

The Bishop's Road Show – The Fifth Week of Epiphany

February 8, 2010

Dear Friends:

The list of prayer concerns for family and friends of our clergy continue to grow. Shortly after I sent out my Road Show on Saturday, and like many of you spent the rest of the day shoveling 12- 14 inches of snow, I heard from Pastor Erik Nielsen.

Erik invites prayers for his father, **Pastor LeVern Nielsen** who suffers from chronic heart failure. 30 years ago LeVern had a heart attach and since has suffered with many surgeries. Currently, about 30 percent of his heart is functioning.

Erik's second prayer concern was for **Pastor Louise Knotts**. About two weeks ago Louise enter a hospital for cellulites. This condition developed on the same side as her last stroke therefore she never felt any discomfort. Louise spent about a week in the hospital and is now in the Arbors Nursing Home in Marietta, Ohio.

Over the weekend we posted prayer requests for **Robert Slusser, Sr.** and **Jim Hofer**. We have just learned that both men left the church temporal and entered the church eternal. Funeral services for Robert Slusser Sr. will be held in Wabash, IN on Saturday. We have not heard when services will be for Cindy Bessey's father, Jim Hofer. We thank you for your prayers for the gift of death and new life for both of these men.

Our newest prayer request is for **Dorcas Friedline**. Today, Dorcas will have knee replacement surgery. We invite your prayers for Dorcas' rapid recovery. Dorcas chairs this Synod's Committee on Pastoral Support.

Finally, we have just learned this morning that **July 18-22, 2012, ELCA youth will gather**—again—in **New Orleans**, not to cheer on the Saints football team, but to stand with the saints of God in that place: the young and the old, the privileged and the uninvited, the lonely and the claimed, the powerful and the shamed, the weak and the strong, those who have built new homes and those still struggling to rebuild.

Why go back? Because New Orleans has more to teach us about fresh starts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Orleans has more to teach us about generosity and about how to be good neighbors. New Orleans has more to teach us about the house that God is building.

Please join us in the summer of 2012 in New Orleans. There is more to be done, and more to learn.

Yours in our Lord's service,

+ Ralph