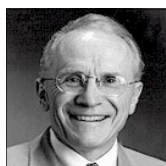


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Assembly will hear about “baptized disciples”

Dr. Roland Martinson, professor of children, youth and family ministry at St. Paul Seminary, will present the theme, “Ambassadors for Christ: Baptized Disciples” on Friday afternoon and Friday night during the 20th annual Virginia Synod Assembly at Roanoke College June 8-10.

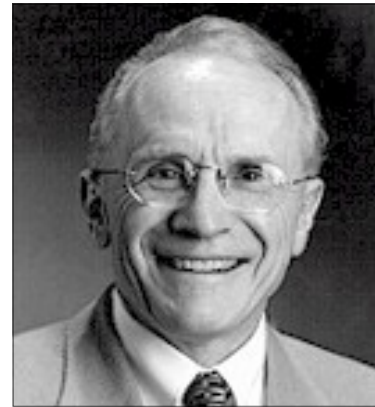
Bible study leader for the Assembly will be Dr. Marcus Miller, president of Southern Seminary. Else Thompson, executive for human relations of the ELCA since 1998, and the official ELCA representative, will report on Saturday and Sunday.



Thompson



Derrick



Martinson

Martinson, a former pastor in California and South Dakota, joined the seminary faculty in 1977 and chaired a curriculum committee in 1993. Miller, a former bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, moved to the seminary last year. Thompson has overseen personnel policies, guided staff selection, provided for employee assistance programs, ensured equitable employee relations practices and maintained personnel records for the ELCA since 1998.

On Saturday evening, Bishop Jim Mauney will preach and Kelly Dawn Bayer Derrick will be ordained at an Assembly service at St. Andrew’s Catholic Church in Roanoke. Derrick has been called as associate pastor for youth and family ministry at St. Philip, Roanoke, where her husband, the Rev. David Derrick, is pastor. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Southern Seminary. A life-long Lutheran, she has been a member of Zion, Waynesboro, Messiah, Mechanicsville, Christ, Fredericksburg, and St. Philip, Roanoke.

Elections will be held for Synod vice president and secretary. Mark Reed of St. Mark, Luray, is stepping down as vice president and Patricia Morgan’s term as secretary is ending.

Norfolk Circuit Judge Charles Poston of First, Norfolk, has been nominated for election as vice president. A former Juvenile Court judge, he has been congregation president and he has taught undergraduate and graduate classes in college. Janet Gomez of Apostles, Gloucester, has been nominated for secretary. Both are serving as members of Synod Council. Elections also will be held for four seats on the Synod Council and three on the Committee on Discipline.

Voting members will consider two resolutions dealing with sexuality issues. On Saturday afternoon, a session of up to 45 minutes has been scheduled for voting members to express up to 5 minutes their personal opinions on matters of faith and conscience, without drafting or responding to a resolution.

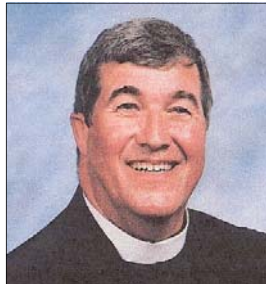
Workshops on Saturday morning will explore ways for voting members to continue in the covenant God made with them in baptism. Following the “Baptized Disciples” Assembly theme, the workshops will consider ways to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper, to proclaim the good news of Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the world.

Virginia Tech Campus Pastor Bill King will preach at the opening service on Friday and Pastor Nicholas Eichelberger of St. Mark, Luray, will be the preacher for the closing service on Sunday.

LUTHERANS
IN THE NEWS

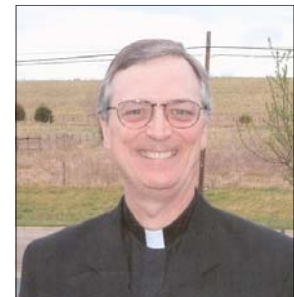


Two veteran pastors who have served in the Synod for their entire careers—**Pastors James Bangle** of Ebenezer, Marion, and **Robert Holley** of Christ, Staunton—will retire this summer.



