

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2013 •

Greetings to you from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! As we reflect upon this year and every year we find ourselves grateful for and proud of our heritage as a College of the Lutheran Church. We are blessed to be able to provide countless resources to members of our Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. This Association is important as the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. Within this Association, key relationships are formed that help us maintain and grow this connection.

On July 1, the College announced the calling of the Reverend Siri C. Erickson and the Reverend Brian E. Konkol to serve as Chaplains of the College. The chaplains have focused upon greater student engagement and have been carefully discerning how the College will practice daily worship during the scheduled 10—10:20 a.m. chapel time. “We understand the challenges that arise out of changes in leadership, and we will do our best to listen, learn, and grow into our new roles,” Chaplain Konkol said. “We are deeply honored to follow in the footsteps of a long line of faithful chaplains at Gustavus, and we intend to build upon their numerous contributions.”

As you gather for your annual assembly, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk along side you in mission and the great vineyard our God has placed us all within. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our ministry partnership. It is our joy to offer ourselves in service to you and the community you serve.

MARK YOUR 2014 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• **Annual Gustavus Faith Conference — APRIL 26, 2014**

The theme for the 2014 conference will be “*Road to the Reformation: Deepening our Lutheran Theological Roots.*”

Dr. Marcia Bunge, Distinguished Chair of Lutheran Studies and professor of religion at Gustavus will speak on the topic, “*Understanding Lutheran Commitments to Children and Youth: Theological Foundations, Historical Perspectives, and Contemporary Initiatives.*” A panel of speakers in the afternoon will reflect more deeply on the grounds for our commitments and our responsibilities to children today in the areas of child advocacy and faith formation. Panelist include Daniel Lee, vice president of external relations, Lutheran World Relief; the Rev. Jeremy Myers, associate professor for youth and family ministry, Augsburg College; Tim Schmidt, managing partner, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; and Maureen Warren, Family Services Officer, Lutheran Social Services. The Gustavus Faith Conference is open to the public.

• **Student Leadership Day—also APRIL 26, 2014**, a separate event and great opportunity for congregations to bring 5 to 10 key student leaders for this upbeat student leadership development event that features live music and small group discussion time led by Gustavus student leaders.

• **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 30, 2014** “*Tibet: Finding Hope in Exile.*”

• **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 7-8, 2014** “*Where Does Science Go from Here?*”

• **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 5-7, 2014**

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director for Church Relations

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT