

**"Rediscovering the Surprising Means of Grace:  
Mutual Conversation as a Gift"  
With Keynote Speaker, Gordon Lathrop  
Metropolitan New York Synod Bishop's Retreat  
Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT + October 28-30, 2014**

*Luther strikingly includes mutual conversation and consolation of the brothers and sisters among his listing of the means of grace. What are the means of grace and why are they so important? What does mutual conversation and consolation actually mean, and what is its place among the other "signs of life" or "marks of the church"? Why is it so important for those in public ministry? Professor Gordon Lathrop nurtures answers to these questions during our retreat. Through presentations, shared discussion, quiet reflection, worship and the experience of community – that is to say, through doing what we are talking about – we will rediscover here how we repeatedly need our brothers and sisters to come again to faith.*

## **Schedule**

### **Tuesday, October 28 + Simon and Jude Apostles**

<b>2:00 – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration and Room Assignments</b>
<b>3:30 – 4:00</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction to the Retreat (Large Conference Room)</b>
<b>4:00 – 5:30</b>	<b>Opening Meditation and Conversation: "The Importance of the Means of Grace" <i>In the current ways of being church and being Christian in today's world, the Lutheran proposal of the centrality of "the means of grace" is relatively unique. Why is this proposal so important? What are the means of grace and why do they matter?</i> (Large Conference Room)</b>
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Dinner (Retreat Dining Hall)</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Chapel) with Social Time Following (Retreat Dining Hall)</b>

### **Wednesday, October 29 + Readings from the Daily Lectionary**

<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Breakfast (Monastery Dining Room)</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Morning Prayer (Chapel)</b>
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Second Meditation and Conversation: "The Surprise of Mutual Conversation as a Means of Grace" <i>What did Luther mean, in the Smalcald Articles, by including "mutual conversation and consolation" among the means that God uses to give us the gospel? What is such mutual conversation? How is it actually practiced?</i> (Large Conference Room)</b>

<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Corporate Confession and Forgiveness (Chapel)</b>
<b>12:15</b>	<b>Lunch (Retreat Dining Hall)</b>
<b>1:00 – 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Sabbath and Wellness Time with Opportunity for Mutual Conversation and Consolation and other Optional Activities (see additional documents for descriptions and locations)</b>
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>6:30</b>	<b>Dinner (Retreat Dining Hall)</b>
<b>7:30 – 8:30</b>	<b>Conversation with our Bishop (Large Conference Room)</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Night Prayer (Chapel)</b>
<b>9:15ff.</b>	<b>Social Time (Retreat Dining Hall)</b>

**Thursday, October 30 + Propers for the Ministry**

<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Breakfast (Monastery Dining Room)</b>
<b>8:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Third Meditation and Conversation:</b> “The Need Pastors and Church Leaders Have for These Gifts” <i>Those who preside over the distribution of God's sacramental gifts in the church also profoundly need those gifts themselves. Any Christian needs other Christians in order to keep coming to faith again. How might these assertions be made true among us? How may the gospel alive in mutual conversation and in all the means of grace also refresh and support our pastors and other church leaders?</i> <b>(Large Conference Room)</b>
<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Chapel)</b>
<b>NOON</b>	<b>Lunch (Retreat Dining Hall)</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Departure</b>