



## Journey together

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

January 2008

# The Bishop's Page

### LENTEN INSIGHTS

Lent is the springtime of our soul where we seek to sink our roots ever more deeply into the spring of living water that those who sponsored us in baptism sought to plant us.

Lent is a season to remember and meditate upon that at great cost, our Lord Jesus Christ rescued us from real powers of sin, evil, and death, not with silver and gold, but with his holy and precious blood, his innocent suffering and death, IN ORDER THAT I MAY BE HIS, and live under him and serve him forever even as he is raised from the dead and reigns eternally.

The Son of the Trinity, in love for the Father and the Spirit, turns outward to those who are in bondage to sin, and becomes a living ambassador among them, revealing the heart of the Father, being the icon of the God we cannot see, becoming the very imprint, having the character of God among us to restore, to reconcile the sin-filled world and the sin-filled ME to the loving life of God.

Lent is a good time to ask one another for insights, signs, and metaphors of the Word made flesh, of the one crucified and raised from the dead.

I have found this verse from Psalm 63 to be powerful for me: "My soul clings to you, your right hand holds me fast." I think of refugees of Katrina standing on a half-hidden roof in the flood waters of New Orleans. Above them, descending to them, is a rescuer tethered to the source of rescue above. As the rescuer approaches and joins the refugees on their storm devoured roof, the refugees, one by one, rush to cling with every ounce of strength that she/he has, and the rescuer surrounds the refugee with his/her outstretched arms, the right hand holds the needy one, FAST! As one in bondage to sin, I am the refugee. As one tethered to my Lord, I am the rescuer for my vulnerable neighbor.

Lent is a season for the sharing of faith. Would you send me one of your insights, your metaphors of faith? Send them to [bishopmauney@vasynod.org](mailto:bishopmauney@vasynod.org).

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

*II Corinthians 5:20*

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” This pleasant reminder will come after reading together Psalm 51! “Have mercy on me, O God!” A psalm for one in bondage to sin.

Those with their books of Concord, our confessions, might look once again at Article 2, of the Augsburg Confession and the Apology, Article 1, Part 3 of the Smalcald Articles, Article 1 of the Epitome and the Solid Declaration, the explanation to “thy will be done” and “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

On this day, join me in remembering those who also pray for daily bread. I will seek to fast on Ash Wednesday until the meal of Holy Communion and to let the missed meals be times to remember those who hunger in our Lord’s world, our Lord who HAS provided enough for everyone to be fed. Let me also seek to be part of seeing how the Lord’s bread, then, might be shared with all because it is NOT a matter of ‘lack’ it is a matter of sharing the bread among a world still in bondage to sin.

## **ROSTERED LEADER REPORTS REMINDER!!!**

I want to thank all of you who have submitted your Annual Report form and ask those who have not to please take the time to complete this report and send it to me. The information contained in these reports is an important way for me to be able to know how things are going for you.

## **PAROCHIAL REPORT REMINDER!!!**

For the life of our synod and the ELCA, please be sure to complete your parochial reports. You should have received information from the ELCA about the procedure for submitting this report; if not, the information is available on the ELCA web site – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). The ELCA has requested that this information be submitted by February 15, 2008.

[Click here to file your report electronically](#)

## **BOARD OF PENSIONS HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT STANDS AT 37%.**

Your not taking the health risk assessment on the [elecabop.org](http://elecabop.org) website may keep the congregations in the whole synod from receiving the 2% reduction in medical health. While you may be missing out on a \$100 on your own medical deduction, the synod is potentially missing out on thousands of dollars.

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

We are currently finishing up Psalm 3. Our youth are responding to their assigned psalms. I have heard some wonderful stories about their studies. One said, “I read this psalm a 100 times over the Christmas holidays!” (Now that’s not a bad study habit!)

These are some gifted youth identified by small group leaders from their small group conversations at our youth events. I got to speak with several of them at this years Winter Celebrations and to thank them.

If you have youth and adults 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 Tuesdays and Fridays with the Small and Large Catechism and the Augsburg Confession on Wednesdays.

