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LUTHERANS IN THE NEWS



Bouknight

Pastor Philip

Bouknight will move from the **Floyd-Willis Parish** to associate pastor for Trinity Ecumenical Parish at Smith Mountain Lake on Oct. 19. Bouknight, who has served at Floyd since his ordination in 2004, is chair of the Synod Global Missions Committee and founder of the Malawi Mission, a cooperative ministry. He's a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Southern Seminary. He and his wife, Tara, have three children.

Apostles, Gloucester, has a new preschool and daycare program targeting families with four-year-olds considered to be at risk but who do not qualify for Head Start. The year-around program, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., requires volunteers to assist a staff of two. Also, a gift of \$28,000 to the church was presented to Habitat for Humanity. The local director said it was the largest donation he's received.

Pastor Lynn Bechdolt, Holy Trinity, Martinsville, will speak on Christianity at a multicultural interfaith dialogue at Patrick Henry Community College, Martinsville, at noon on Oct. 23. The theme for the event, sponsored in part by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, will be "One God, One Humanity: A New Road to Peace & Tolerance." Other speakers will be from the Jewish and Islamic traditions.

Bethel, Winchester, reports an expansion of its Apple Tree Christian Preschool and Clubhouse, offering a faith-based curriculum for ages 2 1/2 to 12. **Marguerite Glogau**, the new director, has teaching and childcare experience in New Jersey, Colorado and Virginia. Also, Bethel's Creation Care ministry planned a canoe trip to clean up trash and litter on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Resurrection, Fredericksburg, is planning to establish a preschool program in its new building, now under construction, by September 2008. The congregation has a new ministry joining the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church in feeding the homeless on each fifth Saturday. Also, Resurrection has collected clothing, dried food and craft supplies to be sent to 500 Lutheran Inuipiats (Eskimos) at Shishmaref, Alaska. Global warming is expected to force the town and its herd of caribou to relocate inland.

The Trudy Lau and Ursula Wang Piano Duo performed at **First English, Richmond**, on Sept. 9.

Paul Dellinger, secretary of the congregation council at **Holy Trinity, Wytheville**, has retired after 44 years as a Southwest Virginia reporter for The Roanoke Times. The newspaper estimated that Dellinger wrote more than 17,600 articles.

St. Michael, Blacksburg, supports a Nothing But Nets project providing insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria transmission in the poorest parts of the world. One bed net costing \$10 will last a family for about four years. The project is sponsored by the United Nations Foundation.

Father John McNamee, who works with the poor and under-privileged in Worker Houses in Philadelphia, will read from his collection of poetry at **St. Stephen, Williamsburg**, on Oct. 19 at 7:15 p.m.

The **Lutheran Council of Tidewater** will hold a joint Reformation celebration on the theme, "What Does This Mean? Lutherans Through the Centuries" at **Gloria Dei, Hampton**, on Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.

At **Martin Luther, Bergton**, **Zelda Whetzel** was recognized for 50 years of service as organ-



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ist. The congregation has a new picnic shelter, supported by a memorial gift through the Women of the ELCA.

Members of **Holy Trinity, Wytheville**, sponsor 16 children at the Village of Hope in Haiti through the Lazarus Project.

St. Michael, Virginia Beach, participates in a prayer ministry called Moms in Touch International (MITI) which provides a way to pray with other mothers for their children's schools. The MITI group meets for an hour on Wednesday mornings to pray for a child or a grandchild and their school.

Trinity Ecumenical Parish at Smith Mountain Lake offers Mommy and Me, a Christian-based program for two-year-olds and a parent for two hours on Thursday mornings. The emphasis is on "being God's children, surrounded by God's love, where two-year-olds can develop physically, mentally and emotionally."

Luther Memorial, Blacksburg, has a new picnic shelter, an Eagle Scout project of **Mike East-erling**, a member of the congregation's troop.

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Bishop Hanson offers pastoral care to the Virginia Tech Community after April 16

by Pastor Bill King, Virginia Tech campus pastor

On September 19- 20, ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson carved out time in his busy schedule to offer personal pastoral care to the Virginia Tech community in the aftermath of the April 16 shootings.

Preaching at a special *Service of Hope and Healing* at Luther Memorial, Blacksburg, Hanson began by saying, "In my six years as bishop this is the first time I have invited myself somewhere. But after the events of that horrible day I knew I wanted to be with you." The service was sponsored by Luther Memorial and St. Michael, Blacksburg.

