

## **The Bishop's Road Show – The Season of Easter**

**April 9, 2010**

Dear Friends:

This weekend marks the final meeting of your Synod Council prior to the 2010 Synod Assembly. **Registrations** have been coming in on time and soon will be closed. What I have not seen is one single nomination. Deans of our conferences have mentioned to me that so and so is going to be nominated but so far the folder for Nominations is empty.

With **nominations** in mind I need to add one that was not on the original request. The lay position for the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg becomes one that we will elect one person to in June. Mr. Paul Wagerin, from St. John's, Martinsburg was filling an unexpired term. Paul is eligible for election and will be completing a nomination form. Because this position is nominated by means of a consultation process with the Seminary there will be no nominations from the floor of the Assembly.

**Synod Council** always deals with its recommendations to the Assembly in the nature of Rules for the Assembly, the Agenda, budgets for 2010 and 2011, and other normal business. This weekend we will be meeting with Community Lutheran Partners, Inc. at John the 23<sup>rd</sup> retreat center in Charleston. A portion of our time on Saturday will be spent with practioners who are serving in southern West Virginia as we continue to learn of mission opportunities.

Now that extra work of Lent and Holy Week are past, now is the time for many projects to be completed.

First, we need 10 more members of this synod who are on the **ELCA's Board of Pension Health** plan to complete their health assessment before April 30. In many of our congregations church administrators receive this benefit and they can complete this assessment that is found on the Board of Pensions home page. Since most of our pastors receive this benefit, you too could complete this assessment which takes all of ten minutes time. Once you have completed it in about a months time you will receive a check in the mail in the amount of \$150. Please do not delay in completing this assessment.

Second, I have received about as many reports to ones bishop as we have seen in the numbers who have completed the health assessment. Of our 45 active pastors I have received 20 reports. I have not looked at the Congregational files to see how many Parochial Reports have been completed but my guess is that we probably have the same ratio as the other reports. Your information is important to us as a synod and to the ELCA. Please take the time now, to complete your paperwork.

My travels will keep me in the Charleston area for the weekend as I will visit with Cross of Grace in Hurricane, WV on Sunday. We were scheduled for the first Sunday in February but I was snowed in at home in Wheeling. Next week I will be in the Synod Office on Tuesday. Wednesday I will work at home and Thursday is the Spring meeting of the West Virginia

Council of Churches and we will meet in Charleston. Friday is the Spring meeting of the shared Professional Candidacy meeting in Wheeling. Sunday I will be at St. Paul, Morgantown where I will spend the day and be at the Chapel at WVU in the evening.

Below I have posted a notice of a Festival of Liturgical Arts in Hudson, Ohio, in June. I am in hopes that it will appear in your E-mail.

God's Easter blessings,

+ Ralph