### **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.

A letter will be coming to you soon.

### **PEACE, SLIDELL UPDATE**

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 to serve from our synod to Katrina recovery areas. Roanoke College sent 25 students and adults along with Chaplain Paul Henrickson to Peace in early January! Let us know if you have a mission trip planned with them in the coming months.

We have received and have sent \$181, 445.53 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.

### **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](#)

## 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	Primary Candidate
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	Interviewing/Interim
ROANOKE, St. John (Associate)	Interviewing
SALEM, College	Primary Candidate
STAUNTON, Christ	Interviewing
VIRGINIA BEACH, St. Michael	Interviewing
WOODSTOCK, Emanuel	Interviewing

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

- The Rev. Robert W. Wohlfort, Retired Pastor, formerly of the Metropolitan-Washington DC Synod, has transferred his roster status to the Virginia Synod effective October 15, 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:**

- The Rev. Jean Bozeman upon the death of her mother, Ella Virginia Goodman Bozeman, in Norfolk, VA, on December 24, 2007.
- The Rev. Bill Trexler and family upon the death of his uncle in South Carolina.
- The Rev. Steve McGinnis and family upon the death of Kaye's father

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

- The Rev. Terry Clark
- The Rev. Dianna Horton
- 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.
- The Rev. Doug Stowe
- The Rev. Rudy Keyl
- The Rev. Martin Saarinen
- The Rev. Charles Lesemann

+ **Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- Congratulations to Pastor James Armentrout and wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their daughter, Allison Grace, on January 5, 2008.

## News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff

### From Pastor Chip Gunsten Assistant to the Bishop

#### Elections to occur at 2008 Synod Assembly

You are encouraged to note that elections will occur at the 2008 Synod Assembly for:

Synod Council members

1 Lay Female

3 Clergy (female or male)

2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

3 Lay Female

3 Lay Male

3 Clergy (female or male)

Nomination Forms and Position Descriptions are available in this Journey and will also available in the Update scheduled to be mailed February 8<sup>th</sup> or go to [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org) and click the 2008 Virginia Synod Assembly button. Please note that nominations for these positions are due for the Nominating Committee meeting to be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> ... and nominations will be received from the floor at the Synod Assembly.

### From Pastor Jean Bozeman Assistant to the Bishop

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:*

*Since my Mom's death, Christmas Eve, I have been so strengthened and uplifted by your prayers, phone calls, cards, memorial contributions and presence at her funeral service. What a special gift you are to me. What a witness of faith and community you are to me. I know I will continue to be upheld by you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

*Peace and joy,*

*Jean Bozeman*

#### **Spouses of Rostered Leaders:**

Check the website for pictures of 2007 and previous year retreats. Mark your calendars for 2 upcoming events: Synod Assembly luncheon June 7 and Retreat October 17-19. **Council Presidents/Treasurers:** Be sure to put funds in congregational budget to encourage your spouse(s) to attend these special events.

#### **Travel to Greece & Turkey:** [Click here for Registration Form](#)

Visit the sites of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journeys. Study with Dr. Will Willemon noted theologian and bishop. This is a unique Christian itinerary on a chartered cruise ship. The trip includes roundtrip airfare from NY, lodging, guided shore excursions, all meals when on ship, study guide, and much more. Visit [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org) for further details or contact Rev. Jean Bozeman - [bozeman@vasynod.org](mailto:bozeman@vasynod.org).

### **Leadership Convocation:**

Leadership Convocation is Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. All committee members – please hold this date. Committee chairs please notify Jean Bozeman and your members if you plan to meet Friday and Saturday. Registration and housing information will be mailed the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Feb. Watch for it and please respond promptly to assist our planning for your meetings.

