

December 2014

Newsletter

Lutheran Campus Ministry at West Virginia University

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Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.



Special points of interest:

- Planning for the establishment of a new religious community.
- The trials and transformative power of Tenebrae.
- First glimpse of the architects' plans for the Chapel.
- A fresh look for the undercroft.
- Alumni/ae news.
- Chapel women save the Earth.

Inside this issue:

Freshening the Look	2
Jono in Living Lutheran	2
Jordan Back among Lutherans	3
Chaplain To Attend LWF Seminar	3
Women Defend Earth & Win Big	3
Tenebrae Enlightens Students	4
Confessions Are Good for the Soul	4

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Architects Begin Work

We have received the first professional set of drawings for the expansion of the Chapel of Christ the King.

The Lutheran Campus Foundation at WVU, at its fall 2014 meeting, contracted Alpha Associates Inc. of Morgantown, WV, for stage 1 architectural work related to the renovation and expansion of our chapel. This first stage involves verification of blueprints for the existing building, needs assessment, feasibility study, conceptual work, zoning and compliance research, and a preliminary construction estimate.

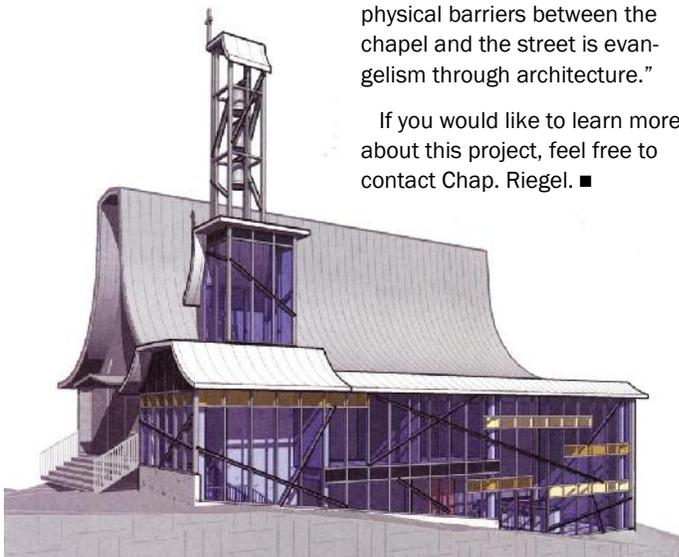
"We've been talking about this renovation and expansion project since the middle of the last decade, but the economic crash undercut our capital campaign efforts," Chap. Riegel explains. "No matter how good an idea is, sometimes it's not the right time to push it forward."

Two years ago, the gift of kitchen cabinetry and appliances by a local family jump started the renovation of the chapel undercroft (basement). A small group of local gents formed a property committee, and steps were taken to advance the work. With the kitchen, bathroom, HVAC, and undercroft renovations largely behind us, securing an architect was the next step.

The expansion of the chapel is envisioned as an addition on the Hough Street side of the building. It's been nicknamed "The Solarium" because of its large windows. The concept is

to let natural light in while at the same time letting the spiritual light out. "Transparency is the key," says Riegel. "There is some good stuff taking place at the chapel, but brick walls tend to hide it. Breaking down the physical barriers between the chapel and the street is evangelism through architecture."

If you would like to learn more about this project, feel free to contact Chap. Riegel. ■



Not Con-Fraternity, Confraternity

We are thrilled to announce the receipt of an \$8,000 grant from Region 8 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the establishment of a Lutheran Benedictine confraternity at WVU.

A working group of our board of directors endorsed the formation of a confraternity, a local group for those who desire to enter into a deeper, more disciplined spirituality shaped by daily prayer, study of the Word, Christian fellowship, and

growth in sanctification as informed, in this case, by the Lutheran and Benedictine traditions.

In addition to the mutual support of the membership in things spiritual, the confraternity will assist members with devotional resources, host periodic communal meals, provide an option for religious student housing, and organize retreats to a Lutheran monastery. *(continued on p. 3...)*

Donate



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Freshening the Look

Renovations of the chapel undercroft (a.k.a. the basement) recommenced this past summer with work on the floor, ceiling, and walls.

The property committee, at its very first meeting in late 2012, identified the wall-to-wall carpet as a contributing factor to the long-standing humidity problems in the basement. While the installation of the commercial dehumidifier and air conditioning system in the winter of 2013 largely resolved the issue, removal of the carpet would improve the conditions still more. Additionally, the carpet was beyond cleaning; not even professional chemicals could remove the many stains, and we weren't quite sure if the carpet was brown by nature or by nurture. So, plans were made to tear it out and lay new flooring.

Since the carpet was not long for this world, the property committee also decided to repaint the walls and ceiling to freshen the appearance of the under-

croft, using the old carpet as a giant drop cloth. Chap. Riegel can attest that the space hasn't been repainted since his arrival in 2000, and he is not sure when it had been repainted before that.

