

Bishop's Road Show

December 3, 2009 - Advent

Dear Friends,

Three major events will take place in the next few days.

First, your Professional Candidacy Committee will meet in Pittsburgh on Friday and Saturday. For the first time in a while we do not have any senior seminarians. The SWPA Synod has three that we will meet with as we do Candidacy together. However, we have four who will meet with the committee in the spring as they seek entrance to seminary.

Second, this weekend, St. John's, Harper's Ferry, WV will be holding a revival. All of these events are open to the public. Please read the details below:

COME AND BE PART OF HISTORY

FAITH, JUSTICE AND UNITY

R E V I V A L

DECEMBER 4, 2009 – 7-9PM

FAITH - REVITALIZING OUR PAST

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

950 WASHINGTON ST., HARPERS FERRY, WV

DECEMBER 5, 2009 – 7-9PM

JUSTICE – RENEWING OUR PRESENT

FIRST ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

1030 W RIDGE ST., HARPERS FERRY, WV

DECEMBER 6, 2009 – 10AM-NOON

UNITY – TRANSFORMING OUR FUTURE

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

950 WASHINGTON ST., HARPERS FERRY, WV

WORKSHOPS

PRAYER STATIONS

REVIVALISTS

GATHERING MEALS

PRAISE BAND/MUSIC

FOR DETAILS CONTACT:

Vicar John Unger, vicarunger@gmail.com, 304-389-1866

Pastor Timothy Robinson, revtrobo6@aol.com, 304-839-7209

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (leave a message), 304-535-3105

www.stjohnlutheranwv.org, email: info@stjohnlutheranwv.org

FAITH, JUSTICE and UNITY REVIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, December 4, 2009

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Gathering reception 970 Washington St.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering meal

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Worship - Focus: Our Baptism

Theme: Faith - Revitalizing our Past

Location: St. John Lutheran Church 950 Washington St.

Keynote Revivalist – Rev. Dr. Kathryn Love

Worship Leader – Pastor Rich Mahan

Saturday, December 5, 2009

Workshops: Sign-In at 970 Washington St. or pre-register at info@stjohnlutheranwv.org or
call 304-535-3105 and leave a message

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Session 1 - **Organizing for Community** – Rev. Aaron Graham; **Sharing**

Faith - Helen Harms; **Creation Care** – Mary Gunderson

3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Session 2 - **The Signs of Life** - Pastor Timothy Robinson; **Natural**

Passionate Spirituality – Helen Harms; **Unity and Renewed**

Hope for the Local Church – Rev. Dennis Sparks

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Gathering reception 970 Washington St.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering meal

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Worship - Focus: The Word

Theme: Justice - Renewing our Present

Location: First Zion Baptist Church 1030 W RIDGE ST

Keynote Revivalist - Bishop Steve Bouman

Worship Leader – Pastor Rich Mahan

Sunday, December 6, 2009

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast and workshop on Evangelism 970 Washington St.

(presentation and discussion lead by Dr. Kathryn Love,

Bishop Steve Bouman and Pastor Mahan)

9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Gathering reception

10:00 - 12:00 noon Worship - Focus: Holy Communion

Theme: Unity - Transforming our Future

Location: St. John Lutheran Church 950 Washington St.

Keynote Revivalist – Pastor Rich Mahan

Worship Leader – Vicar John Unger

Holy Communion – Bishop Ralph Duncan

12:00 noon - Sending lunch (Gathering Hall) 970 Washington St.

REVIVAL WORKSHOPS (SATURDAY, Dec 5)

SIGN IN AT 970 Washington St (Gathering Hall)

Or Pre-Register at info@stjohnlutheranwv.org or

Leave a message at 304-535-3105

(include name, phone number and email address)

Session 1: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Workshop 1: Organizing for Community – Rev. Aaron Graham

If you are interested in the intersection of community organizing and advocacy for the poor as well as the history of revivals and social movements than this is the workshop for you! Working for God's Kingdom and for social justice can be challenging if done alone. Participants in this workshop will learn about the power of building authentic relationships across cultural barriers that lead to social change. This training will focus on learning to tell your own story in such a way that you can build teams and motivate people with a Kingdom vision for social justice.

Workshop 2: Sharing Faith - Helen Harms

You don't have to be a Bible thumping street preacher to be an evangelist. God has given every congregation and every person opportunities to share the Christian faith with others. During this workshop we will learn ways congregations can invite others to be part of their community and faith. We will also learn how to tell our faith story in ways that will invite others into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember God has already given you everything you need.

Workshop 3: Creation Care – Greening Our Faith Community –

Mary Gunderson, Rev. Karen Erskine-Valentine and Carmen Winiarski

Location: Trinity United Methodist's Orchard House on Shepherdstown Road (transportation provided from 950 Washington St., Harpers Ferry, WV)

How often do we think about our relationship with God and His creation?
Will we simplify our lives so we can be in better harmony with ALL of
God's creation? Join us as we explore "Greening our Faith Community and

Life" and taking steps towards renewing our commitment to being better
stewards of the earth. Helen Smith will share her own journey in
simplification and environmental action. There will also be a time to
walk through a labyrinth and meditate on what God is laying on your heart.