Bangle

Bangle, a Charlotte, N.C. native and graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and Southern Seminary, served at St. Matthew, Richmond, and at Ebenezer since 1976. He was board chairman of Lutheran Family Services, vice chairman of Southern Seminary board and president of Southern Seminary Alumni Association. He married the former Jo Taylor and he is the father of two children. Bangle will do part-time social work in Marion.



Holley

Holley, a native of Glendale, Calif., is a graduate of George Washington University and Philadelphia Seminary. He has served at Ascension, Danville; Epiphany, Dale City; St. Mark, Charlottesville, and at Christ, Staunton, for the past 10 years. He and his wife, the former Janet Fetzer, will make their retirement home near Charleston, S.C. They have two children.



Fowler (left)

H. Reed Fowler Jr., director of public works for the City of Newport News and council president and building committee chair at Reformation, Newport News, was named a Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year by the American Public Works Association at a Kansas City conference. He also is president of the association's Virginia-D.C.-Maryland chapter and a leader in the United Way, Red Cross and American Cancer Society.

Bishop Theodore F. Schneider of the Metro DC Synod, a 1956 graduate of Roanoke College, has received a Lifetime Ecumenist Award from the Virginia Council of Churches in recognition of a lifetime of commitment to the ecumenical movement. He is retiring this summer.

Doris Cook has been named human resources director of Lutheran Family Services of Virginia at its Roanoke office. Cook formerly served in similar posts for Accellent, a manufacturer of medical devices, Applebee's International, Aramark and LSG Sky Chiefs. She holds a bachelor and masters degrees from the University of West Florida.

Pastor CeCee Mills of Rejoice, Chesapeake, was featured in an Associated Press story in the Washington Post on May 19 under the headline: "Wanted: More Black Worshipers." A second headline said "A Dwindling Evangelical Lutheran Church Reaches out to African Americans." The story began: "A woman of quiet faith on most days, Lucille Mills transforms each Sunday into the Rev. CeCee—a foot-stomping minister who can match hallelujahs with the best Southern preachers."



Cook

Ben Anderson of St. Mark's, Roanoke, No.1 in the graduating class at William Byrd High in Vinton, received a \$20,000 college scholarship from a program affiliated with the Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame. The son of Pastor Tim and Kay Anderson, he was one of 86 applicants for the scholar-

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ship. Anderson, who made a hole in one earlier this year, has accepted early admission to the University of Virginia and he's looking at a career in law or medicine.

Trinity, Roanoke, will observe its 60th anniversary after the morning service on June 24 with a celebration of heritage. A 50th anniversary time capsule will be unearthed, according to Pastor Ken Lane.

A chamber music concert was given by three musicians from Holy Trinity, New York, at Holy Trinity, Lynchburg, on May 6. A Celebration of Virginia, a multi-course gourmet dinner reflecting the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement, was prepared by **Pastor Dennis Roberts** of Holy Trinity. Proceeds of the dinner and a sealed auction were given in support of the Synod Fund for Leaders in Mission, church nursery renovations and program development.

Julie Swanson, chief executive of Lutheran Family Services, has been elected to the board of the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations. The organization advocates for a quality system of services for children and families with special needs and challenges.

Pastor Eric Moehring of Christ, Richmond, led a graduation service for students of the Leadership Program for musicians at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church June 2.

Gary Laing of Holy Trinity, Wytheville, has been elected professor emeritus at Wytheville Community College. A professional engineer, he served on the faculty from 1971 until his retirement in 2002.

Summer performances at the Oak Grove Pavilion, a community program at **Zion, Floyd**, will include Cotton Patch Gospel on June 23 and the Spiritual Four Gospel Singers on Aug. 11. Both events will be at 7:30 p.m.

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Mike Maxey elected 11th president of Roanoke College

Michael Creed "Mike" Maxey, a 22-year member of Roanoke College administration, was unanimously elected as the college's 11th president by the trustee board in early May. He will succeed Dr. Sabine O'Hara, who has resigned, effective July 1.

However, because of O'Hara's vacation plans for the remainder of her term as president, Maxey was named acting president on May 21, to facilitate a smooth transition of the college administration. He will officially assume the office on July 1.

