

The Bishop's Road Show – March 23, 2009

The Season of Lent

Dear Friends:

Grace and peace be unto you during this season of baptismal renewal.

This **Road Show** note will deal with people and events. The events that I will write about are the annual Chrism Mass and the Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic Dialogue (LARC).

This year's **Chrism Mass** (the annual renewal of vows and the blessing of the synod oils) will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7 at St. Paul's, Morgantown, WV. Clergy are invited to wear their albs and purple stoles. Lunch will be provided for you by way of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Please contact Maureen Corrigan with your lunch reservation by April 3.

Our second annual lay and clergy event is **L.A.R.C.** My note is an advance announcement that Bishop Emeritus Donald McCoid will represent the Lutherans and make three presentations at L.A.R.C. The dates of L.A.R.C. are May 11 – 13, and it will be held at the Bishop Hodges Pastoral Retreat Center in Huttonsville, WV. Notices of this event will come from the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese in early April.

We are happy to report that **Pastor James Riley** has finally been released from the hospital. Pastor Riley's surgery of March 5 went very well. It was following surgery that he was found to have a blood clot. Treatments began immediately upon this painful clot. Pastor Jim was released yesterday to go home to recuperate. We pray for his quick recovery.

Later this week I will attempt a second Road Show to fully announce the beginning of ministry in this synod of **Helen Harms, Associate in Ministry**. The Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Missions unit of the ELCA has changed direction on how to deploy staff that will be responsible for Evangelism and Stewardship in synods. Helen is now my assistant, fully funded by the ELCA, with expertise in Evangelism and Stewardship. Please call upon Helen for all such needs. You can reach her at (304) 243-1114. At this point in time, we have worked with the two chairs of the Evangelism and Stewardship Committees, and today I will meet with her and her Chicago based supervisor. On Committee Day, March 28, the refinement of Helen's work will continue. We pray that you will call upon Helen for ministry needs.

I have witnessed to you in the past that in the months in which the Conference of Bishops' meet, the rest of the month becomes very hectic. My schedule for this week includes worship that was held yesterday at St. Johannes, New Milton, WV and the beginning of the Call Process as the council met to learn of the full process; today I will meet the Rev. Neal Harrison at Edgwood Lutheran, Wheeling along with Helen Harms at 10 a.m. On Tuesday, I will be in the synod office in the morning and then spend the afternoon traveling to Gettysburg Seminary as the Bishops of Region 8 hold our annual meetings with the Faculty and Staff of our Seminary; as we conclude this visit, I will then meet with Seminarian Sean Smith and his family for dinner and conversation. Sean is our candidate for Messiah, Moundsville and Good Shepherd, New Martinsville. Thursday morning, I will meet with the Upper Ohio Valley Conference of Pastors and then have lunch with Rev. Mark Grorud, of the ELCA. Mark is attempting to visit our largest congregations to learn what the ELCA can offer better to them.

Should you need to reach me this week, my advice is that you phone the synod office, and Maureen will know exactly the best times to reach me.

Yours in our Lord's service,

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