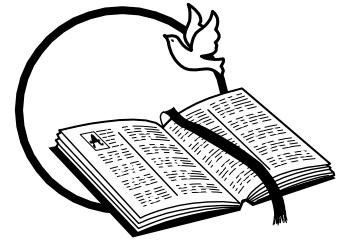


2008 East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly



Shaped by Scripture was the theme of the 21st Synod Assembly held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton from June 6th-7th. 385 voting members and 110 non-voting members represented the 143 congregations and the 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. Peder Eide supplied the music for the Assembly.

Shaped by Scripture

Rev. Molwane “Job” Ubane of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa Western Diocese brought greetings from Bishop Dithale and the entire staff of the WELCSA. Rev. Ubane told of his experience visiting the Crossways Camps and the vision and hope of continuing the ministry of Camp Marang in Southern Africa.

The **Resource Center Report** was given by **Ms. Darlene Kalfahs**, Director of the Synod Resource Center. She introduced the **“Shaped by Scripture”** theme for the Assembly and invited us to consider how the Word of God invites us into a relationship with God and promises a life in Christ.

Bible Study Leader, Rev. Dr. Robert Driver-Bishop, senior pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in McLean, Virginia, gave 4 presentations themed on the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and also spoke to the Assembly on “Who is Jesus?” His presentations were enhanced by many video clips.

Ms. Myrna Sheie from the ELCA Churchwide Office brought greetings from Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen and the **ELCA Ministry Report**. Ms. Sheie introduced the video from Bishop Hansen about ***The Book of Faith Initiative*** and how we can engage people of all ages in the scriptures. She also talked about giving with generous hearts to mission support, strengthening partnerships between the three expressions of the church – congregations, synods, and the ELCA Churchwide Organization and answered questions about the ELCA Churchwide Organization.

Mr. John Emery, Vice President of the Synod, gave the **Vice President’s Report** and thanked everyone for their work in their individual congregations and in the larger church. He encouraged congregations to bring ***The Book of Faith*** more strongly into their congregations and homes and to also be actively reaching out to the world.

Rev. Wayne Harrison, Executive Director of **Crossways Camping Ministries**, spoke of the partnership with the ELC in Southern Africa. 4 South African young adults serving at Crossways Camping Ministries this summer performed some traditional South African camp songs and were then joined by the 85 other camp counselors who led us in several rousing camp songs.

Afternoon Breakouts included **Mr. Peder Eide** on Taste Worship; **Rev. Dr. Robert Driver-Bishop** on Evangelism; **Rev. Wayne Harrison** and the Crossways Camping Staff; **Ms. Sharon Fox Bogen** led a Stretch and Pray session; and **Ms. Myrna Sheie** and **Mr. John Emery** convened the Hearing on the Social Statement Draft on Human Sexuality.

After dinner, Bishop Justman recognized fifteen ministers on their 25th, 50th, and 55th anniversaries of ordination, an Associate in Ministry on her 25th anniversary of certification and twelve pastors who have recently retired. Peder Eide then entertained the gathering and the evening closed with a Compline Worship Service.

Saturday morning, **Rev. Molwane “Job” Ubane**, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa Western Diocese shared his favorite Bible story from the book of Job and led the Assembly in prayer.

Bishop James Justman introduced and thanked the Synod Staff for their dedication and then with the Associate with the Bishop, **Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe**, reviewed selections from the **Bishop’s and Associate’s Report**. They spoke of using the Word of God in the Bible as your anchor and guide in life.

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, and the 2009 Synod Budget were discussed and passed along with the 2008 Resolutions. Elected to the Synod Council were Ms. Jan Thompson, Wittenberg; Mr. Paul Mogged, Oconto Falls; Rev. Jenifer Czarnota, Bear Creek; Rev Kimberly Stowell, Ripon; and Rev Larry Lange, Green Bay.

Bishop Justman closed the Assembly with a devotion and a reminder that the 2009 Assembly will be held at the KI Center in Green Bay June 5th-6th.