REVIVAL WORKSHOPS (SATURDAY, Dec 5) - continued

SIGN IN AT 970 Washington St (Gathering Hall)

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Leave a message at 304-535-3105

(include name, phone number and email address)

Session 2: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Workshop 1: The Signs of Life - Pastor Timothy Robinson

Pastor Timothy Robinson will be teaching on a 40-day devotional by Dr. David Jeremiah called the Signs Of Life, Back to the Basics of Authentic Christianity. Those attending this workshop will be talking about how they can do more for Christ, getting out of the pews and doing the Gospel. Come with your dusty shoes, worn-out knees, rolled up sleeves an open heart and out-stretched arms to hear what Dr. Jeremiah has written to help us to be more Christ-like.

Workshop 2: Natural Passionate Spirituality – Helen Harms

Congregations have been set on fire through the use of Natural Church Development. Healthy congregations are growing congregations. Spiritually healthy people are the foundation of spiritually healthy congregations. Now NCD has produced a new resource that helps individuals and congregations unlock the spiritual resources that God has already given them. In this workshop, we will learn about Natural Church Development and will take time to explore our spiritual styles.

Workshop 3: Unity and Renewed Hope for the Local Church –

Rev. Dennis Sparks

Rev. Sparks believes the tide is changing. Experts who studied such things twenty years ago would say, “Churches working ecumenically with other local churches would not grow.” However, people today have a renewed sense of openness and desire for spiritual nurturing that broadens and challenges their perspective. In this regard, people find discovering the diverse gifts offered by other traditions and faiths, Christian and non-Christian, contributes to their spiritual journey. The local congregation or parish no longer needs to proclaim an isolation that declares it as the means to the “way, the truth and the life of Christ.” Participants in this workshop will identify ways that people of faith can work and share together in cooperation and mission.

Third, on Sunday, December 6, 2009 The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), said he will share priorities and hopes for the ELCA, and wants to hear stories from members about the church's work in their own contexts, when he hosts an online "Town Hall Forum" Sunday, Dec. 6. The hour-long forum begins at 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time (4:30 p.m. Central Time).

The program will be webcast live from Chicago, where Hanson will be joined by an audience of ELCA members. The audience will ask questions of the presiding bishop. Web viewers can watch the event and submit questions at <http://www.ELCA.org/townhall>

"I think having this during the season of Advent is an important reminder that when our unity is in Christ, we will always be looking toward God's future in a spirit of 'expectant hopefulness,'" he said. "That's what characterizes my view of the ELCA."

Hanson said he wants to use the forum to build on a conversation he began in a Nov. 19 open letter to ELCA members. In that letter he said that the church stands together in God's grace, "but we are not standing still." Hanson wrote that the ELCA proclaims Jesus Christ and is "fully engaged in this mission by caring actively for the world that God loves. God's mission is serious work that calls for serious commitment."

Hanson told the ELCA News Service he plans to discuss in the forum how the ELCA is a church "in God's grace going forward in mission, and how that shared commitment to be engaged in mission continues to define who we are in the ELCA." "I look forward to hearing stories from members participating online of how the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon them and through their congregations," he said. "I also look forward to sharing priorities for our life together in the ELCA."

Hanson said he expects the conversation will include some discussion of what has transpired in the ELCA since the churchwide assembly, which directed changes to the church's ministry policies. Those changes, which created the possibility for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as clergy and professional lay workers, have caused some disagreement in the ELCA. "I would hope we can talk about how, in these weeks and months following our churchwide assembly, we have the opportunity to be a church that does not deny our differences on human sexuality, but isn't defined by those differences. It gives us an opportunity to witness to the culture that such questions need not finally separate us," he said. The Town Hall Forum will also be available for on-demand viewing on the ELCA Web site by the close of business Dec. 7.

The presiding bishop's Nov. 19 open letter and a video resource are at <http://www.ELCA.org/faithfulmission> on the ELCA Web site.

As you can see this is a full weekend of events.

My travel schedule for today and beyond includes travel to Charleston tonight after meeting with the Pastors of the Upper-Ohio Valley Conference at 11:15 am. I will meet with the Church Council of St. Paul's and then return home tonight. This will enable me to arrive in Pittsburgh at noon for Candidacy. When Candidacy ends on Saturday I will then drive to Harper's Ferry, WV for their Revival. Sunday I have a meeting scheduled in the Eastern Panhandle and then I will return home.

Next week I will be in the Synod Office on Tuesday and Thursday and then work at home on Wednesday and Friday. On Saturday I will begin a vacation that will conclude on Dec. 21. If you need me during that vacation time, please phone the Synod Office and Maureen Corrigan will assist you.

Yours in our Lord's service,

+ Ralph