



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

February 7, 2010

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Congregation Meeting
February 7, 2010

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Determination of Quorum
 - B. Opening Prayer
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2009 Annual Congregation Meeting
- IV. Report of the President
- V. Report of the Pastors
- VI. Committee Reports
- VII. Finance Committee Report
 - A. Financial Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 2009
 - B. 2010 Proposed Budget
- VIII. Constitution and Bylaw Task Force
 - A. Proposed changes to the constitution
 - B. Formation of an endowment committee
- IX. Elections
 - A. Congregation Council
 - 1. Four persons to three-year terms. Recommended Slate: Sarah Hanson, Peter Hillman, Leon Stevens, Megan Whitaker.
 - B. Audit Committee
 - 1. Tim Peterson to a three-year term.
 - C. Nominating Committee
 - 1. Three people to one-year term. Recommended Slate: Scott Johnson (outgoing council), James Perez and Rita Schnell.
- X. Adjournment

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2009

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2009

- I. Call to Order at 12:15pm, Quorum present with 50+ voting members in attendance. Opening prayer and hymn led by Pastor Miller.
- II. Adoption of agenda. Agenda was presented and approved as written.
- III. Approval of Minutes. January 27, 2008 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes were presented and were accepted as written.
- IV. President's Remarks. Tim Peterson submitted a written copy of his remarks. He spoke of his 10 points of his letter to congregation.
- V. Report of the Pastors. Pastor Mueller submitted a written report. He commented that he was proud of HTLC being a starter church. There were over 40 new members in 2008. He spoke of improvements to the church as a result of the Expansive Faith capital campaign. He gave thanks to the congregation and to the support of the council. He made note of the fact that Tim and Sarah were leaving the council. Pastor Miller also submitted a written report under the heading of "I'm Back"! She spoke specifically of thanks for the children that are becoming more numerous at HTLC and in the ways in which we parent our children. She also spoke of the ease with which we are able to serve coffee hospitality due to the new Martha Room on the east side of the nave.
- VI. Annual Committee Reports. Areas Submitted written reports.
 - a. Worship Committee—Joel Cruz
 - b. Spiritual life Committee. Kathryn Vigen
 - c. Outreach Committee—Kristi Harreld
 - d. Emergency task Force. New this year. Headed by Kathryn Vigen and Karen Moran. CPR Training Sat. April 25. \$5 each can only take 25 people. If interested, get in touch with Kathryn.
 - e. Social Ministry Report. Karen Moran and Erika Robeck.
 - f. Property Report. Drew submitted a written report. Ask for volunteers to help in 2009.
 - g. Finance Committee. Lyn Horn. Recap of Benevolence 2008. Deficit 10K for 2008. We have passed budgets with deficits. Take deficit from Endowment Fund. Receipts 2009 very conservative. What's pledged. Lutheran to new members for 1st year. Lutheran in office so people can read if not receiving it at home. Raises of 3% for staff plus additional ELCA raise to Pastors for years of service. Council presented Congregation with a balanced budget for 2009. Also added 10K in interest from space sharing and building usage. Motion to approve budget made by Lynn Horn, seconded, Approved 2009 budget.
- VII. Elections.
 - A. Congregational Council. 4 persons for three year terms. Recommended slate: Karen Moran, Ed Beach, Lynn Horn, Lisa McDaniel. Motion to approve slate. Seconded. Slate is approved.
 - B. Audit Committee. One person to 3 year term. Recommended: Greg Zinkl. Motion to approve, seconded. Motion is approved.
 - C. Nominating Committee. Three people to one year terms. Recommended Slate: Erika Robeck, Steve Fanale, Ann Sanders. Motion to approve slate, seconded. Slate is approved.
 - D. Motion to formally Acknowledge Tim Peterson as President of the Council. Seconded. Motion approved.
- VIII. Closing Prayer led by Pastor Mueller.
- IX. Adjournment 1:10 Pm.

Minutes submitted by Kerry Fleming Congregational Council Secretary January 18, 2010.

Mini Council Meeting following annual meeting with the Congregation.

Present: Kristi Harreld, Tom Braham, drew Knowboch, Erika Robeck, Kerry Fleming, Lisa McDaniel, Pastor Mueller, Joel Cruz, Kathryn Vigen, Scott Johnson, Ed Beach, Lynn Horn.

Pastor Mueller Presided. Election of officers for 2009.

Slate consisted of Tom Braham, President, Karen Moran, Vice President, Kerry Fleming, Secretary, Scott Johnson, Treasurer. Scott motioned that slate be elected as presented. Lynn seconded motion. Slate elected unanimously.

LETTER FROM THE CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

Thomas Braham

For so many of us, in so many aspects of our lives, 2009 was a difficult and challenging year. During those times, however, we are reminded of the strength and comfort we draw from Holy Trinity. And we are blessed even more because amid all the challenges of 2009, Holy Trinity continued to grow. We grew in new members and in total giving. In 2009 we planned a balanced budget, and for only the fifth time in fifteen years we achieved a balanced budget at the end of the fiscal year. That's thanks to your continued support and careful management of expenses, and it leaves us in a position of strength for the new year to come.

2009 was a busy and productive year, as you will see from the various reports. I want to focus my report to you on three key areas: the successful conclusion of the Expansive Faith campaign, continued growth in the need for space met by effective space sharing and a strategic process for long term planning.

Expansive Faith

At the end of 2008 we celebrated the completion of improvements to the church made possible by the Expansive Faith campaign, including accessibility enhancements and a new organ. This past year we concluded the fundraising portion of the campaign. In the coming year we will be celebrating the close of the Expansive Faith campaign with a celebration performance on Sunday, May 23 of the *Messiah* by Handel followed by a dinner to thank the large contributors to the campaign. The Expansive Faith program challenged our small congregation, but we rose to the challenges throughout the campaign and raised \$500,000. We accomplished a great deal and are grateful for the efforts of those members who contributed their time and talents to the task force and to each of the congregation members who supported the campaign.

The Finance Committee and Council closely monitored the remaining pledges throughout the year and considered several different plans to handle a shortfall when it became apparent last June that there would be one. It is not uncommon with campaigns like Expansive Faith for actual donations to be less than the amount pledged. People are unwilling or unable to honor their pledges for a wide variety of reasons; the difficult economic condition which began more than a year ago is high among them. Council members Lisa McDaniel and Kathryn Vigen personally spoke with a number of contributors with an outstanding pledge, so we have a direct knowledge of what outstanding pledges are expected.

All of the bills for the Expansive Faith campaign have been paid and we have a remaining balance on our loan of \$60,000. Monies raised from the benefit celebration performance will be applied to the loan, but further contributions are expected to be minimal. The Council approved a plan at its January 2010 meeting to repay the outstanding loan balance from the operating budget over the next five years. \$8,000 has been included in the proposed 2010 budget.

Space Sharing

We continue to reconsider how the church spaces are used to reflect new and changing needs. Last year we anticipated the creation of a dedicated nursery space, which is now complete and has been a real success. We also created two dedicated Sunday school classrooms by relocating Lutheran Volunteer Corps from their two offices in the Spiritual Life Center to the two offices by the garden. We continue to maintain a shared meeting room in the Spiritual Life Center managed by an online schedule.

Long Range Planning

The Council formed a task force to consider how to approach long range planning for the church. The task force included Scott Johnson, Karen Andersen, Pastor Mueller and me. While the church is in a strong position of growth, the Council believes we should have a holistic understanding of where we are currently and where we would like to be in the future, looking out five or even ten years. Our congregation has never really done significant long range planning, with the exception of planning that led to the Expansive Faith campaign, but that planning was focused solely around property needs and did not include a broader look at the ministries of Holy Trinity. Strong organizations take time to assess their current condition and strategically plan for the future.

The task force determined that a consultant would be needed for the process to be effective. Names for several potential candidates were gathered from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, other congregations and connections. Three consultant groups were interviewed and narrowed to a group of two. The task force reviewed references for the two finalists and recommended to the council at its January meeting that A Renewal Enterprise, Inc. (ARE) be engaged for preliminary planning. ARE was selected because they appeared to be the most progressive, the most inclusive of the congregation and the most adaptable in that approach and plan for each organization is specifically designed for that organization. The first step in designing our plan will be the Preliminary Planning phase in which ARE will work with us for ten hours without cost to develop a preliminary plan that would be the basis of an agreement moving forward. The entire process, which will likely include some form of survey, demographic studies, focus groups and retreats, is expected to take 9-12 months and to begin mid-year. The council has decided to spread this activity over at least two fiscal years as a way of managing costs. The 2010 budget includes \$4,500 for long range planning.

I want to express my gratitude to the Council for their hard work and dedication. I want to thank Kathryn Vigen, Kerry Fleming, Erika Robeck and Drew Knobloch for their service. We will miss them on council but look forward to welcoming our new council members. I also want to express my gratitude to Pastor Mueller, Pastor Miller, Minister of Music David Brackley and Parish Administrator Joshua Judd-Herzfeldt for all the gifts you bring. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your support of Holy Trinity. Our congregation is blessed and I'm honored to serve among you.

