

# Luthertidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Raleigh, North Carolina

January, 2012

Out of a  
broken and  
divided  
world, all  
people are  
welcomed  
into the  
body of  
Jesus Christ  
at Holy  
Trinity  
Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church.



A Reconciling in Christ  
congregation



## OUR ANNUAL EPIPHANY SERVICE – JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>!



The thirty-fourth Epiphany Service is scheduled for **January 6<sup>th</sup> (Friday)** at **7pm**. Our church family has been celebrating this festival of the visit of the magi ever since 1978! The Rev. David Sloop, Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Raleigh, will be our guest preacher. We will celebrate the Epiphany Eucharist and conclude with a candlelight procession out into the world. Youth of the congregation will provide us with luminaries to light our way to worship, weather permitting. Come and worship!

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS RETREAT

Members of the 2012 Congregation Council and Committee Chairs will meet on **Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**, starting at **8:30am** at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's** (Raleigh) Fellowship Hall. This annual gathering sets an overall plan for the year. The retreat serves both as an orientation session as well as an opportunity for our leadership groups to get to know one another. Further, procedures and needs will be addressed. The Congregation Council will conclude this convocation with its January meeting (abbreviated).



## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HOLY TRINITY CONGREGATION



Our church family's Annual Meeting is set for **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **4:30pm** in the **Fellowship Hall** of the church. This year the gathering will consist of the official receiving of annual reports from the leadership of the congregation as well as reports from the endowment funds and election of endowment fund board members. All confirmed members of the church are asked to be present for this session.

## ALATHEA: LIVE IN-CONCERT ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>!

Come and celebrate Holy Trinity's Centennial Year with a concert at **5:30pm** by the Christian acoustic group Alatheia. Their music has a broad appeal across all ages! A nursery will be provided for very young children. The **concert is free** and a **free-will offering** will be received. **Reservations are highly recommended** because of Alatheia's popularity in our area. Eighty seats have already been reserved, so make *your* reservations at [www.htelc.org](http://www.htelc.org) today! This is an opportunity you will not want to miss!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHILI COOK-OFF – JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>



Think you've got the best chili in town? Face off against other members of the congregation in the Rootinest Tootinest Holy Trinity's Children's Ministry's 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off! Use your wallet to vote for your favorite. The chili that makes the most \$ earns the title of "Best Chili in Town"! Will the current title holders be ousted, or will they reign for another year? Bring your pot of chili to the Fellowship Hall on January 29 at **12:30pm** and find out. All proceeds from the voting will go to Pan Lutheran Ministries. If you're up to the challenge, be sure to **sign up on the sheet in the pavilion!** If you would prefer to be a taste tester please sign up to bring a topping, side, or dessert.



## THE EPIPHANY OF GOD SIGHTINGS

There is a lot that goes with the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany! While we have been holding a special Epiphany Service at Holy Trinity since 1978, the Christian Church has focused on this feast day since the mid-Fourth century (around 354c.e.). Known as “Epiphany” (the revelation) or “The Theophany” (the vision of God), this day, January 6<sup>th</sup>, has called to memory the visit of the magi from Persia as a powerful revealing of Christ to the whole world!

Besides attending such festival services and remembering that unfolding proclamation of who is this Christ Child, what we do in our time are all part of the ongoing Epiphany that lights our way in the night as well as the daytime experiences we have in life. Where we see Christ at work or at play in our daily encounters is a gift to us that comes directly from the work of the Holy Spirit. Only, do we catch it? Do we have the eyes of faith to make some sense of what we tend to rationalize as coincidence?

For more than ten years now I have told (and you have as well) the story of my meeting Panzo Diela at the gas pump one Advent Wednesday evening as I filled up my tank. That encounter soon produced Panzo and his wife, Serafina, and their five children at our worship services, later led to our meeting of Gomes Pedro and Sozinho Alves and a host of other wonderful African Christians and the beginning of African Outreach. It also provided three new ordained pastors for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! Pastors Panzo, Gomes, and Sozinho still refer to us as their home in this country. Now that is a powerful theophany!

There have been others, of course. Various peoples have brought us new insight into the ways God works in our world, the flight paths of the Holy Spirit in and through the needs and gifts of so many different people. It never ceases to amaze me how that happens! It reminds me first to be humble, knowing full well that our ultimate provider is no less than our Lord and God. Could that be why the question of who Jesus is plays

such a large part in the ministry of Jesus and his disciples in scripture?

