



2005: A Synod Joined in Prayer

Praying With Nature

By Cathy Mannel
Congregational Renewal Team

During the summer, people often seek to connect with God through the natural world. Practicing prayer as mostly listening, quiet reflective moments in parks or yards can help people ponder God's loving care and power and also experience God's healing touch.

In their forthcoming book, *Islands of Grace: Creating Sanctuary in Daily Life*, the authors suggest some ways to bring reverence into our lives and create sanctuary time. For example:

- Have 'Earth time' each day. Be with nature, hold or touch something natural, watch nature.
- Create peaceful places and settings in and around your home.
- Give back to the Earth more than you take.
- Find a window seat and gaze outdoors, watching only nature.
- Sit with an animal nearby, touching, stroking, or softly talking to it.
- Use waiting as an opportunity to exercise sanctuary time.

Developing a priority and practice for sanctuary time is not only beneficial for us as individuals, but for the people we encounter. Peace-filled people affect everyone they meet. Peace in our world begins with individuals and spreads to others. May you experience many peace-filled moments.

We are a synod joined in prayer. Please remember these congregations in the prayers of the Church, and in your personal prayers. (The complete synod prayer calendar is available on the web at www.semnsynod.org/prayercalendar.html)

Aug. 7 (12 Pentecost): Bishop Mark Hanson and the staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; all involved as planners, speakers, voters or volunteers at the Churchwide Assembly in Florida

Aug. 14 (13 Pentecost): Pilot Mound, Chatfield; St. John, Kasson; Our Savior, Kiester; St. Peter, Northfield

Aug. 21 (14 Pentecost): St. Olaf Student Congregation, Northfield; Trinity, New Richland; Root Prairie, Fountain St. Michael, Waltham

Aug. 28 (15 Pentecost): Redeemer, Alden; Stordahl, Zumbrota; Trinity, Owatonna; Rushford, Rushford

Spiritual Direction Resources To Be Made Available

Synod Strategic Plan Highlights, August 2005

- **Vision:** Called into God's Marvelous Light: To Be Strong Leaders

Objective: Supporting healthy rostered leaders

The Spiritual Renewal Team, working under the Lay and Clergy Leadership Development Team of the Synod Council, is focusing on the spiritual renewal of clergy. One of the team's goals is to encourage clergy to develop a plan of spiritual discipline that works for them and that they can commit to following. The team will offer information on different forms of spiritual discipline and opportunities for spiritual renewal for pastors in 2006. In addition, the 2006 Theological Conference theme will be spirituality and spiritual renewal.

If you do not have a spiritual discipline and wish to learn more about developing one, contact a spiritual director. Spiritual directors are clergy and laypeople who have been trained in coaching people in nurturing their relationships with God. There are several spiritual directors in the synod who may be contacted for guidance. They are:

Pastor Lynn Enloe: (507) 526-3463; PrLEnloe@aol.com

Rev. Dr. Joel Erickson: (507) 345-4248;
jbe@hickorytech.net

Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe: (507) 288-1580;
Kathien@molive.org

Pastor Charles Ortloff: (507) 665-2615;
Charles_Ortloff@hotmail.com

Ms. Pam Santerre: (507) 663-8902;
Psanterre@charter.net

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Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders