

Rector's Report to the Vestry, December 15, 2025, The Rev. Katherine Lewis

As has been my practice, I've organized my report to the vestry using the 4 ECMN priorities as categories for reflecting on my ministry at St. David's.

JUSTICE

Isaiah Convention

I will be attending the Isaiah organizing gathering on December 13 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Susan Taylor and others have done an excellent job of recruiting participants from St. David's; 16 or so of us will join several thousand others who are expected to attend. We'll break into a smaller group to begin to organize the Palm Sunday 2026 action that is intended to counter Christian Nationalism, demonstrating a different vision of Jesus as he enters into Jerusalem with palms waving.

ICA

Cathy Scwichtenberg, Allison Ferro, and I met with ICA Executive Director Dan Narr to continue the work of updating our lease (the current 20-year lease expires in early 2026). We are also addressing anticipated capital improvements needed. We had previously paid ECMN's property consultant Jay Nord to do a property audit and are using his professional findings to chart our work. We will be working with an attorney to develop the new lease.

Dan briefed us on the increased demand for food and other social supports given the current political climate. I will be inviting Dan to present at a forum in the coming year.

Loaves and Fishes

As you have undoubtedly heard, Loaves and Fishes abruptly discontinued distributing food in Hopkins this past month due to financial constraints. Sue and Basil Owen visited the Loaves and Fishes distribution site in Plymouth to see if we might start volunteering there instead, but it seems they already have an adequate number of volunteers. We are still trying to figure out how we can be part of feeding people directly in our neighborhood.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

St. George's

St. David's and St. George's wardens and I met with diocesan leadership (Kelsey Schuster, Canon to the Ordinary; the Vice Chancellor; and leaders from elected bodies, including the Trustees, Standing Committee, Joint Property Committee) to discuss financial and legal matters related to the merger.

The merger transition committee continues to meet.

St. George's will have their last Sunday worship on December 28 and will officially join us for worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 11.

Newcomers

I continue to work with the Newcomer Team, Ann Robinson, Jane Sandsmark, and Julia Moser-Hardy. We have started recruiting "shepherds" who are assigned to newcomers to help the new people integrate into the congregation and connect to our ministries. Ann lead a shepherd training this month. We are seeing many new people on Sundays (beyond St. George's parishioners). Please make sure that you greet and get to know these visitors, especially on those days when you are assigned as vestry host.

DISCIPLESHIP

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany

We had to cancel our Advent retreat at the last minute as the retreat leader had a family emergency. Stay tuned as we make plans to reschedule.

A group of us is participating in an online bible study focusing on the early chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Thank you to Marilyn Clark for being the lead on this. I think I counted 10-15 St. David's people on Zoom, which I thought was a great turnout!

Cambria Bold was to have led a bible study early in 2026. With her departure, I am trying to figure out a new plan. Please be in touch with your thoughts.

I have lined up a docent to lead us in another Mia tour. It will take place during Lent and will be based on the book, Small Things Like These, by Claire Keegan.

FAITHFUL INNOVATION

Art Dreamers

The big art reveal is this weekend! There have been many moving parts (and people) in making this happen and I feel the Holy Spirit has led us through the valley and hills of this project.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

We gathered for the interfaith Thanksgiving Service with partner congregations Bet Shalom synagogue, Mills Church, and Spirit of Peace. Roger Stratton helped lead music and we had a good turnout from St. David's. I offered a reflection, as did the other clergy.

Proximity Project

The wardens and I met with Sara Joy Proppe from the Proximity Project to continue to explore a possible partnership to further the work of the Comprehensive Campus Initiative (CCI) and to develop a proposal for funding by the endowment. As you know, we'll be reviewing the proposals at our vestry meeting.