

The Season of Epiphany

The Bishop's Road Show, January 30, 2009

Dear Friends,

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Huntington, has scheduled the Service of Holy Communion and Installation for Sunday, February 15 to begin at 4:00 p.m. Color the day will be green. Visiting clergy are invited to vest and process. A catered meal will follow the service. Clergy are asked to e-mail an approximate "head count" of those attending from their congregation(s) by Monday, February 9. Christ the King has voted to call Pastor Nunnally on a full-time basis instead of the previous quarter-time call. Please join them for this celebration.

Earlier today, I heard from Dorcas Friedline who reported to me Pastor Judy Marlow's condition. Yesterday, they attempted to do more surgery on Judy to insert a tube into her abdomen. They were unable to do so and had to close her back up. Shortly after this e-mail, I heard from Pastor Beth Westphal who reports that "she just spoke to Judy. She sounds great. She's calm and direct and prepared. She was just as I would expect her to be. She is in James Cancer Center until tomorrow, and then she'll be transferred to Knox Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon for palliative care. She's not able to go home with Hospice." Cards may be sent to her via her home address of 573 Highland Hills Drive, Howard, OH 43028.

Abiding Savior Church in Fort Lauderdale is using a portion of its former parsonage to provide really inexpensive guest housing for Lutheran clergy only in Fort Lauderdale. Their facilities include a master bedroom with bath and full kitchen facilities. Cost is only \$40 per night and in on a first-come, first-served basis. They are not working this as a full-time operation, but felt it was something they could offer the greater church for clergy who might otherwise not have funds for a vacation near the shops, beach, etc. during the bleak midwinter when a break is most appreciated and their temperatures are in the 70s-80s. If you think this might be of value to some, please feel free to pass the word along. There is room for two adults.

As to my travels, your Synod Council and I will meet on Saturday, January 31. On Sunday, I will join a congregation for their annual meeting and then head to Gettysburg Seminary for the week. I have been invited to be the Bishop in Residence for the week of February 2-6, 2009. My duties include that of preaching twice, officiating at the Wednesday Eucharist, assisting with the teaching of four classes and meeting with the spouse's group. My tour of duty concludes sometime on Friday afternoon. Should you need to reach me next week, I will be checking my e-mail and my voice mail for messages. I will be working at home today if you need to reach me, too.

Yours in our Lord's service,

+Ralph