



## Journey together

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

**December 2007**

# The Bishop's Page

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us.” (John 1:14)

“Now wherever you hear or see this word preached, believed, professed, and lived, do not doubt that the true *ecclesia sancta catholica*, ‘a Christian holy people’ must be there, even though their number is very small.” (Martin Luther, On the Councils and the Church)

Where the Word is preached perhaps like the angels, “For to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,” we too proclaim the Word in pulpit and sacraments.

Where the Word is believed perhaps like Simeon, “Lord now let your servant depart in peace according to your Word, for my eyes have seen your salvation,” we, too, believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the World.

Where the Word is professed perhaps like the shepherds, “When the shepherds saw the child, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them,” we, too, seek to ‘thank the Lord and sing his praise, and tell everyone what he has done.’”

Where the Word is lived perhaps like Mary who ‘treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart,’ and then with Joseph raised the boy Jesus in their home of faith, we, too, seek to be Ambassadors of Christ to our children, grandchildren, neighbors, and colleagues.

The first mark of the Church is where the Word is preached, believed, professed, and lived, where our hope is in the Word become flesh for us all.

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

*II Corinthians 5:20*

## **GOOD NEWS FROM SLIDELL!**

I am pleased to let you know that Pastor Barb Simmers has finally been able to move into a home after two years in a FEMA trailer! I thank you for your ongoing support of Peace, Slidell and its ability to be a mission congregation in the New Orleans area. We have given \$173,220.79, and have sent \$168,810.80 to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

## **PAROCHIAL REPORTS & PASTORS' REPORTS**

Ah yes, my good colleagues. Be sure and complete your parochial reports for the life of the ELCA and our synod. I will be sending to you soon the Rostered Leader's Report for 2007 as well! Try completing them with some egg nog....lots of egg nog.

## **ELCA PENSION AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

We are calling for all our rostered leaders to complete the health assessment so that the whole synod's congregations may receive a 2% reduction in their health insurance contributions in 2008. Remember that we need 75% of the synod's rostered leaders. Be sure to log on at <http://elcabop/>.

## **BISHOP MARK HANSON IN TELEVISION SPECIAL EVENT**

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson is one of 12 "of the world's most influential religious leaders" featured in a Prime time two-hour television special event on CBS, Sunday, December 23, 9-11 p.m. Eastern – "[In God's Name](#)." Produced by Jules and Gedeon Naudet, the diverse and powerful voices offer provocative, compelling and enlightening perspectives on myriad issues in our post-9/11 world, including the rise of terrorism, fanaticism, intolerance and war. One of [several television specials](#) related to the ELCA this year

## **OUR BOOK OF FAITH**

“Guard the good treasure that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit living in us.”  
II Tim. 1:14

I want to thank all of those who wrote introductions to Books of the Bible as our synod has read through the entire Bible this year! Those introductions were wonderful, and they remain on our website for all of us to be able to use for years to come! Their introductions bear witness to the Spirit living in US as a synod, and to a faith that is personal but not individual. The Spirit has lived in us from generations before to this present generation called to hand it down for generations to come.

Our reading the Bible this year has more fully prepared us for the ELCA's initiative of , “Book of Faith” that will begin this coming year. Keep up with the plans at [www.elca.org/bookoffaith](http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith).

