

January 3, 2008

2008 Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference--Save this Email

Greetings in the name of Christ!

This email is a followup to the newsletter official announcement of the 2008 Synod Assembly and Theological Conference. Mark your calendars for June 6-8, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings, Montana.

To help you with you planning, here are some salient points:

**Nature of the meeting:** By constitution, every other year is a Synod Theological Conference with a minimum of business conducted. That means that all of Saturday will be devoted to the theological conference, and that people who are not otherwise a part of the voting membership of the assembly will find something interesting and inspiring. All are welcome, and we encourage you to spread the word.

**Theme and highlights:**

**Theme:** "Living Faith in a World of Fear: Global Mission--Global Vision"

**Speaker:** Dr. Wanda Deifelt, Luther College, offering Latin American perspectives

**Bible Study:** Pr. Steve Benson, Montana Synod Pastor and former missionary

**Breakout groups:** Islam; South Africa; Palestinian Christians; Native Americans; Iraq; Global Health Issues: Bolivia, Global Environmental Issues; Young People at Work in the World; ELCA ONE Program.

**Lively worship:** With music from around the world

**Who is invited:** Each congregation will send its allotted 2 voting members (additional voting members allotted to larger congregations.) In addition, the theological conference sessions on Saturday will be geared towards a broad cross section of the Montana Synod. All are welcome.

**What business will be conducted:** Only essential business will be conducted. This includes adoption of a 2009 budget, election of Voting Members to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, and other business that is critical and timely and cannot wait for 2009.

**What business will not be conducted:** The Executive Committee urges congregation and individuals to refrain from submitting resolutions of a general nature that address churchwide issues. Such resolutions can and will be considered at the 2009 Montana Synod Assembly. For example, if you are interested in input into the 2009 ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality, there is another way to do that. We have scheduled 2 hearings in our synod with members of the Sexuality Task Force. They are April 26 and 27. Those will be the times to give input on the study, which will be released this spring. (Or you can send in your written comments, if you prefer.)

**Youth Convo:** This is when the leadership for the next year is chosen.

**Deadlines:**

Nomination of Spirit of Hope Awardee: **February 15**

Nominations of Churchwide Voting Members to Nominating Committee: **April 1**

Submission of Resolutions to Resolutions Committee for Consideration: **April 1**

Early Registration Reduced Fee Rate: **May 1**

Youth Convo Registration: **May 1**

Boundaries Workshop Registration: **May 1**

**Boundaries Training:** June 5, 7-9 PM and June 6, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM at the Lillis Center at St. John's Lutheran Ministries. The Synod will offer Boundaries Training for rostered leaders and others prior to the Synod Assembly and Theological Conference, as a convenience to those who need to travel long distances. It is expected that all rostered leaders will take boundaries training (either through the Montana Synod or through some other agency) at

least every 5 years and provide notice of that training to the Synod Office. This year's training, taught by the Rev. Kay Tostengard and the Rev. Greg Holler-Dinsmore, will incorporate some new material.

**More to Come:** More information will come to you on each of these topics, but this is your "start the year off right" email to help you keep on top of all the deadlines. With Lent just around the corner, you'll want to have done some thinking about these synod issues ahead of time.

Your servant in Christ,

Bishop Jessica Crist