

Campolo as the keynote speaker.

Early in the day, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. runners and walkers will participate in a **run/walk** on the campus for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

A special **program for children** (K-Grade 6) with biblical storyteller Tracy Radosevic is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon. During that same time, workshops and playshops will take place in classrooms around the campus.

The Eegner Memorial Chapel will be the site for a variety of 30-minute **concerts**, ongoing throughout the day.

At the same time, participants may choose to be involved in **outdoor activities and games**. Lawn games, relays, intergenerational and team games, and Frisbee golf will be offered at three different sites on the campus.

A delicious bag lunch prepared by Muhlenberg College will be distributed to participants between noon and 1:00 p.m. Teens will take their bag lunches and meet in the Seegers Union Red Door Café for conversation with Bart Campolo and a concert by SWIM, a contemporary worship music group from Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Emanuelsville.

Want to learn a bit about our Lutheran heritage? Engage in conversation as you meet up with famous Lutherans who will be strolling around the campus. Martin and Katie Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, two Lutheran deaconesses, and Davey and Goliath will be only too happy to answer your questions about their lives and ministries. Get your Lutheran History Passport stamped and receive a special gift.

Wrap up the day with a celebration of **Lutherans in Faith Together**. As we gather again in the Field House at 2:45 p. m., we'll sing, celebrate, and hear Tracy Radosevic send us on our way with an inspiring Bible story that will invite us to go home to tell The Story!

You don't want to miss this exciting day! Check out the details and fill out the registration form on www.godslove.org/LIFT or check with your church office or your congregation's **LIFT** Ambassador. Register the whole family (family rate is \$25.00!) and come together to Muhlenberg College on June 9. Deadline for registration is May 15.

We're looking forward to seeing you at this PRICELESS event!





Good Shepherd
Launches Home Modification Program

Cost? Priceless!

Good Shepherd Launches Home
Modification Program

Camp Evergreen: A Safe Haven for
Bereaved Children

Help Children through Camp Noah

Lutheran Reformer on Euro Coin

The Ministry of Blake Marles



By Gene Nichols, Communications Manager, Good Shepherd
Rehabilitation

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, recently launched a new service – *Designs for Life* – focused on allowing individuals to stay in their homes instead of entering a nursing home or assisted living facility.

Through *Designs for Life*, a certified aging-in-place specialist visits the homes of clients and provides individualized home modification plans.

Components of the plan may include wheelchair ramps, lowered counters for better function in the kitchen, devices to help individuals climb stairs or technology to control appliances and doors with voice commands.

The *Designs for Life* program is ideal for individuals with disabilities or aging-related functional impairments, who wish to stay in their homes instead of moving to an assisted living facility or nursing home. The program can also assist individuals with live-in parents or children with disabilities, or baby boomers who are planning for the future.

Samantha Bogert, O.T., C.A.P.S., is Good Shepherd's certified aging-in-place specialist. The C.A.P.S. credential means that Samantha is trained in the technical, business management and customer service skills essential to the home modification industry.



“The goal of the process is to identify the needs of the client and design a plan to meet those needs,” says Bogert. “It is almost limitless what can be done, and all plans take into account the aesthetics of the home.”

In addition to her C.A.P.S. certification, Bogert is an occupational therapist (O.T.). As an O.T., she has unique insight and understands the relationship between an individual’s environment and its effect on the way he or she performs daily activities.

Upon receiving a home modification plan, clients may choose to implement all or some of the recommendations. The work can be done by whatever contractor the client chooses. Good Shepherd’s **Rehability**SM, a lifestyle products and services store, is also available to facilitate the work by acquiring materials, subcontracting construction and guaranteeing results.

For more information, call 610-250-4218 or visit www.GoodShepherdRehab.org.



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For youngsters like Jessica Adamczyk, 11, Camp Evergreen, a **Diakon Children's Bereavement Program**, provides a safe haven to explore and discuss the emotions experienced after a loved one dies. "I came here to express my feelings and talk with the other kids and the counselors. My dad died in a car accident when I was just two years old and my friend, who was 8, just died in a four-wheeler accident," says Adamczyk.