### **ROOTS & WINGS:**

Workshops will be held April 19, 2008 at Luther Memorial in Blacksburg or St. Mark, Charlottesville. These events aim to assist congregations in strengthening their ministry with families from birth through grade 5. Fathers and Mothers, grandparents, Godparents, Christian education committees, teachers, Directors of Christian education, pastors, faith nurturers – Anyone who loves children is invited to participate. Congregations are encouraged to send a large group that can then work together to launch or strengthen this ministry in their local setting. Lots of resources will be available. Check the website to register or see further information or [click here to download registration form](#)

### **ACTS SPRING COURSE:**

“The Christian Life” will be led by Dr. Robert Benne. March 15 and April 26 the course will be offered at Grace Lutheran Church, Waynesboro from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. On March 29 and May 3 the same class will be offered at Gloria Dei in Hampton. Check the website for further information or call 757-622-9421.

**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.**

**Power in the Spirit, July 10-12, 2008**

"God Gives! We Care! We Share!"

Keynote: Pastor Charles "Chick" Lane, Director for  
Stewardship Key Leader in the ELCA

Bible Leader: Pastor Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, former  
Bishop for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Our music and worship experiences will showcase the  
abundance of talent in the Virginia Synod.

Come find out ways to share, nurture, and replenish  
the gifts that God gives to us everyday!

Workshop suggestions are still welcome.

Friday evening entertainment will be provided by Exit  
Nine, another opportunity for us to share in the  
talent found in our own VA synod!

Please contact:

Elizabeth Smythe ([esmythe24354@yahoo.com](mailto:esmythe24354@yahoo.com))

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

**"HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS" NEWS**

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS who haven't experienced a Healthy Congregations workshop will be offered a workshop within your conference area soon. This workshop will help prepare leaders to understand and exercise congregational leadership. For additional information contact Pastor Luther Mauney ([lfmauney@aol.com](mailto:lfmauney@aol.com)).

FACILITATOR TRAINING for pastors and a congregational leader will be offered again in the near future. All pastors, and interested congregational leaders, are invited to become trained to utilize the Healthy Congregations material within your congregation. Contact either Pastor Luther Mauney ([lfmauney@aol.com](mailto:lfmauney@aol.com)), or Pastor Carl Jensen ([cjensen@peninsulapastoral.com](mailto:cjensen@peninsulapastoral.com)) for additional information and to reserve a spot.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP GROUPS will again be offered in the Valley area and the Richmond/Tidewater area. These have been viewed as “extremely helpful”, “been a godsend”, “highly recommend it”, “helped me to more effectively deal with people and stresses in all aspects of my life”, “have freed much more energy for mission”, “should be an ongoing program” (evaluation comments from past group members). For additional information, contact Pastor Luther Mauney.

**From Cary Mangus  
Stewardship Coordinator**

**TOWN MEETINGS**

**From the Director of Stewardship – Cary Mangus**

**What is a Town Meeting? Well, that is what we have decided to call a new concept in stewardship in the Virginia Synod. I must admit, I had nothing to do with the envisioning of this new concept. One night, last June, I received a call from Glen Rosendahl, a member and former administrator of College Lutheran Church in Salem. Glen shared with me that he and Gary Sahn, the stewardship committee chair at College Lutheran, had met to discuss their stewardship initiative for the coming year. In his words – “We are frustrated at how to keep coming up with new approaches”. He asked me if I would be willing to facilitate a meeting of stewardship people from around the Roanoke Valley, which would provide a forum for sharing the ideas, the successes, and the failures of what the different churches were doing in their stewardship programs. After one blink of the eye, I said “I am your man and I am excited!” Glen contacted all the local churches and we met in June of 2007. I HAVE TO TELL YOU IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST GATHERINGS TO WHICH I HAVE EVER PARTICIPATED! We had five churches participate in this time of sharing (College Lutheran, St. John Lutheran, St. Phillip Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Christ Lutheran). We shared a meal (which I covered out of my budget through the ELCA), had a devotion and prayer, participated in an “ice-breaker”, shared an overview of the different response methods that are being used, had a time for each of the churches to speak to what they were doing and what was working (and not working) for them, and shared some additional resources that are available (Mission Interpretation, new books, new programs, planned giving, etc.). Out of this meeting, stewardship became energized! Two of these churches offered Consecration Sunday models for the first time, two churches switched the timing of their annual appeals to the spring (divorcing “giving and the BUDGET” – hallelujah! – It’s really about faith raising!), and the other church....well, that was the one that effected the changes in the other four! How beautiful is the Body of Christ! I know this is true because I saw it with my own two eyes in June of 2007!**

