



FROM THE BISHOP



Dear Friends,

First a thank-you to our presenters at our First Call Theological retreat: Pastors Les Svendsen, David Winterfeldt, Joanne Nagele, and Bill Tesch; and Associate in Ministry Susan Marone. They each did a wonderful job. A special word of thanks to our chaplain, Pastor Roger Noer, who was with us for the entire retreat. I very much appreciate the skill and commitment to ministry that our first call rostered leaders bring to our synod and to their congregations they serve.

A big thank-you also to Mark Wagner as he retires from his position as Campaign Director of Answer the Call. Mark has taken to heart the campaign's mission to encourage and develop leadership for the future of our Lutheran community, and has been an invaluable asset in Answer the Call's formative years. We wish him all good things in his well-earned retirement.

I want to pass along a brief description of the changes that have been implemented in our call process through our Support to Ministries Committee. The first applies mainly to seminarians who are assigned to the South Dakota Synod: We will continue to give only one name to congregations that are calling first-call people. The second change, that we will continue to monitor, is to give multiple names to congregations seeking experienced rostered leaders. We will no longer (during the next six months of the pilot study) draw up a list of names of rostered leaders to be presented one at a time to congregations. The Support to Ministries committee members will continue to assist the synod staff in parish studies and in coaching rostered leaders and congregations through the call process.

If you have questions about the pilot process, please contact your Support to Ministries representatives or the synod office.

In closing, please continue to lift up in prayer our political and business leaders at every level, and those people who have been most directly affected by the economic recession. To our rostered leaders: Be intentional about supporting one another during this time. To our congregational leadership: Continue to have our communities of faith gather together as places of respite and renewal.

Blessings to each of you,

Bishop Dave