## **LET ME THANK OUR BIBLICAL INTRODUCERS PUBLICLY FOR US ALL!!:**

Rev. David Shaffer, Genesis	Rev. Jonathan Hamman, Micah
Rev. Gary Erdos, Exodus	Rev. Ken Rupp, Habakkuk
Rev. Margaret Ashby, Leviticus	Rev. Andy Ballentine, Zephaniah
Rev. Jim Mauney, Numbers	Rev. CeCee Mills, Haggai
Rev. John Schweitzer, Deuteronomy	Rev. Terrie Sternberg, Zechariah
Rev. Karen Van Stee, Judges	Rev. Dennis Buchholz, Matthew
Rev. Steve Moose, Ruth	Rev. Norm Baaken, Mark a
Rev. Chris Carr, I Samuel	Rev. Fred Hodges, Mark b
Rev. Janet Ramsey, II Samuel	Rev. JoAnn Bunn, Luke
Vicar Nathan Robinson, I Kings	Rev. Brad Hales, Acts
Rev. Laura Sinche-Vitucci, II Kings	Rev. Fred Eichner, Romans
Rev. Dave Skole, I Chronicles	Rev. Bob Holley, II Corinthians
Rev. Dave Delaney, II Chronicles	Rev. Lee Brumback, Galatians
Rev. Jim Baseler, Ezra	Rev. Eric Moehring, Philippians
Rev. John herman, Nehemiah	Rev. Cathy Fanslau, Colossians
Christy Van O'Linda, Ester	Rev. Warren Strickler, I Thessalonians
Rev. Buck Moyer, Job	Rev. Judy Tavela, II Thessalonians
Rev. Mark Briehl, Psalms	Rev. Lynn Bechdolt, I Timothy
Rev. Joe Vought, Proverbs	Rev. Don Chudd, II Timothy
Rev. Scott Benson, Ecclesiastes	Rev. Cheryl Griffin, Philemon
Lamontte Luker, Song of Solomon	Rev. John Himes, Hebrews
Rev. Steve Ridenhour, Isaiah	Rev. Martin Saarinen, James
Rev. Chris Bowen, Jeremiah	Rev. Scott Paradise, I Peter
Rev. Jim Pence, Lamentations	Rev. Harold Burnett, II Peter
Rev. Stan Wickett, Ezekiel	Rev. Robert Jones, 1 John
Not Submitted, Daniel	Rev. Gary Chenoweth, 2 John
Jane Nicholson, AIM, Hosea	Rev. David Derrick, 3 John
Rev. Liz Yates, Amos	Rev. Deborah Frye, Jude
Rev. Johnathan Hamman, Jonah	Rev. Bill Nabers, Revelation

## **THE BOOK OF PSALMS WITH OUR YOUTH BISHOP'S 2008 BIBLE STUDY**

I will renew my Bishop's Bible study in January 2008 by looking at many of the psalms. If YOU have a favorite psalm that you would want to make sure we study, send me the psalm number and we will study it!

BUT! I will invite over fifty of our youth from around the synod to give their reflections upon many of these psalms for me to use as a conversation for me in my preparing what to write. These are some gifted youth identified by small group leaders from their small group conversations at our youth events. The psalms are about the experienced life of faith in relationship to God, and I am looking forward to hearing from the lives of faith of our youth.

Through the past six years, we have studied Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Philippians, and Colossians.

If you have people in your congregation not presently in a Bible study, encourage them to join us at [Worley@vasynod.org](mailto:Worley@vasynod.org) for the Bishop's Bible Study beginning in January 2008, Tuesdays and Fridays with the Small and Large Catechism and the Augsburg Confession on Wednesdays.

### **FUND FOR LEADERS-VIRGINIA SYNOD SCHOLARSHIP**

As the end of the year comes and special gifts are made or decisions about surpluses, remember the Fund for Leaders-Virginia Synod scholarship program that we as a synod are raising for seminarians' cost of education. In the past seven years nearly \$3 million in scholarships has been distributed churchwide. Over \$15 million has been raised across the ELCA for this fund.

In 2007, the average debt load is now \$38,000, and 70% of our seminarians have some level of debt.

We were so pleased to have Kristin Van Stee as a recipient of the churchwide Fund for Leaders program, and we are building the hope of one day having enough in our fund to pay for a seminarian's education, as we used to be able to do as a church but 25 years ago. This fall Melissa May, a student at Gettysburg Seminary, became our first recipient of scholarship help from the Virginia Synod scholarship fund from the Fund for Leaders.

At the October meeting of the Conference of Bishops we were told of a challenge for the coming year in which \$2 of a special gift would be matched with \$1 by an anonymous donor up to \$1 million dollars. Our gifts for the Fund may have that extra help as well.

### **CALLED TO COMMON MISSION RETREAT    APRIL 7-9, 2008**

The Bishops of the Virginia Synod, Metro DC Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia are inviting Lutheran and Episcopal rostered leaders to come for a time of worship and sharing in a study of Lutheran Confessions and the Book of Common Prayer. I am looking forward to this time together and encourage our rostered leaders to come for this ecumenical time together.

