Blessed to be a Blessing

Luther College

A retreat on the Promise of the Third Chapter of Your Life

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center
7415 E. Elbow Bend Road, Carefree, Arizona
(480) 488-5218

Monday, January 25–Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Registration form enclosed or go online to register.
http://sitd.retreatportal.net/calendar/events.aspx

Luther College and Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center are hosting this retreat for alumni, parents, and friends, and all who want to explore God’s callings in the third chapter of their lives. We are joined by college students who are in Arizona for a January Term course on vocation, self, and service. They are early in their life journeys.

Luther College has rich experience in what Lilly Endowment calls “The Theological Exploration of Vocation.” Working with our students, we nurture their competence, courage, and convictions to make the world more trustworthy. We don’t promise it will be easy, nor did Jesus, but we send them with our blessing. “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.”

And how has the journey gone—so far? In chapter two of the narratives of our vocations, we live out our callings in our workplaces, our homes and families, our public engagements, and our communities of worship. We experience joys and sorrows, defeats and triumphs, and our need for God in body and soul.

Then suddenly, or so it seems, we turn the page to chapter three. Our relationships and realities change. Our nest is empty, our employment ends, or we face losses, maybe new wealth. This generation has unmatched longevity. “What does this mean? For us? To God?”

Coming together for a day and a half of music, reflection, and conversation, we will listen to rich stories of our life’s journeys. We will experience the steadfastness of God who accompanies us through our years of growing and doing, assuring us “I am with you always,” and reminding us we are “Blessed to be a blessing, wherever we are on the journey.”

The retreat will be staffed by Dr. Ruth Kath, a faculty leader who is deeply invested in Martin Luther’s vision of vocation; Rev. Mike Blair, campus pastor and song leader, and Dr. David Tiede, who was Luther College’s interim president in 2013–14 and who loves the biblical stories of God’s calling to third chapter men and women. The fabric of the retreat will be woven with the narratives of all lives assembled in this special intergenerational gathering.

This is Luther’s third participation in the Third Chapter initiative of Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center. We care how your life turns out. The college students will benefit from your mature wisdom, and you will bless one another with renewed confidence in your callings.
Monday, January 25, 2016

9:00 a.m. Registration
Ravenscroft Chapel

9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Gathering Prayer
Ravenscroft Chapel—Mike Blair and Ruth Kath

10:00 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Dwelling in the Story:
Samuel and Elie: Who has blessed me?
Ravenscroft Chapel—David Tiede

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. A Sense of Vocation:
Sharing our Stories: My grandmother was so much like me, and yet so different…
Ravenscroft Chapel—Ruth Kath

11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Reflection and Writing

12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Lunch, Conversations, and Relaxation
Dining Room

1:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. How has my story unfolded? Sharing our own stories
Ravenscroft Chapel—Mike Blair

2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Hearing voices of the generations within us: your grandmother/grandfather? (small groups)

3:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Sharing life stories between generations
Ravenscroft Chapel (small groups)

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Dinner, Relaxation, Sunset over Black Mountain
Dining Room

7:00 p.m. Reception and Rest
Wine and cheese social follows in Lower Estrem

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Breakfast
Dining Room

9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Gathering Prayer
Ravenscroft Chapel—Mike Blair and Ruth Kath

9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Dwelling in the Story:
Ruth and Naomi
“Wither thou goest…” finding the way?
Ravenscroft Chapel—David Tiede

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Sharing our Blessings: the work of “Vocation, Self and Service”
Ravenscroft Chapel—reflections by students in January Term course

12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Lunch, Conversation, and Writing

2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m. Group Picture by the Fountain
Renewing Our Callings: Intergenerational reflections on Being a Blessing in the World God Loves
Ravenscroft Chapel (small groups)

3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Closing Eucharist
Ravenscroft Chapel—Mike Blair and Ruth Kath

4:00 p.m. Departure