Hanson noted the importance of communal mourning and affirmed the members of the Blacksburg area congregations for their witness to the rest of the church and the nation. Drawing on a reading from Lamentations 3, he emphasized the importance of communal mourning. "It is important in our death-dealing, death-denying culture that the church be a place which speaks honestly of suffering." He noted that the churches and their members have shown what it is to mourn with hope and to affirm, amid the darkness of the world, that the light of Christ can not be overcome.

The temptation in times of great tragedy, said Hanson, is to ask unanswerable "why" questions. "In the story of the man born blind in John 9, Jesus declines to speculate concerning the cause of the blindness—he simply treats it as an opportunity to show God's love."

Recognizing that the shooting at Tech could easily lead to bitterness, Hanson challenged the congregations to be agents of reconciliation and healing. At a reception following the service, the presiding bishop spoke individually with students, faculty, and staff affected by the April 16 tragedy.

Hanson also met with a group of pastors and laity over breakfast. In a question and answer session, Hanson lifted up three major challenges facing the ELCA: The average age of the ELCA members is 15 years older than the population at large. The ELCA is overwhelmingly white in a population which is increasingly diverse. The church, particularly in its worship, is often failing to excite its youth. Hanson quoted one young adult as saying, "If the ELCA were as exciting on Sunday as it is when it



ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson (center) processed with Pastors Bill King (left) and John Wertz at a Blacksburg service.

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Betty Wilson (right) and Marti Larsen had a few words with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson at a Blacksburg breakfast.

does its work in the world, I might consider coming back to church.”

Hanson noted that the ELCA is not well known among the culture at large. He invited those assembled to take the “evangelical” in the church’s name seriously and share the positive expression of the gospel with unchurched friends and neighbors. “For too often,” he said, “we have allowed the fundamentalists to define and distort what it means to be evangelical.”

In a pastoral tone, the bishop emphasized that Lutherans cannot afford to be apathetic in sharing their faith. He told the breakfast gathering that he often asks groups, “How many of you have invited a friend or unchurched neighbor to church in the last three weeks? I saw something not long ago which gave the exact date when the last Lu-

theran in America will die—if present trends continue. We have something worth sharing and need to share it for the sake of the world.”

After the breakfast, Bishop Hanson walked across the Virginia Tech campus, accompanied by Dr. Bill Knocke, chairman of the university’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and a member of Luther Memorial congregation. They visited Norris Hall (site of most of the deaths on April 16) and the memorial constructed on the drill field in memory of the victims. The department was deeply impacted by the shootings, losing numerous students and faculty.

Hanson asked many questions in order to better understand the impact of the tragedy on the Tech faculty, staff, administration and students. Throughout his visit, one sensed a deep pastoral concern for the Blacksburg community.

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Roanoke College enrollment reaches record 2,006 Maxey to be inaugurated as college president Oct. 26

Roanoke College enrollment has passed the 2,000 mark for the first time, reaching a record 2,006 in the fall semester, President Michael Maxey told the college’s Roanoke Valley Alumni chapter.

Maxey’s inauguration as the school’s 11th president has been set for Friday, Oct. 26, at 11:30 a.m. Maxey, 55, had been vice president for college relations and dean of admissions and financial aid since 1992. He came to the college in 1985. He follows Dr. Sabine O’Hare, who moved to Washington after her resignation as president. Earlier, Maxey worked in academic affairs at the University of New Hampshire and in student affairs at Averett College and Wake Forest University.

The student body comes from 40 states and 26 countries. The student/faculty ratio is 14 to 1; 44 percent are male and 56 percent female. Over 85 percent of the students receive financial assistance and more than two-thirds live on campus. More than 70 percent of the students participate in any of 19 varsity or intramural sports.

On Saturday, Sept. 8, 17 high school students from across Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania came to the annual Roanoke College Lutheran Day. College President Michael Maxey welcomed them, a professor and college students talked about campus life and they toured the Salem campus. Bishop Jim Mauney and Chaplain Paul Henrickson spoke to them. Some of the students and their families stayed for an ice cream social afterward.



Maxey

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God's angels at work at Faith, Suffolk

by Babs Benson

I recently had an Oprah moment. You know, an instant when the little light bulb in your brain turns on and you say to yourself, "Aha!" You can't really ignore it once it's happened. As Oprah is fond of saying, "When you know better, you have to do better."

