



2009 NC Synod Assembly

Saturday Highlights

GREETINGS FROM THE REV. ALBERT KECK

By Stephanie Grantham

The senior-most pastor in the NC Synod, with 75 years of ministry, the Rev. Albert Keck, Jr., sent greetings, which were read by his son, the Rev. David Keck, to the NC Synod Assembly. Keck, age 99, is a resident of Lutheran Home in Hickory and was unable to attend the assembly.

Pr. Albert Keck began his greetings with a grateful and thankful heart.

"I cherish this opportunity to thank God for his many, many benefits in this, my 99th year, in His grace.

Pr. Keck shared his journey to the NC Synod. He was ordained on May 15, 1934, in his home church, Holy Trinity in South Bend, Ind. He received a call to St. John's in Ill., 100 miles west of Chicago. At the time of his call, none of his other seminary graduates had received calls.

Even in the time of an over supply of pastors, Pr. Keck almost didn't accept his call because St. John's did not seem to be Lutheran. He grew up with Luther League and other things he viewed as decidedly Lutheran, and this congregation did not have those things. Worship was the most different, as it lacked candlesticks and crosses on the alter, ordinations, clerical garbs or robes.

But, Pr. Keck decided to accept the call and stayed for 11 years before receiving a call to Emmanuel, Lincolnton. This began his 64 years as a member of the NC Synod.

Pr. Keck did not know what to expect when he first arrived in N.C. Dr. Morgan, synod president at the time, made it clear that "outsiders" were not usually accepted in the synod. But, Dr. Keck's concerns were diminished as he found he was welcomed, embraced and given the opportunity to serve on boards and committees.

Pr. Keck felt it was a privilege to serve with the other leaders of the NC Synod, and the church as a whole, during his years of service.

"I am grateful to the countless loyal, devout, sacrificial and tireless members of many congregations who have inspired, helped and taught me," read Pr. David Keck on behalf of his father. "I thank God that I was permitted to share in so many fruitful years."

Among those honored on Saturday was the Rev. John W. Cobb for 70 years of ministry. In addition, 73 pastors were honored for 50 or more years of ministry. Nine pastors were honored for 25 years of ministry and an additional 9 were honored for 35 years of ministry. Two associates in ministry, Mr. Karl Kinard, Jr., and Mr. Richard Engebrecht, were honored for 35 and 60 years, respectively. Twenty-two congregations were honored for significant anniversaries, including 17 for more than 225 years of ministry.

Saturday, June 6, 2009

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NEWS TO NOTE

Upwards of \$10,000 has been received from 20/20 Site Vision so far for Pentecost Sunday.

Christina Johnson was installed to help develop La Vela, a Latino mission in Greensboro.

Amazing Grace, Waxhaw, was declared a newly organized and constituted congregation of the NC Synod.

NEW CONGREGATION – AMAZING GRACE, WAXHAW

By Glenn Mays

On Saturday, June 6, 2009, Amazing Grace, Waxhaw, became the newest congregation of the NC Synod of the ELCA.

Approximately 30 of its members, all dressed in red Amazing Grace t-shirts, as well as its pastor, the Rev. Rick Carter, were welcomed by Bishop Leonard Bolick and members of the 2009 Synod Assembly at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

The congregation, which began as a mission in 1997, struggled through several years before receiving Pastor Carter on a part-time basis more than two years ago. Now, Amazing Grace has grown and has about 150 members.

"Pastor Carter has done a tremendous job there, along with the lay leadership of that congregation," said Pr. Ernie Hinojosa, synod director of evangelical mission. "This congregation has been exemplary in how it has moved forward. It is going to go places."

Amazing Grace became the NC Synod's 238th congregation. Seven other mission congregations are active across the synod.

MORE ASSEMBLY COVERAGE ONLINE

Find all the synod assembly news, podcasts, and videos online at www.nclutheran.org. In addition, visit the NC Synod Blog at www.nclutheran.wordpress.com to view assembly blog posts which provide video recaps, and links to photos and the Twitter feed.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ASSEMBLY COMMUNICATIONS VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to the assembly communications team for their hard work and commitment during the assembly. Even in the late hours of the night, the team was still writing articles, editing video or photos, supporting each other and much more. You are truly an amazing group of people!

2009 NC SYNOD ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

By Stephanie Grantham

SYNOD OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

NC Synod Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Leonard H. Bolick

Synod Office of Secretary

The Rev. Gary Weant

Synod Office of Youth Representative

Ms. Carolyn Powell

Synod Council Lay Male

Mr. Alan L. Beaver
Mr. Ronald D. Corriher

Synod Council Lay Female

Ms. Vickie McCombs
Ms. Beth Shoffner
Ms. Bea Sherrill

Synod Council Clergy Male

The Rev. Dr. Bill Mitcham
The Rev. Paul E. Christ

Synod Council Clergy Female

The Rev. Jennifer M. Ginn

RATIFIED TO BOARDS

Agape+Kure Beach Ministries

The Rev. Tom Colley

Lenoir-Rhyne University Board

Mr. Jerome W. Bolick
The Rev. Randall A. Cauble
The Rev. Palmer Clemmer
Mr. Duane A. Dassow
Dr. Elizabeth R. Hayford
*Mr. Steve O. Hunt
The Rev. David R. Keck, Jr.
Ms. Katherine F. McKenzie
Mr. George A. Mortz
Mr. James V. Tarlton, Jr.

Lutheran Services for the Aging

*The Rev. Brenda Bynum
*Ms. Sharon Graeber
*Mr. Greg Hudgins
*Ms. Clementine Shaw

Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries

The Rev. Sarah Lang

ELECTED TO BOARDS

Agape+Kure Beach Ministries

Ms. Lanie Nagle

Lutheran Services for the Aging

The Rev. Samuel Zumwalt