In the rural setting of Camp Kresge, White Haven, Diakon Children's Bereavement Program hosts **Camp Evergreen** each summer. Geared towards helping youngsters cope with loss through therapeutic activities along with peer, counselor, and volunteer interaction, the camp helps children regain normalcy in life.

This year's free camp is scheduled for June 22 through June 24 and is open to all youth eight to 14 who are coping with the loss of a loved one.

"When participants meet other kids who have experienced loss, they know they are not alone," says Christina Fedorko, director, Diakon Children's Bereavement Program and camp organizer. "They quickly bond and support each other throughout the weekend."

Camp Evergreen offers a myriad of activities such as fishing, swimming, boating, sand art, creating memory boxes, journaling feelings, campfire time, planting flowers and a symbolic evergreen tree. Through informal and formal



activities, children discuss their experiences with death with one another and the trained volunteers and counselors.

Youth who have attended the camp find it comforting and helpful. "Sometimes I felt like I was going crazy. At camp, I realized other kids felt the same way too. It's not crazy, it's grief," remarked a 14-year old camp attendee.

Another past participant, age 12, says, "I loved being outdoors, doing the crafts, being with other kids, and talking with my buddy. Everything helped me to talk about my uncle's accident. Now I feel I will have an easier time talking with my mother about it."

To end Camp Evergreen, campers and counselors plant an evergreen tree to symbolize the youths' continuing love for the person they lost. Campers write letters to their loved ones and have the option to plant the letters within the roots of the evergreen tree.

"Whether they plant their letter or not, the evergreen tree is a memorial to their loved one. The evergreen tree does not fade; it stays green and reminds us that love lasts in our hearts forever. Camp Evergreen helps young people to remember that," says Fedorko.

Campers stay in cabins furnished with bunk beds and bathroom facilities. Meals and snacks are provided.

The camp is free of charge. However, registration for Camp Evergreen is required. For additional information or to serve as a volunteer, call 1-877-DIAKON-7.

Diakon offers other services in addition to Camp Evergreen.

Founded in 1979, Diakon Hospice Saint John is one of the oldest hospices in Pennsylvania and is a service of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. The Diakon Hospice Saint John team of nurses, aides, social workers, chaplains, volunteers and physicians work together to meet the clinical, emotional, psycho-social and spiritual needs of those that they serve. They also serve as an educational resource in end-of-life issues, grief and bereavement to the communities that they serve.

Providing senior living accommodations, health care, and a range of family and children's programs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries serves people without regard to religious affiliation. Dating to

1868, the nonprofit organization annually touches the lives of 70,000 persons through programs ranging from adoption and foster care and services for at-risk youth to family counseling and continuum-of-care retirement communities. To learn more about Diakon, visit www.diakon.org.

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By Kathy Yenser, AiM

“We still need help. Please don’t forget about us!”

Kara VerHage and Cindy Johnson, Lutheran Social Service (LSS) in Minnesota, heard this repeatedly on a recent trip to Mississippi and Alabama. They were amazed at the level of physical destruction that still exists since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005.

Even sadder are the fears and personal struggles that people continue to face from the effects of the hurricanes. According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, New Orleans is in the midst of a mental health crisis, with suicide rates having nearly tripled and the few remaining psychiatrists being swamped with cases of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and related problems.

The children who experienced the hurricanes are in various stages of recovery. Some are still afraid and depressed, suffer from sleep problems, and struggle with wondering where God is in the midst of this disaster. Other children who have progressed in their recovery need to develop a sense of empowerment and preparedness for dealing with recurring severe weather.

LSS’s partners in Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Louisiana want to reach out to the children by offering Camp Noah 1 and Camp Noah 2 this summer. Camp Noah is a therapeutic, fun-filled, faith-based, week-long day camp for



children who are recovering from natural disaster. Camp Noah 1 is the basic camp. Camp Noah 2 is a new curriculum that teaches children resiliency in response to recurring severe weather.

Leaders addressing the disaster at the Gulf Coast estimate a need for 60 camps this summer. They are asking for LSS-Minnesota to staff a minimum of 30 volunteer teams for areas where they are physically and emotionally unable as a community to organize and staff a Camp Noah with local volunteers.

