

# Concordia-Selma to Host Summer Black Ministry Family Convocation

Planners for this year's Black Ministry Family Convocation, set for July 19-23 at Concordia College-Selma, AL, predict that the historical significance of the site will attract more convocation participants than in past years.

"We're going to the cradle of black Lutheranism in our Synod," explained Dr. Willie Stallworth, associate executive director of the Board for Black Ministry Services, which sponsors the biennial gatherings.

Alabama was the fastest-growing field when LCMS missionaries began planting black congregations in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The school that became Concordia College-Selma, was started in

1922 to train teachers for Synod mission schools, and Selma was the site of civil rights marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965.

The city's black history connections should prove to be a "tremendous draw" for black Lutherans, said Stallworth, who expects some 1,500 people to attend. The convocations usually average around 1,200 participants, he added.

Addressing the convocation theme, "Crossing Over," based on Joshua 1:1-3, will be two keynote speakers:

Dr. Cheryl E. Williams, associate professor in the School of Business and assistant to the president for International

and Cultural Relations at Concordia University-Irvine. Williams owns Communication Works, a corporate training and consulting company serving Fortune 500 corporations, and has lived or worked in more than 30 countries.

Dr. John Beasley, an actor who has appeared in a number of stage productions and TV shows. A member of Hope Lutheran-Omaha, NE, he founded the John Beasley Theater, which focuses on works featuring or written by African Americans.

The five-day convocation will include daily worship, business sessions, performances by Lutheran choirs and musicians and more than two dozen workshops on topics such as finances, spiritual gifts, leadership, church music, grant writing, peacemaking, church planting, marriage, web-site development, singles, health fairs, and sermons for children and youth.

Dr. Phillip Campbell, executive director of the Board for Black Ministry Services, will share his vision for black ministry. Leading worship services will be LCMS Pastors James Wiggins Jr., Byron Williams, Greg Manning, James Brown, Paul Anderson, James Ertl and Richard Dickinson.

A separate youth program will offer Bible study, crafts, song/dance sessions, a talent show and a trip to the Visionland amusement park. Child care for younger children will be available.

Pre-convocation sessions for educators, mission planters, district staff and pastors serving black ministries will be offered July 17-18 on the Concordia-Selma, campus. The educators will spend their first day in Rose Bud, AL, at the site of the first Lutheran church and school planted on the Alabama field.

Registration materials for the convocation were mailed

earlier this year to all LCMS district offices and more than 300 Synod congregations involved in black ministry.

Early registration by May 7 is \$115 for adults and \$75 for children and youth. Registration from May 8 to June 25 is \$140 for adults and \$90 for children and youth. Late registration from June 26 to July 23 is \$165 for adults and \$105 for children and youth.

Registration fees do not include lodging or meals. A list of Selma hotels is included with registration materials, and those who wish to attend are advised to make their hotel reservations as early as possible.

For more information contact WillaMae Winston at the Synod's Black Ministry office in St. Louis at 800-248-1930, ext. 1751, or willamae.winston@lcms.org.; to register online, visit the Board for Black Ministry Services Web site at <http://black-ministry.lcms.org>. □

## "Healthy You" Awards Launched

The LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support is committed to helping the church's workers learn and grow, serve well and be healthy, advocating for the workers and their families.

In conjunction with the *What a Way* initiative, the CMGS is offering "Healthy You" awards at this year's LCMS District conventions. These awards are to encourage not only the recipient, but also professional church workers everywhere as they consider taking "small steps" toward healthier living.

Two \$200 "Healthy You" award recipients will be determined by a drawing from entries gathered at each convention. Entry cards will be available at the convention or may be downloaded from the CMGS web site ([www.cmgs.lcms.org](http://www.cmgs.lcms.org)) and given to a congregational delegate to be included in the drawing.

The winners will be announced before the end of the convention and need not be

present to win. All professional church workers are eligible for the drawing.



### Schubert New DCS executive director

Rev. Jeffery S. Schubert was installed as full-time executive director of the LCMS Board for District and Congregational Services on March 9 at the Synod's International Center. He had served in an interim capacity since last summer.

Schubert, 50, had been director of Family Ministry for DCS since he joined the staff at the Synod's International Center in St. Louis in 1998. He was the director of Youth and Family Ministry for the LCMS South Wisconsin District from 1989-98, after serving as pastor of congregations in Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Schubert is a 1981 graduate of Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. □

## LutherHostel 2006 Set for October in St. Louis

"Living Well in Christ" is the theme for LutherHostel 2006, set for October 7-10 on the campus of Concordia Seminary-St. Louis.

LutherHostel is an educational event for adults, age 55 and above, that provides an opportunity for participants to experience spiritual, intellectual and social growth while enjoying the tranquil surroundings of the Seminary campus.

Dr. Richard Bimler, recently retired president of Wheat Ridge Ministries, will be the main presenter for the event. Bimler has served the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in various positions for more than 40 years, including 15 years at Wheat Ridge. His work has taken him to such places as Nigeria, Budapest, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, India, Philippines, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Venezuela, Guatemala, Korea, Canada and the Middle-East.

Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer and his wife will host a reception and dinner for LutherHostel participants.

The three-day event will feature presentations by Martin Noland, director of Concordia Historical Institute, and Marge Schramm, former mayor of Kirkwood, MO; Bible studies led by Seminary faculty Thomas Egger and David Lewis; class visitation; student-led evening devotions; opportunities for informal interaction with faculty; a private demonstration of the organ at The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus; and a tour of St. Louis-area sites. An optional tour of

Lutheran historical sites in Perry County is available on October 11 immediately following LutherHostel.

The LutherHostel fee is \$310 per person, which includes all meals and refreshments for the event. Housing is available on campus (on a limited basis for an additional cost) or in nearby hotels.

Dr. Paul L. Maier, noted Lutheran scholar and author, will be the presenter for LutherHostel 2007, which will be held October 6-9.

For more information about LutherHostel, contact the Seminary's Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7123 or [ce@csll.edu](mailto:ce@csll.edu). □



REV. MATTHEW HARRISON, executive director, LCMS World Relief/Human Care, has been reappointed to lead the worldwide mercy ministry for another five years. The LCMS Board for Human Care Ministries recognized Harrison's leadership of the Synod's worldwide arm of mercy since 2001, a period that included the unprecedented challenges of September 11, the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. "This has been an amazing five years," said Harrison, who previously served as a parish pastor in Iowa and Indiana. "I've seen the absolute worst things the devil, the world and our flesh can throw at us. But I've also had the unbelievable honor and privilege of service to Christ's people as they have responded with unprecedented love and kindness in Jesus' name." Providing for the physical and spiritual needs of children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Kenya, Africa, is one of many ministry efforts. □

## NOVA SINGERS

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8:15 p.m. • Friday, 3/31/06 • Free-Will Offering  
Plantation United Methodist Church  
1001 NW 70th Avenue • Plantation • 954-584-7500

4:00 p.m. • Sunday, 4/2/06 • Free-Will Offering  
Taft Street Baptist Church  
7241 Taft Street • Hollywood • 954-983-1413

8:15 p.m. • Tuesday, 4/4/06 • \$10 Tickets at the Door  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
7601 SW 39th Street • Davie • 954-475-0683



Further Information: 954-262-2135  
[www.nova.edu/novasingers](http://www.nova.edu/novasingers)