



Journey together

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

October 2007

The Bishop's Page

THANKSGIVING EVERY WEEK!

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University released the results of their study (September 20, 2007) in which they said, “the report finds teens likelier to abuse prescription drugs, use illegal drugs, smoke, drink when family dinners infrequent.”

The report also says that frequency of family dinners improves grade performance in school for young teenagers. The report also said that important conversations between teens and their parents more frequently occur before and after dinner.

One of their subtitles is “What They Want at the Table is You.” They reported that 81% of 16 and 17 year olds ‘prefer to dine with their families.’

Now this might be food for thought for us all in the busyness of our schedules. What our youth really want is dinner together, for what is shared in word and meal together, actually being together as a family.

I’m betting this is true of our congregational families as well. I’m thinking that Martin Luther in his Large Catechism might be right when he speaks to having more family dinners of Holy Communion as the church, for what is shared in Word and Meal together, actually being together as a family. Holy Communion and Potlucks do seem to be the time when important words and conversations are shared and where the presence of one another is cherished.

Give me not one Thanksgiving a year, but a Great Thanksgiving every week! Hear me now, Lord Jesus, what I want at the table is you, your real presence. Hear me now, church, my family, what I want at the table is you, your real presence.

I give thanks to God for the gospel, and I give thanks to God for you! Put that thanksgiving around a meal? That is bound to be good for the soul.

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

II Corinthians 5:20

Gathering of the Ministerium

I want to express my deep appreciation for all the rostered leaders who came for our time together at Natural Bridge. May we regard one another as resources for our faith and our ministries. May we hold one another up in prayer and build one another up in words and actions. May we speak well of one another. Know that I hold you all in high regard and give thanks for the unique setting and community of believers to which you have been called by God to serve. I give thanks for your gifts, and it is a holy privilege to serve with you in the partnership of the gospel. I want to express my gratitude to the Leadership Support Committee for their oversight, to our workshop presenters, our worship planners and leaders, our presenters, and to Chip Gunsten in his care for this event.

PEACE, SLIDELL UPDATE

PEACE LUTHERAN, SLIDELL PLEDGES FOR A THIRD YEAR

Fires in California, torrential rains in Louisiana remind us that people in New Orleans still continue to muck out thousands of homes from Katrina in 2005! Peace Lutheran continues to be a mission post for volunteers coming in to provide ongoing relief work for the people of the area. I am very grateful for congregations, youth groups, LSM and college groups that continue to go from our synod to Peace Lutheran. Our giving allows this small congregation to retain their pastor, Barb Simmers, as a full-time presence among them.

We have received thus far \$170,463.49, and have sent \$168,810.80 to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Synod. I want to thank all of you for this generous, ongoing outpouring of love and hope!!

As for me and my house, Lynda and I will continue to pledge another \$600 for the coming year, August 2007-August 2008. I would ask you to prayerfully consider joining us as a congregation or group or individually for the ongoing work in the New Orleans area through the ministry of Peace, Slidell, and its pastor, Barb Simmers. Let us know of your pledge for this coming year of \$600. The need remains high.

2008 Partnership Commitments in Mission

Last year we received 158 written congregational financial commitments which enabled us to plan for the new year, to meet our churchwide 50% percentage in full, to be more than a full partner in support of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as the Virginia Synod. This has been one of the hallmarks of this synod through the years, and I give thanks for YOUR leadership and for your speaking for the life of the whole church.

I am grateful for your congregation's partnership support this year, which has us currently in the black for the year. Know that as you seek to grow in your giving, the synod will move from 50% to 50.5% in 2008 as well.

President's/Treasurer's Seminars

Lay presidents and treasurers of congregations are invited to gather for discussion of roles, duties, leadership sharing, and hearing about your role in an interdependent understanding of church. The goal is to help create for you a network of leaders sharing the same role as you. Judge Charles Poston, the Vice-President of our synod, and Bishop Mauney will also be present at each of these events for sharing with and among you.

The dates and locations for these workshops will be:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| February 9, 2008 | Gloria Dei, Hampton |
| February 16, 2008 | Christ, Richmond |
| March 1, 2008 | Grace, Waynesboro |
| March 15, 2008 | Holy Trinity, Wytheville |

Please use the attached registration form to let us know you will attend.

[Click here for Registration Form](#)

E-Mails from Bishop Hanson

If you would like to receive the E-Mail messages from Bishop Hanson to all rostered leaders, you need only send an e-mail to the bishop's office requesting to be on the list. Also, you can subscribe to E-Mail news releases from ELCA News Department.

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:

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| BLUE RIDGE, Glade Creek | Interim and Interviewing |
| CHARLOTTESVILLE, St. Mark | Interviewing |
| CHURCHVILLE, St. Peter/STAUNTON, Faith | Interviewing |
| FISHERSVILLE, St. James | Study |
| FLOYD-WILLIS PARISH | Study |
| GALAX, Good Shepherd (Episcopal/Lutheran) | Interviewing |
| IMMANUEL, BLUEFIELD-CENTRAL PARISH | Interviewing |
| MARION, Ebenezer | Study/Interim |
| MECHANICSVILLE, Messiah | Primary Candidate |
| MT. SOLON, St. Paul | Study |
| NORFOLK, St. Timothy | Study/Interim |
| ROANOKE, St. John (Associate) | Study |
| SALEM, College | Interviewing |
| STAUNTON, Christ | Interviewing |
| VIRGINIA BEACH, St. Michael | Study/Interim |
| WOODSTOCK, Emanuel | Interviewing |

2. ROSTERED LEADERS:

- Kathleen A. Miko has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at Timberville Parish effective October 28, 2007. Pastor Miko was Ordained on October 15, 2007, in Tucson, Arizona.
- The Rev. Philip Bouknight has resigned as Pastor at Floyd-Willis Parish effective October 18, 2008, and has accepted the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Trinity Ecumenical Parish in Moneta, VA.
- The Rev. Matthew Diehl of Northeastern Ohio Synod has accepted the call to serve as pastor at Bethlehem, Lynchburg, effective November 18, 2007.
- The Rev. Timothy Nilsen of Southeast Michigan Synod has accepted the call to serve as pastor at Mt. Zion, Woodstock, effective November 25, 2007.
- Sharon Shull, AIM, has accepted a call to serve as Associate in Ministry at Angus Dei Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor, WA, and has transferred to Southwestern Washington Synod effective August 1, 2007.
- Candis O'Meara has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at Mt. Rogers Parish. She will be Ordained at Faith, Suffolk, on December 2, 2007.

News and Notes about Our People

+ **Our sympathies are extended to:**

- Pastors Kenneth Carbaugh and Richard Carbaugh and their families following the death of Melvin Carbaugh on October 9, 2007. Melvin was the brother of Pastor Kenneth and uncle of Pastor Richard.

+ **Prayers for continued recuperation, healing and the abiding presence of our Lord are requested for:**

- The Rev. Terry Clark
- The Rev. Dianna Horton
- Babs Benson, wife of Pastor Scott Benson
- The Rev. Cecie Haxton's brother
- Jenny Troutman, wife of Pastor Barney Troutman
- The Rev. Charles "Bill" Howell
- The Rev. Sid Nelson
- Barbara Kingsbury, wife of Pastor Jack Kingsbury
- Joan Donahue, wife of Pastor Fred Donahoe
- Sarah Ann Lockhart, daughter of Pastor Sidney Nelson, and her son, Liam, who was born earlier this month. Doctors had determined that the baby's heart would not be fully developed at birth. Liam has already been through his first heart surgery successfully

+ **Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- We give thanks for the safe return of William Hinlicky, son of The Rev. Paul and Ellen Hinlicky. William served a 15-month tour of active duty with the U.S. Army in Kuwait.

News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff

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

We are currently receiving registrations for Lost and Found, our weekend retreat for 7th and 8th graders on Nov. 16-18. The early registration discount deadline has passed, but there is still *lots* of room at the event, so please gather your youth and plan to attend!

Keeping Young Adults Connected (KYAC) is the name of our synodical ministry with adults in the 18-25 age range. Our work is two-fold: First, we try to stay in touch with these young adults while many of them are in a transitional phase of life by helping them stay aware of what is going on in the church, and second, we invite them to gather three times a year to make sure their voices are included in important matters facing the church. The **KYAC Spring Retreat** will be held on **Nov. 3-4** at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church's Activities Center in Harrisonburg. The cost is \$10 to cover food and other incidental expenses. The event begins at **6pm on Saturday** and ends at **noon on Sunday**. To register interest in attending or have any questions answered, contact Dave Delaney in the Synod Office: Delaney@vasynod.org, office: 540-389-1000, cell: 540-529-6893, or at Dave's Facebook page.

Please note that the date for next year's **Virginia Synod Seventh Day** youth event was incorrect in publicity we distributed during the summer. The correct date for Seventh Day, which is our overnight retreat for 5th and 6th graders, is **May 1-2, 2008**. A complete list of youth events is available on the website.

Winter Celebration, our annual retreat for students in grades 9-12, will be held at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center Jan. 25-27 and Feb. 1-3, 2008. Youth may attend one or the other but not both weekends. Congregations are welcome to send two different groups – one each weekend – as long as an adult advisor is present both times. Youth should be reminded that Jan. 26th is an SAT day, so they may either want to schedule their SATs at another time or plan to attend the second weekend. **PLEASE NOTE: PARTICIPANTS ARE *NOT* PERMITTED TO LEAVE WINTER CELEBRATION TO TAKE SATs.** Registration forms for Winter Celebration are included with this Journey Together and are also available online in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. [Click here for Registration Form](#)

ATTENTION CHURCH COUNCILS AND BUDGET COMMITTEES: As you prepare your 2008 congregational budget, please be sure to include on the line item for Synod Assembly sufficient funds to pay for two or even three youth to attend the 2008 Virginia Synod Youth Assembly, June 6-8, 2008. The cost per person for Youth Assembly will be approximately \$190.

As our Synodical Youth-to-Youth Project for 2006-2007 draws to a close, we have raised more than \$13,000 to add to our previously received monies for the construction of a youth administration and meeting center in the Islands District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Papua New Guinea. If youth groups were planning to hold fund-raising projects this fall for Youth to Youth, those monies can still be gathered and added to this fund. Our 2008 Youth-to-Youth project will be for a school development project in Rwanda. This new project will be introduced at Winter Celebration.

From Pastor Chip Gunsten
Assistant to the Bishop

Mission Leaders Network Conference

While the VA Mission Team has not participated, and thus is not in a position to endorse this gathering, I have been asked to note the following conference - The Mission Leaders Network (Previously known as the "12 Keys Seminar") invites you to our 21st annual seminar for Pastors and Key Leaders at [Callaway Gardens](#) in Pine Mountain, GA. February 25-29, 2008. We will gather with Dr. Kennon L. Callahan, author of [Twelve Keys to an Effective Church](#) and numerous other books and resources. Benefit from the wisdom and experience of Dr. Callahan and share in helpful and meaningful conversations with him and other participants in the beautiful setting of Callaway Gardens. If you are interested, you can find additional information at www.missionleadersnetwork.com

From Pastor Jean Bozeman
Assistant to the Bishop

CONFERENCE DEANS will meet November 15, 2007 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, Waynesboro. Please let Jean Bozeman know if you have any items for the agenda.

RETIRED PASTORS AND SPOUSES LUNCHEON will be November 16, 2007 at Christ Lutheran, Staunton. If you have not made plans to attend and find that you can now do so, please contact Ken & Jo Price, 540-885-3749, immediately.

SPOUSES OF ROSTERED LEADERS – Last call for retreat reservations. Contact Lenae Osmondson at 757-622-9421 or synodeast@vasynod.org.

ATTENTION PARISH NURSES - We are updating our ELCA parish nurse database and need your help. If you are an ELCA parish nurse or have one in your congregation, please email Rebecca Westfield rwestfield@elcabop.org and/or Jean Bozeman Bozeman@vasynod.org.

Please send: name, email, contact phone, congregation, and address.
Thank You!!

**From Elizabeth Smythe
Power in the Spirit Coordinator**

Mark your calendars for Power in the Spirit 2008.

Dates: July 10-12, 2008

Theme: God gives! We care. We Share.

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Charles R. Lane, Director for Stewardship Key
Leader of the ELCA

Bible Leader: Bishop Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl, South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Interested in presenting a workshop? Contact Elizabeth Smythe

**From The Rev. Floyd Addison
United Lutheran Appeal Coordinator**

See attached letter from Pastor Addison and List of ULA Contributions, by Congregation, through October 21, 2007.

[Letter to Congregational Leaders](#)

[Final 2007 ULA Report](#)

**From The Rev. George Sims
Mission Office for Planned Giving**

[See attached "plan2giv" newsletter](#)

Miscellaneous

Breaking Ground and a NEW ROOF at Caroline Furnace

On Sunday, October 7th we celebrated 50 years of Outdoor Ministry at Caroline Furnace with a special Service of Thanksgiving and Groundbreaking Ceremony.

We broke ground for TWO new buildings in the Cabin Village. A new **Shower House** for updated facilities and to free up some needed space in Moyer Lodge AND for a new meeting facility called, **The Upper Room**. *The Upper Room* will provide meeting space with up to 120 persons or break into three smaller rooms for break out space. This will provide Caroline Furnace with the ability to book more than one group at a time in the Cabin Village.

Moyer Lodge is getting a NEW ROOF. Goodbye white cone, hello beautiful new bronze and shingle cone! Those who have been inside Moyer Lodge during a rain storm know that we have been plagued by leaks for many years. No more! The roof is being stripped, boards are being replaced and we are making every effort to prevent it from leaking again. The flat portions of the roof are being covered with a graduated rubber coating and the edges surrounding the lodge are getting all new flashing.



Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

Click above

A program of three confirmation retreats for small congregations is being offered at Caroline Furnace. Each retreat is associated with Luther's Small Catechism. The retreats will be held January 18-20, 2008, February 22-23, 2008, and March 28-29, 2008. This three-retreat package of 4-nights lodging and all meals and program fees is being offered at \$150 per confirmand and \$90 per adult (each confirmand or group of confirmands must be accompanied by an adult who fully participates in the program).

A flyer with complete details of these event and registration materials will be included in the forthcoming UPDATE mailing, scheduled to be mailed November 9, 2007. They are also available on the Virginia Synod web site – www.vasynod.org and Caroline Furnace web site at info@carolinefurnace.org, or call 540-933-7266.

GOOD NEWS IN THE GOSPELS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

This ecumenical conference is scheduled for Winchester, VA on Saturday, November 10, 2007. Additional information can be obtained from the website - www.strengthforaging.info or call 540-665-5863 or 540-678-4602 for more information.

Dr. Jane Marie Thibault, a clinical gerontologist and professor at the Louisville School of Medicine, will lead this conference on Spirituality and Aging. She will speak to the general audience in the morning and conduct a workshop in the afternoon for clergy and others involved in ministry to elders. Seniors will attend a series of workshops in the afternoon to discuss and learn more about the 10 Gospel promises.

Dr. Thibault met with staff and residents of Westminster Canterbury in Winchester 3 years ago and was so well received that, by popular request, she is returning. Here is what the chaplain there said...

“Dr. Thibault offers an engaging theology of aging that seeks to draw us ever closer to God’s grace by opening our eyes to the joys of life in Christ, especially in our later years. She boldly addresses the difficult topics of later life with passion and hope so that one may look forward to God’s blessings and gifts. I found her to be a delightful person and captivating speaker.” Rev. Elizabeth Lewis, chaplain, Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury

“Catching the Age Wave” – Saturday, January 12, 2008

Click above

Virginia Synod’s first annual Senior Adult Ministry Conference will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market. The cost is \$10 per person for the first three participants from your congregation and \$5 for others attending. Lunch will be provided.

A brochure with complete details and registration information will be included in the next UPDATE mailing, which is scheduled to be mailed on November 9, 2007, as well as on the Virginia Synod web site – www.vasynod.org, or by contacting The Rev. Brad Hales at pastorhales@hotmail.com or 540-825-1376.

Russian Iconology Workshop, LTSS – January 20-26, 2008

Click above

This workshop will be held at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC. The cost is \$750, which includes tuition, art supplies and lunch on campus during the week. A limited amount of double-occupancy housing is available on campus on a first-come, first-served basis for \$25 per night.

A brochure with complete details and registration information will be included in the next UPDATE mailing, which is scheduled to be mailed on November 9, 2007, as well as on the Virginia Synod web site – www.vasynod.org, or by contacting The Rev. Harvey Huntley, Jr., at hhuntley@ltss.edu or 803-461-3264.

Participants will “write” (paint) an icon in the Byzantine-Russian tradition under the instruction of the staff from the Prosopon School of Iconology in New York. The workshop is designed for novices – no special artistic background is required.

Career Crossroads, LTSS – January 20-22, 2008

Click Above

Do you have a person in your congregation who is going through a career crisis? Many people are unhappy in their vocation and don't know how to find the work that fits their gifts and mission in life. Career Crossroads is a spiritual retreat which will help such people.

A brochure with complete details and registration information will be included in the next UPDATE mailing, which is scheduled to be mailed on November 9, 2007, as well as on the Virginia Synod web site – www.vasynod.org, or by contacting Sandra Holland, Associate Director for Ministry, Region 9 at 803-461-3263 or sandrah@ltss.edu .

