

## Credit for Small Employer Health Insurance Premiums

Congregations may qualify for a tax credit regarding health insurance premiums paid for pastors and staff. *This is a refundable tax credit so that you may be eligible to receive the refund even though your congregation did not pay taxes.* This tax credit could be as much as 25% of the total amount the congregation paid for pastor and staff health insurance premiums in 2011. The tax credit was first available in 2010. At that time, the Board provided detailed information including an instructional webinar. A recording of this webinar, originally offered on April 19, 2010, a download of the slides used during the seminar, a download of questions and answers, and other information is available on the ELCA Board of Pensions' website, [https://www.elcabop.org/en/BenefitsAdmin/How\\_to\\_be\\_benefits\\_administrator/Clergy-taxes/Health-care-tax-credit.aspx](https://www.elcabop.org/en/BenefitsAdmin/How_to_be_benefits_administrator/Clergy-taxes/Health-care-tax-credit.aspx). All of this information should still be useful to you in preparing to file this year.

**Please note**, though filing for this refund may appear to be daunting, if you follow the guidance in the webinar, filing will not be as difficult as it may first appear and, based on information that we received from congregations that applied for this credit in 2010 as well as our experience in the synod office, may be well worth your effort.

Another video presentation from last spring regarding this opportunity is available on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUYE0LSlw5w>. Though the youtube video does not provide the detail that is available through the BOP's webinar and related materials, it is a good introduction.

IRS Form 8941 is available to claim this credit. Form 8941 is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8941.pdf> (Note: To claim this credit for a pastor, it may also be necessary to use line 44f and certain other limited information on Form 990T - listen to the webinar for more information regarding use of line 44f of the Form 990T.) The instructions for Form 8941 are available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i8941.pdf> Last December the IRS provided a news release including various informational and forms links. You can read this release at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=231928,00.html>

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the Rev. John D. Kreidler at the synod office.