

Council President's Report

January 11, 2010

1. As we begin a new calendar year, we have a unique situation here at Trinity with two Senior Pastors on staff (albeit for just a short period of transition). Our sincere welcome to Pastor Glenn Ludwig, our Interim Senior Pastor, and our deepest thanks to retiring Senior Pastor Stew Hardy. We wish Pastor Hardy Godspeed and look forward to the upcoming weekend of celebration for your years of ministry here among us.
2. Pastor Ludwig has been appointed by the Synod to be Trinity's full-time Interim and will fulfill the duties of our Senior Pastor's job description. He will not, however, have any involvement with the call process that is already in its beginning stages. At this month's meeting, the Congregation Council will be asked to give final approval for the appointment of the Call Committee and then that group's work will begin in earnest. A major focus of the leadership retreat on February 20th will be on the profile that must be submitted to the Synod to begin the process of discerning our next permanent spiritual leader.
3. Registration is now under for the Lower Susquehanna Synod's 2010 *Congregations Together in Mission* (CTIM) event at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover on Saturday, March 13th. This event, held every other year, offers a wonderful ministry-fair opportunity to train and equip church leaders. Regardless of your position at Trinity, this day of workshops, speakers and worship will inspire and help you to do a better, more faith-filled job. This year's CTIM theme, centering on the ELCA *Book of Faith Initiative*, seems especially appropriate for Trinity as we seek to develop and strengthen both individual and corporate discipleship.
4. More information about *The Book of Faith Initiative*, begun by the ELCA in 2007, can be found on pages 28-29 of the January 2010 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine or at www.bookoffaith.org. Trinity has not yet become involved in this effort to increase biblical literacy and fluency but the program definitely offers the challenge and resources to help us live out our *Vision and Mission Statement*.
5. Thank you for your cooperation during this past year as we labored together as members of the Congregation Council. This is my last report to you as President and I leave the position with mixed emotions. There have been many times of joy along with occasional moments of frustration. Although we moved toward a more spiritual approach to handling the administration of this parish, I think much more remains to be done in this area. Best wishes for continued success as you rely upon and base your decisions in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Doug Bonsall, Council President