We will be at Shrinemont in Orkney Springs. The cost will be \$120.00 per person for the 3-day event, which includes meals and lodging.

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

January 18-25, 2008, is the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" beginning with the Confession of Peter and concluding with the Conversion of Paul.

## **PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS SEMINARS (NOTE CORRECTED SCHEDULE)**

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. There is a \$10 charge to cover the cost of lunch and materials. Please make your check payable to Virginia Synod, ELCA.

The dates and locations for these workshops will be:

February 16, 2008	Christ, Richmond
March 1, 2008	Grace, Waynesboro
March 15, 2008	Holy Trinity, Wytheville
April 5, 2008	Gloria Dei, Hampton (date changed from February 9)

Corrected Registration Form attached.

[Click here for Registration Form](#)

## **WHAT'S THE COST OF SUPPORTING SYNOD MINISTRY?**

Congregations base their budget on regular giving by members. In 2006 Virginia Synod congregations reported **\$24,447,418** in regular and designated giving. **\$2,219,707** came to the synod as Mission Share.

Each congregation decides annually what amount will be passed on to the synod budget as "mission share." Some give more than 20%, others give less. The synod budget divides mission share into three general areas: ELCA churchwide ministries, our agency and institution partners, and our ministry areas.

In 2006, on average,

For every \$100 of regular giving by members of Virginia Synod congregations: \$90.93 supported the ministry of local congregations and \$9.07 went to "mission share."

Of that \$9.07,

\$4.54 funded churchwide ELCA ministries

\$1.17 funded agency and institution partners

\$3.36 funded ministry services, synod staff and support staff, office, transportation

- **ELCA 50% (by Synod Assembly action) goes directly to **Churchwide ministry****
- **Ministry Partners 13%**
- **Staff Office and Ministry services 37% provides ministry services, office expenses, transportation, staff salaries and benefits.**

## Pastors and Congregations

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
FLOYD-WILLIS PARISH	Study
GALAX, Good Shepherd (Episcopal/Lutheran)	Interviewing
IMMANUEL, BLUEFIELD-CENTRAL PARISH	Primary Candidate
MARION, Ebenezer	Study/Interim
MT. SOLON, St. Paul	Study
NORFOLK, St. Timothy	Study/Interim
ROANOKE, St. John (Associate)	Interviewing
SALEM, College	Interviewing
STAUNTON, Christ	Interviewing
VIRGINIA BEACH, St. Michael	Interviewing
WOODSTOCK, Emanuel	Interviewing

### 2. **ROSTERED LEADERS:**

- Louis A. Florio, Jr. has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at Messiah, Mechanicsville effective November 26, 2007. His Ordination is scheduled to be held at Messiah on December 8, 2007.

*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.*

## News and Notes about Our People

### + **Our sympathies are extended to:**

- Pastor George Ziegenfuss upon the death of his daughter, Laurie Tyler, in Pearisburg, VA, on Wednesday, November 14, 2007. Sympathies to Pastors George and Murray Ziegenfuss, their son-in-law, James Tyler, and granddaughter, Emilia.
- The family of Pastor Charles “Bill” Howell who died November 20, 2007, in Bristol, TN. Pastor Howell is survived by his wife, Deanna, and his daughters, Heidi and Anna and their families.
- Pastor Kenneth Ruppap, his wife Norma, and their family, following the death of his mother, Helen C. Ruppap, on Wednesday, November 28, 2007. The funeral service washeld at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Weathersfield, Connecticut.
- Julie Moyer, wife of Bishop Emeritus Virgil A. Moyer, upon the death of her grandson, John Henry Camden, III, of Natural Bridge on December 2, 2007.

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

- The Rev. Larry Shoberg
- The Rev. Lucy Dorband
- 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. 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. Doctors had determined that Liam’s heart would not be fully developed at birth, and he has already been through his first heart surgery successfully.

