

NWPA SYNOD, ELCA

NWPA Synod Newsletter

May/June 2019

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For the sake of the whole Church 2019 NWPA Synod Assembly

ELCA REPRESENTATIVE



Lori Fedyk, a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Libertyville, Ill., was elected to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) by the ELCA Church Council at its November meeting. Her term will begin Feb. 1.

Fedyk has been employed by Lutheran Life Communities in Arlington Heights, Ill., since 2014 where she served as vice president of corporate finance and chief financial officer. In 2017 she was promoted to executive vice president and chief financial officer. Lutheran Life Communities owns and operates six continuing-care retirement communities in Illinois, Indiana and Florida.

EKD Companion Synod– Germany Representative

The Rev. Charlotte Weber is on the bishop's staff in our companion synod from the Evangelical Church in Germany. She was last on the NWPA Synod territory last summer when she made a brief stop on her way to an ELCA meeting in Chicago for a discussion about ecumenical partnerships. Part of her stop in NWPA included a discussion with female clergy from our synod about the similar challenges we all face, including gender discrimination, the rise in hate speech and hate crimes, and the renewal of the church. Pastor Weber's first call was as pastor to a cluster of nearly a dozen congregations.



Calendar

MAY

12– Mothers Day

27– Memorial Day Office Closed

JUNE

12– Synod Assembly Setup Day

13– Executive Committee Meeting –At Thiel

13-15– Synod Assembly– OFFICE CLOSED

16– Fathers Day

17– Synod Office Closed



Keynote Speakers– 2019 Synod Assembly

Bishop Sean Rowe- Episcopal Diocese

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe was ordained bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania in 2007 and became Bishop Provisional of Western New York in 2019. He previously served as Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Bethlehem from 2014 until 2018.

Born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, Bishop Sean graduated from Grove City College in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2000 with a Master in Divinity degree. Bishop Sean is known for his research and work on organizational learning and adaptive performance in the context of the church, and he earned a Ph.D. in organizational learning and leadership at Gannon University in Erie, PA.



Bishop Benson Bagonza

Companion Synod Karagwe Diocese- Tanzania

Dr. Benson Bagonza, founder of KARUCO was born and raised in Karagwe, Tanzania and was introduced to the U.S. in 1996 when he was admitted to the University of Chicago. For the next eight years he lived in the U.S. and concluded his doctoral research by proposing the establishment of an agricultural university in Tanzania.

In 2003 he took on the role as Bishop of the Karagwe Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCT).

2019 Rostered Leader Convocation

Save the DATE!

When:

October 15-16, 2019

Topic:

Introduction to Systemic Racism

Where:

The Hotel Conneaut

12241 Lake St

Conneaut Lake, PA 16316

Keep an eye out for more information later in the year

A YEAR OF ZERO WASTE – PART 3

So how is your challenge to become ‘waste free’ going? In the last newsletter we discussed green cleaning supplies and low waste work place. How’s it going? Are you trying some new things?

MAY: ZERO WASTE IN REAL LIFE

- Do a day-to-day assessment
- Deal with the nay-sayers

If you believe in trying to live greener and work toward protecting the earth, then you need to assess your life style and the everyday choices you’re making. To do this you can do a waste audits. After all, how can you reduce your trash if you don’t know what you’re throwing away? All you need is a couple of minutes, a little commitment, and a clipboard or notebook.

1. Dump your trash and recycling and go through it. For each item you find write it on the clipboard. For each recurring item add a tally mark.
2. This will give you a nice visual road map on how to reduce your trash. You can figure out where you can make the biggest impact.
3. Now, you can start looking for easy zero waste swaps. Always start with the things you're throwing away most for two reasons. You'll have made the biggest impact and you're going to notice an immediate difference.

PAPER TOWELS: The first thing you can do is start phasing out paper towels for reusable dish towels.
FOOD SCRAPS: Start composting which is one of the best things you can do for the environment! Before you even get to composting, maybe you can eat those scraps!
COFFEE CUPS and WATER BOTTLES: Avoiding coffee cups and plastic water bottles is pretty easy!

We challenge you to perform a waste audit and swap out your most common items for zero waste alternatives.

www.goingzerowaste.com

www.zerowastestore.com

<https://greenindyblog.com/zero-waste-bathroom/>

Are you talking to your family, friends and coworkers about zero waste? Are you setting a good example?

