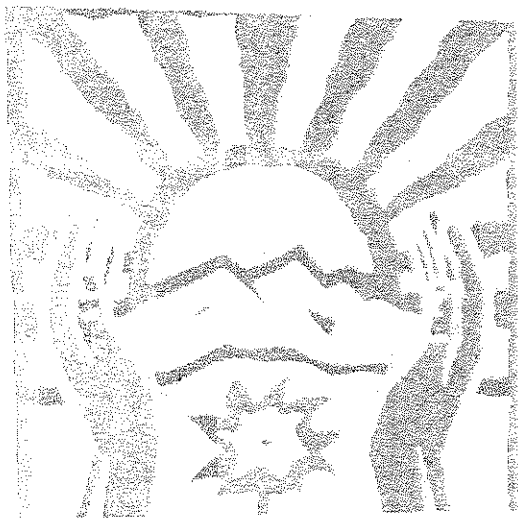


# **GOD'S WORK**



# **OUR HANDS**

22ND ANNUAL  
ASSEMBLY  
ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN  
SYNOD

JUNE 5, 6 & 7,  
2009  
RENAISSANCE  
WAVERLY HOTEL  
ATLANTA, GA

**GOD'S  
WORK**



**OUR  
HANDS**

## ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 5-7, 2009

Renaissance Waverly Hotel  
Atlanta, GA

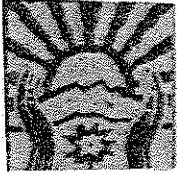
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# GOD'S WORK



# OUR HANDS

## 2009 Southeastern Synod Assembly Essential Information

Location:  
Renaissance Waverly Hotel  
2450 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
(770) 953-4500

Begins Friday, June 5, 2009 at Noon -  
Ends Sunday, June 7, 2009 at Noon  
(Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

Welcome to Atlanta, GA for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ELCA-Southeastern Synod Assembly!  
The theme this year is **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS.**

Please take a few moments to read through this essential information regarding the Assembly.

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### **1. What is a Synod Assembly?**

The synod assembly is an annual gathering of pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and lay people representing the congregations that make up the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The assembly serves as the synod's highest legislative authority. Voting Members of the assembly receive information and reports, elect nominees to leadership positions in the church and reach decisions on matters brought before the assembly. Visitors attend to observe and learn.

### **2. Can I still register? Where?**

On-line registration is closed. On-site registration will be available in the Renaissance Waverly hotel the weekend of the Assembly.

All Rostered Persons, Voting Members and Visitors may register:  
Thursday, June 5 from 6-8 PM  
Friday, June 6 from 9 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday June 7 from 8 AM - Noon

Voting Member registration ends at Noon on Saturday; however Visitors may register until 2:30PM.

The on-site registration fee is \$135.00 for Rostered Persons and Voting Members and \$85 Retired Rostered Person and Visitors.

### **3. How can I avoid long lines at the registration desk?**

Even if you pre-registered, you must check in at the Registration Area to sign in and pick up your materials. Those who have not pre-registered will need to do so on-site.

A couple of tips to speed registration on-site:

- Bring a check for your payment; this is much quicker than running a credit card.
- Avoid the lines by coming early. There is usually little-to-no wait before 11AM. Once you are registered, there will be time for lunch and to get your materials organized for Assembly (everyone will receive a hard copy of all of the pre-assembly materials and a notebook when they check-in.)

**PLEASE NOTE: THE REGISTRATION DESK WILL CLOSE FOR OPENING WORSHIP AT NOON ON JUNE 5**

#### **4. Why are we called “voting members” and not “delegates”?**

The ELCA is intentional in choosing to speak of "assemblies" and "voting members" rather than "conventions" and "delegates." The Synod Assembly is just that, an assembly of the people of this church gathered around Word and Sacrament, some of whom have been granted the responsibility of being voting members of the Synod Assembly. They are not sent to participate as politicized delegates from some regional or agenda-specific caucus at some national party convention. They gather around Word and Sacrament to represent and serve on behalf of all of the members of the congregations in the synod.

#### **5. How do I get there and when should I arrive?**

The Renaissance Waverly Hotel is located at 2450 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339. The phone number is 770-953-4500.

The Assembly officially begins with opening worship at 1:00PM, Friday June 6 (Eastern Time). Long lines can sometimes form at the registration desk. To avoid frustration, arrive early—the registration desk opens at 9:00AM on Friday morning!

