



God's Work. Our Hands.
2008 Metro D.C. Synod Assembly

METRO D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

DAILY UPDATE

June 12-14, 2008 ■ Roanoke College ■ Salem, Virginia

This Daily Update is being provided by the synod staff to assist Voting Members when they report to their congregations the events of the 2008 Synod Assembly. Look for additional coverage at www.metrodcclca.org and in the "Synod Assembly Wrap-Up" to be sent to congregations following the Assembly.

WORSHIP LEADS THE WAY

The gathering of this year's Synod Assembly around Word and Sacrament was pronounced with the Opening Eucharist, first on the gathering's agenda. The meeting hall at Roanoke College was transformed by colorful banners and paraments. Flowing streamers swayed from towering poles in a service also accentuated with liturgical dancers, a brass quintet and and deans from each conference of the synod serving as worship leaders and pouring water into the assembly's font, a gurgling fountain.

In his sermon, the

Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop, Metro D.C. Synod, said it is a privilege in his role to be able to "remind you of things you already know." In his months in office subsequent to his election by the 2007 Synod Assembly, Bishop Graham said he sees enthusiasm, hope and new life in our synod. "The Holy Spirit is obviously very much at work among us," he said, noting particularly the presence of many children in worship on Sundays.

"Children... remind us of our status in the Lord," he said. Those of us in the Metro D.C. Synod may be

susceptible to thinking of ourselves as "cool, polished and sophisticated," but "we must never trust in our own wisdom and sophistication." Children, in the pews and in Mark 10, remind us that our servanthood "is in the midst of the real, messy, complicated world."

Also during the Assembly's Opening Eucharist, rostered leaders now on synod staff were installed. The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop, and Mr. Harold Sargeant, Associate in Ministry, Synod Administrator, were called to their ministries through the Rite of Installation.



Colorful streamers whipped through the towering auditorium, declaring our time of worship.



New this year, a volunteer Media Coordinator—the skilled Debbie Streicher—stands by to keep presentation software and audio flowing.

GREETINGS FROM FAITH GROUP FRIENDS

Several ecumenical leaders and the Rev. James Mauney, Bishop, Virginia Synod, brought greetings to the Metro D.C. Synod in person and in writing. These included the Rev. Jonathan Barton, general minister, Virginia Council of Churches; the Rev. Donald J. Rooney, chairman, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee, Catholic Diocese of Arlington; and the Rev. Gary Straughan, president, Eastern District Executive Board, Northern Province, Moravian Church.

Ms. Nadine Greenfield-Binstock, Washington DC Chapter, American Jewish Committee, told the assembly, "Our work with the Metro D.C. Synod is a shining example of what our chapter hopes to accomplish in interreligious work." She continued, "Of course we don't expect to agree on everything," but interactions bring "interesting dialogue and meaningful partnership."

The Rev. John Denninger, president, Southeastern District, LCMS,

brought warm greetings and exciting news of LCMS initiatives as they approach their 500th birthday in 2017. "We find ourselves as Lutheran siblings sometimes standing arm in arm and... sometimes looking away from one another, but always knowing that we celebrate a wonderful unity in our Father's family through our older brother, Jesus Christ." He said, "I know there are many ways that people who are siblings in the Lutheran family can indeed work together."

SERVICE OF LEADERS AND CONGREGATIONS RECOGNIZED

While gathered in Assembly, the Metro D.C. Synod takes the opportunity to acknowledge anniversaries of ordination among our rostered leaders.

60 Years of Ordained Ministry: the Rev. Ross Forcey

55 Years of Ordained Ministry: the Rev. Harold S. Goers; the Rev. Kenneth L. Mahler; and the Rev. William E. Wegener

50 Years of Ordained Ministry: the Rev. James T. Heinemeier; and the Rev. Baron B. Maberry

35 Years of Ordained Ministry: the Rev. Bruce L.

Burslie; the Rev. Stephen J. Heetland; the Rev. Sherman G. Hicks; the Rev. Robert M. Holum; and the Rev. Raymond W. Michener

25 Years of Ordained Ministry: the Rev. Mark D. Blice-Baum; the Rev. Susan L. Tykkila

Members of synod congregations recognizing milestones in ministry rose to applause from the Assembly.

75 Year Anniversary: Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington

50 Year Anniversary: St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Silver Spring

In the last year, a dozen pastors joined the synod roster. The Assembly was publicly introduced to these new faces among us: the Rev. Kimberly Conway (Epiphany-Dale City), the Rev. Robert Day, Jr. (National Lutheran Home), the Rev. Terri Driver-Bishop (Redeemer-McLean), the Rev. Teka Fogi (Oromo Christian Fellowship), the Rev. John Kidd (Augustana-D.C.), the Rev. Kenneth Mahler (retired), the Rev. William Nienstedt (Faith-Arlington), the Rev. William Perry (retired), the Rev. Carmelo Santos (St. Mark's-Springfield); the Rev. Sarah Scherschligt (Prince of Peace-Gaithersburg) and the Rev. Susan Tykkila (St. John-Riverdale).



What does our bishop do during precious moments before the Assembly gets rolling? Collate packets, of course!

Weary participants willingly waited after today's final business to bear "The Lutheran Song" by Lost and Found. Miss it? Find it on YouTube or check out the group's next performance. (*shared with artists' permission)*

BIBLE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS BOOK OF FAITH TREASURES

Delving into Matthew with scholarship, insight and inviting visual and audio tools, the Rev. Bob Driver-Bishop encouraged fresh reflection on this portion of Scripture in the first of the Assembly's Bible studies. Pr. Driver-Bishop noted several traits of Matthew, whose name means



“a Gift—someone accepted by God who wants to share that with others.” The author of Matthew crafted “all messages [to] help build this

bridge between the Old Testament and New Testament,” observed Pr. Driver-Bishop.

As experienced in this study, the whole ELCA is invited to spend time with Scripture through the Book of Faith Initiative and become renewed, enlivened and empowered by the Word

THREE EXPRESSIONS OF ELCA MAKE ONE STRONG IMPRESSION

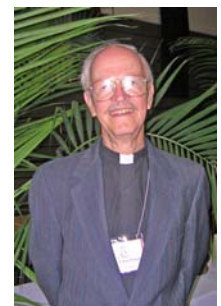
In his first appearance before the Assembly, Kenneth Inskeep, director, Research and Evaluation, addressed the Metro D.C. Synod on behalf of the churchwide expression of the ELCA. Referring to the ELCA on the congregational, synodical and churchwide level, Inskeep said, “When this church is working at its best, we learn much from

each other. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.”

He acknowledged contributions and contributors from our synod, including Bishop Graham, whom he said “represents you well with the national Conference of Bishops;” Tommie Robinson, Ida Hakkarinen and others who

serve/d in churchwide capacities; Mission Investment Fund finances and projects; and more.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop, ELCA, was featured in a video shown overviewing activities of the ELCA's 4.8 million members and nearly 10,500 congregations. “God is active in the ELCA. It is God's work, our hands.”



The Rev. Bill Wegener, assembly chaplain, will offer prayer and is available for pastoral care while we gather.