

Pastor's Report — October 23, 2024 – Christ the King

Confirmation

We are confirming six youth (five at LH, one at CTK) this Sunday!

Continuing Education

Last week, I spent three days at Lutherdale camp in Elkhorn for the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Fall Leadership Conference. Our speaker was The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and it was a great time of practicing difficult conversations across differences, exploring spiritual practice of evangelism through listening and curiosity, and of course, great fellowship time with colleagues. I'm particularly grateful this year that our synod is committed to offering childcare at these synod-wide events. This was the first time we've taken advantage of it, and it was wonderful for Christin and I to both be able to participate in this conference.

Coming up, I'll be attending a mandatory synod boundaries education workshop in Wauwatosa on November 7, and a free Siebert workshop on avoiding burnout in Milwaukee on November 14 (No, I don't feel especially burned out, but I'm pretty sure that's the time you're supposed to learn good practices to avoid it!). I'm also looking forward to the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza in Louisville, Kentucky coming up in late January.

Finally, please mark your calendar for the synod's *Together in Mission* event on Saturday, February 15 in Wauwatosa. This is a great time for council members and congregation members to connect with people across the synod in workshops, conference meetings, worship, and fellowship.

Holidays

This year's ecumenical joint Thanksgiving worship service will be November 26 at 7:00 pm at St. John XXIII in Port Washington (the St. Peter site with the school). Our theme is "Christ, Be Our Light" and as usual, A Place to Be Spirituality Center is leading the coordination of the service.

Advent will include two Wednesday evening services (and suppers) this year, using the Holden Evening Prayer service. Christ the King will host on December 11, and Living Hope on December 18. Supper at 5:30, worship at 6:15.

Our Christmas Eve services will be 4:00 pm at CTK and 7:00 pm at LH. Christmas Day will be a joint 9:30 service at CTK. Sunday, December 29, will be a joint 9:30 lay-led lessons & carols service at Living Hope.

Lighthouse

Lighthouse is in the midst of preparations for the big annual spaghetti dinner & silent auction fundraiser event, coming up on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd. This year, we'll be at Parkside, and I hope to see a lot of people from our church there to support our youth ministry!

Membership

We will welcome Alicia Bares as the newest member of our congregation on November 3!

Synod Council Listening

Our synod is doing a listening project this fall of having a representative visit each congregation's council and give a brief presentation and listen to what's happening in the congregation, which I think is a great idea for better communication. Our visitor is Linda Grosser, who will be with us for the first part of this month's meeting.

Thank You

It's been a while since I did a written report, so thank you to everyone who helped the joint outdoor worship service in the park on August 18th!

Thank you to everyone who led the polka service and provided the delicious supper!

Thank you to all our quilters for all the beautiful quilts you've made!

Vacation Bible School

This summer's Vacation Bible School is being planned for the week of June 9 at Living Hope. It's right after school gets out, in the hope that avoiding summer school will free up a few more families to participate. Mark your calendar as I'm sure we'll need lots of volunteers!

Worship

We just wrapped up a five-week worship series focusing on the Lord's Prayer (including interactive prayer stations in worship on October 13!). This Sunday is Reformation and Confirmation Sunday, then the next week is All Saints Sunday. We have a few "Ordinary" weeks, then I'm working on a creative "church year recap" service for Christ the King Sunday on November 24, and Advent is right around the corner beginning December 1. Whew!

2024 Combined In-Person Attendance Average: 69 (Living Hope: 38; Christ the King: 31)

2023 Combined In-Person Attendance Average: 66 (Living Hope: 33; Christ the King: 33)

2022 Full Year Combined In-Person Attendance Average: 50

Weekly online "attendance" has averaged 8 at each congregation all year for 2024, down from 10 per congregation in 2024.

Pastoral Records for 2024

Baptisms – 4 (4 at LH, 0 at CTK)

Funerals – 4 (0 at LH, 3 connected to CTK, 1 community)

Vacation and Continuing Education for 2024

Vacation Days Taken: 17 (including 3 weekends) Vacation Days Unused: 11 (including 1 weekend)

Continuing Ed Days Taken: 10 (incl. 1 weekend) Continuing Ed Days Unused: 4 (incl. 1 weekend)

Please let me know if you have any questions about my report or anything else I'm working on. Thank you for your faithful partnership in ministry!

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel Flucke