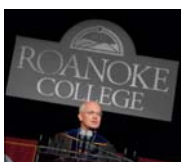


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## LUTHERANS IN THE NEWS



Miko



Bugg



Diehl

Four pastors and two seminarians—to be ordained this fall—have accepted calls to Synod congregations and an AIM commissioning is scheduled.

**Pastor Kathleen Miko**, ordained Oct. 15, is serving at the **Timberville Parish**. At **Gloria Dei, Hampton**, the **Rev. Garrett B. Bugg** is serving as associate pastor. **Pastor Matthew Diehl** of Northeastern Ohio Synod, will serve at **Bethlehem, Lynchburg**. **Pastor Timothy Nilsen** of the Southeast Michigan Synod, has accepted a call to **Mt. Zion, Woodstock**. **Candis O'Meara** and **Louis Florio** will be ordained this fall. O'Meara, who will be pastor of the new **Mt. Rogers Parish**, will be ordained at her home church, Faith, Suffolk, on Dec. 2. Florio, from Christ, Fredericksburg, will serve at **Messiah, Mechanicsville**.

**Judy Smith**, director of contemporary worship and programs at **St. Peter, Stafford**, will be commissioned as an associate in ministry (AIM) on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 4 p.m. at St. Peter. A former teacher and a church worker for 12 years, she holds degrees from Bates College and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education at Union Seminary. She and her husband, Brent Smith, have a daughter and a son.

Miko, a former manager at United Technologies and a golf vacation planner, graduated from Southern Seminary and was ordained at her home church, Our Saviour's, Tucson, Ariz. She interned at Trinity Ecumenical Parish and Brandon Oaks Retirement Community. She plans a pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan in January.

Bugg, who comes from a Presbyterian background, was ordained in Charlotte, N.C. in August. A graduate of North Carolina State University and Princeton Theological Seminary, he has been serving as a pastoral resident of the Gloria Dei Academy for the past year.

Diehl, a Staunton native who came from St. James, Fishersville, graduated from Roanoke College and Gettysburg Seminary. He has served three Ohio parishes since 1994. He will move from Shepherd of the Valley, Sandysville, Ohio. He and his wife, Heather, have four children.

**Sharon Shull**, of Tacoma, Wash., and formerly an AIM at Christ, Staunton, has accepted a call to Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor, Wash.

Growth is an everyday event at **Resurrection, Fredericksburg**, where a new building is under construction. The congregation received 40 new members in March and 25 in September, according to **Pastor James Kniseley**.

Visitors at **St. Michael, Virginia Beach**, receive a loaf of home-baked bread as a "thank you" for worshipping there. The bread ministry is coordinated by **Linda Rutheaford**.

Children's Sunday School at **Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg**, has been replaced by faith formation groups, with an age span of 3-4 years, based more on a child's developmental stage than on their grade in school. A child will belong to a group for several years so he or she can feel more comfortable and

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**LUTHERAN**

confident about the Sunday morning experience. From newborn to age 12, a child will belong to only five groups. Each group will have faith standards. .

Members and friends of **St. Paul, Strasburg**, will join representatives from the Rotary Club district in a pilgrimage to Jamaica, sponsored by **Food for the Poor Inc.** on Nov. 26-29. They will see the needs of the poor and the results of efforts to assist them. They will meet one-on-one with Jamaican people and the religious and lay people who are serving them.

**Dr. Crandall Shifflett**, a Virginia Tech history professor and a Lutheran, spoke on “Starvation, Nutrition and Cannibalism in Early Jamestown: A Recipe for Disaster,” at **Holy Trinity, Lynchburg**, on Oct. 21.

The **Rev. Robert J. Maier** has been named interim pastor at **Ebenezer, Marion**, following the retirement of **Pastor Jim Bangle**.

**Linda Mitchell**, who has been serving as interim pastor at **Redeemer, Pearisburg**, married **Billy Motley** on Oct. 13. They will live in Big Stone Gap but she will continue her service at Pearisburg.

**Dr. Willibrod and Mrs. Rose Slaa** of Tanzania brought greetings to **First, Norfolk**, at a service on Oct. 14. Dr. Slaa represents the Karatu District in the Tanzania Parliament. First Church has several projects there. Mrs. Slaa, deputy chairperson of Hanang District Council, is helping to develop secondary schools in tribal villages.

The 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran-Episcopal Covenant between **Christ, Fredericksburg**, and **St. George’s Episcopal Church** was celebrated with a pulpit exchange on Oct. 7.

An architect will explore expansion of the worship space at **Bethel, Winchester**, where attendance has grown to an average of 325 on Sunday. The Adult Forum at **Bethel** heard a discussion on “My Land—Your Land: My House—Your House” by **Pastor Russ Siler**, formerly of Virginia Synod, who recently retired as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. He and his wife live at Martinsburg, W. Va.

**Renee Cobb**, a psychiatrist, spoke on “A Belly Laugh a Day Keeps the Psychiatrist Away” at **Fist English, Richmond**.

**Pastor Gary Schroeder** of **Luther Memorial, Blacksburg**, was one of four people who received an Exceptional Community Service Award from the Mental Health Association of the New River Valley. He was recognized for extraordinary community service in the wake of the April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech. The four were described as “leaders of the leaders, heroes of the heroes.”

In Roanoke, the **Auxiliary** of the **Brandon Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**, received more than \$6,000 from its annual fall bazaar. The funds will be used to purchase television sets for the nursing center.

At **Lakeside, Littleton, N.C.**, **Val and Cassie Eubanks** were scheduled to speak about their work as pioneer missionaries to Kyrgyzstan. They are career missionaries with Pioneers, a non-denominational mission.

Members of Women of the ELCA at **St. Michael, Blacksburg**, have been filling shoe boxes containing Christmas gifts for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota.

Weekly meetings of a grief support group on “Coping with the Death of a Loved One,” at **St. Paul, Strasburg**, are led by **Pastor Cynthia Lasher** of **Shenandoah Valley Grief Services** on Thursday evenings through Nov. 29.

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

***Roanoke President Mike Maxey to “polish a precious gem”***

As Michael Maxey was inaugurated as the 11<sup>th</sup> president of Roanoke College on Oct. 26, he pledged “to do all I can to polish the precious gem of our aspirations into a brighter, more faceted Roanoke of tomorrow.” Maxey, who has held a number of posts since he came to Roanoke 22 years ago, was hailed for his efficient leadership by a variety of speakers before a rainy day crowd of 1,600, who gave him four standing ovations.

*Maxey*

“It’s always exciting to see good things happen to good people and Mike Maxey is so much more than good,” said Dr. Ken Garren, Lynchburg College president and former vice president and dean at Roanoke.

Maxey, 55, a Bassett native, recalled the many changes on the campus since he came in 1985 and he pledged to continue improvements. The college “is blessed with honesty and discipline in our approach to our future. Those qualities are among our most precious natural resources,” he said.

The new president announced the creation of three new professorships, a new Initiative for Student Success and renovation of Lucas Hall, home of the foreign language department. Two of the professorships are a gift from Charles and Helen Schumann of First English, Richmond. The initiative, a program for college freshmen, is funded by three trustees. Maxey said he wants to increase endowment to fund more scholarships.

Bishop Jim Mauney recalled the school’s “loving service to others for 165 years” and said he offers “our prayers for the ongoing mission of this college and your presidency.”

Presidents Emeriti Norman Fintel and David Gring bestowed the college medallion on Maxey. Fintel said they came “to help crown the new king.” He said Dr. Sabine O’Hara, recent Roanoke president, was sorry she could not attend the inauguration. She is executive director of the Council for International Relations and vice president of the Institute of International Education for the Fulbright scholarship program in Washington.

Maxey, a member of College Lutheran, Salem, said the college could not ask for a more nurturing relationship than with the ELCA. Roanoke is the second oldest Lutheran college in the country. He said the Reformation “was born in a classroom with a professor, not in a church. That is an encouraging heritage for an institution of higher learning...Lutherans give us more than room to breathe, they give us breath.”

A musical tribute by the college choir and a poem by Dr. Melanie Almeder, college English professor, were other features of the inauguration. Salem Mayor Howard Packett said Salem has been a seat of higher learning since 1847 when a wagon brought the former Virginia Collegiate Institute from Augusta County. The city and the college have had “a unique relationship,” he added.

A service of prayer and thanksgiving, led by College Chaplain Paul Henrickson at the college chapel, opened the day’s events. Earlier in the week, the college held a showcase of the arts, an academic forum and an illumination celebration, a tradition dating back to the days of Dr. David Bittle, first Roanoke president.