Lutheran Disaster Response Network of Northeastern Pennsylvania (LDRN-NEPA), a program of Lutheran Congregational Services, is actively working to locate resources within our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to respond to the need in the Gulf Coast for Camps Noah 1 and Noah 2.

LDRN-NEPA's goal is to fill at least two Camp Noah teams for this summer. One team is currently being formed at Friedens Lutheran Church, Oley. In 2006, Friedens provided a team to Bayou La Batre, near Mobile, AL. This year the Friedens team will be in Grand Bay, Alabama, the week of July 29.

LDRN-NEPA is seeking the following resources to fill at least one more team and also to provide support for our teams that will be serving in the Gulf Coast area:

- Adult volunteers and youth ages 14-18 to travel to the Gulf Coast as staff for a week-long camp. Twenty volunteers are needed for each team. Teams include—
 - Camp counselors responsible for leading a small group of 4-8 children each day through camp activities.
 - Experience leading vacation Bible school, summer camp, or Sunday school would be helpful for counselors.
 - Parish nurses
 - Mental health professionals
 - Chaplain
 - Music leader
 - Support volunteers: food workers, childcare workers, recreational assistants, and arts and crafts

assistants. Support volunteers can be staffed by youth or adults while the remaining positions must be filled by adults. Volunteers are asked to commit \$200 of their own money, which is used to purchase the curriculum for the camp.

- Financial support to provide transportation for volunteers, including airfare, car rental and gas. There also may be a need to drive a van or truck from Pennsylvania to the site to transport supplies that cannot be taken on the plane. Last year travel costs averaged approximately \$400 per person.
- Financial support to purchase craft supplies and staff T-shirts
- Supplies to fill preparedness boxes for participants of Camp Noah 1. Contact Kathy Yenser as noted below for a list of supplies needed.
- A quilt for each child participating in camp. Quilts can be knitted, crocheted, or quilted and can be of any size that is appropriate for children between the ages of kindergarten and sixth grade. Contact [Nancy Mulry](#) at 610-481-9581 or [njowim@rcn.com](mailto:njoswim@rcn.com) for details. LDRN-NEPA will be applying for Thrivent funds, which can match dollars to hours of work put into the quilts. That means work on quilts will benefit the program in several ways.

To volunteer to serve on a camp team or to donate items for the preparedness boxes, please contact Ruth Doty (ruth@lutherancongregationalervices.org) or Denise Campbell (denise@lutherancongregationalervices.org; 610.770.9205). If you can serve on a team for Camp Noah, please contact Ruth or Denise as soon as possible.

Financial support may be sent to **Lutheran Congregational Services, 1923 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109**.
Memo: Disaster Ministries-Children and Youth/Camp Noah.

Please prayerfully consider how you can touch the lives of children who were so seriously affected by the destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You can help them find God in the midst of this disaster.

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By Luka Ilic*

Reprinted by permission from Lutheran Quarterly 21, Summer 2007

On January 1, 2007, Slovenia became the thirteenth member state of the European Union to adopt the Euro as its national currency. Although the Euro is the uniform currency of the EU, all coins have a common European side and an individual national side. Thus, the various member states sometimes place images of important personalities from their history on the backs of the coins.

The new Slovenian 1-euro coin shows the bust of Primus Truber (Primož Trubar), 1508-1586, Lutheran reformer and author of the first printed book in Slovenian in 1550, *Catechism*. The wording "Stati inu Obstati" (To stand and withstand), which is taken from Truber's sermon on faith published in *Catechism*, is inscribed in a semicircle on the coin.

Truber, born 30 kilometers south of Ljubljana on June 8, 1508, was educated in Rijeka, Trieste, Salzburg and Vienna. In 1530 he was ordained as a Catholic priest. In the 1540s Truber began serving communion in both Catholic and Protestant ways in Ljubljana and as a result he was exiled from Slovenia in 1548. He escaped to Nürnberg, where preacher Dietrich Veit offered him refuge. It was only then that Trubar officially left the Catholic Church and joined Lutheranism.

His first pastorate was in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Later



on he became a pastor in Kempten and then in Urach. Early in 1557 Truber published the translation of the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles into Slovenian. It was the first part of the New Testament translation that he eventually completed. From 1561 he was general superintendent in Ljubljana from where he was exiled a second time in 1565. He returned to Germany again, where he served as a pastor in Deredingen, a suburb of Tübingen, where he died at the age of 78.

