

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Assembly 2018 Sharing Ministries - Building Relationships

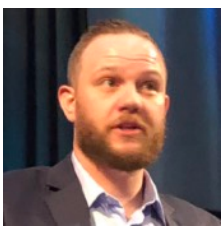
Churchwide Ministries



Pastor President Gustavo Gómez Pascua from our companion church, Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida, in Argentina and Uruguay addressed the Assembly on Friday.

He shared some of the topics and concerns trending in his church. Many were similar to the challenges faced by congregations of the ELCA.

Pastor President Pascua brought along his guitar; and on several occasions, he led the Assembly in songs used by congregations in his church.



Nick Kiger, ELCA Associate Director for Mission Support, brought greetings on behalf of Presiding Bishop

Elizabeth Eaton. He shared two videos: "2017 in Review" and "We Are Lutheran" (available on the synod website: godslove.org).

NEPA Synod Ministries



The Assembly was delighted to receive the **Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church** as a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In 1978, Saint Simeon's Lutheran Church in

Philadelphia sponsored the first Hmong family from Laos to the Greater Philadelphia area. In February of 1996, the Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church was established. When all of its members relocated and settled within Berks & Lancaster counties, the church found a new home at Allegheny, Knauers in 2012.

Bishop Zeiser welcomed Pr. ShongChai Hang, congregational president Cheng Lo, vice president Kai Lee, and other congregational representatives to come forward for the official vote by the Assembly.

On Saturday the **Bear Creek Camp Summer Staff** was installed. Under the leadership of director Dan Scharnhorst, the



summer camp program has dramatically increased in numbers; and the Assembly warmly applauded both Dan and the dedicated young people who will staff the camp.

During worship at the Assembly, offerings were collected in support of **Young Adults in Global Ministry** (\$2,859.92) and the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal** (\$2,547).

Ministry Displays, Workshops, and Service Projects



Delegates were invited to experience the Assembly theme, "Sharing Ministries and Building Relationships," in four different ways: (1) by visiting Bear Creek Camp, (2) by participating in one of several local service projects, (3) by visiting the ministry display tables, and (4) by attending one of the workshops. Two extended blocks of time were available on Friday for these experiences.



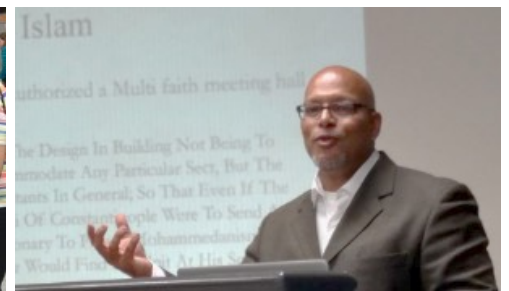
Bear Creek Camp. Delegates who chose to visit Bear Creek Camp could help prepare the camp for the upcoming summer program, could participate in a Hunger Walk, or could simply spend time enjoying the beautiful setting.



Local Service Projects. There were about a dozen opportunities to engage in a service project to benefit the Wilkes-Barre community. These included packing food for the hungry, filling backpacks for children, materials for disaster relief, a highway cleanup, helping children create a mural, and helping at the SPCA.



Ministry Display Tables and Workshops. There was a wide assortment of ministry displays, as well as workshops on "Pastoral Care Providers," "Faith Facing Racism and Religious Prejudice: Sharing Hopes and Strategies," and "ELCA Inter-religious Commitments -- Review and Response."



More information and pictures are available on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/highlights-assembly-2018>. **Assembly 2019 will be a one-day event on June 1 at Genetti's Ballrooms in Hazleton.** This is being done to keep down costs for congregations in anticipation of a three-day assembly at the Kalahari Resort on June 4-6, 2020 when the synod will elect a new bishop.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.