



Ministry Share Fair Synod Assembly 2023

The **Ministry Share Fair** comes alive on Friday in the North Foyer. Stop by to interact with representatives from Ministry Partners and Synod Ministry Teams (below) who will share resources and ideas to encourage ministry and stimulate congregation vitality. Nestled halfway down the foyer is the Sleeping Mat Mission Project work area. This work area and some representatives are available 3 days, all others 1 or 2 days.

The **Sleeping Mat Mission Project** is a service opportunity for assembly attendees to learn how to construct a sleeping mat out of plastic bags. These mats, once completed, will be donated to the Allentown Chapter of Valley Youth House, a non-profit organization that supports youth experiencing homelessness. The process of making these mats includes: (1) collecting clean plastic bags, (2) cutting the bags into strips, (3) tying the strips into “plarn” (plastic yarn), and (4) crocheting the plarn into six-foot long mats. All supplies are provided, and everyone is invited to participate in whatever way is most comfortable. No experience necessary!

The **Vitality Café**, an extension of the Ministry Share Fair, is space set aside on Friday for you to relax and connect with fellow assembly participants. Share with others your own inspirational stories about ministry experiences and ideas. Connect with an affinity group if interested in networking with others throughout the synod who share similar identities, interests, and/or experiences. Converse about where you have seen God in your week and what has been memorable about the assembly. Come-in feeling tired, depart feeling inspired.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Fri, Sat

Thousands of youths and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation and fellowship. Through inspiring speakers, conversations with partners, Bible study and being immersed in the host city of New Orleans, young people will be inspired and challenged to live out their faith. An essential part of the ministry of the Gathering is the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) primarily for youth of color or whose primary language is not English and the tAble empowering youth living with a wide range of physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities.

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event & the tAble (July 13-16, 2024)
ELCA Youth Gathering & Young Adult Gathering (July 16-20, 2024)
Stacey Burke stacey@nepsynod.org, (610) 295-9951

Common Ground

Friday

At Common Ground Recovery Community, we believe everyone is recovering from something, so all are welcome. At Atonement Lutheran, Wyomissing, we are in ministry with people affected by addiction and alcoholism, often, but not necessarily, in recovery. We meet for a unique worship experience combining the wisdom of the 12 Steps with the spirituality of our Lutheran faith. At Trinity Lutheran, downtown Reading, we are in ministry with our neighbors, many living with food and housing insecurity. Our weekly meal extends the communion table and welcomes all to God's amazing grace. Common Ground Recovery Community provides a faith-based spiritual experience where attendees share their joys and sorrows, struggles and achievements.

Tom Scornavacchi pastortom@cgrcommunity.org, (610) 207-4889

Diakon Social Ministries

Thu, Fri, Sat

Many Hands, guided by One Heart, Diakon daily transforms the lives of thousands of children, youths, families, and older adults through programs ranging from counseling and comprehensive senior living communities to adoption, foster care and at-risk youth services. Dating to 1868, Diakon aids people of all faiths through compassionate service, gracious hospitality, and charitable care.

Tracey A. Boyer boyert@diakon.org, (717) 514-3002

Dr. Crystal Hall Coaching for Women in Ministry

Thu, Fri, Sat

Dr. Crystal Hall Coaching for Women in Ministry is for when you have way too much going on and think you're not doing enough. Coaching helps when you're in transition or discerning what's next. Coaching helps you create a resilient ministry where you find the balance between work and family life. Coaching helps you to create abundant time for everything that's a priority. Coaching comes up alongside women in ministry like you, so you can tap your inner wisdom and find your own best answers.

Crystal Hall crystal@crystalhallphd.com, (860) 942-6644

Dungeons and Dragons and Churches

Friday

Have you ever wondered how your church might use or offer their sanctuary for creative, community-building purposes? Stop by the “Deacons and Dragons” table and hear about how the role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons is being used in several churches to use sanctuary space creatively, to offer community members a way to engage with church, to build community, and foster empathy and connection. We will have video of a game to watch and listen to and, of course, great conversation!

Travis Woodfield travis@nepsynod.org, (610) 266-5101

ELCA World Hunger

Friday

The synod Hunger Team supports the ministry of the ELCA World Hunger Program, encouraging hunger ministries within the synod. The synod team is currently under re-development.

Rev. Levan bellhog@gmail.com, (530) 802-0925

Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team

Friday

The Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team provides resources, workshops, special events, and one-on-one consultations on all aspects of lifelong faith formation. Any congregation, team, or individual in the synod can take advantage of these services. Our team provides the knowledge, education, and resources to bridge the gap between wanting to provide a robust faith formation program and being able to do so.

Cheryl Statham cstatham@ptd.net, (610) 588-6713

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network

Friday

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation, an independent, not-for-profit rehabilitation network with more than 60 locations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is committed to transforming the lives of people of all ages and abilities through curiosity, creativity, expertise, and innovation. Headquartered in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Good Shepherd specializes in treatment of spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, major multi-trauma, pulmonary disease, respiratory failure, musculoskeletal/orthopedics and complex pediatric conditions. Good Shepherd also partners with Penn Medicine to provide rehabilitation and specialty services in the greater Philadelphia area and New Jersey through Good Shepherd Penn Partners.

Kimberly Stolarik kstolarik@gsrh.org, (610) 737-4028

Growing Young

Fri, Sat

Growing Young is one of the three vital signs of Bishop deForest's 6-year strategy for the NEPA synod. Growing Young is not only a movement throughout our synod and ELCA, but a movement throughout the world helping congregations retain and attract youth and young adults into a Jesus-centered community. This community showcases the 6 core characteristics that are actively involving and retaining people of all ages, especially 15 - 29 years old. These core



characteristics include Keychain Leadership, Empathy Today, Jesus' Message, Warm Relationships, Prioritize Everywhere, and Best Neighbors.

