



**Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility,
Worship, Leadership Support, and Interim
Ministry
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA**

Pastor Rudy Mueller

June 4 – 6, 2009

A way where there is no way; this is what God, and only God, can provide.
-- Kathleen Norris in *Acedia and Me*.

These words remind me of Moses and the people of Israel standing by the water, looking back at the Egyptians thundering down on them, and wondering “what now?” Moses told the people that they only needed to be still and see the salvation which God would provide for them that day.

God provides a way. I have seen that over and over again in my service to God and to you the people of God. I give thanks for the opportunity to watch God work wonders in our midst. I have seen this in conversations; in prayers answered; and in the work done in committees and task forces, and by many, many individuals.

What is the way God has laid out for me this past year?

1. Mobility (I write this in early March)

37 calls extended and accepted in 2008

17 new rostered leaders to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod

7 first call rostered leaders

45 congregations looking for a called pastor or a called lay rostered leader

20 have a rostered interim

7 have a synodically authorized minister

As I write this we await word on how many first call candidates for the roster will be assigned to us in the February assignment process.

2. Worship

We just finished a Worship for Mission Workshop and there is one more scheduled in March. The title is *Word of God. Word of Life*. These workshops dig into *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The plenary speaker was Rev. Susan Briehl and members of the Synod Worship Committee conducted breakouts.

I attended the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso in April, 2008, and am planning to attend the 2009 Institute. The Worship Committee continues to publish the bi-monthly newsletter, Sanctus.

3. Leadership Support

The annual Professional Leader's Conference was held September 28-30, at Turkey Run State Park. The guest speaker was Dr. Gordon Lathrop, Professor of Liturgy, Emeritus at Philadelphia Theological Seminary. The theme was "Telling the Truth in Ministry. This fall the event will be held at Clifty Falls State Park, and the speaker will be the Rev. Dave Daubert of A.R.E., who will be addressing the vision of Every Person a Missionary.

There are currently 27 First Call rostered persons, not including those who we will receive in the February assignment. The 2009 First Call Retreat will be a region-wide retreat held in Plymouth, Michigan. The topic will focus on spirituality and well being. The Rev. David Miller, former editor of *The Lutheran* will be the speaker.

4. Synod Staff

I give thanks to God for all the folks with whom I work in the synod office, and I am especially grateful for the work and ministry of my administrative assistant, Karen Eppert. Where there is no way, Karen can often find a way.

Thanks again to all of you for your prayers and support this year. You continue in mine. You may contact me at 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 along the way with you.

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.