

**W**elcome to the 18th annual Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, **Called into God's Marvelous Light...By the Word!**, May 5-6, 2006. As an assembly of congregations we gather together to worship, study the Bible, and participate in the decision-making business of the church. It is hoped you will be renewed, refreshed and enlightened by your assembly experience.

## Professor Craig Koester

### Bible Study

Craig Koester was called to Luther Seminary as assistant professor in 1986 and promoted to associate professor in 1991. In July 1999, he became professor of New Testament.



Koester was assistant pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minn., for three years following ordination in 1980, and interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in New York City in 1985-86.

He earned the B.A. degree at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., in 1976, and the M.Div. degree in 1980 from Luther Seminary, where he was awarded the Bruce Prize in New Testament Study. He received the Ph.D. degree with distinction from Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1986. He was the 1991 recipient of an Associated Press Award for Biblical Exposition. He did advanced research at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, N.J., in 1992-93.

Koester became a member of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas in

1995 and currently serves as associate editor of the journal *New Testament Studies* and co-chair of the Johannine Literature seminar. Active in the Society of Biblical Literature, Koester is a member of the steering committee of a new seminar on Hebrews. As a member of the Catholic Biblical Association, Koester serves as an associate editor of the journal *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Koester has been working with media as an expression of scholarship and knowledge and has developed a video series on the book of Revelation called "Is This the Time?" He also developed *The Bible Tutor*, an interactive introduction to the Bible.

His books include: *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel* (2003, 2nd Edition); *Revelation and the End of All Things* (2001); and a major commentary on Hebrews in the *Anchor Bible Commentary* series (2001).



# Rev. Michael Burk

## ELCA Churchwide Representative

The Rev. Michael Burk is Executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Dr. Burk directs the ELCA Churchwide worship ministry. He travels extensively in support of that work and to represent the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on matters related to worship. As the churchwide executive for worship, he has directed the Renewing Worship project, a comprehensive approach to developing a new generation of worship resources and to fostering worship renewal throughout the ELCA. In 2006 he will lead the effort to introduce the new primary resource, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Burk is a graduate of Wartburg College (B.A.), Wartburg Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and the University of Iowa (M.A. and Ph.D.). With advanced degrees in American Cultural Studies, Dr. Burk is particularly interested in the culture of the church and in the ways the ministry of word and sacrament inform deliberations and decisions facing the church and individual believers within it.

Dr. Burk is a member of the Consultation on Common Texts, the North American Academy of Liturgy, and the

American Academy of Religion. In addition to his responsibilities as an executive in the churchwide organization, he provides worship leadership for both the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He lives with his family in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and is a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Welcome

