

**2007 Bulletin of Reports
Delaware-Maryland Synod**

AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG

180 Years Strong: Completing its 180th year, Gettysburg Seminary strengthened its faculty, acquired a partner institute, weathered some long term staff retirements, endured difficult budget decisions and staff restructuring, and kept its focus on preparing the finest mission-minded church leaders in one of theological education's most robust learning environments.

Luther Institute Comes Home to Seminary Sponsorship: Over a quarter century ago, the Washington-based Luther Institute (tLI) was founded by several partners, including the Seminary's Lutheran House of Studies. In mid-2006, tLI's board sought a new strategic partnership, and the Seminary brought it under its umbrella to bolster the Seminary's presence and program in the nation's capital. This fall, tLI was designated the fourth International Learning Center of the ELCA.

Welcome to New Key Faculty and Staff: Last fall, the Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen began teaching in the field of systematic theology and the Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens became both registrar and instructor in Biblical Studies. Coming from a Virginia pastorate to head the Admissions Office was the Rev. Mark Olsen, a 2001 alumnus. Following a lengthy search process, Dr. Briant Bohleke was elected to serve as Lead Librarian and Archivist for the A.R. Wentz library's part of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries' unified library.

Challenging Budget Reduction, Restructuring and Ongoing Fiscal Prudence: Faced with a \$400,000+ deficit as the seminary budget (2006-07) was being developed, the president initiated a broad reaching "downsizing" and restructuring that eliminated several staff positions. A balanced budget was achieved, and seminary staff members are living new patterns of teamwork. The president and board of directors received expressions of concern and criticism from some who found these measures to be troublesome. Ever more dependent upon endowment and seminary-generated income, careful budget planning for the upcoming 2007-08 fiscal year reduced the seminary's draw rate on the endowment to 5.25% (down from 6% a year ago, and 5.75% in the current year).

Great Start for Crossroads Campaign: Major fund-raising efforts usually are not newsworthy until big success stories can be published, but the Gettysburg Seminary Crossroads Campaign will begin its public efforts in the Upper Susquehanna and Metropolitan DC Synods this year. Reaching all eight synods in Region 8 over the next several years, the campaign seeks \$12.5 million to add student housing, endowment support for teaching, scholarship and other educational programs, sustain theological education with youth and undergird the Luther Institute. The seminary has already seen

more than \$5 million in commitments to this crucial campaign and the Herman Stuempfle Chair project topped the \$1 million mark in February 2007.

Project Connect: Under its skillful leader Donald Johnson, AIM, the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries Project Connect hosted its first gatherings of college-aged students on all three seminary campuses to encourage college-aged young persons to consider seminary education and vocational service in rostered ministry.

Profound Gratitude: The seminary expresses gratitude to its many generous supporters and partners, especially the synods of Region 8. Gettysburg Seminary also acknowledges, with special appreciation, the extraordinary leadership of Bishop Donald McCoid, Bishop Donald Main, and Bishop Theodore Schneider who faithfully and tirelessly offered their time and support to the mission of theological education here and across the spectrum of ELCA seminaries.

The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, president