**So, where do we go with this? I am willing anywhere in this Synod. My address is 6928 Ivy Mountain Drive – Roanoke, VA 24018, my email address is [cjmangus@cox.net](mailto:cjmangus@cox.net) and my phone number is 540-774-8702. All we need are a few “Glen Rosendahl’s” in a few places throughout this state. You know, it is all kind of biblical. “Where two or three are gathered”? Why are we surprised?**

**From Jackie Bourque  
Mission Interpreter Coordinator**

I am interested in training new Mission Interpreters from your congregation. We have 30 congregations with MI's who are having a lot of fun and success with this ministry. If you would like to join in, please contact me at [jackie.bourque@embarqmail.com](mailto:jackie.bourque@embarqmail.com) or 540-635-8518. Mission Interpretation is telling the story of how God is working to change lives through us. "God's work, our hands" is the new ELCA tagline. Find out how to tell the story of our church in new and innovative ways. I hope to hear from your congregation.

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

[2007 ULA Sets A New Record](#)

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

## Distribution Agreement

In addition to his completed will, Zach Stephenson\* chose to use a Distribution Agreement for gifts to ministries of the church. Instead of identifying several ministries in his will, Zach named them in a distribution agreement, held with the Foundation of the ELCA. When the agreement is funded, upon his death, ministries will benefit.

The Distribution Agreement is provided to members of the ELCA without charge. This service offers flexibility to an estate plan and benefits ministries of the church. Rather than updating a will to include bequests for ministries or charities, Zach has the option to change the agreement as often as he feels it is necessary, also without cost. A written request is required to add or delete ministries in the agreement; up to ten ministries may be named. Funds from other assets may also be directed to the same agreement. At least 70% of the total bequest value must be donated to Lutheran ministries; up to 30% may be directed to any qualifying non profit.

In Zach's will the following words are used to direct his bequest: *"I devise, bequeath 25% of the remainder of my estate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota non profit corporation, c/o The ELCA Foundation, located at 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, for the Zachariah J. Stephenson Distribution Agreement."*

If you are interested in learning more about the Distribution Agreement or would like a sample copy, please contact us. You may write us or call us toll free: **877.526.2448**.

*\*name has been changed*

## Memorial Endowment Fund

Individuals or families can create funds that make distributions indefinitely. Family foundations are often created for this purpose. Another option, without incurring the cost or liability of a family foundation, is the creation a Memorial Endowment Fund through

*(Continued on page 2)*

February 2008  
Vol. 6 Issue 5

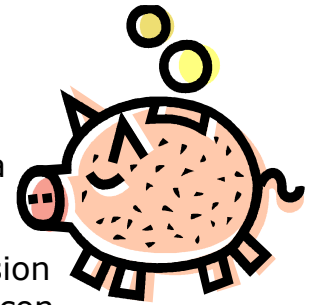
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**SPONSORING  
MINISTRIES**

- Campus Ministry
- Caroline Furnace Lutheran  
Camp and Retreat Center
- Chaplain Service of the  
Churches of Virginia
- Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America
- Hungry Mother Lutheran  
Retreat Center
- National Lutheran Home
- Lutheran Council  
of Tidewater
- Lutheran Family Services
- Lutheran Theological  
Southern Seminary
- Roanoke College
- The Virginia Synod
- Virginia Lutheran Homes

## Making Gifts With Appreciated Assets



Using cash or savings may not be the best way to make a gift to a special appeal or other ministries you may want to support.

Consider using appreciated assets, instead, and call upon the Mission Office for Planned Giving to assist you. By using these services, in conjunction with the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you can give an asset, by-pass taxes on capital gain, receive a charitable deduction (if you itemize on your tax return), and support God's work in the world.

A growing number of individuals are using this process to make gifts to their favorite ministries of the church and are finding it to be an easy and convenient way to give.

