

**2005 “Synod to Synod Servant Event Exchange”
Metropolitan New York and Arkansas-Oklahoma Synods**

November 9, 2004

Dear Pastors, Parents, and Youth of the Metropolitan New York Synod:

Peace to you and grace, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

The Metropolitan New York and Arkansas-Oklahoma Synods invite you to apply to participate in a **“Synod to Synod Servant Event Exchange,” July/August, 2005**. This new venture for these two Mission Partner Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an opportunity to build relationships with one another, and strengthen our service in the Gospel.

Fifteen high school age youth (14-18 years old) from the Metropolitan New York Synod will be identified and invited to participate in this exciting event, teaming up with fifteen youth from the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod. This team of 30, plus adult sponsors, will engage in a week of servant ministry with the Oaks Indian Mission in Oklahoma, and in the city of New York will experience a second week serving in food/hunger ministries in multicultural and economically diverse communities. Trips will include discussions of Human Caused Disaster, and visits to the Oklahoma City Memorial and Ground Zero. Upon the completion of this servant learning experience, New York participants will be encouraged to attend the Metro New York Synod’s Child, Youth and Family Ministries Event in Mount Vernon on **September 17th, 2005**, sharing their experiences with that gathering. A reunion celebration will be held at the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas in the **summer of 2006**. A long range goal for this team of servant ministers is travel to Tanzania in the summer of 2007. Both the Metropolitan New York and Arkansas-Oklahoma Synods have Global Mission Partnerships in Tanzania.

Interested candidates are asked to prayerfully complete and return the attached application by **January 8th 2005**. The Child, Youth and Family Ministries committee will be reviewing applications in January, with participants to be selected by the end of the month. We are seeking a diverse group of young people to participate in this first Synod-to-Synod Servant Event Exchange. Selected participants will attend a weekend of orientation, training and pre-planning at Camp Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY, to be held **March 4-6, 2005**. All costs for the training and the exchange event, except travel, will be synod sponsored. Travel scholarships will be available for youth who have been identified to participate in this initial venture and would otherwise be unable to accept an invitation to participate. Participant fees for those attending the National Youth Gathering, summer 2006, will also be the responsibility of participants.

Thank you for considering serving in this unique synod to synod event, and may God continue to bless and keep you. Amen!