Well, I saw a need that hadn't been clear to me before for whatever reason and I saw an opportunity to serve. Sometimes these "opportunities to serve" aren't really convenient or pleasant or very desirable to do. But one is compelled to do it anyway. We do it because we've become aware of the need and because we're able to do something about it.

I saw an elderly parishioner with some health issues living in a home that needed some tender loving care. The needs were too overwhelming for this gentle man to even know where to begin.

It began with me asking him if I could come over and just do a little cleaning for him. He was agreeable to that. Then I asked him if I could bring some others to help. He said ok. On a warm Saturday afternoon, I brought 40 people.

What I witnessed that day was truly God's angels coming to the rescue. They worked joyfully and gracefully to paint the living room, dining room and kitchen. They worked without complaint, trimming bushes, rotor-tilling a garden, weeding flower beds, sorting through sheds and hauling away five pickup truck loads and two trailer loads of stuff to the dump.

They worked with quiet determination as they sorted through a spare bedroom neck high, full of years of treasures and trash. They worked shoulder to shoulder, ripping up old decayed deck boards and replacing them with new ones, building a new porch. Each step of the way these angels showed respect for this man's belongings and years of memories making him an integral part of the process.

I witnessed something very special that day. It started with an Oprah moment and an opportunity to serve but it blossomed into a modern-day sign of Christ's love and grace.



Babs Benson (top) and Denise McAlpine paint a member's kitchen at Faith, Suffolk.

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God's work, our hands

(Lt. Commander Ralph Barrett of Rejoice, Chesapeake reflects on his experience as a first-time voting member of the ELCA Assembly in Chicago in August.)

For the life of me, I cannot recall just who it was that placed my name in nomination at the 2006 Virginia Synod Assembly to be a voting member of the 2007 ELCA churchwide assembly. And I think I let it go forward assuming that this gathering would never in a million years want me to represent this synod.

I mean, think about it: One of maybe a handful of African American males who are active members of Virginia Synod ELCA congregations; only marginally Lutheran at best, and at that for only the last few years; and in almost abysmal ignorance of the workings of the ELCA beyond Jim Mauney's office. But much like Peter's resume as a fisherman, or Paul's as a persecutor of the church, what seemed a disqualifier to me was just what God was looking for.

As a first-time participant, and as a fairly new Lutheran, initially I felt like the proverbial fish out of water. I anticipated a hall filled with middle-aged Minnesota farmers in bad suits, and bishops

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and clergy who wanted to be anywhere but there. I expected bland worship, uninspired preaching, uninformed and non-challenging Bible presentations, and falling asleep in my seat under the weight of hour upon hour of self-serving speeches, overblown presentations, and cheerleading for the superiority of Lutheranism over every other Christian understanding. And, by the total grace of God, I could not have been more wrong.

Those called for this assembly represented not only synods and states and regions, but a range of humanity I had honestly not expected to see. I was far from the only African American male participating. I actually did meet a Minnesota farmer, but he was neither old nor poorly dressed. I was blessed to meet and speak with active and engaged rostered persons, ordained and lay, bishops and pastors, male and female, straight and gay, who saw me as another believer, who sought and appreciated my thoughts and observations, and who encouraged me in my walk and witness.

I shared meals with Lutherans of every age, including some of the most engaging and inspired youth it has been my pleasure to meet. Worship was central to the process, and it was spirit-filled and exciting. Prayer was the starting and ending point of every process, and breaks for meditation and prayer were programmed into time of particularly contentious discussion. I am convinced that it was only by the power of God's Holy Spirit and our individual and corporate prayer, which preserved the order, discipline, and spirit of telling the truth in love that absolutely needed to exist within such a diverse gathering.

God has called wonderful leaders to his church body, locally, synodically, nationally and internationally, in and out of the ELCA and world Lutheranism. I was particularly impressed with our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, a Christian man of real faith and wisdom, whose patient and tireless leadership is true fruit of the Holy Spirit.

I felt privileged to witness the passing of the torch of leadership, as the ELCA's first and only secretary, Pastor Lowell Almen retired after a lifetime of service to God and his church, and was replaced by David Swartling, first layman to be elected to the position.

