



**Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility,  
Worship, Leadership Support and Interim  
Ministry  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Rev. Rudy Mueller**

**June 5 – 7, 2008**

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***Jesus, tired from his journey, was sitting by the well. John 9.6***

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The Greek word for “tired” in the text is the same word used elsewhere in Chapter 9 for “labored”. Labor is tiring. The journey we share in Christ as a synod is hard work, but it is also joyful work. On most days, it is a joy to journey with you – to serve you and to be served by you. I am grateful for the work and for all my co-workers in Christ.

This has been a busy year, with lots of work to do. Perhaps the hardest work was to say farewell to Terri Dillon, a trusted and faithful colleague since I came on staff. While it was difficult to say goodbye, it has been easy to welcome Heather McCulloch as a new member of the staff.

Terri Dillon’s departure meant I took over as office manager. That has been the biggest change in how I order my time and priorities from week to week. The office has seen some major changes since last assembly.

- **IN-KY LUTHERAN CENTER** sign on synod office building: Thank you to Connie Niessink of Niessink Commercial Real Estate for the purchase of the sign and to Cindy Fuhrman who orchestrated its design and installation.
- Server files are backed up daily, adding to the safety and security of documents
- New administrative staff – Carol Webb, administrative assistant to Heather McCulloch
- Marilyn Smith, the Region 6 coordinator, arrived in October.
- We are currently working setting up remote access so that those of who travel will not have to take files with us on our laptops.

So over what else have I labored this year?

**1. *Mobility (I write this in late February)***

27 calls extended and accepted from June '07 till now

10 new rostered leaders to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod

4 first call rostered leaders

52 congregations looking for a called pastor or a called non-clergy rostered leader

25 have a rostered interim  
5 have a synodically authorized minister  
13 are looking to add a staff person

**2. *Worship***

I continue to co-edit (along with Tom Weitzel, interim pastor at Resurrection, Madison, Indiana) the Worship Committee's bi-monthly newsletter, the *Sanctus*. I will be attending the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University in April.

**3. *Leadership Support***

The annual Professional Leader's Conference was held September 30-October 2, at Turkey Run State Park. The guest speaker was Bishop Mark Hanson. Dr. Gordon Lathrop will be our guest speaker at the conference to be held this fall. In 2009, the conference will be held at Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, Indiana.

There are 21 First Call rostered persons, including those who are awaiting their first call. We hope to add a few more in the assignment process that just took place (as of now the candidates are assigned to Region 6, but not yet to I-K). This group gathers each spring for retreat. The 2007 gathering was held at the Benedict Inn in Indianapolis, and Dr. Wray Brant from Capital University, spoke on the Book of Revelation. We gather in April of this year with Professor Lisa Dahill, of Trinity Seminary.

In August a dozen rostered leaders gathered for a Transitions Workshop. This workshop is designed to help folks transition into a new call.

Year after year I am grateful to God for all the folks with whom I work in the synod office. They do a fantastic job of serving you all. I am especially grateful for the work and ministry of my administrative assistant, Karen Eppert. She does what she does with an efficiency that is mind-boggling, and with a spirituality that is an example for us all.

Thanks again to all of you for your prayers and support this year. You continue to be in mine. You may contact me at [rmueller@iksynod.org](mailto:rmueller@iksynod.org) about any of the above matters, as well as anything else that might need my attention. What a joy it is to experience the goodness of God in this journey with you.