

News Briefing

December 2009

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org

NT-NL Synod, ELCA



Thanks for Another Great Year of ministry together as the NT-NL Synod. Together we are supporting twenty students in seminary, a pastor-in-residence in Sierra Leone, several Hispanic/Latino mission starts, a Parish Lay Ministry Academy with over 100 graduates, the construction of the Jubilee Centre in Freetown, campus ministry outreach at several universities including an

important presence on the UNT/TWU campuses in Denton, ministries among people of Chinese, Oromo (Ethiopian), and Finnish descent, a medical clinic in Calaba Town, three annual gatherings of Junior and Senior high youth, a ever-growing camping and retreat ministry at Briarwood, and a whole variety of programs and services to support and care for our congregations and rostered leaders. Think of all this, and then layer on top of it all that we do nationally and globally through our twenty-eight universities, hundreds of missionaries, multiple disaster relief programs, eight seminaries, world hunger appeal, and outreach programs by the thousands. By all accounts 2009 was an active year in which our mutual support and commitments made far more happen than any one of us could have done separately. We are people who share a common call to *DiscipleLife* – living within that amazing story that we speak of as “God’s work. Our hands.”

TCC Awards Pastor Ron Heimsoth

Texas Conference of Churches – the leading ecumenical organization of the state – is giving its distinguished *Fitzpatrick Award* posthumously to the **Rev. Ron Heimsoth** (Trinity, Fort Worth) who died August 29. Pastor Heimsoth was a member of the TCC Board, a tireless proponent of ecumenical work, and an active leader during TCC’s recent transitions. The award is given “for outstanding dedication to ecumenism”.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Rev. Zan Holmes is the featured speaker at this gathering of Christians from many denominations in the Dallas area – hosted this year by King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas on January 21, 3-8 p.m. The celebration of Christian Unity also includes dinner and worship. Holmes is Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke “Community” UMC Church in Dallas. He was active in the Civil Rights Movement, has taught at Perkins School of Theology, and served in the Texas House of Representatives.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

Faith, Fort Worth, is using *Opening the Book of Faith* during Advent. ≈ **First & Christ, Waco**, have begun a joint effort by sharing the ministry of Pr. Paul Fiske. ≈ **Good Shepherd, Irving**, launched a new web site GSLC Irving.com. ≈ **First United, Dallas**, offers a class on *Martin Luther: His Time and Teachings* taught by Pastor Mark Herbener. ≈ **Rejoice, Coppell**, had a pumpkin patch, a recyclable day, and a new outreach through *Angel Food Pantry*. ≈ **New Hope, Keller**, collects winter clothing for *Beautiful Feet Ministries*. ≈ **First, Longview’s** Parish Nurse provides glucose checks and information on prevention measures for the H1N1 virus. ≈ **Grace, Carrollton**, dedicated three stained glass windows designed by youth and went on a mission trip to Parsons, MO. ≈ **Four Mile, Mabank**, (and other of our congregations) recently purchased a AED defibrillator for emergencies. ≈ **Midland, Midland**, partners with 5 other congregations to provide all 500 students at the local elementary school with a year’s worth of school supplies.

FYI...

December Emphasis: Please pray for **Lutheran Social Services**

- ❖ Thanks to many of you, the recent *Dinner Fund-Raiser* sponsored by the **Mission Endowment Fund** gathered in the largest amount of contributions ever raised by the annual event – \$9,000 to support NT-NL mission and ministry.
- ❖ **Lutheran Social Services** (a part of Lutheran Services of America – the largest social outreach network of social services in the world) reminds us to remember all those in need this Christmas season.
- ❖ Let us pray for one another: the **2010 NT-NL Prayer Calendar** is online at www.ntnl.org under “Congregations”.
- ❖ **Christmas Vespers**, Texas Lutheran University’s annual celebration in music, takes place Dec. 4-6 on the TLU campus. Tickets are required, but free. Request tickets at www.TLU.edu, or by calling 830.372.6317.

The DiscipleLife Synod: The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA – Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus

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