JUNE: MINIMIZING MINDFULLY

- What are you spending?
- Bathroom and kitchen

Minimizing mindfully, what does that even mean? Minimalism is inherently a form of environmental activism... you choose to buy less overall with a focus on purchasing quality, long-lasting goods. When you refine your consumption habits to support your pure needs and selected wants, you are decreasing your demand for the manufacture of new items.

Declutter and as you declutter don’t just fill the trash can! Think about where to donate items that others can use. Recycle or repurpose items you don’t need or use. Purchase only what you need and buy quality items that will last.

www.greenindyblog.com

www.facebook.com/mindfullyminimized/

If you would like to be on the NW PA Synod’s **Green Team**’s email list or would like more information about the Green Team, contact Dennis Groce (d_mgroce@labs.net) with your name and email address.

Be sure to stop and see us at the Synod Assembly in June! We look forward to meeting you.

Martin Luther, “God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you.” (LW 51:43)

NWPA Synod– Green Team



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



Retirement Banquet

Honoring



Bishop Ralph E. Jones



Thursday, June 13, 2019
6:00 PM
The Corinthian Banquet and Event Center
47 Vine Avenue
Sharon, PA 16146

All Rostered Leaders and congregational members across the NWPA Synod are invited to help us celebrate Bishop Ralph Jones's Retirement.

*Cocktails and Appetizers at 6:00PM
Dinner at 6:30PM
Program and Entertainment to follow
Free parking at
Sharon Parking Garage
47 N Railroad St, Sharon, PA 16146



For more information and to RSVP please visit:
<https://www.regonline.com/bishopjonesretirementbanquet1>
or call Ellen at the Synod Office, 814.589.7660

RSVP no later than June 1, 2019



*Cash Bar

NWPA WELCA



WELCA Convention is at Olmstead Manor in Ludlow will be held June 7-8 , 2019

WELCA is looking for nominations for President, Treasurer and a board member from conferences 1 and 4.

A deadline of May 22, 2019 for nominations for 2 delegates to the Triennial convention in Phoenix, July 14-16, 2020. First selected will be someone whose first language is not English, a woman of color, with consideration given to a person living with a disability. Second selected will be someone who has never gone to convention before. Third selected will be all others. There will be no nominations from the floor at convention so if you are interested please contact Pat Bellingham 814-528-5675 or reply to this email or Tracy Heutsche 814-825-7118 by 5/22.

Summer Camp

For more than seventy years Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience!

Lutherlyn offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school. In addition to classic camp programs Lutherlyn also offers camps such as Rocketry, Horse Camp, Adventurers, Musical Theater, Night Owls, and more for campers with special interests.

In addition to summer camp programs for school age children and teens, Lutherlyn offers day programs for children as young as three years old to enjoy with their favorite grown-up, and [Family Camp](#) for campers of ANY age to enjoy.

You can learn more about this summer's camp schedule, costs, or view frequently asked questions by selecting the tiles below. Our staff is also happy to answer any questions you may have about our programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have.

With our new online registration, you are able to complete forms, process payments, or review your registration at any time on your [Online Camper Portal](#).

Lutherlyn's Office

Hours: Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm

Phone: 724-865-2161

email: registrar@lutherlyn.com



2019 Synod Assembly

Registration will be at 8 AM in the Lobby of the Howard Miller Center.

Opening Eucharist is at 11AM in the Chapel

Bishop Election-

- There will be five ballots for the election of a new NWPA Synod Bishop. Following our Synodical Guidelines for each ballot.
- ALL voting members, including the Youth have the authority to vote.
- ELCA Representative Lori Fedyk will be overseeing the election

Meals

- All meals other than the Bishops Retirement Banquet will be held in the Dining hall at Thiel College.
- There will be bus transportation for those in attendance at Synod Assembly to and from the Banquet. Bus leaves promptly at 5:15 from Thiel Campus. Pick up and drop off location to be announced .

Forums

- Several forums will be offered on Friday from 5:00-6:00PM. A sign up list will be posted at registration.

Housing

- All on campus housing will be in the Townhouses, College Avenue Apartments and Flo West.

Thiel

- Please remember Thiel is a College Campus not a hotel. You will need to provide your own toiletries and such.

Display

- Display spaces will be set up in the rotunda area as in previous years.

Cookies

- The NWPA WELCA group will be hosting our cookie table.
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Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



Northwestern PA Synod, ELCA

A word from Ellen

We are in full Assembly mode here at the Synod Office. This year is even more hectic with a Bishops Election so please be patient while we navigate through all these extra steps. Every year it seems I get to learn something new at Assembly, and this year will be no exception.

Scarlett has turned two, and its so crazy how time goes so fast. I feel like she was just born, and now she is a feisty red head with her own opinions!!



Local Happenings

25th Anniversary of Relay For Life of Venango County!

Opening ceremonies will kick off at 10 a.m. with a day filled with different events, games, activities, and more throughout the day and evening. The Cancer Survivor Celebration/Dinner (sponsored by Allegheny Toyota) will begin at 5 p.m. with the Survivor Lap to follow. Join us for our Luminaria Ceremony to begin at dusk. If you have any questions or would like to donate, visit us online at

www.nwpaelca.org

WOLFS CORNERS FAIR
June 30th to July 6th 2019
Always over the 4th of July



How do I say “Goodbye”?

It's hard to believe I'll be saying my final “goodbye” to Pilis in six weeks. Although I needed some time to adjust to my life in Hungary, I have to admit that my life here has become my “normal”. I can order a train ticket at the kiosk at the train station. I can take multiple ways to get to and from my workplaces, without getting lost. I can order food for myself independently. I sit on the couch in the living room (almost) every night to eat dinner and chat with my host family. I have genuine friendships that are based on experiences together, rather than just exchanging a few sentences to practice each others' languages. I can sing the Hungarian worship songs at youth club on Fridays with confidence. I look forward to retreats with my cohort to process through our experiences, but I am also relieved to come home to “my bed” in “my room”. I'm no longer “the American volunteer whose name is Sydney”; I'm “Sydney, the American volunteer”.

During my Leaving Well retreat, I came to terms with:

- how important it is to dig deep and process through emotions and fears in order to leave this place well
- the fact my “homeland” is going to be different than I remember leaving it
- the realness of reverse culture shock and how it can show up in a variety of ways
- knowing that pretending like I never have to leave doesn't help anyone in the end
- how saying goodbye to my second home is going to be really hard

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD...



At the end of April, I had the opportunity to go to confirmation camp! The Lutheran Church of Hungary has a retreat center along Lake Balaton, where I joined confirmation kids and older youth club members from our region for a weekend. We played games, made new friends, worshipped together, and enjoyed the gorgeous view of the lake in our backyard. Pictured is Ditta and I enjoying some ice cream by the lake in between activities. I'm sure going to miss her!



During the first few months of the year, the Lutheran church in Pilis had been preparing for this year's Passió, which was performed on Palm Sunday. I was specifically picked to play Lázár (Lazarus) because „we needed a joyful Lázár, not a boring one”! Pictured is my reunion with my sisters after being raised from the dead.



Last weekend, I went to Cegléd for Mission Day with the Lutheran churches in Northern Hungary, where I bumped into fellow YAGM who serve in Nyíregzháza! There were massive worship services, choirs performing, several speakers, bake sales, church booths, and fun activities scattered throughout the day. But my favorite part was when the pastor from Norway began the Passing of the Peace in English! Pictured is Tabby and I in front of the church before the second service.

Photo Album



My co-worker I found on the train to Budapest last week!



My friend, Roli, and I enjoying the sunshine at a park. We sat together for 2.5 hours practicing each other's languages and catching up!



Being goofy with my roommates at Confi Camp! Ditta, Csilla, and I were never bored- that's for sure!



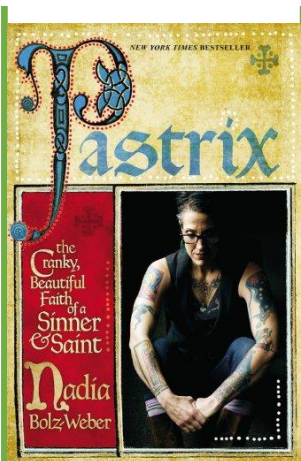
The cast picture of the folks involved in Passió



A view from one of my many train rides

“How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” –Winnie the Pooh

For the eyes:



For the ears:

podcast.cdsporch.org

Seeing White –
Scene on Radio

Learn Hungarian

Szeretlek! = I love you!

Békesség = Peace be with you

Gombas Hús = Mushroomy Meat
(One of my favorite meals here!)

Persze = Of course