Maxey gave credit to his father, Creed Maxey, 85, for giving him “a love for education.” He also recognized his wife, Terri, and their three sons. Earlier in the week, Maxey met with a group of students, who were wearing maroon t-shirts bearing a Maxey quote, “I believe in Roanoke College.” Following Maxey’s habit of wearing bow ties, faculty and staff members are wearing them and a student honors organization planned a bow tie tying contest.

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***Why I want to serve the church*****by David C. Drebes**

*(Another in a series of articles by seminarians. Drebes, a member of Resurrection, Fredericksburg, is in the 2008 class at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is interim Lutheran chaplain there).*

Sometimes a calling is pictured as if it's a shining beacon before you, illuminating the path of the future God has planned since time immemorial. All you're called to do is take the first step, and that certain future will fall into place. Well, that hasn't been the case for me. I'm in seminary, but that has never meant feeling certain either about my future or about where God calls me to use my talents.

So, it raises all sorts of anxieties and concerns whenever I'm faced with the question, "Why do you want to serve the church?" The first concern is theological. As Lutherans, we lift up a teaching on vocations rooted in our belief that the church includes a "priesthood of all believers." The church therefore includes servants inside and outside of professional ministry and church offices.

Martin Luther, writing against the Medieval emphasis on monastic orders in *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, insists that "the works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they may be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the works of the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks, but all works are measured before God by faith alone" (LW 36:78).

It is vitally important, therefore, that we recognize how everyone is called to serve Christ and his Church. Such service is not reserved for the ordained, the rostered, or those on church council, but is part of the life of any Christian. Put simply, to be part of a church community is to serve the church.

My concern for this theological understanding, however, dovetails with a second, more personal anxiety. If our teaching on vocations is so emphatic on one's ability to serve God through almost any profession, then this severely complicates the decision-making process for anyone trying to determine his or her future.

Specifically, if the choice we all face is serving God as a pastor or not serving God at all, our answer should be clear. But that's not the choice we face. Instead, we face the complex truth that God calls his children to be teachers, grocery store clerks, bankers, homemakers, custodians, and yes, some pastors too.

Figuring out where I should end up has been an anxious process at times, wrestling with my various gifts and goals, uncertain if ordained ministry is where I ought to be. Thankfully, it's not just anxious, there's a lot of joy in this journey too. In many ways, it's been like trying to solve a puzzle, treating my various talents as if they are clues to the bigger picture of my vocation.

For me, it's involved spending time as a journalist in high school, college, and in Washington DC, being a camp counselor in the woods of Pennsylvania, teaching Sunday School in Roanoke, and working in hospital ERs (first by court order after a traffic violation, and later as a student chaplain).

Now I'm a senior at Princeton Seminary, eager to be a church intern somewhere next year. My apparent bumbling through different jobs and places have helped me discover new talents and new methods of leadership. Losing patience as a camp counselor showed me limits, heading a newspaper staff at Roanoke College taught me management skills, and holding a dying patient's hand taught me the importance of presence.

After these years of trial and error, the versatile job of being a parish pastor is looking like the best way for me to use these various gifts. This was never a specific plan, but is more the result of defining the church as a place of service and then exploring the wide varieties of service opportunities available

My hope is that our entire church will remember this definition. Then, each and every one of us will be faced with the question, "Why, and how, will you serve Christ's Church?"



Drebes

***Theologian Hall: truth is always approximate***

Dr. Douglas John Hall, international theologian, spoke on “The Rise and Fall of Christendom” and “What is Christianity” as the Visiting Theologian for 2007 at Virginia Tech and Luther Memorial, Blacksburg, in October. A United Church of Christ pastor, he is a professor emeritus at McGill University, Montreal.

One could do much worse in defining the ore of faith than quoting a line from the novel, *Oh God*, he said. In the book and the George Burns movie, the comedian quotes a line in which God says, “I am here, I like you a lot, it can work, try not to hurt each other too much.” This statement speaks to human alienation, the fear that we are alone in an uncaring cosmos, pessimism concerning the fate of creation and the need for a basic ethic centered on care for one another and the world, he said.

In a world where religious pluralism is a reality, Hall called for understanding that truth is always approximate. “We must learn what it means to speak of our faith with humility,” he said.

Hall said Christendom (distinguished from Christianity) “has been losing the social and political dominance it began to enjoy with the conversion of Constantine. “Many bemoan this loss of status,... but it may just give the church, freed from the burden of being the religion of the empire, the opportunity to be what it was intended to be—a small thing, like yeast or a mustard seed which exists to influence a great thing.”