Maxey, who is 55, started as director of planned giving in 1985 and then moved up to director of capital resources, vice president for resource development and admissions services and he has been vice president for college relations and dean of admissions and financial aid since 1992.

He is the third Roanoke president appointed as an internal candidate and he has the longest career as a Roanoke administrator prior to election as president. Other internal appointments were Dr. Julius Dreher, third president, and Dr. Perry Kendig, the seventh president.

A Bassett native, he is a trustee, former council member and past congregation president of College Lutheran, Salem. Before joining Roanoke College, he worked in academic affairs at the University of New Hampshire and in student affairs at Averett College and Wake Forest University. He holds a bachelor and master's degrees from Wake Forest. He attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University and he holds a certificate of advanced graduate study from the University of New Hampshire. Maxey and his wife, Terri, a former financial aid administrator, have three sons, Michael, a student at Wittenberg University, and Stuart and Jack, who are in school in Salem.



Maxey

LUTHERAN

“Mike has an ambitious and attainable vision for Roanoke’s future, based on an intimate knowledge of the college’s present and its past,” said Robert Wortmann, college trustees chairman. “The board is very excited about having Mike Maxey take the helm.”

Generally, the Roanoke faculty had overwhelming support for Maxey’s election, said Richard Grant, associate professor of physics and faculty moderator. “Vice President Maxey is well respected on campus for his honesty and integrity. His knowledge and experience over the last 20 years make him uniquely suited to lead the college,” he said.

Roanoke College “has been on the ascent in the higher education world for decades,” Maxey said. “Our aims are even higher. Our teaching and curricula are superior. Our experiences for students make education come to life. Our graduates are loyal. Our trustees and supporters have vision and commitment. I could not ask for a better community...It is exciting to continue the tradition of making a strong college even stronger. Things are done very well here but I believe the best Roanoke is yet to come.” One continuing challenge is the need for more scholarships so a college education will be affordable by families, he said.

During Maxey’s tenure in the admissions office, the college received a record number of applications nine times, the size of the freshman class grew by 36 percent and the racial ethnic diversity of incoming classes increased from 1 to 12 percent.

During the three years’ service of Dr. O’Hara, Roanoke had record enrollment and extended the number of consecutive balanced financial operations to 52 years. Four residence halls were built and two academic buildings were renovated. An artificial turf athletic field with seating for 1,000 was completed and dedicated recently.

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Roanoke group sponsors Zambian children

An international organization founded by Dr. Stephen ReMine and his wife, Karen ReMine, a registered nurse, of St. John, Roanoke, is offering a child sponsorship program, providing education, a daily meal and medical care for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia. St. John members have taken 20 sponsorships and the overall goal is to sponsor 130 children.

St. John has donated funds for the first well in a village under construction in Zambia, according to Karen ReMine. Members have donated hand-carved crosses and supplies and the vacation Bible school will make children’s book bags to send to Zambia. A prayer group will support mission work in Zambia and Nicaragua, she said.

The organization, Orphan Medical Network International (OMNI), provides free medical care to orphaned children who have no access or are unable to afford medical care. The organization is providing medical care to over 5,000 children each year through mobile medical clinics. In July, the Zambian government gave OMNI 60 acres of land and work started on a multi-million-dollar children’s village which will have 12 orphan homes, a school, chapel, work shops and a co-op garden, according to Karen ReMine.

Omni runs a school with 130 students and three teachers, as well as two orphanages in Zambia. A medical team, including seven from Roanoke, will travel to Zambia in July to provide care for the orphans and poor. Information about the sponsorship program may be obtained from Chriss Davies-Ross at 540-772-4334 or ReMine at 540-521-6638.



Karen ReMine holding Zambian infant

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College students talk about what it means to be called by God

A dozen college students discussed with one another what it means to be called by God both to vocation and to the lifestyle of a follower of Christ during a canoe trip in the annual Call and Canoe Retreat at Camp Caroline Furnace on the weekend of May 18-20.