George Sims, our Director of the Mission Office for Planned Giving, is available to answer your questions and walk you through this process. In the long run, you may be in a position to make contributions you never considered. George is just a phone call away and toll free: **877.526.2448**.

*(Continued from page 1)*

the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. From such a fund donors direct distributions to ministries of their choice and teach others to give. Provisions may be made for ministries which discontinue beyond the donor's lifetime.

*From such a fund donors direct distributions to ministries of their choice and teach others to give.*

Memorial Endowment Funds can be created and partially funded during the lifetime of the donor(s) or at death through a bequest or from remainders of trusts, gift annuities, real estate, or other assets.



Individually crafted plans meet the needs and goals of any individual or family. To learn more about this giving plan, contact us. We will be happy to discuss your goals and help you accomplish them.

A gift in your will or estate plan can give forever.

## Miscellaneous

- **Employment Opportunity, Christ Lutheran, Roanoke, VA**

Position Description: MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Minister of Christian Formation (MCF) is a full-time position and an integral member of the staff of Christ Lutheran Church (CLC). The successful applicant will lead, equip and inspire the full range of Christian Formation at CLC and will coordinate a comprehensive program of lifelong education, mentoring, support groups and opportunities for development of Christian faith.

Duties and Responsibilities:

In conjunction with appropriate leadership, the successful candidate will coordinate a program of Sunday Church School and Vacation Bible School for the youth of the congregation. In addition, the successful candidate will work with youth leaders to develop and coordinate youth programs such as the Senior High Youth Group and the Middle School Youth Group.

The successful candidate will work with congregation leaders to coordinate opportunities for adults to understand their Christian faith and lifelong vocation, including programs such as adult Sunday Church School, Bible studies, and other similar programs.

Finally, the successful candidate will collaborate with congregational leadership to envision, plan for and implement new Formation ministries within the congregation and the wider Roanoke community.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate should have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution of higher education, specialized training and/or a lesser degree in Christian Formation, Education, youth work or the equivalent practical experience. The successful candidate need not be a member of a Lutheran Church but must be familiar with and supportive of Lutheran theology, worship and practice. The successful candidate is not required (but may if he or she chooses) become a member of CLC. However, regular attendance at CLC worship services and functions is expected.

Oversight and Accountability:

The MCF will report to the Pastor and will be accountable to the Pastor and the Church Council of CLC. The MCF will report his/her activities to the Church Council on a monthly basis and at such other times as the Pastor may require. The MCF will also be subject to an annual review of his/her performance.

Compensation:

The MCF will be paid an annual salary commensurate with education and experience, plus benefits, including two weeks of vacation annually.

Setting: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is located in Roanoke, Virginia. Roanoke is a vibrant city of manageable size located in southwest Virginia. Surrounded by mountains, it is a beautiful place to live. The Church has over 550 members and active ministries that have potential for growth. The congregation is a church of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and has been engaged ministry in Roanoke since 1916.

The projected start date is May 15, 2008 but is negotiable

Applications may be submitted immediately, but must be received no later than March 15, 2008. However the posting may be closed sooner if the position is filled prior to March 15th. Letters of introduction and resumes should be addressed:

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Minister of Christian Formation Position  
2011 Brandon Ave., SW  
Roanoke, VA 24015

- **Spring Weekend at Gettysburg Seminary**

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg is offering “Spring Weekend at the Seminary” February 29-March 2, 2008.

Because the seminary you choose for your theological education is one of the most important decisions you will make, LTSG wants to make this first step in your journey easier. The seminary will pay for your participation in Seminary Weekend (including on-site housing, food and transportation to and from local airports).

Register by February 1, 2008, at the Admissions Office homepage at [www.ltsg.edu](http://www.ltsg.edu) to access the registration form, or call the Admissions Office, toll-free 1-800-MLUTHER, ext. 3008.

