

## RIVERSIDE CONFERENCE REPORT

Our spring assembly was held on February 22, 2009 at Bergen Church in Roland. Rev. Larson attended on behalf of the Synod and reported on the challenges this year due to the flooding and dislocations and needs of people in the area, and the church's help with the plight of immigrants in Postville. She also gave us updates on vacancies and calls of churches in the synod.

Pastor Tom Reuss, Dean of the conference, reported on changes within the conference this year regarding who is pastoring at several of the churches, notifying us also of the departure of Bethany Lutheran of McCallsburg from the ELCA.

Dave McDermott gave an update of last season's activities at Riverside Bible Camp, and Dale Ullestad reported on Happenings within Bethany Life Communities.

Conference officers were re-elected, and discussion followed on disposition of monies shared by the synod with our conference. It was decided that we will donate \$50 to assist with expenses for each youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, with a limit of \$500 per congregation. It was also determined that we will make \$250 available to the first congregation that requests it as seed money to set up a Barnabas Uplift service in their area. We will also make available \$200 to assist any adult from our conference traveling to Namibia with the synod group in May. A special offering through the congregations of the conference would also be taken. We will continue to offer \$50 to any youth participating in travel on mission projects planned by congregations in the conference.

We continue to derive great mutual support and encouragement by our worship and sharing at our monthly meetings of clergy, and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Wierson, Conference Correspondent