Hall

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***Adoption makes families!***

*by Carole Todd, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia*

At Thanksgiving, the 1,600 children in the state foster care system waiting to be adopted may be feeling most acutely their “homelessness.”

The problems facing these waiting children are complex. They may struggle in school. They are usually older and often have siblings in foster care. But when we ask, “What is best for these children?” almost always, the answer is a loving, stable home. When children are firmly enveloped in the warmth, love and security of a family, they thrive.

One of our most important tasks is to recruit, train and support both adoptive and foster parents, and that is where we need your help. Many individuals who may not have considered becoming adoptive parents can successfully adopt. November is National Adoption Awareness Month.

At our web site [www.lfsva.org](http://www.lfsva.org), you can read first-person stories about adoption, be connected to other adoption resources, read information-packed flyers on the nuts and bolts of adopting, and print out bookmarks celebrating adoption and bulletin inserts for church use.

We ask you to please bring this important information to the attention of your friends, family and church members. You never know what may motivate an individual or family to think, “We can do this. We *should* do this.”

Adoption is the last hope of many children to become part of a forever family. Please help us celebrate the power and joy of adoption. Our toll-free adoption number is 1-800-359-3834 and the website is [www.lfsva.org](http://www.lfsva.org).

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**LUTHERAN*****A Lutheran family center in Shenandoah County?***

A Lutheran family center in Shenandoah County might offer daycare for the young, senior ministries, parish nurses, after-school tutoring, programs for people with other languages and a site for joint worship and activities, according to discussions at a retreat of the Central Valley CIM (Cooperation in Ministry) Team on Oct. 27.

More than 40 members of church councils, lay leaders and pastors looked over their lists, searching for “ways we could work together to make Jesus known throughout Shenandoah County and the entire valley,” according to Connie Fauber, team chairperson. The proposed center is “simply a seed at the moment but we intend to care for it and nurture it until it becomes a reality,” she said.

The talks about finding ways to work together “brought out an excitement and enthusiasm for planning some programs together that would spread the ‘good news’ throughout the community.” Discussion of the programs which might be offered, outreach to the community and support of current congregations has been under way for several months.

The CIM Team will take the lists of possible activities and begin the process of selecting projects to be tackled with fellow congregations. Fauber said the team will begin drawing in other valley congregations by sharing work with other pastors and councils. A website will be set up to list activities and share stories of the team and congregations.

Pastor Brad Hales, congregational transformation coordinator for the Synod, said reforming means the old is built upon, renewed and changed. A reforming church is focused on sharing the good news, is Christ centered and open to the Holy Spirit and uses its assets to provide ministry to others. Retreat participants listed ministry assets of their congregations.

The central purpose of the eight-church team is to follow the command of Jesus in Matthew 28 “to go out and make disciples of all nations,” Fauber said. The eight-church team is seeking new ways for congregations to deliver the Lutheran message and heritage, to strengthen religious convictions and to provide strong outreach programs.

The team has sought ways to help small congregations “revitalize, energize and begin to grow again,” she added. The team, comprised of one lay representative from each of the eight congregations and two pastors, grew out of the Valley Strategy started by Bishop Jim Mauney last spring.

The team has talked with councils and members about ways local churches can expand outreach in ministry, locally and around the world. Pastor Jim Baseler, conference dean, displayed materials from a Chicago meeting of the Small Town and Rural Ministry Alliance, designed to be used to revitalize small, rural congregations. The material can be used in small group studies or with entire congregations, to begin dialogue and generate a flow of ideas.

The eight participating churches are St. Peter and St. Matthew, Toms Brook; St. Stephen and St. Paul, Strasburg; Gravel Spring, Star Tannery; St. Paul, Jerome; St. Luke, Woodstock, and Lebanon, Lebanon Church,

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***Futures Club formed for retirement center at Winchester***

A Futures Club has been formed at Winchester for people who are interested in the projected continuous care retirement center planned by the National Lutheran Home. As planning proceeds, persons interested in receiving news about the project have been invited to enroll in the Futures Club.

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**LUTHERAN*****LFS opens Winchester office, 6<sup>th</sup> in state***

Lutheran Family Services has opened its sixth office at Grace, Winchester, to be led by two co-managers—Cassie Phipps and April Strowbridge—providing home-based services aimed at keeping families stable and intact. Both co-managers have experience in human service while working as regional directors of Family Preservation Services Inc.