REPORT OF PASTOR CRAIG MUELLER

January 2010

Rejoice! We met the 2009 budget. In the midst of a tough economic year it is wonderful to know that the Holy Trinity congregation ended the year in a very healthy financial situation. Thanks to the careful work of preparing a conservative balanced budget, living within our means, and the generosity of the congregation we ended the year without a deficit as has been in true in most recent years.

Celebrating Expansive Faith. The Expansive Faith capital campaign has officially come to an end and we look forward to celebrating our new organ and the accessibility improvements with the choir's performance of *Messiah* by Handel on Sunday, May 23. Through the generosity of Holy Trinity members we raised a half-million dollars! Thanks be to God!

New Administrator. Bob Buzzard retired last May and Josh Judd-Herzfeldt joined our staff as administrator. We are grateful for how quickly Josh acclimated to the position and we are grateful for his organizational skills, knowledge of things both Lutheran and technological, and his helpful and cheerful personality.

30 Seminarians in 10 years. Holy Trinity continues to have a strong connection to the process of preparing women and men for ordained ministry in the ELCA. Two of our members, Jason Bense and Tim Brown, were ordained here in October, and another senior seminarian, Elizabeth Nees, preached in January 2010. Since 2000 we have had a total of thirty students associated with Holy Trinity, either as Ministry in Context students or as members who went on to seminary, either at the Lutheran School of Theology or the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

Celebration in August. Holy Trinity gave thanks for the actions of the ELCA churchwide assembly in August that now recognizes the relationship of pastors in same-gendered relationships. We received some press coverage and we give thanks for the ways that our members have prayed and worked for change over the past several decades.

LSTC. This academic year I am again providing some part-time leadership at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago during an interim time for the Director of Spiritual Formation position. During the fall and spring semesters I am co-leading a seminar for first-year students on community and spirituality.

In the Garden. Work was completed on the new Memorial Corner in our garden which gives Holy Trinity members the option of having their ashes interred in the ground and their name on a plaque that will be placed on a wall in the sanctuary. There is a brochure with more information in the narthex. We are also grateful for renovated garden, especially the contributions given to fund the project and the work of Drew Knobloch and Adam Miller.

Live Simply. The theme of the fall generosity campaign was *Live Simply*. The presentations by Holy Trinity members were especially meaningful and practical as we all seek to learn generosity and care for our bodies and the earth. In addition, our website allows members and friends to make one-time donations or set up an account for regular giving (Simply Giving program) to the annual fund or several other options.

Spiritual Growth. A brochure of Faith Formation events was prepared during the summer and lists Sunday forums, "Second Wednesday" discussions, and food4thought topics for the 2009-2010 program year.

Building Community. Over 50 participated in our fall round of dinner groups held in member homes and about 55 have signed up for the winter installment. It is one of the most popular things we offer! Nearly 50 persons attended the first annual New(er) Members Brunch on January 24, 2010, hosted by the Congregation Council.

More gratitude. What a talented and committed staff we have! It is a great privilege to work with Michelle Miller, David Brackley, Josh Judd-Herzfeldt and Lynn Horn. And thanks to the Congregation Council and the people of Holy Trinity for your faithfulness in worship, the ways you serve and participate while at church, and the even more wonderful ways you live your faith in the world!

REPORT OF PASTOR MICHELLE MILLER

January 2010

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School program continues to expand in new ways. For the second year in a row we have two Sunday School classes: one is for 3-5 year olds and taught by Erika Robeck and Janelle Peterson, and the other is for 6-8 year olds, taught by Becki Fiegel. There are about 15 children who participate regularly in Sunday School, and more to be added in 2010. Exciting improvements this year include a new curriculum called SPARK and new classrooms in the Spiritual Life center. The curriculum focuses on both Old and New Testament Bible stories that the kids can easily relate to, and gives them opportunities to connect faith and daily life. The enclosed classrooms have been a blessing for teachers and students. It gives them a space of their own to decorate and live into, and it provides a quieter space for more focused learning. We are so pleased to once again have a thriving Sunday School and the need for expanded/innovative space sharing.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

We are in a unique situation at Holy Trinity because we do not have a set age for 1st Communion. Some receive communion on the same day as their baptism; others wait until the toddler starts reaching out for food and seeks to be included in the meal of faith. Both practices are allowed and encouraged through the ELCA statement on sacramental practices, The Use of the Means of Grace. However some families choose to wait until the child is older for a variety of reasons. No matter when a Christian begins to commune, all of us need to be instructed in the Christian faith in an age appropriate manner.

This year I included a 4 week series on Holy Communion during the Sunday School period. Children whether currently communing or not; preparing for a first communion or not, were all involved in the communion instruction. I also led a mini-retreat for parents and children for those who were preparing to receive communion on a regular basis. Currently there are about 10 young children who commune regularly.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

And God's Instrument is YOU! was the theme for this year's VBS. For the first time ever we did a musical with the children and it was a huge hit. Not only did the parents and friends enjoy the final performance, but the children and adult volunteers were singing the songs for weeks. We learned that Hanna prayed and we can too; that like David we do not need to be afraid, and that God can use each of us to do God's work in the world. It was an amazing week with more than 30 children, from 5 churches in the Lakeview neighborhood. In addition to the Lutheran churches we've worked with in the past we also welcomed Lake View Presbyterian and St. Peter's Episcopal.

NURSERY

There is a new nursery location and it's working out perfectly. Across from the Martha room, parents now have easy access to the nursery from the garden door. And the children have a space that's safe and secure to play in while parents are in worship. The nursery is open from 8:15 -11:30 each day and the average Sunday attendance is 6 children.

NEWBORN HOSPITALITY

There continues to be many new babies that we welcome into the HTLC family. This year we delivered a total of 30 meals to 3 different families. When I bring a meal to the family I also do baby blessing and prayer for the parents.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Membership Change in the Year 2009

Received by Baptism:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Coddington, Thomas | 02/15/2009 |
| Faber, William | 02/15/2009 |
| Band, Gregg | 04/11/2009 |
| Bonarigo, Mia Lynn | 04/11/2009 |
| Cline, Rose | 04/11/2009 |
| DeShaw, Alison | 04/11/2009 |
| LeSage, Leslie | 04/11/2009 |
| Twetten, Susan | 04/11/2009 |
| Mankowski, Adam | 04/26/2009 |
| Neal, Ryan | 09/13/2009 |
| Wulfestieg, Lucy | 09/13/2009 |
| Egan, Abigail | 12/27/2009 |

Total Received by Baptism = 12

Received by Transfer or Affirmation of Faith:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Vicknair, Anna | 01/12/2009 |
| Archambault, Kelly | 01/25/2009 |
| Brown, Joshua | 01/25/2009 |
| Duncombe, John | 01/25/2009 |
| Moore, Emily | 01/25/2009 |
| Moore, Ryan | 01/25/2009 |
| Moraghan, Paul | 01/25/2009 |
| Parsons, Amy | 01/25/2009 |
| Parsons, Paul | 01/25/2009 |
| Sherry, Paul | 01/25/2009 |
| Stewart, Ben | 01/25/2009 |
| Stewart, Elizabeth | 01/25/2009 |
| Stewart, Forrest | 01/25/2009 |
| Stewart, Justin | 01/25/2009 |
| Twetten, Dan | 01/25/2009 |
| Band, Kathryn | 06/07/2009 |
| Buschmann, Joseph | 06/07/2009 |
| Buschmann, Mary | 06/07/2009 |
| Downing, Darren | 06/07/2009 |
| Downing, Kyrsten | 06/07/2009 |
| Leisinger, Matt | 06/07/2009 |
| Limon, Felisa | 06/07/2009 |
| Chell, Jonathan | 11/15/2009 |
| Jensen, Michael | 11/15/2009 |
| Kershaw, Jennifer | 11/15/2009 |
| Sehl, Paul | 11/15/2009 |
| Beal, Bruce | 12/13/2009 |
| Berdahl, Chelsea | 12/13/2009 |
| Carlson, Justin | 12/13/2009 |
| Eichhorn, Megan | 12/13/2009 |

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Etheridge, Megan | 12/13/2009 |
| Etheridge, Sean | 12/13/2009 |
| Zabel, Jeanette | 12/13/2009 |

Total Received by Transfer or Affirmation = 33

Total Increase in Membership = 45

Removed by Death:

Total Removed by Death = 0

Removed by Transfer:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Cheatwood, Calla | 02/13/2009 |
| Sime, Kathy | 04/13/2009 |
| Buzzard, Robert | 11/20/2009 |
| Finney, Jack | 12/31/2009 |
| Finney, Jan | 12/31/2009 |
| Urbina, Alejandro | 12/31/2009 |
| Urbina, Alison | 12/31/2009 |
| Urbina, Gabriel | 12/31/2009 |

Total Removed by Transfer = 8

Total Decrease in Membership = 8

Membership December 31, 2008 = 336

Membership December 31, 2009 = 373

OUTREACH REPORT

Kristi Harreld

My second year of serving as Outreach Chair has been another busy one: we welcomed 33 new members to Holy Trinity in 2009 through our Sunday sessions. Once again, it's been my pleasure to help organize these sessions and welcome so many new faces to our community of faith. Equally gratifying has been my experience of serving with so many "newer" members from my past two years as Outreach Chair; it's great to be a part of a church that not only welcomes but also fosters enthusiastic involvement by all of its members!

