



Journey together

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

April 2007

The Bishop's Page

WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!!

Have you ever noticed our liturgies around our sacraments and their call to be sharers of the faith?

From the baptismal service, **“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

From the affirmation of baptism rite, **“Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:**

Live among God's faithful people

Hear his Word and share in his supper

Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

Serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus

Strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”

From the service of Holy Communion, **“Thank the Lord and sing his praise, Tell everyone what he has done!”**

Tell everyone, one to one, what God has done! Parent to child; friend to friend; colleague to colleague; neighbor to neighbor; thankful Lutheran to ?

WE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER

We continue to remember the wide community of Virginia Tech. We pray for all administration, staff, faculty, students, and their families. We pray for the congregations and pastors of Luther Memorial and our campus ministry there at VA Tech, St. Michael, Blacksburg, Our Saviour, Christiansburg, Shiloh and New Mt. Zion in New River. We pray for all our congregations and pastors who continue to minister to VA Tech students and alumni and their families in these coming weeks.

PASTORAL MESSAGE ON ELCA STUDIES ON SEXUALITY

The following pastoral message of the Conference of Bishops (CB/ES07.03.01) was adopted March 6, 2007. It was made in the midst of a pending appeal to a disciplinary case coming out of the Southeastern Synod and a number of resolutions beginning to be written for the upcoming 2007 Churchwide Assembly. It was the mind of the Conference of Bishops to encourage the members of the ELCA to continue in the process of churchwide study and conversation leading to an adoption of a Statement on Human Sexuality at the Churchwide Assembly in 2009. In the ELCA the Conference of Bishops serves as an Advisory body within the church. Here is the statement:

This pastoral message of the Conference of Bishops is offered as we prepare for upcoming Synod Assemblies and the Churchwide Assembly.

We remind this church that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly resolved that the “members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions [of this church] be urged to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ” (CA05.05.17).

This church is engaged in a careful study of issues related to human sexuality with the intention of adopting a social statement at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. We urge the members of this church to engage fully and faithfully in the study process as part of our “living together faithfully” during this time.

We trust the Holy Spirit to guide us and have confidence in the constitutional process that orders our conversation as we engage together in moral deliberation at Synod Assemblies and the Churchwide Assembly.

The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits itself to faithful leadership as, together, we seek the mind of Christ on these matters.

THE FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE MASSANETTA SUMMER ASSEMBLY!

A history of this important annual summer assembly has been written by Pastor John Byerly, Jr., Pastor George Handley, Mr. George Kegley, Pastor William Kinser, Pastor Alvin and Jean Kuhn and Pastor Marshall Mauney. This will be a most helpful history to add to our synod’s archives. It shares pictures, important dates, the whole list of speakers through the years. In its reading one can see how this summer assembly helped to build such a sense of ‘family’ within the life of the Virginia Synod. To assist with the cost of printing, the cost per book will be \$5. They will be available at the Synod Assembly and Power in the Spirit events.

I want to express my great appreciation to the authors of this history!! I want to thank Pastor John Byerly, Jr. for his wise initiative, his great love for this synod and the whole Church, and all his coordinating skills to make this happen!!

Pastors and Congregations

1. VACANCY UPDATE:

Any Virginia Synod pastor interested in being considered for an interview for any of the following vacancies should promptly notify a member of the synod staff:

BLUEFIELD, Immanuel	Study
BLUE RIDGE, Glade Creek	Interviewing
CHARLOTTESVILLE, St. Mark	Study
CHILHOWIE, St. James	Interviewing
CHURCHVILLE, St. Peter	Interviewing
FISHERSVILLE, St. James	Study
GALAX, Good Shepherd (Episcopal/Lutheran)	Study
GRAVEL SPRINGS PARISH	Interim
KONNAROCK, St. Matthew	Interviewing
LYNCHBURG, Bethlehem	Interim and Interviewing
MECHANICSVILLE, Messiah	Interim and Interviewing
MONETA, Trinity (Associate Pastor)	Interviewing
MT. TABOR, Mt. Tabor	Interim
NEWPORT NEWS, Trinity	Interim and Interviewing
PATMOS, Woodstock	Interviewing
PEARISBURG, Redeemer	Study
SALEM, College	Study
TIMBERVILLE PARISH	Interviewing
VIRGINIA BEACH, Good Shepherd	Interim and Interviewing
WHITETOP, Faith	Interviewing
WOODSTOCK, Mt. Zion	Interviewing

2. ROSTERED LEADERS:

- ✠ The Rev. Donna Ruggles, Retired Pastor, has transferred her synod affiliation to the Northeastern Iowa Synod, effective May 1, 2007.

The Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VIPCare) is a counseling resource for Virginia Synod Rostered Leaders and their families. It is entirely confidential and may be used for individual, couple or family counseling. Call 804-282-8332 to set up an appointment with a counselor in your geographical area or to discuss finances. They will guide you in shared costs with the ELCA Board of Pensions, synodical support (no names/case # only) and your portion.

<p style="text-align: center;">NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT OUR PEOPLE</p>

+ Our sympathies are extended to:

- The Rev. Don Chudd and family following the death of his mother, Ellen, on February 24, 2007. The funeral service was held at Our Saviour, Norge, on February 28th.
- The Rev. Al Fogleman and family following the death of his sister, Maxine Fogleman Harris, in Burlington, NC, on March 28, 2007. The funeral service, which was performed by Pastor Fogleman at his sister's request, was on March 31st in Burlington.
- The Rev. Chris Farrow and family following the death of her father, Keith Elsner, on April 14, 2006.
- All family and friends of slain and injured students, faculty and staff at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg.
- The daughter and family of Virginia Plack, widow of The Rev. Carl Robert Plack, who died April 7, 2007, at Brandon Oaks in Roanoke.
- The family of Bishop Margarita Martinez, Bishop of the Caribbean Synod.

+ Prayers for continued recuperation and good health requested for:

- The Rev. Malcolm Minnick
- The Rev. Cecil Bradfield
- The Rev. Hal Harter
- Vivian May Nilsen, wife of Pastor Roy Nilsen
- Jenny Troutman, wife of Pastor Barney Troutman
- The Rev. Charles "Bill" Howell
- The Rev. Fred Eichner
- Nathan Moore, son of Pastor Heidi Moore
- The Rev. William Wake
- Kathie Crumpton, wife of Pastor Ken Crumpton
- The Rev. John Himes
- Ella Bozeman, mother of Pastor Jean Bozeman
- Norma Ruppar, wife of Pastor Ken Ruppar
- Bob Ruggles, husband of Pastor Donna Ruggles
- The Rev. Sid Nelson
- The Rev. Doug Stowe

News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff

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

EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR [PUERTO RICO IMMERSION EVENT](#):

ELCA Region 9 is sponsoring an immersion trip for youth and young adults to **Puerto Rico** at the end of 2007. Information forms and applications were mailed in the Synod "Update" packet last fall and in February, and they are also available on the synod website. The deadline for applying has been extended to **April 30, 2007**. Contact Synod Youth Director Dave Delaney in the synod office with questions.

[CALL AND CANOE](#) is an event for young adults (college age or just out of college) who would like to talk in both structured and informal ways with Pastors Dave Delaney and Chip Gunsten about what it means to discern God's call to ministry, whether in a church vocation or in daily life. The event, which includes a day of canoeing on the Shenandoah, is held at Camp Caroline Furnace, May 18-20, and as of now there is plenty of space left. Visit the Synod website (www.vasynod.org) for more information or contact one of the two leaders. Congregations should consider offering to cover the cost of registration for their college-aged youth who might be interested in attending.

PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS! Do not forget to recruit two youth from your congregation to attend the [Youth Assembly](#), which is the same time as our main assembly (June 8-10, 2007 at Roanoke College). Ideally we ask you to send one male, one female, with one of those being of junior high age and other being senior high, but if that's not possible, send two youth of any age, boys or girls. Especially consider those who attended this past year's Seventh Day event – this would be a perfect follow-up experience and would give us some new potential synodical youth leaders!

