

June 1, 2009

With Our Companions!

Lois and I and a group of your sisters and brothers from this synod, are packing and preparing for our pilgrimage to Romania. As you know, our synod is in a companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania.

Our trip will include meetings with local congregations and pastors; opportunity to get to know Bp. Adorjani (who visited our synod for the 2008 synod assembly); the Joint Pastors Conference with the Hungarian and Romanian Lutherans and their Joint Theological Faculty; and visits to Budapest, Sibiu, Cluj and Bucharest. We will also be finalizing arrangements for the new ministry of our colleagues, Pr. Terri Church and Pr. Michael Church, who begin their ministry in Cluj in September.

You will hear much about this trip when we return. We ask for your prayers on behalf of all of us who travel to represent you to our companions: Dottie Criscuolo, Sarah Gioe, Ruth Hauptert-Lengemann, Gary Mills, Gayle Ruege, Griffin Thomas, Lois and me. A common greeting among Lutherans in Romania is "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." We will be using those words a great deal on this trip and ask that you keep them in mind as we travel on your behalf.

Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo

June 1, 2009

Sorrow in Wichita

The murder of Dr. George Tiller, an active member of Reformation Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Wichita, saddens us. Dr. Tiller was a controversial figure, to be sure, but wherever you stand on the multi-faceted questions of abortion, such violence as this is deeply troubling. I ask your prayers for all who mourn, for the family of Dr. Tiller, for the family of the murderer, for the congregation and pastors of Reformation, and for my colleague, Bishop Gerald Mansholt, of the Central States Synod. Let us pray for the peace of God which is beyond our understanding.

Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo