



# Building on Strength Annual Letter 2007

Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU

## *Pipe Organ Concert*

### *Thirty Year Old Dream a Reality*

Who would have dreamed that the Lutheran Campus Chapel at WVU would ever have a pipe organ in it? Well, thirty years ago the Organ Committee at the Lutheran Campus Chapel did, but that dream was considered out of reach at the time. Pipe organs cost an arm and a leg (and maybe a spleen and liver too). Now, the 1977 Allen Digital (System 202) Organ has to share the space with the 1966 Möller Opus #10278 Pipe Organ!

The four rank instrument has come to us by way of an agreement with Fairmont State University. This mutually beneficial arrangement means that FSU still owns a pipe organ and we get to use it, picking up routine maintenance and tuning costs. It is one of those rare moments in life when it can be said, "Everybody wins."

Installed just in time for the first worship service of the academic year, the Möller has already proved its appropriateness for the space in musical terms. It may be fairly described as reflecting the Baroque Revival of the mid-1960s—remember, even The Beatles experimented with the Baroque Revival. It adds visual interest to the sanctuary where it resides immediately behind the altar, nicely framing the "Vogelsong" Christus Rex Icon. Fortuitously, the cabinetry matches the existing pulpit and altar.

To celebrate its installation, a pipe organ concert will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 28, at 4:00 p.m., at the Lutheran Campus Chapel. Principal organist Mr. Robert Zay will be joined by Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett (Fairmont State University), Mr. James Andrzej Rushin (WVU), the ΦMA Brass, and a surprise guest artist for a concert bill featuring works by Buxtehude, Couperin, Schmidt, Manz, J.S.Bach, P.D.Q.Bach, and more. Following the concert, The Annual Wurst Dinner on Campus will be held, beginning at 5:30 PM. Come and join us.

## *Reformation Daze! 2007*

Our celebration of the Reformation kicks off with the pipe organ concert just mentioned, but it doesn't stop there. The Wurst Dinner on Campus, which follows the concert, is being prepared this year by the Fellowship Committee of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Mmm, mmm, mmm...meat stuffed inside intestines! What could be better? Served up with plenty of potatoes and sauerkraut, it is sure to please.

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## *Requiescat in Pace*

Miss Mary Folkemer, a two time alumna of the LCM@WVU, was translated by death into church triumphant on February 16, 2007, after a long battle with chronic illness. The Folkemer family very graciously designated the LCM@WVU as the recipient for memorial gifts.

The Rev. Henry "Hank" K. Brown, longtime pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, and board member, was translated by death into the church triumphant on January 20, 2007.

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### *Disaster Response*

The Lutheran Disaster Response Collegiate Corps has had another great year. Included in this mailing is the LDRCC May 2007 Newsletter. Since publication, the students have also deployed to Northern Ohio, for flooding, and Franklin, WV, for a weekend with Habitat for Humanity. The team prepared to participate in a search and rescue operation, but, happily, could stand down when Jacob Allen was found alive.

### *Strong Start and Brutal Heat*

The new academic year greeted students, faculty, and staff with a heat wave. Temperatures soared into the high 90s with unrelenting humidity. Given that the chapel does not have air conditioning, “brutal” would be the appropriate word to describe worship services. Cold beverages were provided at worship services, and attendees were reminded to hydrate throughout. Still, twenty-six attended the first mass and sixteen attended compline, making the highest first Sunday total since our current record keeping began in 2000.

### *Facebook*

This year, the LCM@WVU stepped boldly—actually, with a good amount of trepidation—into the world of *facebook*, an online social networking tool. The experience has been a good one so far. We’re using *facebook* to meet new students, stay connected with current students and alumni, and publicize activities. It’s even become a medium for pastoral care. Alumni and friends on *facebook* are invited to join the “Lutheran Campus Ministry @ WVU Alumni/ae” group.

### *Reformation Daze! 2007 (...continued)*

The Reformation Sunday evening worship service will once again be an historic Lutheran liturgy, the General Synod’s “Washington Service,” which debuted in 1869. This will be the third 19th century liturgy we’ve used.

As the octave continues into Monday, Project Connect will be holding a luncheon in cooperation with the LCM@WVU for those interested in pursuing church vocation. Project Connect, sponsored by the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries and underwritten by a major Lily grant, seeks to raise up new church vocations among young adults. By our count, we have at least five WVU students who are seriously looking at church vocations. Two have formally begun the candidacy process.

LSM (Lutheran Student Movement), which has been having its best year since 1999/2000, is rumored to be planning a Halloween raid on Newman Hall to post the 95 *Theses*. Earlier that day, students are invited to attend The Luther Colloquium at Gettysburg Seminary—a little road trip.

On All Saints’ Day, Lutheran Volunteer Corps will visit the campus ministry, sharing with interested students the possibilities for a year of service in major urban areas. For Friday, the annual All Souls’ Day Visitation of the Graves will be held, and, in the evening, a Luther movie will be shown. Saturday night, the recently formed Mountaineer War College is scheduled to refight the Reformation with the 2006 game, *Here I Stand: Wars of the Reformation, 1517-1555*.

With All Saints’ Sunday mass closing out the octave, we can say that the Reformation spirit is alive and well at WVU.

### *Capital Campaign*

We kicked off the synodical phase of our capital campaign at the June WV-WMD Synod Assembly. With the theme “Building on Strength,” we highlight the good work we’ve been doing and hold out the hope of strengthening it through expansion and renovation of the facilities.

#### **Lemonade Stand**

85+ gallons  
≈ 1500 served

### *Gregorian Chant Popular*

One would think that Gregorian chant hasn’t been hip since the ‘70s (1370s, that is), but we were surprised when nearly 140 people showed up for our St. Nicholas Latin Vespers last year. With such a good showing, we held three Passiontide Latin Complines, with 103 attending. Next up: Advent Compline!

## *Beyond the Chapel with the Chaplain*

In the previous articles, we present just a taste of the life of the LCM@WVU. As always, I encourage our alumni/ae and friends to visit the website and explore that life in greater detail, enjoying the photos and the stories.

It has been a rewarding and exciting year. Some of that excitement takes place outside the walls of the chapel. Beyond those walls, we hold a regular weekly luncheon in the Health Sciences Center and serve lemonade on the porch. I’ve had the privilege of working closely with the ROTCs on campus, giving invocations at their ceremonies, lecturing on the Law of Armed Conflict, and even paintballing with the cadets. In the past few months, I’ve given presentations on religious diversity to both international visitors and medical and dental students. In the field of ethics, I facilitated a small group of the medical ethics class and served on the IRB (a board protecting the rights of human research subjects). Beyond the campus, I covered vacant pulpits and served on the seminary board of directors. This work reflects the nature of campus ministry. It does not hunker down, hoping not to attract too much attention. It is public and mission oriented, building relationships across the campus, the community, and the church. Jesus spent a lot of time on the streets, teaching, healing, loving. We need to be there with him. —*M.L.Riegel*