2017 Assembly Speakers

Kenneth W. Inskeep is the director for Research and Evaluation in the Office of the Presiding Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He has been with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 1988 and director for Research and Evaluation since 1992.

Linda Hartke
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service welcomed Linda Hartke as president and CEO in February 2010. Linda brings decades of experience in human rights work and a lifelong commitment to LIRS’s core values.

Linda's leadership experience is exemplified by her 2001 – 2009 service as the executive director of the Geneva-based Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, a global network of churches and agencies engaged in advocacy on common concerns. She has also served on boards and advisory councils for a number of organizations including the World AIDS Campaign, the Rose Marie Khoo Foundation and Amnesty International USA.

Linda's vision is for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to be a catalyst in creating communities of welcome where newcomers can thrive.

David deFreese
David has served at Mosaic since 2012. His primary focus is bringing to life the identity of Mosaic, both internally and externally. His responsibilities include collaboratively engaging with the leadership of Mosaic and local agencies to develop effective relationships and partnerships with congregations, judicatories and communities, offering spiritual support during times of transition or crisis, promoting the expansion of Mosaic's ministry and providing direction for Rejoicing Spirits, a program that supports Mosaic goal of lifting up the spiritual gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

David graduated from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D., and earned a master of divinity degree at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He received an honorary doctorate from Midland University in 2003. Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1982, he served three Nebraska congregations before being elected bishop of the Nebraska Synod in 2000. He was re-elected again in 2006 and chose not to stand for re-election in 2012.

John Scheck
John Scheck has been with Global Health Ministries for three years. He is the Warehouse Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at GHM. He works with volunteers, age 10 to 90+, in the warehouse sorting medical supplies, folding hospital linens, surgical instruments, equipment, building crates, loading containers, packing suitcases, and more! John recently visited Cameroon, Sept 2016, and toured 3 hospitals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, and in partnership with the South Dakota Synod.

Father Tim Friedrichsen
Father Tim is representing the Sioux City Diocese. Father Tim Friedrichsen serves as pastor at St Mary's Catholic Church and School in Storm Lake, IA.

Rev. Don Rothweiler is familiar in the Western Iowa Synod, as former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta and Nain Lutheran Church in Newell for three years. He is now retired and lives in Ankeny with his wife Jayme. Rev. Rothweiler keeps the crowd engaged as he portrays Martin Luther, a great 16th century reformer.