

**Notes from the 2016 Florida/Bahamas Synod Assembly Daytona, Florida**



**From Charlene Hicklin:**

The theme of this Assembly was “Let Justice Roll Down Like Water” (Amos 5: 24).

I was grateful for having the opportunity to attend the Synod Assembly. It was quite a learning experience for me in that I now know what it is to be Lutheran and what the work of the ELCA accomplished worldwide.

I attended a workshop on Our Church in time of cultural shift, in which the leader stressed listening to God in scripture and prayer, in our congregation and in our neighborhoods in order to open new possibilities for joining God’s mission.

My other workshop focused on Eco-Justice in our congregation. Earth-keeping and environmental stewardship practices were discussed and good ideas for recycling and energy conservation were presented.

Other highlights of the assembly were the worship services led by Bishop Schaefer, the 6:30AM Sunrise Service, and a wonderful upbeat concert by a young Christian family. The entire atmosphere was inspiring and energetic and I was happy to represent Hope.

**From Julia Southard:**

What an awesome weekend. From time we walked through the doors, registered, and had a chance to speak with all of the wonderful people who had booths with various information available, attended workshops, and last but not least attend the fabulous church services, it was truly a memorable occasion.

We learned that there are 378 new congregations in the ELCA and that the church is changing. Our church must change with it. We must strive for justice and peace on all the earth. God has called us and that all are equal in God’s sight. “ALL means ALL.” The Bishop has preached in all of the churches in our Synod except 40. Hope-fully one day we will have the honor of having him in our pulpit.

I want to take this opportunity to tell our congregation how honored I was that you allowed me to represent you at the Synod Assembly. The Assembly next year will be June 1-3 at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee, FL. Mark your calendars and plan on attending.