

For Immediate Release

Contact: Vicki Biggs
Manager, Public Affairs & Media Relations
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
www.lcms.org
314 996-1236
314 575-7397 (cell)

2007 National Offering Designated for Pastoral Formation Worldwide

ST. LOUIS, January 22, 2007—The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is pleased to announce that the 2007 national offering will be used to support pastoral formation. With hopes of raising at least \$1 million, two-thirds of all gifts received will support Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. The remaining one-third will support the preparation of pastors at seminaries of LCMS partner churches around the world.

The national offering provides an opportunity for the entire church to join in a common goal. The theme of the 2007 national offering is “Preparing Pastors Worldwide.” LCMS President Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick will invite the entire church, including individuals, congregations, and other organizations, to participate in gathering the 2007 national offering at this summer’s 63rd Regular Convention.

“This year’s national offering supports the tie between the church and its seminaries,” says Cindy Simpson, vice president, LCMS Joint Seminary Fund. “Seminaries serve a vital role in preparing public proclaimers of the Word—pastors whose calling is ‘vigorously to make known the love of Christ.’ The offering gathered at the convention further highlights the relationship between the church and its seminaries. Attention at the convention on the national offering provides the opportunity to build awareness and generate support for the preparation of pastors to boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of the world—which is the core message of the convention theme ‘One Message—Christ!’ ”

Opportunities to make direct gifts to the national offering will be available beginning in April at www.GiveNowLCMS.org. The offering will remain open through the next convention in 2010.

About The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The St. Louis-based Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, founded in 1847, has 2.5 million baptized members in 6,150 congregations served by more than 9,000 pastors. The church, which ranks as one of the 10 largest Christian denominations in the United States, owns and operates the KFYO radio stations, two seminaries, 10 universities, and the largest Protestant parochial school system in America. The LCMS is in full doctrinal fellowship with 29 other confessional Lutheran churches on six continents, supports more than 650 missionaries in some 85 countries around the globe, and is a founding partner of Lutheran Services in America, which as one of the country's largest social-service organizations had total disbursements last year of approximately \$8 billion.

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