So, here we are facing a new year. Here we are possibly somewhat disenchanted with new year resolutions—knowing full well that we will probably forget about them after a little time passes. But what if we made this year of 2012 into a year of God sightings? What if we challenged ourselves to be looking for and thinking about the way the Holy Spirit works in and through us and our imaginations, our mistakes (who would have thought?), and even our failures? Would that give us a more connectedness to the God whom we are tempted to leave way back in the first century?

Matt Lauer of NBC’s *Today Show* has for the last several years had a series which has been labeled, “Where in the World is Matt Lauer?” In it Lauer travels all over the globe and challenges his viewers to try and figure out what mystery location he has come to on a given day. It is kind of fun to play along with this global searching. Could we try something like that with our faith life and our relationship with God?

I hereby challenge all of us to begin programming our looking, thinking, seeking, and reflecting to search for *God sightings*, ways, places, people, circumstances, attitudes that bring us into a deeper relationship with the Holy One whom God’s people have been trailing for several thousand years. Wouldn’t that make for an exciting year? Let me offer to have you share these sightings with me by email so that sometimes along the way I might pass your discovery to the rest of our community of faith as it seems appropriate? You also may want to [keep a God’s sightings journal](#).

May the eyes of your heart be clear and open to the epiphanies happening around you every day! It’s another way God reveals God’s grace and love to us today, tomorrow and on and on!

Happy God sightings!

*Pastor Yount*



### Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership

<b>Council President:</b>	Mike Kelly
<b>Council Vice President:</b>	Julian Mann
<b>Council Secretary:</b>	Debra Weinel
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Krystin Jorgenson
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Adaline Pasour
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Bob Eargle
<b>Luthertidings Editor:</b>	Sherri Jaster
<b>Archivist:</b>	Kenneth Marks
<b>Historian:</b>	Sue Marks
<b>Webmaster:</b>	George McDowell

### Congregation Council Members:

Henry Behrmann	<b>Debbie Franke</b>
Dan Gaugert	Kathryn Hutchinson
Mike Kelly	Chuck Korte
<b>Julian Mann</b>	Sam Mozley
<b>Kevin Potter</b>	Mialy Rabe
John Russ	Medard Singa
Martha Stallmann	Brinkley Sugg
<b>Debra Weinel</b>	Rod Williams

### Committee / Task Force Chairpersons

<b>Adult Christian Ed.:</b>	Matt Stallmann
<b>African Outreach:</b>	Medard Singa & Savistria Lucau
<b>Archives &amp; History:</b>	Lillian McPherson
<b>Campus Ministry:</b>	Ross Whetten
<b>Centennial Capital Campaign:</b>	Craig McAllister
<b>Centennial Celebration TF:</b>	Sharon Freeze
<b>Children's Ministry:</b>	Kathryn Hutchinson
<b>Christian Education:</b>	Debbie Franke
<b>Columbarium:</b>	Ken Ahlstrom
<b>Disaster Response:</b>	Mike Kelly
<b>Endowment:</b>	Chris Fonville
<b>Evangelism:</b>	Warren Keyes
<b>Family Life Council:</b>	Dan Lutz
<b>Finance:</b>	Henry Behrmann
<b>Health Ministries:</b>	Carol Anne Harrell & Anna McAllister
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Gary Blank
<b>Missions:</b>	Sue Woodling
<b>Mutual Ministry:</b>	Mark Freeze
<b>Property:</b>	Merrilee Jacobson
<b>Reconciling in Christ:</b>	Martha Stallmann
<b>Senior Adults:</b>	Linda Cuthrell
<b>Social Ministry:</b>	Kevin Potter
<b>Stewardship:</b>	John Russ
<b>Thanksgiving and Memorials:</b>	John Franke
<b>Townsend Endowment:</b>	Cheryl Marshall
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Tom Lunsford
<b>Women of ELCA</b>	Debbie Franke
<b>Youth Ministry:</b>	Rod & Helen Williams

### Stepping Up for Unmet Needs

The Mission Plan for 2012 approved by the congregation at the meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> contains some important changes, which may disappoint some folks. Because of ever-rising costs and a less-than-hoped-for response in the recent pledge drive, it was necessary to reduce, or even eliminate, some items that have been part of the budget in the recent past. Particularly in the area of social ministry, cuts are difficult because so many in our congregation feel strongly that these are important causes. Well, they *are*. But you have to also be aware of the available resources.

