

2010 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America May 14-15, 2010

Memorial Auditorium, Concordia College
Moorhead, Minnesota

Registration begins at 7 am on the 14th
The Assembly will conclude mid-afternoon on the 15th



Purpose of a Synod Assembly: There are many components to a Synod Assembly. Included in an Assembly are opportunities to grow in faith through worship services, hearing God's word proclaimed in Bible studies, learning about what's happening in ministries beyond the local congregation through growth group opportunities, our Synod Lutheran Youth Organization, Synod Women of the ELCA and from an ELCA Churchwide representative. Business affairs for the synod are taken care of, including financial matters and resolutions.

An Assembly also provides an opportunity to renew old friendships and to develop new ones as we gather with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope you will keep all of these components in mind as you experience this year's Synod Assembly.

Keynote Speakers:



Dr. Mark Allan Powell is an internationally known theologian and Bible scholar. He is Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio and has authored over 25 books and 100 published articles on theology and the Bible. One of his best-known books is *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life* (Eerdmans, 2006—copies will be available at our assembly bookstore). Dr. Powell is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He has spoken at many ELCA and synodical gatherings, and he has lectured at seminaries and universities in the U.S. and abroad.

Sunitha Mortha is from Hyderabad, India, in our companion synod, the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sunitha feels privileged and honored to testify to the wondrous works of God in her life, through her stories and dance. She worked several years in cross-cultural youth ministry in India by coordinating social work projects. After completing her master's degree in Cross-Cultural Ministry at Luther Seminary, she worked at Youth Encounter as the Director for International Team Ministry before joining ELCA Global Mission Unit. She currently serves as Director for Global Formation, working out of the ELCA churchwide office in Chicago.



Entertainment:



Be sure to attend the Friday evening program, which will feature the musical group **Dakota Road**. Dakota Road has become known nationally for their stirring original music and playful performance style. They craft powerful stories of life and faith woven in colorful musical styles ranging from acoustic ballads to rocking anthems. Their songs of struggle and hope connect with people of all ages and walks of life.

The evening will be filled with music, entertainment and an opportunity for recognitions of individuals and congregations.

Voting Members / Registration: The number of voting members each congregation is entitled to send to the Synod Assembly is based on baptized membership (found in section S7.21 of the synod constitution). Congregations with 175 or less baptized members may have two voting members, but will be considered to have full representation if they send only one voting member. In addition, congregations are allowed to send one youth voting member (under the age of 22) in addition to their allowed number of voting members. An Assembly is the responsibility of the congregations in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. If your congregation does not send the allowed number of lay voting members the congregation is still responsible for the costs of the Assembly. We ask congregations to remit **\$85** for each voting member (excluding the youth member) not in attendance.

Again this year, **we will no longer be mailing registration forms** to the congregations and rostered leaders. On-line registration will be available on our website at <http://www.nwmnsynod.org> under the **2010 Synod Assembly** heading. Congregations may register all of their rostered leaders and lay voting members at one time. Payment is available by credit card, electronic check, or by mailing your payment to the synod office. A printable registration form will also be available for those who prefer to send a paper copy for each voting member.

The registration (registration fee and meals) for retired pastors is waived unless they are serving a congregation in a contract position. We ask the congregation they are serving to pay their assembly fees if they are in a contract position. A motion was passed at the December 7, 2004, Synod Council Executive Committee meeting to only pay the registration and meal portion, not housing, for retired pastors. **Please note: you must pre-register even if you qualify for waived registration fees.**

Ordained pastors on leave from call, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers on leave from call or retired, whose names appear on the roster of this synod shall have the privilege of voice but not vote.

Pre-Assembly Materials: Also again this year, **we will no longer be mailing pre-assembly materials to voting members.** The on-line registration form asks for the e-mail address of each voting member. We will use this e-mail address to communicate with the voting members when materials are available on the synod website. Voting members will be responsible for printing their own materials to bring along to the Assembly. If a voting member does not have an e-mail address, we ask that congregations assist in making the materials available to them.

Housing: Concordia College campus housing will be available in Hoyum Hall and Park Region Hall along with hotel blocks at several hotels in the Fargo/Moorhead area.

Meals: The registration fee for voting members and visitors includes all meals during the assembly. There will be no single meal purchases available.