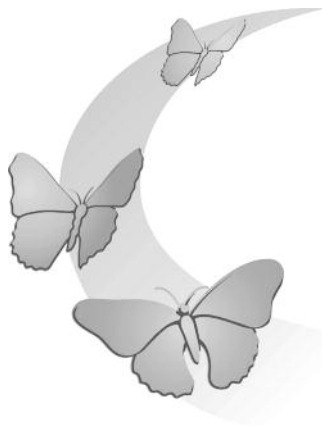


50 Days of Easter

We continue through these weeks immediately following Christ's resurrection. The message of the empty tomb is too wonderful to leave behind or to celebrate only on one day. Jaroslav Pelikan says it well: "If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. If Christ is not risen, nothing else matters." It is a time of life...of hope...of renewed strength. We recognize the Spirit of the Risen Lord in so much that surrounds us. It explodes out of that tomb and impacts everything in the surrounding world.

So I have seen Easter:

- In March, the six Minnesota ELCA synod bishops sent out letters to all of our congregations inviting them into conversation based on values we have as people of faith and the hard decisions those who serve us in state office are facing. We invited you to pray for our legislators and leaders on April 18. But before that day came, we received inquiries from the Roman Catholic bishops asking to join with us in this effort and soon after the Minnesota Council of Churches asked if they could be part. Interesting that we as a church pray for the day when we will all be one. In this Easter season, God has been at work doing just that, drawing us together.



- On the Tuesday after Easter, I was invited to lunch with some new friends...the Sudanese. One of the exciting mission activities that our synod has become involved in centers on the worshipping communities of Sudanese immigrants living throughout our synod. Each of these communities has identified one from their midst to be their spiritual leader...to lead worship, to minister to them...and in some cases, to attend seminary for theological training. The leaders join together regularly for lunch, this time a lunch of authentic Sudanese food. Anuak, Dinka, and Nuer...strangers to each other and to us, but it is Easter, and God provides a table for all through our common faith.
- It was a short e-mail with a great big message. Peace Lutheran in Eyota has received permission to pursue building plans. Mission congregations have to fulfill certain requirements before the ELCA is willing to support such an effort. After 12 years of meeting in a school, this congregation just outside of Rochester is ready. Many congregations in the synod have offered financial support throughout the years...prayer and financial. Peace already has the land...now come the I-beams. It's Easter!

So the resurrected Jesus tells us..."You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24)

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huck".



Share Your News

Do you have something to share? Congregations can submit the following for publication on the synod website:

- **Events** - anything happening that you'd like to invite others to attend
- **Job openings** - any non-pastoral position can be posted free of charge
- **News** - share information about exciting things that have happened or will be happening in your congregation

Send information to Katie Livingood at livingood@semnsynod.org or call her at the synod office at 507-280-9457 or 800-426-6376 in Minnesota.