

# Feed the Roots of Leadership

## Feed the Roots of Leadership Spring 2013 Update

Has your congregation supported the *Feed the Roots of Leadership Appeal*? Forty-five of our congregations have given to the campaign as of December 31, 2012 raising funds through chicken & biscuit dinners, special offerings, even wine and cheese events. The campaign, in its second year, supports the growth of leaders through our campus ministries, outdoor ministries at 3 camping programs, and seminary scholarships. \$296,274 in donor dollars has already been distributed since the campaign's kick-off in June 2011.

In 2013 we are holding small group Cultivation Gatherings in conferences. The events provide opportunities to join Bishop Jerge to hear of the appeal's progress and learn how individuals and congregations can support the campaign. Visit the synod's website to learn more.

God has called each of us to share the gospel. The gospel of Matthew ends with Jesus' request that we "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Jesus tells Peter to 'feed my sheep.' Both of these texts can be seen as invitations to grow leaders. Feed the Roots of Leadership, a capital appeal of the Upstate New York Synod is in its second year of growing leaders as we raise funds to support outdoor ministry, campus ministry and seminary education.

In this Feed the Roots update you can see your contributions are already helping support these ministries. There is also an opportunity to learn about three specific ways Feed the Roots is helping to grow leaders through Rochester Institute of Technology's Campus Ministry program, through the Hudson Mohawk Conference's summer camping program and in the life of one of our seminary students.

We invite you to join the many individuals and congregations who have already chosen to support the campaign by considering a donation and through prayer. You will find more information about the campaign on the synod website or talk with Pr. Wendy Buckley, St. Paul's - Williamsville and North Park - Buffalo and Pr. Jeff Hedin, St. Paul's - Pittsford who provide the leadership for this campaign.



*And let the peace of Christ  
rule in your hearts, to which  
indeed you were called in the  
one body. And be thankful.*

*Colossians 3:15*



**Upstate New York Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## The Lutheran Campus Ministries at the Rochester Institute of Technology

LCM@RIT, one of the five campus ministries supported by Feed the Roots, is the only mainline protestant campus ministry on the RIT Campus. The Rev. Nathan Krause serves as the RIT campus ministry chaplain. A growing number of students are involved in the leadership and planning of our activities. Students are involved in the worship and service project planning through the Student Leadership Council. They are also part of our web discussion forum called GodShuffle.org. Student peer ministers are involved in worship assisting with the music and with the liturgy.



LCM@RIT continues to offer a meal after our Sunday evening worship service prepared by local Lutheran congregations. This is a great way for area churches to see the work done at RIT's campus ministry program, and allows them to develop mission to this and other underserved populations.

Gifts to the Feed the Roots of Leadership campaign for campus ministry foster a continued connection to the church and offer opportunities for student leadership development.

## Outdoor Ministries Benefit

The Hudson Mohawk camping program is one of three outdoor ministries supported by Feed the Roots. This program includes two summer camps, a confirmation camp hosted by the Reformed Church's Camp Fowler, and a Senior High Camp, hosted by the United Methodist Church's Sky Farm. Hudson Mohawk conference lay and rostered leaders both staff and run the programs.



The Confirmation camp, for recently confirmed youth, and Senior High Camp for high school students, both provide a week in the Adirondack Mountains to explore relationships between God, and among camp participants. Confirmation Camp covers covering basic catechetical instruction as well. Both of these camping experiences foster the growth of our future leaders.

Senior High Camp is built around a family experience. Family Groups are key components to how the whole camp is structured and offer time to grow in our Lutheran understanding of the grace filled relationship between God and humans and the freedom we have to love and serve our neighbor. No camping experience is complete without its traditions. Some of the Hudson



Mohawk Camping Program traditions are warm fuzzies, real milk and cookies, camp time and a senior banquet. Gifts to the Feed the Roots of Leadership appeal help to support this important outdoor ministry for our young people.



## Josiah Armstrong Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

Given the conditions we face as a struggling Church in today's "wintery economic climate," seminarians often feel left at the very bottom of the ladder or at the very back of the stove as a last priority. I would like to express my overwhelming gratitude for the incredible support I have received from the Upstate New York Synod. The Synod makes me feel like an important individual who is heard and understood and my needs (which, at times, feel great) have been met. Without this support, given that my family is in poverty, I would not be able to make it through seminary. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you!