### + **Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- Congratulations to Pastor Lee Brumback and wife, Tori, on the birth of their son, Timothy Daniel, born November 20, 2007.
- Congratulations to Pastor James Nickols (Reformation, Newport News) who was recently elected to a 4-year term on the Williamsburg-James City County School Board

## News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff

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

Registration forms for **Winter Celebration** (Jan. 25-27 and Feb. 1-3, 2008) and **Seventh Day** (March 1-2, 2008), which were electronically distributed earlier in the fall, have now also been mailed again in hard copy form to every congregation. They are also available for download from the synod website ([www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org)). Please contact the Synodical Youth Director ([delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org); office: 540-389-1000; cell: 540-529-6893) if you need more assistance in obtaining forms.

**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. 26<sup>th</sup> 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.**

[Click here for Winter Celebration Registration Form](#)

**Seventh Day** is our overnight youth retreat for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, is **March 1-2, 2008**. It runs from 1:00 on Saturday to early afternoon on Sunday and an adult advisor must accompany congregational groups of up to five youth, with an additional adult required for 6-10 congregational youth.

[Click here for Seventh Day 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**

**“Catching The Age Wave”**

Virginia’s first annual Senior Adult Ministry Conference will be held Saturday, January 12, 2008, from 8:30am until 4:00pm, at Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market, VA. The Conference Presenter will be Dr. Charles Arn, Director of the Institute for American Church Growth in Monrovia, CA. He directs research projects for healthy churches and is particularly interested in effective church ministry and outreach to older adults. The cost to attend this event is \$10 for the first three participants from a congregation and \$5 for others attending. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, please contact Pastor Brad Hales, Coordinator for Congregational Transformation via email – [pastorhales@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorhales@hotmail.com) or phone – 540-825-1376.

Registration form for this event was included in the November 2007 issue of UPDATE, and is also available on the Virginia Synod web site – [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org) or [click here](#)

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

**ACTS Electives**

ACTS Electives will be held at English Inn in Charlottesville February 1-3, 2008. Participants will be able to choose from three courses, Worship, Christian Education and Evangelism. Please be watching for more detailed information and registration information to be forthcoming after the first of the year.

**Leadership Convocation**

The semi-annual Leadership Convocation will be held again at Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro, on March 8, 2008, from 10am until 4pm. Please mark your calendars to reserve this date if your committee will be meeting at this time.

**From Keith Brown**  
**Financial Consultant**

**2008 Statements of Intent**

Congregations are reminded to contact Keith Brown at the synod office with the amount of Mission & Ministry Support (Benevolence) approved by the congregation in it’s 2008 Budget/Spending Plan. You may convey this information to me by:

- 1) Sending in the Statement of Intent form, or
- 2) E-Mail me at: [kbrown@vasynod.org](mailto:kbrown@vasynod.org), or
- 3) Phone call: 540-389-1000

## **IRS Business Mileage Rate**

The mileage reimbursement rate for **2008** set by the Internal Revenue Service is **50.5 cents** for business travel.

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

## **Mark your calendars for Power in the Spirit 2008.**

GOD GIVES! WE CARE. WE SHARE.  
That just about sums it all up, doesn't it? Or it should.

Power in the Spirit 2008 promises to be a venue for growth in understanding of God's call to stewardship...with our talents, with our resources, with our energy, with our selves. Mark your calendars: July 10-12, 2008. Join us as we look at ways to give back what God has so graciously given.

Workshop suggestions are still welcome. Please contact:  
Elizabeth Smythe ([esmythe24354@yahoo.com](mailto:esmythe24354@yahoo.com))

**From The Rev. Luther Mauney  
Healthy Congregations Coordinator**

## **HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS PROGRAM – conflict approaches**

One often effective way of dealing with people who persist in sabotaging the ministry of the congregation is to teach the group, deliberately in a public forum, how to be an effective saboteur. Share the following with your group which describe some effective ways to sabotage a congregational ministry:

1. talk about, rather than to, other people
2. hold secret meetings
3. send anonymous communications
4. enlist others to speak on your behalf (triangulation behavior)
5. look for scapegoats
6. push for quick fixes, rather than thoughtful understanding
7. engage in letter writing campaigns

Hopefully, by bringing out into the open this destructive behavior, and naming it, the group will be able to recognize when this is happening and decide not to cooperate.

Another effective way of managing destructive conflict is to adopt a code of conduct for managing disputes. An effective code of conduct will discourage the above destructive patterns of behavior. Suggested approaches can be obtained from the Healthy Congregations coordinator, or any Healthy Congregations facilitator (see Synod web site for names).