A Saturday trip down the Shenandoah River formed the centerpiece of the weekend, providing the perfect opportunity for relaxed conversation about where God may be leading each young person in his or her quest to be a good steward of the gifts received. The retreat, led by Pastors Chip Gunsten and Dave Delaney of the Synod staff, intersects two areas of the Synod's ministry: Keeping Young Adults Concerned (KYAC) and the discernment process for public ministry.

The Call and Canoe event is held each May, publicity and registration materials are available on the Synod's website in January.



Synod youth on the river

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Hute

Why serve the Church?

**The second article in a series
introducing Virginia Synod candidates for ministry.**

Kaye Hute serves five North Dakota churches.

I am Kaye Hute, beloved child of God. That is how I introduce myself in the many autobiographical papers required at seminary. For a long time in my life, I forgot that, or maybe chose to ignore it, so it has become the core piece of who and Whose I am. I am a "second career" seminarian, as they so gracefully call us older students. I was born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia. I have one son, Andy, who is the light of my life. He currently is a student at Longwood College. When he was about 5 years old, I realized he didn't know the Bible stories I remembered. So we decided to go to St Andrew Lutheran Church in Portsmouth.

We both became more and more active in the church, as the people there became our family, I experienced precious moments of grace and joy as I immersed myself in God's Word. It was here that I began to discern my call to ministry, with the help of my pastor, Karen Van Stee.

I worked as a mammographer for 15 years, as an x-ray tech for at least 15 years before that. I received my training at Maryview Hospital. I finally received my undergraduate degree (major in health science, minor in counseling) in 2004 from Old Dominion University. I entered Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in the fall of 2004. It has been a wonderful experience and God's call to me has been nourished and strengthened.

I am serving my internship at Turtle River Ministry in Larimore, North Dakota. I was blessed to be sent here because I expressed an interest in rural ministry. TRM, as we call it, is made up of five congregations, spread over about a 50-mile radius. The largest congregation has about 100 worshipers on Sunday, the smallest one has about 10. North Dakota is very different from anything I have ever experienced, and I love being here. The people are so friendly, open and welcoming. Rural life is indeed different from life in Tidewater Virginia. Because of the arrangement of the congregations, I get to preach every Sunday, usually twice. I feel like the experience here will greatly enrich my pastoral formation. I look forward to my final year at LTSS and then serving as a parish pastor. God truly has been good to me.

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Worship moves from bowling alley to storefront
by Pastor Paul Walters

On Sunday June 24, at 4 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg is planning a service of dedication for our new worship space and everyone is invited!

Grace is one of the new congregations being born in the Virginia Synod.

Presently nearly 50 people gather for worship each Sunday. Unlike most ELCA congregations, none of those folks go into a church when they worship. At Grace, worship is held in the banquet hall on the second floor of Liberty Lanes, a bowling alley. This obviously poses some challenges to growth.

Our office and meeting space is a storefront rental. There are two significant problems posed by this space. First, it is not large enough for worship. Second it is located next door to a Commonwealth of Virginia Parole and Probation Office. This means to get inside you generally walk through a haze of cigarette smoke. Again, this is not the most inviting situation.

So with great joy and anticipation we are preparing to move to a different storefront. The space will be large enough for both offices and worship and our new neighbors will be an engineering firm and an American Red Cross. While we are confident this move will help us grow, there are significant financial challenges involved.

This is where things have gotten exciting. Through a congregational capital campaign, we raised more than \$6,000, but that was just the beginning. Congregations throughout the Virginia Synod and one in the Metro DC Synod, heard of the many challenges we face and heard the call to respond. Not only is Grace lifted up in prayer throughout the Virginia Synod, but nearly a dozen congregations have given generously in support of this move.

When we started, our initial goal was \$12,000, to help provide upfront costs of moving as well help us grow into our new rent, a \$1,500 per month increase. To our joy and amazement we have received more than \$20,000 in support. In fact, in addition to a generous financial gift, Lutheran Men in Mission of the Virginia Synod offered to come help with the work of moving!

