

**The West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod
Educational Bulletin Insert Series – 2009**

#3 – What are Synods for?

So far we have learned that 1) a synod's primary responsibility is oversight and the 2) aspect is that of providing for recruitment, preparation and support. Our third (3) PRIORITY is to plan for the mission of this church in this synod, initiating and developing policy and implementing programs, consistent with ELCA policy, including:

- Ecumenical guidance and encouragement (Bishop Dunkin is very involved with the Council of Churches); **Pastor Jerry Kliner serves as our ecumenical officer** and the annual Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic Dialogue (LARC) is an important educational event held every May for lay and clergy.
- Developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ones and support and assistance in the conclusion of a particular ministry (this would include our creation of **Community Lutheran Partners**, and **the Calling of Helen Harms** whose expertise is Evangelism and Stewardship.
- Encouragement has been shown with our attempts to have newly called pastors trained in **Mission Development** from the ELCA.
- In mid-April, **Grace Lauver** (St. John, Red House), **Kara Propst** (Faith, Franklin) and **Dennis Probst** (St. Peter, Shepherdstown) were approved by our shared Candidacy Committee to enter seminary for the purpose of serving their Lord and Church as ordained ministers. In the fall of 2009, we will have 9 of our members in seminary with eight seeking ordination and one seeking consecration as a deaconess.
- Leadership and encouragement of congregations in their evangelism efforts –please contact Helen Harms (304-243-1114) or Pastor Margie Lauver (chair of Synod Committee for Evangelism 301-334-4778) for assistance with your evangelism efforts.

**The West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod
Educational Bulletin Insert Series – 2009**

#3 – What are Synods for?

So far we have learned that 1) a synod's primary responsibility is oversight and the 2) aspect is that of providing for recruitment, preparation and support. Our third (3) PRIORITY is to plan for the mission of this church in this synod, initiating and developing policy and implementing programs, consistent with ELCA policy, including:

- Ecumenical guidance and encouragement (Bishop Dunkin is very involved with the Council of Churches); **Pastor Jerry Kliner serves as our ecumenical officer** and the annual Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic Dialogue (LARC) is an important educational event held every May for lay and clergy.
- Developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ones and support and assistance in the conclusion of a particular ministry (this would include our creation of **Community Lutheran Partners**, and **the Calling of Helen Harms** whose expertise is Evangelism and Stewardship.
- Encouragement has been shown with our attempts to have newly called pastors trained in **Mission Development** from the ELCA.
- In mid-April, **Grace Lauver** (St. John, Red House), **Kara Propst** (Faith, Franklin) and **Dennis Probst** (St. Peter, Shepherdstown) were approved by our shared Candidacy Committee to enter seminary for the purpose of serving their Lord and Church as ordained ministers. In the fall of 2009, we will have 9 of our members in seminary with eight seeking ordination and one seeking consecration as a deaconess.
- Leadership and encouragement of congregations in their evangelism efforts –please contact Helen Harms (304-243-1114) or Pastor Margie Lauver (chair of Synod Committee for Evangelism 301-334-4778) for assistance with your evangelism efforts.