

Bishop Craig Johnson
Sabbatical Communication
September 1, 2009

For over a year, at the encouragement of our synodical executive leaders, I have been planning a sabbatical leave which will take place this fall.

I will be on sabbatical from September 1 – December 1. During this time, two people have been appointed by the Synod Council to help on a part-time basis with synodical work. Pastor Richard Magnus, who served on the synod staff of the Rocky Mountain synod for 16 years and is recently retired as Executive Director for the Division for Outreach for the ELCA, will serve as interim bishop. Pastor Dennis Johnson, well-known in our synod as Director of *Making a World of Difference* and former Interim President of Gustavus Adolphus College, will help with our stewardship and mission support program this fall.

During my sabbatical, the synod staff will keep me informed of emergencies and crises should they arise. I am thrilled at this opportunity to take my first sabbatical leave. I have been invited by the Leipzig District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony to preach at St. Nikolai Church for the 20th anniversary of the velvet revolution in East Germany as the Berlin Wall came down. I am deeply looking forward to travel and rest.

As we move into autumn, I wish you all of God's Blessings and I thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and your work in our beloved Church.

Blessings to you,

Bishop Craig E. Johnson