## **NOTICE OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS TRAINING**

As we **plan for the new year** we know there will be 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 2008, **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.**

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

### **A REMINDER ABOUT THE UNITED LUTHERAN APPEAL**

The 2007 United Lutheran Appeal is winding down. But it isn't too late to join in, if you haven't already. Check the enclosed list to see how your congregation stands in its giving this year.

The materials for the 2008 ULA have been sent to every congregation of the synod. If you didn't get yours, please give a call to the synod office (540-389-1000) and more will be sent.

Your support of the United Lutheran Appeal is very important. The nine agencies and institutions supported by the ULA serve thousands of people across the Virginia Synod on your behalf. Your contribution to the ULA is a vote of confidence in those ministries as they reach out to help people in need.

**List of Contributions by Congregation  
Through November 19, 2007**

CONFERENCE: CN				
Bethany, Columbia Furnace	\$200.00	St. John, Abingdon	\$1,075.00	
Bethel, Hamburg	\$450.00	St. Paul, Rural Retreat	\$810.00	
Emanuel, Woodstock	\$335.00	United, Crockett	\$2,765.00	
Morning Star, Morning Star - St. James	\$155.00	Conference Total:	\$9,638.00	
Mt. Calvary, Mt. Jackson	\$195.00			
Mt. Zion, New Market	\$1,665.00	CONFERENCE: NR		
Prince of Peace, Orkney-Basye	\$782.00	Christ, Radford	\$500.00	
Rader, Timberville	\$45.00	Luther Memorial, Blacksburg	\$1,360.00	
Reformation, New Market	\$120.00	Our Saviour, Christiansburg	\$1,301.00	
Solomon, Mt. Jackson	\$185.00	Redeemer, Pearisburg	\$210.00	
St. Jacob, Edinburg	\$225.00	Shiloh, New River	\$75.00	
St. Luke, Woodstock	\$160.00	St. Michael, Blacksburg	\$700.00	
St. Mark, Quicksburg	\$190.00	Trinity, Pulaski	\$650.00	
St. Martin, Quicksburg	\$250.00	Zion, Floyd-Willis	\$326.76	
St. Mary, Mt. Jackson	\$330.00	Conference Total:	\$5,122.76	
St. Paul, Jerome	\$1,220.00			
St. Paul, Strasburg	\$1,416.00	CONFERENCE: NV		
St. Paul, Timberville	\$90.00	Bethel, Winchester	\$1,306.00	
St. Peter, Toms Brook	\$100.00	Good Shepherd, Front Royal	\$451.00	
Conference Total:	\$8,113.00	Grace, Winchester	\$6,037.00	
		Lebanon, St. Paul-Lebanon	\$515.00	
CONFERENCE: GR		St. James, Gravel Springs	\$35.00	
Christ, Fredericksburg	\$5,340.00	Trinity, Stephens City	\$250.00	
Good Shepherd, Rapidan	\$2,600.00	Conference Total:	\$8,594.00	
Hebron, Madison	\$690.00			
Mt. Nebo, Rapidan	\$2,150.00	CONFERENCE: OT		
Our Saviour, Warrenton	\$4,235.00	Hagerstown, MD	\$50.00	
Peace, Charlottesville	\$855.00	Synod Assembly, Transportation	\$83.60	
Reformation, Culpeper	\$4,321.25	Trinity, Unknown	\$30.00	
Reformation, New Market	\$375.00	Conference Total:	\$163.60	
Resurrection, Fredericksburg	\$785.00			
St. Luke, Culpeper	\$25.00	CONFERENCE: PG		
St. Mark, Charlottesville	\$685.00	Bethlehem, Luray	\$150.00	
St. Peter, Stafford	\$400.00	St. Luke, Stanley	\$270.00	
St. Thomas, Bealeton	\$350.00	St. Paul, Shenandoah	\$60.00	
Unknown, Charlottesville	\$5.00	Conference Total:	\$480.00	
Conference Total:	\$22,816.25			
		CONFERENCE: PN		
CONFERENCE: HI		Apostles, Gloucester	\$956.45	
Atonement, Attoway-Kimberlin	\$118.00	Gloria Dei, Hampton	\$2,510.00	
Corinth, Attoway-Kimberlin	\$150.00	Our Saviour, Norge	\$355.00	
Ebenezer, Marion	\$100.00	St. Mark, Yorktown	\$1,020.00	
Faith, Whitetop	\$315.00	St. Paul, Hampton	\$1,446.00	
Furnace Hill, Attoway-Kimberlin	\$190.00	St. Stephen, Williamsburg	\$5,505.00	
Grace, Rural Retreat	\$975.00	Trinity, Newport News	\$1,500.00	
Holy Trinity, Wytheville	\$1,395.00	Conference Total:	\$13,292.45	
Redeemer, Bristol	\$345.00			
St. James, Chilhowie	\$1,400.00			