Speaking of newer members, by the time you read this report, we will have hosted our first ever Newer Member Brunch! Approximately 30 of our members who have joined in the past two years shared a meal and social time in late January 2010. I think I speak for the entire Council when I write that such an event is only one fun, festive way we can show our appreciation for as well foster continued fellowship among the many new members in our community. The council has wanted to host such an event for a long time now, and 2009 was the year it finally came together! Thank you to all who participated, and I look forward to working toward making this event a well-attended and annual one.

Finally, so many members continue to offer their time and talents through service in all areas of worship and welcome. Our roster of greeters, lectors, hospitality team members, and all others grows, so THANK YOU to all who serve! If anyone is particularly interested in assisting with outreach events (especially, new member orientations and newer member events), please contact me. I love seeing new people meet and get involved with this amazing community.

PROPERTY REPORT

Drew Knobloch

The past few years at Holy Trinity have brought about some significant changes in our facility. We completed the organ renovation and accessibility project in addition to general maintenance, which for a building this age is sometimes not a small undertaking!

This year brought some additional changes:

- Garden: A major garden renovation was completed in the spring and we were able to make good use of our new, non-muddy space, for many coffee times this past summer and fall.
- Nursery & Sunday School: With the increase in new little people to our congregation we needed more space. To this end the library was converted to a nursery area and the offices that are used by the Lutheran Volunteer Corps were moved, so that multiple Sunday School classes could be accommodated on Sunday Morning.
- Maintenance: A dedicated storage area was created for tools and such so that they are out of the way of small hands.
- Windows: Most recently we refurbished a few of the stained glass vent windows in the sanctuary. There were not sufficient funds to do all of the windows that need maintenance, so this project will continue in the coming years as finances allow.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

Erika Robeck and Lisa McDaniel

In 2009, Holy Trinity provided support to many local and global ministries. This support included one-time events, as well as ongoing and new commitments to local and global agencies.

HTLC continues to support the following local organizations: Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, the Lakeview Pantry, the Lakeview Shelter, Lakeview Action Coalition, and Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries (IRIM). HTLC also supports Lutherans Concerned and Christian Peacemaker Teams. We are proud that this year HTLC was able to add three organizations to our benevolence: Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and ELCA World Hunger.

HTLC continued its sponsorship of a refugee family this year through IRIM, raising money and collecting household supplies for a family from Burma. We are still eagerly awaiting the family's arrival; however, they have been waylaid by the extensive security checks that are required for any applicants for refugee status. Once this stage is completed, we will be informed of their expected arrival date and will welcome the family then.

Thank you to James Perez for organizing volunteers and food donations for the Lakeview Pantry, Sonja Nordstrom and Ken Duckmann for organizing volunteers to serve at the Lakeview Shelter, Laury Rinker and Erica Spilde for organizing efforts for IRIM, and Barb Wahler and Ken Duckmann, who continue their work with the Anti-Racism Team of the Metro Chicago Synod.

Thanks again to all who contributed their time and financial support to HTLC social ministries.

SPIRITUAL LIFE REPORT

Kathryn Vigen

Special Saturday Offerings included:

- Feb. 14—The Sacred Feminine led by Pr. Craig Mueller
- March 14—Lenten Bread baking Retreat led by Karol Weigelt and Pr. Mueller
- March 21—Being TWogether for couples by Dan and Meg Haycraft

Food4thought Sunday Sessions at 11:45 am in the Winter/Spring of 2009:

- Feb. 15—Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land-- Carol Lahurd
- March 29—Stories for the table led by 3 Holy Trinity members
- May 3—The Bible, Sexuality and Homosexuality led by Dr. Ralph Klein

Faith Formation Events through the Adult Forums in the Winter/Spring of 2009:

- Jan. 4—The Epiphany Story led by Joel Cruz
- Jan. 11—For Families (based on Chap.2 of To Do Justice)-- Tim & Janelle Peterson
- Jan. 18—Public Education that Practices and Promotes Peace-Ch5-Ryan Lahurd
- Jan. 25—For All Creation-Chap. 10 led by Ann Sanders
- Feb. 1—The World of the Bible: Archeological Insights by Katy Harder
- Feb.8—The Holy Land: Recent History and the Quest for Peace by Katy Harder
- Feb. 15—Who are the Palestinians & why are some Christians? by Carol Lahurd
- Feb. 22—For Immigrants (Chap. 8) by Laury Rinker
- March 1,8,15,22,29—Have the Time? led by Pr. Craig Mueller
- April 5—Preparing for the Easter Vigil led by Pr. Craig Mueller
- April 19—Faith and Doubt by seminarian Carolyn Brostrom
- April 26—Listening to Bach's *Ershallet, ihr Lieder* by Jonathan De Souza
- May 3—Reading the Bible: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow by Dr. Ralph Klein