We were addressed by leaders from the Lutheran World Federation, from ecumenical partners and from representatives of other church bodies with whom the ELCA does not maintain formal ecumenical partnerships, reminding us in the most graphic means possible that we are truly a part of God's universal church. Presidents of every ELCA seminary and college were recognized, underscoring the Lutheran commitment to God-centered higher education.

Present also were two opposing interest groups: the "Grassroots" brethren who support, among other issues, the complete acceptance of gay and lesbian rostered clergy in committed relations to called ministry; and Lutheran Core, who encourage a return to denominational polity based upon a more traditional reading of scripture and Lutheran confessions. And yet all presentations, discussions, deliberations, and interactions between and among brothers and sisters of differing discernments were done in love, with patient acceptance of another believer's spirit-felt opinion, and a shared commitment for the health and growth of the church.

To say that I returned from Churchwide changed would be to overstate the experience. To comment positively on the order, organization, and almost painful attention to detail that ELCA staff, our hosts from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and the hotel and Navy Pier staffs put into all aspects of the this event would almost negate the deep and meaningful spiritual elements.

The attention to prayer, worship, and time and attention to the word, truly made what might have been a combination big business meeting and Lutheran pep rally into a gathering of committed believers, gathering to work together in the unity of God, in Christ, as directed by his Holy Spirit, for the building of God's kingdom.

To state that all attendees and participants were warm and welcoming would downplay the pal-

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pable presence and leading of the Holy Spirit, who turned routine social gatherings, breakfast table conversations, and shared shuttle rides into opportunities for shared witness, encouragement and true Christian fellowship.

And to say that we did good work for the denomination denies the God who called, redeemed, gathered and sent us in His service, and to whom all the glory belongs. So to say that my participation in this landmark event has been a blessing to me would be right about on target.

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How I answered God's call to ministry

by Kate Schroeder

I have spent most of my career (about 16 years) as a registered nurse and the last thing I thought I'd be doing is to be going to seminary and beginning new work as an ordained pastor! God has given me so many amazing experiences in my life; from being a divorced single mom, mother to a beautiful, outgoing daughter and to a wonderful son with autism, the nurse for many brave people with cancer, to name just a few.



Schroeder

But I began to have a persistent nagging feeling that God was going to use my life experiences in some way. Out of gratitude for all the good things that God had given to me, I wanted to be open to what that was.

My life changed in a very real way when I became aware that everything, even what I might perceive as negative, has purpose and is part of God's plan. Knowing this, and knowing that everything God does is good, helped me to look for goodness (and therefore look for God) in all of my life situations.

Even when I couldn't understand God's plan, I found myself trusting God's plan for my life. I thought my friends and family would think I was crazy, but with my children almost grown and both in college, I could no longer deny a deep feeling that was drawing me to serve God in a different way.

Through careful and faithful discernment with Pastor Chip Gunsten, assistant to the bishop, my home congregation pastor, Andy Ballentine, and the community of believers at St. Stephen Lutheran, Williamsburg, I knew I wanted to use my life experiences to help others to live their lives centered in Christ, to keep an awareness that God is present in all things, and to realize that their life takes on new meaning as part of God's plan too!

I continued the discernment process with a friend who was a second-career student at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (LTSG), Cheryl Griffin, with the Virginia Synod's candidacy committee, and with Pastor Jim Cobb, then the admissions director at LTSG.

With their help, I explored various avenues of church service, and came to realize that I had little doubt that God was calling me to pursue a masters of divinity and a call as a Lutheran pastor. It was a very scary prospect, but I was pretty sure this was the direction I was supposed to take.

At 45 years old, my family and I moved to Gettysburg so that I could attend seminary. At LTSG, I was pleasantly surprised to find many, many amazing people struggling to make life-decisions according to God's plan, like me! Through competent guidance and instruction from the faculty and staff, I continued to discern and affirm my call and to gain insight and expertise necessary to be an effective pastor.

I am currently a third-year student on internship at Zion Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pa.. There, I continue to find and define my gifts for ministry and continue to learn how to help others to lead Christ-centered lives. I believe that God calls all of us to be of service in the world, it's just up to us to listen to know what form it might take.

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Teaching English in Slovakia

The Slovakia teaching job of Lynda McConnell of St. John, Roanoke, was featured in a publication of Marshall University of Huntington, W. Va., her alma mater. McConnell, formerly on the staff of St. Mark's Roanoke, is in her third year of teaching English at a high school in Kosice, Slovakia, through a program of the ELCA Division for Global Mission.

