

Help Spread the Word

One of the issues that challenges our church is communication. We all struggle with communicating, whatever setting we find ourselves in...interpersonal relationships, family systems, congregations. "What do you mean I didn't tell you?" "How many times do we have to announce it?"

It is one of the issues I hear verbalized as I visit in your congregations. "How do we learn what is going on at the synod and in the greater church?" We as leaders have a heavy responsibility in making such communication

happen. There is no shortage of information flowing out of this office, both online and in print. The same is true of the churchwide office in Chicago. I suspect that many times that

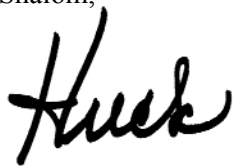
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is really the problem. There is so much that we have difficulty choosing which to prioritize, and in the process, much of it simply ends up on our desk waiting for a decision.

A present day example is the "Renewing Worship" project that the ELCA is involved with. One of the hopes of this process is that conversation about worship will be increased...that people will be involved in decision making. Yet how often I hear that our church members are unaware of this effort. There are materials galore...and opportunities to engage in the process for individuals and congregations. Just go on the web site at www.renewingworship.org. The synod office has the video tape designed expressly to enable people to join in the conversation.

It's a new program year in our congregations. I am encouraging you as pastors and lay leaders to make it a priority...spreading the word.

Shalom,



Harold Usgaard
Bishop