Stacey Burke stacey@nepsynod.org (610) 295-9951
Rev. Lauren Applegate revapplegate15@gmail.com (732) 567-6698

Hope's Table and Café Esperanza Friday in the Vitality Café

Hope's Table is a Eucharistic Hospitality ministry. Each Tuesday, the community gathers around a meal and celebrates Holy Communion. Weekly we also share fresh produce and other food, and have various other community activities throughout the year. Café Esperanza is a pay what you can cafe serving mostly organic, local food to people regardless of ability to pay. Both ministries promote community among people of different walks of life.

Mary Wolfe mwolfe1012@aol.com, (610) 780-7532

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Team Thu, Fri, Sat

The LGBTQIAP+ Ministry Team seeks to support the synod's congregations and members in their efforts to provide safe, inclusive, welcoming worship, and to affirm and support our LGBTQIAP+ members in their faith journey. We offer support and guidance for congregations interested in becoming official Reconciling in Christ congregations, we offer educational opportunities and resources to the synod and its membership, and we seek to raise awareness of the ELCA's welcoming stance to the larger LGBTQIAP+ community.

Helen Davis helen.davis@wilkes.edu, (570) 991-7064

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania Friday

LAMPa is the state public policy office of the ELCA in PA, a partnership of Pennsylvania's seven synods, seminary, social ministry organizations, and congregations. Our Mission: In response to God's love for us in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just policies in Pennsylvania that promote the common good. We equip disciples to live into their baptismal call to strive for justice and peace.

Tracey DePasquale tracey@lutheranadvocacypa.org, (773) 380-1700

Lutheran Congregational Services Friday

Lutheran Congregational Services is a ministry of Liberty Lutheran Services. We serve as the Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate for eastern Pennsylvania, and we also provide bereavement services and Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training.

Julia Menzo jmenzo@libertylutheran.org, (267) 464-7740

Mission Interpretation Ministry Friday

The Mission Interpretation Ministry shares stories and communicates with congregations on how they are using their time, talents, and money to do God's work in the world. There are many ways to share stories, so stop by our table and find out how!

Georgia Suranofsky georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com (610) 703-0638

Charlotte Gross charlotte.gross312@gmail.com (484) 695-1641

Mission Investment Fund Thu, Fri, Sat

The Mission Investment Fund is a ministry of the ELCA with faith and finance at its core. It's a source of financing to ELCA congregations and ministries and a vehicle for ELCA congregations, ministries and individuals to invest in the work of our church. As a lending ministry of the ELCA, MIF loans help build new churches and renovate buildings where exceptional ministry work takes place. These investments generate measurable impact on congregations and ministries—and the individuals and communities they serve.

Richard Eatman richard.eatman@elca.org, (813) 245-6195

Moravian Theological Seminary Friday

Moravian Theological Seminary offers graduate and continuing education programs that equip persons with the knowledge, skills, and being to engage in vocations in ministry, chaplaincy, counseling, spiritual direction, and other settings. Rooted in the Moravian heritage of ecumenism and service, we welcome students preparing to serve in diverse socioeconomic, intercultural, and interfaith contexts.

Allison Berger bergera02@moravian.edu, (484) 515-2713

Portico Benefits Services Thu, Fri, Sat

Portico is the nonprofit benefit ministry of the ELCA, serving with a commitment to enhance the well-being of those who serve in the church, faith-related ministries, and higher education. With shared values and dedication to service, we provide benefits that support the financial, emotional, and physical well-being of members through every stage of life. We serve on your behalf to secure and administer programs that focus on providing high-value benefits at more stable rates, to help you care for those who bring your organization's mission to life.

Pastor Lynn tlynn@porticobenefits.org, (412) 444-8113

Racial Justice Team Friday

We need to talk. We need to listen. Deeply. The NEPA Synod Racial Justice Team serves as a catalyst for our congregations and leaders to ask the hard questions, learn about anti-racism efforts, and join the important work toward Christ's vision of justice in the Kingdom of God. The RJ Team provides support and curates resources for all ages encouraging further awareness and meaningful action. Come stop by the RJ Team table to talk to our team, check out the resources, and bring your questions and concerns.

Deborah Graf dgraf@trinityreading.org, (610) 763-1595

Synod Green Team Friday

The Synod's Green Team works to help all pastors, congregations, and individuals within the synod care for God's creation as an outgrowth of faith.

Paul Metzloff pwmetzloff@gmail.com, (570) 706-1330

Thrivent Financial Friday

Thrivent is a Fortune 500 diversified financial services organization, providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, annuities and generosity programs and solutions so people can make the most of all they've been given. We believe money is a tool, not a goal. We've inspired generations to make financial choices guided by their Christian values. We provide the expertise and support that enable our clients to take care of themselves and others. Everything we do is in service of our clients.

Ronald Rushe ronald.rushe@thrivent.com, (610) 554-0490

United Lutheran Seminary Friday

United Lutheran Seminary, formed in 2017, joined two historic Lutheran institutions, Gettysburg founded in 1826 and Philadelphia founded in 1864. ULS prepares, teaches, and trains students to be in a ministry setting. Graduates today serve churches across the ecumenical spectrum throughout the world. They are prepared for service in various callings as public leaders, in parish ministry, specialized chaplaincy, diaconal ministries, and social service organizations. ULS prepares faithful servants to witness to the ongoing struggle for equality and dignity for all people, and to be builders of a public theology that speaks to a global community.

Lisa Dubay ldubay@uls.edu, (717) 338-3009