

Combined Pastor Report 1-27-2021

I. Visitation

1. Hospital (contacts allowed by phone only)
 - a. Left messages: Larry Keinath
2. Shutin visits
 - a. 8 contacts, 2 left messages.
 - b. Arranged to visit one in early February.

II. Pastoral ministry

1. Funerals: Landyn Hanel (non-member), Elmer Snover, Randy Keinath
2. Premarriage: MayLynne Wager wishes to have Rev. Abatelli perform her wedding at SPL. Pastor Bruner will do the premarriage counseling. Jason Hiles has requested Pastor Bruner to do his wedding. This will be offsite.
3. Talk weekly to coordinate ministry.
4. "The Gathering" on Thursday nights at 7 p.m.
5. Helping out with weekly chapel services for both the upper grades (2-8) and the "littles" (PS-1).
6. COVID response and approach:
 - a. Continue to adjust ministry to the changing situation. It is difficult to plan ahead.
 - b. Continue to Livestream one service on Sundays at 10 a.m. The Bible Class at 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.
 - c. Communion on Sunday afternoon has been a good ministry.

III. Teaching

1. Online and in person Bible Class on Sunday mornings; total attendance ranges from 0-4.
2. Lenten theme: Return to the Lord. Includes Bible study material.
3. SPL students and the public school class are working through the Bible with Catechetical references. SPL is transitioning from Old Testament to New Testament. Taking time to learn the practice of journaling and meditation focused on the Bible.

IV. Administration

1. Still working with Long Range Planning Team. Have discussed candidates for a subcommittee of members to meet two times before May to gather their impressions on proposals so far and

other information needed to enable the congregation to have "buy in." First meeting will be February 13th.

Several goals for our congregation include: Being debt free, Increasing salaries (future replacement will be difficult if this is not addressed), Prioritize facility maintenance (roof, boiler, parking lot). There are many other possibilities.

The Long Range Plan will also present goals that will strengthen, enhance or expand the ministry at St. Paul Lutheran, as we share the Word of Christ to all. The Planning team wants to provide the congregation with ministry ideas that will engage them, so that they will continue to apply current resources (being used for the mortgage) to ministry that is in line with our preferred future.

2. Have worked on a yearly theme "One in the Son" and launched a promo video in the services and on website. There will be a "Passport: Mission Possible" provided to members. This passport will have "places" to visit in the year 2021. These places will be categories in which we can grow in our faith and share our faith. This fits into our Mission statement and helps us focus on it together.
3. The Circuit Forum met and elected Rev. Cameron Steele as Circuit Visitor. He will not begin serving until after the next District convention. The convention will either take place this summer or if COVID restrictions make it impossible to meet as a large assembly, then the following summer.
4. SPL will advertise for a door offering on a quarterly basis to raise funds for the "Here We Stand" initiative. The first collection will be in March. The money will support future church workers and seminarians. Tim Kern has been blessed with enough financial assistance and does not need any additional support from SPL.
5. Pray for unity and love as the devil continues to use fear and anxiety in order to cause division within the body of Christ. We made it out of 2020, but the tension and frustrations have carried forward into 2021. COVID still has the world isolated and fearful of infection.
6. We recite our mission statement each week. What does this look like? ***Vision: Reaching out to more people in Jesus' name. Loving the ones that are here.***