

Assembly News & Notes

The Nebraska Synod Assembly convened June 3-5 with 620 voting members present. Among the Assembly's headlines:

Assembly participants gave \$10,800 to fund scholarships for multicultural youth to attend Synod youth ministry events.

This year's Carol Joy Holling camp counselors were commissioned by Bishop deFreese.

The Assembly adopted a revised Synod budget of just over \$4.2 million for 2011 and just under \$4.2 million for 2012.

Resolution #2 memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to accept the proposed Social Statement on Genetics as a study only and not adopt the social statement. The resolution passed.

Resolution #3 encourages mission centers to become places of open discussion about all perspectives on social issues and encourages ELCA Churchwide to focus more on developing study materials on social issues and less on the development of social statements. The resolution passed on a 287-254 vote.

Resolution #6 encourages congregations to train adults who work young people on guidelines for Safeguarding God's

Children and provides that the Synod shall continue to provide such training to ministry leaders. The resolution passed.

Resolution #7 commits the Nebraska Synod to participating in an interfaith event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks and encourages mission centers to consider activities that will provide occasion for reflection and for fostering love rather than hate and understanding rather than division. The resolution passed.

Resolution #1 would have placed the Nebraska Synod on record as opposed to the Fremont city ordinance adopted in June 2010 regarding immigration enforcement. The resolution failed on a 259-290 vote.

Resolution #4 would have memorialized the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to rescind rostering policies adopted in 2009 that permit the ordination of people involved in publicly-accountably, monogamous, same-gender relationships. The resolution failed.

Resolution #5 would have requested that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly reconsider and repeal the "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" social statement that was adopted in 2009. The resolution failed.



2011 Nebraska Synod Assembly Review

Bishop David deFreese: "We Do Mission!"

Bishop David deFreese reminded the Assembly that we are a church that does mission.



In his report to the Assembly, the bishop used a concentric circle with a cross at the center surrounded by the words "suffering," "grace," "gratitude" and "service" to talk about how we should

"ripple out to others to show God's love." He said that through our suffering, we can find and experience grace, receive it with gratitude and then live out our faith through service.

"If you want to do the work of God, pay attention to people," he said.



The Assembly also heard from **David Lose** from Luther Seminary, who spoke on themes such as digital pluralism, the abundance of choices we face today, our access to volumes of information our ancestors never had, living in a culture of discretion instead of duty and our modern desire for experiences rather than traditions. He focused on

the power of stories and how they help people connect with one another, giving people hope in a way that facts cannot.

Becca Stevens is founder of Magdalene, a residential community for women who have survived lives of violence, prostitution and addiction



as well as its nonprofit business, Thistle Farms. Stevens explained that thistles are the last weed remaining in abandoned and neglected places and that most, if not all, of the women she comes in contact with at Magdalene have been abandoned and neglected by society. The women of Magdalene harvest thistles and use them to make bath and body products in a powerful counter message of hope, care and love. The proceeds from their sales go directly to support the ongoing ministries of Magdalene.

Worship music was provided by **Heatherlyn**, an independent singer/songwriter who offered soulful music throughout the weekend. Her music can be found at heatherlynmusic.com.



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WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

2011 Synod Assembly participants are encouraged to take our online survey.

Go to faith2grow.nebraskasynod.org and click on "Assembly Evaluation Survey".



WeDoMission.org

Celebrating our mission and ministry together in the Nebraska Synod, ELCA

In the Nebraska Synod, ELCA... WE DO MISSION!

The ELCA and the Nebraska Synod are doing wonderful mission and ministry together.

Your *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* is a vibrant church with more than 10,000 mission centers, outdoor and camping ministries, campus ministries, college and universities, seminaries and a strong network of ministries.



Your *Nebraska Synod* is a collection of more than 250 mission centers seeking to encourage and empower mission and ministry on the local level while providing impactful ministry programming that no one congregation could do on its own.

Consider connecting with these ministries:

ELCA World Hunger - In the U.S., 12.6 million children are hungry or at risk of becoming hungry. Three-fourths of all deaths in children under age 5 in the developing world are caused by malnutrition or related diseases. Through ELCA World Hunger, 92 cents of every \$1 you contribute goes to support hunger relief and education about hunger issues. Connect at elca.org/hunger.



ELCA Malaria Campaign - The ELCA Malaria Campaign has a goal of raising \$15 million to help our Lutheran companion churches and companion organizations in 10 African countries combat and eradicate malaria. Connect at elca.org/malaria.



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ELCA Disaster Response – ELCA Disaster Response exists to help bring God’s comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters. And when the dust settles and the headlines change, Disaster Response stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Connect at elca.org/disaster.



Global Mission in Tanzania – The ELCA supports and undergirds the Nebraska Synod’s efforts in ministry with the Northern Diocese in Tanzania. Specifically, the Synod is engaged in ministries that provide housing to improve the health of impoverished families and textbooks to improve the education of children in Tanzania. Connect at housesforhealth.org and textbooksfortanzania.org.

Mission Field Nebraska – The Nebraska Synod supports a series of vital socioeconomic and multicultural ministries throughout the state, including Lakota Chapel in Scottsbluff, Lutheran Metro Ministries and Cristo Rey in Omaha, the Welcome Center in Lexington and Followers of Christ prison ministry in Lincoln, among many others. Connect at missionfieldnebraska.org.



Operation IDEA and Youth Ministry – Operation IDEA aims to help people discern how their faith lives and vocations intersect. The Nebraska Synod also offers a variety of youth ministry programs – the Lutheran Youth Organization of Nebraska, the Middle School Gathering and the Nebraska Synod Youth Mission Trip – all aimed at raising up the future of our church. Connect at operationidea.org and youth.nebraskasynod.org.