

Congregations and Rostered Leaders of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA:

God's work. Our hands.

The Western Iowa Synod ELCA 2010 Festival Assembly will be held at the Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City, Iowa, on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, 2010. The Festival Assembly focus is ministry and mission in the synod and beyond. The Rev. Ruben Duran, Director for New Evangelizing Congregations, ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, will serve as representative from the churchwide organization.

Assembly opening worship will be at the Convention Center. Assembly voting members and visitors are invited to participate in worship leadership, and may indicate their interest in doing so with their registration. Offerings have been designated one-half each for Lutheran Services in Iowa and the Siouxland Lutheran Mission Center Thrift Store. Additionally, in kind offerings of non-perishable food, good used clothing and shoes, linens and kitchen items will be received at assembly registration check-in. Assembly voting members are encouraged to bring their congregation's offerings to assembly worship. A challenge of \$1 per baptized member is before congregations again this year. Assembly goers will be invited into Sioux City area congregations Sunday morning and encouraged to offer faithful gifts in the congregation they visit.

Assembly check-in will open at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, May 1, in the Convention Center. The assembly is scheduled to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon. A preliminary agenda is enclosed. All assembly reports will be available at www.wisynod.org in April. Print copies of assembly reports will be available at registration check-in. The deadline for submitting resolutions for consideration at this assembly is Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

The Sioux City Convention Center is located at 801 4th St. Lodging with skywalk access from the Convention Center is available at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 707 Fourth Street, 712-277-4101. A listing of other nearby motels is available at www.wisynod.org. Assembly meals (Saturday lunch and evening banquet, and Sunday brunch) will be served at the Convention Center. Rostered leader anniversaries of ordination and congregation anniversaries will be observed following brunch Sunday morning.

Electronic voting with wireless remotes will be used at this assembly. The voting membership of the assembly includes rostered leaders, lay congregation members, youth and young adults. A complete listing is available as a web resource. Youth visitors have been visible at recent assemblies and are invited to accompany a congregation's youth voting member. Youth voting members and visitors should register for and travel to the assembly with voting members from their congregations. Youth registering for assembly may choose youth housing. Youth

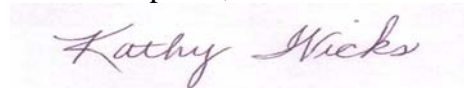
housing is chaperoned by synod Lutheran Youth Organization leaders. Youth will participate fully in the assembly.

An assembly registration form is enclosed; please copy as needed. Registration is also available online at www.wisynod.org. Online registration will open the first week in February. Registration fees are \$149 voting member and \$98 visitor. Registration should be completed by April 1, 2010. [All ordained ministers, associates in ministry ... under call and the persons appointed as voting members of the Synod Assembly from congregations shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly. (S7.21.01. Constitution and Bylaws of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA)] Please share this preliminary information with voting members as registration is completed.

Assembly goers are encouraged to bring a tote bag, perhaps one given at an earlier assembly, and maybe one to share with a friend or first time assembly participant. Recyclable mugs suitable for hot or cold drinks will be distributed at check-in for use during the assembly. An Augsburg Fortress resource outlet and 10,000 Villages display will be available.

The 2011 Synod Assembly is presently scheduled for the first weekend in June at the Sioux City Convention Center.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Kathy Wicks, Secretary
Western Iowa Synod ELCA

Enclosures:

- Preliminary Agenda
- Registration Form
- Resource information for worship offerings

Deadlines:

- Registration – April 1 2010
- Resolutions – March 2 2010

Resources available at www.wisynod.org:

- Membership of Synod Assembly
- Standing Rules for 2010 Assembly
- A Quick & Easy Guide to Writing Resolutions
- Policy for Handling Resolutions at the Synod Assembly
- 2010 Resolution Submittal Form
- Sioux City area motels