

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



Synod Assembly 2019
Saturday, June 1st
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Genetti Ballrooms Inn
and Suites, Hazleton

Even if you are not a delegate, plan to join us in celebrating our past and looking to our future, as we strive to make this day and each day a new opportunity to give thanks, to worship, to pray, to dialogue, and to seek the good of our neighbors - all by the power of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of our great God, all because of what Christ has done for us.

For more information, visit the synod website at godslove.org.

Ministry Fair

Saturday, May 4
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
The Lutheran Center

Learn about ministries of the Northeastern PA Synod, share resources offered by synod teams, and attend mini-sessions (like Learning Ministries Day).

For more information and to register, visit the synod website at godslove.org.

No More Sunday School?



At Holy Trinity Memorial in Catasauqua, the Christian Education Team decided to try something new. This decision was reached because the church noticed a declining trend in Sunday School attendance. With this trend, the question was asked, "What's more important: Worship or Education?" The team decided that worship is more important and that education can happen inside of a worship service if time is allowed.

If the congregation were going to worship with a group of young people, then it needed talk about what might attract them. The team made sure that parents, educators, theologians, and lay people were present in these talks. In the end, they determined that they would begin a family service during the normal Sunday School times. September would kick off this new worship format.

To be completely honest, the leaders of this new worship service were ready to revert to the traditional Sunday School programming within three months. They just did not see this service taking hold in the community. Wrong these leaders were.

Since the start, the service has grown in attendance, averaging thirty people each week. While the service is not perfect, it is filled with joy by a loving and accepting multi-generational group of people.

This was one church's answer to this question. It's not a solution for everyone. It was a discovery process. The team strongly suggests that all groups talk. Don't try just anything, which may turn out to nothing more than a gimmick. Try to discover a new way of being.

Changes in Synod Staff

Pr. Mary Gade and Pr. Carl Shankweiler Retire

Pr. Kathleen Ash-Flashner and Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller Join the Staff

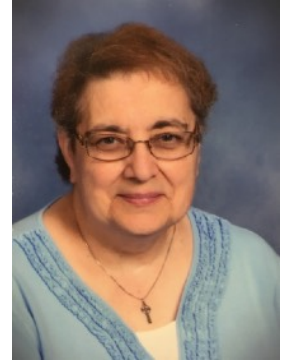


Pr. Mary Gade

Pastor Mary Gade, Associate of the Bishop since 2009, has been responsible for the Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the East Berks Mission District, Candidacy, Boundary/Misconduct matters, and other duties.

Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller joins the staff as Associate of the Bishop for the East Berks Mission District (part time). She will relinquish her seat on Synod Council.

Associate of the Bishop Pastor Peggy Wuertele will add Candidacy to her current staff role, and Associate of the Bishop Pastor Jean Huber will add Boundary/Misconduct matters to hers.



Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller



Pr. Carl Shankweiler

Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Associate of the Bishop since 2009, has been responsible for Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the Schuylkill Mission District, and he has assisted congregations preparing for closure and the sale of a building.

Pastor Kathleen Ash-Flashner (St. Paul, Summer Hill) will become Associate of the Bishop for the Schuylkill Mission District (part time). She will step down as dean.



Pr. Kathleen Ash-Flashner

The departure of Mary and Carl from the staff will bring a significant change to the life of this synod. They are cherished, respected, and trusted colleagues who have contributed significantly to the work we do together. We are indebted to them for the faith, insight, discipline, and much-needed wit they brought to their ministry with us.

Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA



Since the launch of the campaign, ELCA members, including those in our Northeastern PA Synod, have contributed \$181 million in current gifts, as well as an additional \$45 million in planned gifts, to support campaign ministries. You are making a difference in this church and around the world – thank you! With just three months to go, please prayerfully discern whether you can make another “first fruits” gift to the campaign.

Give now by visiting elca.org and clicking on the “Campaign for the ELCA” button.

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