Food4 Thought Sunday Sessions at 11:45 in the Fall/Winter of 2009:

- Sept. 20—What is your Story? The Psychology of Personal Identity-Dan McAdams
- Oct. 25—Make it Simple: Gratitude, Contentment, & Generosity by HTLC members
- Feb. 21—Always Online: Blessing and Curse
- March 14—Celebrating Easter on Planet Earth by Ben Stewart
- Apr25—Intro to Handel's *Messiah* – Jonathan DeSouza

Faith Formation Events through the Adult Forums in the Fall of 2009:

- Sept. 13—Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day—Pr. Craig Mueller
- Sept. 20—Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day—Pr. Craig Mueller
- Sept. 27—Hellfire and Brimstone—Josh Judd-Herzfeldt
- Oct. 4—Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day—Seminarian Matt Stuhlmuller
- Oct. 11—Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day—Seminarian Crystal Solie
- Oct. 18—What's so Special about Mark's Gospel—Carol Lahurd
- Oct. 25—Mrs. Luther—Joel Cruz
- Nov. 1—Reflecting on all Saints Day—Pr. Craig Mueller
- Nov. 8—Poetry of the Mystics—Ryan Lahurd
- Nov. 15—Genetics & Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility(1)—Aana Vigen
- Nov. 22—Genetics& Faith: Power, Choice and responsibility (2)—Aana Vigen
- Nov. 29—Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day—Matthew Stuhlmuller
- Dec. 6—Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day—Crystal Solie
- Dec. 13 & 20—Christmas in the Bible: Take Another Look—Joel Cruz
- Dec. 27—Sunday after Christmas (no forum)

WORSHIP REPORT

Joel Cruz

Accomplishments in worship in 2009:

- Worship continued as usual at 8:30 and 10:30 am Sundays/ 9:30 for the summer and 6 pm on Wednesdays.
- Special services and events included
 - o Epiphany sing-a-long and the Visit of the Magi
 - o The special setting of the liturgy to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr Day
 - o Ash Wednesday services
 - o Passion Week services that included dramatic and musical readings of the Gospel accounts
 - o Triduum services including the Washing of Feet, Stations of the Cross on Good Friday afternoon, the Good Friday Tenebrae service and the ever-popular Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services (almost standing-room only this year!)
 - o The Blessing of the Animals in October to commemorate St. Francis Day
 - o A First Communion service for children having gone through a Sunday School course on the meaning of the Eucharist
 - o Thanksgiving Eve service
 - o A variety of different emphases for Wednesday services in Advent including Taizé worship
 - o Advent Lessons and Carols on December 13
 - o Two Christmas Eve services geared, respectively towards families with kids and those of us who insist on staying up late
 - o Service/carol sing during the Twelve Days of Christmas
- Overlapping with Christian Education, Adult Forums have increasingly emphasized the study of texts and themes in the current lectionary readings such as a study on the themes of the Gospel of Luke and a study of the Infancy Stories in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke around Christmastime.
- The Children's Sunday School has continued its excellent efforts to connect the children more to Sunday worship including a new curriculum, giving them Children's Bibles, teaching them different parts of the church and the First Communion class to familiarize the kids with the meaning of the sacrament. As always, the pastors always make ways to include the children in worship through occasional children's messages and baptisms.

Finally, I would like to thank the dedicated service of all those who prepare and facilitate worship: the Altar Guild, Sacristans, Greeters, Ushers, Thurifers, Crucifers, Assistant Ministers, Torchbearers, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Musicians, Preachers, Fellowship Hosts and all those who are called upon to take on unglorious tasks at inconvenient times to make the liturgy a true act of exciting and reverent worship to God.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Andy Halvorson

This report highlights *key* financial elements only; for more detailed information, please refer to the *Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Budget for 2009 & 2010*, and the *Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2009* immediately following this report.

The Congregation adopted a balanced budget for 2009. While *Total Income* for the year was \$11,268 under the budgeted amount, *Total Expenses* for the year were also under budget \$11,242, resulting in a **year-end deficit of only \$26**.

