

The Bishop's Road Show

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Merry Christmas.

Tonight and tomorrow we will celebrate God becoming flesh in the babe named Jesus. This afternoon Terry and I will travel to the Counties of Mason and Jackson for services at St. Peter's, Point Pleasant, WV and St. Paul's, New Haven, WV. The first service of Carols, the Word and Holy Communion will begin at 8:00 pm and the second at 10:00 PM. I invite your prayers for all of us who will be traveling late tonight.

Somehow with the celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we tend to feel as if time stops and all other events are placed on hold. However, the work of the church does go on. Therefore I have two announcements to share with you.

First, The Rev. Jacq Campbell will begin her ministry with the Church of the Covenant in Grafton, WV, beginning on January 1, 2010. The Service of Installation will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 4:00 PM at the Church of the Covenant. Dr. Gil Waldkoenig will serve as our preacher with this Service being a shared one between Lutherans and Presbyterians. We encourage the pastors and laity of the Monongahela Valley-Mountain Conference to share in this service by vesting and processing. The color of the day is green.

Second, I invite your prayers for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairmont, WV. Over the dates of January 2 and 3, 2010, Grace will hold a visitation weekend with a pastor and family. Saturday afternoon of Jan. 2 there will be a meet and greet event with this pastor leading worship on Sunday, Jan. 3. Immediately following worship a congregational vote will be taken as to whether or not they will offer a Call to this candidate.

Over this Holiday week the Synod Office will be closed from today until Tuesday, December 29. Due to vacation time not yet taken, I will return to the Synod Office on Monday, January 4. The annual Bishop's Academy will take place from Jan. 5 – 9. The rest of the month is rapidly filling up. Should you need to speak with me, Monday, January 4 may be your best date for a while. My calendar from February on is fairly open. I have committed myself to just 2 Sundays in February and one in March. There are some congregations where I have not been for a while. Please contact me in January so that we can arrange dates for my visit.

My prayers are with you as together we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Yours in our Lord's service,

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