



July 31, 2009

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#### BETHANY WELCOMES COMMUNITY TO LAUNCH ON THE LAWN

LINDSBORG, Kan.—Bethany College invites everyone to “Launch on the Lawn” on Friday, August 21 from 6-8 p.m. The event will be located at the future site of the planned Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center, north of Alma Swensson Hall on Bethany College’s campus.

The event, open to the community, will include guided tours of the future space with Campus Pastor Noni Strand, Bethany staff and students. "This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our identity as a college of the Lutheran Church with the people and churches of the Smoky Valley who have always been so supportive of Bethany. It's a great way to engage them in our ongoing commitment to that identity and vision," Strand said.

Community members will have the opportunity to learn about the new chapel and welcome center, ask questions and learn how to be more involved as this project moves forward. A light dinner will also be included. To RSVP, please call (785) 227-3380, ext. 8270, or email [aschej@bethanylb.edu](mailto:aschej@bethanylb.edu).

The Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center, located in the heart of campus, will be a hospitable place for all who worship, visit, learn and work in the Bethany community. It will utilize principles of sustainable design, including natural light and open space. The north and west walls of the chapel will be mostly windows and the chapel will include moveable features to host a variety of people, worship styles and services. The chapel will seat 190 people with overflow seating to 375.

Bethany College has raised nearly \$680,000 towards the Pearson Challenge, a \$1 million challenge grant from the late Gerald “Bud” Pearson, to be met by June 2010. The total project cost is \$3.5 million.

Bethany College, established by Swedish Lutheran immigrants in 1881, is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The mission of Bethany College is to educate, develop and

challenge individuals to reach for truth and excellence as they lead lives of faith, learning and service.

Bethany College is on the Web at [www.bethanylb.edu](http://www.bethanylb.edu).