Recall that the colored beads we have been putting into the Stewardship Cross for several months include blue beads that denote stewardship to the community, as well as clear beads for stewardship to the church. There are a lot of blue beads in the cross. Perhaps the same motivation that placed the beads in the cross can lead folks to directly support some of the Social Ministry initiatives.

For example, if you believe, as I do, that Habitat for Humanity fills an important role in our community, then why not send them a check directly? (If you also indicate that you are doing so on behalf of Holy Trinity, even better.) Similarly, Meals on Wheels, Urban Ministries, and many other important and worthwhile programs (including some that have not been part of our Social Ministry budget in the past, such as the Durham Rescue Mission) are happy to receive donations directly. Most other churches do *not* allocate money in their budgets to external charities, preferring the direct involvement of individuals with charities of their choice.

During the coming year, the Stewardship Committee will work with Social Ministry, the Council, and other interested parties to invite organizations to come to Holy Trinity to explain their work and their needs, and to solicit your support. We want to find creative ways to generate funds to make up the difference for these ministries.

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### “Stepping Up” continued

If the church is to continue to provide funds as in the past, that requires more giving. If you wish to make a donation to the church to be used to support a specific budget item, such as Pan Lutheran Ministries - Families Together (which has been sharply reduced in the mission plan), you can do so in several ways. One is to mark your check or offering envelope to indicate the intended purpose of your gift. The money will be directed to the charity, and the amount will show on your Holy Trinity giving statement.

Another way, new this year, is to utilize online giving. As mentioned elsewhere in this *Luthertidings*, we have now set up a secure web page linked to the Church’s main web site (go to HTELC.org and click on “Online Giving”). The details are fully explained there, and you can make a one-time gift, or set up a continuing regular monthly donation from your credit card. These donations can also be designated for a specific purpose, if you desire.

So yes, there *are* some cuts in several areas of the 2012 Mission Plan. This is not limited to Social Ministry; Youth Ministry in particular has suffered drastic cuts. The Stewardship Committee would like to remind everyone that the answer to that is for us to **step up to address the unmet needs**. We proved last year that we are able and willing to respond to financial challenges: when Campus Ministry funds from Synod were cut, we filled the gap. That was crucially important, given the central role ministry to the college students plays in our church, and has for all of the 100 years of our existence. The challenge this time is to meet a different need that could not be covered by the anticipated level of giving. We *can* do it - and we *should*.

— John Russ  
Chair, Stewardship Committee



TableTalk Wednesdays

### TableTalk

TableTalk resumes this month on Wednesday, **January 11**. We have a brief **worship** service at **5:45pm** with a **meal** following (\$6 per person for adults). After the meal we will have a special **program at 6:45pm**. Geoff Simon, recently our interim organist, will present a special program on Martin Luther’s Christmas hymn “Vom Himmel hoch” (and if you are German-challenged as I am, that’s “From heaven above to earth I come”). **Singing** will be involved!

Why TableTalk? This is an opportunity for us to gather together more informally as Christ’s brothers and sisters around the Word and fellowship – TableTalk. It also gives us the opportunity for service and learning experiences. One of the visions of TableTalk is to open this up as an outreach program to our local community – the people who live right here in the church’s neighborhood. But we need your help to accomplish this. *Please join us on the second Wednesday of each month.*

— Judy Keyes

### From the Church Archives Luthertidings, January 6, 1982

#### *Parish Happenings 30 Years Ago at Holy Trinity*

#### START YOUR SUNDAYS WITH JOY

“Station WCPE-FM (89 on your radio dial) is broadcasting every Sunday morning at 7:30 am a program entitled “Joy”. Produced by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the program features a discussion of the Lessons of the Day and music developing the scriptural themes.”

— Sue Marks  
Church Historian





# January Birthdays

As important as our physical birthdays are, we are reminded that our baptismal birthdays are even more important. For that reason we have included **baptismal birthdays in bold** for our younger members (birth through senior high school).

## January Anniversaries

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*Please let the office know if your anniversary information is missing or incorrect.*

### *Altar Flowers*

Each week, members of Holy Trinity donate two vases of altar flowers as a way to remember a loved one, celebrate a birthday or wedding anniversary or honor a ministry of the church. If you would like to provide flowers for one or more Sundays, **please sign up on the flower chart in the Pavilion**. The cost is **\$40 per vase**, and you will be billed directly by the florist. For more information on this ministry, please **contact Linda Wagoner**.