These generous gifts help remind us there are a great many others helping this church come into being. We know we are not alone. We know there are people of faith from Fairfax to Norfolk, from Mount Sidney to Virginia Beach, from Blue Ridge to Suffolk, and from Bealeton to Newport News caring for and supporting Grace. This is the Holy Spirit at work, strengthening, uplifting and supporting Grace. Thanks be to God.

There is plenty of work to be done. We are well aware to be self-supporting in Fredericksburg will require us to triple or quadruple in size. Land and construction are both extremely expensive, but if this experience is any indication, we need not fear. For we are faithfully building a congregation laying a foundation of obedience and generosity, outreach and witness, and the Holy Spirit is in our midst.

One way we are faithful is through tithing the gifts we receive from outside the congregation. This year we are proud to announce our intention of giving this gift of money through the American Godparents Program (www.agpsf.org) to provide scholarships for two young men in their final year of medical school in Tanzania. In this way we remind ourselves God calls us to faithful generosity no matter how much or how little we have.

Nearly every Sunday we have the joy of meeting new folks curious about this group of people the Holy Spirit is gathering together. Continue to pray for us, that we may continue to bear the redeeming and life giving Word of Christ to all people in this community. And if you are in the neighborhood, please join us for worship one Sunday morning at 10 am.

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Brandon Oaks expands, White to head VLH

Virginia Lutheran Homes has opened 24 independent living apartments at its Brandon Oaks retirement community in Roanoke and the board has elected a new slate of officers. Twenty-two of the apartments have been sold. The grand opening of the Dogwood Apartments was held May 18.

Construction continues on 40 larger assisted living units, scheduled to open in January. They will replace the present 27 assisted living units and that space will be used for a series of amenities, such as a wellness center for exercise and aerobics, a therapeutic pool and a second dining area and game room, according to Skip Zubrod, VLH president.

Dr. Paul White of College, Salem, has been elected chairman of the VLH board, succeeding Ronald Leiser, who has served on the board for six years. Betty Cochran of First English, Richmond, is the new vice chairman; Pastor David Skole, Christ, Roanoke, is secretary and Dr. George Henning, St. Mark's, Roanoke, is treasurer.

New VLH board members are Tom Wray, College, Salem; Ned Garman and Mariam Taylor, Holy Trinity, Lynchburg, and Kathy Kronau, St. John, Roanoke.



White

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First, Norfolk, starts major renovation program

Construction has started on Building on First Foundations, Phase I, a \$1.4-million renovation program at First, Norfolk. Completion is scheduled by Thanksgiving, Pastor William Trexler said.

Features of the renovation are a commercial-sized elevator to serve all three floors of the present church, narthex access to the rear gallery, doubling the size and improving the ambience of the Welcome Center, as well as creating a library/archives/meeting room off the Welcome Center, providing an office suite for pastors and associate in ministry. (When the worship space was built in 1930, the gallery access was deleted to save costs.)

Also planned is renovation of the music room, including adding an office for the director of parish music, creation of a second floor handicapped accessible restroom, creation of two adult education classrooms, adding a commercial kitchen, complete renovation of pre-school education facilities and new Sunday School office and bookkeeper's office. Financing is with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, with a goal of eliminating all debt within 10 years and proceeding with Phase II of the master plan. Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas are the architects, with primary work directed by a restoration specialist. Gresham Inc. is the contractor.

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Graduates urged to be advocates for social change

A record Roanoke College graduating class of 410 from 25 states and seven foreign countries heard Dr. Donald Armentrout, a University of the South theologian, encourage them to be "politically involved and an advocate for social change" in a commencement address on May 5.

Armentrout, a Lutheran and a native of Harrisonburg, said, "The tassel is worth the hassle... Think of (your education) as a ticket to change the world. Be kinder than necessary for everyone you

[CONTINUED NEXT PAGE](#)

meet is fighting some kind of battle. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. And leave the rest to God. May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can really make a difference in this world, so that you are not able with God's grace to do what others claim cannot be done." Armentrout, a 1961 Roanoke graduate, received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Dean of the Chapel Paul Henrickson preached the baccalaureate sermon on "Farther than the 'I' can see."