CONFERENCE: RI	
Our Redeemer, Petersburg	\$445.00
Christ the King, Richmond	\$1,795.00
Christ, Richmond	\$532.50
Epiphany, Richmond	\$9,025.00
First English, Richmond	\$620.00
Lakeside, Lake Gaston	\$1,235.00
Messiah, Mechanicsville	\$280.00
Our Saviour, Richmond	\$496.00
St. Luke, Richmond	\$1,390.00
Conference Total:	\$15,818.50

CONFERENCE: SO	
Ascension, Danville	\$208.00
Bethlehem, Lynchburg	\$615.00
Christ, Roanoke	\$563.00
College, Salem	\$2,073.00
Holy Trinity, Martinsville	\$345.00
St. John, Roanoke	\$6,934.00
St. Mark, Roanoke	\$1,347.00
St. Philip, Roanoke	\$413.00
St. Timothy, Vinton	\$350.00
Trinity, Moneta	\$1,500.00
Wheatland, Buchanan	\$452.00
Conference Total:	\$14,800.00

CONFERENCE: SV	
Bethany, Rockbridge	\$150.00
Bethlehem, Waynesboro	\$123.48
Christ, Staunton	\$875.00
Grace, Waynesboro	\$2,205.00
Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg	\$710.00
New Mount Olive, Rockbridge	\$100.00
Pleasant View, Staunton	\$1,045.00
Redeemer, McKinley	\$288.66
Salem, Mt. Sidney	\$508.00
Shepherd of the Valley, Dayton	\$138.00
St. Jacob-Spaders, Pleasant Valley	\$995.00
St. James, Fishersville	\$130.00
St. Paul, Mt. Solon	\$30.00
St. Peter, Churchville	\$910.00
Trinity, Keezletown	\$50.00
Conference Total:	\$8,258.14

CONFERENCE: TD	
Emmanuel, Virginia Beach	\$70.00
First, Norfolk	\$3,292.00
First, Portsmouth	\$95.00
Good Shepherd, Virginia Beach	\$1,066.00
Grace, Chesapeake	\$270.00
Holy Communion, Portsmouth	\$922.00
Our Saviour, Virginia Beach	\$1,583.00
St. John, Norfolk	\$145.00
St. Michael, Virginia Beach	\$600.00
Conference Total:	\$8,043.00

**Total Contributions: \$115,139.70**

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

[See attached "plan2giv" newsletter](#)

## Miscellaneous

### **Marriage Enrichment Workshop**

Living as a faithful child of God is not easy in these times. Living together as husband and wife is not easy these days. Put both of these challenges together and the blessings and challenges both grow.

In response to these realities Pr James Armentrout, Holy Trinity, Lynchburg and Pr Paul Walters, Grace, Fredericksburg are offering to lead Marriage Enrichment Workshops or Retreats for the people of your congregation. Using the marriage rite itself as a beginning point for conversation couples in your congregation will have opportunities to talk of their joys and struggles in the context of the Biblical vision for marriage.

To discuss the possibilities for your congregation please contact Pr Paul Walters:  
[paulewalters@gmail.com](mailto:paulewalters@gmail.com)  
(540) 805-0042

James and Paul are the co-authors of *Christ in Your Marriage*, Augsburg Fortress 2007.

