***LUCIA* Scholarship Application Form
DUE Sunday October 29th, 2017!**

The Lucia Festival will take place on Sunday, December 3rd at 5pm, when PLU’s Lucia will be crowned

PLU has celebrated the tradition and legend of Sankta Lucia for over 60 years. The exact origin of the Lucia story is unknown, but a common thread comes from the name Lucia, which means “Light”. Some say it had its beginnings in Italy in the 3rd century, and made its way to the Nordic countries through the tales of Viking travelers. According to one legend, she was seeking help for her mother's long-term illness at the shrine of Saint Agnes, in her native Sicily, when an angel appeared to her in a dream beside the shrine, and Lucy became a devout Christian. She decided to devote her life to the church, and to the poor people of her village, bringing them food while wearing a crown of candles. When Lucia refused to compromise her virginity in marriage, she was denounced to the Roman authorities by the man she would have wed, put in jail and sentenced to be burned at the stake. The legend tells us that when Lucia was not burned by the fire, her jailers tried piercing her eyes. It was then that a very bright light emanated from Lucia’s eyes. After her death, people reported seeing a woman dressed in white with candles on her head on board ships laden with much needed food at Christmas time. Another possibility is that the Lucia Festival, which is celebrated on December 13th, has its roots in the pagan era, when a powerful female figure would emerge during the darkest time of the year. The stories have been passed down from generation to generation and Lucia is celebrated in many parts of the world.

Here at PLU, we celebrate Lucia as a Bearer of Light, a woman who understood her vocation, and stayed true to her authentic self. This fits with PLU's mission statement: to educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership, care for persons, communities and for the earth.

The Santka Lucia Committee invites you to reflect on why the message of Lucia is important in our world today. Write an essay of approximately 500 words about someone who embodies the qualities of Lucia, a force for light in the world. This could be personal—either yourself or someone you admire—or an organization or group that seeks to bring lightness into dark places, embodying the commitment Lucia showed in all her actions. Three committee members review applications and interview applicants. The committee awards a $500 scholarship based on the applications and personal interviews. Please bring your completed application to the first orientation meeting.

***The first orientation meeting will take place on Sunday, October 29th, at noon in the Scandinavian Cultural Center*.** We look forward to spending time with you at rehearsals, reading your essays and meeting each of you one-on-one. Your involvement helps create a beautiful and light-filled event for the entire campus and for our greater community. We are grateful for your participation!

Please Type or Print

#### Name

#### Local Address

#### Contact Phone(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email

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Year in School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student ID #

Hometown (City & State)

Height (For Costume Fitting)

For more information, email scancntr@plu.edu or check www.plu.edu/scancenter

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