

Pastor Mark's Council Report

WORSHIP

- Oct 1 Preached & Presided at both services (Hoffmans on Youth Retreat)
- Oct 8 At Lutheridge for *Fifty Forward* Retreat
- Oct 15 Presided at 8:30, led CWT at 11:00
- Oct 22 Led CWT at 8:30, presided at 11:00
- Oct 29 Preached at both services

LEARN

- Taught Adult Forum on Sunday mornings Oct 1, 15 and 22. Coordinated sub coverage for Oct 8
- Led Adult Bible Study on Wednesday Oct 25
- Chaired & hosted Campfirmation planning meeting
- Hosted & led The Way on Oct 4 & 18

CARE

- Visits at Mission, Parkridge, Care Partners
- Hospice Care for three members
- Commendation of the dying for Arvin Hahn
- Graveside service for Helen Swanson
- Calls, texts, emails, office hours

GIVE

- Met with NC Synod Education Team Oct 19
- Led workshop at *Fifty Forward* Retreat Oct 7

LEADERSHIP

- Met with Executive Committee & Council, coordinating study time for Oct meeting
- Enjoyed Reformation 500 and gave walking tour of campus
- Led weekly staff meetings

CONTINUING ED/SABBATICAL

- Taught four sessions MIN 660 at Southern Seminary

The joy of celebrating the Reformation 500 and burning our mortgage was the highlight of the month. Coming at the conclusion of leading Adult Forum through a class on Emerging Christianity (today's Reformation) was even sweeter. Nativity is "landed", debt-free parish, poised to adjust to the technological and societal changes of this time and place. Walking the grounds with a brave handful on a cold Reformation day, reveals the blessing of a campus and facilities which should be seen through the lens of opportunity. We, the council, need to faithfully continue this course. Moreover, our budget process and 2018 goals for our stewardship drive are set to provide the resources for mission. We, the council, need to continue discerning and articulating the vision.

Thank you again for the opportunity to teach at seminary this semester. I look forward to sharing my learnings from this experience with you once the course is over.

Pastor's Report - Pr. Gregg
October 2017

WORSHIP

- presided at worship services (10/15, 10/29)
 - Children's Word Time also
- preached at worship services (10/8, 10/22)
- presided at Steve Ehlers' funeral (10/7)
- rang with the Handbell Choir (10/15)
- sang with Nativity Choir (10/8, 10/15, 10/29)
- incorporated two sung Psalm settings (10/15, 10/29) from a resource purchased this fall
- facilitated special musicians for Reformation (10/29)
- numerous rehearsals
- attended Altar Guild Brunch (10/28)
- *MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE*
 - two meetings (10/2, 10/23)
 - by end of month, had received materials (cover letters, resumes, letters of reference, examples of prior work) from 12 candidates
 - ongoing communications with all candidates and committee
 - next meeting on Nov. 14, at which we will begin to schedule formal interviews
 - candidates who remain in consideration are highly qualified

LEARN

- taught adult Bible study (10/4, 10/18)
- taught Confirmed Youth class (10/8, 10/15, 10/22)
- *YOUTH*
 - assisted in leading the Youth Fall Retreat (9/29-10/1)
 - attended Gathering meeting (10/15)

CARE

- performed commendation of the dying (10/2)
- met with parishioners for pastoral care appointments
- met with parishioners for new member meeting (10/3)
- met with parishioner for social media internship (10/3, 10/17, 10/24)
- attended pub theology (10/19)
- attended Nativity LaZoom tour (10/14)
- assisted with setup and cleanup of Reformation 500 event (10/28, 10/29)

GIVE

- assisted with implementation of Stewardship for All Seasons program (planning and execution)
- helped to burn a mortgage (most credit goes to David Jarrett and his kindling skills)

NPK

- assisted Pr. Rachel in her efforts to rectify financial issues for the preschool

ADMINISTRATIVE

- oversaw production of weekly worship bulletins
- oversaw production of Nativity Notes publications
- coordinated a variety of worship volunteer roles (CWT, Eucharist Presenters, flowers, etc.)

SYNOD

- attended NC Synod Convocation at Lutheridge- Bishop's Time (10/10)
- facilitated building and equipment use for NC Synod Boundary Training at Nativity (10/11)

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

- participated in 5 staff meetings (10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30)
- participated in October Council meeting (10/16)

October Summary:

October was expected to be a busy month, and it exceeded expectations. That being said, I find the overall progress of this congregation to be a more fascinating subject. The preceding bullet points offered a bird's eye view of *my* work, but they miss some important details about how we are growing together. For example, showing the bonding between Youth and two of their pastors is not easily done on paper, but the Fall Retreat accomplished that outcome beautifully. And then there's the Reformation 500 event, which gave hope to so many people who had been longing to see Nativity at its best; I was greatly encouraged by the leadership of the Mission and Vision team for that event, who really brought together so many in making that celebration the success that it was. As a Council we met and agreed on a budget for the coming year, which stands as a bold witness to the current direction of our congregation. We are now emerging from a lengthy period of indebtedness and can begin to really imagine what kind of future God has in mind for us here. The ministry that we are doing together at Nativity is holy and encouraging, and I am grateful to God that I get to be a part of it.

In the coming months, we will continue to look forward, even as we take time to acknowledge God's astonishing work in the present. We will begin to use a brand new liturgical setting this Advent, one which we will use again after Christmas; I am excited to see if it enhances the experiences of those who sometimes want to see something "different" in worship. We continue to make strides in pastoral care also - a new plan for visitation will be presented in the coming months that will allow for even more face-to-face contact with a pastor. And of course, by this time next month, we should have a pretty good idea of who our next Music Director will be!

Thank you for the opportunity to be your pastor during this exciting time. Please continue to pray for our ministry together and our faithful response to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do and to be.

Yours in Christ,
Pr. Gregg

WORSHIP

- Preached on 10/15/17
- Participated in eight Sunday morning worship services
- Led worship on Youth Fall Retreat
- Was present for Steve Ehlers' funeral (Oct 7)

LEARN

- Led the "Worship" Confirmation Event (Oct 7)
- Led one Bible study (Oct 11)
- Go Cluster Campfirmation group meeting (Oct 11)
- Hosted the Reformation Bookstore
- Supported Sunday morning Faith Formation classes

Youth

- Fall Retreat (Sept 29-Oct 1) – took 17 Youth to Lutherock for a Spiritual Practices themed retreat
- Ran Gathering fundraiser – 150 Envelopes
- Gathering prep meeting (Oct 15)
- Led two Youngs Youth meetings (Oct 8, 22)
 - Oct 22 included Trick or Treating at Trinity View
- Led three Youth meetings (Oct 8, 15, 22)

CARE

- New Member visit (Oct 3)
- Hospital visit (Oct 3)
- LaZoom tour with members (Oct 14)
- Visit (Oct 25)
- Visit (Oct 30)
- Assisted with Reformation 500 setup (Oct 28)

GIVE

- Noisy Offering for LWR
- Mortgage Burning – created a narrative of our journey over the last 16 years.

MELC

- Created online inventory database (Patrick Trull conducted an inventory)
- 13 contacts personally, more through Pr. Gregg and Michele

Stewardship for All Seasons

- Launched Stewardship for All Seasons Fall Drive

- Wrote materials (inserts, brochure, letters)
- Printed (inserts) & mailed (first letter) materials
- Recruited members to give Temple Talks
- Most work with my SAS team was done by email/phone this month

NPK

- Read in Little Angels (standing appointment each Monday morning) (Oct 2, 9, 16, 23)
- Read in Little Explorers (Oct 25)
- Read in Friendly Fish (Oct 26)
- Trick or Treated with Little Angels (Oct 30, 31)
- Attended NPK Chapel (Oct 5, 12, 19, 26)

Finances

- NPK meeting with Pr Mark (Oct 9)
- NPK finance meeting with Pr Mark & Janine (Oct 11)
- NPK finance meeting with Pr Mark & Janine (Oct 16)
- Assumed role of Supervisor of NPK Finance (Oct 16)
- Worked with Pr Mark & Janine to create 2018 NPK Budget
- NPK October finance review with Janine (Oct 24)

SYNOD

- Attended Bishop's time at NC Synod Fall Convocation (Oct 10)

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

- Participated in 5 staff meetings (Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
- Attended October Council meeting (Oct 16)
 - Led part of study time

October has been an incredibly full month, which started with the Youth Fall Retreat at Lutherock and ended with the Reformation celebration. I was very involved with NPK this month, including taking on the roll of Supervisor for NPK finance. We've already made progress on getting NPK back on track with their budget, and we anticipate them ending the year in the black. The budget plan for 2018 looks good, as well.

My largest project this month has been the Stewardship for All Seasons fall drive, "Freed for the Future: Our Selves, Our Time, and Our Possessions." I have a great team working with me (Kathleen Treiber, Rick Jordan, Fred Park) and they've offered important insight and feedback as we've made our way through this new program, which we started in May. Mike Ward has guided us as our SAS consultant and has helped us make the most of this program. This month, we had 2 Temple Talks, 2 bulletin inserts, and a letter, all of which helped share the 4 goals we've set for 2018. (A third Temple Talk & bulletin insert and a second letter are part of November's work.) I have heard good things from people excited about the goals we've set and the opportunities we have ahead of us. Burning the mortgage on October 29th is also a motivator in the stewardship drive, as we are now able to claim the freedom from debt and focus on ministry.

One of the best parts of October was Reformation 500. It was a joyful, exciting, energizing event. It was the biggest fellowship gathering I've seen here since our calls began, and it was wonderful to have so many people celebrating together. I am deeply grateful to our Mission/Vision team and the volunteers they recruited; they put on an excellent event, driven by lay leaders, which brought our congregation together around food and fellowship.

The next two months will certainly be busy, with the culmination of our fall stewardship drive and a month of Advent programing. I'm looking forward to these two months and the opportunities we'll have to gather as a congregation to grow in faith and in community.

-Pastor Rachel