Directions:

##### **Traveling SOUTH on I-75**

Take Exit #259. Follow the signs for I-285 West. Proceed to the Cobb Parkway/Highway 41 exit before merging into I-285 west. Get in the far left-hand lane to turn left onto Cobb Parkway. Turn left at the second traffic light. Follow the road about 1/4 of a mile and the Waverly will be on your right.

##### **Traveling SOUTH on I-85**

Take Exit #95 (I-285 West). Proceed to Exit #20 (I-75 North/South Highway 41 Cobb Parkway) (**Note:** Do not take I-75, go straight to Highway 41 Cobb Parkway). Get in the far left-hand lane to turn left onto Cobb Parkway. Turn left at the second traffic light. Follow the road about 1/4 of a mile and the Waverly will be on your right.

##### **Traveling NORTH on I-75**

Take Exit #259B (I-285 West). Proceed to Exit #259B (I-285 West) Cobb Parkway/Highway 41 exit. Do not take I-285 west, follow signs to Cobb Parkway. Get in the far left-hand lane to turn left onto Cobb Parkway. Turn left at the second traffic light, follow the road about 1/4 of a mile and the Waverly will be on your right.

##### **Traveling EAST on I-20**

Take Exit #51B (I-285 North). Proceed to Exit #19 (Cobb Parkway/Highway 41) then turn right onto Cobb Parkway. Turn left at the first traffic light. Follow the road about 1/4 of a mile and the Waverly will be on your right.

##### **Traveling WEST on I-20**

Take Exit #67B (I-285 North). Proceed to Exit #20 (I-75 North/South Highway 41

Cobb Parkway) (**Note:** Do not take I-75, go straight to Highway 41/Cobb Parkway). Get in the far left-hand lane to turn left onto Cobb Parkway. Turn left at the second traffic light. Follow the road about 1/4 of a mile and the Waverly will be on your right.

### **From Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport**

Take Camp Creek Parkway to I-285 N. to Exit #19 (Cobb Parkway US41). Turn right onto Cobb Parkway and then left at the 2nd light. This is Galleria Parkway and will lead directly to the hotel entrance.

### **Airport Shuttle information**

Discount airport shuttle services through A&M Limo and Galleria Direct shuttle companies should be reserved in advance. For a one way trip \$29 or \$46 round trip. Call 770-955-4565 or go to [www.aandmlimo.com](http://www.aandmlimo.com)

Another option is Cooper Atlanta Transportation Services. Please call 770-455-9600 or visit [www.cooper-atlanta.com](http://www.cooper-atlanta.com) for more information.

## **6. What do I need to bring?**

- A Bible for our Bible study times
- A sweater or jacket -- even if it is hot outside, the temperature in hotel meeting rooms can be a little chilly.

## **7. What is expected of me as a voting member?**

You will find that your experience as a voting member of a synod assembly can be an enriching experience. Pre-assembly materials are posted to the synod website prior to the Assembly so that all Voting Members will have an opportunity to review them before arriving at the Assembly. (All Voting Members and Visitors will receive a printed copy of the materials upon check-in at Assembly.)

It will be most helpful if you:

**Prepare** -- study and be familiar with assembly materials.

- Tab A Program Guide for the entire weekend, the Plenary Agenda and information about the workshop choices.
- Tab B Reports of the Officers and Staff of the Synod
- Tab C Reports of Others such as the Synod Council, Synod Commissions, Synod Ministries, etc.
- Tab D Elections information-A nomination form and biographical information on candidates (note: some of the biographical information will be distributed at the assembly)
- Tab E Proposed 2010 Synod Ministry Funding Plan (Budget)
- Tab F Amendments to Synod Constitution and Bylaws (if any)

- Tab G Resolutions and Memorials information-a resolution submittal form and Resolutions to be acted upon at this Assembly
- Tab H Necrologies
- Tab I Exhibits to be referred to at this Assembly
- Tab J Miscellaneous-Opening and Closing of an Assembly, Voting Member Cost Sharing form