Two Lutheran graduates—Becca Winship, a biochemistry major from Abingdon, and Lindsay Ballowe, a history and religion double major from Las Cruces, N.M.—will be counselors at Lutherlyn, a Lutheran camp for children in Pennsylvania. At the end of summer, Winship plans to move to New Mexico to build houses for immigrants with the New Mexico Habitat for Humanity.



Winship and Ballowe

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Gritsch

Gritsch will speak at Reformation, Newport News

A talk on medical challenges concluded an Ethics in Life Series at Reformation, Newport News, and plans were made for a June 23 talk by Dr. Eric Gritsch, emeritus church history professor at Gettysburg Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. H. Doug Watson, director of pastor care at Riverside Medical Center in Newport News, discussed the ethical challenges facing patients, family members and medical professionals. He described the elements involved in making ethical decisions and the processes used by decision makers to arrive at an ethical decision.

Gritsch will speak on "Being Christian in the 21st Century: Guided by the Augsburg Confession." His recent book was entitled "A Handbook for Christian Life in the 21st Century." He will speak at an 8:30 a.m. breakfast meeting.

The 42-member Peninsula Concert Band closed out Reformation's Mildred McDaniel Concert season with a blend of patriotic and popular music on May 19. Members of the audience were asked to stand if they served in one of the five branches of service.

The fifth season of concerts at Reformation will open on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. with Lyra, an a cappella vocal group from St. Petersburg, Russia.

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Half of Synod congregations give \$95,000 to ULA Appeal

The 2007 United Lutheran Appeal has received contributions totaling \$94,921.68, with approximately 52% of the synod's 167 congregations participating as of May 24, 2007. The appeal continues until the end of the year because many congregations schedule their ULA campaigns after the traditional Epiphany season.

The goal of the United Lutheran Appeal is two-fold: to inform all of the congregations of the Virginia Synod about the nine agencies and institutions supported by the synod, and to seek their financial participation in those ministries. An estimated 100,000 people across the synod, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, are served by those nine ministries.

Among those who benefit from the contributions made to the ULA are children in families and institutional settings, the aged in nursing homes and retirement communities, college students, seminary

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students, inner-city youth, prisoners, victims of natural disasters, hospital patients and people needing emergency assistance. By supporting the United Lutheran Appeal, congregations are able to extend their outreach ministries beyond the scope of their parishes, and thereby participate in the broader ministry of the Church.

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LDR offers support for Virginia Tech shootings

A Lutheran Disaster Response official came to Blacksburg in early May to meet with pastors' and disaster responders' groups and others directly impacted by the April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech. Pastor Kevin Massey, assistant to the LDR director, saw the memorials and messages of support sent from all over the world to the Virginia Tech campus.

Lutheran Family Services, through Jan Tobias, Synod LDR coordinator, is providing resources for pastors and counselors to help them cope with the trauma and grief associated with the tragedy.

Luther Memorial, Blacksburg, scheduled a special congregation event on May 20 for mental health professionals to discuss what may be expected in feelings, emotions and reactions following the April shootings.

Resources to assist those responding to the shootings are posted on the LFSV website, www.lfsva.org; and also on the website of Lutheran Disaster Response, www.ldr.org. Information about contributing to the Hokie Spirit Fund, to support the victims of the shootings and their families, can be obtained on the Virginia Tech website, www.vt.edu.

In addition to being sensitive to symptoms of trauma resulting from the shootings (not only to Tech students home for the summer, but also to their families, to children, to others traumatized by this event), congregations may make a special effort to reach out in friendship to Koreans and Korean-Americans in communities.

Culturally, many Koreans feel shame and even guilt by association that the perpetrator of the shootings was Korean. It's important to reassure them that no blame is extended to their ethnic community, and to appreciate the special struggle they have to deal with this dimension of the Virginia Tech tragedy. Everyone shares concern for the victims and their families. "We all are held in the comforting arms of a loving, suffering God, and we all are eager to share in the long-term healing process that will be necessary," Tobias said.

