



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

The Reverend
Edward R. Benoway
Bishop

Florida-Bahamas Synod
ELCA

3838 W. Cypress St.
Tampa, FL 33607-4803

Phone: 813/876-7660
FAX: 813/870-0826
E-Mail:
Bishop@fbsynod.org

Website:
www.fbsynod.org

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sunday, February 11, 2007, has been designated as **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida Sunday** throughout our synod! It is not too early to mark your calendars and begin plans to celebrate and support this outstanding program of our synod.

"Providing program and place for people of all ages to grow personally and spiritually through Jesus Christ in an outdoor setting" is the mission of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida. This mission is being lived out across our synod through the many and various programs of LOMF. I encourage you to visit our LOMF website at www.LOMFLA.org to discover the many exciting LOMF program opportunities and activities available to the children, youth, adults and families.

In February of this year, Pr. Bob Kuehner resigned as Executive Director of LOMF. Bob shares in his letter of resignation that after "15 amazing years" of providing leadership to this program he felt "it's time" for him to step aside and allow new directions in LOMF's life to unfold. At our 2006 Synod Assembly and in several other settings, we had opportunity to shower Bob with our expressions of love, appreciation and thanksgiving. His vision, commitment, and spirit brought LOMF, Luther Springs, and our many outdoor ministry programs into being. Pr. Kuehner closed his letter with the words: "I pray that the people of this synod will continue to provide enthusiastic support for LOMF."

We honor the traditions and accomplishments of our Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida by remaining faithful in our celebration and support of this important ministry. Luther Springs is developing into an outstanding site for retreats and meetings as a result of our prayers, volunteer efforts, and monetary gifts. Our Synod Council meets at the camp each year. I encourage you to consider how the camp facilities might also serve your retreat and meetings needs.

We welcome Pr. Ron Nielsen as the new Interim Executive Director! He works with the leadership team of Chad Campbell, Director of Programs, Katie McClay, Lori Moberg, Lynn Smith, Kristen Louree, and Don Pelt, Camp Director.

Remember to share LOMF program information with others and place LOMF and its staff in your prayers, especially on **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida Sunday**, February 11, 2007. Support LOMF with your prayers, financial gifts, and by making it a part of your own ministry plans for the New Year!

In Christ and His Love,

The Rev. Edward R. Benoway, Bishop
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA