



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations

8765 W. Higgins Road • Chicago, IL 60631-4197

Telephone: 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2610

October 24, 2007

Re: Fourth Annual Seminary Essay Contest on Ecumenism for the 21st Century

Dear Seminary student,

The National Workshop on Christian Unity is pleased to announce a coordinated essay contest to encourage students to engage contemporary ecumenical issues. The contest is open to students working toward a graduate degree in theological studies at a seminary or accredited school of theology.

The ELCA Section for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (ER) and the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) encourage you as a member of the ELCA to submit your essay!

Facts:

The ELCA seminarian who writes the winning essay will receive \$500.00 toward seminary tuition, and a trip to the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) in Chicago, Illinois, April 14-17, 2008, in order to present the paper. For last year's contest results visit <http://elca.org/ecumenical/lern/index.html>. At the NWCU, participants attend seminars on contemporary ecumenical topics and discuss the practical importance of ecumenical themes.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, scholarly, pastoral papers should be submitted using the Week of Prayer Theme: *Pray Without Ceasing* (1 Thess:5:17).

Guidelines:

a) In a 1000-1500 word essay, explain how the theology and practice of prayer promotes and brings about an eschatological reality and promise of Christian unity; b) Next, in light of your essay, write a prayer that illustrates your own tradition's understanding of this eschatological reality and promise of Christian unity.

All entries of essay and prayer should be submitted by email to the President of LERN, the Rev. Scott Cady at stptr@netzero.net no later than **February 15, 2008**.

I encourage you to submit an essay! For more information please contact the Section for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2612 or visit our website at www.elca.org/ecumenical.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Reid Trice
Director
Ecumenical Formation and Inter-Religious Relations
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
1-800-638-3522 ext. 2613
773-380-2613
Michael_Trice@elca.org