

Combined Pastor Report 12-13-2020

I. Visitation

1. Hospital (contacts allowed by phone only)
 - a. Shelli Lugg, Joanne Petzold, Erna Reinert, Betty Bradley, Marv Schreiber
 - b. Attempted to reach: Mike Schiefer, Pat Allen
2. Shutin visits
 - a. COVID restrictions have limited our visits. Unable to contact these in restricted nursing facilities: Elmer Snover, Florence Hohman, Mary Jane Shreve,
 - b. Stopped by Vassar Fields and communed 3 members Marv Rodemsky, Lela Higgins, and Eunice Peche. Also saw Randy Daenzer, Sandy Shamel, Erna Reinert
 - c. Phone contact and prayer: Joan Benish, Marv Schreiber via Dorothy
 - d. Contacted but unable to see Ireva Wolverton (talked with Janice Scheifer), left Devotional book for Arlene Hohman, Karen Henderson
 - e. Communed at church: Betty Bleuer, Violet Hornfeld, Barb Sergent
 - f. Did not contact: ILLah Fall, Chester Frank, Mildred Keinath, Linda Rohde, Vic Schwab Jr.

II. Pastoral ministry

1. Funerals: Bill Ackerman's mother Alice
2. Baptism: Margaret Higgins
3. Talk weekly to coordinate ministry.
4. "The Gathering" on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. has moved to the Parish Hall.
5. Helping out with weekly chapel services for both the upper grades (2-8) and the "littles" (PS-1).
6. Working with the Technology Team to coordinate the use of livestream for services, Bible studies and other potential ministry.
7. Advent midweek services are in person and livestream. We have been using the school theme "Sent to Serve." Our school children created videos focusing on various characters from the Christmas story. These videos and the services are available on our website.

8. 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. We have provided Communion on the church porch on the 2nd and 4th Sundays since June 28. On these Sundays, we have served from 6 up to 24 (on the last beautiful Sunday in November). Some members are still unaware we provide this. We will continue to share the news.
- d. God provides us with helpful tools against the isolation caused by COVID. They are Bible studies and worship.

III. Teaching

1. Online and in person Bible Class on Sunday mornings; total attendance recently ranges from 0-2. Discussion continues on how to best provide this ministry during the pandemic. Elders have this on their agenda.
2. SPL students and the public school class are working through the Bible and referencing the Catechism when it applies.
3. We have two prospective students for AIC. COVID has made it difficult to schedule.

IV. Administration

1. Still working with Long Range Planning Team. Hope to have a subcommittee of members meet from January to May to gather their impressions on proposals so far and other information needed to enable the congregation to have "buy in."
2. Steve Kern is willing to be appointed to represent our congregation at the Frankenmuth Circuit forum. Business will include the election of a new Circuit Visitor. All Congregations are welcome to submit nominations for Circuit Visitor and also send any overtures for the upcoming convention (if it takes place in 2021). Congregations will be able to vote on whether the synodical convention should be moved back a year to 2023, which would allow for the Districts to hold theirs in 2021 or 2022 if needed.
3. Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne is encouraging congregations to support students from their congregation. Tuition

costs are covered by the seminary but books and other expenses are not. Tim Kern is in his final year.

4. Have not had time to devote to a potential ministry for members who cannot see our livestream. It would utilize donated DVD and CD players. The best approach is to find out who specifically would need the equipment so they can utilize our recordings.
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.
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.***