

## **The Bishop's Road Show – February 17, 2010**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Dear Friends:

The words “**remember that you are dust, and to dust shall you return,**” were sung over and over this morning at the Lutheran Center as the body of believers came forth for the imposition of ashes. My day begin in the Chapel at the ELCA Lutheran Center in Chicago where I have been all week.

I traveled here on Monday to represent the Bishop's of Region 8 in the **Spring Assignment Process** where graduating seminarians were assigned to regions of this church. The Region 8 Bishop's will meet in Bedford, PA next Monday and Tuesday to share these seminarians and to conduct other business.

We completed the Assignment Process yesterday afternoon. Today is a “free day” for me as I have no meetings to attend. Tomorrow I am part of a task force that is looking into Seminarian Debt. It made no sense to fly home late yesterday and then turn around very early on Thursday and fly back here. So I have been busy with E-mail, this Road Show, a conference call on the **Care of Creation** and soon reading a mountain of material for the task force meeting tomorrow.

My busy times do not slow down during Lent and I know that yours do not either. Yesterday and today afford me time to walk from the Lutheran Center to the Marriott Spring Hill Suites which is about a mile from the Center. Lent is a time of caring for ourselves in the way of repentance and increased acts of piety. One way to care for ourselves is to take ten minutes and go online **to complete the Mayo Clinic's Health Assessment**. This ten minute activity will earn you \$150. If you and your spouse are both participants in the ELCA Board of Pensions Health Care program then you **BOTH** can earn \$150. In today's economy, that is a no-DUH!!!

Personally, I completed my health assessment on January 1, 2010. I have already been awarded my \$150 which has saved me money with my annual blood work required by my doctor. So far, we have had 11 pastors / spouses and church employees who have completed this assessment. **WE NEED 19 more** of you to do so. I highly encourage church members to ask your pastor and spouse if they have completed the health assessment in 2010! Just 19 more and we all save 2% off of the cost of the premiums. My guess is every congregation could use that 2% refund.

My travels will bring me home late Thursday night. I am in hopes of being in the Synod Office on Friday around noon. On Saturday, Synod Council hopes to meet, weather permitting. On Sunday, Helen Harms and I will travel to **St. Johannes for a 4:00 p.m. Service of Installation for the Rev. Kyle Hayes**. The color of the day is Purple and we encourage the clergy and people of the Monongahela and Mountain Conference to attend. If there are pastors in the Wheeling area who wish to car pool, Helen and I will meet at Edgwood Lutheran Church at 1:00 p.m. for this two hour trip down Route 2.

The following **Sunday, February 28 the Rev. Matthew Holbert** will be installed as the Pastor of Grace Lutheran, Fairmont, WV at 7:00 p.m. Please note the time change. In the morning I will be at Zion, Baker for their 11:00 a.m. worship service, followed by lunch in the community center with a discussion to follow.

For the week days in between, I will be in Bedford, PA on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 22 and 23. The evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> I will provide some education for the Call Committee of St. Thomas, Charles Town. I plan to be in the Synod Office on the 25 for part of the day, in case you need to reach me. Some of this travel schedule is shared as many are awaiting answers from Synod Council on a wide variety of topics. Usually I am the one to report out their responses in the form of letters. I am inviting your patience as my office time for the next couple of weeks will be limited. I will get out responses as soon as I can.

Yours in our Lord's service,

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