

Learning Opportunities

God is calling YOU to Heal the Wounds of Racism. Sign up now for this year's retreats: a Stage I retreat will be held **August 18-20, 2006**. A Stage II retreat, for those who have completed stage I, is scheduled for **September 29-Oct. 1, 2006**. You may also help with a financial gift toward this work. Following the initial retreat, attendees are invited to join the community for quarterly Bible study and fellowship in this ongoing process. Call for a brochure 508-791-1530 or visit the synod website www.nesynod.org (Resources/ Healing the Wounds.)

Close to home - The **2006 ELCA Global Mission Event (GME)** will be held right here in New England July 27-30, at the University of Massachusetts' Amherst Campus. *Don't miss this wonderful educational event – a great time for families to learn and play together.* Visit www.nesynod.org to learn more and to register on line. Pr. Blake Wamester and Ms. Deirdra Schmidt are our synod co-facilitators. **Trained speakers are eager to come to your congregation** or conference meeting with advance information. To arrange a date, contact Ms. Deirdra Schmidt at schmidtdee@aol.com or call 603-882-2876.

GME opportunity- build a lighthouse! Say "Hi!" to our guests and celebrate the LIGHT of Christ, shining through the Global Mission Event (GME) at UMass-Amherst, July 27-30. Just think of driving up to the GME Registration as a "first timer." You're tired, hot, a little cranky maybe. And, there, lining every window sill, ledge and outcropping are brightly painted, happy little lighthouses, welcoming you to the only GME in the country--right here in New England! The kids giggle as they point out fun features. The adults smile as they get the message that "We, your New England hosts, celebrate with you, our global family, the LIGHT of our Lord in this beautiful place at this beautiful time together."

Join in: We invite each Episcopalian and Lutheran church in New England to decorate and donate a "table top size" lighthouse for display and sale at the GME. (Don't forget your church's name and town.) Have fun with this! **Proceeds from the "sales" will be given to the joint Episcopal/Lutheran LSS refugee relief effort.** Questions: contact Joyce Janosky at 603-465-2421.

The ELCA Seminaries offer programs for pastors and lay leaders throughout the year. Check out their websites for new events. Visit the ELCA unit for Vocation and Education for links to them and to Lutheran colleges www.elca.org/theologicaleducation/seminaries/

Thinking about **spiritual gifts and vocation**? Visit www.projectconnect.org to learn about local discernment events and other opportunities to test your gifts for ministry.

ROSTERED LEADERS: Bishop's Convocation will be held **October 23-25, 2006**, at the Crowne Plaza, Worcester, MA. We will welcome **ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson** as our speaker. Registration materials will be available soon. A special retirees gathering will be included.

Be sure to visit the **Augsburg Fortress bookstore**, a vital ministry of the ELCA, during our assembly, located in **Meeting Room B** off the DCU entry foyer.

The 23rd annual Craigville Theological Colloquy will be held at the Craigville Conference Center, 39 Prospect Ave. Craigville. MA 02632, on Cape Cod, July 17-21, 2006. This year's subject is: "**Christians Engaging Muslims: Commonalities and Particularities**" Keynoter is Professor Mark Swanson, Associate Professor of Christian History and Islam and Director of the Islamic Studies Program at Luther Seminary. Dr. Karim Khudairi, former dean at the University of Baghdad and first president of the Islamic Council of New England will also speak, as will Dr. Frederick Downs, retired from teaching in Christian-Muslim contexts in India. A Muslim Imam and a Christian pastor will be in dialogue about how their scriptures are interpreted in a congregation and mosque. The event includes small group discussion and free time to enjoy beach privileges and other Cape Cod features. For information on registration call 508-775-1265 or e-mail craigvillecc@capecod.cod

A seminar, "**Body and the Kingdom**," will be held Aug. 20-26 at Snowbird Lodge Retreat Center, Harrison, Maine, sponsored by The Guild for Psychological Studies and Snowbird Lodge. In this

seminar, participants will reflect on the words and teachings of Jesus to deepen their connection to God and self. With the interplay of movement, toning, text and questions, breathwork and art, these teachings become part of our lived experience. From these experiences, the goal of the seminar is that participants find healing for the many challenges of our times, socially and individually, in body, mind and soul. For more information, please email the Rev. David Thorp: snowbirdlodge@adelphia.net or call (207) 583-6446.

Wheat Ridge Ministries offers financial grants to Lutheran congregations providing **sabbaticals** for pastors and other full-time church workers. Visit www.wheatridge.org and click "projects/services" to reach their sabbatical resource pages. They also offer **free health information** for congregation use. Click "resources" for their monthly health page.

The ELCA website offers prayer and devotion and a **daily Bible reading**: www.elca.org/spiritual.html
You can also subscribe and have it forwarded to your personal email.

The Center for the Study of Human Systems in Falls Church, VA, offers **Extraordinary Leadership Seminars**. Tailored to clergy and lay church leaders, this seminar teaches Bowen family theory, with the aim of preventing burn-out and invigorating church life. Call 703-532-3823 for a brochure or go to www.hsystems.org for details. Deadline for fall seminars is Sept. 1. Questions? Ask Pr. Julie Bergdahl.

Pastors and staff serving in team ministry in ELCA Regions 4-8 are invited to attend a **Multiple Staff Workshop** at the Weber Center, Adrian, MI, September 11-13. Cost is \$380 pp and it is open to teams of full and part time, clergy and lay leaders, rostered and non who work together on a congregation staff. Call synod house for registration materials or contact Pr. Hermann Kuhlmann at 614-891-7233 or hkuhlmann@columbus.rr.com Registration deadline August 21.