

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Highlights from Assembly 2019

#### Festival Worship

On Saturday, June 1, approximately 500 delegates and visitors gathered at Genetti Ballrooms Inn & Suites in Hazleton for Assembly 2019. The day began with a Festival Worship Service led by Bishop Zeiser and synod Vice-President Kristen Edelman-Weiner. Service music was provided by Deacon Michael Krentz and a volunteer choir. An offering of \$3,600 was collected for World Hunger.



In his sermon, **Bishop Zeiser** spoke of a “stirring” within us when we recognize the active presence of God in our life. Driven by faith, we become convinced that we “are onto something”; and we then are

compelled to see it through. The result is ministry, ministry built on the generations of Christians who likewise were convinced that they were onto something. However, the past, no matter how great, is sometimes unhelpful for this time. Our theme “Freed in Christ for a New Day” reminds us that it is indeed a new time; and it further reminds us of who it is that got us here, and who will come again.



#### ELCA Churchwide Representative



The **Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp**, Director for “Always Being made new: The Campaign for the ELCA,” was this year’s ELCA Churchwide representative. Pastor Glusenkamp described the ELCA Churchwide ministry and mission in 2018. This included major efforts in advocacy, candidacy, congregational vitality, Fund for Leaders, World Hunger, global mission, and the Youth Gathering. He shared a video report highlighting these efforts (video link: <https://vimeo.com/332095341>) and also a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (video link: <https://youtu.be/TMVRrRkF2sg>). Following Pastor

Glusenkamp’s presentation, an offering of over \$3,300 was collected for The Campaign for the ELCA.

#### Bishop Zeiser’s Report to the Synod

Bishop Zeiser reviewed some of the mission and ministry of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod during the past year. He then talked about challenges that the next bishop (to be elected at Assembly 2020) will face. He emphasized that many congregations will be facing challenging situations; and that it is critically important for both congregations and rostered ministers to commit to building a collegial relationship with the new bishop and his or her staff as together they face the immense challenges to come.



## More Highlights from Assembly 2019

### Luncheon

After the morning session, the delegates and visitors adjourned for a luncheon in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Synod receiving its charter. They enjoyed their meal under a large tent on a beautiful spring afternoon.



### Elections

Several individuals were elected to offices in the synod:

Synod Vice President: Kristen Edelman-Weiner

Synod Secretary: The Rev. Carl Shankweiler

Synod Council-Clergy: The Rev. Cheryl Meinschein

Synod Council-Lay Female: Ruth Major

Synod Council-Lay Male: Thomas Engle

### Reports from Synod Officers



Kristen Edelman-Weiner

The Assembly heard reports from the synod officers: Vice President Kristen Edelman-Weiner; Secretary The Rev. Carl Shankweiler; and Treasurer Donald Dillman. The 2020 Spending Plan was adopted with a total budget for next year of \$1,984,400, of which \$869,500 is sent to the ELCA for Mission Support; and \$148,000 is given to various church related institutions such as Bear Creek Camp, United Lutheran Seminary, Muhlenberg College, PA Conference of Churches, and LAMPa.



Rev. Carl Shankweiler

### Resolutions

The Assembly adopted two resolutions. The first was a major revision of "Continuing Resolutions" offered by Synod Council to bring them up to date with current practice. The second was a resolution that the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team address the need for synodical youth leadership; and that this Team work with the Transition Team that will report to the new bishop in 2020.

The 2020 compensation guidelines for pastors and deacons were also adopted.

## Assembly 2020, June 4-6

### Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Pocono Manor, PA

Plan now to attend. If you are a delegate, you will help to elect a new bishop.  
And both delegates and visitors can enjoy the indoor  
and outdoor waterparks of this exciting resort.



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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).

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