[Also – See Attached Flyer for more information about the Workshops](#)

### **2008 Discernment Retreats in Regions 7, 8 & 9**

**Pastors: Do you know young adults who are beginning to discern a call to public ministry? Help us grow tomorrow's leaders of the church by helping them discern their call to ministry today.**

- 1 Encourage young adults to pray about God's call in their lives and help them to understand what it is they are discerning.
- 2 Encourage young adults to attend one of the retreats being offered below.
- 3 Contact Don Johnson the director of Project Connect of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries with their names. He wants to connect with them. He will also give their name to the pastor who is the Project Connect Discernment Advocate in your area so they can be in touch with them as well.

Brochures and information on these retreats plus lots of great information can be found on the Project Connect website at [www.projectconnect.org](http://www.projectconnect.org)

- **January 2-4 at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, Bemus Point, NY**, sponsored by the Upstate NY Synod. Young Adults ages 18-30 from any synod are encouraged to attend.

- [January 6-8 at Camp Lutheridge](#), Arden, NC, sponsored by the SC Synod, NC Synod, and Southeastern Synod. Young Adults ages 18-30 from any synod are encouraged to attend.
- [March 28-29 at Camp Nawakwa](#), Arendtsville, PA, sponsored by Gettysburg College. College students from any college are encouraged to attend.
- **June 6-8 at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg**, Gettysburg, PA, sponsored by the Metro DC Synod and the Delaware-Maryland Synod. Young Adults from any synod who have graduated from college are encouraged to attend.

### **New books from Faculty at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**

By the Rev. Dr. Daryl S. "Tony" Everett , Dewey F. Beam Professor of Pastoral Care. Did You See That Gorilla? Sermons for Sundays in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. CSS Publishing, 2007. These sermons passionately proclaim the good news of God's continuing presence -- and the possibilities that good news offers for our lives, our churches, and the world. Captivating sermon titles include: "Uh-oh" to "Ah-Hah!" "Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll!" and "Forty Days and Forever."

Dr. Ira Brent Driggers, Associate Professor of New Testament. Following God Through Mark -- Theological Tension in the Second Gospel. Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. Driggers examines the character of God as portrayed in the Gospel of Mark, adding a level of complexity to Mark's narrative and shedding new light on its most enigmatic theme: the consistent and troubling misunderstanding of the disciples.

Cristy Fossum, Dir. of Public Relations  
 Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
 4201 N. Main St., Columbia SC 29203-5898  
 803-461-3256 FAX 803-461-3272  
[cfossum@ltss.edu](mailto:cfossum@ltss.edu) [www.ltss.edu](http://www.ltss.edu)

### **OPENINGS AT LTSS**

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, announces an opening for Professor/Director of Contextual Education beginning Fall 2008. This person will assume primary educational and administrative responsibility for the seminary's contextual education program. This includes first and second year field education requirements, CPE placements, cross cultural experience and internship. Candidates must have significant experience as an ordained Lutheran pastor, a deep commitment to parish ministry, demonstrated experience in pastoral theology and the liturgical traditions of the church, knowledge of and experience in supervisory relationships and process, and a familiarity with Clinical Pastoral Education. A D.Min. or an academic doctorate in a related discipline would be highly appropriate but is not required. Applications will be received through January 18, 2008. For a complete job description, application requirements and further information, please visit [www.ltss.edu](http://www.ltss.edu) or contact Ms. Jo Ellen White, Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs at (803) 461-3240 ([jwhite@ltss.edu](mailto:jwhite@ltss.edu)).

Director of Communications and Public Relations - Date Available: January 1, 2008

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary is seeking a communications and public relations professional to develop and oversee an integrated, institution-wide communications program and to direct the seminary's public relations program. Reporting to the Vice President for Development, this person will be responsible for media relations, advertising, promotional publications, and marketing communication, as well as development of donor appeal materials, periodic bulletins, and the annual report. In summary, this person will be expected to lead efforts at coordinating a successful campus-wide effort to present a strategically effective image and voice that will gain increased support for the seminary's mission. Candidates should possess excellent oral and written communication skills, interpersonal skills which enhance team work, and be proficient in research and planning. Additionally, candidates must be proficient in using the Microsoft Professional software suite and possess a working knowledge of publishing software, as well as rudimentary photography and photo editing skills. An undergraduate degree in communications or public relations is required. Experience in public relations is desired but not required.

