

Spiritual Renewal Focus Coming in 2006

By Pastor Audree Catalano
Synod Minister

One of the hats I wear is to serve as advisor to the Lay and Clergy Leadership Development team of the Synod Council. This team is responsible for providing support to rostered and lay leaders in our synod on an ongoing basis. As the strategic plan, *Called into God's Marvelous Light*, has gotten under way, this team is focusing on a spiritual renewal emphasis for rostered leaders and on a youth/young adult event for those discerning a call to ministry.

Pastor Charles Ortloff shared with the committee the statistic that 20 percent of all pastors are suffering from "burnout." This figure rises to 50 percent for pastors who have been in their call for more than ten years. He feels that this is due to pastors not taking time for spiritual renewal.

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Pastor Kathie

Nycklemoe shared her prayer journey and states that as a pastor, she is often asked to offer spiritual direction. She has studied contemplative prayer at the Shalom Institute and this has helped her to "hear God's words in different ways." She has a desire to share what she has learned.

Pastor Ortloff and Pastor Nycklemoe will serve as our resources to develop a spiritual renewal program for rostered leaders starting in 2006.

For 2005 the team is working on "Church Councils as Leaders in the Church," a synod program that helps council members become more effective leaders in their congregations. This program has been successful for the last two years and we wish to continue building leadership in our congregations.

Obviously more planning and activity will be occurring, but this is what the team has put into place thus far. Stay tuned for further updates.

PEACE+ and blessings,

Pastor Audree