**Pray** -- ask to be open constantly to the Lord's presence and guidance and seek the prayers of your congregation.

**Attend** -- share fully in the assembly's work in plenary, worship, and less formal sessions.

**Act** -- serve the whole body of the Church.

**Listen** -- special announcements and directions are frequently made during the course of the assembly.

#### **8. How can I participate most effectively in the work of the Assembly?**

- Your nametag is important. Without it you cannot enter the plenary hall or workshop areas.
- Take the time before Assembly begins to arrange your materials for easy access.
- Familiarize yourself with the Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure (see Tab I, Exhibit 1).
- As a voting member you have the privilege to speak to an issue under consideration. You may move, second, or amend any motion. The normal rules of parliamentary procedure apply. (see Tab I, Exhibit 2).
- Always identify yourself by name and congregation when you speak at one of the floor microphones.
- Please submit to the synod secretary a written copy of any motion or amendment you intend to introduce verbally.
- Pay close attention to all instructions regarding voting procedures.

## 9. Who Are Some of the Key People at this Assembly?

- *You . . .* and the other voting members making up the Assembly.
- **Bishop Julian Gordy** - who will chair the Assembly
- **Mr Wesley Crenshaw** - Vice President of the synod and Chair of the synod council
- **The Rev Paul Baumgartner** – Acting Secretary of the synod
- **Mr John Lucht** - Treasurer of the synod
- **Ms Essie Rowser** – Parliamentarian
- **Keynote speaker**—the Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba, formerly of the Southeastern Synod, currently serving as the Director of African National Ministries in the ELCA.

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba is currently serving as the Director of African National Ministries in the ELCA. He is originally from East Africa, Ethiopia, and is currently living in Chicago, Illinois, with his wife Nassisse Baro Tumsa.

Dr. Buba received a Bachelor of Theology with high distinction from Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, where he served as a Professor for two years. After working on Masters of Theology in Church History in the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology he moved to the United States for further studies. In 2003 he received Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Christian Education from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. In May of 2006 Dr. Buba earned a Doctorate Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, specializing in Missional Leadership.

Ordained in 2001, he has served as a Seminary professor, mission developer, Senior Pastor, Vice President of Southeastern Black Lutheran Pastors' Conference, an assistant to the Bishop of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and President of the world wide union of Oromo Evangelical Churches, Inc.

In addition to academic study and ordained ministry, Dr. Buba participated in multiple international ministries through revivals, leadership development conventions and evangelical mission events.

He has traveled extensively and ministered across the nations of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Germany, England, Norway, The United States, Australia and New Zealand. In his journey across this globe he has ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ in three languages: English, Oromo and Amharic. He has authored numerous articles, booklets and produced materials for Christian educational use.

- Bible study leader—the Rev. Dr. Terence E. Fretheim, Elva B. Lovell  
**Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary.**

Terence Fretheim was first connected with the Luther Seminary faculty as a teaching fellow in Greek in 1958-60 while he was still a seminary student. He returned as assistant professor in 1968 and became professor of Old Testament in 1978. He was dean of academic affairs (1978-88) and also served as acting chair of the Old Testament department (1977-78) and chair of the curriculum committee (1976-77).

He was an instructor in Old Testament at Augsburg College and Seminary, Minneapolis, in 1961-63, and assistant professor of religion at Augsburg College in 1967-68. Ordained in 1968, Fretheim was pastor of Dennison (Minn.) Lutheran Church in 1968-71. He has been visiting professor at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and both visiting professor and lecturer at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Fretheim received the Fulbright Scholarship for study in England, the Lutheran Brotherhood Seminary Graduate Scholarship, the Martin Luther Scholarship, the Fredrik A. Schiotz Fellowship Award, and the ATS Scholarship for Theological Research.

A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa (B.A., 1956), Fretheim earned the M.Div. degree from Luther Seminary in 1960 and the Th.D. degree from Princeton Seminary in 1967. He has also studied at the University of Durham, England, the University of Minnesota, the University of Heidelberg in Germany, Oxford University in England, and the University of Chicago. As a Luther College alumnus, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1995.

He is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association and the Society of Biblical Literature and is Editor of SBL Old Testament Monographs. He has served on the Buddhist and Muslim Task Forces of the American Lutheran Church, was co-chair of the Theological Consultation for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been president of the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools, and Old Testament Book Editor for the Journal of Biblical Literature.

- **Churchwide representative**—the Rev. Donald McCoid, Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations for the ELCA.

