Again I want to “welcome” you to the Synod Assembly where you will do business, see new and old friends, learn to be a more welcoming church, participate in worship, view displays, and do God’s work through your hands.

RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENTS SCORE CARD

Description	Pass	Fail	Other
(A) Faithfulness in Decision-Making			
(B) Memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to Rescind Resolution 4			
(C) The Conservation Option			
(D) Resolution regarding the Kairos Palestine Statement			
(E) New Ministry and Leadership Capital Campaign Authorization			
(F) Pacific Lutheran University Corporate Delegates			
Amendment 57 —To separate information about the Synod Assembly from more general information about Synodically authorized worshipping communities			
Amendment 58 —To provide additional clarity			
Amendment 59 — To make them consistent and to add voting rights for those on disability			
Amendment 61 —To incorporate the new Young Adult position on the Synod Council			

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Our Keynote Speaker—Our keynote speaker is Dr. Amy Oden. Dr. Oden is Dean and Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. She received her B.A. from the University of Oklahoma and her Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University.

Dr. Oden enjoys music and reading historical novels. In pursuing her interests in the history of Christianity and hospitality, she has recently finished a book project entitled *God’s Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*. (Her book will be available for purchase in the registration area late on Friday.)

Dr. Oden recently was interviewed for an article in *The Lutheran* magazine on the topic of hospitality. (The May issue of the Lutheran is available in the display area at The Lutheran table.)

Our Churchwide Representative—The Rev. Ruben Duran serves as Director for New Evangelizing Congregations in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA. He is responsible for promoting the development of synodical mission strategies, local initiatives and emerging models for the multiplication of new communities of faith in the USA and the Caribbean.

Ruben is a native of Lima, Peru. He served parishes in the Seattle and Los Angeles areas prior to becoming Associate to the Bishop and Mission Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA. Ruben is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif.; Trinity Lutheran College (formerly the Lutheran Bible Institute) in Everett; and the Escuela Nacional de Turismo in Lima, Peru. Ruben and his spouse, the Rev. Jean M. Duran, have three daughters. Jean is currently serving as pastor at Living Lord Lutheran Church in Bartlett, Illinois.