



2005: A Synod Joined in Prayer

Gearing Up for 2006 Bible Study Emphasis

By Pastor Dick Spande
Congregational Renewal Team

After being "A Synod Joined in Prayer" in 2005, in 2006 we will refer to ourselves as "A Synod Joined in Bible Study."

The Congregational Renewal Team has been working on ways to promote Bible study in 2006. A Bible Study Kick-Off event will take place Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran in Owatonna. There will be a workshop which will explore various forms of Bible Study and how they might be used in a variety of settings.

The morning of the kick-off event will feature three different Bible study formats: personal, small group, and congregational (large group). Presenters will share both resources and their personal experiences, and we hope there will be time for participants to share the same.

After lunch, Pastor Kristine Carlson will focus on the new series from Augsburg Fortress, "No Experience Necessary." She served on the advisory team that developed this format for Bible study, designed especially for those who know little or nothing about the Bible.

We hope those responsible for promoting Bible study within your congregation will be represented at this event. The event is free, but registration is required. This is particularly important for the noon meal and preparing handouts. Watch for your registration form in the mail!

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)

Sept. 4 (16 Pentecost): St. Olaf, Austin; Round Prairie, Glenville; Trinity, Wanamingo; Saetersdal, Granger

Sept. 11 (17 Pentecost): Trinity, Hayfield; Salem, Albert Lea; Trinity, West Concord; Vista, New Richland

Sept. 18 (18 Pentecost): Trinity, Ostrander; Shiloh, Elmore; Trondhjem, Lonsdale; Zion, Lake Crystal

Sept. 25 (19 Pentecost): Scheie, Mabel; West St. Olaf, Byron; South Blue Earth, Bricelyn; United, Red Wing

Stewardship Meetings Planned

Synod Strategic Plan Highlights, Sept. 2005

• **Vision:** Called into God's Marvelous Light: To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

Objective: Increasing generosity in stewardship

This fall the synod staff hopes to spend time with every congregation president and pastor in the synod, to hear what excites church members about stewardship. They will be discussing what's going on in each congregation, discussing giving in each congregation, and talking about the congregation's intended 2006 mission support.

A day has been planned in each of the five conferences for these appointments. Participants will be scheduled for a 30-minute appointment with Bishop Usgaard, Larry Iverson, or Pastor Audree Catalano.

Appointments will be scheduled the following dates and times:

- **Minnesota River Conference:** Tue., Sept. 13, 3:30-8:30 p.m. at Grace, Waseca
- **Cannon River Conference:** Thu., Sept. 15, 2-9 p.m. at St. Ansgar, Cannon Falls
- **Blue Earth River Conference:** Tue., Sept. 20, 3:30-9 p.m. at First, Albert Lea
- **Root River Conference:** Thu., Sept. 22, 4-8:30 p.m. at Christ, Preston
- **Zumbro River Conference:** Thu., Oct. 6, 3-9 p.m. at Christ, Byron

Pastors and congregation presidents can set up their 30-minute appointments by calling Carolyn or Beth in the synod office at (507) 280-9457 or 1-800-426-6376 by Aug. 25.

This information was sent by mail July 28 to pastors and congregational presidents.

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these
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Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders