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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**VIRGINIA LUTHERANS ANNOUNCE WEEK OF SERVICE**

ServiceProjects Scheduled for Sept. 1-7

**ROANOKE, VA-**Hundreds of Lutherans in Virginia will be out in their communities during the first week of September with one mission in mind—to serve others. The Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will have a Week of Service during Sept. 1-7, 2014.

Lutheran churches across Virginia will be out in their yellow “God’s Work, Our Hands” t-shirts doing a variety of projects such as building houses with Habitat for Humanity, packing boxes at food pantries, or organizing clothes at thrift shops.

Members of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Church in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be\_\_(Describe your project here)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The Virginia Synod week of service has been scheduled to coincide with [‘God’s work. Our hands.’ Sunday](http://www.elca.org/dayofservice) on Sept. 7 which is being celebrated on the national level by ELCA churches across the country.

Pastor David Derrick of St. P Philip Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Va. explained that the Virginia Synod Week of Serviceallows congregations to, “move out into their neighborhoods to serve those in need and to share God’s compassion with the world.”

“This is an opportunity for everyone to invest time in hands-on service projects outside the walls of the church,” Derrick said.

The Bishop of the Virginia Synod, James Mauney, will be leading by example in Roanoke. On Sept. 2, the bishop and his staff will help lead a craft day for the assisted living residents of Brandon Oaks retirement community. Brandon Oaks is part of Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc., one of the Virginia Synod’s eight [mission partners](http://vimeo.com/97853695).

While Mauney is enthusiastic about the impact that the Lutherans will have on their communities, he also hopes that churchgoers will learn to connect with their neighbors in a more personal way.

“Engaging in service helps us to put names with faces,” Mauney said. “There is such a temptation to categorize people as ‘they’ or ‘them’. We serve so that we will be able to see that ‘they’ are the beloved children of God.”

“An advancement is made when “they” become Lisa and David,” Mauney said.

For more information about the Virginia Synod Week of Service go online to vasynod.org or call the Virginia Synod Office at 540-389-1000.

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