Riegel's proposed Roman catacombs theme, complete with torches, early Christian catacomb art, and trompe-l'œil corpses, was summarily rejected in favor of a more neutral white for the walls. The ceiling rails were painted white, but painting the entire ceiling was abandoned in favor of replacing the ceiling tiles (original to the construction of the chapel). The kitchen area ceiling has not yet been replaced, and the difference between the two is readily visible and not a little frightening. The ceiling's coffer frieze is now WVU blue, and we anticipate accenting this in WVU gold when time permits.

The carpet was then torn out, and ashlar vinyl floor planks installed in the main body of the room, with dark brown wall

base for trim.

All-in-all, the space is much brighter and has a cleaner feel. The next phase will include rebuilding of bookshelves and some furniture upgrades, keeping the original bean bag chairs for nostalgia's sake.

Thanks are due to members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and brothers of ΦMA Sinfonia for volunteering. ■

Get Your Carpet Keepsake

The new flooring was installed by volunteer labor, but the material cost over \$2000. There were also expenses for paint and ceiling tiles. For contributions designated for the undercroft floor, walls, and ceiling, donors will receive a 2-inch square of the old carpet.

One wag suggested that we promise *not* to send a much larger square in return for a donation. Fortunately for all our friends, the LCMWVU has a strict policy against extortion.

We weren't quite sure if it was brown by nature or by nurture.

The Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU is mentioned, and its salutary influence may be readily inferred.

Jono in Living Lutheran

2012 Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU alumnus Jonathan “Jono” Adams was featured in the ELCA's national church blog, *Living Lutheran*, in an October 2014 article titled, “Seminarian Merges Two Passions.” The article traces Jono's parallel involvement in church life and emergency services, beginning with his days in high school.

While a student at WVU, Jono served with the Mountaineer Area Rescue Group, the regional search & rescue team based in Morgantown, WV. After graduating from WVU, he en-

rolled in Gettysburg Seminary. Not wanting to give up volunteer emergency services, he joined the Gettysburg Fire Department as soon as he arrived in Gettysburg and now serves with the Gettysburg fire police.

In the article, the Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU is mentioned, and its salutary influence may be readily inferred.

Jono is currently on internship in LaVale, MD and anticipates graduating from Gettysburg Seminary in 2016. ■



Jordan Back among Lutherans

2004 Alumna Lisa Jordan has received a call to serve as the pastor of Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran church (an ELCA congregation) in Minneapolis, MN, beginning in January 2015.

Jordan majored in music education, and following graduation was a high school band director for three years. She then headed to Wesley Theological Seminary,

Washington, DC, earning her M.Div. in 2010. Commissioned by the United Methodist Church, she has served deaf ministries in Maryland and the DC Metro area, including the campus ministry at Gallaudet University. Lisa has also served in the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Jordan, a Methodist, was first

introduced to the Lutheran Campus Ministry by fellow WVU marching band member (and LCM regular) Matt Losh.

When asked to reflect upon her experience with the LCM, Jordan responded that she found the theological depth of the LCM stimulating and something that contributed to her spiritual growth, saying, "The Lutheran Campus Ministry taught me a lot more than I think I would have learned elsewhere."

Since Jordan's student days at WVU, the ELCA and the UMC have entered into a full-communion agreement, allowing Jordan to serve an ELCA congregation.

Upon receiving news that she was being considered for the position at a Lutheran deaf congregation, Jordan wrote to our chaplain, "I remember the Lutheran chapel at WVU fondly." The LCM can reciprocate and say the same: "We remember Lisa fondly, and we are overjoyed to hear of her appointment to serve a Lutheran congregation and of her continuing ministry with the deaf community." ■



Chaplain To Attend LWF Seminar

Chap. Riegel will participate in the March 2015 International Seminar of the Lutheran World Federation in Wittenberg. The LWF describes the program:

Theologians from member churches around the world will be invited to Wittenberg for two weeks to work on issues of Lutheran theology with professors from universities in Germany and abroad. The aims are: to understand the key statements in Martin Luther's writings, to understand the circumstances and relationships in which Martin Luther lived, and to relate Luther's insights in a constructive way to the contexts in which the participants live.

This is to take place in response to a fundamental need repeatedly expressed by the LWF member churches - to deepen their understanding of the Lutheran identity, also in relation to their specific contexts and in ecumenical openness to other confessions.

The March 2015 seminar, led by Dr. Timothy Wengert of the USA and Dr. Paulus Ndamanomhata of Namibia, is titled, "Holy Scripture, Proclamation, Doctrine." The fortnight-long seminar hosts twenty participants. The LWF has 144 member churches. Each member church can make only two nominations per seminar with the LWF program selecting participants from among them. ■

Women Defend Earth & Win Big

The sister campus ministries in Morgantown and Pittsburgh repulsed alien invaders in a themed "Backyard Paintbrawl" involving missions to capture alien technology, rescue human victims, and prevent the spawning of alien eggs. A total of eighteen from the combined LCMs participated alongside eighty-four other paintballers in the Sept. 13 event. Among some of the surprises of the day were three big wins for the women in our group. Alumna Amanda Vane won the event award for sportsmanship, and Emily Buras and Grace Riegel both walked away with upper end paintball guns as door prizes.

