LaHurd Part I An Introduction to Religious Pluralism

Lutherans and Religious Pluralism

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry

11-12 November 2011 Carol Schersten LaHurd, Ph.D.

I. An Introduction to Religious Pluralism

- A. Religious Diversity in the United States and Europe
- **B.** Comparing the American and European Contexts
- 1. population statistics
- 2. cultural factors in Europe
- 3. mitigating factors for integration in the U.S.
- C. Islam in the U.S.
- 1. history
- 2. current population

D. Changing Attitudes in the U.S.

- 1. increasing negativity toward Islam and Muslims
- 2. mosque construction controversies
- 3. role of the Internet
- 4. reaction to fear
- E. Diversity and Pluralism