### **Recorded Services Available**

Each week, the **11am service is recorded**, duplicated and sent out to members of our congregation who are not able to worship with us due to long-term illness or disability. If you would like to receive a CD recording of the service, along with a bulletin and the weekly edition of *Luthertidings*, please **contact the church office at 828-1687**. The office can also provide you with a CD player if you do not have one available.



## **WELCOME New Members!**



### **Jeremy and Mallory Barefoot & Seth**

Jeremy grew up in Brandon, Florida, and Cary, where he attended Cardinal Gibbons High School. He's an NC State graduate and teaches English at Sanderson High School where he also serves as the school's wrestling coach. Jeremy is active in community service through the school and also serves on the board of advisors of his college fraternity, TKE. When not at school, he enjoys working out, reading, and writing. Jeremy and wife Mallory were introduced to Holy Trinity when they decided to get married here and "absolutely fell in love with the church and the people." Mallory is an administrative assistant with the NC Department of Health & Human Services – Office of Emergency Medical Services. She and Jeremy have a two-year-old son, Seth.



**Sarah Doepner** is a graduate of Mars Hill College where she received an undergraduate degree in Arts Management. Sarah also attended NC State University and received a master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction (education) in 2005. Sarah currently teaches middle school students about careers and computers in the Wake County Public School System. She originally attended Holy Trinity because her great-grandmother, Martha Doepner, went here in the 1930's during an extended visit from Minnesota. Sarah has worked with several canine rescue groups in the past, enjoys writing music, and loves her current career as a teacher.

### **Sound System Operator Training**

Mark Freeze will provide training to new sound system operators (or a refresher course for current operators) on **Saturday, Jan. 7** from **9-11am** in the sanctuary. Please contact Mark if you'd like to attend.



**YOUTH GROUP**

**6:00-8:00 pm**

January 8 and January 29

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

**4:30-6:00 pm**

January 8 and January 29

### **EPIPHANY LUMINARIES**

January 6 @ 5:30 pm

Every year we make, set out, and light luminaries for the Epiphany Service. Meet in the 2-3 Year Old Room at 5:30pm and lend a hand in illumining the pathways to the worship service!

### **Recent Break-ins**

The Education Building was broken into multiple times in October by a homeless man who squeezed through a window with a broken latch. The alarm sounded each time the man moved around the building after the security system armed, but he exited the building before the police arrived. The man was finally discovered sleeping in a third floor classroom one afternoon, and the broken window was located a few hours later. Fortunately, the man didn't take or damage anything or prove to be any kind of threat to our staff, members, or visitors. The break-ins, however, are a reminder that all of us are responsible for keeping Holy Trinity safe. **Please lock any doors or windows that you open (or find opened)** and report any suspicious behavior to the church office staff or (after hours) to the police. Thanks for your help!



### Sowing the Seeds of Hope on January 29<sup>th</sup>!

#### Holy Trinity's January Centennial Focus

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded on outreach, which finds the Global Mission Field to be a natural and consistent fit. Holy Trinity's mission focus has been a well-known example in Lutheran circles in North Carolina. The Missions Committee has been a leader in showing how little things and lots of prayer can go a long way in Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East among others, along with mission fields right here in North Carolina and Raleigh!

Our primary focus has been on Nicaragua most recently, but the Missions Committee still keeps in its fold the Middle East, Bolivia and Madagascar. Locally, we continue efforts towards developing congregations, such as 'Joy of Discovery' in Raleigh and 'Living Waters' in Cherokee.

A focus on Peacekeepers in Oremus has been a new addition in the last years, along with other articles, which can often be found in *Luthertidings*. Peacekeepers is a reminder that not only does monetary help make a difference, but most certainly the power of prayer — Something Lutherans are long known to do very well!

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, Holy Trinity welcomes Rev. Stephen Deal to help commemorate our involvement in missions. Stephen and his family are based in Costa Rica, where he serves as the regional representative for the Division of Global Missions in Latin America.

