



Journey together

SYNOD — (συνοδία) — to journey with, a journey in company

January 2007

The Bishop's Page

NUMBERS

Thanks to the fine introductions by Pastors David Schaffer (Genesis), Gary Erdos (Exodus), and Margaret Ashby (Leviticus), I've been inspired in my synodical Reading Through the Bible to already be in Numbers!! (Are you reading through the Bible with us? Look on our website or contact Debbie at worley@vasynod.org and join us!! Our sisters and brothers in SW Minnesota Synod are reading with us!)

And speaking of **NUMBERS** did you notice in the excellent brochure for this year's United Lutheran Appeal [Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 18!!] that your gift impacts 100,000 people?! Tens of thousands of men, women, and youth in prison, hundreds of campers in two beautiful settings, nearly 2000 college students and their families, hundreds of seniors in four lovely residential communities, thousands in social services, and hundreds of candidates for ministry in our eastern cluster seminaries. In 2006 our synod gave \$117,000 to the ULA or about \$1.17 for each of the 100,000. I ABSOLUTELY COMMEND AND THANK ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN IN THIS WONDERFUL EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND SUPPORT. May I suggest that each of us consider a gift of at least \$100 for these fine institutions. (That's \$11 per institution for goodness sake!! It's \$.001 per person..... OK, spread it out over several months!) With this level of support, we could have more chaplains in the prisons, brand new retreat facilities at our camps, an even stronger scholarship base for Lutherans at Roanoke College, an even larger circle of social outreach to those in need, plans for new places for the care of seniors, seminarians leaving seminary with far lower debts as they enter the ministry! Think about it, \$100 to help 100,000.

Let's stick with the **NUMBERS** and one more extra gift as well for World Hunger on Ash Wednesday. Join me in fasting on this day, letting the hunger remind us of the millions who are hungry around the world. Then join me in writing a check for Lutheran World Hunger for at least \$20 as an offering for the evening service.

How about the **NUMBERS** on New Orleans and our support of Peace Lutheran in Slidell, La!! I THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND LOVE EXPRESSED IN PLEDGES FOR THIS CONGREGATION, THEIR MINISTRY, AND THEIR PASTOR!! As of January 24th we had received \$113, 561.83 and had sent \$111, 897.75 to the Texas Gulf-

We are Ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us

II Corinthians 5:20

Louisiana Synod for Pastor Simmers' salary. This congregation has turned itself totally outward in mission, building a new gymnasium size mission base for doing outreach ministry in Slidell and New Orleans. There will be years of clean up, recovery, and rebuilding in these areas. Our 31 students and adults from Roanoke College met folks from California, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota who had come to volunteer in mucking out houses in New Orleans. I WANT TO COMMEND AND THANK ALL OUR GROUPS FROM OUR SYNOD WHO HAVE GONE TO LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI TO SERVE WITH THOSE RECOVERING FROM THEIR STORM OVER THESE PAST 16 MONTHS!!

As a church whose constitution states that we are to speak up for the poor, we ought to pay attention to pay-day lending and car-title loans where the interest charge soars to **NUMBERS** over 300%. We should also be aware of the **NUMBERS** of our fellow Virginians on Food Stamps, the **NUMBERS** in 2005 were around 486,000 people per month. Pastor Doug Smith, Executive Director for Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, reports that as of July 2006, the **NUMBERS** were over 506,000 Virginians on Food Stamps. I commend the many daily ways that our congregations feed the hungry; but we should continue to advocate on behalf of the high **NUMBERS** of those in need and against the high **NUMBERS** in interest charged.

How about the **NUMBERS** of faith conversations at Winter Celebration spread over two weekends?!!! 740 youth and adults studying and sharing the call of Moses and the name of God who is I AM and who God will be for us! We were blessed by the ministry of Pastor David Delaney, our Synodical Director for Youth and Young Adults, Pastor Rick Goeres, our chaplain for the two weekends, our planning group of youth from across this synod, the nearly 100 small group leaders, and the nearly 200 youth advisors!

Some **NUMBERS** from our Valley Strategy Team: we hope to hear from sixty congregations about their congregations' ministries, and we hope to identify four to five pilot projects in the coming months out of the four conferences [Northern Valley, Central Valley, Southern Valley, Page].

Retired Bishop Julius Filo from the Lutheran Church of Slovakia shared with me some **NUMBERS** about a South Korean Church that in a hundred years has grown from one to over 2 ½ million members. Each member is to give ten percent of their income and from that tithe every time their membership reaches a new 100, they send out another missionary either locally or across the world! Hmmm, 44,000 Virginia Synod Lutherans.....44,000 ambassadors for Christ!