Key Year-End Financial Data - 1995 through 2009:

| Year | Congregational Offerings | Other Income | Total Income | Total Expenses | Surplus/(Deficit) |
|------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1995 | \$75,353 | \$50,070 | \$125,423 | \$133,314 | (\$7,891) |
| 1996 | \$81,021 | \$48,504 | \$129,524 | \$149,023 | (\$19,499) |
| 1997 | \$91,951 | \$54,607 | \$146,558 | \$162,122 | (\$15,546) |
| 1998 | \$83,781 | \$53,191 | \$136,972 | \$134,829 | \$2,143 |
| 1999 | \$88,337 | \$62,727 | \$151,064 | \$161,129 | (\$10,065) |
| 2000 | \$127,770 | \$54,740 | \$182,510 | \$178,463 | \$4,047 |
| 2001 | \$142,382 | \$43,826 | \$186,208 | \$183,800 | \$2,408 |
| 2002 | \$174,811 | \$27,647 | \$202,458 | \$206,281 | (\$3,823) |
| 2003 | \$198,388 | \$24,730 | \$223,118 | \$226,514 | (\$3,406) |
| 2004 | \$207,132 | \$19,834 | \$226,966 | \$233,994 | (\$7,028) |
| 2005 | \$239,303 | \$26,292 | \$265,595 | \$246,870 | \$18,725 |
| 2006 | \$254,266 | \$14,807 | \$269,073 | \$277,931 | (\$8,858) |
| 2007 | \$260,148 | \$24,751 | \$284,899 | \$293,343 | (\$8,444) |
| 2008 | \$274,845 | \$19,268 | \$294,113 | \$304,246 | (\$10,133) |
| 2009 | \$283,250 | \$25,081 | \$308,331 | \$308,357 | (\$26) |

The Finance Committee is comprised of Scott Johnson (Treasurer), Lynn Horn (Accountant), Pastor Craig Mueller (ex officio), and Andy Halvorson (chair). The committee developed a Bylaw to the HTLC Constitution concerned with the maintenance and operation of the Endowment Fund, using a template provided by the ELCA offices. This is to be voted on at this year's meeting of the congregation.

The finance committee developed a plan to pay off the capital campaign loan. Our plan celebrates the success of the campaign in raising over \$500,000 to meet the future needs of the church while incorporating the \$60,000 shortfall in funds into the church budget over the next five years.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the month ending December 31, 2009
and Proposed Budget 2010

| | 2009 | | | Proposed 2010 Budget |
|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance | |
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| Income Accounts | | | | |
| Total Offerings | 283,250 | 291,000 | (7,750) | 313,000 |
| Total Other Income | 25,081 | 28,600 | (3,519) | 24,900 |
| Total Income | 308,331 | 319,600 | (11,269) | 337,900 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | | |
| Benevolence | 33,498 | 36,156 | (2,658) | 38,170 |
| Personnel Expenses | 194,485 | 196,345 | (1,860) | 198,620 |
| Program Expense | | | | |
| Worship Expense | 4,460 | 6,000 | (1,540) | 5,550 |
| Spiritual Life | 2,712 | 1,850 | 862 | 2,150 |
| Outreach Expense | 994 | 1,200 | (206) | 1,100 |
| Parish Life Expense | 313 | 850 | (537) | 500 |
| Total Program Expense | 8,479 | 9,900 | (1,421) | 9,300 |
| (Worship + Education + Outreach + Parish Life) | | | | |
| Stewardship Expense | 366 | 200 | 166 | 200 |
| Property Expense | 45,089 | 50,659 | (5,570) | 50,660 |
| Administrative Expense | 16,921 | 16,940 | (19) | 18,000 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 9,519 | 9,400 | 119 | 22,950 |
| Total Expenses | 308,357 | 319,600 | (11,243) | 337,900 |
| Total Income less Expense | (26) | 0 | (26) | 0 |

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2009

| | Balance |
|--|--------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Total Cash and Investments and Other | 249,818.63 |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Total Liabilities | 10,289.65 |
| RESTRICTED FUNDS | |
| Endowment Fund | 228,484.12 |
| Capital Campaign Fund <i>Expansive Faith</i> | |
| Total Gifts | 495,404.26 |
| American Chartered Line of Credit | 60,000.00 |
| Total Expense | (553,229.59) |
| Capital Campaign Fund Balance | 2,174.67 |
| Capital Improvement Fund | 8,896.59 |
| Memorial Fund | 0.00 |
| Total Restricted Funds | 239,555.38 |
| EQUITY | |
| Current Operating Fund | (26.40) |
| Total Liability + Funds + Equity | 249,818.63 |

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2009 Benevolence

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Metropolitan Synod and ELCA | 27,166.00 |
| ELCA World Hunger | 1,816.00 |
| Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries | 1,598.00 |
| Local Benevolence | |
| Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches | 300.00 |
| Northside Housing (Lakeview Shelter) | 1,000.00 |
| Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago | 500.00 |
| Lakeview Action Coalition | 882.00 |
| Lutherans Concerned | 300.00 |
| Lakeview Pantry | 300.00 |
| Christian Peacemaker Teams | 600.00 |
| Chicago Interfaith Committee On Worker Issues | 500.00 |
| Night Ministry | 67.00 |
| ELCA World Hunger | 500.00 |

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW TASK FORCE REPORT

Karen Andersen Moran and Drew Knobloch

The Constitution and Bylaw Task Force was responsible for reviewing Holy Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws to ensure compliance with the ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations and to update the document to reflect the growth and changes at Holy Trinity. When reviewing the amendments, please keep in mind that all sections marked with an asterisk "*" are required by the ELCA and must be used without alteration or amendment of the text. In addition, there may appear to be missing numbers; however, the omitted numbers have been reserved for possible use in the future. This report highlights the most significant proposed changes to Holy Trinity's Constitution/Bylaws.