Former bishop of the ELCA Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Pastor McCoid earned a bachelor's degree from West Liberty State College, West Liberty, W.Va., and a master of divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, one of eight ELCA seminaries. In 1983 he was presented an honorary doctorate by Thiel College, Greenville, Pa

McCoid has worked in ecumenical circles for many years. He has served as co-chair of the Lutheran-Orthodox bilateral dialogue in the United States and is co-president of the international Lutheran-Orthodox dialogue, facilitated by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). He also served on the Faith and Order

Conference board and was a member of the North American Committee of the LWF.

Pastor McCoid served on the Religious Leadership Forum, Pittsburgh, an organization of Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant church leaders. He was chair of the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, and was a board member for the Christian Leadership Fellowship of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Council of Churches. McCoid served on the board of Lutheran Services in America and was chair of the board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Pa), an ELCA seminary.

McCoid served as chair of the Theological and Ethical Concerns Committee of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and from 1999 to 2003 served as chair of the Conference.

- ***Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization*** - The SESLYO board will be meeting and serving as volunteers during the weekend.
- ***Volunteers*** - Our synod assembly would not be possible without the wonderful volunteers who help "run the show!" Volunteers are asked to serve at least one four-hour shift during the assembly weekend and are invited and encouraged to take part in the assembly when not on duty.
- Special thanks to: ***Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*** (Ms Ginny Soberg Hultquist, Manager of Lutheran Community Services, and Mr Steve Molen, Managing Partner of the Thrivent Southeast Regional Financial Office, Mt. Pleasant, SC) for providing funding to allow open captioning of the plenary sessions of this year's Synod Assembly.

#### **10. Who is being elected at this year's Assembly?**

**Synod Secretary**

**Members for the Committee on Consultation Discipline**

**Synod Council Youth Representative**

See Tab D in the Assembly Materials for more complete information.

#### **11. How can I submit a resolution at the Synod Assembly?**

This year the deadline to submit Resolutions to the Committee on Reference and Counsel is 5:00 PM, Friday, May 29. According to our Rules of Organization and Procedure "Resolutions submitted after 5:00PM on the Friday before the assembly will not be considered unless the issue is of such an immediate and urgent nature that it clearly cannot be postponed until the next assembly. Such resolutions shall be placed on the agenda only after written or electronic submission to the

Committee on Reference and Counsel, with a 2/3 vote of the assembly approving consideration.”

The Committee on Reference and Counsel exist to provide guidance about when and how to bring a matter before the assembly and in what form any motion should be presented. Members of the Committee will be available throughout the weekend should you have any questions.

### **12. Can I distribute materials at Assembly?**

**Only materials that voting members need for the plenary are to be distributed by appointed volunteers at the voting members' tables.** All materials distributed during the assembly weekend are considered part of “the Assembly.” To avoid any confusion, materials need to be officially approved to ensure that they are relevant and germane to the Assembly. All materials should be presented to the Assembly Coordinator (Elaine Schwartz) or left with a volunteer at the Information Booth for review and approval before distribution. Any unauthorized materials distributed or left on voting member tables will be discarded.

### **13. What about meals and snacks?**

Friday Dinner and Saturday Lunch & Dinner are on-your-own (see on-your-own lunch and dinner options below.)

**Fellowship Reception**, featuring light hors d'oeuvres, will take place Friday evening following the second plenary session in the Garden Court.

**A light continental breakfast** will be served for registered assembly attendees on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6:45-8:00AM in the Garden Court.

**Global Mission Breakfast**--On Saturday from 6:45-8:00AM, the Southeastern Synod Global Mission team is sponsoring a plated breakfast for assembly attendees to hear the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba speak about the value of Missional Hospitality in a Global Mission setting. Reservations **are required** for this breakfast and seating will be limited. Please contact Larry Schultz at (404) 304-9127 or [larry\\_schultz\\_sr@comcast.net](mailto:larry_schultz_sr@comcast.net).

### **On-your-own lunch and dinner options:**

On-site—the Renaissance Waverly Hotel features in-room dining service, the Waverly Coffee Bar (open for breakfast and lunch), Tosca Blu Bar (open for lunch and dinner), Medici Mediterranean Grill and, of course, the Waverly Restaurant.

The Waverly Renaissance is attached to the Galleria Specialty Mall featuring China Sun Express, The Espresso Bar, Jocks & Jills Sports Grill, and Subway.