They will bring in intensive case management, home-based services and program development which will broaden LFS reach and bring needed services to Winchester area families and children, said Julie Swanson, LFS chief executive officer.

LFS offers therapeutic foster care, international and waiting child adoption, case management, community-based services, therapeutic mentoring and developmental services for autism at six Virginia locations. The agency also provides education, counseling and family support for special needs youth through its three Minnick Education Centers, grief services in the Shenandoah Valley and a new Mentor-Match volunteering mentor match project in Richmond. The Winchester office may be reached by calling 540-450-2782 or email, [cphipps@lfsva.org](mailto:cphipps@lfsva.org).

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***Ministerium hears of worship and faith***

A total of 115 rostered leaders (pastors and associates in ministry) heard Dr. Michael Burk, ELCA executive for worship and liturgical resources and keynote speaker at the annual Gathering of the Ministerium at Natural Bridge on Oct. 15-17. The theme was “Ambassadors for Christ-Worship and the Family of Faith.”

Workshops were led by Dr. Emilyn Ott, executive director of Healthy Congregations Inc.; the Rev. Jean Bozeman, assistant to the bishop; Christy Van O’Linda, diaconal minister at Epiphany, Richmond; the Rev. Bill King, campus pastor at Virginia Tech and Region 9 director of campus ministry, and the Rev John Herman of Peace, Charlottesville.

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***Mt. Hebron Cemetery wall, 243 years old, to be restored***

Grace, Winchester, has started work on restoration of its old Mt. Hebron Cemetery wall, a community icon for more than 240 years. German pioneers laid the cornerstone for the first house of worship here on April 16, 1764, and the eastern wall and corners of the north and south walls are all that remain of that first church, almost two and a half centuries later.

The present church was built nearby in 1842. The first limestone building, damaged while in use as a barracks during the Revolutionary War, was destroyed by fire in 1854. Preservation of Historic Winchester has pledged \$15,000 toward the wall restoration cost of \$170,000. The work is expected to be completed before winter, according to Pastor Jim Utt of Grace.

A second phase of the project will be the upgrade of Grace Memorial Garden on the footprint of the original church, designated for inhumation of ashes. The garden will have an appropriate border giving a sense of the size of the original church, Utt said.

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In a third phase, walkways and paths will be placed through the cemetery to historically significant graves, such as that of Christian Streit, first resident pastor in 1785-1795. The paths also will lead to prayer/meditation sites in the cemetery. Paths will provide handicapped accessibility to the memorial garden and provide a safe way for the traditional Easter sunrise service. A prayer labyrinth is planned.

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***Music celebrates Reformation at Tidewater event***

*by Jim Stensvaag*

Lutherans from the Peninsula and Tidewater conferences of Virginia Synod and Circuit 12 of the Southeastern District, Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod celebrated their joint heritage at a Reformation Sunday event of the Lutheran Council of Tidewater, Oct. 28, at Gloria Dei, Hampton.

The program surveyed word and heritage from six centuries, ranging from Luther and chorales to *The Lutheran Handbook* and youth-led praise. Stops along the way included works by Schutz, Christopher Smart, J. S. Bach, Johannes Brahms and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Notable artistry included the premiere of Fantasy on Lutheran Chorales, for piano-four hands, by world-renowned composer Andrey Kasparov, performed by the Invencia Duo, Kasparov and Oksana Lutsyshyn, music director at Prince of Peace, Virginia Beach. Also, Three Reflections on Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, by Michael Hassell, music director at St. Paul, Hampton, and Bachianas Brasileiras, No. 5: Aria, performed by Barbara Chapman of First, Norfolk, principal harpist with the Virginia Symphony, and Georgeann Paddock, music director at Our Saviour, Norge.

Choirs, musicians and readers from Gloria Dei; St. Mark, Yorktown; Trinity, Newport News; First, Norfolk; Resurrection, Newport News; St. Andrew, Portsmouth; Rejoice, Chesapeake, and Trinity, Norfolk, rounded out the program. Hymns with brass and organ, ending appropriately with Ein Feste Burg, roused everyone.

The offering, matched by Thrivent funds through the Newport News-Hampton chapter, went to the Lutheran Council of Tidewater Human Warmth and Care Fund.