St. Paul Lutheran Church/ Rotary Pilgrimage to Jamaica, Nov. 26 – 29, 2007

Under the sponsorship of Food for the Poor, Inc., parishioners and friends of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Strasburg, Virginia, will join representatives from our local Rotary District in a journey to Jamaica Nov. 26-29, 2007. The purpose of this pilgrimage is:

- to develop a first hand awareness of the needs of the poor,
- to see how the poor are being served by religious and humanitarian organizations, especially Food for the Poor,
- to visit projects and the people being served in the Kingston area, and
- to strengthen our spiritual commitment to works of charity

During the trip, we will be exposed to the conditions of poverty at its worst; and we will see both the needs of the poor and the results of efforts to assist them. There will be opportunities to interact one-on-one with the Jamaican people, and the dedicated religious and lay people who are serving them. It will be both an educational experience and an opportunity for spiritual enrichment.

Cost

Total due to Food for the Poor

\$1,100 + domestic air

The \$1,100 per person cost includes:

- Round trip airfare from Ft. Lauderdale to Kingston
- Hotel accommodations – in an effort to remain good stewards of the poor's resources, all rooms are double occupancy.
- All meals - although special preparation cannot be guaranteed, please advise us of any dietary restrictions and we will try to accommodate your needs.
- Local ground transportation on an air-conditioned bus in Jamaica.
- An experienced tour leader from our Florida office and local tour guide in Jamaica.
- Food for the Poor polo shirt.

Travel Information

- A valid U.S. passport is required, and in addition, a second form of ID with photo such as a driver's license. The name on your passport should be used so your airline ticket and passport are identical. (Additional information at <http://www.state.gov>)
- Immunization recommendations can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>
- Additional guidelines will be provided by Food for the Poor.

Please contact Pastor Rick Goeres at St. Paul (540-465-3232) or Nancy Clarke at Food for the Poor (1-800-568-8124) to make arrangements for payment.

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| VIRGINIA SYNOD CALENDAR November 2007 – December 2007 |
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November 2007

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| 3 | ACTS Fall Course, The Old Testament (by video) (Gloria Dei, Hampton) |
| 9-11 | Spouse Retreat, Barclay Towers, Virginia Beach |
| 11 | Garrett Bugg Installation, Gloria Dei, Hampton |
| 13-14 | Healthy Congregations Retreat, |
| 15 | Deans Meeting, Grace, Waynesboro |
| 16 | Retired Pastor's Luncheon, Christ, Staunton |
| 16-18 | Lost & Found Youth Event, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg |
| 22-23 | Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed |
| 27 | Deadline for Material to be included in Journey Together |
| 29 | MOPG Executive Committee Meeting, Roanoke College (PDR), Salem |
| 30-31 | LARCUM |

December 2007

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| 1 | LARCUM |
| 1 | Roots & Wings – Congregational Workshops – Strasburg/Hampton |
| 2 | Ordination, Candis O'Meara, Faith, Suffolk |
| 3-4 | First Call Retreat |
| 7 | ACTS Steering Committee – Epiphany, Richmond |
| 7 | Mail Journey Together |
| 11-13 | Synod Staff Retreat, Roanoke College, Salem |
| 13 | Synod Council Executive Committee Conference Call |
| 24-Jan. 1 | Christmas – Synod Office Closed |
| 26-Jan 2 | Region 9 Puerto Rico Trip |

Synod Communications Publication Schedule

Synod Communications Publication Schedule – Thru 2008

| Publication | Deadline for Materials | Mail Date |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Journey Together | November 27, 2007 | December 7, 2007 |
| | January 15, 2008 | January 25, 2008 |
| | February 26, 2008 | March 7, 2008 |
| | April 15, 2008 | April 25, 2008 |
| | June 10, 2008 | June 20, 2008 |
| | July 29, 2008 | August 8, 2008 |
| | September 9, 2008 | September 19, 2008 |
| | October 21, 2008 | October 31, 2008 |
| | December 2, 2008 | December 12, 2008 |
| Update | October 30, 2007 | November 9, 2007 |
| | January 29, 2008 | February 8, 2008 |
| | April 29, 2008 | May 9, 2008 |
| | July 22, 2008 | August 1, 2008 |
| | October 14, 2008 | October 24, 2008 |