

COLLEGES, SEMINARIES and CAMPUS MINISTRY

Augustana College

As we at Augustana College prepare to celebrate our Sesquicentennial in 2010 with joy and thanksgiving, we are reflecting upon the ways in which the current mission of the College remains true to the original mission of our founders. Pastor Lars Paul Esbjorn, our first president, would surely be puzzled by certain aspects of campus life today, for example, the presence of women and persons from non-Lutheran churches in the student body. But I believe that he would be pleased that one of the principal missions of the College at its founding, namely, the preparation of young persons for ministry in the Church, remains an important goal at Augustana College today. This preparation happens in several important ways.

Our Campus Ministries program offers a number of ways for students to test out their sense of calling to the ministry. In addition to three full-time chaplains and a director of music, our paid Campus Ministries staff includes a 16-person Student Leadership Team which works alongside the chaplains to plan and carry out the ministry on campus. Other paid student leadership positions include sacristans, service musicians, Drama Troupe Director, and members of a Creative Worship Planning Team. All of these students are mentored by the professional staff, so that they graduate from Augustana with significant hands-on experience in leading ministry.

Campus Ministries also provides numerous opportunities for students interested in a church vocation to “grow their faith,” including worship four times a week, spiritual retreats, Bible study, and a variety of community service events.

Also providing special resources for pre-seminary students is The Augustana Center for Vocational Reflection. Their *Working with Faith* group regularly gathers these students for support and conversation about various avenues of church service. *Seminary Connections* funds trips at least twice a year to seminaries so that students can gain first-hand experience of what seminary study involves. *Servant Leader Internships* pay stipends up to \$2,500 for students to test out their sense of calling by working in summer internships in local congregations as well as LSSI, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, and ELCA Churchwide offices.

Our Religion Department gives students the chance to deepen their knowledge of the Bible, Christian theology, and the Church through a variety of courses in the academic curriculum. The Department offers classes in Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Christian Theology, Church History, Christian Ethics, World Religions, and Islam. It is always gratifying to hear from our graduates who have gone on to seminary study that the quality of teaching in our Religion Department rivals that of our seminaries and prepares them well for seminary study.

Finally, Augustana College provides significant financial help to students preparing for ministry in the ELCA. The Rissing Scholarship, providing up to half tuition, is our most significant award, and we give out numerous other endowed scholarships every year to students preparing for church service.

Please encourage those young people you know who are sensing a call to the ministry of the Church to visit Augustana College and to consider attendance at Augustana to be the best possible preparation for a lifetime of ministry and service.

Steven C. Bahls, President

Carthage College

Dear Friends in Christ,

We celebrate our life and mission as a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with gratitude for the partnership we share with you. We thank God for our common calling to announce grace and truth in the name and manner of Christ Jesus our Savior.

The events of 2008 have impacted all of us in a variety of ways. Our nation elected Barack Obama as its first African American president, but the acknowledgment of this milestone has been muted by the economic turmoil that has disrupted and changed the way our institutions conduct their business and plan for the future. Many colleges, seminaries, and universities have been forced to trim budgets, limit curricular offerings, eliminate programs, cut salaries, and reduce the scope of their work. Carthage has also faced the sobering reality of a declining fiscal profile, but we have been able to continue our activities without cutting back on essential operations. Our administrators have been prudent managers and faithful stewards of our assets, and we rejoice that our faculty and staff are fully supported as they engage our students and offer them a high quality college education.

We look back on the past year praising God for the prayers and encouragement of our loyal alumni, families, and friends. We continue to build new residence halls so that we can house the majority of our 2,374 full time students (a record enrollment) on campus. Our newest athletic facility, the Tarble Arena, expands our capacity to host big events for the College and the community. We are inspired by the gifts of our new faculty and the wisdom of our veteran teachers. As our curriculum expands, most notably with an emphasis on Western and Global Heritage, we are confident that Carthage will continue to effectively respond to the complex demands of today's world. We know that God has called us to pursue excellence at every level, especially at this challenging moment in human history. We remain grateful for the opportunities given us to help your sons and daughters mature as faithful leaders of the church and wise citizens of the global community.

The following programs and events in 2008 were of special significance to my office.

* Carthage co-sponsored the Greater Milwaukee Synod Winter Symposium, January 21-23, and offered a unique program featuring webcast presentations from the Trinity Institute National Theological Conference on Religion and Violence. It was amazing to see how this technology allowed us to plan the opening worship service in Kenosha with the preacher, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, standing in a pulpit in the middle of New York City.

* The Carthage Gospel Messengers traveled to the US Virgin Islands for their spring break tour, presenting concerts and sharing in Holy Week services at historic Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Thomas and Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. John.

