

“In the Breaking of the Bread: Finding Christ in Full Communion”

A retreat for Lutheran and Episcopal clergy and rostered leaders

Renowned scholars Gordon Lathrop and Neil Alexander will serve as keynote presenters for a retreat held May 16-18, 2016, at Shrine Mont Conference Center in Orkney Springs, Virginia. “In the Breaking of the Bread: Finding Christ in Full Communion” will gather clergy and rostered leaders of Lutheran and Episcopal churches, equipping them for shared ministries of word and sacrament. The Virginia Lutheran-Episcopal Joint Committee plans for this retreat to foster deep reflections rooted in the full communion relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Coming together in the peaceful setting of Shrine Mont, retreat participants will share in worship, fellowship, and education with one another. Bishops will lead “instructed eucharist celebrations” in Lutheran and Episcopal traditions, and national denominational representatives will be present throughout the gathering. Participants will also learn about local partnership possibilities in their home settings.

Keynote presentations, provided by the Rev. Gordon W. Lathrop and the Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, will focus on the impact of the liturgical reform movement and its implications for shared ministry of Episcopalians and Lutherans. Lathrop is Professor Emeritus at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and an ordained pastor of the ELCA. Alexander is Dean of the School of Theology in Sewanee, where he is also Professor of Liturgy and Charles Todd Quintard Professor of Dogmatic Theology. Alexander formerly served as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

The majority of the retreat will be held in the Virginia House on the grounds of Shrine Mont, a conference center of the Diocese of Virginia (ECUSA) and home to the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration. Originally the Orkney Springs Hotel, the Virginia House is a beautiful four story clapboard structure built in 1873 and restored in 1987. Shrine Mont hosts congregational retreats, summer camps, and music festivals throughout the year.

The registration fees, including room and board, are \$160 (double occupancy room) and \$190 (single occupancy). For more information and to register online, visit: www.VirginiaLutheranEpiscopal.wordpress.com. Printed registration materials will be available soon.

The Virginia Lutheran-Episcopal Joint Committee includes the Diocese of Virginia (ECUSA), the Diocese of Southern Virginia (ECUSA), the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia (ECUSA), the Virginia Synod (ELCA), and the Metro DC Synod (ELCA). Its mission is to foster deeper relationships in the full communion partnership of the Episcopal Church and the ELCA.