

Pastor Brittany  
Council Report December 2023  
**Bold is to help me remember to bring them up**

Faith Formation:

- Bridget P. will be second adult for ELCA Youth Gathering
- AM Bible Study on pause until February, PM Bible Study exploring Eschatology (end of the world stuff) beginning in January

Stewardship:

- Spiritual Gifts Inventory and Focus is planned for February 2024
  - o Hoping to start a preaching team
  - o And a **Grant Group/Task Force**:
    - Looking to start a group of people from the congregation who will explore grant opportunities, seek Council approval about each grant, and then apply for the grant—**suggestions on who to ask?**
    - Funding source will be considered (no sketchy sources or ones that go against our Mission, Vision, and Core Values)

Synod Staff transitions/ELCA:

- There's a large staff reduction effective January 1, 2024
- Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, is on a 4-6 month leave for rest

Worship:

- Christmas Eve:
  - o No Morning Service
  - o 3:30 pm—Children's Program and worship stations
  - o 7:30 pm—Traditional Christmas Eve
- Will use the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of the mission statement as a sending beginning in January
- **Passing the offering plate is still glitchy; can someone help remind ushers in person?**

Outreach:

- In partnership with All Saints, Giving Tree 2023 collected items for 40 different Venezuelan refugee children who live in a nearby apartment building in Aurora. Yay!
- First sensory-sensitive Christmas service held on 12/11 and was received well
- Overflowing food bank donations—yay! We'll have them in the service on 12/31 and take a picture

Continuing Ed:

- VRSM clergy monthly Zoom meetings are happening now
- I'll be attending Buckley Space Force Base's Clergy Day on February 28

Nominating Committee:

- Currently approaching people to consider joining Council in January 2024. Two have agreed—Ashely and Lindy (thank you!), one is still thinking about it

Process change:

- **Both preschool and cell phone are now on cell phones**
- And we received \$48 credit from Comcast because it's been such a mess

Time off:

- Returned full time week of 11/26
- Ideally, I'll be off on Mondays instead of Fridays, but due to illnesses and schedule needs... I've worked 12/18 and 12/11 instead of Fridays