Today, Truber is recognized in Slovenia as the most important figure of its Protestant history and as a formative influence on the written Slovene language. As a matter of fact, almost every larger city in the country has a street named after him. To honor the 500th anniversary of its native son's birth in 2008, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts has announced the publication of Truber's 10-volume complete works.

Truber had previously been featured on the 10 Tolar bank note, the Slovenian currency prior to the adoption of the Euro. Slovenia is so far the only former Yugoslav republic to have joined the European Union (in 2004) and the first one of the new member states to switch to the Euro.

****Luka Ili* is a Ph.D. student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He was born and raised in Croatia (10 miles from the Slovenian border) and has done extensive research on the Protestant history and theology in southeast Europe, about which he has published several articles. He is also a member of the Slovenian Protestant Society "Primus Truber."***

Want to know more about Slovenia? Check the article from the [April 2006](#) issue of *Partners in the Spirit*.

A delegation of eight Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod youth (3 males and 5 females), Kevin Remaly from St. John Windish, Bethlehem, and synod secretary Barbara Taylor (St. Peter, Bethlehem) will travel to Slovenia from July 1-21 to experience the life of the people and the life of the Lutheran Church in Slovenia. Each youth will stay in the home of the youth they hosted here in July 06. The group will spend three weeks in the Premurska area, just west of Hungary.

Watch for an article about their experiences!





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Reprinted from the 2007 edition of Making Christ Known, the booklet that interprets the mission of the ELCA that is distributed at synod assemblies and other gatherings.

“Lutheran institutions are the church in the world,” says Blake Marles, an attorney from Macungie, Pennsylvania. He goes on to say: “I attempt to use my talents and gifts within Lutheran institutions not only for self-exploration but also to have an impact, to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Outdoor ministry, an ELCA-related college, an ELCA social service institution, and his congregation have been arenas for Marles’ ministry in his daily life over the years.

Marles’ sense of calling to serve others began in the home of his parents, who were role-models for him, and continues in his own family with his wife, Marilyn, and their two grown children, Adam and Lindsay.

Experiences at Camp Ministerium and Bear Creek Camp (both related to the Northeastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods) were formative for Marles. From his first time at camp at age nine, through serving as a counselor and a director, then being a member of the board, Marles continues to be convinced that outdoor ministry transforms lives. Having a time away from one’s familiar context, he says, provides a tremendous opportunity to explore one’s self in relation to God, others, and nature.

As a student at Muhlenberg College thinking of transferring



out, Marles was challenged by an admissions director to list 10 things that should be changed, then was told, "You can change these!" Through his leadership on campus and as a student representative to the Board of Trustees, and later in his dozen years as a member of the board, Marles was an agent of change. His proudest accomplishment was forming a partnership between the college and an elementary school in which hundreds of undergraduates tutor students, coach sports and theater, and engage in other activities. "A church-related college," he says, "should help the disadvantaged open doors for themselves."

In the year after college during which he worked fulltime at Bear Creek Camp, Marles enrolled in Temple University Law School. Why be a lawyer? His answer: To immerse himself in the problems of others and to seek out creative solutions. "The highest calling of a lawyer is to be a problem solver." As a member of a large law firm, one of his specialties is advising college and university leaders in strategic planning and on complex staff and student issues.

Several pastors early in Marles' life who spoke of social service agencies "as what Lutherans do in the world" influenced him to accept membership on the Board of Directors of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, the largest independent ELCA-related rehabilitation complex. Serving earlier as secretary and most recently as chair of the board, he has been a trustee for 14 years in two different stints with a whole-hearted dedication to Good Shepherd's philosophy: God has called us to minister to, serve, assist and enable people with disabilities to enhance their capabilities as human beings.

All of Marles' involvements and actions have their basic motivation in his baptism and his experience in several ELCA congregations. "Here is the place," Marles says, "to be rooted and refreshed in worship." An important component has been adult Christian education. "I need a place to think things through with others, to explore why I do what I do," he says.

And that is the kind of learning and commitment that has marked Marles' journey of faith in action.

