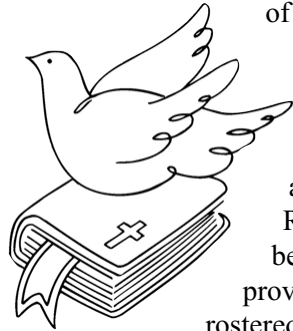


Spiritual Task Force

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

Objective: Spiritual emphasis for rostered leaders

Our pastors and other rostered leaders have the responsibility of supporting and fostering the spiritual life of the people in their



congregations. In giving so much of themselves to others, however, sometimes their own spiritual lives aren't given the attention they deserve.

Recognizing this, the synod began an initiative for 2006 to provide support and guidance for our rostered leaders so they remember to care for their own spiritual lives.

This year, Pastor Charles Ortloff and Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe have joined together as the "Spiritual Task Force." So far they have been able to visit most of the conferences to talk about spiritual direction in pastors' lives, how to organize one's life, and the basics of prayer.

Finding that people have been very receptive to the topic, the Task Force hopes to continue their efforts. The major goal for the future is to help interested leaders get in touch with spiritual directors. This may take the form of a directory or a referral system. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.



Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders

2006: A Synod Joined in Bible Study

Nourish the Soul

By Larry Iverson, Synod Minister
Congregational Renewal Team

In 1988 I called up three guys from our congregation at Trinity Lutheran in Owatonna, who had all attended a Lutheran Via de Cristo weekend at some point, and asked them if they would be interested in meeting for breakfast to explore the idea of a regular Bible study group.

The four of us decided that we would select a book of the Bible, read a chapter a week and discuss it together over breakfast at 6:45 on Saturday mornings. Being I was the only single guy where other family members wouldn't be disturbed, I offered to make breakfast each week.

A commonality we shared was the encouragement to sustain the spiritual strengthening that occurs on one of those weekends by forming a "renewal group." This is designed to be a group of men or women or a combination that gets together regularly to study the Bible, pray together, support each other and help one another to act upon their faith.

We were all supported, fed and grew during those 16 years we met together. Only part of the nourishment was the breakfasts I prepared; the stronger feeding was through God's word and the sharing of community that we experienced.

I moved to Rochester in the fall of 2004, and I miss those guys a lot. I think it is time for me to start another group here.

I encourage you to form a Bible study group. Let the Word of God feed and nourish your soul. Keep the group small and manageable, find a regular time to meet, have some food, make a pact to share but maintain confidentiality, always open and close with prayer, and encourage each other to grow in faith. God will bless your study of the Word and your lives.