*C5.03.i – Provides that the congregation will vote for council members, rather than council members, officers, and committees. This modification reflects Holy Trinity's practices and also comports with one of the ELCA's suggested models for congregations.

C10.03 – Allows for notice of meetings to be given via e-mail or through the E-News to those members that have an e-mail address. This modification recognizes that Holy Trinity now publishes the E-News rather than the Messenger and allows Holy Trinity to avoid the cost of postage in some instances.

C12.06 – Requires council to review Holy Trinity's Constitution on a regular basis.

C12.13 – All language regarding transition elections has been deleted. Holy Trinity is past the transition period from one-year terms of office to three-year terms. It also modifies the council's structure from committees to designated ministry areas. This model has been employed by other churches with success. Using a more decentralized approach, the church can respond more effectively and efficiently. It also recognizes that members of this congregation lead busy lives and cannot "meet to meet" while at the same time ensures that all the work that needs to be accomplished is done. Finally, it provides for accountability.

*C15.02 – Recognizes that a member cannot be compelled to appear before council regarding discipline issues and sets forth a procedure to be followed if a member does not appear.

*C18.01 – Provides that the congregation, as well as council, has the power to enact continuing resolutions.

PROPOSAL FOR THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws also contained provisions regarding Holy Trinity's endowment fund. Upon further reflection, it appears our aspirational goal to use the income stream only for mission work may be premature and overly restrictive considering the downturn in the economy. Consequently, we recommend deleting these restrictions until conditions improve. These changes are set forth below for your review.

- C5.05.** This congregation shall have a Mission Endowment Fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's bylaws. ~~The purpose of this mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.~~
- C13.06.** *Mission Endowment Fund Committee.* The Mission Endowment Fund Committee shall fulfill the purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund; ~~that is, to provide annual distributions for mission work beyond the operating budget of this congregation.~~
- C13.06.01.** The Mission Endowment Fund Committee shall be comprised of five voting members of this congregation, which shall be elected by the Congregation Council. The term of office will be three years with the first slate of members serving staggered terms. Each year following the initial election, two members shall be elected with one elected every third year. Members are eligible to serve for only two consecutive terms. Audit Committee members are ineligible to serve on the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. In addition to the elected members, the pastor of the congregation shall be an ex-officio, with voice and vote, member of the committee. The Treasurer shall maintain the account of the Mission Endowment Fund and serve as an ex-officio, without voice or vote, member of the committee.
- C13.06.02.** The duties of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee shall include the following:
- a. To encourage gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund through education and promotion of the Fund.
 - b. To receive and celebrate gifts given for ministry through the Mission Endowment Fund. The committee has the discretion to recommend to the Congregation Council to decline acceptance of a gift if deemed to be in the best interest of the fund and this congregation.
 - c. To accept undesignated gifts received by this congregation, such as, but not limited to, bequests, life insurance proceeds and remainders from life income agreements.
 - d. To determine how the Fund assets will be invested, including the asset allocation.
 - e. To make annual distributions. Annual distributions will be a percentage of the annual value of the Mission Endowment Fund balance and may include interest and dividends received, realized gains and or/unrealized gains. Annual distributions will be ~~provided for mission work beyond the operating budget of this congregation~~ made as stated below:
 - 1) Up to 40% for special projects within the local area wherein the congregation resides;
 - 2) Up to 40% for special ministries within the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA or ELCA churchwide ministries;
 - 3) Up to 80% for capital improvements ~~and/or~~ ministry initiatives **and/or other financial needs** within this congregation.
 - f. To report at least annually or as requested to the Congregation Council on any and all activity within the Fund. Current balance, additions, distributions, and any other activity should be included with the report. An annual accounting and a report of ministries supported through the Fund shall be distributed at the annual Congregational Meeting.”
- C13.06.03.** The primary investment objective of the Mission Endowment Fund is the conservation of principal. Any withdrawal of principal may be made only in extreme and overwhelming circumstances, such as, capital expenditures resulting from a natural disaster and then only with the approval of this congregation by a three-fourths written vote at a Congregational Meeting legally called for that purpose.