

## 2007: A Synod Sharing Our Faith Stories

### Writing Faith Stories to Help Through Tough Times

By Beth Krehbiel  
Congregational Renewal Team



It seems fitting that our newsletter is called *River Crossings* given the recent tragedy with the 35W bridge collapse. I think about the people who started their day like any other only to find it end in terror, injury and for some, death. I don't suppose anyone can really understand why this happened and why to those unfortunate people. However, where one could see the presence of God was in the responders – citizens who took it upon themselves to see after the safety of others before themselves, emergency responders whose quick action certainly saved lives, the countless healthcare providers around the metro area who came in without being called to see if they could make a positive difference, and also the church communities who rallied to establish crisis support for the victims and as well as holding prayer services to offer support to the involved families and the larger community. Sometimes it takes a crisis for us to deeply share our faith and our convictions.

Thankfully, there are many times throughout the year where we come together for more "usual" gatherings of celebrations and worship. However it is easy for us to slip into the ordinary and keep our faith stories for ourselves. Encouraging members to write their faith story for a written devotional or share verbally what their faith has meant to them is an important way to keep our faith stories alive during the every day times. It also builds practice and confidence for us to share our faith when times are stressful.

## Call Update

### Self Study:

- Austin, Grace – solo
- Cannon Falls, First English – associate
- Cannon Falls, St. Ansgar – associate
- Glenville, First – solo (Gail Klavetter, interim)
- Harmony, Saetersdal – part-time, solo
- Kenyon, Gol – part-time, solo (Dan Dimick, interim)
- Myrtle/Glenville, Bethlehem/Deer Creek Valley – solo
- Rochester, Bethel – associate
- St. Charles, Faith – solo

### Interviewing:

- Cannon Falls, Wangen Prairie – 1/2 time solo (Charles Jacobson, interim)
- Mabel, Mabel First – solo (Curtis Fox, interim)
- Oakland, Oakland/Moscow – solo (Peter Soli, interim)
- Waseca, St. John – associate
- Webster, Solor – solo, part-time
- Wells, Good Shepherd – shared ministry pastor (Gerry Geise, interim)
- Zumbrota, Lands – solo (Luther Peterson, interim)

### Ready to Extend Call:

- Alden, Redeemer – solo
- Cannon Falls, Urland – solo
- Cleveland, Our Saviors – solo
- Dodge Center, Faith – part-time associate
- Mankato, Christ the King – administrative pastor
- Rochester, Gloria Dei – associate
- Rochester, People of Hope – associate

### Call Accepted:

- Mark Wilms, Faith, St. Charles, to Trinity, Blue Earth, Trinity, co-pastor, 9/1/07
- Karen A. Pahl, LTS Seminary, to First, Red Wing, associate, 8/1/07
- Becky L. Timm Welch, Luther Seminary, to Immanuel, Wykoff, Immanuel, solo, 8/22/07
- Margaret (Meg) Sander, Good Shepherd, Wells, to shared ministry pastor, 7/22/07

### Call Accepted:

- Karen A. Pahl, Lutheran Theological Southern S Seminary graduate, to First, Red Wing, 7/22/07
- Becky L. Timm Welch, Luther Seminary graduate, to Immanuel, Wykoff, Immanuel, 8/4/07



*Called into God's Marvelous Light*

*To Be Joyful Witnesses  
To Be Christ-Centered Disciples  
To Be Strong Leaders*