

The Bishop's Road Show

July 24, 2009 The Season of Pentecost

Dear Friends:

This edition of your Bishop's Road show will inform you of our Web Site, share with you some news of leaders in this synod, and offer to our Rostered Leaders the opportunity to earn \$400.

As I write this note the photos from the **2009 Synod Assembly** will be downloaded to the Synod Web Site. My guess is by the end of this weekend all of the photos from the Assembly, taking by our photographer Sarah Soltow, will appear on www.wv-wmd.org. It is my hope that you will visit our web site, not just for photos, but to keep up with news for and about this synod. This site contains under **Resources** the "**Pastoral Compensation Expectations for 2010**" for your congregations budget planning. All four of our educational bulletin inserts concerning "**What is a Synod?**" are posted there too. These inserts will begin again in the fall.

I am sorry to report to you that once again, **Pastor David Twedt** has had to leave the Tour De Revs as he received word that his mother, Francis Twedt, died on Sunday. The celebration of life worship service will take place on Saturday, July 25 in South Dakota. There David will gather with his father, brothers and his daughters. My information is that Francis died at home of natural causes and not from an extended illness.

Helen Harms, my assistant, is resting at home following minor foot surgery this past Monday. Let's say that Helen is supposed to be off on medical leave, yet my in-box has had at least 2 or more e-mails from her and at least one phone call per day. She claims to being bored but she is keeping me busy. This weekend Helen will lead worship and preach at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Charles Town, WV.

Pastor James Riley's brother is in critical condition. It is my understanding that he had hip surgery and then developed some form of an infection. This infection has settled into his kidneys. Pastor Riley, on the other hand, has recovered from his surgery during Lent and is now back to riding his bicycle six miles every other day. I apologize for not having Jim's brother's name. We have played phone tag / e-mail tag and I have not had the opportunity to follow up on this news.

This week has been a quiet one in the synod office because many of our pastors and lay leaders are with 37,000 youth and adults in New Orleans. To follow along with the **National Lutheran Youth Gathering** go to www.elca.org to read the daily press releases and to see pictures of the gathering.

Now, about our Rostered Leaders ability to earn **\$400**. Visit www.elcaforwellness.org with your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID number and take the health assessment. You only

supply the numbers you want about your health and within a month you will receive a check in the amount of \$100. Another \$300 is awaiting you if you log in daily, or in my case several times a month, to www.elcaforwellness.org. There you can easily learn about your health and earn 300 points and then a check for \$300(minus any deductible you have already used this year) will be mailed to you. You say you do not need an extra \$400. Please tell that to your spouse!!! In the case of a couple, we are talking about \$800 for a few minutes a day on a computer. It seems like a no brainer to me.

As a synod we need **three (3)** more Board of Pensions members to take the health assessment so we as a synod will see a 2% reduction in our bills to all of our congregations. I am praying that our procrastinators will see this as a benefit and take the health assessment **NOW!**

Finally, a note about **my travels**. I know it is hard for many of you to believe, but quite often my Sunday morning calendar is filled six months in advance. My Sunday morning calendar is full from now through the first Sunday in December. The year 2010 is wide open, for the moment. This Sunday I will be in three congregations. At 10:00 a.m. I will be presiding at **St. Mark's**, Clarksburg with Pastor Linda Muhly serving as the preacher. At 4:00 p.m. I will be at the **Installation Service for Pastor Sean Smith** at Good Shepherd, New Martinsville. At 7:00 p.m. I will be at Messiah, Moundsville for part tow of the Pastor Sean Smith Installation Service. For both of these services I will serve as the Installing Officer of the Church. Next Friday, July 31, I will be with the **Synodical Women of the ELCA** at John the 23rd in Charleston for their annual Convention. I will bring them greetings and serve as the preacher with Pastor Jan Hansen presiding at a 3:30 p.m. worship service.

God's blessings be upon you and your congregation(s) as this summer has been extremely busy and productive.

+ Ralph