All Ambassadors of **NUMBERS** 21:8 and John 3:14 of the one lifted up for the healing of the world, for all the numbers of those baptized in the waters of his life.

The Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VIPCare) is a counseling resource for Virginia Synod Rostered Leaders and their families. It is entirely confidential and may be used for individual, couple or family counseling. Call 804-282-8332 to set up an appointment with a counselor in your geographical area or to discuss finances. They will guide you in shared costs with the ELCA Board of Pensions, synodical support (no names/case # only) and your portion.

Pastors and Congregations

1. VACANCY UPDATE:

Any Virginia Synod pastor interested in being considered for an interview for any of the following vacancies should promptly notify a member of the synod staff:

BLUEFIELD, Immanuel	Study
BLUE RIDGE, Glade Creek	Study
CHARLOTTESVILLE, St. Mark	Study
CHILHOWIE, St. James	Interviewing
CHURCHVILLE, St. Peter	Interim and Interviewing
FISHERSVILLE, St. James	Study
GALAX, Good Shepherd (Episcopal/Lutheran)	Study
GRAVEL SPRINGS PARISH	Interim
KONNAROCK, St. Matthew	Interviewing
LYNCHBURG, Bethlehem	Interim
MECHANICSVILLE, Messiah	Interim
MT. TABOR, Mt. Tabor	Interim
NEWPORT NEWS, Trinity	Interim
PATMOS, Woodstock	Interviewing
PEARISBURG, Redeemer	Study
SALEM, College	Study
TIMBERVILLE PARISH	Interviewing
VIRGINIA BEACH, Good Shepherd	Interim and Interviewing
WHITETOP, Faith	Interviewing
WOODSTOCK, Mt. Zion	Study

2. ROSTERED LEADERS:

- † The Rev. Timothy Orrell has resigned as pastor at Mt. Zion, Woodstock, effective February 5, 2007. He is accepting a call to serve as pastor in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.
- † The Rev. Dennis Buchholz has accepted the call to serve as pastor at Grace, Courtland.
- † Daniel P. Hannemann, AIM, has accepted the call to serve as Director of Music and Organist at Grace, Winchester, effective January 1, 2007.

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

+ **Our sympathies are extended to:**

- The family of Willetta Heising following the death of her husband, Ken, on December 13, 2006.
- The family of The Rev. Robert and Janet Holley following the death of Janet's father, George Yale Fetzer in Allentown, PA.
- The family of The Rev. Timothy Orrell following the death of his mother on December 22, 2006, in Winston-Salem, NC.
- The family of The Rev. Dennis Buchholz following the death of his father in November 2006.

+ **Prayers for continued recuperation and good health requested for:**

- Nancy Bradfield, wife of Pastor Cecil Bradfield
- The Rev. Cecil Bradfield
- The Rev. Jeff Sonafelt
- The Rev. Richard Krasneck
- The Rev. Andy Ballentine
- Peggy Baseler, wife of Pastor Jim Baseler
- Bob Ruggles, husband of Pastor Donna Ruggles
- The Rev. Cecie Haxton
- The Rev. Pat Nabers

+ **Congratulations**

- Congratulations to Lenae Osmondson (Secretary in the Office of the Bishop-East) and her husband, Levi, on the birth of their son, Parker, on November 10, 2006.

News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff

From Pastor Dave Delaney **Synodical Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

We welcomed 730 youth and adults to our two weekends of Winter Celebration this year. Our offering toward this year's youth-to-youth project totalled over \$3000. We offer our thanks to all who worked on the event as planners, staff, and small group leaders.

Registration is still open for **Seventh Day** (March 3-4, 2007 at Eagle Eyrie), our event for 5th and 6th graders. Forms are available on the synod website – www.vasynod.org.

The **Papua New Guinea pilgrimage trip** (postponed from 2007) has been rescheduled for the last three weeks in July 2008. Application are available soon on the synod website.

ELCA Region 9 is sponsoring an immersion trip for youth and young adults to **Puerto Rico** at the end of 2007. Information forms are available on the synod website. Contact Synod Youth Director Dave Delaney in the synod office with questions.

Applications for **Kairos 2007** (June 24-29 at Roanoke College for rising 9th-12th graders) and our new hunger awareness and service event, **Summer Celebration** (July 8-12 at Caroline Furnace for rising 9th-12th graders), will be available on the synod website starting Feb. 5, 2007 and will also be mailed out with the February Update packet.

For 2007 High School graduates and parents: **Virginia Synod Youth Ambassadors School** – our weeklong event for graduated high school seniors in preparation for their transition away from the structures of home, family, and church – is scheduled for July 8-12, 2007. If possible, plan this summer's schedule to allow your graduating senior to attend!

From Pastor Chip Gunsten **Assistant to the Bishop**

- **Call and Canoe**

Call & Canoe is a retreat for college students, which will take place at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and the Shenandoah River May 18-20, 2007. Please see the enclosed brochure/registration form.

[Click here for Registration Form](#)

**From Pastor Jean Bozeman
Assistant to the Bishop**

▪ **ACTS**

Register now for ACTS Spring Classes – March 24 and May 19 – to be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Waynesboro. Dr. Timothy Wengert, Professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, co-editor of the revised Book of Concord, noted scholar, lecturer and teacher will teach two full-day sessions on Lutheran Confessions. See the enclosed brochure/registration form.

[Click here for Registration Form](#)

▪ **Leadership Convocation**

Attention all synodical committees. The Leadership Convocation will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro, VA, on Saturday, March 10, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you will need overnight accommodations, please be in touch with Lenae Osmondson know by email at synodeast@vasyond.org or calling 757-622-9421.

**From Elizabeth Smythe
Staff Liaison for Power in the Spirit**

**POWER IN THE SPIRIT IS COMING SOON!
RESERVE THESE DATES!!! JULY 12-14, 2007**

"Nurturing Faith: Home, Church, and School" is the theme for this year's Power in the Spirit, and there are wonderful things in store for all of us.

Keynoter is Jim Nestingen, who will surely bless us and make us laugh!

Bible Leader is Susan McArver, who will surely teach us and make us think!

Workshop Presenters are ready and eager to open our eyes and our hearts and our minds to new experiences!

The only missing ingredient is YOU!!

Registration booklets will arrive in early March. Get ready for another opportunity to worship, learn, share, laugh, listen, and grow as we look at ways to nurture our faith!

**From Keith Brown
Financial Advisor**

Mileage Rate for 2007 - The IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate for business miles is 48.5 cents as of January 1, 2007.

**From Pastor Luther Mauney
Healthy Congregations Coordinator**

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS TRAINING

As we **plan for this new year** we know there are changes in our church leadership, especially as newly elected council members take on their ministry. To meet the special needs of newly elected council members, early in 2007, **Healthy Congregations Workshop I** (“Creating Healthy Congregations”) will again be offered in each Conference. For congregations which have previously participated in Workshop I, this is a chance to have those council members who have yet to experience this leadership training event begin their training.

As a bonus, we are opening up this special offering of Workshop I to representatives of all congregations. We feel confident that this will provide a good introduction to the Healthy Congregations materials and provides an opportunity to evaluate its helpfulness for your congregation. Subjects covered will include understanding the system of congregational life, what the unique challenges of congregational leadership are, the importance of focusing on strengths and mission, and providing leadership in times of challenge and change.

The cost for the special all-conference training event is **only \$25** per person, which covers materials and fees. Pastors who accompany their members will be able to attend at no cost. Facilitators in each conference will be working with the deans to set up this special training and to publicize it locally. **Be looking for this special opportunity for your council members to participate in Workshop I in your conference.**

ANNOUNCEMENT(for pastors and laity)

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS FACILITATOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

In the past two years 26 pastors and laity have taken the Healthy Congregations facilitators training for congregational leadership. This is designed to teach **congregational pastors and laity** how to lead Healthy Congregations workshops and provide leadership in their own congregations.

The next training opportunity will be held this spring. Again we can offer this in two places – one in the east and one in the west, depending on the level of interest. Those interested should contact either Luther Mauney (lfsmauney@aol.com, or 540-297-7231) or Bob Holley (rfholley@ntelos.net or 540-885-4843).

Cost for the training will be \$300 for Virginia Synod persons and \$325 for others. The fee includes the cost of materials (workbooks, leader’s guides and videos), national registration, and tuition. The size of each group will be limited to 15. Limited scholarship support is available.