January 29<sup>th</sup> will also serve as our focus on Nicaragua as Marcus and Berthalina Woodling prepare to accompany another group of Holy Trinity's (LCM/LSM) college students in March to San Ramon, Nicaragua. **Help us** in 'Sowing the Seeds of Hope,' by **bringing** to the Pavilion, **health care items** such as massage oils, physical therapy creams and gels, bandages, orthopedic devices, latex gloves, facemasks, anti-bacterial items, and hygienic items such as tooth brushes

and toothpaste. As always, monetary donations are always welcome! (The students will also be sharing items with the local fire department volunteers, who provide First Aid Supplies to their community out of their own pockets!) The college students and the Woodlings will be taking your donations to Los Pipitos where they are developing on-going relationships with the special needs children who benefit from this non-profit (seat-of-the-pants) organization!

**BRING WHAT YOU CAN—**  
It will make a difference!

### Caring Community Program Kick-off



The new Caring Community program had a successful kick-off on Dec. 7 with almost 90 people attending the Advent supper that night. Each of the communities enjoyed delicious food, made new friends, and selected a name for their group. If you weren't able to attend the kick-off please pick up a directory for your Caring Community in the Pavilion. The Caring Communities will again have the chance to sit together and socialize at a Lenten dinner. For more information on the Caring Community program, please contact any member of the Caring Community Coordinating Team: Kristin Boone, Merrilee Jacobson, Carla Osborne, Phyllis Parker and Debra Weinel.

#### Caring Community zip codes and names:

- #1 ("Genesis 1") – zip codes 27312, 27501, 27502, 27511, 27512, 27513, 27516, 27518, 27519, 27526, 27539, 27540, 27560, 27592
- #2 ("Chicken Little") – zip codes 27504, 27601, 27604, 27605, 27527, 27528, 27529, 27545, 27610
- #3 ("Lutherville") – zip codes 27603, 27606
- #4 ("Lutherans '4' Sure") – zip code 27607
- #5 ("Fab 5") – zip codes 27608, 27609
- #6 ("The 12 Disciples") – zip code 27612
- #7 ("Lucky 7") – zip codes 27613, 27614, 27615, 27616, 27617, 27703, 27705, 27707, 27712, 27713, 27525, 27587



## Women of the ELCA

### Circle Meetings for January

- Deborah: January 7<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany Dinner
- Lydia: January 14<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany Dinner at home of Margaret Jordan (note change of place)
- Priscilla/Rachel: January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm in the Overflow Room; program: Jean Hicks; hostess: Shirley Rieck
- Ruth: January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10am, in the Ladies Parlor

**Bible Study:** To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark



### Indoor Work Day

Our faithful Wednesday Morning Maintenance Group toils year-round to keep our buildings in good repair. However, their "to do" list never seems to get any shorter. An **indoor work day** has been scheduled for **Saturday, January 28** from **8am until noon** to help remove a few items from the list. **No skill is required** for any of these jobs! Please join us on the 28<sup>th</sup> for a few hours of light indoor work. For more information, please call Merrilee Jacobson. Thanks!

### Looking for Some Handy People!



Holy Trinity's Wednesday Morning Maintenance Group meets the first Wednesday of each month to make various types of improvements and repairs around the church. Jobs are available for skilled and unskilled labor. The group will meet on **January 4<sup>th</sup>** at **8am at McDonalds** in Cameron Village and then at the **church at 8:30**. For more information, contact Tom Rhyne.

### Campus Ministry Cooks



Cook meals for Campus Ministry

Attention all cooks! It is that time again — we will have hungry students coming to area campuses this January. During the Fall and Spring semesters, members of our congregation provide **Wednesday evening meals for our college students (averaging 20-25 students.)** If you are willing to prepare a meal for our Campus Ministry this Spring, **please sign up** in the Pavilion. **Contact Nerissa.** Thank you!

### Hospitality

### Visitors



### Hospitality visitor Program Needs Volunteers

Each Sunday, a team of two Hospitality Visitors **makes a brief stop at the homes of people who have worshipped with us for the first time.** The Hospitality Visitors give each household a loaf of homemade bread, a monthly Luthertidings and a note card with a handwritten "welcome" message. The visits last just a few minutes — enough time to thank the visitor for worshipping with us and invite them back for future services. The program currently needs more volunteers to make these important calls. If you'd like more information about the program, please **contact Robin Seavey.**

### Lost & Found



If you've lost an item at church (or found one), please contact Office Manager Sherri Jaster at 828-1687. She has a large number of items to be returned to the owners. These include a cell phone, various gloves, a hearing aid battery case, and a sweater.



