



## NEPA Synod Assembly 2018

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Synod Assembly**  
**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA**  
**June 8-9, 2018**  
**Mohegan Sun Arena**  
**Wilkes-Barre, PA**

### Directions for Assembly Registration

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be held at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre on June 8-9, 2018. Find more information and an agenda at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

REGISTER ONLINE at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org). Congregations may register all rostered leaders and voting members at one time; this option is available for online registration only. The cost for online registration is \$150 per person until midnight, May 18, and \$160 per person from May 19 through May 25.

REGISTER BY MAIL by completing separate registration forms for each voting member. The cost to register by mail is \$160 per person if postmarked on or before May 18, and \$170 from May 19 through May 25.

**The deadline for all registrations is May 25.** Please note the importance of the deadline. The caterer, arena staff, and synod staff need final registration numbers to prepare for a successful assembly.

Every voting member will receive a confirmation letter that will include information needed before arriving.

A CHANGE ON THIS YEAR'S REGISTRATION FORM – The Northeastern PA Synod Council decided last year that it is no longer feasible to pay the assembly registration fee for retired pastors.

HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS need to be made by congregations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn at 242 Highland Park Boulevard (across the street from the arena). **To take advantage of the reduced rate of \$119 for Friday night, reservations must be made by May 8.** Rates do not include taxes and are per room, per night. To make a reservation call 570-820-8595 and identify yourself as attending the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time in 12:00 noon. The hotel provides free shuttle service to the arena and to restaurants five miles around the hotel, has a fitness center and indoor pool, and cooked-to-order breakfast is available to purchase. Each room has a microwave and a Keurig coffee maker. The hotel's website is [www.wilkesbarre.hgi.com](http://www.wilkesbarre.hgi.com).

BEAR CREEK CAMP will have cabins available for Thursday and Friday nights at a cost of \$40 per person, per night which includes breakfast and all the coffee and hot chocolate you can drink! The cabins hold up to 12 people and have bunk beds (there are 36 bottom bunks available). The cabins have restrooms and showers and will be separated by gender. Guests will need to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries. Contact the camp at 570-472-3741 or [karen@bearcreekcamp.org](mailto:karen@bearcreekcamp.org) for more information or to make reservations.

FOR OTHER HOTELS in the area, go to "Plan Your Visit" at [www.mohegansunarenapa.com](http://www.mohegansunarenapa.com).

BOXED LUNCHES will be available Friday in the arena for \$13. **They must be ordered and paid for in advance on the registration form by May 25.** Choices for lunch are: Italian wrap on white; turkey club on wheat; tomato, mozzarella, pesto on Ciabatta; or Italian antipasto salad (gluten free). Lunches include potato chips, cookies, and a soft drink or bottled water. The turkey club and tomato on Ciabatta include pasta salad.

WHAT DOES THE FEE COVER? Many costs are incurred by gatherings of this size: rental of the arena; labor and equipment for staging, lighting, and sound; photocopying, production and mailing of assembly materials; worship costs such as instrument rental, and fees for copyrighted music.

WHO PAYS? The registration fee, meals, and lodging for all assembly voting members are to be paid by the congregation or employing agency.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME and encouraged to attend the assembly and will be seated in a special visitors' section. There is no registration fee for visitors, but they are asked to complete a registration form before May 25 and check in at the assembly. Visitors can attend any time and for any length of time and can sit in on plenary sessions, join in worship, view the ministry displays, and enjoy fellowship.

ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING there will be time to:

- **Participate in service projects** with the American Red Cross, CEO Food Warehouse, SPCA of Luzerne County, Bear Creek Camp, Keystone Mission, Mother Teresa Haven, Incredible Creations Kids' Club, The Meadows and Timber Ridge nursing homes, and Keep America Beautiful. Registration for the service projects will begin at 8:00 AM on Friday near the main entrance of the arena and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Visit Bear Creek Camp** and help to get the camp ready for the summer campers. Walk the camp road for World Hunger, learn more about this dynamic ministry, or just spend time in the great outdoors. Sign up on the registration form for free bus shuttles from the arena.
- **View the displays on the arena concourse** and talk to fellow Lutherans and members of local organizations about *Sharing Ministries and Building Relationships*.

FESTIVAL WORSHIP WITH EUCHARIST will be held on Friday afternoon and Bishop Zeiser will preach. An offering will be received for the ELCA's Young Adult in Global Mission Fund.

A VOLUNTEER CHOIR will sing during the Festival Worship on Friday afternoon. A time for rehearsal will be announced. Sign up on the registration form if you would like to participate.

IS YOUR CHURCH ENGAGED in a unique outreach program, a new innovative ministry or a community service project that you would like to share with other congregations at our synod assembly? **If so, please complete the Ministry Display Request Form at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org) and return it before May 1.** Congregation members assisting with displays, but not serving as voting members, should register as visitors.

EXCUSES NEEDED: Written excuses for the absence of pastors or deacons under call, or for congregational voting members should be sent in advance of the assembly to Debbie Frey at [debbie@nepsynod.org](mailto:debbie@nepsynod.org) or mail to 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, PA, 18109-3044.

QUESTIONS? Questions regarding the assembly may be directed to Pr. Kurt Garbe or Debbie Frey. They can be reached at the Lutheran Center, 610-266-5101, [kurt@nepsynod.org](mailto:kurt@nepsynod.org) or [debbie@nepsynod.org](mailto:debbie@nepsynod.org).