



## **REPORT TO THE 2008 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Holy Spirit is moving in wonderful ways in the life of Carthage. We are very encouraged by our record enrollment of 2,250 full time students which includes 687 first year students, and we have already received over 5,000 applications for admission to the Class of 2012. As we build new residence halls, hire new faculty, and expand our curriculum, we are confident that Carthage will continue to effectively respond to the pressing and peculiar needs of today's complex world. We are very proud that our commitment to excellence as a liberal arts college is integral and coterminous with our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. With our emphasis on education for young adults, we are honored to support and guide your sons and daughters in their maturation as leaders of the church and global citizens who are called to serve with wisdom and hope in a world filled with tension and uncertainties.

The ministries developed in Siebert Chapel are a particular and necessary component of a Carthage education. We offer worship services during the week and on Sunday evenings. We also organize a weekly program, *BRIDGES TO PEACE*, which features presentations and discussions that cover a wide range of topics. Often guests from the ELCA come to lift up the church's work in urban outreach, church camps, and global ministry. Many Carthage students experience the international community through overseas studies and tours during the January term. Our Music Department also schedules tours and performances that bring our fine choirs to local churches and communities. We were especially pleased that during Holy Week, the Carthage Wind Orchestra offered a unique performance of "*Via Crucis*" (the Way of the Cross) by Martin Ellerby in Siebert Chapel and in a local congregation. Programs like these show clearly the astounding power of the sacred arts.

The following activities and events in 2007 were of special significance.

- \* The annual *Martin Luther King Commemoration* featured Ms. Vanessa Young, ELCA Recruiter for the Young Adults in Global Mission program.
- \* The dean of Siebert Chapel presented a workshop, "*Spirituality and Leadership*," for thirty high school students who were part of the Youth In Mission initiative of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago that included a cultural immersion trip to Mexico City and southern Texas.
- \* The dean of Siebert Chapel also helped plan and lead two national conferences: "*The Spirit of Wholeness in Christ*," jointly sponsored by the ELCA, the Presbyterian Church USA, and the Reformed Church in America, July 12-15, Los Angeles, California; "*New Heaven and New Earth*," the ELCA Global Mission Event, July 19-22, Columbus Ohio.
- \* Our Autumn Convocation celebrated *100 Years of Lutheran Campus Ministry* and offered an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to the Rev. Elizabeth Platz, the first woman ordained as a Lutheran pastor in North America.
- \* Our Christmas festival, "*Star of Wonder*," featured the venerable Weston Noble, who came out of retirement to serve as interim director of the Carthage Choir.

Our campus is greatly blessed by the spiritual gifts of your sons and daughters. Please continue to pray for Carthage as we work to fulfill our calling to fully engage the pursuit of truth, the power of compassion, and the promise of transformation.

**Your brother in Christ, the Rev. Dr. Harvard Stephens Jr. + Dean of Siebert Chapel**  
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