### A 2011 Angel Tree ‘Thank You’



During the recent Advent season, Holy Trinity went a long way to offer a bit of holiday cheer to local folks in need. Members of our congregation provided **38 gift cards and 26 wrapped presents** through our annual Angel Tree ministry. The total monetary **value** of these gifts was **between \$1,600 and \$1,700**, although this price tag was far exceeded by the good our efforts did for people in our three adopted groups: PLM Families Together, Alliance of AIDS Services – Carolina (AASC), and African refugee families associated with the church. Thank you very much for your wonderful generosity!

### HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM DAYSPRING



We have some wonderful programs planned for the new year so I hope any adult in our congregation can attend. If you are still working, it would be a great time to take off, have a \$5 lunch, and enjoy a great program such as...

- Bird watching featured by Adaline Pasour on January 18
- Our annual Ash Wednesday communion service on February 22
- A representative from “10,000 Villages” on March 21.

You do not have to be a member of Dayspring to attend. Just place your reservation for lunch with Lois Pfeifer or Linda Cuthrell. Hope to see you at Dayspring!

— *Linda Cuthrell*

## DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Mary Ann Frey opened the Council meeting of December 11 with a devotion on the story of the loaves and fishes that fed the throng of people who followed Jesus. It was a call for faith as Council met to consider how to allocate church funds to facilities, personnel, and ministries.

Prior to discussion of the 2012 Mission Plan, we heard reports from the pastors and handled fundamental church business. Council approved a motion by Pastor Yount that we have a single service at 10am on New Year’s day, since it falls on a Sunday. Pastor Holmes reported that Joy of Discovery will interview a good candidate for pastor on Dec. 17. He also mentioned that all initial surveys for the Natural Church Development have been taken and have been submitted to the ELCA for analysis.

The Mission Plan accommodates committee requests for funds for church ministries, necessary expenses for facilities, proposed salaries for church employees, and contributions to the NC Synod and to worthy community service organizations. The starting point is pledges and estimated offerings, which for 2012 are less than what is needed to meet the overall requests for funds. The Council approved some revisions proposed by the Executive Committee to the 2012 Mission Plan presented by the Finance Committee. These focus on redistributing some of the funds allocated to Pan Lutheran Ministries among other worthy benevolences that would otherwise be cut from the 2012 Mission Plan, which include Urban Ministries, support for missionaries, and Lutheran Family Services, in addition to modest support for the high school students from Holy Trinity attending the National Youth Gathering next summer. It was a difficult decision to support some benevolences through the Mission Plan and not others, but Council discussed options for funding them that are outside the general church budget, such as Thanksgiving and Memorial funds, annual distributions from the Endowment Fund, and targeted fund-raising for specific benevolences. No decisions were made on these additional options, but Council moves forward in faith that our Mission Plan basket is not the only source of loaves and fishes Holy Trinity has to support the ministries it values.

— *Rebecca Whetten*, Vice President



### Mutual Ministry Update

Earlier this year the Mutual Ministry Committee completed collection of surveys from a selection of church members. Sixty-three surveys were collected. The survey participants were council members, committee chairs and other randomly selected members. The surveys asked the participants to rate Pastor Holmes and Pastor Yount in several areas. The survey also asked the participants to assign priorities to these areas. The areas of evaluation were:

- Preaching and Leading Worship
- Visitation and Crisis Support
- Pastoral Support - Non-Crisis
- Spiritual Leader and Setting an Example
- Teaching
- Being an Evangelist
- Congregational Planning and Vision Development
- Participation in Wider Church & Society
- Personal & Professional Growth
- Administration (Pastor Yount only)
- Leadership of Church Staff (Pastor Yount only)

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The committee and the Pastors will be working together to see if there are ways to improve in the indicated areas while working within the confines of a limited number of available hours. The Mutual Ministry Committee wishes to express our thanks to the survey participants for their feedback.

### Safety First!



In the past few months, two of our members have been seriously injured when they tripped and fell at church. While the Property Committee is working to make our facility as safe as possible, we need your help! **Please use staircase handrails or the ramp in the Pavilion to avoid a fall.** Be careful when moving from one surface (terrazzo, slate, vinyl, carpet) to another or crossing a raised threshold. Wipe up spills immediately and remove objects from the floor that others could trip over. If you see a safety hazard that you can't correct yourself, please report it to the Property Committee chair, Merrilee Jacobson, or one of the staff. If you see someone doing something unsafe, practice "active caring" and gently remind them to find another way to complete their task. Working together, we can stay safe and make sure our fellow church members and visitors do the same!



A pianist is needed the first Sunday of each month from **9:45-10:30am** to play hymns for worship service at Raleigh Rehab nursing facility on Wade Avenue, five minutes from Holy Trinity. For more information, contact John Franke.



### ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering in Cary

God's work in mission always propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly in the stranger. ELCA Glocal Mission Gatherings equip us for God's work in today's global and local realities and their "glocal" intersections.

What is mission? Who is the neighbor? Let's answer these questions together for our migrating and immigrating world. Come, join some of the most relevant mission conversations around the realities of the world we live in today. The ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering brings together congregational teams and leaders for worship, workshops and sharing around global and local mission. The event will be held at **Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, on January 27-28** (Friday 2-8:30pm and Saturday 8a -5pm). The cost is **\$35** per person.

A significant part of the ELCA Glocal Mission Gatherings is the time for skill-building workshops. These in-depth workshops help team members build capacity for work and service within a specific area of mission. Each person may attend one of the many skill-building workshops offered. Please RSVP at <http://www.cvent.com/events/glocal-mission-gathering-cary-nc/event-summary-5ef39870d2954d8e8b14bcf0899dcb6b.aspx>.



### Recycling Greeting Cards

The Women of the ELCA are collecting used greeting cards that are recycled by the Lutheran Home in Hickory, NC. If you would like to donate cards, please place them in the marked box in the Pavilion anytime during January. The Lutheran Home will **only accept card fronts**, so please remove the backs of the cards before dropping them in the box.

## Peace Corps Update



As an addendum to our Peacekeeper Oremus for November & December, there has recently been additional news about Peace Corps/Kazakhstan of importance. As it was mentioned, **Sean Reibert**, who is on his second tour in Kazakhstan, was notified with 5 days notice that all 120 Peace Corp Volunteers would be leaving the country. After an 18-year presence, services were being immediately suspended for "a number of operational considerations." This withdrawal followed a series of Islamist militant attacks. Sean is fine according to his blog, sadly and abruptly being required to leave this country where he has served faithfully. At this writing Sean and his brother are planning to travel for a while, deciding on the next phase of his service.

*[Information from Reuters - 11/18/11]*

(PS... Some have asked for more information on PCV **Hillary Zielazinski** in Azerbaijan. Her blog is: [www.hillaryandjoeyabroad.blogspot.com](http://www.hillaryandjoeyabroad.blogspot.com)).

## Two Collection Days for Food Bags

Our regular collection day for food bags for Urban Ministries falls on New Years Day this month. Since the need for food is still near record levels and since many members may be away for the holidays, those who wish to participate in this vital program may **bring food bags to church on either January 1<sup>st</sup> or January 8<sup>th</sup>**. In either case the food will be delivered to Urban Ministries the next day. Thanks for your continued generous support of this program. Thanks too, for double bagging!

Here's the list:

- 1 jar applesauce
- 2 cans tomatoes
- 2 cans green beans
- 1 can carrots
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 2 boxes macaroni & cheese
- 1 lb dried beans
- 1 lb rice
- 1 lb grits

**HELP THE**



**NEEDY**



### Peacekeeper – Representative John Lewis

Our peacekeeper focus for this quarter is on Representative John Lewis of Georgia. Rep. Lewis was born in 1940 to sharecropper parents in Alabama. As a young African American boy, Lewis was inspired by the activism surrounding the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During that pivotal time he made a decision to become part of the Civil Rights Movement. He remains dedicated to progressive social movements and human rights struggles in the United States. Lewis suffered many indignities along the way, being beaten more than 40 times and arrested for challenging the injustice of Jim Crow laws and segregation in the South. Lewis risked his life numerous times while participating in the Freedom Rides of the 60's. During that time he was appointed to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, (SNCC) where he was responsible for organizing student activism. Rep.

Lewis holds a BA in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University and has been awarded more than 50 Honorary Degrees throughout the United States. He has also received numerous awards for his courageous and humanitarian efforts in seeking equality for all in the United States of America. He still serves actively in the House of Representatives as Senior Chief Deputy Whip for the Democratic Party. Lewis has authored his own biography entitled, *Walking With The Wind: A Memoir of Movement*.