[BISHOP'S DAY](#) – April 28, 2007, 1:00-3:30 at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Charlottesville – is an opportunity for pastors (or other adults) to bring young people who have gifts for ministry to a gathering where we can discuss what it means to be called by God to service, not just professional church work but any life's vocation. There is no pre-registration required for this event – just show up! Participants report that some of the most valuable time of the day was the conversation to and from the event.

For 2007 High School graduates and parents: **Virginia Synod Youth Ambassadors School** – our weeklong event for graduated high school seniors in preparation for their transition away from the structures of home, family, and church – is scheduled for July 8-12, 2007. If possible, plan this summer's schedule to allow your graduating senior to attend! Go to the Synod website (www.vasynod.org) for registration materials.

Kairos 2007 (June 24-29) is now full, although there is a waiting list in case more places open up. Please call or contact Dave Delaney at the Synod Office (540-389-1000; delaney@vasynod.org) if you would like to know more about that. Senior high youth who are not attending Kairos should, however, plan instead to attend our new hunger awareness and service event, **Summer Celebration** (July 8-12 at Caroline Furnace for rising 9th-12th graders). Registration forms have been sent to all congregations and are available on the synod website as well as the Caroline Furnace website.

**From Pastor Chip Gunsten
Assistant to the Bishop**

[College Student CALL & CANOE Retreat – May 18-20, 2007](#)

This retreat for college students will be at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Shenandoah River, May 18-20, 2007. The cost of the event is \$25 and the deadline for registration is May 1st. See the brochure and registration form included with this mailing.

Church Vocations Conference - August 14-16, 2007

The Virginia Synod Church Vocations Conference will be held at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, August 14-16. The conference is designed for those seeking to discern God's call to rostered ministry within the church as an Associate in Ministry (AIM), Deaconess, Diaconal Minister, or Ordained Pastor, as well as those who are presently within the candidacy process. The conference provides participants with the opportunity to meet with candidacy committee members and other rostered leaders through informal conversation, presentations, and worship. For information and reservation materials - please contact Sue Dugas or Chip Gunsten at the synod office: 540-389-1000 or gunsten@vasynod.org

**From Elizabeth Smythe
Staff Liaison for Power in the Spirit**

[Power in the Spirit – July 12-14, 2007](#)

Power in the Spirit registration booklets have been mailed. If you did not receive one, or if you would like information to share, there is a link on the synod web page - <http://www.vasynod.org/files/07PITS/Pits%20web%20form.pdf>.

Plans are nearly complete for a wonderful chance to worship and learn together. Make plans to be there!

**From Pastor Floyd Addison
United Lutheran Appeal**

[Click here for Attachment](#)

**From Pastor Luther Mauney
Healthy Congregations Coordinator**

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS FACILITATOR TRAINING

In response to the request of many pastors, who wish to learn more about facilitating healthy congregational leadership, Lutheran Family Services and the Virginia Synod plan to offer facilitator training to our pastors and laity for use within their own congregations. It has been suggested that, in addition to the pastor, it would be helpful to have at least one layperson trained in healthy congregation facilitation within each congregation, so they could assist with continuing the leadership development, along with the pastor.

We plan to offer such training in the eastern and western areas of the Synod, but further details have yet to be worked out. *We need to determine the extent of the interest at this point.* If you are interested, please contact Pastor Luther Mauney, Lutheran Family Services Coordinator of Healthy Congregations, to register your interest. He can be reached at 540-297-7231 or lfismauney@aol.com, or at 1619 Red Horse Drive, Goodview, VA 24095.

**From Cary Mangus
Stewardship Staff Specialist**

Stewardship of Life and Healthy Congregations Combine for Workshop

One of the marks of a healthy congregation is that they develop generous people. Generosity is not just a nice virtue. It is a natural response to a God who has been so generous to us. But how do we grow in our understanding of this concept? Attending a workshop from the Healthy Congregations series entitled “HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS DEVELOP GENEROUS PEOPLE” led by a Synodical Healthy Congregations facilitator can provide a great start! This is a wonderful opportunity for Stewardship of Life Committees to attend as a unit. The result would be a unifying effect for these teams as they could all share in the experience of learning of God’s abundance of grace together. It is very exciting to think of these groups taking this experience back to their own congregations and “making a difference”. Obviously, individuals are encouraged to attend also, as these teachings will speak to the hearts of each of us. These workshops are being offered on a regional basis in 2007. Normally there is a \$20.00 charge per person for a healthy congregation workshop. However, for this particular workshop, there will only be a \$6.00 charge as the event is being underwritten by the Synod Stewardship of Life Committee through the ELCA Shared Synod Stewardship Staff budget. All congregations are encouraged to participate in one of these events as we all grow together in God’s grace. The following is the schedule for these workshops:

