

Dear Friends:

Within this Advent Season we can be found praying, "Stir up your power Oh, Lord and Come."

When I think of the spirit's stirring I tend to think of something new, something exciting, something for which I did not plan.

This week the spirit of God has stirred but not in ways that any of us would have expected. Last Sunday just before the start of church The Rev. George C. Weirick fell on the steps of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. After church he was taken to Jackson Hospital and once diagnosed with a broken hip, on to Charleston General.

Surgery was performed on Monday afternoon and all seemed to be well. Tuesday morning I spoke to Pastor George and other than the normal surgery pains he seemed to be progressing. That afternoon he was evaluated for the purposes of being moved to a rehab unit in Parkersburg and walked three steps.

Wednesday, brought a different story. Early morning everything continued to go as planned. Sometime Wednesday morning a blood clot caused a stroke. A stroke from which he would not recover. Pastor George Weirick died Wednesday evening, December 9, 2009 at 8:48 pm.

The viewing is this Sunday, December 13, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Roush Funeral Home (602 Orchard Dr.) in Ravenswood. The funeral is on Monday at 5:00 pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church (Walnut & Henry Streets) in Ravenswood. For all of the clergy who are able to attend please bring your robe and stole. The color of the day is white.

This year, 2009, marked The Rev. George C. Weirick's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. He served as the Synod President from 1956 - 1959. All of his calls have been in West Virginia having come to serve here in 1947 as a student from Gettysburg Seminary to teach catechism and to do visitation during the summer months. He showed a remarkable passion for the growth of the church in this Synod. Periodically George would phone me or members of this synod to first see what was new, and secondly to share a new idea for evangelism. The Mason-Jackson Shared Lutheran Ministry was one of his ideas for keeping the church together in the two counties of Mason and Jackson, WV.

Should you wish to send a card to his family, you may write to Mrs. Evelyn Weirick, 253 Eastwood Road, Ravenswood, WV 26164. The Rev. George C. Weirick will be missed. To his life, witness and ministry we can easily say, "well done, good and faithful servant."

Yours in our Lord's service,

+ Ralph