

GALSM Gazette

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Fall Service Retreat

The annual GALSM Fall Service Retreat will be held this year from **October 24-26 in Aiken, SC.** We will be staying at St. John's Methodist Church in Aiken and working with LATCH (Lutheran Acting to Correct Housing) to work on housing projects all day on Saturday. Activities may include: roofing, clearing brush, installing drywall, etc. We will also be having a BBQ Saturday night and a worship service Sunday morning. Cost for this fun weekend is \$20, which includes lodging and meals.

Spring Retreat

This year's theme is **The Book of Faith: An Adventure Through the Bible.** The retreat will be held at the Rock Eagle 4-H camp just east of Atlanta in Eatonton, GA and we will have an amazing speaker: Rachel Alley the ELCA South-eastern Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator. The dates will be from **February 20-22, 2009** and will have an array of faith, fellowship, and fun activities. The cost is \$65 per person which includes lodging and meals.

What is LSM?

Lutheran Student Movement is a **STUDENT LED, CHRIST DRIVEN** organization active at the local, regional and national level created to promote the active participation of students in the life and mission of the Lutheran Church on their campuses, in their communities, and as individuals.

But more than just that, LSM is a chance to meet other students who share in your beliefs and have meaningful discussion and learning. You will gather with others, who will soon

become great life-long friends, and you'll learn, and you'll discuss, and you'll have a lot of fun in the process!!

You'll meet friends and Pastors from all over the country, as well as travel all over the country to attend the National Gatherings.

LSM provides you with many leadership opportunities too, that will prepare you for a future role in the church.

You are part of GALSM which



consists of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and South Carolina, and this newsletter is new for us, and will hopefully come out twice a year, providing you with information about LSM locally, regionally and nationally.

LSM National Gathering

The Lutheran Student Movement (LSM) National Gathering for the 2008/2009 school year will take place in **Chicago, Illinois at the Downtown Westin on Michigan Ave** (aka The Magnificent Mile) right in the heart of Chicago. The gathering

will start on: **December 31, 2008 and go through January 4, 2009.**

This year's theme is "Transformed to Reach Out" Romans 12:2. Students will hear from some amazing speakers and participate in wor-

ship with their brothers and sisters from all over the country. Students will also have time to participate in workshops that give them resources to find their role in the church, as well as other awesome opportunities in the Windy City.

Updates From Some GALSM Campus Ministries

University of Georgia

Campus ministry at UGA is relatively new and growing quickly. It regularly meets Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm at the Presbyterian Center on campus consisting of dinner followed by either bible study or worship with communion. We also attend Sunday worship at 9am or 11am at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Service events like Historic Cemetery clean-ups, working with Animal Control, and Caroling are planned throughout the year along with other exciting fellowship events such as Wii nights, tailgating, and game nights. We also look forward to LSM retreats throughout the year. Go Dawgs!!

Clemson University

LSM at Clemson is alive and well. Some regular events that LSMers here enjoy are the Monday night Bible study, Tuesday lunch in Harcombe dining hall, and Wednesday evening meals. We also look forward to welcoming newcomers this fall with Welcome-Back events from a lake outing to a card night to a coloring event (yes, you're right; we mean coloring books!) on the horseshoe. Other events planned throughout the year include movie nights, a fall retreat, service opportunities, and a snowball fight (pending any snow). And we haven't forgotten our school's reputation for football. LSM will host a tailgate for its members and returning alumni at each home game and there are plans in the making for a trip to Winston-Salem for the Wake Forest game. Go Tigers!

Georgia Tech, Agnes Scott, GSU

The LCM of GT, Agnes Scott, and GSU actively spreads the Word through service projects and social events. Our favorite service projects include Wii at the Lutheran Towers retirement center and Team Buzz, a

school wide community service event. Playing broomball at the local ice rink and rafting the Ocoee River are always our biggest social events throughout the year. The LCM is located on Georgia Tech's campus and provides a peaceful place to relax during the always hectic life of a Tech student. We meet every Tuesday night for dinner and worship during the regular school year and Wednesday nights during the summer. This allows the LCM members to join and visit other congregations throughout Atlanta and have a home base on campus. We love to eat, so all of our gatherings are centered around the table. The LCM preaches discipleship, fellowship, and free food for poor college kids.

University of South Carolina

We are looking forward to a great year here at USC! Our LCM will continue our Sunday evening worship every week at 7:30 pm, with full liturgy and communion (followed by a GREAT supper provided by local congregations). We will be adding a Wednesday night evening activity. Thursday nights, we will continue to use the beautiful and relaxing worship style from Taize to start off our weekends on the right foot, and provide reflection time from the busy week behind us. One special project we're working on is developing a monthly service project with Epworth Children's Home. In addition to other service projects throughout the year, we also get together now and again just to have fun with our friends, and twice a year we go on retreats—once to Lutheridge in the fall, and once in the spring (usually to Isle of Palms). The GALSM retreats are always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to see all of you at the fall service retreat!

Devotion

By Pastor Chris Heavner

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." Matt 13:33

The Sunday Gospel lessons, appointed for this July, are taken from Matthew 13. This chapter contains a collection of parables, many intended to give a glimpse into what Jesus calls "the kingdom of heaven." (Actually, it is Matthew who writes "the kingdom of heaven." When Luke includes the same parable he writes "the kingdom of God.") In these parables, we are given an insight as to what existence is like when lived together, under God's reign.

The parable in Matthew 13:33 instructs us that our reason for being is to have an impact on those around us. We are like the yeast which looses itself in the measures of flour. Christian life turns our gaze and our focus away from ourselves and onto those in need of God's gracious word. We loose ourselves in the process of making the world a better place for God's children to live, to creating a society in which God's will is done.

This is what the kingdom of heaven is like.

Contrast that to the voices we so often hear talking about heaven (not Christ's kingdom of heaven, but the heaven popular with campus outreach groups.) Their talk of heaven is most often about obtaining for ourselves some prize or reward.

Jesus has promised me that I will receive a prize. I will be rewarded with the assurance that God's will is not only being done on earth, it is being done through me. Any thing more than that is not needed. Like the yeast, what I most want is to enable the whole loaf to rise.

Please help distribute this to students at your church, and throughout your synod.

For more information about LSM or any of its retreats, gatherings, or local campus ministries check out our website at www.lsm.usa.org/ga or email your GALSM rep, Erin Chonka, at chonkachick@gmail.com