

August 30, 2008



FROM THE BISHOP



Greetings to all of you and may our Heavenly Father bless you richly,

I had a wonderful trip around our synod and region during the month of August. LaDonna and I were able to travel together before she started her work with the Fort Pierre school system. We visited NeSoDak and had a chance to talk with the young people that served so well this summer. I was able to spend time with Webster's Office of Emergency Management director and the LSS representative who were working at coordinating the volunteer response that is needed to help those whose property was damaged in this summer's storm. Webster alone lost over 9,000 trees, and Waubay had several homes either seriously or completely destroyed. If you are able, I know that those communities and families could use your help. \*

LaDonna and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at Outlaw Ranch later that week, and again we enjoyed meeting and spending time with the summer and permanent staff at Outlaw and Atlantic Mountain Ranch. Later that week we attended the installations of the new bishops in the Eastern North Dakota Synod and the Western North Dakota Synod—what a marvelous opportunity to represent you and visit with old friends and make some new ones!

As the nine bishops of ELCA Region 3 gathered in Fargo before the installation, we received news of the death of Bishop John Schreiber of the Southeast Michigan Synod. It was determined that I had the least full schedule, and so I volunteered to represent Region 3 at the funeral in Detroit. Each Region 3 synod helped out with the costs of travel. Because of our joint effort I was able to attend along with eighteen other ELCA bishops. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson did a fine job of preaching in a very difficult situation. The service had breathtaking music and was attended by over 1,000 people. I believe almost every pastor from the Southeast Michigan Synod was in attendance. Bishop Schreiber had served for four years and was well-respected, and had been doing really fine work. He left behind two beautiful children and a wife who also serves as a pastor. Please keep them and their synod in your prayers.

In late September several pastors from our synod will be going to the Twin Cities for "Care for Returning Veterans," a workshop that will train them in working with military families and their loved ones when they return from overseas service. We are aware that many of our National Guard units have been given notice that they will be deployed for a second time. It would be wonderful if we could have one or two pastors from each conference trained, so that sometime this year they could share that training at pastors conference meetings. Please contact the synod office ([synod@sdsynod.org](mailto:synod@sdsynod.org); 605/274-4011) or Pastor Deb Grismer ([dgrismer@nvc.net](mailto:dgrismer@nvc.net); 605/ 225-9740) for details.

Blessings to one and all!

Bishop Dave

\* To volunteer, contact Steve Hargis at 605/770-0653 or [sghslh@itctel.com](mailto:sghslh@itctel.com). To donate, please send gifts to Back on Track c/o Lutheran Social Services, 202 S. Main, Ste. 228, Aberdeen SD 57445.