

September 18, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings to you and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

By now you have received your September *FaithLines* and notification of this year's Bishop's Leadership Days event. The Mission Through Leadership team, my staff and I apologize for the lateness in getting you more details - some of those details just refused to "fall together." Since you did have the dates last spring, I am hoping that you already were saving them.

We are pleased to be going to Rehoboth Beach. The location alone would be worth the trip! In addition, we will have opportunity for learning with one of our seminary's teaching professors who will speak on a topic that has direct impact on ministry today. There will be focus groups where you will have the opportunity to learn about: Starting and Growing Bible Studies; New Outreach and Technology; and, Generating Positive Change and Transitions. Additionally, there will be opportunity for YOU to lead a focus group if you have another timely topic - just claim one of the large sheets at the on-site registration table. That first evening everyone will be encouraged to choose their focus groups and, if at least eight people have signed up for a group, it will happen!

During the course of our time together there will be a time each morning to "Stretch and Pray" (no special clothes needed but a mat or towel for your floor space would be helpful for you). There will, of course, be free time (Monday afternoon) where you may choose to engage in conversation with me or one of my assistants (individual appointments), play golf with friends, rest, or otherwise enjoy the area. We will worship together using material from Evangelical Lutheran Worship. We will finish Tuesday by noon and I encourage you to take some time that afternoon to continue enjoying the Eastern Shore before winding you way homeward!

I hope that you will do what is necessary to join with me, your friends and colleagues in having a time away to learn, share, and re-create! See you in October!

Peace,



H. Gerard Knoche
Bishop