Luther Mauney, Coordinator, lfsmauney@aol.com, 540-297-7231

**From Cary Mangus
Stewardship Staff Specialist**

Stewardship of Life and Healthy Congregations Combine for Workshops

One of the marks of a healthy congregation is that they develop generous people. Generosity is not just a nice virtue. It is a natural response to a God who has been so generous to us. But how do we grow in our understanding of this concept? Attending a workshop from the Healthy Congregations series entitled “HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS DEVELOP GENEROUS PEOPLE” led by a Synodical Healthy Congregations facilitator can provide a great start! This is a wonderful opportunity for Stewardship of Life Committees to attend as a unit. The result would be a unifying effect for these teams as they could all share in the experience of learning of God’s abundance of grace together. It is very exciting to think of these groups taking this experience back to their own congregations and “making a difference”. Obviously, individuals are encouraged to attend also, as these teachings will speak to the hearts of each of us. These workshops are being offered on a regional basis in 2007. Normally there is a \$20.00 charge per person for a healthy congregation workshop. However, for this particular workshop, there will only be a \$6.00 charge as the event is being underwritten by the Synod Stewardship of Life Committee through the ELCA Shared Synod Stewardship Staff budget. All congregations are encouraged to participate in one of these events as we all grow together in God’s grace. The following is the schedule for these workshops:

[February 17, 2007](#) [Christ Lutheran](#) [Staunton, VA](#)

[March 24, 2007](#) [Ebenezer](#) [Marion, VA](#)

[May 5, 2007](#) [St. Luke](#) [Richmond, VA](#)

These workshops will begin at 9:30AM and end at 3:00PM. For additional information contact Cary Mangus at 540-774-8702 (cjmangus@cox.net) or Luther Mauney at 540-297-7231 (LFSMauney@aol.com). As registration forms are being emailed to all churches in the Synod, these forms will be available in your church office two months prior to the event.

Around the Synod

- **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center** is now taking registrations for our 2007 summer camp season. We offer one week overnight camps throughout the summer for grades 1 – 12, beginning Father's Day weekend (June 17th).

New this summer is a Senior High servant camp called *Summer Celebration*. Let's celebrate together the blessings that we have and reach out and feed our neighbors. We will be working at a local volunteer farm that feeds people in 25 counties and 9 cities in the northern mountains of Virginia. Summer Celebration campers will also learn *and experience* how food gets distributed to all these places.

We also have camps for Confirmation students, horse enthusiasts, canoers, hikers, bikers, singers, those who have a passion for astronomy, archeology, geology and ecology and a whitewater/high ropes camp for the extreme camper. In the center of all of our camps is Christ and the goal to create a new Christian community every week. If you send your child to soccer camp to become a stronger soccer player, why not send your child to a Christian camp to strengthen their faith?!

For more information (540) 933-6266 or www.CarolineFurnace.org

- **“Christ in Your Marriage: Worship for Life”**

“Christ in Your Marriage: Worship for Life” is a book co-authored by two Virginia Synod pastors, The Rev. Paul E. Walters of Grace and Glory, Massaponax, and The Rev. James Armentrout of Holy Trinity, Lynchburg. This book uses the marriage liturgy as presented in Evangelical Lutheran Worship to invite couples into conversation about one another, their faith, their life together, and the changes ahead. For use by couples as they prepare for and live into this loving commitment.

The book is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 15, 2007, and can be pre-ordered from Augsburg Fortress at

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/item.jsp?clsid=185766&productgroupid=0&isbn=080062114X>

- **Hein-Fry Lecture Series at LTSS**

"The State of the Bible in North America" Is Topic of Lecture Series
at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Donald A. Hagner, New Testament professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, will be the guest lecturer for the Hein-Fry Lecture Series at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) on Thursday, February 1. The topic is Living Together in the 21st Century: The State of the Bible in North America. Dr. Hagner will present two lectures, and the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Peterson, Associate Professor of New Testament at LTSS, will respond with a third lecture.

- **Lilly Sabbatical Program Seeking Applications**

For the 8th year, the Lilly Endowment is sponsoring its National Clergy Renewal Program, which provides grants to pastors for sabbatical programs. For an application and brochure, go to www.lillyendowment.org. Interested individuals can also write to Lilly Endowment, 2801 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208. The deadline for applying is May 15, 2007. Approximately 120 congregations will receive grants of up to \$45,000. Up to \$15,000 of that amount can be used for congregational activities during the pastor's absence.

- **Used Choir Robes**

Pleasant View Lutheran Church, Staunton, has the following items they would like to offer to anyone who could use them:

- 34 Adult Choir Robes - White
- 34 Burgundy Stoles with White Cross
- 22 Youth Choir Robes – Burgundy with a Cream Yoke and Burgundy Cross

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Margaret Ashby, 540-858-2954, or via E-Mail, pleasantviewpastor@yahoo.com

- **Job Announcement – LTSS**

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary is looking for a Vice President for Development and Seminary Relations, who has a passion for theological education and cares deeply about the mission of this seminary in forming public ministers for the church. Candidates should possess a knowledge of and care for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Qualified ordained and lay persons are encouraged to apply.

Interested persons should indicate their interest to President Marcus Miller at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary with a curriculum vitae. This is an ongoing search and will conclude when the candidate is appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Send resume and cover letter to:

President Marcus J. Miller
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
4201 North Main Street
Columbia, SC 29203-5898
(803) 461-3212
(803) 786-6499
mmiller@ltss.edu

For a detailed job description, please refer to web site www.ltss.edu or contact Diana London, Administrative Assistant, Office of Development and Seminary Relations @ dlondon@ltss.edu or (803) 461-3219.

• **“The World’s Leading New Testament Scholar” Coming to Roanoke**
[Click here for event poster](#)

N.T. Wright is widely regarded as one of the greatest biblical scholars on the current scene, and probably this era’s most noted writer on the New Testament. Now serving as Bishop of Durham in the Church of England, Dr. Wright is the author of more than thirty books, including the highly acclaimed *What Saint Paul Really Said*, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* and *Simply Christian*.

Bishop Wright’s *Resurrection* is the third in a projected six-part history of the New Testament. Richard Hays (Duke Divinity School) says of this series, “The sweep of Wright’s project as a whole is breathtaking. It is impossible not to give a fair assessment of his achievement without sounding grandiose: no New Testament scholar since Bultmann has ever attempted—let alone achieved—such an innovative and comprehensive account of New Testament history and theology.”

On *Jesus and the Victory of God*, the second book in the series, the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, writes, “No one could read this without learning something fresh about almost every verse of the Synoptics, and being provoked into new wrestling with the text . . . [it has] an Evangelical energy that will make it a book for prayerful meditations as well as intellectual stimulus.”

According to J.I. Packer (Regent College), “Brilliant Bishop Wright is one of God’s best gifts to our decaying Western church, and would-be learners and teachers of the faith will gain hugely from [his books and lectures].”

Bishop Wright has taught at Cambridge, Oxford and McGill universities.

The conference theme is “**Jesus’ Resurrection—Then and Now.**”

The schedule is as follows:

FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH

7 PM “Did Jesus Really Rise From the Dead?”

Bast Center, Roanoke College. Tickets are free but required. They are available online at www.roanoke.edu/tickets or at the Colket information desk (540-378-5125).

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

9 AM “Resurrection and the Future of the World”

11 AM “Resurrection and the Task of the Church”

There will be time for questions after each lecture.

Both lectures are at Church of the Holy Spirit, 6011 Merriman Rd., Roanoke. No tickets required.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH

8:15 & 11 AM “Resurrection and the Calling of the Christian”

Morning services at St. John Lutheran Church, 4608 Brambleton SW (Route 221), Roanoke

There is a limited amount of free housing available through local churches. Please write mark@stjohnlutheran.org

- **Leadership Program for Musicians**

The Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM) got off to a good start for the 2006-07 year in September. October's class session involved a workshop for the students titled 'Encouraging and Enlivening Congregational Song.' The workshop was open to the public on Saturday. It was led by Martha Larrimore-Jones, LPM Faculty member and Director of Music at Church of the Holy Comforter in Richmond. Students learned of a variety of techniques that could be used to assist the congregation in learning new music. Students enjoyed designing a Taizé service for the workshop and offered it to the public on Saturday.

Begun as a means of assisting musicians in smaller congregations, the LPM program appropriates for congregational musicians of every level of expertise. The various subjects studied enhance and broaden the experience and understanding of congregational worship. This year's courses include "Hymnody of the Christian Church" taught by Dr. Raymond F. Glover and "Leadership of Congregational Song" taught by Kevin Barger, Director of Music at Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Richmond. LPM sessions will continue monthly on Saturdays through May of 2007.

- **Lutheran Men in Mission**

The annual gathering of the Lutheran Men in Mission will be held at the Roslyn Center in Richmond from Friday evening, March 23, 2007, through Sunday Noon, March 25, 2007. Registration information will be made available at a later date.

[Plan2giv Newsletter](#)