The 34th Annual Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be held online on Friday, June 4 and Saturday, June 5.

REGISTER ONLINE at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org). Congregations may register all rostered ministers and voting members at one time. The cost for online registration is $99 per person. Online registration will be open until midnight, Monday, May 17.

REGISTRATION MATERIAL for the 2021 Synod Assembly will be online ONLY. If you do not have access to the internet you will need to duplicate the registration form [insert link] and register by mail. Complete one form per person and mail with a check (made payable to Northeastern PA Synod) to 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, PA, 18109-3044. It must be received at the synod office by Monday, May 17. The cost to register by mail is $109.00.

CONGREGATIONS with 1,000 or more baptized members may have three lay voting members participate; congregations with less than 1,000 baptized members are to have two lay voting members, one male and one female; congregations with fewer than 175 baptized members may have just one voting member if they choose. All pastors and deacons under call are expected to participate and shall be voting members. Retired ministers, ministers on leave from call, or ecumenical partners serving Lutheran congregations who register and pay the registration fee can also be voting members.

SCHEDULE:

- **Friday, June 4**
  - Gathering Music – 1:30 p.m.
  - Festival Worship – 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.
  - Plenary One – 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
  - Gathering Music – 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
  - Plenary Two – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

- **Saturday, June 5**
  - Plenary Three – 8:30 to 10:20 a.m.
  - Plenary Four – 10:35 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
  - Bishop’s Installation – 3:00 p.m.

ONLINE FESTIVAL WORSHIP will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4 prior to the opening of the assembly. Bishop deForest will preach. An offering for World Hunger will be received through a “donate” button on the synod website.

BUSINESS OF THE SYNOD will be conducted throughout the sessions, including adoption of the spending plan and compensation guidelines, other elections, conversation on resolutions brought to the assembly, and other reports and presentations. Included will be a presentation on Friday evening by Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Governance.

THE INSTALLATION OF Bishop Christopher deForest will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. The service will be held outdoors at The Lutheran Center and, to comply with COVID-19 protocols, will be by invitation only for in-person participation. The service will be livestreamed for everyone to participate. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preach and preside.
ONLY VOTING MEMBERS (pastors, deacons, and lay voting members) need to register for the online assembly.

TO BE A VOTING MEMBER FOR THE ONLINE ASSEMBLY you will need to have access to a device connected to the internet. It can be either a laptop or desktop computer, a tablet, or a smartphone. The computer should also have a microphone and a camera. Two people can watch and vote from one device. Each person will have their own voting credentials.

VOTING MEMBERS CAN GATHER in one place (with Covid-19 precautions) and fully participate. In this case they should have one computer to watch and each voting member should have his/her own device to vote.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY VOTING MEMBER register with your home address and personal email address, so you can receive voting credentials and a confirmation letter.

YOU WILL RECEIVE TWO EMAILS. Your voting credentials will come from eBallots, the voting platform; and a confirmation email will come from Debbie Frey at the synod office. If you do not receive those emails by June 1, please contact Debbie Frey at the synod office – debbie@nepsynod.org

INFORMATION ABOUT TRAINING AND PRACTICING will be included in your confirmation email.

VOTING MEMBERS WILL NEED TO BE PRESENT for the entire assembly. As with in-person assemblies, the same people need to represent their congregations for the entire assembly.

A DEDICATED ASSEMBLY PAGE on the synod’s website at www.godslove.org will have all the documents and information you will need, before and during the assembly, including the Bulletin of Reports.

THE REGISTRATION FEE covers the costs for electronic voting and staging. The registration fee for all voting members is to be paid by the congregation or employing agency.

THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE LIVESTREAMED for visitors. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to observe plenary sessions and join in worship. Information needed to view the assembly will be available on the synod website. You will be able to watch the livestream with any device.

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 or mailed to 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, PA, 18109-3044.

THE DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS AND NOMINATIONS to be received by the synod office is Friday, May 21. The forms needed can be found at www.godslove.org.

QUESTIONS regarding the assembly may be directed to Debbie Frey. Leave a message at The Lutheran Center, 610-266-5101 or email debbie@nepsynod.org

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

“Growing Young” – (insert link)

Ministry Laboratory – (insert link)

“MinLab” – August 14

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL REGISTRATIONS IS MAY 17. NO registrations will be accepted in the synod office or by mail after Monday, May 17.