- **Lutheran Summer Music Offers New Congregational Partnership Opportunity**

*“I learned that God can be worshiped in many ways ... this month I learned the beauty and majesty of traditional Lutheran worship.”*

This quote, taken from a final evaluation by a teen musician at the 2007 Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM), demonstrates the sustaining power of Lutheran music and worship to connect with young people in a personally meaningful way. It also celebrates the power of LSM, a program dedicated to the rich musical heritage of the church. Each summer, LSM brings together 150 high school age band, orchestra, choir, organ and keyboard students from throughout the US for musical study and performance in a supportive environment.

If we fret over the future of church musicianship, we need only look to the private studios, recital halls and evening worship services at LSM to see that young people do still respond to the hymns and liturgy and that they do possess the talent, passion and focus to serve

congregations and the church as a whole. LSM *is* cultivating the future musicians of the church, and can be a powerful partner for congregations.

To that end, LSM has created a new program designed to invite ELCA, LCMS and other congregations to partner with them in their mission of “strengthening and expanding the church’s heritage of excellence in music” and ignite the spark in young people that will lead to more refined musical skills, more conscious connection between music and worship, and more motivation to share their gifts within the church.

LSM Admissions Director Susan Olstad, who brings more than 20 years of professional service to the church, recognized the need for partnership between congregations nationwide and LSM. “We want to expand our mission connection to congregations in a very authentic way.” she says. “Foundationally we serve to develop the future musicians of the church, but need congregational leadership to help us identify musically gifted youth who would thrive in an intentional community that supports and encourages musical and spiritual growth.” Congregations that recognize the need to encourage young musicians to connect their passion for music with their relationship to the church are invited to join the Young Musicians Partnership.

The partnership is simple:

1. Congregations seed a scholarship within their own church to help send a talented high school musician to the LSM Academy & Festival.
2. LSM responds to that scholarship with a 3:1 financial match to make the program even more affordable to the young musician.
3. *All* students, whether scholarship recipients or not, who attend LSM from a member congregation receive a 10% tuition discount.
4. LSM provides member congregations with resources and ideas for how to raise scholarship dollars. Member congregations become their own network for sharing best practices.
5. Scholarship recipients attend LSM and enjoy the four-week immersion into musical training, performance, and learning more about the musical heritage of the Lutheran Church.
6. Upon returning home, scholarship recipients are encouraged to share what they’ve learned through either special music offerings or other established forums.

The 2008 Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival will take place on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota from June 22 to July 20. If you would like to learn more about the Young Musicians Partnership, the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival or share a student referral, please contact Susan toll free at 888.635.6583, direct at 612.230.3291, or by email at [solstad@lutheransummertime.org](mailto:solstad@lutheransummertime.org). LSM welcomes all calls and inquiries and can be found online at [www.lutheransummertime.org](http://www.lutheransummertime.org).

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<b>VIRGINIA SYNOD CALENDAR</b> <b>February – April 2008</b>
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**February 2008**

- 1-3 ACTS Electives, English Inn, Charlottesville
- 1-3 Winter Celebration II, Eagle Eyrie
- 3 Valley Strategy Implementation, Reformation, New Market
- 16 Presidents & Treasurers Seminar, Christ, Richmond
- 19 Leadership Support Committee Meeting
- 26 Deadline for Journey Together materials

**March 2008**

- 1 Presidents & Treasurers Seminar, Grace, Waynesboro
- 1-2 7th Day, Eagle Eyrie
- 2-11 Conference of Bishops
- 7 Journey Together mailed
- 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
- 28-19 Synod Council Meeting, Charlottesville
- 28-30 Lutheran Men in Mission, Roslyn

**April 2008**

- 5 Presidents & Treasurers Seminar, Gloria Dei, Hampton
- 7-9 Call to Common Mission (Ecumenical Relations Committees of Virginia Episcopal Diocese, Metro-DC Synod and Virginia Synod)
- 15 Deadline for Journey Together materials
- 15-17 Region 9 Synods Staff Retreat
- 18-19 Candidacy Committee, Salem
- 25 Journey Together mailed
- 29 Deadline for UPDATE materials (to be mailed May 9)

**Attachments**

**[National Lutheran Homes: Coming Events](#)**

**[LTSS: Lay School of Religion: March 2008](#)**