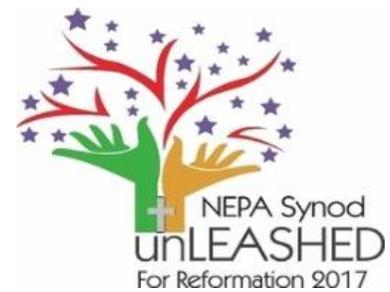


**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod Assembly**  
**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
**June 2-3, 2017**  
**Kalahari Resort & Convention Center**  
**Pocono Manor, PA**



## **“God’s Playground”**

### **Information and Participation Registration Form**

***Need some new ideas for your church? Looking for a spark to send your congregation into high gear during this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation?***

*Well, we know where to find them ... at **God’s Playground** at the 2017 Annual Synod Assembly! Even better, you can help to enrich our church by sharing your novel ideas and successes with church leaders from across northeastern Pennsylvania. Read on!*

**God’s Playground** will be open to all members of all NEPA churches, not just voting members. This year the playground will be packed with interactive displays, an “Idea Corner”, and engaging and educational activities. Here are just a few:

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**Walk for Water** – Do you have any idea how much effort it takes to carry an empty 10 gallon can of water for a mile? Well, you’ll get a chance to see for yourself (although the distance will be shorter!) You’ll end up physically knowing what many people experience daily, and have a better understanding of what your ELCA donation to build community wells can do.

**Idea Corner** – Come hear ideas from around the synod on new outreach projects, youth programs that sizzle and engage, partners that stretch budgets by sharing VBS materials, WELCA initiatives for providing solar light to dark communities... and the list goes on. Those who have a great idea to be tested, or a new project are being asked to share that information. So, what is your church’s story that you’d like to share? Talks can be as short as 5 minutes, but not longer than 10. Keep it simple, but spread your good ideas!

**“We need...” wall posters** – Have you ever had a great plan, but are missing one step and don’t know what to do, or where to get something? Well, we have the answer at God’s Playground. Look for the wall areas that are covered with large swaths of paper. Pick up a sticky-note and write your request on it, and stick it to the wall. Then, read what’s already there. If you can help with someone else’s request, jot down their contact info and give them a call. Simple as that! At the end of the Assembly, all requests will be gathered, and then distributed in the Synod Newsletter. Helping each other is a good thing.

**Live Presentations** – Does your church have a puppet ministry? A contemporary or jazz ensemble? Chime or bell choir? Yoga group? We’re looking for any and all of these church “assets” to add to God’s Playground with a live presentation. Come join the fun and share your talent with our NEPA members.

**Prayer wall** – Similar to the “We need...” wall, this will be an area where all attendees can place their prayer petitions on a sticky note and place it on the wall. Attendees will be encouraged to pick out a request and send up a prayer right then and there. As many prayer requests as possible will be made part of the worship services during the Assembly.

***More great ideas on the next page***

**The Coach is In** – Ever wanted to know what coaching is all about? Then stop by the ELCA coaches' table and have a chat. Bring an idea on a project that you'd like to discuss and see where it leads.

**Idea Display Wall** – All churches are invited to send in a copy of church flyers, newsletters, event posters - - anything you do to promote your church and its activities. These will be prominently displayed, and assembly attendees will be asked to vote on which one grabs their attention and which has a compelling message. Everyone will benefit from this tangible idea exchange. Contact information to request a copy of the master document of displayed material will be available as well. Sharing is a good thing!

**Standard Table Displays** - Yes, we haven't forgotten those of you who just need table space for your organization or mission-service. Just check the "Display Table" box on the registration page, and indicate whether or not you need a table and chairs or whether you'll be bringing your own. Also, indicate whether you'll need electrical service.

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### **Playground Details:**

We know you have great ideas and successful projects, so it's time to take the proverbial basket off your light, and let it shine. Now is the time to talk this up in your councils, committees, ministry teams. Be creative, interactive, and above all *be willing to share*.

**Restrictions:** There aren't many, but we do ask that there be no requests for contributions, fundraising, selling or promoting of sales.

### **Hours for God's Playground:**

Open hours for the "Playground" are as follows:

**Friday:** 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, and 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Set-up is available from Thursday afternoon to Friday at 11:00 pm

For those displays that will not be manned on Saturday, breakdown on Friday night will follow the banquet. Breakdown on Saturday begins at 9:00 am, once Plenary Three is in session.

**NOTE:** Both the "Idea Corner" and **Live Performances/Demos** will be scheduled on **Friday night only**. If you are volunteering for either the "Idea Corner" or one of the live presentations, select your first and second preference from the following timeslots:

**Friday lunch break:** 12:15 – 12:25 pm    12:30 – 12:40 pm    12:45 – 12:55 pm

1:00 – 1:10 pm    1:15 – 1:25 pm    1:30 – 1:40 pm

**Friday evening:** 6:00 – 6:10 pm    6:15 – 6:25 pm    6:30 – 6:40 pm    6:45 – 6:55pm

Depending on how many "idea" and performance requests we get, will determine the number of sites we'll build into in the hall.

**Ready to commit and showcase your great ideas and projects?**

**Register on the following page – *Deadline:* May 9th**