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LFS offers visitation centers for foster care families

A family visitation center for foster care youth and their relatives has been created in Richmond by Lutheran Family Services and the Henrico County Department of Social Services. It is the first of its type in the Richmond region.

Located at the LFS office on West Club Lane, the public-private partnership joins two agencies working to strengthen reunification efforts between foster care youth and their families. The center helps families gain skills necessary to build stable, healthy families by providing custodial parents a safe, comfortable, structured, child-friendly environment for monitored visits of children with their birth parents or biological family.

The visitation space allows families to interact while staff members observe and assess parent-

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ing skills and when needed, provide hands-on parent training. Information from the supervised visit also will help the court system and Department of Social Services in determining the most appropriate visitation or custodial arrangements for children. Eventually LFS staff members hope to provide additional clinical support services for families using the center.

If the lives of foster care youth are to improve, “we need to ensure that children have consistent and frequent contact with their parents or legal guardians,” said Rod Gordon of Henrico County Social Services. His office also offers a Fatherhood Initiative, providing training and a weekly support group helping men meet daily challenges of fatherhood. LFS offers therapeutic foster care and mentoring, international and waiting child adoption, case management, community-based services and developmental services for autism at five locations.

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St. Philip Roanoke, has record blood drive

St. Philip, Roanoke, a leading provider of Red Cross blood in the Roanoke Valley, held a blood-mobile May 21, collecting 138 units, the highest total in the congregation’s 14-year sponsorship. Blood is collected in May and October at St. Philip.

Rusty Johnson received a plaque recognizing his donation of the 3,000th unit of blood during those 14 years. The donors included 48 members of St. Philip. When the blood is separated and used for plasma, platelets and red cells, the 138 units could save as many as 414 lives.

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Two Synod groups travel to Tanzania

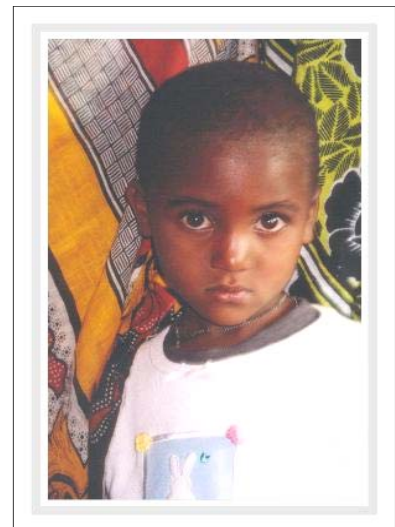
Two separate Synod groups will take gifts of money, quilts, food and other material items to Tanzania this summer. A 12th Lutheran Safari for the American God Parent Scholarship Foundation will be led by retired Pastor Dwayne Westermann, formerly of College, Salem, and a second pilgrimage of mission partners will travel from First, Norfolk, to the Northern Diocese of Tanzania.



Lutheran Safari group on a big game drive in Tanzania’s famous Tarangire National Park.

Two trips are planned for 2008. For more information, see www.agpsf.org.

On the Lutheran Safari, Pastor Gary Scheidt of Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Smith Mountain Lake, will help dedicate the dormitory at the Door of Hope Ministry, a residence which will allow Maasai girls to attend school. Safari travelers will deliver funds from Trinity Ecumenical Parish and Christ, Roanoke, to support the rebuilding of a classroom at Hai Technical Training Center, as well as visiting pastors and congregations.



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LUTHERAN***National Lutheran Home proposes Winchester community***

More than 150 people expressed interest in location of a Lutheran retirement community near Winchester at three focus meetings held by the National Lutheran Home in May. Area Lutherans are “very excited” about the prospect, according to one who attended.

National Lutheran Home, based at Rockville, Md., outside Washington, has a contract for property on Rt. 50, near the hospital in Winchester. The next step is to obtain rezoning for the site in Frederick County.

A proposal for a Lutheran-owned retirement community in the Winchester area has been a “longtime hope and dream,” according to the Bethel Banner, newsletter of Bethel, Winchester. If completed, this would be the first National Lutheran Home operation in Virginia.

Questions about housing options, nursing/medical services, amenities and estimated ranges of costs were raised at the focus meetings.

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