

Report of the Senior Pastor
November 9 - December 14, 2009

In addition to my regular duties I have presided at two baptisms and one funeral. I have met with seven people for spiritual direction and I have had numerous significant pastoral conversations. I met with two people for spiritual direction.

I have continued visiting shut-in members to give them Holy Communion and to say goodbye. As you can well imagine those visits take some time as I reminisce with them people when I commune them. I have almost completed those visits but they will stretch into the new year.

I met with Pastor Ludwig and we began the process of the transition. I am impressed with his understanding and his abilities. He will, in my estimation, be an excellent Interim Senior Pastor.

Along with Rabbi Kessler and Father Forrey, I participated in a panel discussing death, dying, and funeral practices for volunteers in training with the Hospice of Central Pennsylvania.

I was privileged to join with Temple Ohev Shalom after their Sabbath worship to talk with them about sharing ministry in the community. I would encourage Trinity and Pastor Ludwig to continue our relationship with Rabbi Kessler, Temple Ohev Shalom, and the Jewish community.

Teaching the Affirmation of Baptism class (Confirmation) about the Eucharist was both challenging and rewarding. Our confirmands and their mentors are a lively group.

The Senior Pastors of the large churches in the synod met last week. The topic of discussion was the current financial situation affecting the nation and its impact on our budgets. Trinity is the only congregation that did not run a deficit budget this year. While two of the larger congregations are in the process of staff lay-offs we are holding our own. Money is tight for all of us and I commend our Stewardship, Finance, and Administration and Personnel Committees for their dedication and hard work in developing a balanced budget for 2010.

In addition to preaching and attending committee meetings I have managed to dismantle my library and have almost finished reviewing all the senior pastor's files in preparation for Pastor Ludwig's ministry. My study is now cleared and vacated for the refurbishing that will be necessary before Pastor Ludwig arrives. That will require me sharing office space with Bishop Edmiston for the duration of my ministry at Trinity. I have been working with the ELCA Board of Pensions and the Social Security Administration and have completed all the necessary and convoluted paperwork. I have also had my last interview with Bishop Hoover prior to my retirement.

It has been an extremely pressured and exhausting month. The coming month will see the transition from my ministry to that of Pastor Ludwig.

Respectfully submitted,

