

Synod Board Approves \$88 Million Budget

During its May 21-24 meeting in St. Louis, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Board of Directors approved an operating budget of \$88,033,000 for

the upcoming fiscal year, which started July 1.

Also adopted was a 2006-07 capital budget of \$1,009,000 for the national Synod and a 2007

LCMS convention budget of \$1,505,630.

The 2005-06 operating budget adopted a year ago was \$81.8 million, and the capital budget totaled \$1.059 million.

Dr. Thomas Kuchta, the Synod's vice president-finance/treasurer, noted that the 2006-07 operating budget shows a surplus of \$403,000, allows for adding nine new missionaries (not including spouses) and provides for \$2.5 million in subsidy for the LCMS' 10 colleges and universities and its two seminaries.

According to Kuchta, the 2006-07 budget includes a number of other new items, such as start-up funding for "Ablaze Connection," a Web-based communications network supporting the Synod's initiative to share the Gospel with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by 2017.

He said that the 2006-07 operating budget also allows for adding 21 new ministry personnel to the total national office's headcount, while reducing the Synod's administrative staff by one.

Kuchta said the subsidy amount and the increases for mission and ministry in the new budget are "significant, especially since there is a \$421,000 decrease in unrestricted revenue, compared with the 2005-06 budget."

Board Vacancies Filled

During its May meeting, the LCMS Board filled vacancies on a number of Synod boards (including two of its own seats), the Board for Pastoral Education, and the Board of Directors for Concordia Plan Services/Board of Managers-Worker Benefit Plans. Also filled was

a vacancy on the Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Board of Directors.

Elected to fill the vacancies were:

- LCMS Board of Directors (two laymen) — Roy Schmidt, Bay City, MI, and David Piehler, Wausau, WI;
- Board for Pastoral Education (one clergyman) — Rev. Kenton Wendorf, Grafton, WI;
- Board of Directors-Concordia Plan Services/Board of Managers-Worker Benefit Plans (one clergy and two lay) — Rev. Ronald Carnicom, Hackensack, MN; Frederick Draegel, Richmond, VA; and Mark E. Schmidtke, Valparaiso, IN;
- CPH Board of Directors (one clergy) — Rev. Philip Esala, Centerville, OH. □

Workshop to Provide Help on Disability Outreach

Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc., a leader in the field of developmental disability services, is sponsoring a one-day workshop entitled "Building a Disability Ministry" on Saturday, October 14, at Faith Lutheran Church-Marietta, GA.

The event is designed for parents, pastors and teachers who are interested in sharing the Gospel with people who have developmental disabilities. The overall goals will be to assist congregations in developing new ministries and expanding existing ministries for individuals with developmental disabilities; to share congregational awareness materials and curricula specifically designed for disability ministry; and to promote inclusion of people with developmental disabilities into the fabric of the congregation.

To register for the workshop, or for additional information, contact Lois Diebel, Bethesda's Parish Ministry Consultant for

the Florida-Georgia District, at 877-457-5556, ext. 222; e-mail: ldiebel@blhs.org; or Thomas Heuer, Bethesda's coordinator of outreach programs, at 800-369-4636, ext. 4449; e-mail: theuer@blhs.org.

Now in its second century of service, Bethesda Lutheran Homes provides services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the country and throughout the world. It is Bethesda's mission to support the needs of the individual — both physical and spiritual — and as a result, Bethesda offers many different types of services for the individual and their family, including a variety of residential facilities, supported-living programs, outreach services and secular training workshops.

For more information on Bethesda's services and support programs, call the public relations office at 800-369-4636, ext. 3817, or email: pr@blhs.org. □

Student Visits Set at Seminary

Prospective pastors and deaconesses are invited to the 2006 Fall Visitation Weekend, October 12-14, hosted by Concordia Seminary-St. Louis.

The weekend is designed for to provide those who are college age or older with an introduction to life in the Concordia community and preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain or deaconess in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Visitors and their guests will have the opportunity to

worship with the Seminary community, observe classes and tour the campus. Presentations will provide information on academic offerings, financial assistance, housing, resident field education, vicarage, internships and the admission process.

An Information Fair on Friday evening is designed to highlight the various organizations and opportunities offered at the Seminary. More than 30 representatives from organizations involved in nearly all aspects of life at Concordia will be involved.

A Women's Information Session on Saturday morning is designed for wives, fiancées and girlfriends of prospective pastoral ministry students.

There is no charge for the Fall Visitation Weekend, and all meals and lodging are complimentary. Round-trip transportation from the airport to Concordia Seminary is provided.

For more information, contact the Seminary's Admissions Office at 800-822-9545 or admissions@csl.edu. The deadline to register for the Visitation Weekend is October 1. □



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Emergency Services Chaplain Conference Set

Lutheran emergency services chaplains are invited to a first-time conference offering support, training and networkingsponsored by LCMS World Relief/Human Care.

The conference — set for November 13-14 in St. Louis — was planned for LCMS chaplains, including those who work with fire and police departments, emergency medical services, the FBI, Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Border Patrol and with other emergency services.

According to conference planners, the event aims to provide a more accurate count of LCMS chaplains, typically parish pastors with congregations who also serve their communities in unpaid positions. Another objective is to help chaplains maintain their LCMS identity.

Plenary sessions and speakers for the "Enriching and Networking Lutheran Emergency Services Chaplains" conference are:

- Theology for Mercy, Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director, LCMS World Relief/Human Care;
- Self-Care, Rev. W. Roger Stauffer, Midland, MI, hospital chaplain, volunteer sheriff and fire chaplain;

• Building Trust in Relationships or Building Trusting Relationships, Rev. Richard Turner, Groves, TX, volunteer FBI chaplain.

- Workshops will explore:
- Ethics: Confidential and Legal Implications, LCMS legal counsel;
 - Two Kingdoms: Struggle for Christians Engaging in Emergency, Rev. Stephen Lee, Peace Officer Ministries;
 - Difference between Police and Fire Families/Different Agencies, Rev. Don Hackbarth, Pleasant Prairie, WI., volunteer police and fire chaplain;
 - Critical Incident Stress Management, Rev. Bill Wagner, Beloit, WI, police and fire chaplain;
 - Getting Your Congregation's Support, Rev. Jack Karch, Rome, GA, volunteer fire chaplain.

An LCMS World Relief/Human Care grant enabled coordinators to make the conference as affordable as possible. The \$50 registration fee includes one night's lodging and three meals.

Registration is limited to 150 participants and must be completed by October 1. Contact Judy Ladage, 800-248-1930, ext. 1388, or judy.ladage@lcms.org. □