Chaps. Bennett and Riegel are already thinking about the spring 2015 "Backyard Paintbrawl" as an opportunity to invite area Lutheran youth groups to join in the fun, mingle with collegians, and get to know Lutheran campus ministry. ■



...Confraternity

(...continued from p.1)

The confraternity will be open to men and women. Though students are expected to be the majority of the membership, faculty, staff, and others might consider involvement. Several have already expressed interest.

Those familiar with Luther's writings might remember his rather negative appraisal of the confraternities and monastic institutions of his day. It is with care that we establish this confraternity, mindful of Luther's suggested reforms. It is also with awareness of the challenges to the Christian faith and practice posed by modern university life that we offer this alternative.

We anticipate chartering the confraternity at the beginning of Lent 2015. In the meantime, we continue to revise the customary (rules of the confraternity) and assist in the discernment of the curious and committed.

If you would like a copy of the customary or a chance to ask questions, contact us. ■

Tenebrae Enlightens Students

The brothers of ΦMA Sinfonia ΕΣ Chapter came to Chap. Riegel's rescue and discovered a new musical world—well, new to them.

Tenebrae was scheduled (and advertised) for Holy Wednesday with every expectation that a volunteer choir of chapel regulars could be recruited. As Rabbie Burns would say, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men | Gang aft a-gley." With little more than a week remaining before Palm Sunday and only one volunteer, a desperate Riegel facebooked the Sinfonians, writing, "I am in need, brothers."

Sixteen answered the call, saving the chaplain from "grief an' pain." Frantically scheduled practices introduced these musicianly men to a musical form and liturgical format they had never before experienced, and, as night fell on Holy Wednesday, the mellifluous chant of venerable antiphons and ancient psalms rose in the candlelit Chapel of Christ the King.

"Wonderful!" commented Elizabeth Hadaway following the service. A few days later, Greg Kullman caught up to Chap. Riegel, saying, "That was really neat. I didn't know what to expect, but I really like it." Others remarked about the contemplative beauty of the service, and, of course, about the superb singing of the men's choir with comments like "Where did you find those guys. They are great."

The relationship with ΕΣ of ΦMA Sinfonia, a men's music fraternity, goes back to Riegel's first week of classes at WVU in August 2000. Riegel is a Sinfonian (ΠΩ '84), and that first week he spotted student Mike Toth wearing a ΦMA shirt. Over the years, the local Sinfonians have used the chapel as a place for practices, recitals, and meetings and helped out the campus ministry with renovations, the dedication of the organ, and the odd emergency

requiring strong backs and weak minds. Riegel served a few years as the chapter's advisor and has enjoyed a positive relationship with the brothers throughout the years.

"I really thought that I had cashed in every bit of capital I had with the boys," says Riegel. "The Tenebrae thing was last minute, required a lot of practice just as the semester was about to end, and it was completely alien to these guys. We were doing Tenebrae according to the old form: sixteen psalms with antiphons, lengthy readings, and plenty of silence. I figured they would all say, 'Never again.'"

Unexpectedly, Br. John Pentol asked, "What's the date for next year?" in response to a thank you post from Riegel. ΦMA faculty advisor Chris Nichter confirmed that the participating brothers were enthusiastic about the experience: "They learned a new form of music, and that is exciting. They're not just being nice. They really do want to do it again and are already recruiting others for next year."

Of course, the robes may be a factor. Black slacks and shirts were the planned attire for the



evening, but, after one look in the closet, the men gleefully donned choir robes, effecting a surprisingly pious appearance for collegiate males.

The most rewarding statement heard in connection to the Tenebrae came from one of the choristers who apologized, "I got caught up in the words of the psalm and missed my entrance." Nothing to apologize for there! That is why we pray Tenebrae at a campus chapel. The music and form are beautiful, but it is the Word of God that matters. If Tenebrae leads a collegian into meditation upon Christ's Passion, we will count it a win. ■

"I am in need, brothers."

"I got caught up in the words of the psalm and missed my entrance."

Confessions Are Good for the Soul

The Augsburg Confession took the spotlight in our educational ministry during the 2014 spring semester. Each week, members of the WVU community gathered in the undercroft for lecture and discussion on this central document of the sixteenth-century Lutheran Reformation. Probing questions and lively conversation produced a fruitful lingering over the text (meaning we didn't complete the syllabus).

With the new academic year, focus shifter to Luther's catechisms in response to a synod call for study of the same in

anticipation of the Reformation's quincentennial. During the first semester, we studied Luther's treatment of the ten Commandments. Luther's catechetical hymns and sermons augmented the basic texts. Other confessional documents, the broader scope of Luther's writings, and the legacy of Lutheran scholasticism were also employed, creating a truly collegiate catechesis for the renewing of the mind.

Upon return from Christmas recess, we take up the creed, reaching the Lord's Prayer in time for Lent. ■

...a truly collegiate catechesis for the renewal of the mind.

Read more stories relating to the Lutheran Campus Ministry and find out what's coming next at

LutheranMountaineer.org