

Bishop's Message & Columns

Prayer Ideas and Resources Needed

Synod Strategic Plan Highlights, Sept. 2004

The Congregational Renewal Team of the Synod Council would like to see all 183 congregations involved in "deepening prayer lives" as our synod begins the synod strategic plan's prayer focus for 2005, and requests your ideas and resources to help in planning.

The team is exploring several ideas, including creating a prayer calendar with synod congregations and leaders listed weekly in the prayers of the church. What ideas do you have? You are encouraged to share your ideas with the team as they continue to plan for this emphasis.

A bibliography of books and resources is also needed, as the team seeks resources on prayer for all age levels.

Please contact Marilyn Carpenter on the Congregational Renewal Team, or Larry Iverson at the synod office, with your thoughts. Their contact information is listed in the synod handbook.

Other current highlights include:

- **Deepening Prayer Lives and Supporting Healthy Rostered Leaders:** Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe and Pastor Charles Ortloff, both of whom have expertise in spiritual renewal, have been asked to draft a proposal for a spiritual renewal event for rostered leaders and their spouses. The proposal will be presented to the Lay & Clergy Leadership Development Team of the Synod Council in September for action. This task force will also be working with Pastor Audree Catalano and Cheryse Sloan in the synod office to plan a spiritual renewal event for First Call Theological Education pastors.
- **Communications emphasis:** The July workshops, "Church Communications Made Easier," were such a success that one more workshop has been scheduled for Oct. 14 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, for those who were unable to attend the workshop in July. More details will follow – watch the web site!

For more information on the synod's strategic plan, visit www.semnsynod.org and click "Strategic Plan."



Called into God's Marvelous Light
To Be Joyful Witnesses
To Be Christ-Centered Disciples
To Be Strong Leaders