

Mass Appeal

**Friday, June 8, 2007
Christ Lutheran Church
2354 Grove Road, Schoenersville**



"Acting that warms the heart, humor that eases the day's cares, conflict that engages the emotions, and lessons in love and idealism that stimulate the intellect constitute the considerable rewards of *Mass Appeal*," writes theater critic Lawrence Van Gelder, in a 1997 *New York Times* review, re-titling the play, "When Young Sanctity Battles Old Sanctimony."

Mass Appeal will be presented on Friday evening, June 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown (Schoenersville) PA. The church is located near the LVI Airport, about 10 minutes from First Presbyterian Church.

Tickets

Tickets may be purchased along with [registration for the synod assembly](#) (online or by mail) or separately at the door. The cost is \$5.00 per ticket. Any proceeds above expenses will be donated to World Hunger and Disaster Response.

The Play

Mass Appeal is a delightful and provocative play with two characters – an older priest and a young seminarian – who are brought together in a lively and challenging relationship.

Father Farley (played by Fred Opalinski) enjoys his comfortable, well-off parish (and their gifts of sparkling burgundy!). At this stage of life, his goal is to be well-liked and to keep his members happy.

Seminarian Mark Dolson (played by Chris Sperot) is a head-strong, articulate champion of social justice, seeking to shake the congregation out of its stupor.

Through confrontation, laughter, and tears, the two are brought to a deeper understanding of themselves and of God's call.

The play, written by Bill C. Davis, received a Tony nomination on Broadway and was later made into a movie with Jack Lemmon as Fr. Farley. It is directed by Dan Smith and was produced in 2006 as a part of the annual "Fall Festival of the Arts" offered by Trinity Lutheran and Christ Episcopal Churches of Reading.