

**Director of Learning Ministries
Council Report
January 2010 (for the February meeting)**

I was delighted to teach in the Affirmation of Baptism Class this month, twice. My topic for the first session was death and resurrection. For the second class meeting, the subject was the Reformation and the birth of the Lutheran Church. At every visit that I have with this group, I ask for questions. They are written down, we discuss in class what we can, and then I share the lists with the pastors and vicar. I find intriguing the kinds of questions our eighth-graders and their mentors are asking. Ask me for a list, if you like, anytime.

I was also pleased to teach the John Bush Bible Study Class in January. Our topic was rejection, of all things—the kind of rejection that Jesus encountered and the kinds of rejection we will encounter in our lives of faith. Together, we came up with some good preventive tips in anticipating and handling rejection, as we try to strive as Jesus taught us.

The Educational Ministry Committee met this month. We affirmed our joy in having the replacement of classroom carpeting the education wing on a short list of high-priority, capital projects for the church facility. It will be wonderful to have the decrepit rugs replaced.

The committee also planned a survey and, with interest from the church, the development of a summer Sunday Church School for the children. This would provide some continuity in faith-learning for our children by having Sunday sessions for them throughout the year, which would complement as well the schedule of our adult Sunday classes that meet year-round, too.

We also received numerous reports from various parts and persons of the learning ministry at Trinity. In December, the rotation classes (our Sunday Church School for kindergartners through fifth-graders) had collected and sent over to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Harrisburg hundreds of non-perishable food items, gathered throughout the fall. For the spring, the rotation classes will be collecting toward the purchase of farm animals for families overseas, through God's Global Barnyard, a program of Lutheran World Relief. These projects, then, will make up the classes' mission for the school year, a program itself now in its third year.

The rotation classes, too, have been using the new Lutheran curriculum Spark! and to good advantage. Part of the permanent resources for church classes using Spark! is to have on hand several Bibles of two kinds: the Spark! rhyming Bible for younger readers and the Spark! NRSV Bible for older ones. The rotation coordinators are asking parents to supplement the cost of the Bibles, if they will. (If they won't, we'll work it out through the learning-ministry budget.)

Of course, the month of January was dominated by the leave-taking of Pastor Hardy and the welcoming of Pastor Ludwig. I was glad to have been invited to take part in the final service and program in honor of Pastor Hardy and to the glory of God. And I have enjoyed meeting and working with Pastor Ludwig—who graciously coordinated and moderated a staff retreat at Nawakwa for the pastoral, program, and clerical staff. This was a promising way to start.

At the end of January—January 31, actually—I announced in Temple Talks the distribution of our brochure for Winter and Spring of 2010, describing our special and ongoing offerings in Learning Ministry at Trinity.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Christopher