Directly across Cobb Parkway from the Galleria Centre (easily accessible by a pedestrian skybridge, Cumberland Mall has many fine restaurants and eateries including Chik-Fil-A, Jason's Deli, Maggiano's Little Italy, P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Stoney River Legendary Steaks, Ted's Montana Grill, The Cheesecake Factory and the mall Food Court.

The Cobb County Convention and Visitors Bureau will also have a table set up on Friday and Saturday in the Exhibit area with maps and coupons for nearby restaurants.

#### **14. Can I bring my family to the Assembly?**

Everyone who enters the plenary hall needs to be registered, either as a voting member or visitor and have a nametag. Childcare is not provided and to avoid distractions and disturbances while business is being conducted, please refrain from bring children into the Grand Ballroom during Plenary Sessions. A monitor to view Plenary Sessions will be set up in the Garden Court (Exhibit area). However, everyone is invited and encouraged to come into the Grand Ballroom for worship (see item 15).

#### **15. What are the worship opportunities at this year's Assembly?**

This year we begin our time together with worship at Noon on Friday in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. Other worship services will be Saturday at 11:15AM and Sunday at 8:00AM. **Everyone is invited to come into the Grand Ballroom at these times and worship—you need not be registered for the assembly to attend worship.**

THE LORD'S OFFERINGS, received during worship services at this Assembly, are designated by the Synod Council to be directed to the Mount of Olives Housing Project of the Lutheran World Federation.

#### **16. Are there workshops at this year's Assembly?**

There are three workshop sessions offered at this year's assembly. Check the "Workshop Choices" pages behind Tab A in the pre-assembly materials for complete descriptions.

#### **17. Where will the Ministry Exhibits be this year? Can I exhibit?**

Ministry exhibits for this year's assembly will be located in the Garden Court. Only those Ministry Exhibitors that pre-arranged with the Assembly Coordinator for display space will have space available and reserved.

**ALL EXHIBITORS MUST CHECK IN WITH THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH BEFORE SETTING UP A DISPLAY.**

According to the Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure "Display space is available for synod commissions, committees, units, task forces, other organizational units, institutions or agencies directly supported by this synod. There is no display space or meeting facilities available to organizations that have no official relationship to this synod. Display space may be made available to 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(8) organizations that serve the Lutheran community in the Southeastern Synod on a "space available" basis. The "space available" determination will be made annually by the assembly coordinator. "Space available" may be determined to be at the information booth of the assembly. In this case, a limited number of brochures or flyers will be permitted. A full display including free standing display boards, videos, etc. will not be permitted at the information booth. Display space is currently provided at the Southeastern Synod assembly at no charge to commissions, committees, units, task forces, other organizational units, institutions or agencies directly supported by this synod, therefore display space is at the discretion of and with the approval of the assembly coordinator and the bishop."

#### **18. How do I have an announcement placed in the daily Assembly Newsletter?**

To save paper, we do not produce a daily newsletter at assembly. We will have announcements run on the screens in the plenary hall and the Garden Court (Ministry Exhibit area). To have an announcement posted, please see Ms Linda Few, who will be seated near the technical area at the back of the plenary hall.

#### **19. Where do I go if I need help during the Assembly?**

**Information Booth** - An information booth, staffed by the Synod Assembly Committee and volunteers, will be located next to the Registration area, near the entrance to the Plenary Hall. Please check the booth for messages, lost and found, etc.

**First Aid** - We are fortunate to have Ms Jan Levensgood, Parish Nurse at Living Grace Lutheran Church in Tucker, GA, available for any first aid needs that arise throughout the weekend. The First Aid station will be located at the Information Booth. If first aid is required during assembly hours, please send someone to the Information Booth and Jan will be dispatched. If an ambulance is required, contact a member of the hotel staff or the Assembly Office immediately.

**Assembly Office** - the Assembly Office will be located in the Waverly Room. Office hours will be posted on the door.

#### **20. Who can I contact if I have questions before the Assembly?**

Please contact the synod office at 404-589-1977, ext 220 or [synod.office@elcasses.org](mailto:synod.office@elcasses.org).

**Renaissance Waverly  
Hotel**

770-953-4500

FAX: 770-953-0740

2450 Galleria Parkway

Atlanta, GA 30339

[www.renaissancehotels.com/atitfb](http://www.renaissancehotels.com/atitfb)

