



2009 East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly

Cycling through Scripture was the theme of the 22nd Synod Assembly held at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay from June 5th-6th. 385 voting members and 94 non-voting members represented the 142 congregations and partnerships of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin.

The Assembly opened with Worship and Communion led by Bishop Jim Justman and Associate with the Bishop, Rev Joy Mortensen-Wiebe. **Mr. Ken Medema**, Brier Patch Music, San Francisco, led the music for the worship and the Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Dave Daubert, Director of *A Renewal Enterprise*, spoke on God's plan for the church, and **Mr. Kenn Inskeep**, ELCA Executive Director of Research and Evaluation, presented and discussed trends in membership, worship attendance, and giving in the ELCA and the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Together, **Dave** and **Kenn** spoke on the shifting patterns in Christian congregations.

The **Resource Center Report** was given by Ms. Darlene Kalfahs, Director of the Synod Resource Center. She introduced the "*Cycling through Scripture*" theme for the Assembly that keeps our focus on the ELCA "Book of Faith" initiative, and welcomed people to come in and see the Resource Center displays.

Mr. Ken Inskeep gave the **ELCA Ministry Report** and brought greetings from Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen. Kenn spoke about our call to be responsible as Lutherans to look beyond ourselves. A video from Bishop Hansen about the challenges of living daily at the intersection of fear and hope was shown to the Assembly.

Mr. John Emery, Vice President of the Synod, gave the **Vice President's Report**, and thanked the Assembly for their service and their willingness to use their gifts for serve the church. He encouraged congregations to bring the "Book of Faith" more strongly into their congregations and homes, and to be actively reaching out to the world.

Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe reported that as part of a call to mission by Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen, the ELCA and the 65 synods of our church are redesigning for mission. Each synod will have a *Director for Evangelical Mission*; Joy will be serving in that position for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. This shift in responsibilities has restructured the Synod staff, eliminating the positions of the Executive Assistant to the Associate with the Bishop, Ms. Karen Peckham, and the Assistant to the Resource Center Director, Ms. Dolly Bilstad.

The **Crossways Camping Ministries Counselors** were introduced by Rev Wayne Harrison, Executive Director. The counselors led the Assembly in song and dance. Bishop Justman installed the members of the staff for their service this summer and blessed the summer camping season and the ministry of Crossways.

Afternoon **Breakouts** included presentations on music by Ken Medema; Evangelism with Dave Daubert and Kenn Inskeep; Crossways Camping Ministries; Fox Valley Lutheran Homes; and Laughing Yoga.

After dinner, Bishop Justman recognized the ordination anniversaries and retirees. Entertainment by Mr. Ken Medema followed. The evening concluded with the **Holden Evening Prayer**, led by Rev. Vicki Simon and Rev. Ben Sheets.

The yearly **Business of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin** was conducted during the two day Assembly: Financial Report, Auditor's Report, Treasurer's Report, 2010 Minimum Compensation Guidelines, and the 2010 Synod Budget were discussed and passed. 2009 Resolutions were: Resolution on Procedures for the Election of Synodical Bishop (adopted, as amended); Resolution for Lutheran Campus Ministry, Oshkosh, to be included in the ECSW Budget (defeated); Resolution for Lutheran Campus Ministry, Oshkosh, to be included in ECSW Budget Overage (adopted); and Resolution for Supermajority at the Churchwide Assembly (adopted). Elected to the Synod Council were: Mr. John Emery, Fond du Lac; Ms. Christine Grunwald, Neenah; Ms. Patricia Filak, Wausau; Ms. Tonia Spofford, Green Bay; and Rev. Erik Olson, Birnamwood.

Bishop Jim Justman closed the Assembly with a devotion.

2010 Assembly
Joint assembly with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
May 21st-22nd at the new Holiday Inn, Stevens Point.