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***First Rwanda school building to be completed in early 2008***

In an update on the Rwanda School Project, Robin Strickler, formerly of Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg, reports gifts of over \$100,000 from three California Lutheran churches for a first building, now in the bidding process, toward expected completion early in 2008. Adult classes are to start next summer and the first seventh grade classes have been postponed until January 2009.

In other developments, Strickler director of the project, said a seven-month English class will end soon; 23 boxes of books have been received; Jean Helmick from Muhlenberg Church, and four other volunteers tutored students and worked on a documentary film last summer; a student scholarship fund has started and she has received "advice, training and spiritual and mental encouragement" from the ELCA Division of Global Mission.

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**LUTHERAN*****St. Louis scholar says truth is clear in scripture***

Today's culture does not believe in truth even though it is clear in scripture, said Dr. Michael McClymond at a Revival-Renewal-Awakening Conference at St. John, Roanoke, Oct. 27. Truth comes in the word of God to Christian believers, he said.

McClymond, an expert on the history of revivals and awakening who teaches at St. Louis University, said revivals happen through biblical truth. "Truth sets people apart." The theme of the weekend conference was "The Holy Spirit's Work in American History and What We Can Learn From It."

God's word is powerful, he said, particularly if it is accompanied by prayer. "Preaching really matters, truth and doctrine matter. Revival happens through biblical truth."

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***Tri(y) parish taking shape in Charlottesville area***  
**by Pastor Bill Stewart, interim, St. Mark, Charlottesville**

It is an exciting time for three congregations in the Charlottesville area where a new venture called the Tri(y) Lutheran Parish (Try Lutheran) is taking shape. Grace and Glory at Palmyra and Peace and St. Mark, Charlottesville, are looking at the possibility of working together.

The parish is just in the "budding" stage so the leadership is deciding what it might look like if these three congregations were part of such a concept. This grows out of strength rather than necessity. The leadership gathered Oct. 20 to talk about the concept. A task force has been meeting since January, visioning as to the many possibilities for the three congregations. Each has discovered that its plates are very full but they agreed to do several things together.

A joint Marty Party will celebrate Martin Luther's birthday after the Saturday evening service at Peace. This will be a time to come together and have fun and learning. Food and fellowship will be a big part of the evening but there will be time to learn more about our history as Lutherans. Indulgences may even be sold to help support a local or global program.

A joint Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at St. Mark, with fellowship following the service.

Communication of congregational events will be shared on a website. And a joint men's Bible study will meet. The leadership of the three congregations will meet again on Jan. 26.

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***Value of Katrina volunteers: \$263 million***

Volunteers from Synod congregations continue to travel to the Gulf area as part of a long-term commitment to help people rebuild their lives and homes after Hurricane Katrina—long after the media have turned their attention to hotter issues, according to Jan Tobias, coordinator for Lutheran Disaster Response in Virginia.

A group from St. Stephen, Williamsburg, worked in New Orleans in late October and Tobias planned to join another group of 20 from Grace, Waynesboro, for a cleanup. While the numbers aren't

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as great as last year, Lutherans are still demonstrating their faithfulness in service to God's children who continue to struggle in the Katrina/Rita zone, more than two years after the catastrophes, he said.

Tobias said he was struck by this information from a New Orleans newspaper:

*Value of services provided by about 1.1 million volunteers who have fed and sheltered evacuees, tutored youngsters and gutted and rebuilt houses in the New Orleans area in the two years since Hurricane Katrina: \$263 million, according to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Source: New Orleans Times-Picayune, 8/21/07*

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### ***Senior adult ministry conference planned at New Market Jan. 12***

Dr. Charles Arn, director of the Institute for Church Growth in Monrovia, Cal., will be the presenter at the Virginia Synod's first Senior Adult Ministry Conference at Reformation, New Market, Saturday, Jan. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Arn will talk about these topics: Trends and implications in older adult ministry; common denominators of growing adult ministries; why a church needs a new older adult group (and how); building bridges to connect with new people, and eight steps for growing older adult ministry.

Arn directs research projects for healthy churches and he has a special interest in effective church ministry and outreach for older adults. He has written several books about older adults and he is working on a research study of unchurched older adults in order to provide church leaders with better insight on how to effectively reach them.

Registration of \$10 per person for the first three participants in a congregation and \$5 for others may be mailed to the Virginia Synod, P.O. Drawer 70, Salem, VA 24153.

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