

Learning Opportunities

The Synod's Global Mission Team's Companion Synod opportunities:

- Pastor Tim Keyl, Christ the King, Nashua, NH, will lead *Breathing in the Spirit of Peace*, the Synod's Spring **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, April 29-May 13, 2008. Registration is closed, but you may find out more and follow the journey at www.ctknashua.org
- For information on the **2008 Christmas pilgrimage to the ELCJHL** with singer Elisabeth von Trapp, granddaughter of Baron von Trapp of "Sound of Music" fame, please contact Pr. Michael Thomas at 603-643-3703 or michael.p.thomas@dartmouth.edu
- Come and meet **Honduran church leaders** at breakfast at Assembly in the Rhode Island Room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel: Friday, **June 6**, 7 am: meet Bishop Lloyd Allen of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras; on Sat., **June 7**, 7:30 am, meet Rubi Esperanza Flores, Director of Diaconia Programs, and Janet Alcantara, ELCA Missionary serving the Lutheran Church of Honduras. Pay your meal cost of \$15 at the door, but RSVP in advance to Deirdra Schmidt at 603-882-2876 or schmidtdee@comcast.net with name, cong, phone, day attending.



GROW WITH US: An introductory retreat for **Healing the Wounds of Racism** is set for **June 20-22**, 2008, at Espousal retreat center, Waltham, MA. This ongoing process springs from the synod's *visioning for justice*. See **brochure enclosed** for details or talk to a member of the community. A stage 2 retreat is scheduled for July 11-13. Questions? blamson@nesynod.org or 508-791-1530 x106

ECUMENICAL OPPORTUNITY: In preparation for the "Pauline Year" beginning June 28, 2008, a day-long symposium titled "**Living Christ in a Pluralistic World**" will be held at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 22 St. George Rd., Springfield, MA, on **Tuesday, April 8**, 8.30 am to 4 pm. With the assistance of three renowned biblical scholars the symposium will uncover St. Paul's own insights of living in the pluralistic world in which he himself was active. Speakers are the Rev. Professor Karl P. Donfried; Jesuit Priest and Professor Thomas Stegman, S.J., from Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, MA; and Episcopal Rector the Rev. Paul F. M. Zahl from All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase, MD. Registration is \$20 at the door. **See flyer in this care packet.**

Hear a **DIAKONIA** forum Sunday, **April 13, 2-5 pm**, at Peace Lutheran Church, 107 Concord Rd., Wayland, MA. Dr. Jeannine Olson from Rhode Island College will speak on the "history of diakonia." Meet Heather Feltman, Diaconal Minister and President of Lutheran Social Services; Sr. Carol Weaver, Deaconess from Pilgrim, Warwick, RI; and Pr. Ted Asta, Associate to the Bishop. **Flyer enclosed.**

John Bell of the Iona Community will present "**Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones for Worship**," a workshop on the challenges and opportunities of using music in worship, 4:00 pm, **April 15**, at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. There will be a free hymn sing from 7-9 pm in the Wilson Chapel as well. Reserve a space by April 7. Call Jennifer Shaw at 617-964-1100 x 228. Cost is \$5.00.

Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Convocation, April 22-23, 2008, will cover "Thou Shalt (Not): Lutheran Perspective(s) on the Decalogue in Public Discourse." Get details at www.ltsq.edu .

The Reconciling In Christ working group of the Synod's Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Understanding will be hosting "**Walking the Walk of Welcome**" on Saturday, June 14, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster St., Worcester, MA. This day-long event is designed for all persons interested in learning more about the RIC program and how their congregation can make an intentional and public welcome to GLBT persons. Cost is low. Please join us. **Flyer enclosed.**

THIS SUMMER: Andover Newton Theological School's *Summer Institute in Art and Worship* will present "**Our Hearts Ablaze: Encountering Christ, Renewing Holy Ground**" with presenters Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, **June 22-25**, 2008. Cost is \$350 but discounts are available: groups of 3 receive \$20% discount; 4, 25%; and 5 or more, 30%, when registering together. Visit www.ants.edu and follow links on the calendar or write to summerinstitute@ants.edu for more. Dorm housing on campus is available at \$75 single occupancy.

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg offers its *2008 Summer Institute for Ministry* on the topic: **Navigating Ministry: Church Leadership and Administration, July 7-11**. Presenters are the Rev. Roy M. Oswald, The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Bacher, and the Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White. Contact hours available. Options for entire program or single day participation. 10% discount if registered by May 12. Optional theater show available on Wed., July 9, for participants in the institute only. Visit www.ltsq.edu for program details.

Wartburg Seminary's **Luther Academy of the Rockies** will study "Religion in Today's World," at Meeker Park Lodge, Allenspark, CO, **June 23-July 3, 2008**. Free time for recreation is included at this event. Learn from Dr. Ms. Monica J. Malanchthon, Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, and Rev. Dr. Wayne Weissenbuehler and enjoy the beauty of the Rocky Mountains while gaining continuing education credit. Visit http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/template_Events.asp?id=310 to register. Space limited.

Great spiritual resources for YOU including a **portable labyrinth**. Visit www.nesynod.org/resource-center.html to borrow this or other new resources in the **Janssen Resource Center** of the New England Synod. We have the video "An Inconvenient Truth," an ecological documentary by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and "Understanding Fundamentalism," from the ELCA's Mosaic team.

Youth and youth leaders: Visit the **Get Drenched blog** site: <http://getdrenched.wordpress.com>, a place to share your thoughts with one another and with the youth and family ministry team of the synod

GOT POWER? Join the ELCA's **Book of Faith Initiative** to become "more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word." Prof. Diane Jacobson, our speaker at the 2007 Bishop's Convocation, leads this program, www.elca.org/bookoffaith/ The initiative, approved by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly, will be featured at our 2008 synod assemblies.

The **ELCA Global Mission Event** is now booking reservations for **July 17-20, 2008**, at the University of Wisconsin in LaCrosse, WI. For more info go to www.elca.org/gme/GME2008

The Summer Seminary Sampler program at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH, is a 3 week residential program, **June 8-28 or July 6-26**, for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Youth explore their gifts for ministry through service projects, seminary classes, special worship services, and more. See <http://Sampler.TrinityLutheranSeminary.edu> or call Pr. Ruth Fortis (614) 235-4136 ext. 4619 for more information. **Application deadline: April 15.**

Gettysburg Seminary will hold a Seminary Weekend **Oct. 25-26, 2008** for prospective students who would like to experience student life at LTSG, including worship, community living, campus orientation, and interaction with students. For info or to register click <http://www.ltsq.edu/admissions/weekend.htm>. Not able to make these dates? Just call 1-800-MLUTHER, ext. 3008, to set up a personal Campus Visit that will include a staff interview, campus tour, worship, lunch, and a class visit.

For links to visit other ELCA seminaries, click <http://www.elca.org/theologicaleducation/weekend/>

🎵 The 2008 **Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival** will take place on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, from **June 22 to July 20**. Learn more at www.lutheransummertime.org. "As the only national organization dedicated to training and lifting up future musicians for the church, we are committed to providing a place *for the congregational youth in your Synod to connect their gifts with the rich heritage music of the Lutheran Church.*"



Project Connect will hold a **discernment retreat June 6-8, 2008**, at Gettysburg Seminary for *adults under age 30 who have already graduated from college*. Visit www.projectconnect.org or call Don Johnson at 603-539-7257 to know more. Project Connect is a program of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries, funded by a Lilly grant.

Wheat Ridge Ministries' 2008 National **Symposium on Health and Hope** is **Oct. 2-4, 2008**, in Milwaukee, WI. The theme "The Body Language of Faith" will be explored from many angles, with a central scriptural focus on "bones, breath and blessings" based on Ezekiel 37. "We will lift up our common interest in health and human care ministry and celebrate our diversity of disciplines, interests and experiences." Visit www.wheatridge.org for details about speakers and workshops.