[May 5, 2007](#) [St. Luke](#) [Richmond, VA](#)

These workshops will begin at 9:30AM and end at 3:00PM. For additional information contact Cary Mangus at 540-774-0983 (cjmangus@cox.net) or Luther Mauney at 540-297-7231 (LFSMauney@aol.com). As registration forms are being emailed to all churches in the Synod, these forms will be available in your church office.

Miscellaneous

† **[Mothers' Day Bulletin Insert](#)**

The Social Security Administration has requested we make available to all of our congregations the attached bulletin insert. Social Security and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have been concerned that many individuals on Medicare are unaware of the Extra Help program that is administered by Social Security. Extra Help will help needy Medicare beneficiaries pay the premiums and deductibles for the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage. They are asking that these brochures be distributed for Mothers' Day because there is a growing number of single mothers who are looking for this type of assistance.

† **"Good News in the Gospels for Senior Adults"**

Please mark your own calendar, and the planning calendar for your congregation or organization for **Saturday, November 10, 2007**. A community-wide workshop entitled "**Good News in the Gospels for Senior Adults**" will be held at the Braddock Street United Methodist Church in Winchester, VA from 8 till 4. More information will be available later.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Jane Marie Thibault, a clinical gerontologist and professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Her books include "10 Gospel Promises for Later Life." A goal of the workshop is to help seniors adopt a new and spiritual model for aging, which seeks to see aging through divine eyes. Dr. Thibault presented a workshop at Shenandoah Valley-Westminster Canterbury in 2003, and it was so well received that we'd like to have her message be available to the entire community.

Should you need information now please contact:

Harmon Pritchard, 540-665-5863, harmon@pritch.net, or
Farley Massey, 540-678-4602, farleymassey@nTelos

† **Director of Liturgical Arts Position at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, Harrisonburg**

A thriving congregation in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley seeks a full time Director of Liturgical Arts. The Director will coordinate and oversee all church music and other arts ministries. We invite applicants with specialties in either organ or choral directing. Immediately after the position is filled, the Director will participate in a second phase of full- and part-time hires with the aim of assembling a full music and liturgical arts staff. The Director of Liturgical Arts position carries with it high expectations for the vigorous and creative growth of our music and arts ministries. In addition to proven musical expertise, applicants must possess superb organizational, supervisory, and communicative skills. Highly competitive salary, commensurate with education and experience. Position open summer 2007. Send, fax, or email cover letter and résumé to Director of Liturgical Arts Search, Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, 281 E. Market St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801; email: muhlenberg@rica.net; fax: (540) 574-4023.

Review of materials will begin immediately and will end July 1. For more information, see <http://home.rica.net/muhlenberg> or call (540) 434-3496.

† **Chaplain Position – National Lutheran Home**

The **National Lutheran Home**, a continuing care retirement community in Rockville, Maryland, seeks a Full-Time Chaplain. Sunday–Thursday with on-call responsibilities. Excellent pay and benefits. Please send resumes to National Lutheran Home, c/o Kristina Hughes, 9701 Veirs Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. For info call (301) 424-9560 x200. Deadline for resumes is June 11, 2007.

† **[Congregational Heritage Workshop at LTSS May 25 and May 26, 2007](#)**

See enclosed brochure for information and registration form.

† **[The People of the Holy Land: Then and Now – January 8-26, 2008](#)**

A 19-day study tour of Israel and Palestine in the Holy Land. Instructor The Rev. Dr. Monte Luker, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. See enclosed brochure for information, costs and registration form.

[PLAN2GIV NEWSLETTER](#)