

**Director of Learning Ministries Report  
April 2009 (for the May council meeting)**

According a modern poem, April is the cruelest month. In part, this passage was created to satirize the opening of *The Canterbury Tales*, where we learn that April is a delightful month with weather just right for, among other things, starting a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral.

Spiritually, these two references make a good frame within which to appreciate the Passion of Christ—surely the cruelest of times from the arrest of Christ through to his crucifixion—and to celebrate the delightful and right time of Easter.

On the first day of the month, no fooling, the Lenten Sup and Study was concluded. The class leaders—Pastor John Brock, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator Judy Collins, and Vicar Cheri Korte—were dedicated, energetic, and keenly focused in their presentations. And the classes drew much positive and deservedly thankful responses from the participants. The Lenten suppers, coordinated by Joe Hunter, were simpler for Lent, savory, and satisfying. Numbers don't matter as much as offering a solid program, but it turned out that this Sup and Study series drew the most persons in recent years. And the earlier numbers have overall been strong, too.

In April, we held a Koinonia Rally. Koinonia is Trinity's network of small groups. Typically, Koinonia groups meet in members' homes, and the aim of a Koinonia meeting is twofold: to socialize and to study. However, until this rally, our church was not aware in any connected way of the number of groups meeting currently, their needs, and the interest of those not in a group to join a group or form one. Now we hope to be able to inform and be kept informed of group meetings and needs—and have a mechanism for connecting folk to groups at any time.

Oh, and so it's understood that the Lutheran cultural priorities were taken care of, we had homemade pie at the rally, again thanks to Joe Hunter.

I think the working highlight of the month for me was conducting workshops and leading a discussion table on April 25 at a Faith Formation Clinic, sponsored by Augsburg Fortress and taking place at the seminary in Gettysburg. Pastor Brock led workshops at this event. His topic was messages for children during worship. My topic was "Mission and Meaning" for children in the Sunday Church School. It was a pleasure to dialogue with several persons who had come to the seminary that day sharing the interest and need to broaden the possibilities for having children not only learn about mission in the Sunday Church School but also establish mission habits as part of the foundation of their lives of faith.

We enjoyed the last full month of our weekday preschool program for the current school year. Our registration remains full for the coming year, though over the summer there should be the usual giving and taking, here and there, as the rosters are finalized for the fall.

There is much more to talk about—a pilot program in summer Sunday Church School, our inter-church labyrinth study and project, the need for new carpeting on the first floor of the education wing (or at least new duct tape), new Special Topics Classes, and the completion of Affirmation of Baptism for our Confirmands.

But I try to keep my report to a page, and there is next month as well for more discussion or description. And so I submit this summation respectfully and gratefully,

*Christopher*