(Information from: [www.johnlewis.gov](http://www.johnlewis.gov).)

### CLOTHING CLOSET

As you clean out your closets this winter, please “recycle” your gently used clothing by dropping it in the church’s Clothing Closet on the main floor of the Education Building near the drinking fountains. Clothing can be placed in the closet in plastic bags or hung on hangers. Thanks!



**PLM Families Together**  
Helping Homeless Families Reach Independence

### PLM Families Together Announcement

For over 30 years, PLM Families Together (PLMFT) has provided transitional housing, professional social work services, and advocacy for the homeless in Wake County. During its rich history, we’ve graduated hundreds of families through the program focused on building financial literacy, developing life management skills, and obtaining financial independence through employment.

The program prepares families for transition to permanent housing by building a nurturing community led by a team of mentor advocates located at the PLMFT-owned Plainview apartments and another offsite leased location.

This past fall, the management of our offsite location, Brookside, advised us that our apartment leases would not be renewed though 2012. Demand for apartment housing in Raleigh is so great that they could no longer justify the below-market leasing agreement.

There are times in every life cycle, individual or organizational, where struggles are present. Our true challenge, and where God speaks to us most, is in our response to such difficulties. The Board of Directors responded with a brave move to launch a program-redesign with a renewed commitment to our mission of *helping homeless families reach independence* while meeting our financial responsibilities.

**Highlights** of our transitional plan are as follows:

1. Align our overhead expenses against our reduced apartment capacity. This included a headcount reduction of three staff members.
2. Conduct town hall meetings and feedback sessions with our primary stakeholders, including members of our founding congregation, as well as donors and other partners.

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**PLMFT continued**

4. Complete organization and board assessments and strategic planning, working in conjunction with the John Rex Foundation and Armstrong McGuire & Associates.
5. Implement new fund development strategies and program design (see more below in **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs)).

Adjusting to the changes in the world around us is something PLMFT has always done well, which is why we have remained a viable organization during the hard times and the good times. Now is no different.

As a congregational member of a founding church, we recognize this program change may raise questions about the future of PLMFT. To that end we have prepared the following FAQs:

1. ***What is the financial status of PLMFT?***  
The reduction of staffing expenses coupled with the lease reduction will allow us to meet our budget goals for 2012. If you would like copies of our annual report please contact the PLMFT office.
2. ***How are the Plainview apartments affected by this budget change?*** There is no change in Plainview's status – PLMFT owns two buildings with seven apartments and will continue to provide transitional housing and to operate its office onsite. We have the capacity to serve up to 32 families per year through this facility.
3. ***How will you grow apartment capacity to supplement the loss of the Brookside apartments?*** Our plan is to aggressively secure additional funding via corporate and private donations through the first quarter of 2012.
4. ***Are there plans to secure lease agreements with another apartment provider?*** Yes, we are presently piloting a single apartment lease in a North Raleigh complex. We are working diligently to build relationships

with new housing providers.

5. ***What is the future of PLMFT?*** We are very excited about our growth opportunities in 2012. Recently, we were awarded a John Rex Foundation grant for board development. This grant provides strategic planning and board development via the Bert Armstrong Consulting Group. We are also excited about the launch of **two new pilot programs in 2012:**

- **Re-housing Support:** we will assist families moving directly into permanent housing with landlord mediation and support, including year-long Mentor Advocacy and incentive programs. This program is based on federal research showing that moving families into stable housing as soon as possible facilitates long-term stability.
- **Coordinated Intake:** In collaboration with the Women's Center, we will centralize intake for all housing-related services for single women and families who are homeless or at imminent risk in Wake County. This allows better coordination and efficient use of services among the many service providers in the county, with improved tracking and analysis.

Thank you for your continued support of this important program. If you have any questions, please contact one of the board members from Holy Trinity: Jim Connelly, Knowles Parker, or myself. You may reach Beth Bordeaux, Executive Director at 919-212-4181.

— Ann C. Thomas

PLMFT Board President, 2012

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To **volunteer** or make a **donation** please contact PLM Families Together, P.O. Box 14395, Raleigh, NC 27620; call 919-212-4181, or go to [www.plmft.org](http://www.plmft.org). Visit us on Facebook!