

Stream of Information

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Pre-Assembly Highlights: "The Church Must Be Planted"

FRIDAY, June 17

- The 300th Anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the father of Lutheranism in North America, provides the theme for this year's assembly. "The Church Must Be Planted" is the motto attributed to him. During his 45-year ministry, he planted the church throughout Pennsylvania and from New York to Georgia.
- Bishop Stephen Bouman is this year's Bible Study leader. Ordained in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Bouman is the author of several articles, curricula, devotionals and books, including *From the Parish for the Life of the World*, published in 2000 by Augsburg Fortress, and *Grace All Around Us*, published in 2007 by Augsburg Books. He has a reputation as an engaging speaker.
- Bishop Sumoward Harris, Lutheran Church in Liberia, will bring greetings to the assembly and highlight our parish-to-congregation partnerships.
- A representative few health kits will be received as an "in-kind" offering during Morning Prayer on Friday. The goal for this offering is the collection of 3,365 kits (the average number of kits distributed by Lutheran World Relief in one week in 2010). When arriving for the assembly, your health kits may be deposited at the theater entrance to the Degenstein Campus Center—just inside the main doors.
- The Synod Council will propose a 1.5% increase in salary guidelines at the first step for rostered leaders but with no percentage increase in the annual step and a \$200 increase in housing allowances.
- A German heritage buffet in honor of Muhlenberg will feature a humorous one act play by "the sub-basement ladies." Anniversaries of congregations and pastors will be celebrated.



The Rev. Stephen Bouman is this year's churchwide representative to our assembly. He is the Executive Director of Congregational and Synodical Mission in the ELCA and the former bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod.

Synod Assembly will be held at Susquehanna Univ., Degenstein Theater, on June 17-18, 2011.

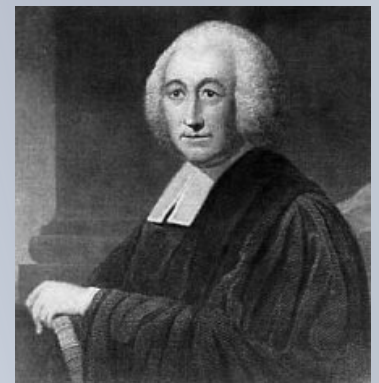
The Church Must Be Planted: Rooted in Christ. Re-rooting for Mission.

Please do not bring congregational banners due to our location in Degenstein Theater.

Reports for this year's assembly are available online at <http://2011-assembly.uss-elca-bulletin.org/>

Printed copies will be mailed to voting members.

"Along the Way" Bookstore, will be located in the conference rooms of the Degenstein Campus Center.



Henry Melchior Muhlenberg
Born September 6, 1711
300 Years!

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Pre- Assembly Highlights

➤ FRIDAY, June 17

- Ed Redmond of the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia will present a surprise award to one of our congregations for excellence in rural ministry.

➤ SATURDAY, June 18

- Saturday's Eucharist is expected to include an ordination. Bishop Driesen will preach and preside.
- Mr. Christopher V. Roehrer of the Seafarers & International House, a ministry of the ELCA, will share with us their mission: "Because nobody should be isolated and forgotten, whether at sea or ashore." Seafarers began in 1873 as an Augustana Lutheran mission from Sweden.
- The Lay Ministry Institute will announce a new opportunity in the coming year. Lay School intends to go on the road, making educational programs available to lay people throughout the synod.
- A reduced "Spending Plan for 2011" will be presented by the Synod Assembly, as well a 2012 budget that will reflect a decrease from 2011.
- The Rev. Gary Harke, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, will share news about the Council's 100th anniversary celebration at Trinity, Camp Hill, on October 25, 2011.
- The Synod Council will recognize with appreciation the ministry of Mrs. Virginia Frantz, former Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, for her ministry in the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Displays in Degenstein Center
Workshops and Forums



To be considered!

The following resolutions/memorials are known as of this date:

1. A memorial urging "the 2011 Biennial Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage synods, congregations and individuals to give generously to the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund," in light of challenges faced by retired clergy whose pensions were significantly reduced as a result of the stock market losses in 2008 and early 2009. [Adopted by the Buffalo Valley Conference but with substitute language (above) offered by the Committee of Reference and Counsel.]
2. A resolution proposing the adoption of a new policy regarding maternity/paternity and family leave, to wit: "A paid maternity leave of up to (6) six weeks is expected for the pastor or lay rostered leader giving birth. A paid paternity leave of up to (6) six weeks is expected. A minimum of two (2) and up to six (6) weeks of paid parenting leave is expected when welcoming a newly-adopted or foster child. A paid leave of up to eight (8) weeks in any given twelve-month period is recommended for the care for a family member with a serious health condition. (Submitted by Pastor Joshua L. Reinsburrow, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mifflinville, PA)

For additional information, contact the submitters, look for the resolutions in a future mailing and/or on the synod's website.