

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

With a nod to Morton's salt, when it snowed, it poured. And that was February. We didn't lose too much time from the learning ministry program in February, and what I appreciate most about that is the way folk adapted. Whether classes or meetings needed to be combined or rescheduled, students and leaders alike worked flexibly to make what could happen, happen.

At present, I serve on two task forces at Trinity, both of which met in February. I like task forces. A task force is formed because of a charge, and that charge is based on a specific interest or need. Once the need, interest, and charge are realized, the task force is dismissed. Beginning, middle, end. Like a good story. My task forces now are the Second Contemporary Service Task Force and the Health Fair Task Force. The second service task force is actually charged with composing and proposing a fourth Sunday morning service at Trinity, a service that will be offered in the contemporary style. We have already decided, and had approved, to have that service be a uniquely designed experience, in tone like the current Contemporary Service but a service, too, to reflect its own purpose in time, style, content, and intent.

The Health Fair Task Force is working toward our Health Fair 2010, taking place Saturday, April 17. Displays, activities, and workshops will occur throughout the church facility. I will have the chance to share my interest in spiritual formation, offering guided prayer experiences in the Chapel along with options for guided prayer—or any kind of focused prayer—when we are away from the church and, in life, more on our own.

In February, too, I attended the men's Third Saturday study group, leading a program I called "What Is Wrong with James?"—referring to Martin Luther's noted disdain for that book of the Bible as misdirected, an "epistle of straw," according to Luther. I enjoyed the quality of conversation in this Third Saturday meeting, as we explored, pondered, and responded to the context as well as the quality of Luther's laments about (pardon the rhyme) the claims of James.

And Sup and Study began in February: our Lenten series, which runs on Wednesday evenings between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. We have an excellent and engaging series of classes and class leaders with Pastor Brock presenting part 3 of his series "The Confirmation Class You Never Had"; Pastor Easton leading a class on Lutheran evangelism (which we assure you is not a contradiction in terms); and Frank Bertovich and Jack Bush leading a class on the lives and lessons of the first followers of Jesus, the Apostles. Talk about discipleship—let's look at the first disciples! Joe Hunter is also excellent in coordinating and executing the menu of suppers for our Lenten series. Apparently because of our Central Pennsylvania context, we know that chicken pot-pie (Central PA style) must be served during all Sup and Study events.

At the end of February, literally the last day, we enjoyed Camping Sunday in February, both in the Sunday Church School and at services. Marianne Brock, Associate Director of our Lutheran Camping Corporation and Director of Camp Nawakwa, gave Temple Talks about summer camping in our synod; plus she shared with our primary-age children during the Church School hour the enthusiasm and joy of summer camping. Which reminds us summer is coming.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Christopher