



Upstate New York Synod, ELCA Synod Assembly 2018

This year's focus on **Outreach and Evangelism** gives us all an opportunity to let our lights shine for the Glory of God, our Father.

This year's Synod Assembly is gearing up to help us all to do just that. Along with tending to the Synod business for the year and participating in enlightening and thought-provoking workshops, participants at this year's assembly will have opportunities to connect with each other in new ways to engage in work to share your own story in spreading God's glory to the world. We will welcome Ruben Duran, ELCA Director, New Congregations, as our 2018 Churchwide Representative. We are excited to have you with us this year!!

Synod Assembly Details for 2018:

Dates: June 3 -5, 2018

Location: Rochester Riverside Convention Center (<http://www.rrcc.com/>) in Rochester, NY

Accommodations: The newly renovated Hyatt Regency Rochester (<https://rochester.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>)

Registration Opens: April 1, 2018

- Synod Assembly is open to persons of all ages who want to attend, not just rostered leaders and congregational voting members.
- Registration costs will be announced closer to the opening of registration.
- Hotel and food costs are in addition to the registration fee and will be listed when the on-line registration opens.
- Child care will be offered.

This year's Keynote, Workshops and Mission Expo will highlight the importance of spreading God's word and provide attendees opportunities to learn about as well as become involved in sharing God's love through our words and our actions.

This year's logo reiterates the 4G's as presented by Bishop John Macholz and is centered on the Synod's mission as we continue to discern our path forward...

Grounded in Christ Jesus

Growing in Our Witness

Giving of Our Bounty

Graced for the World

As stated by Bishop Macholz, "One leads into the other and creates a progression of steps to take as we grow in our faith. Not only will we grow in faith, the steps will allow us to better proclaim and share the Good News with others and the world."

Please watch for regular assembly information and documents announced in the Upstate Update beginning in mid-March. All the details that you need to participate in this wonderful opportunity to engage with the Church and grow in faith, fellowship and knowledge will be included.

Thank you to this year's wonderful Synod Assembly Planning Team Volunteers, Planning Team Chair, Joanne Lembach, (Incarnate Word) and Synod Assembly Coordinator, Michelle Josephson (Synod Office). Our team is excited to bring you this year's event and are hard at work to make the 2018 Assembly a meaningful and energizing experience for all.

How Can You Start to Get Involved?

Congregations:

Be sure that your congregation's voting members are signed up for the synod's Upstate Update where, beginning March 15, you will be able to find all the information about the 2018 Assembly. Sign-up on the synod website, <http://upstatenysynod.org/> bottom right corner.

Encourage your congregation to elect youth and young adults as voting members to attend this year's Upstate NY Synod Assembly.

Attendees and Members:

Mark your calendars for open registration on April 1, 2018

Work with your Congregation Council if you are interested in attending this year's Synod Assembly

Food for thought from Bishop John Macholz...

- How well do we know the redemptive narrative of Scripture?

- How comfortable are we in witnessing to others that which we believe regarding the Risen Christ?
- How do we deepen and expand our understanding and ability to proclaim the good news of God in Christ in our everyday lives?

Can Tab Collection Project!

By Gary Roller

The aluminum can tab collection project has proved to be a successful endeavor that all of our Synod congregations can participate in. The Synod Assembly Planning Team has again decided that we would conduct this project for the 2018 Synod Assembly. Start your congregational collections now, and bring the collected can tabs to the Synod Assembly in June of 2018. The collection point at the Assembly will be in the area of the registration table. An announcement of where the proceeds will be sent will be made at a future time. If you have questions, they can be directed to Gary Roller @ gwr67@frontier.com.



Stay tuned for more detailed information and be sure to have members register for the Upstate Update (<http://upstatenysynod.org/>) before March 15th!