* Weekly chapel programs and active student groups continue to provide opportunities for worship, reflection, and service on campus and within the surrounding community.

* The Carthage Christmas festival, "Love Has Come, a Light in the Darkness," featured an array of student ensembles offering a creative interpretation of the Christmas story with carols and readings.

The College is greatly blessed by the spiritual gifts of your sons and daughters. Please continue to pray for Carthage as we work to fulfill our calling to fully engage the pursuit of truth, the power of compassion, and the promise of transformation.

Your brother in Christ, the Rev. Dr. Harvard Stephens Jr. + Dean of Siebert Chapel

Carthage College * Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140 * www.carthage.edu

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

1 Peter 2:9

As the Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) community at Northern Illinois University (NIU) moved from the tragic campus shootings of February 2008 into a new academic year, we limped into the fall semester with scars and pains of death and senseless violence weighing us down. The reality of communal wounds was palpable but the strength and determination to move beyond the wounds was even greater. And so, we entered the year in confidence, knowing that the cross of Christ stood before us, beckoning us toward the marvelous light. And, indeed, this has been a year of walking out of dark clouds of pain into a place where healing and mercy abound. Easter has been our theme and Easter is where we find ourselves today--rejoicing for *we are God's people, gifted with Hope and Life!*

I take this opportunity to thank each congregation, every congregational leader, our synod staff and Bishop Wollersheim for multitudes of prayers and abundant support. These gifts have sustained and nourished the LCM community over the past fifteen months. Each and every prayer and your abundant kind acts have carried us into the light. *Thank you!*

Also, thank you for your generous financial gifts in response to the NIS initiative, "Growing God's Loving, Caring Mission (Growing LCM)." As you know, this is a three year program to strengthen NIU campus ministry and young adult ministry by procuring \$200,000. The task force appointed to spearhead "Growing LCM" rejoices that over a third of our goal has been met. *Thank you* for these initial gifts and for helping us meet our full goal. Such support is bold affirmation of our church's commitment to ministry with and for young adults.

The commitment of NIS toward LCM has not gone unnoticed by the young adults within the LCM community. In a recent meeting with student leaders, we began forming a five-year plan by dreaming about our hopes for the future of LCM. One young leader commented, "I hope we can reach out to more congregations. They are so supportive of us and we love it when we can be with them, support them and thank them." One of the joys the LCM community looks forward to is being in greater partnership with you this coming year through several congregational outreach events:

- We are looking forward to our annual Advent by Candlelight during which time young adults lead in Advent music and readings and we share in a warm candle-light dinner.
- The Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) has partnered with LCM in offering a Junior High/Middle School Lock-in. This year we hope we find over 200 youth heading toward campus for a full and fun night early in November.
- Several synod leaders have asked for a Senior High event that would allow emerging young adults to also encounter the joys of campus ministry. Such good ideas do not go unheeded: throughout the coming year conference LYO events for High School youth will be held at LCM where college and high school students will gather over cookouts, karaoke and coffee.

The Lutheran Campus Ministry community is prepared to run—not limp—into an exciting future with you as our partners. *Together we have lived through Good Friday and together we have emerged into the light of Easter.* In this Easter place we find ourselves energized and empowered to embrace ministry with and to young adults in a bold new way. Together we move ahead for the purpose of proclaiming the mighty acts of him who has called us out of darkness into majestic light! *Thank you for your partnership and support!*

Faithfully,
Diane Dardón, LCM Campus Pastor

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois

One of the best visuals coming out of campus ministry for me this year was the young adult student baptism that happened at Lutheran Campus Ministry, Bemidji State University, Minnesota. The school is located on Lake Bemidji. Campus Pastor Jim Holthus and student Tabitha “went into and came up out of the water” of the lake to experience and apply the waters of baptism. What a powerful symbol and reality of “drowning the old and rising to a new life” in Christ – a new member into the family of God’s people.

Each year ELCA campus ministries submit an annual report and the statistics are summarized for the church. One of the statistics compiled is baptisms. In 2007 there were eighty-five baptisms conducted in campus ministry, fifty-one of them adult. In 2008 seventy baptisms included thirty-one adults. This is like a new congregation being birthed each year into the ELCA through campus ministry.

Campus ministry is a crucial mission outpost of the church among the young adult populations, many of whom no longer walk or have never walked with the faith community

Your benevolence dollars support ministries across Illinois served by:

Pr. Elizabeth Musselman - University of Chicago
Pr. Lloyd Kittlaus - Northwestern University, Evanston
Pr. Diane Dardón - Northern Illinois University, DeKalb;
Pr. Rachel Bass- University of Illinois, Champaign
Pr. Marty Eckert - Illinois State University, Normal

Providing leadership from the Northern Illinois Synod on the Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois Board are Dr. David Zumdahl and Rev. Sharon Rogers.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this vital mission outreach of the church.

Dr. Marcus D. Pera, ELCA Coordinator for Campus Ministry - Regions 3, 5 and 6

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Wartburg Theological Seminary

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As the two seminaries that Northern Illinois Synod supports, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and Wartburg Theological Seminary are grateful for your partnership in the ministry of equipping valued leaders for the church. It is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry and we do not lose heart. The financial support that we receive from your synod is more important than ever. We are grateful for and seek your prayers, continuing commitment, and strong financial support that the story of God’s love in Jesus Christ might always be told anew to bring life and love, forgiveness and justice as Wartburg and LSTC graduates stand in pulpits, stand behind altars and kneel at bedsides, proclaiming the Good News.

During 2008 Wartburg Theological Seminary lived out its mission by:

- Welcoming 47 Master of Divinity, 9 Master of Arts, 5 International, and 9 TEEM, first year students in theological educational study; the largest class in recent history.
- Sending out 39 valued leaders into the church and the world at 2008 Commencement.
- Introducing the inaugural Robert B. Gronlund Memorial Lecture Series on stewardship, to be held annually for pastors and congregational leaders.

- Initiating the Wartburg Theological Seminary Foundation with six new trustees from across the country to build and strengthen the financial and advocacy support of theological education.
- Hosting a growing number of lay and ordained leaders for Life Long Learning events through out the year including Tri-State Forums, Luther Academy of the Rockies, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Bible Study Forum and Hein-Fry Lectures.
- Holding rural ministry conference events and follow up discussions amidst contemporary issues of renewable energy and resources with a ministry focus.
- Continuing research and publication of works important for church and world; recent publications by faculty members Nesson, Everist, Chung, Lull, and Frambach.
- Responding to this challenging financial and economic time with difficult decisions including program suspensions and staff reductions.
- Beginning the new campaign for strengthening our base of support, renewing commitment to scholarship and endowment funding, and seeking financial means to bring needed technology to our students and community. “Committed to Valued Leaders” is a five year campaign, 2008-2013, that will raise \$20 million with individual and congregational partners across the country with a focus on “Strengthening the Base” of donors to 5,000 donors giving \$25 per month or \$300 per year.

With faith in the Triune God and the future of this ministry, LSTC remains strong in its mission.

- 80 students graduated from LSTC’s Five degree programs in May 2008 and have taken up their ministries as pastors, chaplains, teachers, and administrators across the U.S. and around the world;
- LSTC welcomed three new faculty – Klaus Peter Adam, associate professor of Old Testament; Benjamin Stewart, occupying the Gordon A. Braatz Chair in Worship; and Peter Vethanayagamony, associate professor of church history;
- Sara Trumm became the program coordinator for A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice, assuring that the center fulfills its potential as a resource for students and all those interested in fostering interfaith dialogue;
- The Rev. Dr. José David Rodríguez has been named director of LSTC’s Multicultural Center, to work with ELCA partners to promote a more diverse and culturally competent seminary and church.

Equipping the saints for ministry

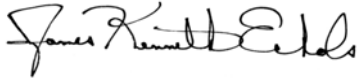
In the midst of economic challenges, we are grateful that LSTC’s friends, boards, faculty and staff, continue to strongly support the seminary’s comprehensive campaign, *Equipping the Saints for Ministry*. In the first six months of LSTC’s fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2008,

- gifts from alums and friends were up 24%;
- the gift total was up nearly 10%;
- faculty and staff giving increased dramatically to meet a \$25,000 matching gift challenge from the Cornelsen Family Foundation;
- LSTC’s boards created a challenge fund of \$125,000 to match new gifts;
- LSTC’s most generous donors are increasing their Annual Fund commitments, contributing an additional \$225,000 for current expenses;
- gifts to the endowment are up 5% over last year;
- board members, alums, and friends continue to make planned gifts through trusts, life insurance, and gift annuities (gifts totaling over \$900,000).

We welcome your visit to the seminaries to attend daily worship, a continuing education event, to discern a call to ministry, or to visit with some of the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to the Lutheran School of Theology and Wartburg Theological Seminary. To learn more about the seminaries, their faculty, programs and upcoming events, visit www.wartburgseminary.edu and www.lstc.edu.

Your partnership is essential for Wartburg and LSTC to continue their shared mission of providing dynamic theological education for congregations and ministries in your synod, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Kenneth Echols". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J".

President James Kenneth Echols

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane H. Larson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "D".

President Duane H. Larson