Application Process:

Qualified candidates with a personal commitment to biblical faith and the mission of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary should forward a letter of application and resume to Mr. Jerry Vaughn, Business Manager. A review of all applications will begin immediately, and continue until the position is filled.

Contact: Mr. Jerry Vaughn, Business Manager  
4201 N. Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203 USA, Phone: 803.786.5150 - Fax: 803.786.6499

Professor of Bible and Mission

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary announces its search for a colleague to join the faculty as Professor of Bible & Mission as first holder of a newly endowed chair. This is a tenure-track position, with an initial 3-year contract. Starting date will depend on when a suitable candidate is found. LTSS is committed to diversity within the faculty, and all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

This professor should help strengthen the biblical grounding of students' orientation to the church's mission; will co-teach (with the Professor of Missiology) the required "Mission in a Pluralistic World" course and co-teach particular required Biblical courses, depending on the candidate's expertise, along with teaching electives related to mission and Bible; aid student's perception of the role of the Bible in the church's mission and their skills in interpreting and presenting the Bible within that mission.

The seminary is looking for someone whose primary area of study has been in either Bible or missiology, but is prepared to engage both disciplines. LTSS provides opportunities for cross-disciplinary, team teaching of courses, and being a seminary of the ELCA, the ability to work within a Lutheran theological framework will be necessary. Because LTSS has a long and deep commitment to ecumenism and diversity in both the faculty and the student body, the successful candidate need not be Lutheran. All faculty at LTSS are expected to be active in the life of a local congregation or parish, and to support the seminary's central mission of forming women and men for ministry in the church.

Starting rank for this position will be in line with the candidate's prior experience. Prior completion of a terminal degree (Ph.D., Th.D., or DMin) is required.

Nominations for this position are welcome. Candidates should send curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, a graduate school transcript, and a cover letter describing how they would approach teaching at the intersection of Bible and mission to:

Chair, Bible and Mission Search, LTSS  
4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203

Consideration of applications will begin following January 31, 2008.

### **CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL TEACHER**

Resurrection Lutheran Church is establishing a Christian Preschool to open in September 2008, and is seeking a Lead Teacher/School Director for this vital Church ministry. Applicants with a college degree and teaching experience in early childhood/ preschool education are invited to submit resumes to:

Resurrection Lutheran Church, ATTN: School Committee  
6170 Plank Road (Rt.3), Fredericksburg, VA 22407

For application information go to: <http://www.resurrectionpeople.org/news/school/>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VIRGINIA SYNOD CALENDAR</b> <b>December 2007 – March 2008</b></p>
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#### **December 2007**

- 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

#### **January 2008**

- 1 New Year's Day – Synod Office Closed
- 7-8 Candidacy Committee, Richmond
- 8-13 Bishops Academy
- 9 2008 Assembly Theme Team
- 12 Senior Adult Ministry Workshop, Reformation, New Market
- 18-19 Synod Council, English Inn, Charlottesville
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 25-27 Winter Celebration I, Eagle Eyrie
- 28 Roots & Wings

#### **February 2008**

- 1-3 ACTS Electives, English Inn, Charlottesville
- 1-3 Winter Celebration II, Eagle Eyrie
- 16 Presidents & Treasurers Seminar, Christ, Richmond

**March 2008**

- 1 Presidents & Treasurers Seminar, Grace, Waynesboro
- 1-2 7th Day, Eagle Eyrie
- 1-11 Conference of Bishops
- 8 Leadership Convocation, Grace, Waynesboro
- 15 Presidents & Treasurers Seminar, Holy Trinity, Wytheville
- 17 Executive Committee, Mission Office for Planned Giving, Salem
- 18 Vision Cabinet, Roanoke College, Salem
- 21 Good Friday – Office Closed
- 28-30 Lutheran Men in Mission, Roslyn

**Synod Communications Publication Schedule****Synod Communications Publication Schedule – Thru 2008**

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

## **Attachments**

**[Bishop's School Brochure](#)**

**[Camp Lutheridge](#)**

**[Congregation Information Reporting Form](#)**