

NEW ENGLAND SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS

(All workshops are at the DCU Center, downtown Worcester.
Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis. No advance registration is required.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

GOING GREEN IN NEW ENGLAND, PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CALUMET LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

At the 2007 Assembly, a resolution was passed to “urge the congregations and auxiliary organizations of the Synod to form Care in Creation committees...” and to “be encouraged to perform an energy audit by January 2008 and commit to reduce energy consumption by 20 percent within the next 10 years.”

Recognizing the challenges that congregations face in beginning the process of “Going Green,” we are excited to offer a workshop to introduce the process to members of the New England Synod. At the workshop, we will consider how we, as the New England Synod, are called to care for Creation. We will share stories from congregations and organizational leaders to share when they return home.

The Rev. Nancy Eldredge Hess is Executive Director of Calumet Lutheran Ministries; The Rev. Nancy Wright is Environmental Liaison to the New England Synod, and Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church, S. Burlington, Vt.

OUR HONDURAS COMPANION SYNOD PARTNERS

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HONDURAS; THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF HONDURAS

The leaders will talk about the ministry and mission of their respective churches and how New England Synod congregations and their members can become partners with them in the wonderful work they are doing in Honduras. God’s Work, Our Hands – Walking Together in Mission.

The Rev. Lloyd E. Allen is Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Honduras; Rubi Flores is Director of Diaconia Programs, Lutheran Church of Honduras; Deaconess Janet Alcantara is an ELCA Missionary serving the Lutheran Church of Honduras.

A SPIRITUALITY OF HEALING IN A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

This workshop will be a conversation between the presenters and the audience about religion, society, politics, history of the church and how all that information leads to Hope.

*The workshop presenters are members of **The Healing the Wounds of Racism Community**.*

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: INTRODUCTION TO THE “BOOK OF FAITH”

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to learn more about the ELCA’s Book of Faith initiative and actually experience the first in the series of Bible studies.

*After a 25-year career in the telecommunications industry, **The Rev. Patricia L. Harris** received her Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Following her ordination, she was called to Community Lutheran Church in Enfield, N.H., where she is in her third year of ministry.*

THE NEW ENGLAND MISSION FIELD: CHURCHES STARTING CHURCHES

One of the largest mission fields of the ELCA is right here in New England. Trusting that God gives us everything we need to do mission, the New England Synod strategy team is looking for congregations interested in starting another congregation or satellite mission at a second or third site. Is it anything like it was in New Testament times? Bring your passion and ideas to this workshop and share them with others. We’ll work together to plan some “next steps” toward developing new mission starts.

*Mission Strategy Team Members: **The Rev. Mark Christoffersen**, chair of the Mission Strategy Team, is pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Fairfield, Conn. He served Christ Lutheran Church, Gainesville, Ga., for 12 years before serving as mission developer and first pastor at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, Va. **The Rev. Jane O’Hara Shields** is in her fourth year of serving as ELCA Mission Director in the New England Synod, after 29 years as a parish pastor. A member of the New England Synod for the past 13 years, Pr. Shields oversees the development of new mission starts, the identification and training of clergy and lay developers, and redevelopment/transformational ministries.*

A LUTHERAN SPIRITUALITY OF WORK

In this workshop for both lay and clergy, Dr. Krey, will offer stimulating discussion topics on the spirituality of work, often drawing from his book, *Luther's Spirituality*.

The Rev. Dr. Philip D. Krey is Professor of Church History and President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He is the author of several books and commentaries on church history and theology with a focus on the early and medieval church. Through his long experience in urban ministry, he is dedicated to rebuilding and renovating urban churches and is a co-founder of the Inner City Minister's Guild.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 9-10 a.m.

CONGREGATIONS DOING MORAL DELIBERATION ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

These two social ministry executives will discuss how congregations approach the burning social issues of the day and make decisions about effective involvement, advocacy and activism.

The new CEO of LSS, Heather Feltman, was previously the executive director for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). During her three years at LDR, the pan-Lutheran agency grew from 15 to 40 affiliate organizations, collaborating in disaster response. Feltman has earned master's degrees in non-profit management, social work and religion. She is a rostered Diaconal Minister in the ELCA. Bob Kay, who is executive director for LSS Community Services, has been with LSS for 17 years. He is an adjunct faculty member in sociology at New England College. He chairs the LSS public policy committee, serves on the public policy committee of Lutheran Services in America, as well as the policy and advocacy team of the LSA Disability Network.

DEVELOPING AND DEEPENING YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Ready to dive-in and discover ways to deepen your congregation's Youth and Family Ministry? Team members will be on hand to share core values for a healthy Youth Ministry in your congregation as we dive-in to the pool of Youth and Family Ministry.

The "Get Drenched" Team information is available on www.getdrenched.org – the Web site of the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team of the New England Synod.

CLERGY AND CHURCH FINANCES

This workshop for clergy and church financial leaders will focus on clergy taxation and other church financial issues.

Mary Kunstman, an accountant whose clientele includes many clergy, has worked with church treasurers to upgrade church financial procedures. Mary now lives in Mesa, Ariz., but spends the summer in Bangor, Maine.

STUDIES SHOW THAT, ON AVERAGE, CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITANTS LIVE LONGER!

We will dig in to how to maximize charitable giving and, in doing so, tick off Uncle Sam. We will learn about Distribution Agreements and how such things tick off a lot of lawyers. We will learn how to best remember our ministry passions and how to tick off ungrateful nieces and nephews who never call or write.

Knute Robert Ogren is the ELCA Regional Gift Planner for New England. He is committed to helping individuals to be savvy in their thinking about remembering ministry passions in their estate plans—and in helping ministries to be ready to receive gifts in such a way that they build the community, equip the future generations, and challenge the church to continue looking outward. Knute will die someday—and he will be remembering his ministry passions in his estate plans. How 'bout you?

A GLIMPSE OF THE HUMAN FACE OF IMMIGRATION

It's not about labels and sound bites. It's about all of us as God's children.

Rick Kremer graduated from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass., with a Master of Divinity degree in 2007 and will shortly complete his residency internship at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church in Woonsocket, R.I. He had a long career in the business world and has a passionate interest in matters of social justice and public church.

Keila Rodriguez is the executive director for Gloria Dei Step Up Center, a nonprofit organization that has been working with immigrants for more than eight years in the New England area. She is also the coordinator for the Center for Walking with Jesus in the Street.

TRINITARIAN LANGUAGE

With what language do we talk about God? With what language do we pray to God? The doctrine of the Trinity plays a central role in guiding Christian responses to these important questions. This workshop will take up questions of Trinitarian language for speaking to God and speaking about God. This is a particularly fertile time for this topic, since the last 50 years or so have seen a great renewal of interest in Trinitarian theology. This workshop is for all who are interested; the workshop does not assume any formal training in theology.

***The Rev. Dr. John F. Hoffmeyer** is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The Trinity is the primary focus of Dr. Hoffmeyer's theological work. He is currently working on a book on Trinitarian theology and consumerism.*

(posted May 16, 2008)