

Did you know...?

I will be retiring as our synod's part-time communications coordinator on June 30. Bishop Leonard Bolick invited me to serve in this position beginning May 11, 2012, a couple of months after my retirement as pastor of Holy Trinity, Hickory. Bishop Bolick's directive to me was to help him decide what should be communicated to the synod and how.

It would have been impossible for me to fulfill that charge without the gifted and faithful assistance of our resource center director, Catherine Fink, and our webmaster Rick Godby.

Thank you, to all who have shared news and stories to be included in our bi-weekly *Synod Servant E-news* and in our quarterly inserts in *The Lutheran* magazine, now *Living Lutheran*. Your ministry stories offer ideas and encouragement to those who read them. In some cases they also offer windows on how the Holy Spirit is stirring among us.

I have truly enjoyed working with our entire synod's staff with whom we are uncommonly blessed. As Bishop Smith has announced, staff member Catherine Fink will become Director of Communications & Resources on July 1. She will do the work I have been doing as well as continuing to have oversight of our Heilig Resource Center, among other parts of our synod's ministry.

"Well what are you going to do now after your second retirement?" I am being asked. My ministry will still include assisting Pr. Scott Bollinger at Mt. Zion, Conover. Hopefully I will find more time for my wood working and saw milling hobbies as well as visiting our daughters and their families in Florida and Georgia. Getting to know our 18 month old grandson, Emory, better will be a priority.

Please know my prayers will continue to include the multi-faceted ministry of our synod, our synod staff, and congregations. The Lord continues graciously to bless us to be a blessing in so many ways and places.

Peace,

Bob

Pr. Robert (Bob) H. Shoffner