

Rector's Report to the Vestry, October 20, 2025, The Rev. Katherine Lewis

JUSTICE

Isaiah Legislator Event

I participated in the Isaiah Lighthouse event at Minnetonka United Methodist Church (originally scheduled to take place at St. David's, but shifted because of security concerns regarding Robert Ivers) on Thursday evening, September 11. There was a good turnout from St. David's and partnering congregations as we hosted 3 local legislators to hear constituents' stories about how cuts in safety net spending (SNAP, etc.) would affect them personally. Legislators also spoke and agreed about the concerns expressed. The elected officials appreciated the event and encouraged all to continue to reach out to them, reminding us that stories are the most compelling for advocating on a particular issue

Gun Bans

Along with over 700 Minnesota faith leaders, I signed a letter calling for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Clergy gathered at the capitol on Wednesday, October 8 and we delivered this letter to Gov. Walz, presenting it to his aide in the governor's absence. This event kicked off Seven Days of Prayer and Action—October 8-14—with daily midday gatherings of prayer, reflection, and solidarity. A message written by Bishop Loya was also read in the governor's office and ECMN is organizing one of the days of worship (Oct. 14).

Isaiah Organizing Event

Twelve people from St. David's attended an Isaiah organizing event on Saturday, Oct. 11 (I was unable to attend). Susan Taylor has become our key point person for this work. Stay tuned for next steps.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

St. George's

The wardens and I continue to meet with St. George's leadership as part of the transition toward the merger. With the wardens, we established a Transition Team (from St. David's: David Niles, Carol Johnson, Jane Sandsmark). We canceled our blessing of the animals to encourage St. David's members to attend the blessing of the animals at St. George's (6 or so of us attended). I am organizing a walkthrough of the St. George's building on October 28 to see what items are important for St. George's to bring with them (and what we might want as well). Those who will go on the

walkthrough include: David Pearson and Randy Schwichtenberg, Building and Grounds; Roger Stratton; Anna Belz-Brock; Diane Curley (for the Art Dreamers Team); Gretchen Lord, Altar Guild; and myself.

Newcomers

I continue to meet with the Newcomer Team (Ann Robinson, Jane Sandsmark, Julia Moser-Hardy) to make sure we are tracking newcomers and have best practices in place for welcoming and connecting them to the community and our ministries. We are initiating a new system of naming parishioners as “shepherds” who will be key point people for newcomers. Our next newcomer brunch is set for Sunday, November 9. We’ll spend some time at our vestry meeting discussing the vestry’s role in being part of our newcomer ministry.

Funerals

I am working with Julia Moser-Hardy, Roger, and others to systematize how we plan funerals. As you can imagine, there are many details and many people involved in funerals.

Staff/HR

The HR Committee and I have adopted a calendar for keeping us on track with HR responsibilities and needs. Employee evaluations are to take place in October, and we’ll be using a new employee evaluation form that Holly Lamond helped me develop. The wardens review me/my work annually and I review the staff.

DISCIPLESHIP

Bible Study

Marilyn Clark and I worked with Julia to get a survey out to the congregation to explore next steps for bible study. Thirty-three people completed the survey. We will be shifting from bible study offered every week to planning shorter term series of studies with a particular focus. Next up will be an Advent study of the early chapters of Luke and then, sometime between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, another study led by intern Cambria Bold.

Advent Retreat

I am working with area rectors to plan a Saturday Advent retreat. Details still coming together.

FAITHFUL INNOVATION

Art Dreamers

We are finalizing the refreshing of the undercroft and are on track to have the sanctuary art installed by the first Sunday of Advent. The cross for the All Saints' Columbarium Chapel, to be made by Chris Carda out of wood from the old oak tree, will be installed as well, but we are not yet sure of the timing of this part of the project. As you may recall, these projects are being funded by the first distribution made by our endowment. We are working with Shea to establish practices for reporting on these expenditures. The evolution of the endowment has a learning curve!

Community Night Trunk or Treat

We plan to leaflet the neighborhood, inviting neighbors to join in on our Trunk or Treat community night on Wednesday evening, October 22.