

PARTNERS IN
the spirit
SEPTEMBER 2008



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Diving Deep
into the Waters of the Faith

Meet Bishop Samuel Zeiser

Witnessing Boldly; Making a
Difference

Disability Doesn't Stop Brian
Grubb

Linking Music and Worship

Camp Noah and the August Flood

Diving Deep



By Chandler Carriker, Director, Theological Education with Youth (TEY)

I write to share some of the joys we experienced this summer in Theological Education with Youth (TEY).

Both our Crossroads Event and Summer Theological Academy were incredible experiences of collaborative theological exploration, with seminarians, faculty and staff, and youthful theologians diving deep into the waters of the faith.

The Crossroads Event, held at Gettysburg Seminary June 22-28, was an opportunity for rising eleventh-graders to explore the places where the church is called to minister to the world, and, through these immersion experiences, build a sense of solidarity.

Participants visited Lutheran Disaster Relief of New Jersey and explored the resources available to our congregations for reaching out and for preparing. We visited with Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania (LAMPa) and participated first hand in an act of advocacy on the steps of the Pennsylvania State House. We spent time with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) in Baltimore and dove into the complexities and needs of caring for the stranger amongst us.

And this is only a sample of our week together. The 12 young people who were taken part in the event were incredible witnesses to the strength of young voices in calling for justice and mercy in the world.

The Summer Theological Academy, held at Susquehanna University July 12-26, was two weeks of deep theological exploration as 16 rising seniors engaged in classes on Third World theology, diverse perspectives on the New Testament,



Psalms, and the art of homiletics. Everyone took the homiletics course. At the end of the two weeks, we were blessed with sermons on the parable of the Prodigal Son by nearly all of the participants.

During the two weeks, youth, faculty, and seminarians lived in a lively learning community. This community was not only valuable to the learning at hand, but was a classroom of discipleship all its own.

TEY's next programs are this fall. Affirmation of Baptism Festivals will be held on the campus of Gettysburg Seminary on Saturday, October 25, and on the campus of Philadelphia Seminary, Saturday, November 15. More information and registration materials are available on the TEY website, www.theologicaleducationwithyouth.com.