Her description of her work: "I teach English conversation to students age 15-19 in a Slovak gymnasium. The students are very similar in appearance and personality to American teenagers. My classes are no larger than 20 students, all of whom have had several years of instruction in the English language.

"We work on vocabulary, English literature, art skills and everyday use of the language. I am active in the English-language church here, usually giving the children's sermon on Sunday mornings."

Since Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria are within easy distance, she is able to take short trips to these countries where she has met other American teachers. "These new friends, my three flat-mates and a few other Americans make up a very congenial group for socializing and traveling. Cultural activities are easily available in a city the size of Kosice and are very inexpensive."

McConnell considers adaptability to be the key for living in a foreign country, especially one where so few people speak English. "Slovak food is not so different from American food, heavier sometimes with more use of potatoes and rice than in the U.S.," she said. "Christmas dinner usually features carp. My students told me last year about purchasing the carp live and keeping it in the bathtub until time to prepare it. They delighted in my shock at how they make it ready for baking."



Lynda McConnell stands by a street sign in Slovakia.

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Another partnership proposed at Waynesboro

Leaders of three Augusta County churches—Zion, Bethlehem and St. James—are working on a proposal to form a partnership served by Pastors James W. Pence of Zion and Randy Lohr of Bethlehem. Final plans are expected to be considered by the congregations on Reformation Sunday.

A one-year trial period with a Sunday morning worship schedule for the two pastors to preach at the three Waynesboro area congregations is proposed, according to Pence. The vision is that each of the three congregations will become stronger and more viable without diminishing the strengths of any, he said. St. James has had a pastoral vacancy for several years.

If approved, the partnership is expected to begin in December or January.

This partnership plan follows three similar actions by congregations in Rockingham, Augusta and Smyth counties.

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THE VIRGINIA LUTHERAN IS A MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA

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Deadline for submission of articles is the 10th of each month.

Any portion of this publication may be reprinted for use in local church publications with appropriate credit.

LUTHERAN***Cell phone emergency contacts urged***

A campaign to encourage people to enter an emergency contact number in cell phones memory under the heading, "ICE," (In Case of Emergency), is spreading throughout the world as a result of terrorist attacks in London, according to Jan Tobias, Synod disaster coordinator.

Originally established as a nation-wide campaign in the United Kingdom, ICE allows paramedics or police to contact a designated relative/next-of-kin in an emergency situation. By adopting the ICE advice, a mobile unit will help rescue services quickly contact a relative or friend which could be vital in a life-or-death situation, Tobias said.

To do this, a cell phone user must select a contact, enter the word "ICE" and the number of the person to be contacted. For more than one contact, the address would be ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 or ICE4.

The practice originated with an East Anglia ambulance paramedic, who recalled a number of times when he had to struggle for information about a shocked or injured person.

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Culpeper Scout leaders honored

Scoutmaster Charlie Robson and Peggy Green, committee chairwoman, of Boy Scout Troop 196 at St. Luke, Culpeper, have received high honors from the National Capital Area Council.

Robson, cited for 40 years of leadership, received the Good Scout Award. The troop has awarded 68 Eagle scout badges under his leadership. The award is presented annually to the volunteer leader who sets an example for young people, living by the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law.

Green received the Silver Beaver Award, given to leaders who have shown exceptional self-sacrifice and service in promoting the principles of Scouting, including growth in moral strength and character, active participation in citizenship duties and development of physical, mental and emotional fitness.

The church's Cub Scout Pack 196 has been re-established, under the leadership of John Morse, an engineer who moved to Culpeper from Ohio last year.

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LARCUM Conference will meet Nov. 30– Dec.1

The annual Leadership Convocation and statewide LARCUM conference will open at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Arlington, on Nov. 30 and continue on Dec. 1 under the theme, "The Gospel: The Heart of Christian Unity." Bishop Jim Mauney will participate.

The gathering is sponsored by the Virginia and Metro Washington DC Lutheran synods, the Episcopal Dioceses of Virginia, Southern Virginia and Southwestern Virginia, the United Methodist Virginia Conference and the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Richmond and Arlington.

The presenters will be Dr. Ted A. Campbell, an associate professor of church history at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, and Father Gerald Fogarty, professor of religious studies and history at the University of Virginia.

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LUTHERAN***Pastor Russell Eckert dies at 80***

Pastor Russell Eckert, who served at Trinity, Roanoke 1960-66, died at Hickory, N.C., July 24. He was 80. He was an Army chaplain in World War II and he later served churches in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

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Roanoke Habitat Home is dedicated

Michele Williams, a single mother of two children, said, “I will do my best to take care of this house” at a dedication for her Habitat home constructed by Roanoke Valley Lutherans last summer. The two-story home was dedicated in honor of Tony Clifford of St. John, Roanoke, who has worked on more than 100 Habitat houses.

Roanoke Valley Habitat for Humanity will receive \$80,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, according to Ron Leiser of Thrivent. He said the Blue Ridge chapter of Thrivent and local Lutheran churches are joining the national \$24.5-million house-building effort to construct 315 homes in 43 states.

Volunteers from 10 Roanoke area Lutheran churches joined the effort. Plans are under way for them to build two Habitat houses next year. Since 1986, Habitat volunteers have completed 145 houses for 230 adults and 348 children in the Roanoke Valley. Habitat home-owners pay more than \$50,000 in taxes to Roanoke City each year.

Williams has risen from public assistance to nursing home aide, fast-food server and production worker to sales associate at Sam’s warehouse in Roanoke.

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Where are the men?

Church is for “nice guys”—good people. Right? Or is it also for guys who sometimes sit shirtless in the stands at the Bristol Motor Speedway during a NASCAR race, struggling with their addictions, relationships and work?

Why does the attendance of men continue to decline in our churches? What message does a man who visits a church for the first time receive? Does the setting tell him that he and other men like him are welcome?

What would happen to men in Lutheran congregations if just a few more of them were more deeply committed to Christ? What would happen if Lutheran congregations could reach the husbands of the women who attend without their spouses?

The vision of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission is for every man in our churches to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men’s ministry in every congregation. With that in mind, St. John is starting a Men’s Ministry and all men are invited to attend. For the first meeting on Sept. 27, there will be an open discussion of the theme, “What does it mean to be a Godly man?”

(From St. John Journey, the newsletter of St. John, Abingdon)

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LUTHERAN***A move toward healing after April shootings***

Dr. Rick Barger, lead pastor of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colo., scene of the Columbine High School shootings, will speak at an ecumenical event at Blacksburg Baptist Church on Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., the six-month anniversary of the April shootings at Virginia Tech. Barger started a development asset movement for children and adolescence and has been active in community healing in Colorado.

His talk stems from monthly meetings by Pastor Gary Schroeder of Luther Memorial and five other Blacksburg pastors who agreed that this would be a good time to gather to promote healing and recovery in the community after the shootings.

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Theologian Douglas John Hall to speak in Blacksburg

Douglas John Hall, considered one of the most influential theologians in North America, will lecture on “The Church after the Demise of Christendom,” in Blacksburg Oct. 7-8. Under the Visiting Theologian program at Luther Memorial, he will preach and speak on “The Theology of the Cross: A Usable Past” at the adult forum on Oct. 7.

On Oct. 8, he will speak on “Believing and Thinking: The Necessity of Theology,” at a noon luncheon in the church’s fellowship hall. Hall’s keynote address on “Being Christians After Christendom” will be given at Torgerson 2150 on the Virginia Tech campus on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

Among Hall’s writings is a three-volume systematic theology, *The Cross in Our Context* and *Why Christian*.

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Shaner to lead money workshop at Newport News

Pastor Bill Shaner Jr., a Staunton native who has retired after 40 years of service in Massachusetts and Nebraska, will lead a workshop on “Money Leadership for Couples and Single Adults” at Reformation, Newport News, Saturday, Nov. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The event is planned for the Tidewater, Peninsula, Richmond and Germanna conferences.

Money leadership is designed to help church leaders and spouses engage in a self-assessment of their practices, feelings and knowledge of money issues and their leadership skills and abilities with money. Many have been snared by the current “debt culture,” according to Cary Mangus, synod stewardship coordinator, the workshop was designed by the ELCA and the Nebraska Synod through a Thrivent Financial grant.

Topics of seven presentations include giving, saving, spending, debt reduction, financial life planning, money leadership in congregations and the role of money in the congregational family system. The workshop cost of \$10 covers lunch and materials. Applications will be e-mailed to churches in these conferences or they may be requested by e-mail from the synod office.



Shaner

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