

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Volunteering at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



2007 Churchwide Assembly *Living in God's amazing grace: Thanks be to God!*

1. When and where is the 2007 Churchwide Assembly?

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly will be held at the Festival Hall of Navy Pier on Lake Michigan in downtown Chicago, Illinois, from Monday, August 6 through Saturday, August 11, 2007.

2. What is Navy Pier?

Navy Pier <http://www.navy pier.com/home.html> is a popular destination for visitors to Chicago year around that includes amusement park rides, museums, live theater and performances, boat cruises on Lake Michigan, and shopping, in addition to a full-fledged convention center known as the Festival Hall complex at the far end of the pier (to the east).

3. How do volunteers register?

As of Wednesday, July 11, 2007, registration of volunteers has been closed, since it appears that more volunteers have registered for a number of days and tasks than can actually be assigned, thanks to the great response that people from the Chicago area have already made! The volunteers subcommittee for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly is now asking potential volunteers to check back at this site on or after **Wednesday, August 1**, in order to learn what a revised list of needs for volunteers may be (following cancellations or schedule changes that we receive from initial assignments). Beginning on August 6, the first day of the assembly, people who wish to sign up for last-minute needs may do so on-site at the volunteer check-in area at Terrace A West outside of Exhibit Hall A in the Festival Hall area of Navy Pier, or call the volunteer office at 773-380-1738. Volunteers needs for each day of the assembly will be posted in the volunteer check-in area.

4. How can volunteers get to Navy Pier?

In many cases, public transportation may be the best option. People taking a METRA train to Ogilvie Transportation Center, Union Station, or Millennium Metra Station may board CTA bus #124 just outside either of those terminals. The bus takes people directly to Navy Pier. The Regional Transportation Authority maintains a trip planning Web site <http://tripsweb.rtachicago.com/> that allows travelers from nearly anywhere in the Chicago area to type in the address from which they are starting and their destination (in this case Navy Pier) and obtain information regarding a variety of public transit options, including the total cost of the fares involved. This information may also be accessed by dialing 836-7000 from any area code in the Chicago area, or 312-836-7000 for those outside the Chicago area.

For those who wish to drive, parking will be available on Navy Pier for volunteers (the East Parking Garage will be the closest). Unfortunately, no discounts for parking on Navy Pier are available. See this site for driving directions http://www.navy pier.com/events/event_serv/gett_here/directions2.html to Navy Pier.

Volunteers are expected to pay for their own transportation expenses, which will likely be tax deductible.

For Churchwide Assembly volunteers paying for a stay themselves at the Hyatt Regency Hotel <http://chicagoregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp> (151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago) a shuttle bus will operate regularly throughout each day that the assembly is in session.

5. Do volunteers need to live in the Chicago area?

Volunteers may come from anywhere, however overnight accommodations will not be paid for them by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

6. Will volunteers be able to attend sessions of the Churchwide Assembly?

Yes. Registered volunteers will be able to attend assembly sessions at no cost throughout the week simply by using their red name badges issued to them at volunteer check-in, although volunteers will be expected to be in whatever location may be necessary during the hours of the shifts they have been assigned to work.

7. What are the days and times that volunteers will serve?

Volunteers will be needed every day that the Churchwide Assembly is in session, from Monday, August 6 through Saturday, August 11, 2007. In some volunteer positions, such as those assisting with airport arrivals, registration, and hospitality, the need will be greatest on Monday. Other positions will be needed throughout the week.

Letters indicating initial assignments for volunteers were sent from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod office on Monday, July 16, 2007. Volunteers who cannot serve in any of the areas to which they have been assigned should notify the volunteer sub-committee as soon as possible by sending an email message (preferred) to elca2007@gmail.com or by calling 773-248-0021 extension #15 so that another person may be assigned to those task(s). Beginning on Monday, August 6 (the first day of the assembly), please do not leave a message at the email address or phone number listed above, but come to the volunteer check-in area at Terrace A West outside of Exhibit Hall A in the Festival Hall area of Navy Pier, or call the volunteer office at 773-380-1738 in order to let us know of a conflict or to be reassigned to another responsibility or time.

Volunteers will be asked to arrive at the volunteer registration area at Navy Pier at least 30 minutes prior to their assigned shifts.

8. Will meals be provided to volunteers?

Meals are not provided to volunteers; however, a variety of beverages will be available.

9. Can families come along with volunteers?

Some volunteers may want to come to Navy Pier together as a family in order to enjoy many of the popular activities there for much of a day. When the time comes for volunteers to report for their shifts, they will not be able to have family members accompany them who are not also assigned as volunteers. Families will need to provide adult supervision for younger members on their own.

10. How can I contact someone volunteering at the Churchwide Assembly?

In most cases, it will be easiest to contact a volunteer if you know that person's own cell phone number. Messages for volunteers not having cell phone access may be left with the volunteer office at 773-380-1738 beginning on August 6.

Other questions?

If after reading this page you still have further questions regarding volunteering for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly, please address your concern by email to ELCA2007@gmail.com . A member of the volunteer committee will answer your concern within a day or two.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!